

Dean's Message



I hope 2013 has gotten to a great start for all of you! Like you, I am enjoying seeing our students back on campus and looking forward to meeting prospective students in the months ahead.

Our undergraduate enrolment has increased significantly over the past 3 years and is now nearing the 4,000 mark. The quality of the students we admit is also on the rise, which is perhaps the strongest testimony of the excellent work all of you have been doing. In AY2012, in fact, we admitted a record number of "T15" students and scholarship holders. I would like to first thank all colleagues for your tremendous effort in making HASS a destination of choice for discerning students. In preparation for

AY2013, I hope we can build on the momentum we have generated. I thought the "Let's Talk NTU" event last Saturday went really well, and I look forward to another successful undergraduate admission campaign this year!

Top students will help raise the intellectual tenor of the College, but to me the important point is to provide a transformative education for all our students. To do that, we would need to provide an even richer curriculum and educational experience for our students. ADM is now deep in discussion in revamping its curriculum, with the view of integrating some of its current areas of studies, and is spearheading the development of a new interdisciplinary major in Art History with both HSS and WKWSCI. HSS will have a new Major in Public Policy and Global Affairs, and is planning other new Majors and Minors, especially interdisciplinary programmes. WKWSCI, too, is looking into ways integrating information studies into its communication studies curriculum.

The College has won a grant from the Ministry of Education to develop interdisciplinary offerings and also to enhance our e-learning capabilities. Both are critical to our vision and mission in undergraduate education. Please do get in touch with Associate Dean Neil Murphy, who is leading this project, if you have ideas and suggestions. At the risk of sounding like a broken record, I firmly believe that scholarship and learning do not grow well in academic silos. In 2013, we will also continue our effort in creating more international learning opportunities for our students. Service learning will be another initiative. Better engagement with employers and alumni, too, will further support HASS's rising trajectory.

The growth of graduate education in HASS over the past few years is truly something we can all be proud of. In AY2009, there were 61 PhD students in the College; in AY2012, the number has grown to 147. Selectivity has been robust as well. While I have no doubt that student numbers will continue to grow, quality remains our primary concern. Associate Dean May Lwin will be charting a coordinated recruitment effort at the College level. At the same time, the HASS Graduate Education Committee will be reviewing our curricula and exploring new cross-School modules and team teaching. The Schools will also be working to provide greater research support for students and more graduate student exchange opportunities. Before too long, I hope to be able to announce our first joint PhD programme with a top overseas partner university.

On the research front, the recent AcRF Tier 1 results brought very good news. In FY2012, HASS faculty submitted a total of 30 proposals, a stunning increase from 16 in FY2011. Of the 30 proposals, 17 were awarded. I urge all faculty members to aim at securing a Tier 1 and/or Tier 2 grant. It is important to dispel the myth that research in the humanities, arts and social sciences does not require funding support. A Tier 1 grant would help establish the PI's track record, which would be important for larger Tier 2 grant competitions. We fully expect that research funding for the humanities, arts and social sciences will increase in 2013. The Provost, in fact, has set aside some seed funding for colleagues to prepare for large external grant proposals. This complements nicely and augments the College's grant incentive scheme. Associate Dean K. K. Luke has been organising research networking sessions as well as grant proposal workshops. Please get in touch with KK if you have any questions or suggestions about the various grant calls.

I am delighted to announce that Professor Liu Hong has been conferred the Tan Kah Kee Professorship. Congratulations are also in order for colleagues who have **received international awards** or have been **promoted** with tenure to the rank of Associate Professor, or from Lecturers to Senior Lecturers. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome new faculty and staff to the College. We are very happy that you are here and I look forward to working with you.

Our College is growing rapidly and is getting much better known internationally. This is evident, for example, when Boston University recently visited, resulting in an undergraduate student exchange agreement and plans for research collaboration. We are committed to creating an environment in HASS that is open and conducive to learning and research. I very much welcome your suggestions in this shared endeavor. Best wishes for a successful semester.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Alan K.L. Chan

Dean

College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences

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Undergraduate Education

Minor and Second Major in Art History

The School of Art, Design and Media (ADM) last semester introduced the Minor and Second Major in Art History. This is intended to be an interdisciplinary programme, involving both HSS and WKWSC. The three Schools are now working to expand the programme into a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Art History, with a strong Asian focus and also attention to management of heritage and curatorship. This will be not only an important programme in its own right but also serve as a model for other interdisciplinary programmes.



Photo: From the collection of Dr Oei Hong Djien, Singapore Art Museum
Exhibited at ADM Gallery show in November 2012. Show was themed "Intersecting Histories: Contemporary Turns in Southeast Asian Art"

Minor in Global Asia

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) will be introducing the Minor in Global Asia in Semester 1, AY2013. This Minor explores Asia's global connectivity from ancient times to the present, from economics to cultural influences, and from arts to people. This is an interdisciplinary Minor that places Asia within a dynamic global context.



It enhances students' understanding of historical and contemporary global culture and politics by enabling students to engage with an extensive and intensive study of Asia and Asian Diasporas in the past and present.

The College is now in discussion with the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) to develop a joint Minor in this area. Leveraging the competencies of HASS and CUHK, the joint Minor programme offers students selected core courses and electives in Global Asia. HASS students will read related courses for at least one semester at CUHK, and likewise for CUHK students at HASS. Students on this programme will be able to transfer both credits and grades to satisfy their graduation requirements.

New Programme in Public Policy and Global Affairs

In Semester 1, AY2013, HSS will launch a new Major in Public Policy and Global Affairs (PPGA). This programme focuses on global Asia and Asian regionalism, or, more specifically, Asian politics, governance, public administration, public policy, Asian regionalism, and international and global affairs. It is interdisciplinary, comparative, and Asian-focused.



With the introduction of PPGA, HSS will have in place a relatively comprehensive range of Majors in the humanities and social sciences, including Chinese, Economics, English Literature, History, Linguistics and Multilingual Studies, PPGA, Psychology and Sociology.

Certificate for Second Major Students



With effect from Semester 2, AY2012, HASS students who have successfully completed a second Major programme from ADM, HSS, or WKWSCl, will be presented with a Certificate of Achievement, endorsed by Dean, HASS.

Expanding the NTU International Summer School in China Programme

Following the success of the Summer School in 2012, there has been increasing demand for HASS to significantly expand the programme and accept new partner universities for summer 2013.



Summer School students in Tianjin City, China, July 2012

This year, the Summer School will offer three credit-bearing courses in *Great Ideas*, *Cultural Encounters*, and *The Changing Family in Global Contexts*, each to be co-taught by faculty from HASS and a partner university.

Potential new partners include Simon Fraser University (Canada), School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London (UK), and Rice University (US). Together with our pioneering partners of University of Toronto (Canada), Bryn Mawr College (US), Haverford College (US), Tianjin University (China) and Nankai University (China), we hope to establish the Summer School in China as a leading programme in international learning. There will be more opportunities in 2014 to jointly develop and teach courses with colleagues from partner universities. Please contact Ms. Seeto Wei Peng at the Dean's Office for details.

Graduate Education

Graduate Enrolment

HASS's graduate enrolment has been rising steadily over the years.

Programmes	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Graduate (Coursework)	698	767	725	662	632	567
Graduate (Research)	14	17	27	47	68	65
PhD	49	57	61	92	109	147

Top research universities are known for their graduate programmes. HASS aims to significantly increase its present PhD enrolment, admitting the best students from around the world. Thankfully, scholarship support has been generous. On our part, we are working hard to improve our curriculum, raise the quality of supervision and mentorship, and provide better campus life and greater research support for our students. When the best students choose HASS, we know we have arrived!

Public Administration and Governance Training Programmes for Myanmar Senior Government Officials

The Nanyang Centre for Public Administration (NCPA), in collaboration with Myanmar's Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, had in November 2012 led a group of domain experts, including former Minister of National Development Mr Mah Bow Tan, to Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, to launch a new knowledge exchange programme.



Thirty senior Myanmar officials participated in the inaugural programme which saw NTU's faculty and former Singapore politicians sharing experiences on issues related to public governance. (November 2012)

A group of 30 senior Myanmar officials selected by the Myanmar Central Government – including Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win, Deputy Director General for Ministry of Science and Technology Dr Saw Sanda Aye, and Deputy Director General for Ministry of Health, Dr Tin Tin Lay – participated in the inaugural programme.

Over past two years, NCPA has also trained 120 senior officials from Vietnam with support from Singapore's Temasek Foundation. NCPA will be introducing more English courses and is looking for interested colleagues to teach in its degree programmes and short-term executive training programmes. Please contact Associate Professor Wu Wei, Director, NCPA, for details.

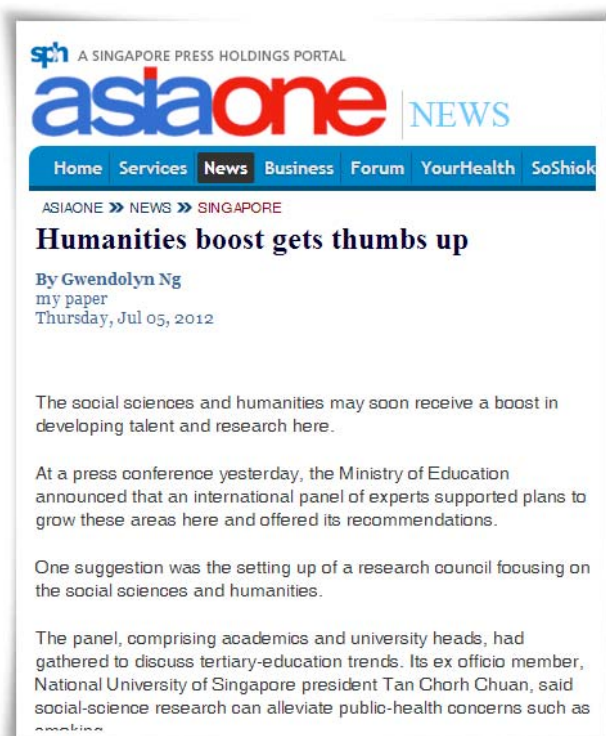
Research

Additional AcRF Tier 1 Grant Calls

The University has made available additional funding under the Academic Research Fund (AcRF) Tier 1 Grant Scheme. For the first time, a thematic grant call in the humanities, arts, and social sciences was launched in January 2013. This bodes well for the College's research future, and I strongly encourage colleagues to compete for the research funding available.

Increased MOE Funding for Research in the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences

In July 2012, the Ministry of Education's International Academic Advisory Panel saw the need for increased research funding in the humanities, arts, and social sciences. We might argue that this is overdue, but no one can deny that this is an excellent development! While we await official confirmation, we should start preparing ourselves for the new opportunities that should come our way. Interdisciplinary research addressing important global issues, in particular, would stand a good chance of being funded.



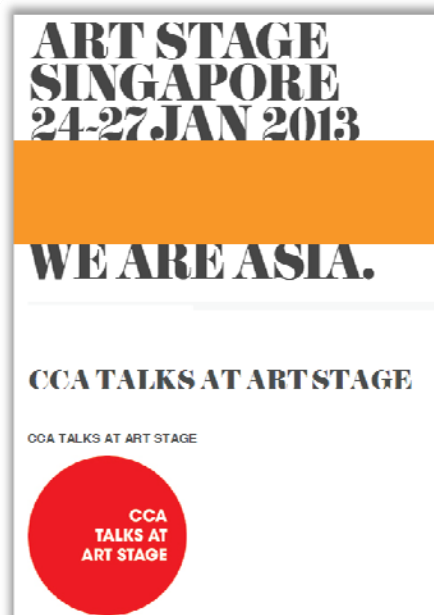
AsiaOne news on Humanities and Social Sciences research, 5 July 2012

Centre for Contemporary Art

I announced in the last issue of *Discover HASS* that NTU, with support from the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB), had launched the Centre for Contemporary Art (CCA) in September 2012.

In conjunction with Art Stage Singapore 2013, the CCA will present **CCA Talks at Art Stage** (23 to 27 January 2013), which features an exciting array of artists, curators, writers, academics and other art world personalities.

In conjunction with Art Stage Singapore 2013, the CCA just presented an exhibition and public talk series last week, featuring an exciting array of artists, curators, writers, academics and other art world personalities. Both the exhibition and talks have been well received. The former, which focuses on a generation of Singapore artists born during the 1980s, will run until 31 March at Gillman Barracks. Apart from being a platform to showcase these artists, the exhibition examines the diverse but related ways in which they engage with their immediate environments.



CCA Talks at Art Stage will be held at the Marina Bay Sands Seminar Rooms 3D-F, Level 3

The CCA is a university-level centre, with ADM playing a central role in charting its development. There will be ample opportunities for research collaboration with the CCA, especially in art history, cultural studies, museum studies, and related fields.

Outreach

Priority Placement Opportunities for Students

Many organisations are now selecting only a small number of education institutions to promote their work placement, career and scholarship opportunities. HASS has recently managed to secure priority placement for our students, with several such organisations, including the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA), the Ministry of Communications and Information (MCI), Keppel Corporation Ltd, and European Union Centre. If you have contacts which you feel we should explore, please let me know.

Support from Corporate and Private Donors

I am delighted to note that education and research in humanities and social sciences is becoming increasingly interesting in the eyes of donors. Over the last few months, we managed to secure several donations from organisations such as Keppel Corporation, Dou Yee Enterprise, as well as an S\$2 million endowed gift from Mr Wang Hairong, a private donor, for our Summer School in China programme.

Thank you to all our donors for supporting and believing in our work!

Outreach activities for Admission Exercise AY2013

This is the time of the year again when faculty and staff get into full swing of student outreach activities.

I need not tell you that the competition for top students among our local universities is quite intense. It is clear that over the years more students have chosen to enroll in overseas universities, and those who have opted to pursue their tertiary education locally now have a much wider range of choices to choose from.

For universities competing to attract top students, it's no longer enough to have a glossy brochure or a standard exhibition booth. We must have our best faculty and staff out there engaging potential students at activities such as NTU Let's Talk 2013 (26 January), Life@NTU (9 March), Junior College talks, specially designed lectures for JC students, and scholarship interviews.



Engaging students at NTU Let's Talk NTU 2013, on 26 January 2013

Scholarship interviews, incidentally, is an excellent way to reach out to the good students. I urge all colleagues who are involved in this exercise to take pride in sharing about the best aspects of our programmes. It is important to highlight that HASS students have access to a rich array of courses in all three Schools and the balance of breadth and depth in our approach to learning.



Interacting with students at talks and specially designed lectures

I would like to put on record our thanks to those colleagues who have agreed to conduct admission talks and serve on scholarship interview panels. This is important work and your contribution is very much appreciated.

Congratulations and Welcome

I extend my congratulations to colleagues who have been promoted with tenure to the rank of Associate Professor, or from Lecturers to Senior Lecturers. Thank you for your hard work, dedication and commitment to improving the quality of education and research at the College.

Award of Tenure

S/N	School	Name of Faculty
1	ADM	Louis-Philippe <u>Demers</u>

Promotion from Lecturers to Senior Lecturers

S/N	School	Name of Faculty
1	HSS	Jean Francois Noel <u>Ghesquiere</u>
2	HSS	<u>Heah</u> Lee Hah, Carmel
3	HSS	Sujata Surinder <u>Kathpalia</u>
4	HSS	<u>Lee</u> Hwee Hoon
5	HSS	<u>Leong</u> Ping, Alvin
6	HSS	<u>Li</u> Shu Yun
7	WKWSCI	James Timothy Adrian <u>Clark</u>
8	WKWSCI	Nicole Lorraine <u>Draper</u>
9	WKWSCI	Andrew Michael <u>Duffy</u>
10	WKWSCI	<u>Lee</u> Chu Keong

Just Joined the Team

Welcome all new faculty and administrative/professional colleagues who joined the College over the past few months!

I hope you will find, as we do, HASS a dynamic and supportive environment that is conducive to the flourishing of ideas and scholarship.

[Please click to view the list of new staff]

When Interdisciplinarity Becomes Second Nature



It seems second nature to Professor David Reisman to always be working beyond the edges of disciplinary boundaries; in conception and methodology. And his work is never boring.

Professor David Reisman from the Division of Economics, HSS, will be teaching an exciting new course for the Summer School Programme. Entitled 'The Great Ideas: Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy', he is tracing the history of three important and interconnected concepts from Plato and Confucius to Galbraith and John Steinbeck.

In his lectures he will discuss individualism, justice, exchange, community, consensus, contract, the national interest, the right to vote. He will explain that the linkages went in all directions, from the State to the market, from social class to economic activity, from economic activity back to the nature and function of the State. Students will come to grips with influential books that they can keep on their bookshelves and refer to for the rest of their lives. While many will already have read the Gospel According to Matthew, most will not have had the opportunity to contrast it closely with William Morris's *News from Nowhere*, Milton Friedman's *Capitalism and Freedom* or George Orwell's *1984*.

In his research, Professor Reisman has long been applying his problem-based rather than discipline-based approach to public policy issues like the ageing population, social security, medical travel and public housing in Singapore.

In October he received the **Minerva Prize of the Medical Tourism Association** for excellence in applied research. He also had the honour of addressing a closed-door session of 26 Cabinet Ministers from Africa and the Caribbean.

And did we just say he was (and is) an economist?

His new book, *The Social Economics of Thorstein Veblen*, was published in 2012. The history of ideas is evidently a powerful tool for analysing the present even as studying Great Ideas is an immensely civilised and civilising activity in itself.

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Research Highlights

Discover HASS starting from this issue will feature a few research projects of our faculty that will be included in NTU Research Report. This year, the Research Support Office (RSO) has invited HASS to contribute to a new chapter on "Science, the big science questions that NTU researchers have answered and their scientific contribution/influence to research community".

Assistant Professor Jesvin Yeo's current project, "Designing Cultures", examines the differing notions and levels of aesthetics that are manifested in traditional historical Asian arts and craft. She is interested in how the value of what is deemed culturally acceptable in aesthetics changes in response to its ongoing dialogue with the current and contemporary.

The gravitas of *Designing Cultures* can be felt by the output it spawned or influenced: three books, four artists' books, a building, sixteen merchandises, ten experimental artworks, three paper presentations and two journal articles.



Some examples of Jesvin's work

These have been featured in local and overseas media, and exhibited in Australia, Hong Kong, London, South Africa and Denmark.

Some of these have won notable design awards (HOW International Design Awards 2012, Design for Asian Awards 2011 and Design for Asian Awards 2012).