

ABOUT US

NGS Scholars' Alliance is an official student group for NUS Graduate School for Integrative Sciences and Engineering.

Established in 2005 to serve as a platform for exchange amongst all NGS scholars. This student body will also facilitate the personal development and leadership training of our scholars. NGSAA is also the key to developing, creating and fostering NGS community and identity.

Webpage:

<http://ngssa.weebly.com/index.html>

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Fresh Minds for a Fresh Year: The 2014 NGS Scholars' Alliance Committee

The editorial board

The all too recognizable buzz of packed shuttle buses and the exponentially increasing mayhem in the NUS canteens signify the start of one thing -- the beginning of a new academic year.

With that, we have a new team of passionate NGS scholars who took the helm in leading the NGS Scholars Alliance into the start of a fresh and exciting year.

Introducing the 2014 NGS Scholars' Alliance Committee:

MANAGEMENT



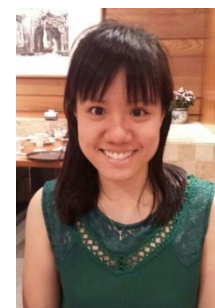
Ng Chan Way

"A year 3 PhD student who is fun-loving and likes making friends. Want to find out more about me? Simply look for me and I will tell you more!"



Ching Kuan Chieh

"A year 3 PhD student whose research mainly revolves around drug design and discovery in the therapeutic area of infectious disease. My hobbies include reading books especially those kinds which are non-fiction, as well as doing volunteer work. I have been actively engaging with young people who are intellectually disabled since I was an undergraduate. Taking care of others who are less fortunate gives me a sense of achievement and responsibility to the society. One interesting fact about myself is I am a vegetarian. Being a vegetarian is a kind of healthy lifestyle to me and a way to show compassion to the suffering of animals."



Lim She Yah

"A year 3 PhD student working on the generation of antibodies against dengue virus. Currently, I am looking for volunteers who have been previously infected with dengue. Besides research work, I enjoy listening to the music and doing nature photography and I love thrill rides! Serious and quiet I may seem, I can be crazy and fun too! Hope to see you at our fun filled events!"



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SCHOLARS' DEVELOPMENT

Ho Kuan Hung
Lee Wang Wei

Stars of Tomorrow Inducted Into the NGS Community

Radoslaw Sebastian Szmyd

SINGAPORE (NGSSA) - 31st of July 2014 - Approximately 60 new graduate students were formally inducted into the NUS Graduate School for Integrative Sciences and Engineering (NGS) this morning. What began with a warm welcome into the NGS community by the Executive Director of NGS, Professor Philip Moore, followed by an introductory briefing about what life in NGS entails, the initial anxiety felt was shortly transformed into excitement as the auditorium was soon teeming with life and fun-filled games jointly organized by the NGS Scholar's Alliance (NGSSA) and the NGS office. Combining both fun and practical knowledge, both seniors and new graduate students had to put their hands and minds together amidst getting to know one another.



Ice Breakers

Kicking off the time of fun with ice-breakers, the new students and their senior buddies were tasked to find each other as quickly as possible. To increase the difficulty and to help everyone to warm up to each other, all of the students had to find each other using only the cry of the animal that was secretly assigned to each student. Howls of wolves and the trumpeting of elephants amongst many others soon resounded in every corner. Some cries were so authentic that we wondered if the students should have taken up alternative careers instead! Subsequently, a short skit packed with useful information about the NGS scholarship (such as important milestones, responsibilities of graduate students etc.) that was prepared by the NGSSA, and featuring some key members of the student association was aired. It is worth mentioning that some of the actors were freshmen not more than a year ago!

And what would an induction day be without food? Glorious food! Over lunch -- the first of many free meals as a graduate student -- and in a cozy environment like the NGS student cluster, our new students had the chance to mingle with their senior buddies.



"Spaghetti Tower Challenge"

Games, And More Games

With stomachs filled and cups running empty, Yasaman Nemat – a member of the NGSS social committee, explained the rules of the final game of the day -- building the tallest spaghetti tower together. Interspersed with question and answer sessions about NGS, students could stand to win extra building materials to help their team in building the tallest tower. And certainly as PhD students thinking out of the box, some of them were creative beyond imagination, going as far as using a human object to form a part of the foundation of their tower. Am I right, Andy?

With many prizes won and countless photos taken, the end of the induction day was certainly no farewell as contacts were exchanged, marking the start of many friendships. And why should we bid farewell, when the Food Heritage Trail, was next to look forward to?

"An honest smile is an ice-breaker" -- Toba Beta



Eating Good Food With New People Does More Than Filling Empty Stomachs

Lee Jie Liang Aloysious



NGS Food Heritage Trail 2014

SINGAPORE (NGSSA) – 6th August 2014 - Over 50 people from our NGS Family stepped away from their daily lives on this evening to take part in the first NGS event of the academic year, the “Food Heritage Trail”. This event replaced the usual Barbeque (BBQ) event as the “bonding” activity for NGS, in an effort to better foster the sense of belonging within NGS while having lots of fun at the same time.

The NGSSA was challenged by the need to maintain the high attendance rates for its activities and to increase the voluntary interaction between each participant. Many lessons learnt from previous experiences were shared amongst the NGSSA members, and after many rounds of discussions, we concluded that there was nothing better than bonding over a meal, where people can enjoy some good food while they interact with each other.

Everyone in the organizing committee hoped that the weeks of planning and preparation would prove to be worthwhile. “Food Heritage Trail” officially kicked off for the first time, on the evening of 6th Aug’14, with the 50 participants divided into three teams meeting at different places. The composition of each team includes NGS freshman, their senior buddies and even our very own NGS Staff.



The teams proceeded on to the dinner locations of their choice for their meal. The participants were able to taste some of the finest dishes that Singapore has to offer: from the satays at Lau Pau Sat, the “Zi Char” at Alexander Food Centre, to the Seafood at Pasir Panjang Food Market.

The event ended with the groups all gathering back at the VivoCity Amphitheatre, where we collected their feedback and had a group photo taken. It was really touching when we saw that the NGS family have gotten closer through this event when people are exchanging contacts and planning for their next meet-up. All in all, the participants seemed to have enjoyed themselves, and had a wonderful time interacting with each other over a table full of good food that evening.

The NGSSA and the participants of the event would like to take this opportunity to thank NGS for their continued support of these activities, without which the event would not have been successful.





NGS Poster Sharing Session

Wong RuiXiong



The NGS Poster Sharing Session marks the start of a new academic year for both fresh NGS graduate students as well as Principle Investigators, seeking to recruit new PhD students into their laboratories. As an opportunity to showcase the vibrant research scene in NUS, new graduate students who are still exploring different research interests can get a chance to not only 'shop for a lab', but also mingle, talk and network with the finest brains behind the showcased projects.

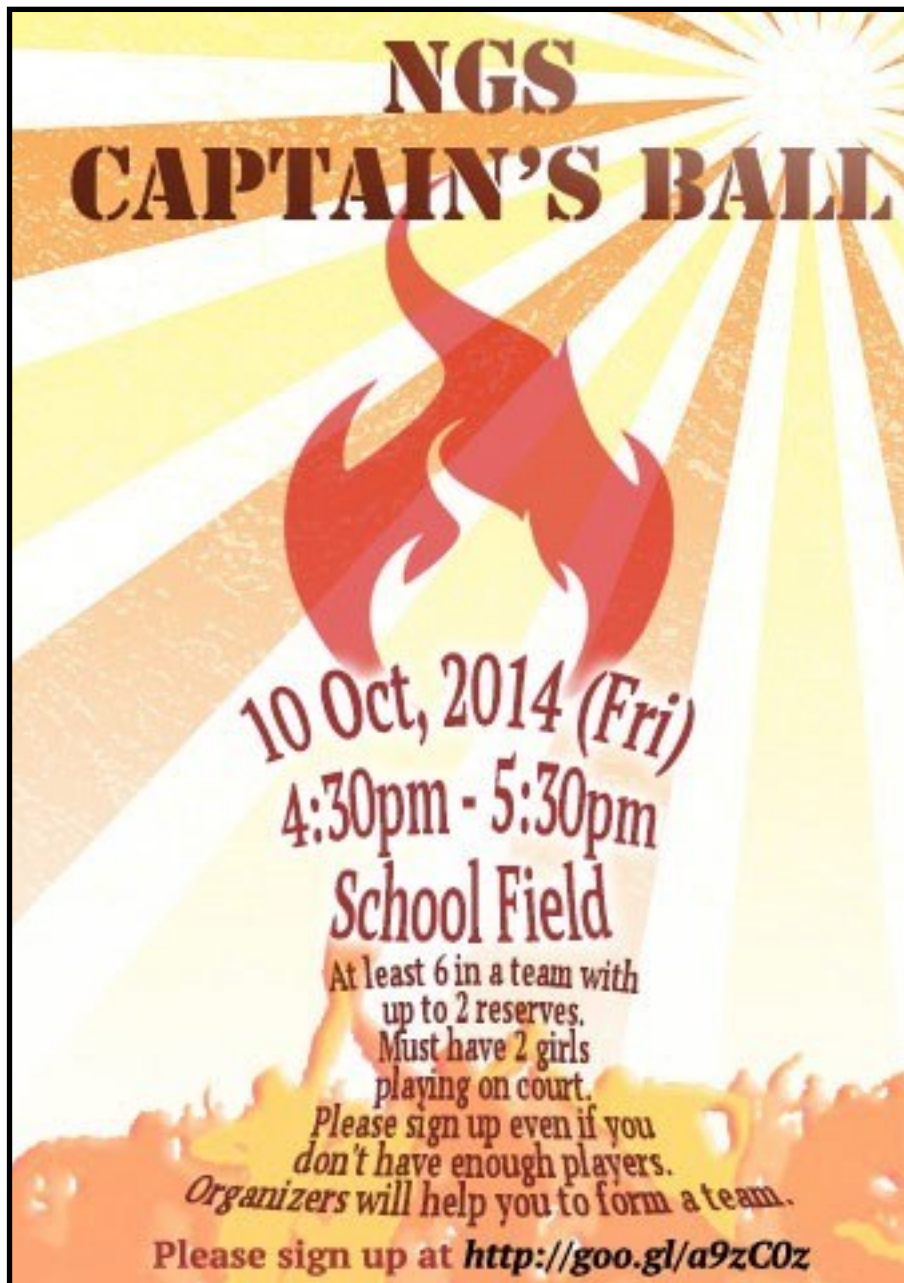
Wong RuiXiong, a first year NGS scholar, shares his experience and insights about that evening.



As first year graduate students, it can be a particularly daunting task finding one's main supervisor as one struggles to comprehend the huge myriad of projects offered by different departments across different faculties within NGS. Hence, when it was announced on Induction Day that there would be an NGS Poster Sharing session, my friends and I immediately noted it down in our calendars, in the hope that we would be able to more successfully navigate the labyrinth of project offerings. Least to say, the session was itself an extremely helpful and enlightening experience, allowing us freshmen to gain insight into different research areas first-hand by talking to Principal Investigators and members of their laboratories. In addition to finding out about the work undertaken by other biological

laboratories, the poster session also enabled me the rare chance to learn about projects on the other spectrum of engineering as a neurobiologist and how multi-disciplinary approaches were being utilized to answer scientific inquiries. Achieving this within the short span of an evening must be accredited largely to the direct interactions with members of different laboratories and their sharing of research experiences. In particular, I was heartened and grateful for being able to engage in face-to-face dialogue with different professors under such a casual setting; it really facilitated the flow of discussion by allowing us to directly voice our opinions and queries without the need for formalities. In all, the NGS Poster Sharing Session was an intriguing and eye-opening experience and marks a great start to the beginning of our journey as NGS students.

Upcoming Events

A poster for the NGS Captain's Ball. The background features a sunburst pattern with rays of light in shades of yellow and orange. In the center, there is a stylized red and white flame logo. The text is arranged in a vertical stack, starting with the event title at the top, followed by the date and time, the location, and then the rules and sign-up information at the bottom.

**NGS
CAPTAIN'S BALL**

**10 Oct, 2014 (Fri)
4:30pm - 5:30pm
School Field**

At least 6 in a team with
up to 2 reserves.
Must have 2 girls
playing on court.
*Please sign up even if you
don't have enough players.
Organizers will help you to form a team.*

Please sign up at <http://goo.gl/a9zC0z>