

## REINVENTING THE FUTURE OF LEARNING

**03**

### **CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT**

Celebrating the Spirit of NIE

**22**

### **RESEARCH**

Fostering strong teaching pedagogies

**30**

### **ALUMNI**

Thank you NIE!

# CONTENTS

## Corporate Development

Service Learning Day 2014	3
NIE Family Day 2014	4
NIE Staff Awards 2014	5
Staff Profile: Professor Lee Sing Kong's Appreciation Lunch	6
NIE Academic Collaborates with SUTD Visual Finger Reader Project	7
Asian Languages and Cultures Academic Group Lunch Seminar Series	8
NIE Academic Received Award for Book on Literature	8
Teachers' Day Celebrations @ NIE	9
NIE Staff Volunteers at Singapore Grand Prix	9
NIE Director's Invited Address at Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences	10
Assoc Prof Low Ee Ling Gives a Symposium Address in Iowa, USA	10
NIE contributes Chapters to Latest Book in Music Education	11

NIE Academic Book on English Language Pronunciation	3
NIE Celebrates Deepavali	12
NIE Celebrates Hari Raya Show	12
NIE Graduate Student Day 2014	13
NIE Director's Address 2014	14, 19
Prominent Visitors	20
NIE Master of Arts in Professional Education Programme	21
<b>Special Feature</b>	8
NIE 2014 Milestones	15 - 18
<b>Research</b>	9
Redesigning Pedagogy Conference 2015	22
Researcher Profile: Assoc Prof Mark Baildon	23
NIE Wins Third Society for Reading and Literacy Research Award	24
Israeli Scholar Speaks on National Pedagogy	25

English Language and Literature Academic Group Masters Student Wins Award	25
Campus News	
<b>Alumni</b>	
Leaders in Education Programme Graduation Dinner 2014	26
NIE Alumni Who Found Love @ NIE	27
President's Award for Teachers 2014	28
President's Award for Teachers 2014 reflection: Dr Muhammad Nazir	28
President's Award for Teachers 2014 reflection: Ms Rezia Rahumathullah	29
Alumni Reflection: Mr Taranpal Singh	30
Notes of Thanks from Master of Arts in Leadership and Educational Change Graduates	30
Letter of Thanks from Leaders in Education Programme Participant	31
Calendar of Events	

## EDITOR'S SAY



Putting to task the job of collecting all the important milestones of NIE is not an easy one but exuberant nonetheless.

As a matter of fact, I was told that this is a favourite edition for many of our readers because of the end-of-year Special Feature which is an iconic pull-out poster that captures all of NIE's milestones in the year – refer to pages 15 to 18.

The many campus activities we enjoy at NIE are a testament of how we fully

embrace our work environment with such gusto celebrating the diversity in culture. The Corporate Development section recounts a kaleidoscopic 15 pages of latest happenings and milestone announcements including NIE Director's inaugural address on pages 14 and 19 or our Graduate Student Day on page 13 and GESL Service Learning Day on the next page.

The many achievements and noteworthy mentions packed into the Research section (pages 22 to 25) certainly bolster our confidence in NIE's areas of excellence as well. I am proud to note that our community continues to make many meaningful contributions through a span of a few months.

On a more romantic note, I hope you enjoy our special report about two couples who met at NIE to pursue their passion in teaching and found love on our campus too on page 27. It is also a proud moment for us as we celebrate another successful cohort of Leaders in Education Programme (LEP) graduates who may helm some of Singapore's schools in the near future; read about this on page 26. Do turn to page 31 where we feature a special message from our LEP 2012 graduate who wishes to convey his heartfelt thanks and wishes to NIE. While on page 30, we have another special

feature from the inaugural graduates of the Master of Arts in Leadership and Educational Change programme and their encouraging insight about their study here.

I shall not spoil the surprise for you and let you enjoy the rest of this year-end edition. As I sign off on my final edition as Guest Editor, I hope that you enjoy NIE News as much as I have working on it.

As we celebrate the festive season ahead, I wish you Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and all the best for 2015. *Adieu!*

## Guest Editor

**Associate Professor Noel Chia Kok Hwee,**  
Early Childhood and Special Needs  
Education Academic Group

**Editorial Team :** Associate Professor Noel Chia Kok Hwee, Patricia Campbell, Monica Khoo, Julian Low

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## SERVICE LEARNING DAY 2014

By Office of Teacher Education

**N**IE celebrated its Service Learning Day, an event that commemorates community outreach by student teachers in Group Endeavours Service Learning (GESL) projects, on 1 October 2014. Since its pilot in 2004, approximately 18,862 student-teachers have experienced service-learning in our initial teacher preparation programmes.

Three PGDE GESL groups represented their team mates and shared their learning journeys to the Guest-of-Honour, Professor Tan Oon Seng, NIE Director, invited guests and the NIE community at Lecture Theatre 2. The project, “Cleaner Caring Community” was initiated to create a greater public awareness of the work that cleaners on the campus undertake. Through this project, the NIE community members showed their appreciation for the cleaners by penning notes of appreciation which were presented to them during an appreciation meal organised by the GESL group.

Another group, Happy Troopers, carried out the project, “I. M. Happy”, giving patients at the Institute of Mental Health (IMH) an opportunity to interact with more people through a series of games and activities organised by the group. A publicity campaign was also carried out on social media platforms, equipping public

with information on mental illnesses and events at IMH.

Finally, in line with promoting safety practices for cyclists, group members of “One-Man Group” distributed bicycle lights, which were purchased with funding from the Singapore Motor Sports Association, to foreign workers at their dormitories. The group also collaborated with the organisers of “Seen and be Seen” on a night cycling event to spread the message of the importance of visibility for night cycling to the cyclist community.

The event concluded with a tour of the exhibition area, with informative poster boards put up by 24 GESL groups. Guests interacted with student teachers at the booths and learnt more about their service learning journeys.

**Top:** Prof Tan Oon Seng (sixth from left), Director, NIE; Assoc Prof Liu Woon Chia (fifth from left); Assoc Prof Vivien Huan (second from right); Ms Jocelyn Tan (first from right), together with some of the student teachers

**Right:** A colourful display of the GESL projects enjoyed by one and all

**Bottom:** Our student groups presenting their projects





## FAMILY TIME

By Public, International and Alumni Relations

Setting aside academic pursuits and administrative duties for a day, the NIE Community reported to work on a sunny Friday with their loved ones in tow on 3 October 2014 with one specific task – to have a day of fun with family and friends.

Taking a turn from the regular fanfare of a hotel ballroom in Orchard Road for the regularly gazetted NIE Annual Staff Lunch, staff and academics were treated to a carnival-like atmosphere on campus grounds instead. Themed as “Family Fun at NIE”, the inaugural NIE Family Day saw a day full of fun-fair games and activities organised by the NIE Staff Welfare and Recreation Fund Committee (SWRFC).

Professor Tan Oon Seng, NIE Director, officially opened the event. He warmly welcomed and invited all to take this opportunity to enjoy forging stronger ties as a family of NIE. Following Prof Tan’s rousing Opening Address, students from Dance Fuzion treated guests to an exhilarating performance which set the perfect tone for all guests to jump in for a mass Zumba workout after.

More than 100 children attended the event with their parents and relatives to enjoy their Children’s Day holiday at NIE’s Family Day. The little ones delighted in the giant sky dancers that playfully greeted and waved them to the giant inflatable slides and balloon typhoon obstacles at the centre of the grounds. These huge inflatables provided enough thrills and spills for both young and old to enjoy, while

the free-flow of snacks kept everyone’s hunger at bay till the sumptuous buffet spread at lunchtime.

Another crowd pleaser was the Inter-Academic Group/Department games that saw five Academic Groups and Department teams compete in a battle of wits and brawn. Team Daebak (Library and Information Services Centre) emerged the champions of the games, with team Evergreen (Natural Sciences and Science Education Academic Group) in second and team T.O.T.E. (Office of Teacher Education) in third position.

After lunch, many flocked to the interesting workshops that included Bento packing and scrapbooking conducted by the NIE Family and Consumer Sciences Club, towel origami, balloon sculpting, as well as talks on health and financial planning.

The event ended on a high note with the Closing Address given by NIE Principal Officer, Professor Paul Teng and the drawing of the top 20 lucky draw prizes.

The NIE Staff Welfare and Recreation Fund Committee members wish to thank everyone who supported this event! The SWRFC 2014/15 Committee comprises Ms Val Lee (NSSE), Ms Nenny Aryanti (LIBRIS), Dr Kristina Burgetova (PS), Ms Rebecca Ho (NSSE), Ms Low Li Jia (OAAS), Ms Johannah Soo (NSSE), Mrs Angela Lim (NSSE), Mrs Mary Stevenson (NSSE), Mr Lionel Lim (NSSE), Mr Chris Foo (GPL), Mr Chris Chua (OTE) and Mr Lum Hon Peng (CSC).



Above: Being put through their steps at the mass Zumba workout



Above: ‘Just one more block!’ Teams pitting their wits at the Inter-AG/Dept Games



Above: Putting colourful creations together at the Scrapbooking Workshop



Above: Huge kudos to the SWRFC Committee. (Back row, from left) Ms Val Lee, Ms Nenny Aryanti, Dr Kristina Burgetova, Ms Rebecca Ho, Ms Low Li Jia, Ms Johannah Soo, Mrs Angela Lim, Mrs Mary Stevenson (Front row, from left) Mr Lionel Lim, Mr Chris Foo, Mr Chris Chua, Mr Lum Hon Peng



Top: Prof Tan Oon Seng, NIE Director, starts the ball rolling for great fun

Left: Budding young chefs learning the art of sushi-making

# NIE STAFF AWARDS 2014

By Human Resource Department

## 10 YEARS IN SERVICE

Mr Tan Soon Hiang, Bernard  
*Office of Teacher Education /  
Centre for e-Learning*

Mr Tan Lee Chye  
*Centre for User Support*

Miss Sng Su Ling, Imelda  
*Development and  
Estate Department*

Mr Ong Tong Keng  
*Development and  
Estate Department*

Assoc Prof Poon Mui  
Cheng, Angelia  
*English Language and Literature*

Asst Prof Chitra Shegar  
*English Language and Literature*

Assoc Prof Viniti Vaish  
*English Language and Literature*

Mr Ong Choong Siong  
*Finance Department*

Mdm Neo Gek Kheng  
*Human Resource Department*

Mr Lau Chin Tiong, Douglas  
*Library and Information  
Services Centre*

Mr Mohamed Fadzli Bin  
Mohamed Ibrahim  
*Mathematics and  
Mathematics Education*

Mdm Rodziah Binte  
Abdul Rahman  
*Mathematics and  
Mathematics Education*

Assoc Prof Jaguthsing Dindyal  
*Mathematics and  
Mathematics Education*

Asst Prof Teo Yong Chua  
*Natural Sciences and  
Science Education*

Mr Mohammed Azhar Bin Yusof  
*Physical Education and  
Sports Science*

Assoc Prof  
Govindasamy Balasekaran  
*Physical Education and  
Sports Science*

Asst Prof Koh Koon Teck  
*Physical Education and  
Sports Science*

Dr Browne Thomas  
Bartholomew Joseph  
*Physical Education and  
Sports Science*

Dr Choy Kim Weng, William  
*Policy and Leadership Studies*

Asst Prof Nie Youyan  
*Psychological Studies*

Ms Kehk Bee Lian  
*Visual and Performing Arts*

## 15 YEARS IN SERVICE

Asst Prof Chin Chee Kuen  
*Asian Languages and Cultures*

Mdm Quek Seng Lee  
*Computer Services Centre*

Mr Ng Teck Chye  
*Centre for User Support*

Prof Tan Oon Seng  
*Director's Office*

Dr Wong May-Lynn, Patricia  
*English Language and Literature*

Mrs Tay-Sung Bee Eng  
*Human Resource Department*

Miss Lee Poh Ching  
*Humanities and Social  
Studies Education*

Assoc Prof Chai Ching Sing  
*Learning Sciences  
and Technologies*

Asst Prof Lee Ngan Hoe  
*Mathematics and  
Mathematics Education*

Mr Ngo Hong Tat  
*Mathematics and  
Mathematics Education*

Dr Teo Kok Ming  
*Mathematics and  
Mathematics Education*

Assoc Prof Toh Tin Lam  
*Mathematics and  
Mathematics Education*

Asst Prof Leong Yew Hoong  
*Mathematics and  
Mathematics Education*

Dr Hoh Yin Kiong  
*Natural Sciences and  
Science Education*

Assoc Prof Subramaniam  
s/o Ramanathan  
*Natural Sciences and  
Science Education*

Mr Leng Kuen Yong  
*Natural Sciences and  
Science Education*

Mr Toh Nguk Hwee, David  
*Natural Sciences and  
Science Education*

Mr Tong Shaw Wei  
*Natural Sciences and  
Science Education*

Mrs Goh-Lim Hui Choo, Celia  
*Office of Education Research*

Assoc Prof Tan Geok Chin, Ivy  
*Office of Teacher Education*

Assoc Prof Shanti Divaharan  
*Office of Teacher Education*

Mdm Afida Bte Jappar  
*Office of Teacher Education*

Assoc Prof Huan Swee  
Leng, Vivien  
*Office of Teacher Education*

Mdm Ong Lee Choo  
*Physical Education and  
Sports Science*

Prof Wang Chee Keng, John  
*Physical Education and  
Sports Science*

Mr Lee Chiew Fatt  
*Physical Education and  
Sports Science*

Assoc Prof Lim Lee Hean  
*Policy and Leadership Studies*

Assoc Prof Ng Pak Tee  
*Policy and Leadership Studies*

Assoc Prof Chong Kwong  
Mei, Eddy  
*Visual and Performing Arts*

## 20 YEARS IN SERVICE

Assoc Prof Rokhana Bibi  
Bte Abdullah  
*Asian Languages and Cultures*

Prof Goh Yeng Seng  
*Asian Languages and Cultures*

Mr Selvarajan Selvaratnam  
*Development and  
Estate Department*

Miss Low Peck San  
*Finance Department*

Miss Chiew Yan Leng  
*Finance Department*

Prof Goh Chuen Meng, Christine  
*Office of Graduate Studies and  
Professional Learning*

Assoc Prof Wang Zhenping  
*Humanities and Social  
Studies Education*

Assoc Prof Ang Keng Cheng  
*Mathematics and  
Mathematics Education*

Dr Shawn Kaihekulani  
Yamauchi Lum  
*Natural Sciences and  
Science Education*

Prof Xu Shuyan  
*Natural Sciences and  
Science Education*

Prof Hung Wei Loong, David  
*Office of Education Research*

Assoc Prof Tan Eng Thye, Jason  
*Policy and Leadership Studies*

Ms Tan Bin Eng, Cecilia  
*Psychological Studies*

## 25 YEARS IN SERVICE

Prof Berinderjeet Kaur  
*Mathematics and  
Mathematics Education*

Ms Anita Bte Abdul Wahab  
*Office of Academic  
Administration and Services*

Dr Tan Cher Chay, John  
*Physical Education and  
Sports Science*

## 30 YEARS IN SERVICE

Assoc Prof Lee Kim  
Eng, Christine  
*Curriculum, Teaching  
and Learning*

Assoc Prof Chew Ghim  
Lian, Phyllis  
*English Language and Literature*

Ms Rosita Bte Ahmat  
*Human Resource Department*

Ms Mala Murugiah  
*Office of Faculty Affairs*

## 40 YEARS IN SERVICE

Mdm Chia Yook Cheng  
*Office of Academic  
Administration and Services*

## BON VIVEUR

By Public, International and Alumni Relations

**Y**ears of working alongside this consummate educator and horticulturalist has impressed upon many at NIE with glowing accounts of how Professor Lee Sing Kong, former NIE Director, touched their lives and careers indefinitely.

These tributes were shared on 25 August 2014 to an enthusiastic NIE Community in attendance at the NTU Nanyang Auditorium for Prof Lee's appreciation lunch. Accompanied by his wife, Prof Lee received a rousing welcome as they entered the venue for the hour-long programme punctuated by lots of wit and cheer. Deftly filling the in-between segments with light banter, the two hosts, Associate Professor Low Ee Ling, Head, Strategic Planning and Academic Quality and Professor Michael Chia, Dean, Faculty Affairs did an excellent job in keeping the mood light-hearted.

Amongst the testimonials given, former NIE Principal Officer, Dr Quek Jin Jong and Associate Dean and General Manager, NIE International, Dr Goh Chor Boon, shared with much candour their experiences on Prof Lee's infallible resolve and his heart-warming encouragement. Whilst Dr Shawn Lum provided much insight into Prof Lee's outgoing personality as former colleagues at National Parks Board back in the 1990s. The touching accounts were

avidly shared with several anecdotes on Prof Lee's "booming voice" which often permeated the corridors and meeting rooms of many signature proceedings at NIE in past encounters.

After months of preparation, the planning committee expressed their appreciation through the presentation of a newly-published 85-page commemorative tome titled *"From Nurturing Plants to Growing Teachers"* to Prof Lee by NIE Director, Professor Tan Oon Seng. This was followed by a video photo-montage complete with an original music score composed by the Visual and Performing Arts Academic Group. In honour of Prof Lee, the audience was then invited to join NIE senior management who had donned bright blue t-shirts to lead a lively aerobic dance sequence called *"The LSK Jig"*. Prof Lee gamely agreed to join them on-stage for the concluding performance.

As guests settled to a sumptuous lunch reception outside of the auditorium afterward, many took the opportunity to snap photos and selfies with Prof Lee who obliged happily with his trademark grin. It was obvious that this passionate Professor's enthusiasm is infectious with every jovial exchange and as we bid farewell, we will continue to look forward to his contributions now as Vice President (Education Strategies) at NTU.

For your humble and outstanding leadership, we wish you the best and thank you, Prof Lee.

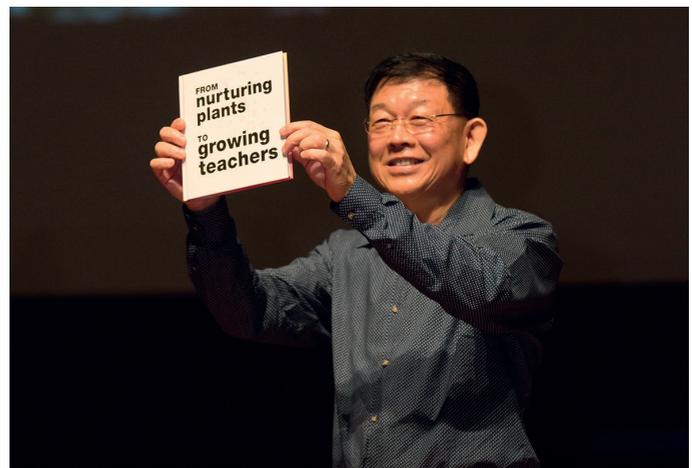
**Top:** A beautiful photo collage, with Prof Lee Sing Kong's picture in the middle, was presented to him (right) by Prof Tan Oon Seng, NIE Director (left)



**Above:** The LSK jig was in full swing, with everyone joining in



**Above (From left):** Prof Lee Sing Kong happily posed for photos with staff and chatted with colleagues



**Above:** A commemorative book was specially made in honour of Prof Lee's contributions

## WEAR IT TO READ IT

By Public, International and Alumni Relations

Imagine a mobile device that 'helps' you to read out text as you use your finger to scan through pages. That device, called the 'FingerReader', might be accessible in the near future to further aid the visually-challenged. Currently in its development stage, it is the brainchild of four scientists from the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD) and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

The FingerReader, as its name suggests, is worn like a ring around the user's finger. It is equipped with a tiny high-resolution camera that scans through text on computer screens or on paper, with the occasional 'beep' or vibration to guide the user. Once the text are detected, the device reads them out through software on a computer or mobile device.

Assistant Professor Wong Meng Ee, from NIE's Early Childhood and Special Needs Education Academic Group, was amongst a few to test the FingerReader in its beta stage. "I am happy to collaborate with SUTD on Assistant Professor Suranga Nanayakkara's project. Whilst more testing is needed as this is still in its developmental phase, it does show promise as a positive move toward creating more options and establishing more devices for the visually-challenged," he said.

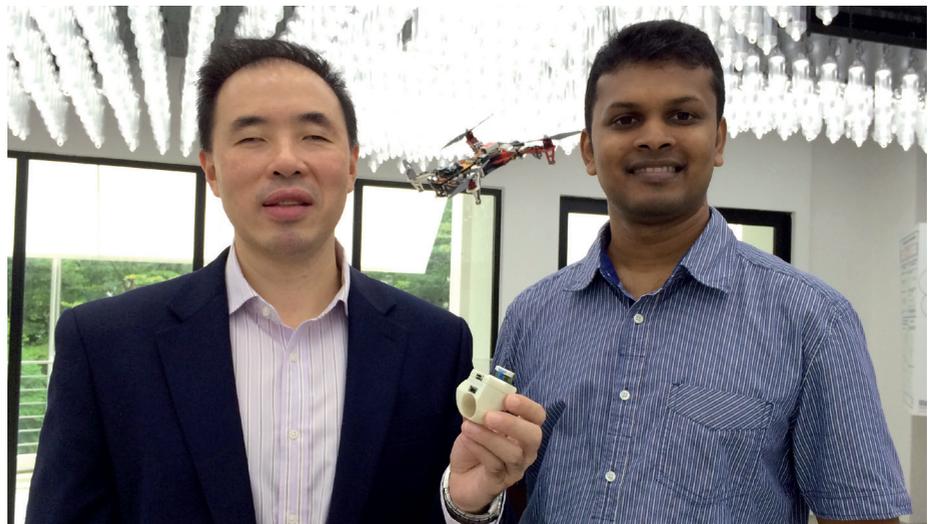
Asst Prof Suranga Nanayakkara, from SUTD, is one of the co-creators of the FingerReader. It is his hope that the device will further aid the visually impaired and make a difference in their lives.

"In looking at the community's needs, I found that there are many devices in the market that can assist the visually-challenged. However, it is my hope that by building the FingerReader, I can introduce a device that can further provide greater flexibility in reading and detecting reading in many everyday situations. I am honoured that Asst Prof

Wong Meng Ee from NIE had agreed to give valuable feedback toward the refinement of the device in its pilot test phase," he quipped.

The two had also worked with Dr Jochen Huber, an SUTD-MIT postdoctoral fellow. Together, they interviewed several users to get feedback on how to improve the FingerReader.

**Bottom:** Asst Prof Wong Meng Ee (left) and Asst Prof Suranga Nanayakkara (right) will continue to step up their efforts in developing the FingerReader



## ALC NEW LUNCH-TIME SEMINAR SERIES

By Dr Zhang Aidong, Asian Languages and Cultures Academic Group

On 10 September 2014, the Asian Languages and Cultures (ALC) Academic Group launched its new Lunch-time Seminar Series. Academics and administration staff, as well as visitors from Curriculum Planning and Development Division department of the Ministry of Education attended the first session.

Two academics, Assistant Professor Wang Bing and Assistant Professor Xu Feng presented their



works on "Yi Junzuo's Huaqiao Shihua Notes on Poets and Poems of Overseas Chinese" and "On the Teaching of Chinese Vocabulary and Grammar in Primary Schools in Singapore: Viewed from the Error Analysis of Pupils' Written Chinese" respectively. Participants also joined in the post-presentation discussion.

The Lunch-time Seminar series of ALC aims to offer a platform for staff to share their research output, exchange new ideas, to seek and to provide feedback among colleagues. If given the opportunity, we may showcase external speakers in our series. ALC emphasises on boosting research interests and fostering a strong research culture.

**Right:** Assoc Prof Hadijah Bte Rahmat gave an Opening Address

**Left (From left):** Asst Prof Wang Bing; and Asst Prof Xu Feng



## 21ST CENTURY LITERATURE

By Assistant Professor Suzanne Choo, English Language and Literature Academic Group

Assistant Professor Suzanne Choo's book, *Reading the world, the globe, and the cosmos: Approaches to teaching literature for the twenty-first century*, was published in 2013 by Peter Lang, New York. It was one of the books selected by the American Educational Studies Association for the 2014 Critics Choice Book Award that recognises scholarship deemed to be outstanding in the field of education. The book was written over a span of three years and sought to theorise the range of pedagogical approaches to teaching literature that have emerged across history from the moment English Literature was institutionalised as a subject to be taught in schools to the present.

Utilising a method of pedagogical criticism, the book examines how conceptual values underlying each pedagogical approach emerged as a result of global-political forces and how these have changed in relation to key disciplinary movements. At a time

when scholars and policymakers are debating the role of literature education in Singapore and the west, the book provides a compelling argument about how literature education remains even more vital in developing the hospitable imagination. As globalisation has resulted in increasingly porous and networked societies, literature education performs a crucial role in facilitating global and cosmopolitan dispositions of openness towards multiple others in the world.

"I was inspired to write this book because I wanted my student-teachers as well as Literature educators and scholars to be exposed to the repertoire of pedagogical tools that can be applied to teaching literature and more importantly, to be critically informed of the history and philosophy underlying these approaches," Asst Prof Choo says.

Well done Prof, you have made us all very proud of your significant achievement!



## HEARTFELT THANKS

By Ms Tan Wenxin Katherine, Trainee Teachers' Club

Like previous years, the Trainee Teachers' Club (TTC) Management Committee organised a Flower Sale in lieu of a very special occasion, that is, Teachers' Day.

From 3 to 5 September 2014, the committee set up a booth outside the Student Hub and brought in colourful gerberas as well as big, blooming sunflowers that were sold at attractive prices. Many students came early to ensure that they were able to get a flower for their favourite tutor.

The sight of students giving each other flowers, exchanging words of appreciation and love as they streamed down the

corridors with beaming smiles was certainly heartwarming. More noticeably, excited discussions amongst groups revolved how they could spring a surprise for their respective tutors. This definitely reinforced the gratitude and respect that they have of their dedicated tutors.

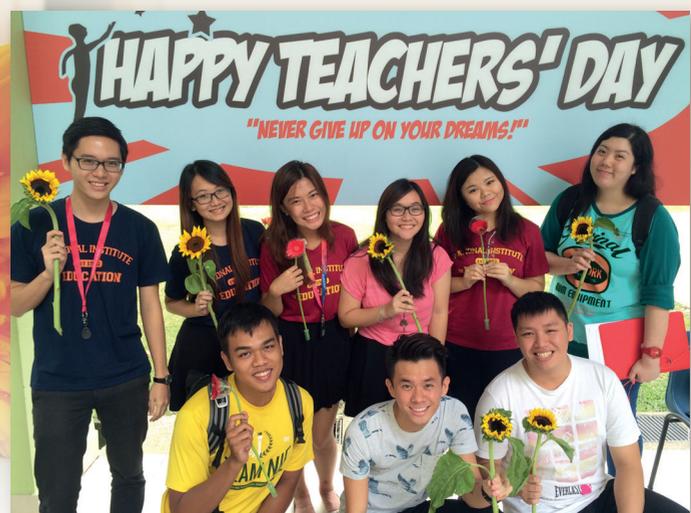
This year, the 24th TTC designed and hung up an eye-catching three-metre banner, as a backdrop, right beside the booth to encourage students to take photographs with each other.

In addition, the 24th TTC members showed their appreciation to all tutors by personally delivering gerberas with a

customised note to each and every tutor. This is a pioneer initiative by the committee and we are glad to share that all tutors were really happy to receive this warm token of appreciation.

On this note, we would like to wish all academic staff a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Above:** Kudos to the committee for selling beautiful flowers to put a smile on every tutor



# ADRENALINE WORK

By Public, International and Alumni Relations

## 2014 FORMULA 1 SINGAPORE AIRLINES SINGAPORE GRAND PRIX

While motorsport spectator junkies and multi-million dollar Formula One teams find their way to the Singapore Grand Prix (GP) each year for the perfect dose of torque and propulsion, two National Institute of Education (NIE), Singapore colleagues found themselves on the other side of the famed first street circuit in Asia as Suite Ambassadors.

Ms Valerie Sim and Mr Alan Ho from NIE's Public, International and Alumni Relations (PIAR) department were assigned to host the invited local and international dignitaries on the event's side-lines in its Singapore Suite from 19 to 21 September 2014. This meant responding well to their guests' needs during the rubber-to-tarmac thoroughfare at all times for the three days.

Though both veterans of the Hospitality unit at PIAR who also aced their interviews with an extensive understanding on hosting prominent dignitaries based on their current and past work experiences, this assignment did bring fresh perspectives.

"I am grateful to NIE for the opportunity to participate in the Singapore Grand Prix as a form of staff development and exposure. The intensity of preparation to create such an impactful three-day programme was not short of a massive amount of planning, coordination, logistics, effort and time that I witnessed on the ground; it was an eye opener," Valerie recalled.

Echoing her sentiments, Alan added: "It was certainly a positive experience on how commercial events are being staged. I took away with me a sense of accomplishment because there is a strong belief that everyone plays an

important role to help instil pride and professionalism to the entire outcome – this is encapsulated in effective teams forming the foundation to staging a successful Singapore GP."

To prepare for their GP duties, the two underwent two days of training and familiarisation after completing an online training module. These sessions proved advantageous for the first-time ambassadors.

Valerie explained: "The session provided an opportunity for the Suite Ambassadors to bond and get to know each other before the event. This was important because as with any event, teamwork is crucial in



**Above (Clockwise):**  
 Ms Valerie Sim and Mr Alan Ho in their Suite Ambassador uniforms at the Singapore Suite

ensuring the success of it. Many of them were returning Suite Ambassadors and they were spirited in welcoming of new team members. Using anecdotes and sharing of past experiences during the training session helped me get a better sense of what to expect during the actual event."

Asked to best describe their experiences with one word in retrospect, they readily responded with "Tiring" but quickly followed with much enthusiasm that they would support the event if the opportunity arises again.

"I believe that it is invaluable for me in terms of personal development and growth. My greatest takeaway was that the ability to adapt to change is an important attribute to have in events management. Being positive and keeping calm under pressure also makes a difference in the way you respond and the service rendered," says Alan.

Valerie added: "I enjoyed my time there and I would return again. The entire Suite Ambassadors and facilities teams' passion as service professionals was clearly evident. The successful execution of the Singapore GP was due to teamwork and the ability to empower staff with trust that they can each do their job well, and supporting them with adequate resources. It was a pleasure for me to be part of such a team."

Along with the last signs of Singapore GP removed from the Marina Bay Street Circuit comes a settling of adrenaline levels and a time to extend our thanks to both for their efforts in flying the NIE flag high.

The National Institute of Education, Singapore extends heartfelt gratitude to the organisers of the Singapore Grand Prix for the opportunity to support NIE staff development and exposure through the iconic 2014 event.

## NIE DIRECTOR'S INVITED ADDRESS AT THE ROYAL SWEDISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

By Office of Strategic Planning and Academic Quality

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (RSAS), well-known for their committees' selection of Nobel Prize winners, has in recent times been looking at the challenges faced by the education sector. The Wenner-Gren Foundations which brings leading experts in the fields of science to Sweden, co-organised the "International Symposium on Teacher Competence and the Teaching Profession" with the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences from 10 to 13 September 2014. Professor Tan Oon Seng, NIE Director, was invited to address the distinguished participants of scientists and leading educators. Discussions were held with RSAS scientists and top Swedish education leaders about how to enhance teacher education and the teaching of Science and Math.



**Above:** Prof Tan Oon Seng, NIE Director, with Neuroscientist Prof Dan Larhammar (left) at the Nobel Laureate Award decision room



**Above:** Prof Elisabet Nihlfors (right) who chaired and introduced Prof Tan Oon Seng's Address

## SHARING THE SINGAPORE STORY

By Public, International and Alumni Relations

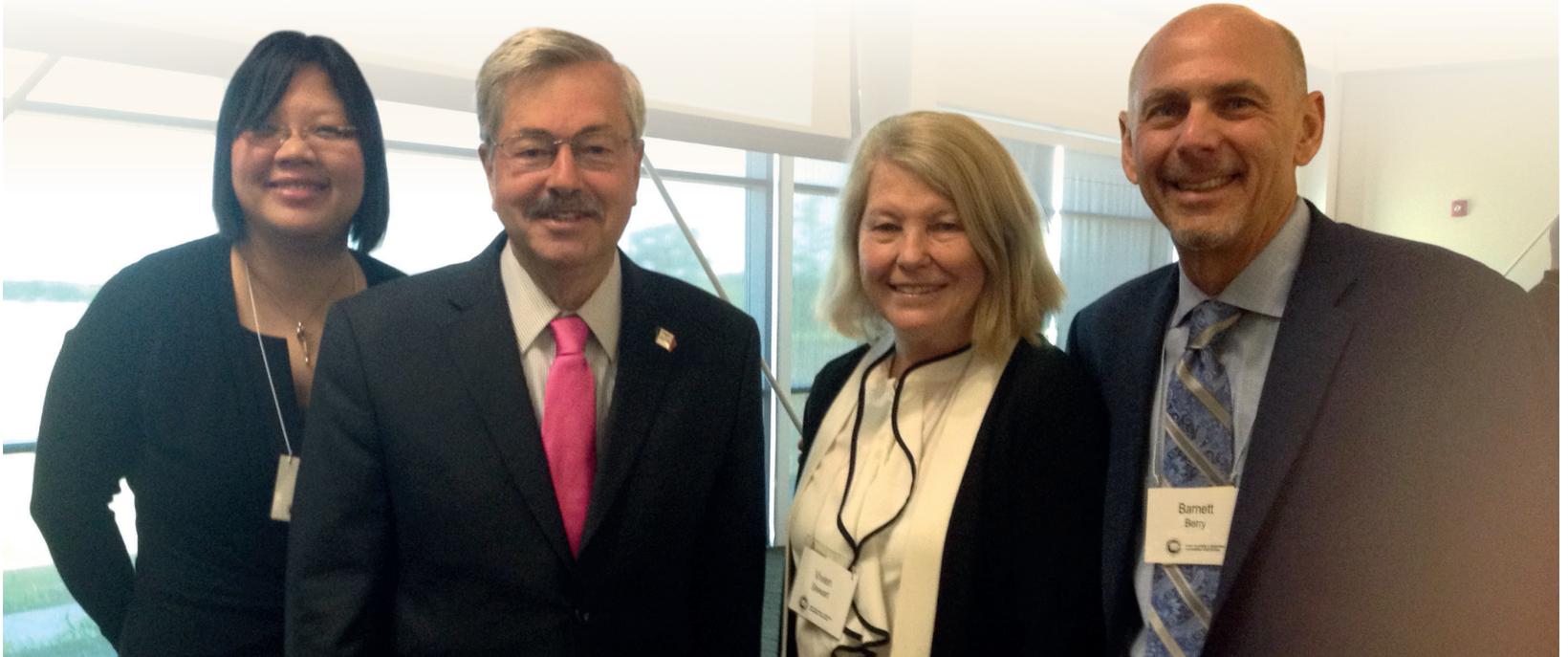
Associate Professor Low Ee Ling, Head of Strategic Planning and Academic Quality from NIE was invited by Governor Terry E. Branstad, Governor of Iowa, to share on the topic, "A Portrait of Great Teachers: Lessons for and from Singapore" at the Iowa Teacher and Principal Leadership Symposium, USA.

The governor's aim of holding the symposium stems from his belief that great leadership drives improvements

in instruction and will dramatically raise student achievement. Invited panellists included state, national and international experts who are steeped in the work of teacher education and school leadership development with the aim of giving all Iowa children a world-class education for the second symposium held in August 2014. Governor Branstad followed up with a thank you note to Assoc Prof Low which mentioned that her engaging presentation "provided a fascinating overview of Singapore's approach to

selecting, educating and supporting highly effective teachers. Assoc Prof Low also demonstrated how thoughtful alignment of many key elements results in a holistic education system produces impressive outcomes. Singapore's emphasis on continual improvement, especially learning from others, was an important message to share."

**Bottom (From left):** Assoc Prof Low Ee Ling, Governor Terry Branstad, Ms Vivien Stewart and Mr Barnett Barry



## UNITING THROUGH MUSIC

By Associate Professor Eugene Dairianathan, Visual and Performing Arts Academic Group

On 26 September 2014, the National Library Board (NLB) launched the book *"Singapore Soundscape: Musical Renaissance of a Global City"* as part of their one-stop digital music archive to digitise, archive and provide access and awareness for all forms of published Singapore musical works and musical heritage. In the preface by co-editor Jun Zubillaga-Pow, a PhD candidate in Music research at King's College, London, UK, said that as he "gazed at the cityscape from the top of the National Library", he realised that there was "no better way to bring the diverse cultures of the Singaporean populace together than through music;

through the songs that all Singaporeans have heard of and sang, and the musical experiences that they share with family, friends and fellow Singaporeans".

The book is the result of his efforts with co-editor, local composer Ho Chee Kong, who is an Associate Professor and the Head of Composition at Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, National University of Singapore (NUS).

The book is structured in two parts; the traditional and what Professor Bernard Tan, from NUS, refers to as 'what might be defined as popular music in Singapore'. Academics from the Visual

and Performing Arts Academic Group Dr Chia Wei Khuan, Mr Eric Peter Stead, Assistant Professor Lum Chee Hoo and Associate Professor Eugene Dairianathan contributes four chapters while alumni Mr Phan Ming Yen and Dr Penny Tan contributed two more chapters based on their Masters of Arts studies at NIE. The book was published by the National Library Board with support from the National Arts Council.

**Bottom (From left):** Asst Prof Lum Chee Hoo, Assoc Prof Eugene Dairianathan, Dr Chia Wei Khuan and Mr Eric Peter Stead



## PRONUNCIATION FOR ENGLISH AS AN INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE

By Public, International and Alumni Relations

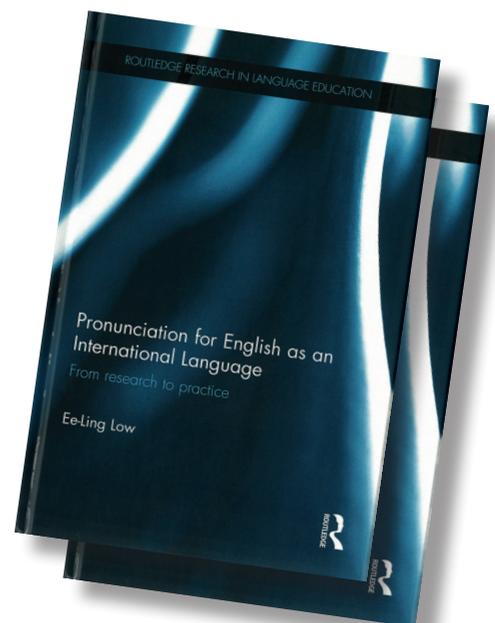
Associate Professor Low Ee Ling, Head, Strategic Planning and Academic Quality, has just published a book entitled *"Pronunciation for English as an International Language: From Research to Practice"* (Routledge). A brief description of the book is provided on the Taylor & Francis website (<http://www.sponpress.com/books/details/9780415725125/>) and extracted herewith:

*"Pronunciation plays a crucial role in learning English as an international language, yet often remains marginalised by educators due to a lack of required phonetic and phonological knowledge. Pronunciation for English as an International Language bridges the gap between phonetics, phonology and pronunciation*

*and provides the reader with a research-based guide on how best to teach the English language. The book follows an easy-to-follow format which ensures the reader will have a comprehensive grasp of each given topic by the end of the chapter."*

In a foreword by Professor Jack C. Richards, Honorary Professor from the University of Sydney, he states that *"This book is a very timely and much-needed contribution to the field, reflecting a comprehensive basis in theory, research and practice and promises to become a seminal reference on second language pronunciation teaching and learning."*

The author wishes to gratefully acknowledge the NIE RS-SAA Grant (RS 10/10 LEL) in the publication of her book.



The Institute will also strive to strengthen linkages between research activities and academic programmes. Professor Lee Wing On, Dean, OER, shared that a key strategic objective for his office going forward is to study ways in which research can be systematically translated into teaching, such as in leadership and undergraduate programmes.

## Enhancing Key Partnerships and Impact on Schools

The second major strategic goal for NIE in the coming years is to further strengthen the strong relationships that NIE has built with NTU, MOE and the schools.

More new, exciting programmes will be delivered through forging and deepening collaborations with NTU, MOE and its academies, as well as school leaders and educators. Teaching scholars in the NTU-NIE TSP, for example, will be able to take courses in NTU's other premier scholars' programmes as well as opt to work with NTU professors on content research projects. GPL is also stepping up collaborative efforts with the Academy of Singapore Teachers and other MOE academies to deliver more impactful leadership and professional development courses for in-service teachers and administrators.

At the same time, NIE will scale up efforts to enhance the alignment between NIE's research work and evident pedagogical improvements in schools. NIE academic staff are encouraged to proactively contribute to school education in areas such as new pedagogies, experiential learning and action research, for example.

## Boosting Institutional Capacity and Corporate Professionalism

The third strategic goal is to boost NIE's institutional capacity and build a collegial and professional corporate culture, said Prof Tan.

The Institute is taking steps towards a more holistic faculty rewards system. This will include a more considered approach to academic staff appraisal, less emphasis on accumulation of points, and greater affirmation of impact and utility to NIE, NTU and MOE, Professor Michael Chia, NIE Dean of Faculty Affairs shared in his presentation.

NIE will also continue to invest in the recruitment and development of young and promising faculty to raise our teaching and research capabilities. New initiatives, such as a school attachment programme for new NIE faculty, are in the works.

For NIE to deliver on all of its value propositions, we need a strong corporate support team with not only the right professional skills but also the right professional attitude. This includes the willingness to take ownership of responsibilities and the dedication to "see things through" for the overall benefit of NIE. Staff must be willing to "go the extra mile" and avoid a silo mentality. Efforts will continue to be dedicated to staff capacity building to boost corporate efficiency and professional service levels.

Before ending his speech and thanking the audience for their support, Prof Tan recounted a personal story of how a lone rider breaking from the pack ended up disrupting an enjoyable trip on horseback for the rest of the group. Highlighting the importance of teamwork and collegiality, he urged the NIE community to ride as one with him towards achieving excellence for NIE in the next year and beyond.

***The video recording and collated slides from the Director's Address 2014 are available for viewing on NIE staff portal.***



# PROMINENT VISITORS

By Public, International and Alumni Relations



## 22 August 2014

Headed by Mrs Janaito Al Lamki (sixth from left), Advisor of the Minister and Head of the Working Supervising Team for the Specialised Center for Professional Training of Teachers (SCPTT), a delegation from the National Center for Educational Assessment and Examination, and SCPTT, Sultanate of Oman, visited NIE on 22 August 2014. Hosted by Professor Lee Sing Kong (seventh from left), Managing Director of NIE International, the delegation met with colleagues from Office of Teacher Education, Office of Graduate Studies and Professional Learning, Library and Information Services Centre to learn about our teacher training programmes and library services, and also held discussions on potential collaboration areas with NIE.

## 5 September 2014

Represented by Professor Paul Teng, Principal Officer (seated, right), and Dr Utak Chung (seated, left), Director of APCEIU, NIE and the Asia-Pacific Center of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 5 September 2014. Spearheaded by the Humanities and Social Studies Education Academic Group, the MoU with NIE will allow for both institutes to collaborate in areas such as research and development of pedagogies and curriculum designed to support global citizenship, sustainability, international understanding and teacher education.



## 10 September 2014

Thai Ombudsman, Professor Siracha Charoenpanij (second from left), and his delegation met with Professor Paul Teng, Principal Officer, on 10 September 2014 to learn about NIE's role in the Singapore education system. His visit is part of the Thai Office of Ombudsman's current study on reforms and improvements to the Thai education system.

## 29 September 2014

Dr Tristram Hunt (fifth from right), the Shadow Secretary of State for Education, United Kingdom, and his delegation visited Singapore to learn about how Singapore has developed teaching as a professional career. During his visit to NIE on 29 September 2014, Professor Tan Oon Seng (fifth from left), NIE Director, and colleagues from the Office of Teacher Education and Office of Graduate Studies and Professional Learning shared about NIE's Initial Teacher Preparation programmes, in-service professional development and leadership development programmes. A few of our Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science students representatives also joined in the meeting and shared with Dr Hunt their passion to pursue teaching as their profession and of their experience in NIE.

# GRADUATE STUDENT DAY 2014

By Associate Professor Jude Chua Soo Meng, Office of Graduate Studies and Professional Learning and Policy and Leadership Studies Academic Group

If Plato, the celebrated Greek philosopher, had come to NIE to do his graduate studies (though we know of course this is impossible), he might have felt at home. He might have rejoiced at the fact that there was a Graduate Student Day.

The third Graduate Student Day (GSD) was held on Saturday, 20 September 2014 at the National Institute of Education (Singapore). The GSD is a day organised by graduate student volunteers aimed at promoting a research culture amongst our graduate students. Graduate students do oral presentations, poster presentations and compete in the 3-Minute Thesis competition.

For that ancient thinker, whose "Allegory of the Cave" is familiar to every educated person and more so to those in education, the GSD might almost seem to be an occasion for students to escape a kind of idol-gazing obsession with the copying appearances, in order to peer at the ultimate realities, the forms. Perhaps Vilem Flusser's adaptation of that theme when he coined the word "textolatry" better brings out the beneficial affordances of the GSD that Plato can clearly appreciate: by inviting students to present their ideas orally, and to listen to others, and to engage with ideas beyond the confines of their own interests, the GSD nudges students to temporarily suspend their own obsessive focus on their own texts and their own written theses, in order to encounter what else is out there, and also to appreciate the distance between the things they write about and the full panorama of knowledge worth gaining and truths worth adhering to.

This year's GSD was chaired by Mr Mohamed Heikal Yusope, our Education



**Above:** Some of our participants at the GSD

in Diploma candidate. There were over 120 registrants and over 40 presentations this year. Professor Christine Goh, Dean of the Office of Graduate Studies and Professional Learning (GPL), gave the welcome address, in which she emphasised the many benefits of participating in the GSD. Our keynote speaker was Professor Peter Looker, from the Teaching, Learning and Pedagogy Division at NTU. In his keynote, he made a strong case for a doctoral education which

genuinely unites teaching and research to the benefit of both. We also had graduate student participants from the Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIED), and Professor Lo Sing Kai of HKIED gave a guest lecture on the importance of developing methodological quality assessment skills. Associate Professor Jude Chua, Sub Dean (Research Degrees) gave the closing address, and underscored the importance of engaging topics and questions beyond one's immediate specialisation.

If you missed it, perhaps you should not next year.

**Top:** Asst Prof Tamas Kiss interacting with students during his presentation

**Left:** Our Graduate Student Volunteers and Prof Christine Goh, Dean, GPL (Bottom row, second from left) and Assoc Prof Isabella Wong (Top row, left), Sub-Dean, Higher Professional Learning Degrees





# DIRECTOR'S ADDRESS 2014: NIE MOVING FORWARD!

By Office of Strategic Planning and Academic Quality

**G**rowing our knowledge capital, forging and enhancing key partnerships, and building institutional capacity and corporate professionalism – these are the three major strategic goals that NIE will strive towards for our next lap of growth, said Professor Tan Oon Seng, Director, NIE, at the Director's Address 2014.

Over 600 academic, research and administrative staff gathered in NIE Lecture Theatre 1 and Lecture Theatre 2 to hear from Prof Tan as he shared his vision and strategic directions for AY2014/15 and beyond. Besides the main address by our Director, the Deans of Teacher Education (TE), Graduate Studies and Professional Learning (GPL), Education Research (OER), and Faculty Affairs (FA) also took turns to give a quick overview of their key initiatives for the next year.

Enthralling the audience with humorous stories and personal anecdotes throughout his speech, Prof Tan began with a special nod of appreciation to the past directors of the Institute. Supported by the collective endeavours of NIE staff past and present, our past leaders had laid down the groundwork for the Institute's success, said Prof Tan, and these solid foundations will enable him and his new leadership team to take NIE and teacher education in Singapore to greater heights.



## NIE Moving Forward

Outlining NIE's strategic direction for the next few years, Prof Tan shared with the audience the key goals that the Institute will focus on in the immediate future (illustrated below). They are:

- i. growing knowledge capital and developing "star" programmes;
- ii. enhancing partnerships and impact on schools; and
- iii. building institutional capacity and corporate professionalism.

## Growing Knowledge Capital and Developing "Star" Programmes

Growing our knowledge capital and maintaining our impact on Singapore's education system is NIE's core business. To achieve this aim, NIE must not only continue to enhance our research capabilities, but also develop a distinctive suite of "star" programmes built on our key strengths.

These new signature programmes will embody NIE's holistic approach to teacher education. They will, in essence, be multidisciplinary, research and evidence-informed, robust in disciplinary and pedagogical rigour, offer global perspectives and strong industry links, and values-based for all-round

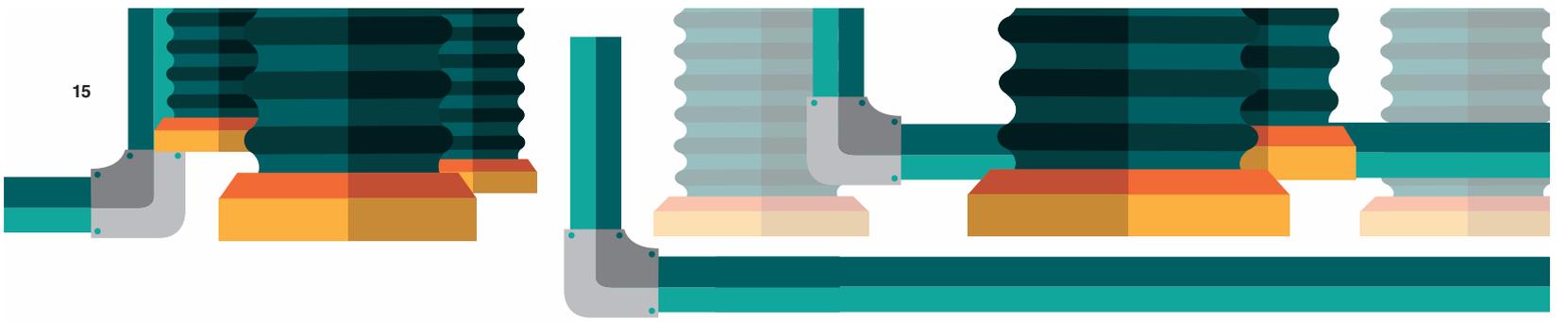


character development. The new NTU-NIE Teaching Scholars Programme (NTU-NIE TSP), for example, will have all of the above elements, said Associate Professor Liu Woon Chia, Dean, TE, in her presentation.

The NTU-NIE TSP and other programmes will soon be delivered under a new NIE Teaching and Learning Framework, which is currently being developed, said Prof Tan. This new Institute-level Framework is anchored by the vision to provide a learner-centric "21st Century learning experience" that will be experiential, participative, inquiry-based, inter-connected and collaborative. It will allow NIE to leverage on the latest ICT and pedagogical innovations to deliver quality programmes and modular courses to meet the needs of a new generation of learners.

The upcoming Master of Arts in Professional Education (MAPE) and other higher degree, professional development and leadership programmes will include new modalities to facilitate e-learning and distance learning, said Professor Christine Goh, Dean, GPL.





# NIE 2014 MILES



## Visit of Bulgaria Education Minister

Dr Aneliya Klisarova, Minister of Education and Science, Bulgaria, visited NIE to hear more about how Singapore educates and motivates teachers, and provides opportunities for their continuing education.



# FEB

## New Leadership

NIE announced its key leadership change in February 2014. Slated to take place on 1 July 2014, Professor Lee Sing Kong handed the NIE Directorship over to Professor Tan Oon Seng while Dr Quek Jin Jong's retirement saw Professor Paul Teng taking on the role of Principal Officer at the institute. The changing of guards also included a new Dean, Teacher Education at NIE's Office of Teacher Education and Dean, Graduate Studies and Professional Learning at its Office of Graduate Studies and Professional Learning.

**Above (From left):**

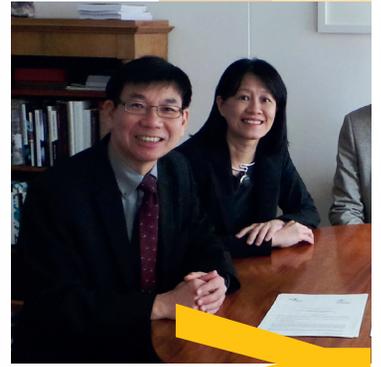
Prof Tan Oon Seng as Director, NIE

Prof Paul Teng as NIE Principal Officer

Assoc Prof Liu Woon Chia as Dean, Teacher Education

Prof Christine Goh as Dean, Graduate Studies and Professional Learning

# STONES



MAY



## C J Koh Professorship 2014

From 3 to 7 March 2014, NIE welcomed its 10th C J Koh Professor Dennis Shirley to Singapore for a week of fruitful sharing and exchange with the local education fraternity.

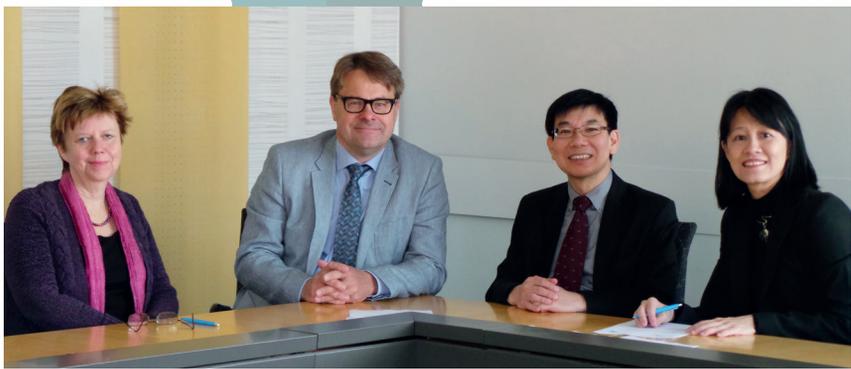
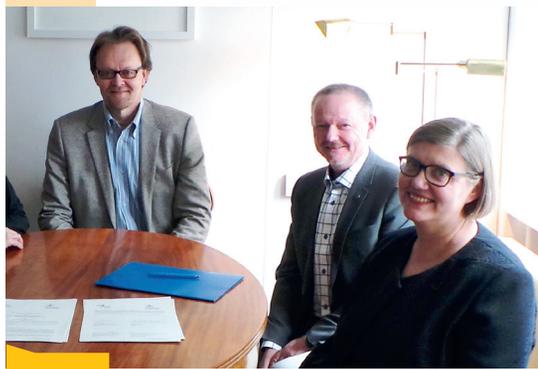
MAY



APR

## NIE celebrates 10 years of the Caring Teacher Awards

In partnership with ExxonMobil Asia Pacific Pte Ltd, the National Institute of Education celebrated the 10th successful cycle of the Caring Teacher Awards (CTA) this year with the launch of a 150-page commemorative book. Supported by the Ministry of Education, this biennial award received an impressive participation from 248 schools. More than 1,100 teachers were nominated as CTA nominees.



## NIE signed Memorandums of Understanding with Two Swedish Universities

NIE penned two Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with Stockholm University (SU) and LiUnköping University (LiU). At SU, Professor Tan Oon Seng, Director, NIE and Associate Professor Liu Woon Chia, Dean, Office of Teacher Education signed the MoU in the presence of Professor Bengt-Olov Molander, Advisor to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Hans Adolfsson, Pro Vice-Chancellor, and Professor Astrid Söderbergh Widding, Vice-Chancellor (pictured left). At LiU, the MoU was signed in the presence of Associate Professor Karin Mårdsjö Blume, Dean, Faculty of Educational Sciences, and Professor Peter Varbrand, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (pictured right). Sweden joins the growing list of overseas institutes and countries that NIE students can go for student exchange programme and international practicum.



## Visit of HSH Prince Alfred of Liechtenstein

On 9 May 2014, NIE welcomed the visit by His Serene Highness Prince Alfred of Liechtenstein, Chairman of the Advisory Board of the International Peace Foundation. HSH Prince Alfred (pictured, right), was introduced to NIE's role in teacher education in Singapore. HSH Prince Alfred also spent time visiting the Classroom of the Future and the Collaborative Classroom.



## Henry David Hochstadt Early Childhood Education Symposium

On 19 July 2014, the Early Childhood and Special Needs Education Academic Group launched two endowment funds at the National Institute of Education Singapore at its inaugural Henry David Hochstadt Early Childhood Symposium. The symposium served as a sharing and learning platform for academics, practitioners, families, and all with the well-being of children at heart.

WHA

AUG

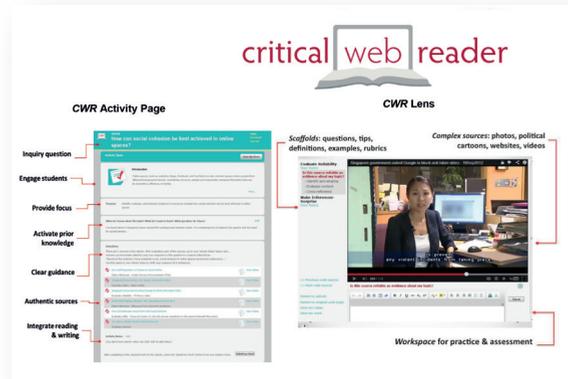
SEP

JUL

ADD

## NIE and Indiana University launched new tool for students

NIE and Indiana University Research and Technology Corporation agreed to a special licensing agreement to bring an innovative web-based tool known as the 'Critical Web Reader' into Singapore classrooms. With this tool, teachers and students customise how they engage with online information sources within an interactive learning framework.



SELF



## Launch of NIE Teaching Scholars Programme

The Teaching Scholars Programme was launched to award outstanding young persons with a passion and calling to be professional leaders in education. A collaboration with MOE and NTU, the programme aims to produce graduates with leadership skills and global knowledge to make significant contributions in the education field.



MOVING FORWARD

## The International Science Education Conference 2014

Jointly organised by the Ministry of Education and the Natural Sciences and Science Education Academic Group, The International Science Education Conference 2014 (ISEC) 2014 brought together academics, researchers, teachers, school leaders, policy makers and industry partners from around the globe to share the latest innovative research and practices in science education.

## The 20th Association of Psychological and Educational Counselors of Asia Pacific Biennial Conference-Workshop 2014

The 20th Association of Psychological and Educational Counselors of Asia Pacific (Biennial) Conference-Workshop 2014 will see a gathering of counsellors, psychologists, social workers, education experts, teachers, graduate students, non-governmental organisations and voluntary welfare organisations representatives to discuss and exchange views on the contemporary theoretical and practical counselling knowledge in a scientific environment. Skill-based workshops will be conducted by leading counsellors from different countries to help participants develop creative and contemporary counselling skills.



## NIE CELEBRATES DEEPAVALI

By Dr R Velmurugan, Asian Languages and Cultures Academic Group

The Tamil Division of Asian Languages and Cultures Academic Group and Tamil Language Club jointly hosted the annual Deepavali Celebration. The show was successfully held on 15 October 2014 at NIE Lecture Theatre 4 and was 'sold out' to a full house! Student teachers and lecturers combined their efforts in transforming the lecture theatre into a colourful and bright venue. It created a vibrant ambience; the true essence of the Festival of Lights was created splendidly.

Mr Saba Muthu Natarajan, Head of Tamil Radio news, at Mediacorp graced the event as the Guest of Honour. Upon his arrival, he was invited to ignite a lamp to signal the start of the concert.

The welcoming performance by the Urumi group was a visual feast for the eyes through their fast and dynamic performance. Melodious songs were also played, with the audience showing their support by clapping and singing along.

The next item, which was the 'fashion parade', was undoubtedly the audience's favourite segment of the show. The parade was unique as Malay and Chinese student teachers posed as models while showing off traditional Indian ethnic costumes. They entertained the crowd while modelling down the walkway to the fast rhythm of Indian music. The audience constantly cheered and supported their friends. Scrumptious vegetarian and non-vegetarian Indian food were served after

the concert. Guests were also presented with packets of delicious murukku as door gifts.

Celebrating the occasion in a different way but keeping the main essence and crux of the event at the same time can be challenging. Amidst an already packed semester, the celebration also served to free the minds of student teachers off schoolwork and dedicate the day for a celebration with their fellow schoolmates. And of course, the positive remarks will certainly be a boost to all of us throughout the semester too!

**Top:** The Guest of Honour, Mr Saba Muthu Natarajan (fifth from left) enjoyed the festivities that was well-organised by staff and students

## THE NEXT TOP MODEL

By Mr Muhammad Azli Azfar Bin Onn, NTU/NIE Malay Language and Cultural Society

This year's Hari Raya event entitled "Raya's Next Top Model" was held on 20 August 2014 and was graced by our Guest-of-Honour, Associate Professor Low Ee Ling, Head, Strategic Planning and Academic Quality. The concept of this year's Hari Raya show was unique. We combined the concepts of the previous year's events to include a game show, singing, fun trivia and the art of modelling.

NTU Malay Language and Cultural Society (NTUMLCS) wanted the audience to not only watch the show but be a part of it. So, we created the idea of having a runway to showcase our models and their ability to promote the Hari Raya costume and the traditional Malay food they were holding. This encouraged the

audience to show support and help sway the judges to determine which model deserved to advance to the next round.

Adapted from the popular reality show, "America's Next Top Model", we decided to infuse the concept with Malay traditions to showcase traditional Malay clothing such as the *Baju Kebaya* and the *Baju Kurung Telok Blangah*. At the same time, we wanted to educate all on traditional Malay food such as *Kuih Laying-layang*, *Kuih Baulu*, *Kuih Bangkit* and *Kuih Makmur*. Our models worked hard to impress by showing off their knowledge of Hari Raya customs and the ability to sing Hari Raya Songs in a special "Don't Forget the Lyrics!" segment.

Our event was hosted by two awesome emcees, Ms Nurul Iman and Mr Hafiz. Both of them engaged the audience and the contestants very well. Furthermore, they provided clear instructions on how each segment of the event was to be played out. Their excellent emceeing skills and sense of humour ensured an abundance of entertainment for the audience.



Our very own dance troupe, "Beztari" and female dikir barat team, "Dewi Samudera" also showcased great performances that were crowd-pleasers for all including the Guest-of-Honour and VIPs. The event proved to be a great success and our invited guests enjoyed themselves thoroughly. NTUMLCS wishes to thank Dr Aidil Subhan for his advice, wisdom and most importantly, his unwavering support for the event. We would like to give our gratitude to all staff and students who came to support the event. Educating the NTU/NIE community on Malay customs and traditions will always be our priority and we hope to have more opportunities to organise such events in the future.



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# REDESIGNING PEDAGOGY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2015

By Dr Steven Tan Boon Seng, Office of Education Research

The 21st century presents complex educational realities that challenge conventional practices of leadership, values and citizenship education. Leadership is a participative process of leading innovation and change across all levels of the education system: principals, teachers, students, parents and other stakeholders. If educators are to act as agents of change, how and to what extent do we need to redesign our pedagogy to remain relevant? What roles should leadership play in the design and implementation of learning environments that promote authentic values and citizenship education for all our students?

The Redesigning Pedagogy International Conference 2015 provides a platform for practitioners, researchers, educational leaders and policymakers to collectively debate and generate creative solutions to

these critical questions. This conference offers opportunities for multi-stakeholder interactions, sharing of international leading-edge research and best practices across schools and cultures, and the forging of new and innovative directions for educational research and practice.

For 2015, conference delegates who are interested in values and citizenship education can also opt to attend the Arts, Humanities and Literature Conference 2015 or the 11th International CitizED Conference in addition to the main conference on Day 3. The themes of the conferences are *"Live(d) Experiences: Imagination, Wonder and Spaces of I/M/possibilities"* and *"Citizenship, Character and Values Education for the 21st Century"* respectively. With three track options on its final day, we are hopeful that audience engagement will remain charged throughout the conference.

The Organising Committee invites proposals to examine disciplinary ideas about leaders, values and citizenship in 21st century education. We encourage submissions from all disciplines as the strands of the conference address the full spectrum of grade levels and academic subjects, with an overarching focus on educational leadership, values education and citizenship.

We look forward to your participation in this exciting conference.

The Conference Convenors are Professor David Hung, Head, Centre for Research in Pedagogy and Practice; Associate Professor Kerry Lee, Head, Education and Cognitive Development Lab; and Associate Professor Manu Kapur, Head, Learning Sciences Lab, NIE Singapore.



**REDESIGNING PEDAGOGY**  
International Conference • 2nd – 4th June 2015

Held in conjunction with  
**11th International CitizED Conference & Arts, Humanities and Literature Conference 2015**

**Leaders, Values and Citizenship in 21st Century Education**

The 21st century presents complex educational realities that challenge conventional practices of leadership, values and citizenship education.

- ▶ If educators are to act as agents of change, how and to what extent do we need to redesign our pedagogy to remain relevant?
- ▶ What role should leadership play in the design and implementation of learning environments that promote authentic values and citizenship education for all our students?

Come and explore the answers to these questions at the Redesigning Pedagogy International Conference 2015.

This conference provides a global platform for practitioners, researchers, educational leaders and policymakers to interact, share leading-edge research and best practices across schools and cultures, and forge new and innovative directions for educational research and practice.

Held in conjunction with the **11th International CitizED Conference & the Arts, Humanities and Literature Conference 2015**, special sessions focusing on the themes of "Citizenship, Character and Values Education for the 21st Century" and "Live(d) Experiences: Imagination, Wonder and Spaces of I/M/possibilities" are also available.

**Submission of proposals for paper sessions, workshops and symposia is now open.**

Important Dates	
Proposal submission deadline	31 Dec 2014
Notification of proposal acceptance	15 Feb 2015
Early bird registration opens	1 Dec 2014
Early bird registration closes	31 Mar 2015
Registration closes	30 Apr 2015

For enquiries, contact us at:  
[rpcsec@nie.edu.sg](mailto:rpcsec@nie.edu.sg)

<http://conference.nie.edu.sg>

NIE An Institute of NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

## SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS FOR PAPER SESSIONS, WORKSHOPS AND SYMPOSIA IS NOW OPEN.

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## REDESIGNING PEDAGOGY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2015

Redesigning Pedagogy: Leaders, Values and Citizenship in 21st Century Education

2 to 4 June 2015

National Institute of Education, Singapore

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# TALL ON HUMANITIES

By Public, International and Alumni Relations

**A**ssociate Professor Mark Baildon is very much at home in Singapore. As soon as he launches into a discussion about our rich culture, history, and geography as well as the social studies curriculum, one forgets the fact that he has an American accent, because he persists on teaching tenets for these subjects with more fervour than an average Singaporean would relegate about durians.

From 1989 to 1994, Assoc Prof Baildon taught social studies at the Singapore American School. After teaching in several international schools, he and his wife returned to Singapore in 2006 when the opportunity arrived for him to lecture at NIE. Besides the administration work now as NIE's Head of Humanities and Social Studies Education Academic Group, Assoc Prof Baildon has continued working with his colleague, Associate Professor James Damico at Indiana University. This work includes the ongoing development of the Critical Web Reader (CWR) which promotes critical thinking and literacy with information on the Internet. Assoc Prof Baildon hopes the project becomes a catalyst to help young people develop much needed skills.

"We wanted to develop a tool that teachers can easily use in their classrooms to help students develop a strong skills set to more critically read online information. This is particularly important because with the plethora of affordable smart devices, our youths are exposed to so much information that they can easily access at the swipe of their fingertips. They need to learn what information can be trusted and to evaluate the accuracy of information". He adds: "The CWR uses lenses to guide students to better evaluate the reliability or credibility of information sources and assess the validity of claims authors make. It also helps them develop their own conclusions based on their analysis of different sources."

The easy-to-use technology tool has found its way into several schools in USA. Phase two of CWR now brings Assoc Prof Baildon and his co-researcher to look at how the tool can be implemented in Singapore classrooms.

"Based on our work with Social Studies teachers and students here we think we can add certain features that better support collaboration and assessment. We are now working on those features. We hope to develop the CWR as a tool



that would be part of the Student Learning Space talked about," he relates.

As the passionate academic purveys the social studies curriculum in Singapore schools through his lectures for trainee teachers at NIE, he says humanities subjects are even more important in today's context.

"As many Singaporeans are asking questions about what it means to be Singaporean, we will need subjects like History, Geography, Social Studies and Literature even more than ever. There is growing interest in civil society, civic participation, heritage and preservation of places – elements that hold special meaning for people. There is also an ongoing re-assessment of Singapore's past. These issues require the active and critical discussions that belong fundamentally to the humanities and social sciences. Good questions about these aspects of social life can propel the analytical, interpretive and evaluative skills necessary to work with complex issues in the 21st century," Assoc Prof Baildon explained.

Reconfirming his inspiration to encourage innovative teaching pedagogies here stems from more than just both his children being born in Singapore but that there is much more to explore in the

subjects he teaches. He enthuses that "Humanities subjects are not "boring" if students here are able to see the relevance of these subjects to their own lives and if allowed to participate in some of the debates about issues that impact them now and will likely shape their future. Deriving meaning out of social experience, the past, the spaces and places around them... these challenging issues that face us in the 21st century should never be boring."



**From Top:** Assoc Prof Mark Baildon celebrates the Master of Arts in Humanities Education programme; and a screenshot of the CWR instructional video

## RESEARCH WINNERS

By Ms Saranya Elangovan, Honorary General Secretary, Society for Reading and Literacy



For the third year in a row, an NIE Master of Education alumni has received the Society for Reading and Literacy (SRL) Research Award since its inception in 2012.

Awarded annually to one deserving student pursuing investigations in the diverse field of literacy, this year's winner, Ms Hoo Lee Pin, was recognised at a ceremony during SRL's annual general meeting on 27 September 2014.

Lee Pin enrolled in the Masters in Education (Special Education) programme at NIE in order to keep abreast of the latest research and development in the special needs' sector. Her dissertation topic on

*"The Relationship between Emergent Reading and Writing Processes in a Kindergartener: A Single-Subject Case Study"* under the supervision of Assoc Prof Noel Chia Kok Hwee from Early Childhood and Special Needs Education Academic Group garnered much attention.

Looking back, her passion in the field of human development and education stirred her to join a mainstream school as an Allied Educator (Learning and Behavioural Support) after she obtained her BA Psychology degree at NUS. Her two-year stint at a primary school saw her working with students with mild to moderate special needs. This heightened her awareness of the importance of early intervention

for children with developmental delays. She has since been enhancing her professional knowledge by supporting young children with developmental delays in the area of literacy in community and presently in clinical settings.

Lee Pin joins the ranks of fellow NIE alumni members, Ms Saranya Elangovan from Pathlight School who received the inaugural SRL Research Award in 2012 and Ms Patricia Ng Mui Hoon the year after. Since nominations for the SRL Research Award comes from several post-secondary and tertiary institutions, it is indeed a humbling feat and testament to NIE's cutting-edge research and development programmes that the winners have all hailed from NIE's Master in Education programme.

While all three recipients are working in varied special needs and educational sectors, they continue to impact and elevate the special needs and diverse learners' landscape in Singapore positively with the strong research support from NIE.

**Above (From left): Ms Felicia Chin; Ms Hoo Lee Pin; Mr Mohamad Shaifudin bin Md Yusof; Ms Patricia Ng Mui Hoon; Ms Saranya Elangovan and Assoc Prof Noel Chia Kok Hwee**

## ISRAELI PEDAGOGY

By Ms Rifhan Miller, Office of Education Research

Dr Adam Lefstein (pictured right), a senior lecturer from the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel gave a seminar entitled *"Is there an Israeli Pedagogy?"* on Friday, 3 October 2014 at NIE. Associate Professor Lee Yew Jin from Natural Sciences and Science Education Academic Group was the discussant. The seminar was jointly organized by the International and Comparative Studies (ICS) and System Studies in Pedagogies and Educational Outcomes Task Forces from the Office of Education Research (OER).

Dr Lefstein researches and teaches pedagogy, classroom interaction, teacher learning and educational change in Israel. Previously, he served as a senior lecturer at the Institute of Education, University of London, and held post-doctoral fellowships at Oxford University and King's College London. He co-authored the book *"Better than Best Practice: Developing Teaching and Learning through Dialogue"* (Routledge, 2014).

Inspired by Robin Alexander's 2001 work *"Culture and Pedagogy"* and the Centre for Research in Pedagogy and Practice's Core 2 research project, Dr Lefstein is currently conducting Israel's first and only systematic study of its primary pedagogy. Through participant observation and recording of 120 lessons in two secular state schools in Israel, he analysed classroom utterances to demonstrate there is a unique state school secular pedagogy. He argued that the cultural impetus for democracy and anti-authoritarianism in Israel shaped the nature of classroom talk.

About 60 attendees from NIE, MOE and from various secondary schools engaged actively with Dr Lefstein in discussion. Topics discussed included central features of Israeli pedagogy, including discourse norms, epistemic climate, learning tasks, power relations, values education and gender. Comparisons with Singaporean classrooms were made and the question of whether a Singaporean pedagogy existed was raised.



Some lessons drawn from his study included the need to understand the character of classroom learning environments by recognising the unique circumstances and influence that culture has on an education system. The importance of indigenising educational ideologies when importing them from abroad was also highlighted. Seminars like these are especially useful for policymakers, practitioners and researchers. OER will continue to work with various experts from abroad and locally to offer more of such enriching seminars.

**Above: Dr Adam Lefstein speaking at the seminar attended by NIE and MOE staff and educators**

# MASTERS STUDENT WINS INAUGURAL AWARD

By Dr Jason Loh, English Language and Literature Academic Group



**M**s Choo Li Lin, a former Master of Arts (Applied Linguistics) student from the English Language and Literature (ELL) Academic Group, has received the inaugural Master's Dissertation Award of the Singapore Association for Applied Linguistics (SAAL) for her dissertation titled *"How Teachers' Disciplinary Background and Teaching Experience Influence Their Use of Evaluative Resources"*.

Completed in 2013 under the supervision of Associate Professor Hu Guangwei, the dissertation reported on an empirical study designed to examine how teachers' disciplinary background and teaching experience may influence their use of evaluative language resources in their written feedback on students' inquiry projects.

As pointed out by Assoc Prof Hu, who nominated Li Lin's dissertation for the SAAL award, "this well designed study has produced findings which not only add to our understanding of teacher feedback but also have important implications for developing teachers' effective use of evaluative language to provide quality feedback that can support and maximise students' learning."

The SAAL Master's Dissertation Award, launched in 2014, is given to the best Master's dissertation in applied linguistics submitted to a university in Singapore. Only one dissertation is selected for the award each year, and the winner receives a certificate and S\$500 from SAAL. For this year's award, all nominated dissertations were independently evaluated by three judges, all of whom recommended Li Lin's

dissertation as the top choice. Associate Professor Low Ee Ling, President of SAAL, presented the award to Li Lin at the Association's 29th Annual General Meeting on 20 September 2014. As part of the award, Li Lin has been invited to present her dissertation study at a SAAL organised seminar.

Currently, Ms Li Lin is a teacher at Raffles Girls' School (Secondary). She is also a newly admitted PhD student at ELL, NIE. Supervised by Assoc Prof Hu Guangwei once again, her PhD project is a study of citation practices in dissertations written by graduate students from different disciplines.

**Above (From left):** Assoc Prof Hu Guangwei and Assoc Prof Low (right) presenting Ms Choo Li Lin with the award

## CAMPUS NEWS

### A Record-breaking Attempt

- An attempt to set a Singapore Book of Records for up to 4,700 cards in a heart-shaped collage formation was one of the aims of 19 NIE student teachers in a GESL project. Partnered with RSVP Singapore The Organisation of Senior Volunteers, the project aimed on community building and development with respect to the elderly. Over two weekends in November they engaged the public to show their support to senior volunteers with hand-written messages of encouragement on cards. We wish all GESL groups the best and for this group, may you make history

with your efforts! For more details about the project, please look out for the NIE News March 2015 edition next.

### SPH Workshops for Student Teachers

- A group of Singapore Press Holdings journalists will be on-campus to conduct a series of workshops on how to better understand the role of the media in education today in December 2014.

### Two new Masters programmes

- Come January 2015 NIE will see two new Master of Arts programmes. These include the Master of Arts in Teaching Chinese as an International Language

(MA TCIL) and the Master of Arts in Professional Education (MAPE). For more details, visit: <http://www.nie.edu.sg/studynie/admissions/graduate-studies-professional-learning>

### NIE Teachers' Investiture Ceremony January 2015

- NIE will celebrate a new fold of teaching professionals at its Teachers' Investiture Ceremony in January 2015. To view our past ceremony celebrations, visit: [www.nie.edu.sg/gallery](http://www.nie.edu.sg/gallery)

# Graduation Ceremon

## 24 October 2014

Guest of Honour  
Mr Heng Swee Keat  
Minister for Education



## LEADING WITH HUMILITY

By Public, International and Alumni Relations

**V**aledictorian of the Leaders in Education Programme (LEP) 2014 cohort, Mr Hoe Wee Meng brought his fellow participants and guests present at the LEP Graduation Dinner on a heart-warming journey down memory lane, as he reflected on this enriching course.

Mr Hoe, who received the Lee Kuan Yew Award and Dr Ruth Wong Medal, believes that a key takeaway about leadership is one of humility. He made it a point to remind himself that the leadership appointment he holds is a position of privilege and that his primary role is to be of service to others.

Mr Hoe was also grateful for the sharing of past experiences from experienced principals, the theories imparted by the LEP Syndicate Leaders as well as the chance to experiment alongside principal mentors as they worked together to help cultivate an environment conducive for deep and collective learning.

This year, a total of 35 senior educators, including five from Brunei, graduated from the LEP. They received their certificates at the LEP 2014 Graduation Dinner held on 24 October 2014 from Ms Chan Lai Fung, Permanent Secretary (Education), Ministry of Education (MOE) and NIE Council Chairperson. Mr Heng

Swee Keat, Minister for Education, was the Guest-of-Honour at this event.

LEP is offered by the National Institute of Education for senior educators specially selected by MOE. This six-month long full-time programme aims to provide senior educators with a skillset essential to performing the role of a principal as well as the experience to promote creative thinking and problem-solving to meet the needs of an ever-changing education landscape.

**Top: Mr Hoe Wee Meng (right) receiving his award from Mr Heng Swee Keat, Minister for Education**



**Above: The participants of Leaders in Education Programme 2014**

# LOVE@NIE

By Public, International and Alumni Relations

In the midst of tutorials and group projects, it is only natural our student teachers find great inspiration to learn from each other and forge strong friendships in the course of their studies. In fact, some have also found true love through their shared passion. Here, two couples happily share with us their journey of how they met through teacher training and fell in love on campus.

## Bryan and Huei Minn

The pair were enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts (English) programme and were in fact, classmates during their time at NIE. Their love and passion for teaching brought them together and in return, created a memorable studying experience.

Bryan fondly remembers the countless hours discussing assignments over meals and staying till late to complete them. "We would plan our time together and worry silly over our grades, but we made sure we got enough rest too. Looking back, those were some of the best times during our time at NIE," he quipped.

Their graduation at the Teachers' Investiture Ceremony in July earlier this year was another happy and special memory for them to cherish. Huei Minn is especially excited of their future together as educators in the field.

"We are both lucky to have each other to continue to pursue our passion to become effective teachers who can ensure that future generations stay on the right path together. In the longer run, we hope to be able to contribute as much as we can to education," she says.



## Samuel and Iris

While Samuel was studying in the Bachelor of Science programme, Iris was in the Bachelor of Arts. Although the two were in the same primary school during the same period, they did not meet till they respectively decided to try their hand at contract teaching before joining NIE. Despite their first meeting there, their romance finally blossomed when they connected by applying as teachers at NIE and even went back to their primary school for their first teaching practicum because of a common love for their alma mater. Through the passion of teaching, sharing similar childhood memories as primary school kids and numerous teaching experiences, they found it easy to confide in each other in many areas of their lives.

Four years on, both of them have graduated, happily tied the knot and are looking to impact the next generation of students.

"As a PE Teacher, I hope to emulate the success of our pioneers to raise the profile of physical education and sports to another level," says Samuel. Iris too shares the same sentiments. "I hope to pass on the skill of critical thinking to my pupils so they can cope with the challenges of modern day society."

**Have a story to share?** Do send in your stories to: [nienews@nie.edu.sg](mailto:nienews@nie.edu.sg)

## CONGRATULATIONS

**N**IE extends heartfelt congratulations to our alumni who were conferred the President's Award for Teachers by the President of the Republic of Singapore, Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, at the Istana on 29 August 2014. The NIE Community celebrates your outstanding achievements with you!

The recipients are (from left): Mdm Lim Yen Peng Linda from Chongzheng Primary School; Ms Rezia Rahumathullah from Da Qiao Primary School; Ms Sim Lucy from Guangyang Primary School; Ms Wong Yoke Chan Wendy from Geylang Methodist School (Secondary); and Dr Muhammad Nazir Bin Amir from Greenview Secondary School.

**Top:** Award winners with Mr Heng Swee Keat, Minister for Education (third from left), Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, President of the Republic of Singapore, and Mrs Mary Tan, First Lady (fourth and fifth from left respectively)

## A SCIENTIFIC APPROACH

By **NIE Alumnus**, Dr Muhammad Nazir Bin Amir, Greenview Secondary School

**W**inning the President's Award for Teachers is not necessarily a personal achievement. Rather it serves to further highlight my research and its success in my classes as well as those of my colleagues. It represents the commitment and belief that many members of my school community have had in me and is a culmination of many years of being in the classroom, nurturing the hearts and minds of young students who have been through with me in my lessons. I am especially grateful to my family, school colleagues and Associate Professor R. Subramaniam. Without their support and belief in my work and in the students, it would have been a more arduous process.

Completing my PhD research studies under the wonderful supervision of Assoc Prof R. Subramaniam from the Natural Sciences and Science Education Academic Group in NIE has allowed me to realise the importance of research in conjunction with being a classroom teacher. Being a teacher-researcher led me to being a better teacher, which in turn has had a positive effect on my students' learning. Doing research has also allowed me to explore, identify and develop teaching strategies that work well for my students. I've also learnt the importance of sharing such strategies in peer-reviewed journal papers.

As part of my research studies, Assoc Prof Subramaniam guided me to look into the literature to find ways that will get my Normal Technical (NT) students excited about learning physics content while at the



Photo by: Ministry of Education

same time giving them room to be guided in showcasing their creativity through knowledge from physics. I still remember how he exposed me to the idea of using 'magical' toys and tricks that worked on scientific principles that is within the syllabus that I had to teach. Such teaching approaches intrigued my students' curiosity in physics in both my science and Design and Technology lessons. Apart from science-based toys and gadgets, Assoc Prof Subramaniam guided me to explore the literature more deeply in search of ways to develop science and mathematics-based products that would be suitable to be used as lower secondary Design and Technology projects, in view of fostering creativity in science amongst

NT students. This led me to develop new science and mathematics-based toys and products that I would use in my science and Design and Technology lessons.

My research is ongoing despite completing my PhD. I will actively continue with classroom research to improve my teaching practices. My plan is to share my teaching strategies (that were developed through research) and findings to the larger community, whilst constantly improving my current practices. I would like to contribute in the development of future leaders who will be versed in my teaching approach. I would also like to contribute to the development of teacher-researchers in schools.



## A LIFELONG LEARNER

By NIE Alumna, Ms Rezia Rahumathullah, Da Qiao Primary School

It is an honour to receive the President's award and it is also humbling at the same time. I'm thankful for the recognition and wish to continue to be a good role model for my fellow colleagues.

It had been a great opportunity to deepen my knowledge and acquire the skills especially in the teaching of English during my time at NIE. I thoroughly enjoyed all the English modules that I had attended.

What you teach may not be translated into learning. Teaching is a highly-skilled profession because you need to adapt

your lesson and adjust your teaching as you teach your students in class. I realised the importance of looking out for evidence in learning during lesson so that you can customise your teaching based on the misconception students may have or based on what they have learnt. This makes teaching fun and keeps me thinking at all times. I often ponder these thoughts:

1. What have my students learnt?
2. How can I keep them engaged in a purposeful way?
3. What next to bridge the gaps?

These questions are always on my mind as I work with my students.

I am a believer of lifelong learning and I love to engage in professional discussions related to the latest changes in the education landscape. Given the opportunity, I hope to pursue a doctorate degree one day. In the meantime, my idea of striving for excellence is basically to be at my best every single day in school, to influence and impact the students under my charge and to ensure they enjoy coming to school as much as I do!

## TO LEAD, CARE AND INSPIRE

By NIE Alumnus, Mr Taranpal Singh

It seemed a while ago that Taranpal was jetting around Europe, securing multi-million dollar deals. Although the feeling was satisfying, the current PE teacher says it cannot be compared to his current love for teaching. "Those feelings, back then, were transient because we move on to another deal. To me, each of my students is an investment. However, unlike the business world where deals can fail, my students are very special investments which cannot fail. I want to ensure that they succeed in life and become good citizens of Singapore. To me, that is the utmost satisfaction," he shared.

Taranpal's time at NIE has proven to be a fruitful experience. He incorporates the concepts of collaborative learning,

critical thinking and peer teaching in his lessons. This gives his students a sense of ownership and responsibility for self learning. It has paid off well as it helped to foster class spirit.

But in order to continuously give his best, Taranpal stresses that he is constantly learning to improve himself as an educator. "I obtain useful feedback and reflect on a daily basis. We as teachers must lead by example so that our students are motivated to learn. My greatest lesson that I carry with me is to Lead, Care and Inspire."

**Right:** Mr Taranpal Singh gave a heartfelt valedictorian speech





## THANK YOU MALEC

### What do our alumni and instructors have to say about Masters of Arts in Leadership and Educational Change (MALEC)?

#### What does the programme aim to do?

"MALEC seeks to re-envision educational leadership and change both locally and internationally. The programme is designed to be a significant step forward in the making of new leaders for tomorrow's schools."

— **Associate Professor Mary Anne Heng,**  
Programme Co-director and Instructor, NIE

#### What does it offer to its students?

"The programme offers students the privilege of learning from excellent professors from Singapore and America, and interacting with fellow educators with rich experiences to share."

— **Ms Wang Yitian,**  
Education Consultant/Gifted and Talented Education at Hwa Chong Institution Singapore, MALEC Class of 2013

"MALEC brings together the best thinking in curriculum and teaching from TC and NIE, two high calibre institutions of international standing, thereby enacting educational leadership that is dynamically informed by and grounded in both the local and the global."

— **Evenden Endowed Chair Professor A. Lin Goodwin,**  
Co-director and Instructor, Teachers College

#### Who should enrol?

"I would recommend the programme to anyone in Singapore or anywhere else in the world considering taking up educational leadership roles or interested in understanding what education is for and how they might contribute to creating purposeful learning experiences and educational opportunities for children."

— **Ms Reshu Dhungana,**  
Managing Director, Sensus Investment Co. Pvt. Ltd, Nepal, Class of 2013

"MALEC is looking for forward-thinking professionals. We are seeking bright, ambitious people who want to take their leadership and change management competencies to the next level and beyond. If you have the desire to improve these essential competencies in a challenging but supportive environment, we are the programme for you."

— **Assistant Professor Christopher C. Deneen,**  
Programme Co-director and Instructor, NIE

#### What does one learn from teaching and learning?

"I experienced an invigorating and rigorous intellectual journey with a faculty that offers the best minds in education and educational leadership from both NIE and Teachers College."

— **Mr Low June Meng,**  
Head of Character and Leadership Education at Raffles Institution Singapore, Class of 2013

"The combination of instruction from NIE and Teachers College faculty provide students with dual perspectives and paradigms on local and global issues in education. We equip our participants to constantly address and manage complex educational change with multiple discourses and perspectives."

— **Associate Professor Kelvin Tan,**  
Curriculum, Teaching and Learning Academic Group, NIE

#### What is an opportunity like the MALEC Summer Experience at Teachers College like?

"It was an opportunity to meet with Teachers College professors and postgraduate students from different fields but with a common goal of becoming more knowledgeable and skilled as practitioners. The theoretical grounding and emphasis on application of what was taught was valuable. Though the time was short, I left with many inspiring takeaways."

— **Ms Yvonne Teo,**  
Dean, MOE-Singapore Chinese Girls' School, Class of 2014

"The Teachers College summer experience was an exhilarating social, professional and academic adventure for me. We had the privilege of meeting some of the movers and shakers in education while we were there. Visiting a local elementary school, getting to observe their daily operations and to receive such warm hospitality was also a highlight. An amazing and splendid adventure!"

— **Ms Poh Shufen,**  
Academic Associate, Republic Polytechnic, Class of 2014

**Top:** The inaugural cohort of Master of Arts in Leadership and Educational Change graduates share a celebratory group photo with their MALEC lecturers

## THANK YOU NIE

By NIE Alumnus, Mr Suraj Nair

**D**ear Lecturers and Syndicate Leaders of the 2012 Leaders in Education Programme (LEP),

Two years have passed and I am glad to have this chance to write a short appreciation note.

Rest assured that your efforts during LEP to engage us and stimulate our thinking have not lost their effect. Visions and voices of our engagement do emerge in my mind on occasions (rest assured that I am still sane!). Articles, notes and mind maps collected over all the modules and discussions are still within reach in the shelves behind my desk but they are neither forgotten nor gathering dust. Instead, many pieces continue to be sources of reference and inspiration for my work.

I am certain you will continue to awaken many minds to push the frontiers of learning in schools and to get them to consider the many possibilities available so that we can provide a truly outstanding education for the current and future generations of students. Please do continue to build on your magnificent work!

As the American Poet Mr Robert Lee Frost once quoted: *"I am not a teacher, but an awakener."*



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EVENT	DATE	VENUE	CONTACT
Teachers' Investiture Ceremony January 2015	16 Jan 2015	Nanyang Auditorium, NTU	Ms Leow Shee Yin <b>Email</b> <a href="mailto:sheeyin.leow@nie.edu.sg">sheeyin.leow@nie.edu.sg</a>
Service Learning Day 2015	11 Feb 2015	NIE Singapore	Ms Jann Tan <b>Email</b> <a href="mailto:gesl@nie.edu.sg">gesl@nie.edu.sg</a>
Career and Education Fair 2015	12 – 14 Mar 2015	Suntec Singapore Convention and Exhibition Centre Halls 403 - 405	Mr Clement Ng <b>Email</b> <a href="mailto:clement.ng@nie.edu.sg">clement.ng@nie.edu.sg</a> Ms Imelda Binte Rostam <b>Email</b> <a href="mailto:imelda.rostam@nie.edu.sg">imelda.rostam@nie.edu.sg</a>
Office of Graduate Studies and Professional Learning Open House	18 Apr 2015	NIE Singapore	Mr Clement Ng <b>Email</b> <a href="mailto:clement.ng@nie.edu.sg">clement.ng@nie.edu.sg</a> Ms Imelda Binte Rostam <b>Email</b> <a href="mailto:imelda.rostam@nie.edu.sg">imelda.rostam@nie.edu.sg</a>

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