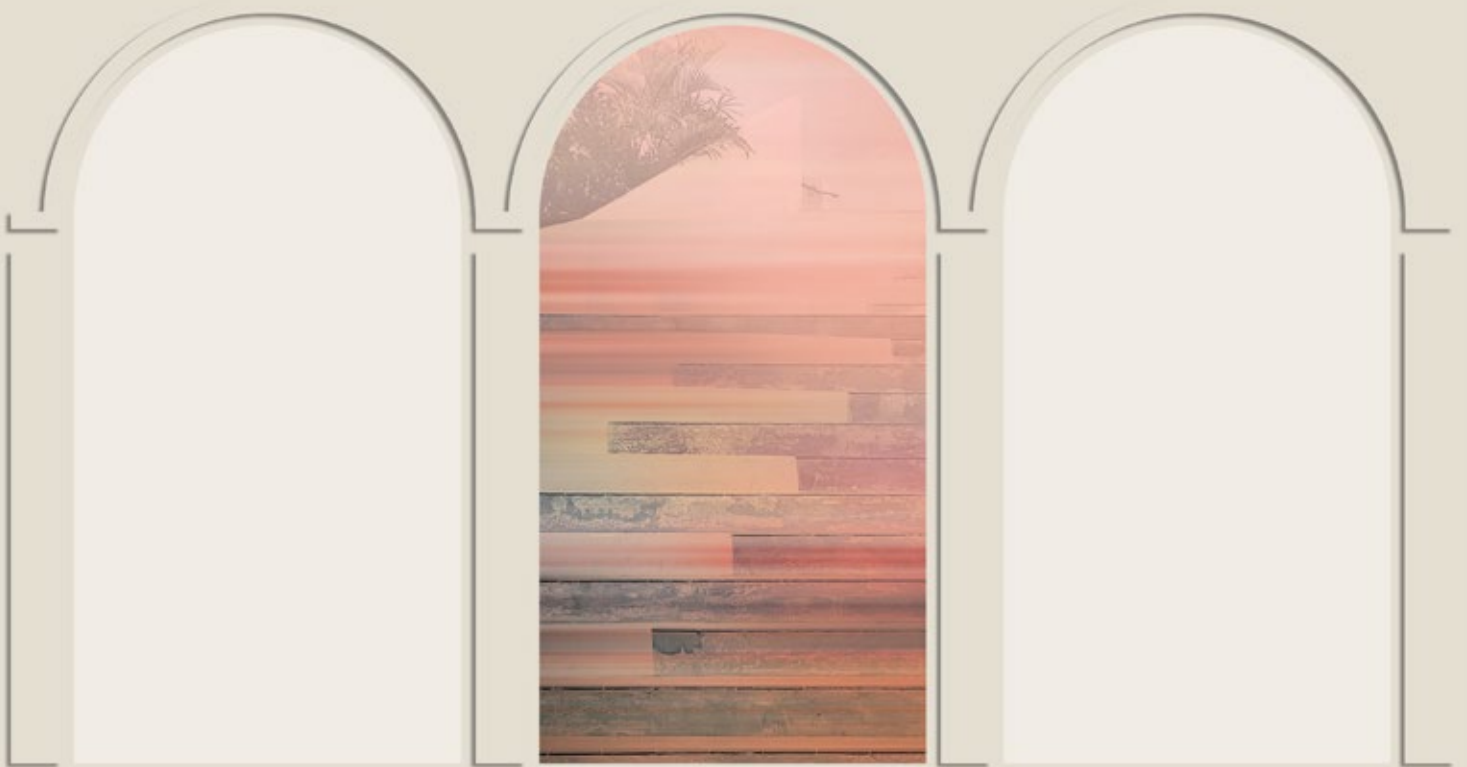


ARCHES OF TIME



**A commemorative publication
in celebration of the reopening
of Yusof Ishak House in 2025**

National University of Singapore
Office of Student Affairs

Arches of Time reflects how the iconic arches of Yusof Ishak House (YIH) serve as architectural and metaphorical bridges that connect the past, present, and future. Thoughtfully conserved yet transformed for modern sustainability, these arches are reimagined as temporal portals in this publication, linking generations of students across decades and celebrating YIH as the heartbeat of student life where cherished memories and vibrant possibilities converge.



CONTENTS

Message from Dean of Students	3
The Vibrant Pulse of Campus Life	4
From Participant to President	6
Passion and Purpose	8
A Guiding Light	10
Arches of Time. Spaces for Tomorrow.	12
Your University Experience, Rewritten	14
A Dialogue on Design	16
Reshaping Mental Wellness	18
From Primary School Star to National Team Pride	20
Planting Seeds of Change	22
Building Blocks, Stacking Success	24
Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers	26
Teaching Communities to Fish	28
Voices from the Past, Hopes for the Future	30

About OSA

University life is so much more than lectures and exams, and at the NUS Office of Student Affairs (OSA), this belief drives our comprehensive support for students across all aspects of campus life outside the classroom—from student services and residential life to student organisations, leadership training, community engagement, service learning, student wellness, and disability support.

Our mission is to nurture students as the global citizens and changemakers our world needs, and with OSA now housed in the newly renovated Yusof Ishak House, we are better positioned than ever to serve the NUS community and foster meaningful connections that last beyond graduation.

MESSAGE FROM DEAN OF STUDENTS

There's a real sense of excitement as we finally welcome everyone back to Yusof Ishak House (YIH). After three years of extensive renovations, it's wonderful to see our doors swing open again, ready for YIH to become a vibrant hub of student life once more here at the National University of Singapore (NUS).

For close to 48 years, YIH has been a familiar and well-loved spot on campus, a place where countless student activities and unforgettable experiences took place. When it closed its doors for major renovations in 2022, the Office of Student Affairs (OSA), along with NUS Students' Union (NUSSU) and numerous student groups, eagerly awaited its transformation. And what a transformation it has been!

While this revitalised space is designed with our current students firmly in mind, I've been truly touched by the immense excitement shared by our dedicated staff and cherished alumni. Their enthusiasm speaks volumes about the deep-rooted affection and rich memories associated with YIH. It's a testament to the building's enduring legacy, a legacy that we, as a university community, are eager to share with a new generation.

Bridging generations, inspiring futures

You might wonder, in this digital age, why a commemorative publication? The answer lies within these very pages, and within the magnificent arches of YIH itself—a celebration of how our past shapes our future.

For our newest students, who may not yet hold memories of YIH, this publication serves as a bridge. Through captivating images and compelling stories, we aim to offer a glimpse into the incredible possibilities that have unfolded within these walls, and to spark new imaginations for what is to come.

My hope is that this publication will empower our current students to find their own significant place in NUS history. May it energise them to infuse YIH with their unique vibrancy, adding new colours and dimensions to its already illustrious story.

Investing in tomorrow

So, as we turn these pages and step through the physical arches of YIH, let the glorious history of student life at NUS pay dividends forward into the lives of a new generation. Let us all, within the entire University ecosystem, be motivated to continuously invest in our students' journeys, so that their version of YIH's history will be even richer than our own. Welcome back to YIH, the epicentre of student life, reimagined and ready for its next chapter!

Associate Professor **Ho Han Kiat**
Dean of Students



The Vibrant Pulse of Campus Life

Over 200 student groups, clubs, and residential communities supported by OSA. One revitalised space where friendships are forged, passions are ignited, and vibrant campus life flourishes. Here's an overview of the thriving ecosystem of student life now ready to call YIH its home once more.

15

NUS Students' Union
and Constituent Clubs



33

Arts
Groups

53

Sports
Groups

45

Student
Societies



67

Interest
Groups

18

Hostel
Communities



“Student unions play an important role in giving voice to the lived realities of students—something no department or policy paper can fully capture.”

Sean Pang
Business, Class of 2026
46th NUSSU President

From Participant to President

In NUS, student leaders are the vital link between the administration and student body. For Academic Year 2024/25, NUSSU President Sean Pang, a Class of 2026 Business student, was at the helm, embodying a leadership journey driven by vision, advocacy, and a deep-seated commitment to service.

Stepping into the role of NUSSU President was a humbling responsibility for Sean, one that connected him to a legacy of public service. “You’re not just leading in the present—you’re also walking in the footsteps of those who’ve pushed boundaries before you, while paving the way for those who will come after,” he reflected. He drew inspiration from generations of leaders who came before him, including prominent alumnus like Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan.

An informal network of alumni including past NUSSU Presidents provided invaluable advice, with one piece of counsel particularly resonating: “Focus on culture, not just outcomes.” This taught him that lasting change comes from building trust and shared values within the organisation.

From freshman to frontline advocate

Sean’s NUSSU journey began in 2021 at Union Camp, a typical starting point for many students. But what followed was anything but. While still a first-year student, he became the NUSSU Policy Director and later served as Vice-President for two terms.

“I wanted student leadership to go beyond meeting operational needs,” Sean explained, reflecting on his decision to run for President in 2024. “It should be about shaping systems, policies, and narratives that help students feel seen, supported, and included.”

For many students, the work of NUSSU might seem centred on large-scale events like *Supernova*, a popular student music festival. While such events capture attention and showcase student creativity, Sean was keen to point out that the union does much more than just organise events.

“In reality, much of our work is policy-based and often invisible. We serve as advocates, enablers, and community-builders,” he explained. As NUSSU President, Sean regularly sat on university-wide committees, where he represented student voices on issues ranging from academic regulations to mental health and the arts.

“We act as both sounding board and amplifier,” he added, describing how the union helps the institution create a student experience that is “relevant, responsive, and representative.”

Driving meaningful change

Under Sean’s leadership, NUSSU balances student advocacy with community care. Initiatives like RAG & Flag and the Students’ Fund demonstrate this dual approach, delivering tangible support to underserved communities both within and beyond the campus.

NUSSU has also maintained its advocacy work on important issues including mental wellbeing, academic flexibility, and expanded dining options—areas where student voices can drive meaningful policy change.

Sean credited OSA for providing crucial developmental support, describing their relationship as one of “mutual trust and support” rather than mere administration. This partnership empowers the union to design programmes that are both safe and scalable.

A new hub for student life

For Sean, the reopening of YIH represents more than just upgraded facilities—it’s symbolic of the union’s broader mission to “reimagine spaces for the next generation.” With its open seating, collaborative zones, and activity rooms, YIH is positioned to become a natural meeting point where diverse student groups can intersect and collaborate.

As he looked to the future, Sean hoped his team would be remembered for being “fearless in asking the right questions and compassionate in answering them.” Most importantly, he wants their legacy to be that they helped students “feel less alone, more heard, and more hopeful.” 🎧



Sean speaking at the NUSSU-University Management Dialogue 2025, a dialogue session with the senior management of NUS to raise and discuss issues directly relating to student life.

“Dance is a powerful form of expression. Being part of a group, exploring it in a meaningful, collaborative environment, truly adds depth and vibrancy to your university experience.”

Vetcha Divya Sai Manasa

Arts & Social Sciences, Class of 2026
NUS d’Hoppers and NUS Dance Blast!

Passion and Purpose



Class of 2026 Arts & Social Sciences student Vetcha Divya Sai Manasa discovered her passion for dance at NUS. Metamorphosing from recreational dancer to dance captain, she takes pride in contributing to a thriving arts scene on campus.

For Manasa, dance is more than just a pastime; it’s a powerful force that has defined her university experience. Starting her dance journey in secondary school, Manasa initially saw it as a fun recreational activity. The turning point came when she joined NUS d’Hoppers, a street dance group that introduced her to the rich culture and history of hip-hop.

“I discovered I had only been scratching the surface,” Manasa reflected. She was captivated by dance’s unique capacity to “bind people and elevate their life experiences,” a quality that would later influence her approach to leadership.

Finding a community and a calling

In her third year, Manasa took on a new challenge and joined NUS Dance Blast!, the University’s largest street dance group. This move pushed her to try things she “had never been daring enough to,” solidifying her growth as a dancer and individual.

Manasa’s involvement with both groups has been enriching and led to significant creative achievements, including co-choreographing for *Ascen(dance!) VI: Melodies in Motion 2024*, a biennial NUS d’Hoppers dance production that provides a platform for the NUS dance community to showcase their talent on a large scale.

These experiences have allowed Manasa to appreciate how dance can serve different purposes, from technical skill development to cultural expression and social connection, while growing as a performer and leader.

Setting the tempo as a leader

As a leader in the NUS dance community, Manasa has embraced responsibilities that extend far beyond choreography and performance. Her role involves nurturing newer dancers and fostering connections to enrich the University’s dance scene, supported by OSA Centre for the Arts.

Both NUS Dance Blast! and NUS d’Hoppers actively participate in the *NUS Arts Festival (NAF)*, the largest campus arts event organised by OSA. During *NAF 2025*, Manasa had the opportunity to co-lead a workshop with a member of NUS Dance Synergy, exploring how their distinct styles could merge into a unified choreography.

The arts scene at NUS, bolstered by the NUS “Arts for All” framework that provides a diverse range of artistic learning opportunities, has blossomed in recent years. “I’ve seen student arts groups expand in size and ambition, putting on concerts, productions, workshops, and exhibitions,” enthused Manasa. “What fascinates me most is the vitality that art gives those who immerse themselves in it.” She believes a vibrant arts scene is crucial to help students, regardless of their field of study, to see the world in more nuanced ways.

A new hub of creativity

Manasa is excited about the new spaces in YIH that can be used for rehearsals, workshops, and even performances. The new facilities will support groups like NUS Dance Blast! as they prepare for upcoming productions such as their biennial dance production, *Blast Out Of Bounds!*, in October 2025. Manasa is looking forward to performing in the production, embodying the passion and dedication she brings to the stage.

Manasa’s journey illustrates how university can serve as a catalyst for discovering deeper passions and developing leadership capabilities. Through dance, she has found her rhythm—not just in movement, but in building communities that celebrate both individual expression and collective joy. [n](#)



Manasa performing at *Supernova*.

“Cultural exchange broadens our worldviews, fosters empathy, and allows us to interact with people from all walks of life in more thoughtful ways.”

Bhasin Kshitij

Business, Class of 2026
NUS Peer Connector
Vice-President, NUS Hindu Club

A Guiding Light

Bhasin Kshitij, a Class of 2026 Business student, has channelled his early experience as an overwhelmed international student into meaningful support for others. Now an NUS Peer Connector and Vice-President of the NUS Hindu Club, he is committed to building a more inclusive campus community for all.

When Kshitij first arrived at NUS from New Delhi in 2022, the transition felt overwhelming. “Everything felt unfamiliar—how to get around, who to ask for help, or even how to start socialising,” he recalled. Motivated by his personal experience during those early months, Kshitij was drawn to join the NUS Peer Connectors Network in Academic Year 2024/25, two years after OSA had launched the programme to help international students feel more at home in Singapore.

“I wanted to be there for others in ways I wish someone had been there for me,” he explained. “A group like Peer Connectors is incredibly important. It reaffirms to international students that they are welcomed and valued here, and offers them a platform to build friendships, integrate smoothly, and enjoy both Singapore and university life to the fullest.”

Leading on the right track

As a Peer Connector, Kshitij leads curated trails to introduce new students to amenities on campus and in nearby neighbourhood town centres—all while building relationships along the way. “I guide students through these routes and share insights about living in Singapore,” he said proudly.

Kshitij hopes to dispel the misconception that peer support ends after orientation. “We’re here to support students throughout their journey at NUS—whether it’s during their first week or even a year after enrolment,” he clarified.

Building bridges, broadening perspectives

Alongside his Peer Connectors role, Kshitij serves as Vice-President of the NUS Hindu Club, where he oversees weekly Bhagavad Gita sessions and cultural celebrations like the Krishna Janmashtami festival. His approach emphasises inclusion over exclusion—creating spaces where students of any background can explore spiritual wisdom and cultural traditions.

“These sessions help students to reflect on deeper life questions and explore spirituality in a practical, accessible way regardless of religious background,” he explained. This philosophy extends to the club’s participation in collaborative events like the *mOSAic Interfaith Dialogue* co-organised by NUS Interfaith, NUS Buddhist Society, NUS Muslim Society, NUS Hindu Club, and Varsity Christian Fellowship.

The recently renovated YIH offers flexible spaces that accommodate the club’s various discussion groups and cultural programming, with OSA offering guidance and resources that allow student-led initiatives to flourish.

Creating a ripple effect of support

What drives Kshitij most is witnessing the positive difference he makes. “The most satisfying part is seeing students who were once anxious or lost begin to feel at home,” he elaborated. “When I see them call their parents to say they’re having a great time in Singapore—that’s when I truly feel I’ve made an impact.”

His advice to incoming students reflects his practical approach to assimilation: start by attending events, be gradually more involved through volunteering, before considering any leadership roles. “Being part of Peer Connectors or a Communities and Religion group isn’t just about adding something to your resume,” he emphasised. “It’s about building friendships, shaping communities, and learning about yourself and others in a meaningful way.”

As he approaches graduation, Kshitij’s impact extends beyond individual interactions. The students he has supported often become mentors themselves, creating a sustainable cycle of peer assistance that transforms NUS into a place where every student can find their home away from home. **n**



Kshitij (dressed in blue) spent a day showing a group of international students around the Harbourfront area.

Arches of Time. Spaces for Tomorrow.

YIH has always been a special place on campus and in the hearts of NUS students. Now, it's ready to welcome everyone back as a vibrant hub of student life, reimagined for a sustainable future.

At the core of this transformation is the vision of Professor Erik L'Heureux, the Chief Architect of the renovation who previously served in academic and leadership roles at the NUS Department of Architecture for two decades. He is now Professor and Head of Architecture at Monash University, and continues to maintain an academic affiliation with NUS as an Adjunct Associate Professor.

Professor L'Heureux's approach centres on understanding, preserving, and enhancing the building's rich architectural and cultural heritage. As YIH reopens, it stands as a testament to how architectural legacy can be interwoven with environmental responsibility.



Designed for connection and climate

The architectural transformation of YIH is a story of intelligent design, where historical elements are re-engineered for modern performance. The project affirms the value of generous, shared spaces where students can gather, collaborate, and belong.

Iconic vaulted arches

- A primary feature of the redesign includes transforming and extending six vaulted arches of the original structure into climatic devices.
- Vaults actively "inhale" and channel hot air over the building floor, allowing YIH to "breathe naturally".
- Made of glass-reinforced concrete, vaults draw in night air to cool YIH in the following morning.



Naturally ventilated atrium

- Vaults lead into a large, naturally ventilated atrium that acts as a "thermodynamic air lung" for YIH.
- Porous screened clerestory and perforated sunscreen function ensure constant air exchange through stack effect and High-Volume, Low-Speed (HVLS) fans.



Reinterpreted façade

- New precast fluted panels are a modern reinterpretation of the original mosaic tile façade.
- Complemented by perforated vertical fins that act as solar screens and provide enhanced privacy, especially in the afternoon.



Spacious dining area

- Spacious area connects students to study spaces and the external greenery.
- Hybrid cooling system, including an additional series of vaults, minimises energy consumption.

Your University Experience, Rewritten

The reopening of YIH follows the rollout of NUSOne, an initiative designed to integrate academic life with meaningful experiences beyond the classroom, to give students opportunities for holistic personal development.

For students eagerly awaiting its return, YIH's reopening couldn't have been better timed. Since August 2024, NUS has been rolling out NUSOne, an initiative that brings together academic learning and out-of-classroom experiences. YIH now provides the perfect home for this—a central space where students can explore, connect, and grow.

Think of it this way: NUSOne provides the framework, YIH provides the space, and together, they create countless opportunities for students to develop as well-rounded individuals.

A new way of thinking

The premise behind NUSOne is that university life should be more than just academic excellence alone. It's also about exploring interests outside students' chosen fields of study, forming lasting friendships, serving the community, and developing practical life skills that will matter long after graduation.

The NUSOne name itself is a nod to this transformation. Firstly, it acknowledges the first year as a key transition period, offering support as students move into higher education. Secondly, it signifies the deliberate effort to weave formal academics and informal co-curricular activities into one cohesive educational experience.



"NUSOne is a continuation of the University's ongoing efforts to transform higher education, to empower graduates to thrive in academic learning, and to flourish in an ever-changing world."

Assoc Prof Leong Ching
Vice Provost (Student Life)



This is where the newly reopened YIH shines. Its central location and welcoming spaces make it the ideal hub for the array of activities on offer:

- **Clubs and interest groups:** A place to pursue passions, whether in sports or the arts, and build meaningful communities.
- **Community engagement:** Hands-on opportunities to develop social consciousness through volunteering and outreach.
- **Workshops and events:** Structured sessions on essential skills, from public speaking to introductory coding bootcamps.
- **Personal development:** Programmes focused on mental wellness, leadership, and emotional intelligence.
- **Career readiness:** Networking and skill-building sessions to prepare students for tomorrow's job market.

Making time for what matters

One of NUSOne's most visible changes is the introduction of "Wednesday afternoons off" that frees up space in the week for many students to explore activities beyond coursework. This simple change sends a powerful message about the University's commitment to holistic development.

Preparing for tomorrow

Ultimately, NUSOne and YIH are about preparing students for tomorrow, in a world where success demands adaptability, creativity, and the ability to work across different communities—precisely the skills out-of-classroom activities help students sharpen.

More than the return of a beloved campus landmark, the reopening of YIH signals a shift in how NUS approaches student life, with equal emphasis on what happens inside and outside the classroom. For students, this means a university experience that's richer, more connected, and genuinely theirs to shape. 

A Dialogue on Design

Professor L'Heureux offers an authentic glimpse into the design philosophy that guided the rejuvenation of YIH, illuminating how a building can evolve to embody history, sustainability, and community for generations to come.

How did the history of YIH shape your approach to the redesign?

As the former Student Union building, YIH was a space charged with political energy, a symbol of youth and idealism. I approached the redesign like an archaeologist, peeling back decades of clutter for renewal and redesign,

to reassert the importance of spatial generosity for our students to dialogue, express and create.

The original building lacked true gathering spaces. We addressed this by introducing four new "Campus Rooms"—a vaulted social commons, a reimagined natural ventilated atrium, a shaded indoor-outdoor canteen, and a hybrid-cooled dining hall. This returns YIH to an open, climate-conscious, and socially vibrant heart of student life for NUS.

This isn't a sentimental restoration, but a significant reinterpretation of YIH's legacy grounded in sustainability, decarbonisation, and openness. Today, YIH's historic features double as climatic devices. In this way, the past isn't erased; it's reactivated—climatically, symbolically, and socially.

YIH is located at the heart of campus. How did that influence how you connected the building to its surroundings?

Historically, YIH was physically and ideologically set apart despite its central location. We aimed to change that by reinforcing its linkages to the main pedestrian spine, Central Library, the new sports complex, and student housing. Ramps, lifts, and seamless circulation ensure that the building is fully accessible—literally open 24/7—to the climate, students, and Singapore. This reflects a new ethos of trust, porosity, and a stronger social contract between NUS, its students and the public.

How were net-zero energy goals incorporated into the architectural design?

Working closely with Bertrand Lasternas from University Campus Infrastructure (UCI), I approached sustainability via two strategies. First, climate-responsive design maximises naturally ventilated spaces using High-Volume, Low-Speed (HVLS) fans for comfort without heavy use of air-conditioning. We introduced hybrid comfort systems where lightly cooled air from offices can "spill" into adjacent naturally ventilated zones. A solar photovoltaic (PV) array was also installed on the roof.

Secondly, adaptive reuse was fundamental. By retaining the original structure, we extended the carbon investment of an earlier generation, dramatically lowering embodied

carbon and new construction costs. This also sustains something less tangible: the memory and presence of generations of students who've passed through YIH, linking the importance of adaptive reuse with history.

What's one feature of the building that's especially meaningful to you?

The vaulted space on Level 2 is a personal favorite. It's generous, robust, climatically comfortable, and already used by students for activities and social gatherings.

What are your hopes for how students will experience the space?

I hope students truly take the building over. YIH was intentionally designed to be a little rough in its finish to encourage appropriation. It's a backdrop for invention, not a polished object. My hope is that YIH continues to evolve—not just as a building, but as a living platform for student life, expression, and civic engagement.

I also hope students come to understand the layered histories embedded in YIH—that architecture is never just infrastructure but an architectural vessel of memory, meaning, and shared culture. If YIH inspires the next generation of students to gather, to question, to care—and to design their world with conviction—then it will have succeeded. **n**

"My hope is that YIH continues to evolve—not just as a building, but as a living platform for student life, expression, and civic engagement."

Professor Erik L'Heureux

Professor and Head of Architecture, Monash University
Adjunct Associate Professor, NUS



“I’m forever grateful for the opportunities I’ve been given to serve in this space and make a difference through normalising mental health struggles and widening sources of support.”

Tay Jing Xuan

Arts & Social Sciences, Class of 2025
President, NUS Peer Student Supporters

Reshaping Mental Wellness



From a small peer support group to a thriving community that provides mental health support on campus, Tay Jing Xuan, a Class of 2025 Arts & Social Sciences graduate, has transformed how NUS students access wellness support.

For many, seeking mental health support can feel daunting. There’s often a nagging question: “Is my problem serious enough?” It’s a concern that Jing Xuan, President of NUS Peer Student Supporters (NUS PSS), knows all too well—and one that drives her mission to make mental wellness support accessible to every student on campus.

“Many people believe that they need to reach a certain threshold of not feeling well before they seek help,” she explained. “In reality, they don’t need to ‘earn’ recognition for their struggles, whether big or small.”

From unofficial group to recognised force

Jing Xuan’s leadership has been instrumental in transforming NUS PSS from an informal gathering into a recognised NUS Interest Group. When the organisation was founded in 2018, it operated quietly from PitStop@YIH as a combined effort between the OSA Student Wellness team and students passionate about mental health advocacy.

After YIH was closed for renovation, NUS PSS moved to PitStop@Science and later to PitStop@UTown. Their formal status has brought renewed energy and resources.

“There’s a much stronger sense of community now,” Jing Xuan reflected. “We have more resources and support to empower our members to put their skills to good use.”

Making wellness support more accessible

Understanding that wellness exists on a spectrum, Jing Xuan creates environments where students don’t need to be in crisis before they seek help. Beyond face-to-face support at PitStop@UTown, NUS PSS operates an anonymous chat function on the uNivUS app, lowering the barrier for students who find face-to-face meetings intimidating.

“We’d love to welcome students down to see us in person,” Jing Xuan clarified, “but if coming to PitStop physically isn’t possible or feels a bit intimidating at first, the chat is always available.”

Building networks of care

Under Jing Xuan’s leadership, NUS PSS has become part of the university’s comprehensive support ecosystem. “There are many resources available—no issue is too large or small to seek help,” she emphasised. By removing barriers to seeking help, students can choose their preferred way to access the support they need: emailing for appointments, walking into PitStop@UTown for face-to-face conversations, or initiating an anonymous NUS PSS chat.

At the heart of this support network is the OSA Student Wellness team, comprising mental health professionals with backgrounds in counselling, psychology, social work, and psychiatric nursing. To provide holistic support, the team works closely with faculty, student life staff and administrative personnel. When students need more specialised care, seamless referrals connect them to the NUS Health and Wellbeing (HWB) team, community organisations and external healthcare providers.

Beyond campus boundaries

Jing Xuan’s advocacy extends beyond campus through her work in Singapore’s nature scene, organising volunteering projects that incorporate elements like animal-assisted therapy.

Her legacy lies in the robust community she’s built. PSS continues growing through initiatives such as their Spotify podcast ‘Conversations on the Move’ and preparations for *WellNUS Festival 2025* at the newly renovated YIH.

“What I’m proudest of is resurrecting our student group to make it much more visible and reviving the spirit of community,” Jing Xuan said. Her work demonstrates that effective peer support comes from creating spaces where every student feels their experiences matter, regardless of who they are. **n**



Jing Xuan, together with the NUS Peer Student Supporters and NUS Care Unit, showing support for victim-survivors of sexual misconduct at NUS Denim Day 2025.

“Character-building, personal growth, and self-improvement are more important than winning competitions.”

Muhammad Haziq Bin Abdul Wahab
Medicine, Class of 2026
NUS Sports Scholarship recipient
NUS Floorball Vice-Captain

From Primary School Star to National Team Pride

Muhammad Haziq Bin Abdul Wahab, a Class of 2026 Medicine student, has risen from a nervous floorball newcomer in primary school to an assured national team player at NUS, while championing inclusivity and character-building within the sport.

Haziq's floorball journey began by chance in Primary 3 when his older brother recommended him for the newly-introduced sport in school. What started as casual after-school sessions quickly evolved when his teacher encouraged the team to participate in inter-school competitions.

“I truly had fun and got an adrenaline rush from the games,” Haziq recalled. More than a decade later, he's still pursuing his passion as a national team player.

From floor to sky

Haziq's time at NUS demonstrated consistent leadership and commitment to team culture. From feeling inadequate among his seniors as a freshman, to becoming a mentor in the school team, his journey reflected both personal growth and institutional support.

His proudest achievement wasn't a trophy but “creating a more inclusive and healthy culture during the COVID season.” As a key player in the team, Haziq emphasised character-building and personal growth over competition. “In the 2023 *Singapore University Games (SUniG)* and *Institute-Varsity-Polytechnic (IVP) Games*, we achieved one of our best wins against our long-time rivals, but what made it sweeter was seeing how much the team has grown since Year 1.”

Since 2019, Haziq has represented Singapore internationally, including the Men's *World Floorball Championships* in Helsinki, *Southeast Asian (SEA) Games* in Cambodia, and the *Asia-Oceania Floorball Confederation (AOFC) Cup*. His standout year was 2023 when Singapore earned bronze at the *SEA Games*.

The following *AOFC tournament* on home soil provided an even more special moment. “There's no better feeling than competing in front of a home crowd, with your loved ones cheering you on,” he reflected.

Leading on multiple courts

Haziq's impact extended beyond competitive play through his involvement in the *Inter-Faculty Games (IFG)* and *Inter-Hall Games (IHG)*, where he adapted his leadership style accordingly. “My IFG teammates were really excited to learn, and more importantly to have fun, and that made it super enjoyable for me.”

“In contrast, the hall communities were generally more competitive, so I focused on pushing my IHG team to improve and set achievable goals. This developed a sense of pride for the team and hall.”

Supporting future champions

With Valour House—NUS's first sports-themed hostel—newly opened, Haziq is excited about the opportunities it will create for future student-athletes. Its proximity to the University Sports Centre, together with YIH's enhanced study spaces and dining options, represents the kind of integrated support that makes balancing elite sport with academic demands more manageable.

As an NUS Sports Scholarship recipient, Haziq appreciated how financial support enabled him to focus fully on both academic and sporting pursuits. OSA has also been instrumental, providing holistic support in high performance planning, development in sports, and leadership training for scholarship recipients. Its annual teamNUS Summit camp for sports leaders has been particularly helpful in Haziq's leadership journey.

A legacy of resilience

To junior athletes navigating the inevitable ups and downs of competitive sport, Haziq emphasised resilience over perfection, encouraging them to embrace any losses as part of the learning process.

“Even the best in the world loses at one point,” he said. “What's more important is to understand why and how they lost, then coming out on top with a new game plan.”

Haziq's legacy lies not just in the matches won or leadership positions held, but in the culture of inclusivity and growth he helped to cultivate—proof that sometimes the most meaningful victories are not recorded on a scoreboard. **n**



Haziq representing NUS Floorball in the Singapore University Games (SUniG), an annual competition for university students to get together to foster goodwill and friendship through sports.

“Beyond the classroom, an active residential campus experience shapes us to be more grounded and empathetic individuals.”

Yap Koo Gene

Science, Class of 2027
NUS ASEAN Scholar
House Head, RVRC

Planting Seeds of Change



When Class of 2027 Science student Yap Koo Gene first arrived at NUS from Malaysia, he never imagined he'd become a campus leader championing sustainability and community building. The NUS ASEAN Scholar and House Head of Ridge View Residential College reflects on how residential college life has transformed his university experience.

Koo Gene's journey to NUS wasn't exactly something he had planned. Coming from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, studying abroad was never a serious consideration due to the costs involved. But his family's encouragement and a leap of faith led him to apply, and he was offered an ASEAN Undergraduate Scholarship to make his dream of a world-class education a reality.

At NUS, Koo Gene's transition to campus life was made smoother thanks to its distinct Residential College experience, where academic learning is integrated into residential life. Every Residential College provides a two-year academic programme that focuses on interdisciplinary modules, helping residents to broaden their perspective while enjoying the camaraderie of a tight-knit community.

Nurturing passions, cultivating change

At Ridge View Residential College (RVRC) where Koo Gene stays, there is a strong focus on sustainability in both the academic programme and activities. "The idea of learning, living, and growing alongside peers with shared values really appeals to me," Koo Gene enthused. "Here, I have the perfect space to explore my interests more meaningfully and understand how we can better protect and cherish our planet."

One of Koo Gene's favourite modules was "Feeding the Belly of a Nation". "We explored food sustainability and visited a local fish farm, where we engaged directly with the owner and discussed Singapore's '30 by 30' food goals," he elaborated.

Another standout module was "Understanding Disability and Fostering Inclusivity", where Koo Gene and his course mates collaborated with MINDS to create prototypes that improve workflows for individuals with intellectual disabilities. "These hands-on, real-world experiences left a lasting impact on me as the world is truly our classroom," he reflected.

Leadership through service

Feeling welcomed and supported during his first year, Koo Gene was inspired to step up as House Head of Rusa, one of RVRC's seven houses—each named after rare or endangered animal species indigenous to Singapore.

"I wanted to give back by creating an even warmer, more inclusive environment for future residents," he explained. Under his leadership, Rusa organised memorable activities including beach outings and Christmas carolling, where students spread festive cheer across RVRC blocks. The most meaningful experience to him was the *Kayak and Clean* programme at Pulau Ubin, which combined adventure with environmental stewardship through beach cleanups.

Growing a greener future

The leadership experience and transferable skills Koo Gene gained have been invaluable for his academic pursuits. "Time management stands out the most," he noted. "As House Head, I had to coordinate planning and running events while balancing my studies."

The newly renovated YIH, located adjacent to RVRC, represents exciting opportunities for continued community engagement. Koo Gene sees its improved facilities and collaborative spaces as perfect for sustainability workshops and joint events, including upcoming initiatives like a floral press workshop—part of OSA's *WellNUS Festival 2025*—to promote upcycling.

Koo Gene's journey from uncertain scholarship applicant to confident campus leader illustrates how residential college life can transform students. "Hostel life pushes you out of your comfort zone," he observed. "It's where you learn to navigate challenges, embrace diversity, and build friendships that last." These experiences, he knows, are the foundation for building a brighter tomorrow. 🌱



RVRC House Head Koo Gene joins Rusa House residents in celebrating their crowning as the 2024 Inter-House Games Champions.

“We hope to use this space and opportunity to strengthen the competitive esports field and to feel more connected as a community.”

Debbie Hii Wenxin,
Computing, Class of 2026
Publicity Director, NUS Esports

Building Blocks, Stacking Success



The passion of a Class of 2026 Computing student for a classic yet modernised puzzle game has helped transform NUS Esports and Singapore’s competitive gaming scene. Meet Debbie Hii Wenxin and discover her fascinating journey from browser game enthusiast to big dream architect.

Debbie’s foray into competitive gaming can be traced back to her polytechnic days when a friend introduced her to Jstris, a browser-based multiplayer Tetris game. One year later, she discovered TETR.IO, a more advanced variant that includes a competitive ranked system.

“Initially, I played the game because it was a very fun experience,” explained Debbie, now Publicity Director for NUS Esports. “What kept me going was the opportunity to hang out and play in online custom rooms with the friends I made, some of whom, coincidentally, are also now in NUS.”

Unlike many competitive players who rely on raw speed, Debbie’s playstyle centres on strategy and efficiency. She admires professional player czsmall0402, describing his approach as “calm, deliberate, and effortlessly effective, using minimal movement to outmanoeuvre opponents.”

A new mission for Player One

Recognising the lack of student Tetris clubs, Debbie decided to join NUS Esports and establish a Tetris Division. “NUS Esports was incredibly supportive by providing us their space and budget to host our tournaments,” she noted gratefully.

She organises weekly sessions and co-organises tournaments with fellow NUS Tetris player Operator, including *TET@NUS*, which draws participants from across Singapore’s gaming community. This ground-up effort has flourished thanks to backing from OSA.

“We are fortunate to have OSA who attend our events and helped us to secure a temporary space while our clubroom was being built in YIH,” Debbie continued. “The Tetris community from Singapore Polytechnic (SP) has been a great help offering advice and hands-on assistance, and actively participating in our tournaments.”

New base, bigger dreams

The new NUS Esports clubroom in YIH marks a significant milestone for the community. Previously, many gaming sessions were hosted online due to space constraints, but the permanent facility creates more opportunities for face-to-face connections.

“We are very excited to have a dedicated space that we can customise for our in-person sessions, and to have fun and laugh together over the games we enjoy.” Debbie said, looking forward to installing more computers and welcoming new members to the clubroom.

More than fun and games

Debbie is passionate about dispelling the misconception that esports is merely about “just playing games”. She draws parallels between competitive gaming and traditional sports, noting how players specialise in different roles and develop sophisticated strategies.

“Just like how football has playstyles, strategies, and tactics tailored to the team’s strengths and opponent’s weaknesses, esports has similar nuances,” she explained.

Recognising that esports cultivates important values such as teamwork, critical thinking, and perseverance, more institutions, including NUS, have begun investing in dedicated gaming facilities in recent years.

Levelling up for a new world

NUS Esports plays a pivotal role in this evolution through events like the *Inter Varsity Gaming Festival (IVGF)*. This signature event brings together varsity teams from across Singapore, combining competitive tournaments with recreational matches, creator showcases, and industry talks. Debbie is part of the *IVGF 2025* organising team handling merchandise and publicity, and even developing Twitch visual assets. She’s also organising a summer Tetris tournament open to all players, potentially collaborating with the Tetris division in SP and more.

Debbie’s journey demonstrates how individual passion can create lasting community impact. Through her dedication, she has transformed what began as simple fun with friends into a thriving esports division that continues to stack up wins across Singapore’s gaming landscape. 🎮



Debbie helping behind the scenes of TET@NUS, the largest LAN Tetris event in Singapore.

“We’re excited to create more opportunities for the campus community to experience how we reshape the way people understand ability.”

Kelly Jin
Life Sciences, Class of 2027
Co-President, NUS Enablers

Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers

As Co-President of NUS Enablers, Kelly Jin, a Class of 2027 Life Sciences student, is leading the charge for a more accessible and inclusive campus. Discover her inspiring journey from overwhelmed freshman to campus champion.

Stepping onto a new campus can be an exciting yet dizzying experience, particularly for Kelly Jin, a Singaporean who grew up overseas. Thankfully, amidst the hustle of the *NUSSU Student Life Fair*, the freshman found her footing. Drawn to a passionate speech about sign language, Kelly discovered NUS Enablers, a student group dedicated to raising disability awareness and empowering individuals with accessibility needs on campus.

“I felt like I found a cause I belonged to,” Kelly recalled. Now, as Co-President of NUS Enablers, she’s channelling that same passion into tangible change, proving that student-led initiatives can create a ripple effect across a university campus.

Kelly’s journey in advocacy began even before she joined NUS. In high school, she founded her school’s medical club, an experience that taught her the power of student-led initiatives. But NUS Enablers, she said, is different. “It feels like a constellation,” she explained. “Each member shines with their own cause, but we’re united by the same spark: the drive to advocate with empathy.”

Making history, one step at a time

Under Kelly’s leadership, NUS Enablers has achieved significant milestones. “One of our proudest milestones was representing NUS at *The Purple Parade Marching Contingent* for the first time in the University’s history,” Kelly reflected.

This wasn’t just about showing up at Singapore’s largest disability awareness event. NUS Enablers engaged over 200 members of the NUS community through campus-wide events in the lead-up, bringing the spirit of the parade directly to students.

“For NUS to march at *The Purple Parade* sent a strong message—that the University recognises accessibility and disability inclusion as important, not just within our campus, but as part of our role in the wider community,” Kelly affirmed.

Looking forward, NUS Enablers is mapping out new initiatives: inclusive design workshops, a University

Survival Guide for freshmen with disabilities, and plans to bring boccia—a precision ball sport designed to be inclusive of athletes with neurological or physical conditions that affect motor control—to campus.

A shared commitment to accessibility

Kelly sees the University’s commitment to inclusion growing steadily. This momentum is supported by OSA, which has doubled the manpower in its Student Accessibility Unit (SAU) to provide more responsive support.

A prime example of this commitment is the newly renovated YIH. As Kelly pointed out, the building is more than just a new space; it’s a testament to thoughtful, universal design. With wide ramps, spacious walkways, and open terraces, YIH is intentionally built to be welcoming to everyone. The presence of PitStop@YIH, a wellness corner with a dedicated calm room, is especially encouraging for Kelly.

“It’s a reminder that accessibility isn’t only about infrastructure—it’s also about creating an environment where everyone feels safe, supported, and seen,” she explained.

For Kelly, advocacy is about creating long-term, systemic change. It’s a message she hopes to pass on to new students. “If you’re someone who believes in empathy, inclusion, and making even a small difference, NUS Enablers is the place for you,” she said. “All you need is an open heart and a willingness to learn.”

By fostering a community where empathy is the guiding principle, Kelly and NUS Enablers are not just building awareness—they’re creating a welcoming home away from home where every student belongs. **n**



Kelly and the NUS Enablers at The Purple Parade 2024, which supports inclusion and celebrates the abilities of persons with disabilities. (Image credit: The Purple Parade)

“Through continuous learning, collaboration, and innovation, I hope to inspire others and ensure the impact we create lasts for generations.”

Dewi Murin Bte Musa
Science, Class of 2025
President, NUS Students’
Community Service Club

Teaching Communities to Fish

From inspiring a young spectator at the National Day Parade to leading the largest community service club in NUS, Class of 2025 Science graduate **Dewi Murin Bte Musa** has spent her university years transforming how students approach social impact—one relationship at a time.

Dewi caught the volunteering bug in secondary school when she stepped forward to help at the National Day Parade, a positive experience that honed her skills in communication, teamwork, and adaptability. Unbeknownst to her, a heartfelt encounter with a Primary 5 student would spark a lifelong commitment to community service. “I had a lot of fun today! I hope to be like you someday,” the boy had told her as they parted.

Dewi smiled at the memory. “That statement alone made me realise that it does not take a lot to make someone’s day.” Those words would motivate her to continue volunteering through her university years, culminating in her role as President of the NUS Students’ Community Service Club (NUS CSC) in Academic Year 2024/25.

From one-off to long-term impact

Under her leadership, Dewi helped to inculcate a “reflection culture” in NUS CSC to encourage members to be more intentional in achieving their personal development goals, while developing empathetic leaders who understand their potential impact on beneficiaries.

In recent years, the NUS community service landscape has undergone a shift towards sustainability and empowerment, with projects increasingly focused on long-term impact rather than one-off charitable events.

“There has been greater emphasis on projects that co-create initiatives with the community,” Dewi explained, referencing strengths-based approaches such as Asset-Based Community Development that guide many social impact projects. “Indeed, teaching one how to fish is much more meaningful than continuously providing one with the fish.”

This evolution is exemplified in *Project C.A.N.* Traditionally focused on donation drives, it has expanded to include skills training for underprivileged families. Last year’s event went further, working closely with community partners to better understand the needs of rental flat residents and connect them with additional resources beyond the project’s scope.

Building bridges and bonds

Working with OSA staff advisors, Dewi appreciates how student clubs are able to engage stakeholders in a timely and innovative manner. This agility enables student organisations to pilot new approaches and bridge gaps between communities and established non-profit organisations.

The newly renovated YIH has created a genuine sense of family, with the NUS CSC clubroom serving as a gathering point for organising committee members, fostering closer bonds that enhance the volunteering experience.

Beyond formal meetings, the space allows students to study together, share meals, and build the friendships that sustain their commitment to community service.

Looking beyond graduation

Having engaged with rural communities in Vietnam, the Philippines, and Laos, Dewi dreams of contributing to global sustainable development goals after graduation. “My vision is to build scalable, sustainable initiatives that empower communities to thrive and take ownership of their development,” she said.

From volunteering in secondary school to envisioning global impact, Dewi’s journey demonstrates how individual growth can ripple outward to create lasting community change. Even after graduation, the reflection culture and sustainable approach she helped to establish at NUS CSC will continue to guide future student volunteers for years to come. 



Dewi sharing her experiences collaborating with diverse community partners and volunteers at Community Service Festival 2025.

Voices from the Past, Hopes for the Future

YIH holds many special memories for everyone who has walked through its halls. Take a glimpse into the building's enduring legacy as we hear from alumni, former student leaders, as well as the architects of its transformation.

“As a former Dean of Students, I have many fond memories of the student leaders who worked with us at YIH—not always amicably—but always in the interests of the student community. I look forward to a new lease of life for YIH as it serves future generations of students who will become leaders of the nation in the years to come!”

Prof Tan Tiong Gie, Bernard
Emeritus Professor, NUS
Dean of Students 1998–2002

“Every university, particularly one as big as NUS, needs to have a hub, a nexus, a place where people naturally congregate. One where students can meet, mingle, socialise, and collaborate. YIH is very centrally located and does just that.”

Benjamin Tan
CEO, World Vision Singapore
President, NUS Students' Union 1999–2000
Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing, Class of 2000



“YIH is rejuvenated as a people-centric, net-zero energy building, offering enhanced facilities and naturally ventilated multi-purpose spaces. We believe the built environment can foster sustainable behaviour and enrich student life.”

Loo De Liang
Head, Sustainability Strategy Unit, University Campus Infrastructure, NUS
Master of Science, Class of 2010
Bachelor of Arts in Economics, Class of 2008

“Of my 28 years at NUS, 12 were spent at YIH, supporting student leaders in projects like *Rag & Flag* and dialogues with national leaders. Working with some of Singapore's brightest minds was a privilege, and it is gratifying to see their contributions to the nation's growth and progress.”

Ng Suan Eng
Deputy Director, Office of Student Affairs, NUS
1996–2008

“I remember YIH at 3am because the Study Lounge would be open 24 hours before exams, and I'd be studying there with friends. Those overnight sessions stitched community into study, turning pressure into something almost joyful.”

Ho Yong Min
Founder, The Urbanist Singapore
Bachelor of Social Sciences with Honours in Geography, Class of 2009



“My wish for the new generation of NUS students is that YIH—reborn through conservation and net-zero design—becomes more than a building: a vibrant community that honours the past while empowering you to shape a brighter, more sustainable future.”

Giovanni Cossu

Head of Sustainability, CapitaLand Development
Master of Business Administration, Class of 2022
Master of Science, Class of 2014

“It is a privilege for students to have the opportunity to work and operate out of a green, eco-friendly, net-zero energy building. Hopefully they will live and breathe sustainability, with it etched on top of their minds beyond their university days.”

Soh Yi Da

Director, Strategic Government and Institutional Relations, SingTel
President, NUS Students' Union 2013-2014
Bachelor of Social Science in Political Science, Class of 2014

Most of my time in NUS was spent at YIH outside of classes and CCA practices. Most of my university friendships were first forged in the YIH Student Lounge, and I have countless fond memories there. I hope future undergraduates will have the same opportunity for such experiences with the newly rejuvenated YIH spaces!

Liyana Asyiqin Binte Helmy

Senior Executive, Office of Student Affairs
Bachelor of Social Sciences with Honours in Geography, Class of 2021

Scan to watch a
commemorative
video on YIH





NUS
National University
of Singapore

Office of
Student Affairs

© National University of Singapore, Office of Student Affairs.
All rights reserved, 2025.

All information is accurate as of the time of printing on 27 October 2025.

