

Student Achievements and Activities

COMMUNICATIONS AND NEW MEDIA PROGRAMME (CNM)

The ASEAN Spirit in Youths

Mohamed Elmie Bin Nekmat (a Masters student) represented Singapore at the seminar, "Using Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) to Promote the ASEAN Spirit", held in Bangkok from 17 to 20 March 2009. Elmie was selected by the Media Development Authority to represent Singapore and was the only representative from NUS. With a special focus on promoting the ASEAN spirit amongst youths, the seminar discussed several key issues pertaining to future strategies in the employment of ICTs to foster the ASEAN spirit. Representatives from each ASEAN member country, including university students, policy makers and industry executives, attended the seminar. Elmie had the opportunity to share his insights on popular trends in youths' new media use and their salient online behavior.



Elmie (extreme right) with other seminar participants

Random Blends

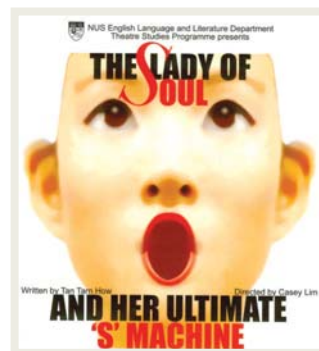
On 27 February 2009, the Department held the opening of its first multimedia interactive exhibition, "Random Blends", at 2902 Gallery, Old School. More than 160 guests attended the opening. The Guest of Honour was Dr Milton Tan, Director of Design Singapore Council, an agency promoting design and the culture industries under the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts. The exhibition, which was totally organised and curated by the students of the department, featured students' works from several CNM design modules (NM2208 *Principles of Visual Communication*, NM3208 *Designing Content for New Media*, NM3216 *Game Design* and NM3223 *Digital Photography and Imaging*).



Proud CNM students with Assoc Prof Milagros Rivera, Head of Department (extreme right)

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Seeking the Nation's Soul

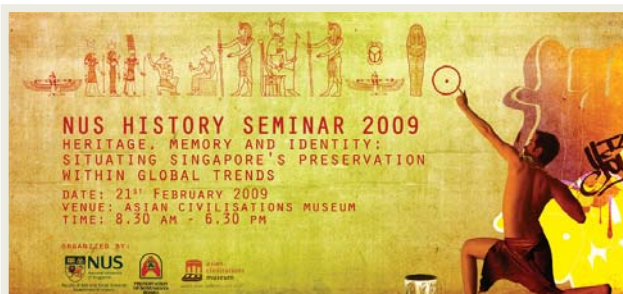


The Year Three students of the Theatre Studies Programme performed their graduating play production *The Lady of Soul and Her Ultimate 'S' Machine* at The Arts House from 9 to 11 April 2009. Written by Tan Tarn How in 1992, the play is a satire about a nation's search for soul. It touches on themes such as civil service, gender, sexuality, censorship and the socio-cultural aspects of a nation. The plot revolves around the formations of committees with sub-committees followed by sub-sub-committees to define what makes a vibrant nation. The protagonist, Derek's search for *The Lady of Soul* leads him to three individuals, three idiosyncrasies and three ideologies. Between an arts activist, a communist and a mamasan, one is made to wonder about who has the answer to the nation's search for soul.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Heritage, Memory, & Identity

The Department's student-organised History Society collaborates yearly with junior colleges in a nation-wide competition called the History Seminar. This year's seminar highlighted a bright and promising new partnership with the Preservations Monuments Board (PMB) and the Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM).



The theme, "Heritage, Memory, & Identity: Situating Singapore's Preservation within Global Trends" compelled students to think about the role of heritage and preservation in a local and global context with a paper and presentation. Our Guest of Honour, Professor Lily Kong, (Board Member PMB, NUS Vice Provost for University and Global Relations, Director of Asia Research Institute) provided opening remarks while Dr Winston Oh (PMB) hosted the awards ceremony.

Winners:

Best Presentation Award: **Meridian Junior College**

Best Overall Team Award: **Anderson Junior College**

Best Paper Award : **Anglo-Chinese Junior College**

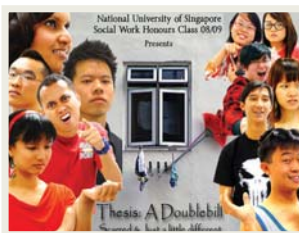


Our guests (from right) Prof Lily Kong, Assoc Prof Albert Lau
Our judges: Assoc Prof John Miksic (NUS), Dr Yeo Kang Shua (Head Monuments Inspectorate, PMB), Dr Kevin Tan (President, Singapore Heritage Society) and Ms Karen Chin (Head of Education, ACM-National Heritage Board)

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

Bringing Domestic Violence and Disabilities to the Stage

On 20 and 21 February 2009, the Social Work Honours Class of Academic Year 2008/2009 put up an original production, *Thesis: A Doublebill*, at the Drama Centre Black Box. It featured two plays by Social Work Honours students: *Scarred* (written by **Bavani Pillai**, **Dara Chee Wei Xian** and **Shem Teo Yiwei**) and *Just a Little Different* (written by **Elaine Gian Yimei** and **Samantha Lo Xui Min**). The two plays highlighted social issues on domestic violence and challenges faced by people with disabilities.



Other Achievements

Congratulations to our graduate students **Chen Rui** (Department of Geography) and **Margaret Tan Ai Hua** (Communications and New Media Programme), who received the President's Graduate Fellowship (PGF) in January 2009. The PGF is awarded to candidates who show exceptional promise or accomplishment in research.

CENTRE FOR LANGUAGE STUDIES

■ Korea Sparkling

Two Year One students from the Centre for Language Studies, **Lee Jia En** and **Prise Ho Pei Fang**, reading LAK2201 Korean 2, have won scholarships from the National Institute for International Education (NIIED). The students stayed with a Korean family, visited cultural and industrial sites, and Korean universities from 11 to 21 May 2009. All expenses were covered by the scholarships, which are being awarded for the first time this year. The NIIED, affiliated with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, is a Korean government organisation, which aims to develop and foster human resources in the age of globalisation. It awards scholarships to international students to give them an opportunity to learn more about Korean culture and society.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

■ On 13 February 2009, **Sonia Taj Marican** (Honours Year) represented NUS and was awarded the Best Essay Award at the 2009 Sogang International Undergraduate Student Conference "Globalisation and Intercultural Experience in East Asia". The conference commemorated the 50th Anniversary of Sogang University, South Korea.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

■ **Lim Ren Hui** (Year Two) was selected as one of three Singaporean winners of Eco-Minds 2009, and represented Singapore at the 3rd Eco-Minds Asia-Pacific Forum (in Auckland and Rotorua, New Zealand) in May 2009. Ren Hui chose the topic of "Degraded Coral Reefs in Singapore" and her proposal included a fund and awareness raising campaign in NUS (involving an

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exhibition). The biennial Asia-Pacific forum, organised by Bayer and United Nations Environment Programme, brings together participants from nine Asian countries to devise creative and practical uses of science and technology to address the challenges of sustainable development.

- On 22 March 2009, **Zhang Jiajie** (a Masters student) won the 1st prize in the "Recreation, Tourism and Sport Specialty Group" international student paper competition for the Association of American Geographers 2009. Based on his Masters thesis, his written paper was about war tourism in Kinmen, Taiwan.
- **Matthew Wee Shuren** and **Ho Yong Min** (both Honours students) were awarded S\$1,500 each by the Preservation of Monuments Board. Their Honours thesis projects will involve one of the following research topics: social history, heritage, historical site issues or other related topics.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

- **Jack Chia Meng Tat** (a Masters student) has been accepted to the Regional Studies: East Asia programme at Harvard University, beginning in September 2009. He has been awarded the Harvard-Yenching Institute Fellowship. He will be working on *Chinese Buddhism and Monastic Networks between China and Southeast Asia in the 20th Century*, under Professor Michael Szonyi. Jack graduated with a BA (Honours) from the Department in 2007, and entered the MA programme in the same year. He is currently completing his MA thesis on *The Cult of Guangze Zunwang and Overseas Chinese Temple Networks* under the guidance of Associate Professor Huang Jianli.



- **Xiang Hongyan** (a Masters student) has been admitted to the PhD programme (September 2009-2010) in the Department of History and Religious Studies at Pennsylvania State University. She has been awarded a graduate assistantship and a Graduate Scholar Award. These awards are renewable for five years. She will be working on *Christianity in China* using a global historical approach, under the supervision of Professor Ronnie Hsia, Edwin Earle Sparks Professor of History. Hongyan received her BA in World History in 2006 and entered the Department in January 2007. She is a holder of the NUS Research



Scholarship and her MA dissertation, written under the guidance of Associate Professor Thomas David Dubois, discusses the Belgium Franciscan missionaries in Enshi as a case study to understand the anti-Christian movement in the late 19th century China.

DEPARTMENT OF JAPANESE STUDIES

- **Tong Koon Fung** (Year Two), was awarded the Heiwa Nakajima Foundation Scholarship to go on an exchange programme for a year, to Keio University in Japan, from October 2009 to September 2010.
- The Lee Foundation donated S\$5,000 to the Department to support 14 students to participate in the Hiroshima Homestay Programme 2008 from 8 to 14 December 2008 and five students for the Homestay Programme in the Shizuoka Prefecture 2008 from 9 to 19 December 2008.

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

- **Jimmy Lim Wei Chung** (a Masters student), has been offered a prestigious internship by the United Nations (Office of Political Affairs, Asia) in New York, USA from 12 January to 13 March 2009.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

- **Trina Tan Xuelin** (a recent graduate) was awarded the Tsao Ng Yu Shun Award for Excellence in Ageing Studies 2008. Trina received her cash award of S\$500 and certificate during a departmental seminar held on 16 February 2009. Trina is currently working as a medical social worker in Changi General Hospital.

The Department is appreciative of the efforts of Tsao Foundation in promoting the awareness of research in the ageing field among NUS undergraduates, particularly since Singapore is facing the challenges of a greying population.

SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES PROGRAMME

- **Winna Ng Ying Ying** (Honours Year) was awarded the Preservation Monuments Board (PMB) Honours Thesis Research Grant (S\$1,500) for her thesis, "The Presentation of the Peranakan Community at the Peranakan Museum".