ODYSEA SUMMER PROGRAMME

FASS students go on a field trip to Cambodia and Thailand and learn about issues surrounding human trafficking
During the special term in mid-2013, NUS offered undergraduate students a unique learning opportunity to study a topic most academics and policymakers often overlook: human trafficking. Southeast Asia in particular has become a hotbed of human trafficking in recent years, with Thailand and Cambodia often singled out for their poor records in combating what some term “modern-day slavery.”

Dr Kevin McGahan, who teaches international relations and comparative politics in the Department of Political Science and serves as a fellow at The College of Alice and Peter Tan (CAPT), developed the new module as part of the University’s OdySEA special term programme. His human trafficking module, which brought students to various parts of Thailand and Cambodia, was one of three innovative classes that stressed interactive learning and critical thinking.

Students left these classes changed, filled with new insights, Dr McGahan suggested. “I know that my students and I will never view human trafficking in quite the same way,” he added.

To expose students to issues related to human trafficking, the class critically engaged key readings on the topic while at NUS. But rather than merely reading about human trafficking, the module invited guest lecturers who are involved at the grassroots level in Singapore.

For example, Vanessa Ho spoke about her volunteer work with Project X, an initiative that educates the public about and assists sex workers in Singapore. Ms Ho’s talk debunked myths and taboos about sex work both here and abroad – noting that while human trafficking is a serious problem, not all sex workers have necessarily been trafficked.

The class also heard from Bridget Tan, the founder and president of the Humanitarian Organisation for Migration Economics (HOME). “Bridge’s unwavering dedication in helping migrant workers and trafficking survivors is truly awe inspiring,” Dr McGahan said.

After spending three weeks in the classroom, Dr McGahan led his students to Thailand and Cambodia. They started their adventure in Siem Reap, where they absorbed Cambodian culture and history at the grand temples of Angkor Wat. Later, they went to Phnom Penh to meet with various non-governmental organisations (NGOs), such as Friends International and the Somaly Mam Foundation.

While in Bangkok, students met with local activists as well as agencies at the United Nations (UN) Secretariat Building and government officials at the United States Embassy – most notably the US Ambassador to Thailand, Kristie Kenney. So impressed was Ambassador Kenney with NUS students, she posted pictures and updates about the meeting on her Facebook and Twitter accounts.

The meeting at the US Embassy focused on US anti-trafficking efforts and its controversial Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report. In this annual report, the US government ranks countries into tiers based on national efforts to combat various forms of trafficking – which include sex trafficking, forced labour, debt bondage, domestic servitude, and child trafficking and soldiering. Although the report is seen as largely political, it has positively contributed to dispelling the myth that human trafficking takes only one form, rather than the multifaceted dimensions which increasingly exist around the world.

One of the most compelling interviews involved students meeting with the Foundation for Women and Live Our Lives, both local NGOs offering a range of support services to Thai women.
“Students were able to hear first-hand from a trafficking survivor, who related her horrific and harrowing experience of being sexually exploited in Japan,” Dr McGahan said. Debunking a common myth about trafficking recruitment, students learned that she was actually trafficked by a female friend from her local village, not by a group of men associated with criminal networks as is commonly assumed.

The class also visited the local headquarters of MTV, which has developed an anti-trafficking campaign called MTV Exit that targets youths in Southeast Asia about the potential dangers of migrating.

In total, the class remarkably conducted over 20 meetings during their two-week trip.

Upon their return to Singapore, students delivered group presentations about their observations. Many have also channelled their interests into raising public awareness and conducting research on migration issues. Some students, for instance, have volunteered for community-based projects that address human trafficking and global migration at HOME and EmancipAsia, a local NGO dedicated to human trafficking issues in Singapore.

On reflection, second-year student Oh Han Siang said: “In the end, we came to a better understanding of the various causes and consequences of human trafficking, and how both a top down and bottom up approach is necessary in tackling it.”

“This was truly an exceptional experience, demonstrating that learning happens both inside and outside the classroom,” Dr McGahan concluded. “I think that we all discovered just how complex and challenging issues of human trafficking are.”

OdySEA is a FASS summer programme that promotes a spirit of adventure and an interest in Southeast Asia. It takes students on their own intellectual journey to parts of Southeast Asia that will challenge them, prompt self-reflexivity, and lead to a return to Singapore with a new sense of self in relation to the region. OdySEA is designed to provide a group of students with an opportunity to experience an affordable study abroad summer programme with a 10-to-12 day field trip in one country in Southeast Asia. Students will have the opportunity to live, study, and travel together with teaching staff who are experts in their discipline and in the region, making it a valuable learning experience that extends beyond normal classroom learning.

Other OdySEA modules in 2013 included Dr Charles Carroll’s “Peoples and Cultures of Southeast Asia”, a required capstone module that highlighted multimedia usage, as well as his “Visual Anthropology Field-School”, which involved students going to the Lao People’s Democratic Republic. Dr McGahan’s module on human trafficking will be offered in the OdySEA programme under the FASStrack summer school umbrella in 2014.

Faculty Updates

Faculty Research Awards

FASS presented the Award for Excellent Researcher (AER) to its researchers on 22 April 2013. The successful researcher would have achieved consistent research excellence and/or produced a piece of research work of great impact. He/she should be recognised by the research community as having achieved significant breakthroughs or outstanding accomplishments. The Award for Promising Researcher (APR) is presented to researchers who have produced research that shows potential impact and promise. The winners for Faculty Research Award 2012 are:

**Award for Excellent Researcher (AER):**
Assoc Prof Cheung Wai-Leung, Mike (Psychology)

**Award for Promising Researcher (APR):**
Dr Yosuke Sato (English Language & Literature)
Dr Neeladri Sinhababu (Philosophy)
Dr Chong Ja Ian

Congratulations to Our National Day Award 2013 Recipients

The National Day Awards recognise those who have made outstanding contributions in public service or community work in Singapore. We are proud to announce the following National Day Honours awarded to our FASS colleagues. Our warmest congratulations to:

**The Commendation Medal**
Ms Lim May Jiuan, Cheryl
Senior Associate Director
Dean’s Office

**The Efficiency Medal**
Ms Kamariah Bte Sumshuddin
Management Support Officer
Dean’s Office

**The Long Service Medal**
Mdm Kwong Ai Wah
Operations Associate
Chinese Studies

Assoc Prof Lee Cheuk Yin
Associate Professor
Chinese Studies

Mdm Lela Kaur
Management Support Officer
Centre for Language Studies

(Continue on next page)
The Long Service Medal

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>Assoc Prof Chin Theng Heng, Anthony</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>Economics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mdm Hasnah Bte Abdul Hadi</td>
<td>Operations Associate</td>
<td>English Language &amp; Literature</td>
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<td>Prof Rajeev Shridhar Patke</td>
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<td>Mrs Rajamani Subramaniam</td>
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<td>Prof Tong Chee Kiong</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assoc Prof Roxana Waterson</td>
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QS Subject Rankings 2013

FASS has once again been ranked well in the 2013/2014 Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by Subject! Congratulations to all the Departments!

At the University level, NUS has been ranked as the top university in Asia. This is the first time that NUS has topped all Asian universities in the QS World University Rankings.

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<tr>
<td>Environmental Sciences</td>
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Distinguished Leaders in Asian Studies (DLAS) Speaker Series

On 18 March 2013, Prof Wang Ban, William Haas Professor in Chinese Studies and chair of the Departments of Asian Languages and Cultures at Stanford University, gave a talk on “Empire, Tianxia and Kang Youwei’s Vision of World Order”, chaired by Prof Prasenjit Duara, as part of the DLAS Speaker Series. Prof Wang was a visiting professor at the Department of Chinese Studies.

On 20 March 2013, Prof Roger Ames, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Hawaii and also a Lim Chong Yah Professor at the Department of Philosophy, delivered a talk on “Confucian China in a Changing World Order – The Dynamics of Intergenerational Transmission”.

The DLAS Speaker Series presents cutting-edge research by top international scholars in Asian Studies. FASS’ research agenda in Asian Studies emphasises comparative and inter-Asia studies drawing on strong located knowledge in the regions of South, Southeast and East Asia in particular.

FASS Presents Inaugural Forefront Asia Signature Series

Between 14 and 16 August 2013, FASS presented the inaugural forum under the newly launched “Forefront Asia: the Signature Series”, an annual meeting for expert dialogues on Asia. Each forum in the annual series consists of focused workshops on topics of critical interest, as well as talks designed for a wider audience of scholars, graduate students and interested members of the public. The first workshop in the Forefront Asia Signature Series, “The Study of Southeast Asia Today: A Dialogue at NUS”, showcased the latest scholarship on Southeast Asia while creating a forum for dialogue and interaction among FASS colleagues working on this region, together with Southeast Asianists from the region and beyond.

The first keynote speaker was Prof Anthony Reid (Emeritus Professor at Australian National University), whose talk on “Three Reasons Southeast Asian History Matters” drew on three participants from NUS, the region and beyond.
Following several paper presentations, Prof Jonathan Rigg (Durham University/ NUS), the second keynote speaker presented his paper titled “Chasing after the Wind: A Cautionary Tale of Southeast Asian Success”, which addressed how the very success of the region’s economies has, however, bred new challenges and fresh tensions. These challenges, problems and tensions range from seemingly intractable pockets of poverty to failures of government and governance, questions over the future sustainability of growth, new issues connected with emerging social maladies, environmental degradation and what some commentators perceived to be a declining quality of life.

On day two, Prof Abidin Kusno (University of British Columbia), the third keynote speaker, gave his talk on “City of the Dammed” about flooding, or ‘banjir’ in Jakarta. The talk touched on city planning and architecture while addressing questions such as consciousness of time, space and politics, environmental justice, flood management, representation, climate change and North-South debates.

The third day of the conference concluded with a roundtable for Journal Editors who represented most of the top journals that cover Southeast Asia and the region.

FASS Awards Ceremony 2013

The 2013 FASS Awards Ceremony was held on 24 August at the Stephen Riady Centre, University Town. It was a joyous occasion in celebration of achievements and excellence in the Faculty.

Prof Brenda Yeoh, Dean of FASS, jested that one of the perks of being a dean is that one has a list that students try very hard to be on – the Dean’s List. There is now a new list and this ceremony marked the inaugural year in which the Dean’s Scholars List was awarded. The Dean’s Scholars List was introduced to recognise the academic excellence of the top 1% of FASS students.

Various prizes and scholarship were given out, having been donated generously by our kind donors such as Mdm Tan Suan Imm, who was present at the ceremony. The Tan Suan Imm History Prize is awarded to the best PhD History student for graduate teaching and also for an excellent History graduate field research proposal. The Faculty would like to thank our bighearted donors for their contributions towards celebrating our meritorious students.

The event ended with a lunch reception over which award recipients, donors and guests mingled. FASS congratulates all winners and wish them all the best for their bright futures!
# Graduate Students’ Teaching Awards

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<tr>
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<td>Anuradha Rao</td>
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<td>Zou Kunyi</td>
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<td>Shobha Vadrevu</td>
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<td>Himanshu Jha</td>
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# Undergraduate Awards

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<td>Khairun Nisha Bte Mohamed</td>
<td>Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher Prize</td>
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<td>Wong Cheng Kim Annabelle</td>
<td>Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher Prize</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ow Yeong Wai Kit</td>
<td>NUSS Medal for Outstanding Achievement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zhang Sanqian</td>
<td>Daiwa Prize</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wong Yan Hao</td>
<td>NTUC Gold Medal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anupama Hegde</td>
<td>Singapore National Employer’s Federation Silver Medal &amp; Book Prize</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neo Yu Han</td>
<td>Singapore National Employer’s Federation Bronze Medal &amp; Book Prize</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bryan Cheng Yi Da</td>
<td>Straits Steamship Prize</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eugene Yao Deng Gui</td>
<td>Wee Mon Cheng Bronze Medal</td>
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<td>Bernadette Chin Siew Hui</td>
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<td>Yeo Boon Ping</td>
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<td>Choe Huiling Jeannette</td>
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<td>Sarah Teo Joo*</td>
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<td>Teo Janvin</td>
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Asia Cultural Studies Conference 2013

The Asia Cultural Studies Conference 2013 was held from 1-5 July 2013 at FASS. The biannual Conference was co-sponsored by FASS, Asia Research Institute (ARI) and the Singapore Tourism Board. A two-day graduate students’ conference was followed by the three-day main conference.

The international conference with about 300 participants was organised by a small committee with Assoc Prof Daniel Goh, Convener of the PhD Programme of Cultural Studies in Asia (CSA) and the members of the events team from the Department of Sociology, particularly Ms Sharon Ong and Ms Magdalene Ng, and the generous assistance of the PhD students in the CSA.

A separate conference for graduate students facilitated the open sharing of their research work and networking, without the intimidating presence of senior academics. More than 80 graduate students presented papers of their master and doctoral dissertation work over two days. Prof Chua Beng Huat, former convener of the CSA programme and co-executive editor of the Inter-Asia Cultural Studies journal, gave the keynote address, with the theme of the importance and usefulness of inter-referencing Asian locations and historical instances in comparative research.

Profs Meaghan Morris (University of Sydney, Adjunct Professor of Cultural Studies, Lingnan University, HK and IACS Society Chair), Tejaswini Niranjana and Ashish Rajadhyaksha (Center for the Study of Culture and Society, Bangalore), Melanie Budiarta (Universitas Indonesia) and Kuan-Hsing Chen (National Chiao Tung University, Taiwan and co-executive editor of Inter-Asian Cultural Studies journal) attended different panels to provide comments to the students. They convened the closing plenary panel and provided an overview on disciplinary, theoretical, methodological and practices, in response to the students’ presentations.

ARI Director, Prof Prasenjit Duara, gave the welcome address at the main conference. The opening keynote by Prof Lily Kong, Vice Provost and former ARI Director, addressed the conference theme, “Beyond the Cultural Industry”. She provided a wide ranging survey of the current state of the field in both academic and policy research. The closing keynote, was delivered by Prof Thongchai Winichakul, another former ARI Senior Research Fellow. He provided a masterly analysis of the ‘hyper royalty’ phenomenon in contemporary Thai politics.

Between keynotes and plenary sessions were 67 panels with more than 200 papers, covering a very wide range of topics in Cultural Studies in Asia. The achievement of the conference is reflected in Assoc Prof Kirsten McAllister’s comment: “This was my first Inter-Asia conference and it was one of the best and most rewarding conferences I’ve ever attended, intellectually rigorous, critical and covering such a range of vital issues…In discussions with my Simon Fraser U colleagues, we all concluded that Asia(n) Canadian cultural studies scholars would really benefit from strengthening our ties and the dialogue with inter-Asia scholars. We hope to bring another Canadian contingent (with more people) to the conference in Indonesia in 2015.”

‘Fire’ and ‘Old Toilets’ win top prizes at the Singapore on Screen FASS Undergraduate Short Film Competition

Two very different films garnered the top prizes at FASS’ inaugural Singapore on Screen Undergraduate Short Film competition when the final eight films were screened in competition on 16 March 2013 at the NUS Open Day at University Town. The winner in the fiction category was “Fire”, a moving piece that touched on intergenerational student activism and the 1989 ‘June 4th Incident’. The non-fiction winning film was completely different – “Old Toilets: Memoirs of a Daily Affair” was a fascinating, amusing, albeit discomfiting, personal historical account of Singapore’s toilet customs before modern sanitation. The runner-up films were equally diverse: “Hello, Miss”, a dark urban thriller, and “The Broken Porcelain”, a reflection on the changing face on Chinatown.

The event, organised by the FASS Singapore Research Nexus, was open to all undergraduates taking a module by FASS which involved film-production in 2012. The films had to be under 15 minutes in length, be related to Singapore and could be creative works, documentaries, genre-explorations or pieces of visual ethnography. On Saturday the top eight entries were screened to the public and the four judges gave illuminating commentaries after each film for the audience and young film-makers to savour. The judges were: celebrated local film-maker and FASS Alumnus Mr Chris Yeo (Chair), Dr Ingrid Hoofd (Communications & New Media), Dr Valerie Wee (English Literature), and Dr Ivan Kwek (Sociology). The winning films each won a $500 prize with the runners up each receiving $200. In summing up, Mr Yeo commended the high quality of the films and iterated his pleasant surprise at how FASS students have created films that would outshine films produced by their contemporaries at prestigious film schools.
We are happy to announce the launch of a new Global Studies major programme.

Global Studies is a relatively new field of inquiry within the humanities and social sciences. It will provide students with multidisciplinary tools and knowledge to come up with effective solutions to current and emerging issues of global significance.

The Global Studies major draws on the diverse disciplines offered by FASS, including Political Science, Economics, Sociology, Geography and History. It will prepare students to be future leaders in a variety of fields by raising their awareness on global concerns, such as global financial flows and global health issues, and providing them with the skills to make sense of those issues through the perspectives of different disciplines. It will also equip students with two years of intensive language training, which should complement their expertise in the following regions: East Asia (China, Japan and Korea), Southeast Asia, South Asia, Europe and the Americas.

The modules under the regions take advantage of FASS' strength in area studies to provide students with an in-depth appreciation of their selected area. Students can also choose to live in the region they are studying and fulfill the region requirement through Student Exchange Programmes with our partner universities. For example, they can take American Studies modules at the University of Washington in Seattle.

The Global Studies curriculum has an explicit focus on problem-based learning. Both the exposure module on Global Issues and the fourth-year seminars, compulsory for Honours students, are organised around issues rather than fields of study. In the Honours-level ‘Task Force’, students will investigate and propose a response to a single major policy problem of the day. Such problem-based learning cultivates practical skills in thinking about important world issues, designing policy responses, and working as part of a team.

Global Studies graduates will be prepared for careers in a variety of fields. The policy-oriented training will make Global Studies students attractive to government agencies. Broad thinking about world issues can lead graduates to develop careers in private sectors that include business and trade, banking, shipping and the travel industry. Specialisation in a chosen geographic region and foreign language proficiency will make Global Studies graduates competitive for overseas postings as well as for jobs that require dealing with particular regions or countries.

“Our world is changing rapidly. Sadly, our conceptual structures and language are struggling to catch up. For example, we keep talking of international relations. Now that we are all living together in a small global village, we have to move away from ‘international affairs’ to ‘global affairs’,” said Prof Kishore Mahbubani, Dean of Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at NUS. “Hence, the Global Studies programme is a bold and visionary step forward for NUS. It indicates that NUS is ahead of the curve in dealing with new global realities.”

Said Assoc Prof Paulin Straughan, FASS Vice Dean of Undergraduate Studies: “We are very excited about this new major. Students will benefit from our strategic location in Asia and the strength of our Asian Studies departments to gain a deep understanding of Asian perspectives in the global conversation.”

For more information, visit the Global Studies website at www.fas.nus.edu.sg/globalstudies.
FASS New Minor Programmes
Aside from the Global Studies major, we are also happy to announce the following new minor programmes introduced recently.

Health and Social Sciences (HSS)
Trends in the 21st century such as the prominence of health and illness in everyday life, the increasing rates of illnesses associated with people's lifestyles, occupations, individual choices, and governments' decisions accentuate the importance of analysing health and illness systematically from the perspectives of the social sciences and humanities. The objective of the Minor in HSS is to introduce students to the rich and varied expertise from the social sciences and humanities on health phenomena.

Film Studies
The Minor in Film Studies aims to give students a rich understanding of the medium of film. Drawing from the wide range of module offerings on films from the various departments in FASS, students in the programme will benefit from the broad exposure to different disciplines and approaches to examining the cinematic medium. The programme will introduce students to a range of perspectives on the study of film, hone critical and analytical skills, and enhance a thoughtful and engaged appreciation of film culture in its historical, industrial, political and socio-cultural contexts. The interdisciplinary nature of the minor offers students the opportunity to interrogate moving images from the varied vantage points of different disciplines, examining film as art, culture, and business, and as text, discourse and product.

Petroleum Exploration
The Minor in Petroleum Exploration will appeal to students who are interested in the upstream petroleum industry. According to a survey in Nature (May 2011), by 2018 there will be a 28% increase in geosciences jobs compared to 2008, 35% if retirements are included. This trend will undoubtedly be followed in Southeast Asia. It is with this trend in mind that the Minor in Petroleum Exploration is introduced (with funding from SEAPEX and the Singapore Economic Development Board) and help undergraduates capitalise on the future demand for petroleum professionals.

Research Developments and Highlights

From Bohemia to the Malay Archipelago: Travels in Imagination and in Reality
A number of Czechs travelled to and wrote about the Malay Archipelago in the colonial period, and more make the trip now or read about and imagine the tropics. What does the tropical jungle, ocean, dark-skinned women and British and Dutch colonists mean in Bohemia—a small landlocked country which never had a colony, from which one had to travel through other countries such as France and Italy to see the sea and seagoing ships, and which politically and culturally was in some ways in the position of a colony in relation to its more powerful European neighbours? What dreams, desires, perceptions and truths do these images embody? How can one write about the Czech case without fitting it into pre-existent colonial and postcolonial schemes of power, meaning, and interpretation, such as labelling images and narratives, which have their own truth and power, as colonial, anti-colonial, Czech, European, Orientalist, same or different?

The research project by FASS’s own Bohemian, Assoc Prof Jan Mrázek, aims to answer questions regarding Czech images and experiences of the Malay Archipelago from within their imaginative world and to explore them through the thickness of images, thoughts, dreams of distant lands, foreignness, otherness, as well as their opposites, the self, the home, the everyday actuality. It aims to explore how the specific historical experience of Bohemia lead to particular ways of relating to and imagining the Malay Archipelago; and to show how a reflection on a little-known, “marginal” European literature, imagery, and experience of the tropics can nuance our understanding of trans-continental travel and “European” perceptions of Asia, colonialism, and racism.

The primary historical focus is the latter part of the colonial era (approximately 1870s–1940s) although continuities with earlier and especially later times will be also explored. The project will combine archival and library research with travel to places visited by Czech travellers and a voyage on a cargo ship from Europe to Singapore.

Archaeological Excavation at Cheung Ek, Cambodia
The area of Cheung Ek, on the outskirts of Phnom Penh, capital of Cambodia, is best known as the location of the “Killing Fields”, where many of the victims of the Khmer Rouge were buried in mass graves. The area has in fact been inhabited for at least 2,000 years. The largest feature is an earthen enclosure with a diameter of over 750 meters, within which are remains of settlements, religious buildings, and industrial activities. The city of Phnom Penh is beginning to encroach on the ancient site as Cambodia’s economy expands and population grows. Cambodian archaeologists have become concerned at the destruction of the site, which
they have identified as one of the most critical research areas in the country. Despite regulations protecting it, many parts of the site have already been taken over for housing, construction of Buddhist monasteries, and modern cemeteries.

At least 61 ancient pottery-making kilns have been discovered at the site. A test excavation at one of them yielded a radiocarbon date in the 5th to 7th centuries which, if confirmed, would make it the oldest kiln in Southeast Asia. From June 1-15, Assoc Prof John Miksic of the Department of Southeast Asian Studies co-directed an excavation at Kiln Mong I with support from the Archaeology Unit, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, and the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Postgraduate students from Singapore, Cambodia, and eight other countries in the East Asia Summit Group took part. The site yielded another radiocarbon date which falls in the 6th century, approximately in the middle of the same period as the earlier site. More research is necessary to confirm the dating, but the conclusion that the Khmer were already advanced in the field of pottery technology by this time sheds important new light on the formative period of Cambodian civilisation before the rise of the kingdom of Angkor.

Launch of New Research Cluster - Social Science and Policy (SSP) Cluster

The new Social Science and Policy (SSP) Cluster has a multidisciplinary focus. It supports research activities aimed at developing social policies which could enhance the well-being of individuals and communities in Singapore, as well as other urban centres in Asia or elsewhere. The Cluster adopts a comparative approach, be it to test hypotheses or consider best practices in social policy. It deals with policy-relevant issues relating to transport, housing, urban environment, education, healthcare, population, ageing, family, children, and youth. The Cluster also seeks to synergise with key stakeholders including government agencies, statutory bodies, voluntary welfare organisations, community and civic organisations in fulfilling its mission. Its inaugural event, “Workshop on the Impact of Social Science on Policy Research in Singapore” was held on 4 March 2013.

Sustainable Urban Transport Mobility and Transport Policy in Singapore

Organised by the Social Science and Policy Cluster and the Department of Economics’ Singapore Centre for Applied and Policy Economics (SCAPE), the seminar focused on reviewing the status quo of the current approach to urban mobility and the possibility of a paradigm shift. A major underlying theme of the debate was whether the country is devoting too much land and resources to transport. Among the ideas floated by experts include a pay-as-you-drive tax on motorists, flexible work times that get around public transport rush hours and encouragement for car-sharing, walking and cycling.

The four panelists were Assoc Prof Anthony T H Chin (Department of Economics), Assoc Prof Paul Barter (Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy), Assoc Prof Gopinath A P Menon (Nanyang Technological University) and Mr Adrien Moulin (International Association of Public Transport). The half-day seminar took place on 15 April 2013.
In August last year, two students from FASS were awarded the Mid-Term Defence Merit Scholarship from the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF). Both Political Science honours students, Tan Keng Meng and Chen Zixian Zach received the prestigious award from Minister for Defence Dr Ng Eng Hen at an awards ceremony held at the Sheraton Towers.

The Defence Merit Scholarship was introduced with the aim to recruit outstanding undergraduates and groom them for senior management positions in MINDEF. With the wide spectrum of career opportunities available in MINDEF, the scholars can look forward to rewarding and challenging careers that will develop their potential to the fullest.

FASS News caught up with Keng Meng and Zach to find out more about their motivations for getting the scholarship and how they feel about joining the public service after completing their studies.

**Congratulations on winning the Defence Merit Scholarship. Can you share with us what inspired you to take up this scholarship?**

**Keng Meng:** A confluence of events inspired me to take up the Defence Merit Scholarship. First, I have always been interested in defence issues and I feel that every Singaporean has a role to play in protecting Singapore. Second, as a Political Science major, I am fascinated by international affairs and foreign relations. Third, my overseas exchange and internship experiences have been instrumental in affirming my passion for public service. These three factors converge upon a career with the Ministry of Defence. This scholarship is an opportunity for me to serve, pursue my interests, and apply what I have learnt to the benefit of Singapore and the world.

**Zach:** Having done an internship at MINDEF (coordinated by the NUS Career Centre), I felt a strong alignment between my personal values and the core values of the organisation. It gave me the confidence that MINDEF would offer me excellent opportunities in a dynamic work environment and at the same time fulfill my personal mission.

I consider myself fortunate that MINDEF also offers me the chance to pursue my research interest in military involvements – something that I like and am good at – as a full-time job. The scholarship was essentially icing on the cake, as it allowed me to commit myself to the organisation and vice versa. As such, taking up the scholarship was an obvious choice.

**And how has your NUS education influenced your decision to join the public service?**

**Keng Meng:** It was at NUS that I nurtured my passion for and learnt extensively about politics, specifically international relations. This was complemented by the breadth component of the NUS education that saw me taking modules outside of my major. These modules included Communications and New Media modules which I took extensively. They enabled me to connect politics with other disciplines and the wider world.

Consequently, the comprehensive NUS education helped me better understand the world I am living in. This encouraged me to do my part and make a difference to the world. In addition, it also impressed upon me...
the gravity of my decision to join the public service. For this, I would like to express my gratitude to NUS, in particular the Departments of Political Science and Communications and New Media, for all the knowledge I have acquired. I look forward to continue amassing a wealth of knowledge in the future.

I found an intellectually stimulating environment at NUS. I had really great and rewarding discussions with the Political Science faculty and my fellow Political Science majors on a variety of topics such as Singapore politics and the global economy. Our passion for what we study rubbed off on one another. This created an environment that supports our pursuit of knowledge and dreams. To this, I want to say thank you to the Political Science faculty, staff, and majors, especially my fellow Honours students, for all the help they have given me.

**Zach:** Having taken numerous FASS modules (particularly those from the Political Science Department), I have come to believe in the vital role that the public service plays in shaping the Singapore society. Whereas the private sector concerns itself with cost and benefit, profit-oriented approaches, the public sector focuses itself on maximising the public interest.

As such, this idea of working for the people appeals strongly to me. Furthermore, I feel that the various disciplines within FASS have done an excellent job in equipping its students with critical skills, with which to examine every aspect of life. Such skills have only served to benefit me in seeing many issues in contemporary societies that could be handled better or should be tackled.

Hence, these two aspects of my education made it a natural choice to aspire for a career within the public service, to get involved in charting Singapore’s future path amidst a challenging local and global environment.

**Where do you see yourself ten years on?**

**Keng Meng:** I am committed to a career with MINDEF and want to continue working in the public service. Over the next few years, I hope to develop skills and accumulate experiences that would enable me to better contribute to Singapore and the world. I also hope to be in a position in which I could make useful contributions to NUS such as participating in the FASS Mentorship Programme.

**Zach:** I wish to see myself as a leader within the public service, wherever I feel that I can contribute, while continuing as an avid learner. I hope to be in a position to bring about positive change, be it in my local community, within MINDEF, the Public Service or in the greater society. That being said, I certainly wouldn’t mind going back to school again, because I’ll definitely be missing having academic debates in tutorials and seminars!

**This is kind of unrelated, but we noticed that you guys went on the Student Exchange Programme (SEP) at University of California, Berkeley and Boston University. Can you share something about your SEP experience with us?**

**Keng Meng:** An overseas student exchange programme is an opportunity to share and take in perspectives, especially from those of different cultures. The thing that struck me the most was the high level of student involvement at UC Berkeley. The students are extremely active in the university, community, and nation at large. They want to make their voices heard and do their part in shaping their community.

For instance, during football matches with other universities, the stadium overflowed with students that came to support their school. A town hall meeting with the school administration on rising tuition fees saw an overwhelming number of students participating in the dialogue. There is a strong culture of identification with the school and community. This is what inspired me to play an even more active role in contributing to the society.

There are passionate students in NUS too, as demonstrated by NUS Student Union (NUSSU) and the NUS Arts Club. As a member of the Arts Club, I have met friends who have sacrificed their time and energy to organise projects for the faculty and NUS. My time at Berkeley was memorable in part because of the atmosphere of energy created by the students. On this note, I feel that participating in the Arts Club (or any other faculty clubs, CCA, and NUSSU for that matter) is a great opportunity to be involved in NUS and the community.

**Zach:** One takeaway for me was the need to be accommodating of diversity, in particular the diversity of thought and cultures. Specifically, my trip to Boston has taught me the importance of accepting other cultures and peoples, especially since Boston is an extremely diverse society. There is always something you can learn from anyone, no matter who you find yourself amongst. In Boston, I encountered people of various ethnicities and from all walks of life, and through these interactions I’ve since come to gain new perspectives that have considerably shaped my understanding of the world.

**Thank you, Keng Meng and Zach. We wish you fulfilling and successful careers ahead!**
Gifts To The Faculty

**FASS Graduate Scholarship in Chinese Religions**
The Taoist College has pledged $280,000 to NUS for the establishment of the NUS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Graduate Scholarship in Chinese Religions, to further promote academic research on Chinese religions, in particular Taoism. The Scholarship is open to all Singaporeans and Singapore Permanent Residents who are undertaking full-time studies related to Chinese religions at the post-graduate level at the NUS Department of Chinese Studies. The Taoist College will also work closely with the Department’s Chinese Religions Research Group to invite Visiting Scholars to Singapore and hold regular lecture series.

**K.S. Sandhu ASEAN Student Exchange Scholarship**
The Institute of Southeast Asian Studies contributed $48,000 towards the K.S. Sandhu ASEAN Student Exchange Scholarship. The scholarship is targeted at Southeast Asian Studies undergraduate major students and students from partner universities of the Semester-in-Southeast Asia exchange program that is administered by the Department of Southeast Asian Studies.

**SCCCF Chinese Studies Scholarship**
Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce Foundation has further pledged $72,000 to fund the SCCCF Chinese Studies Scholarship, and in addition establish two new awards, namely the SCCCF Chinese Student Research Grant and SCCCF Chinese Studies Student Travel Grant.

**Hochstadt Scholarship in The Humanities**
Mr Herman Ronald Hochstandt donated $500,000 to establish the Hochstadt Scholarship in The Humanities. Award of this Scholarship will commence in AY2014-15. The award will cover the recipient’s tuition fees (excluding the MOE Tuition Grant) tenable for one year. Up to five scholarship awards may be awarded in each academic year, one from each of the Humanities subjects in English Language, English Literature, Theatre Studies, History and Philosophy.

**Minor in Petroleum Exploration Programme**
The Southeast Asia Petroleum Exploration Society has pledged a gift of $279,000 in support of the Minor in Petroleum Exploration Programme, offered by the Department of Geography. The gift will be used to support the appointment of a Teaching-Track Lecturer or Senior Lecturer.

**Lions Community Service Foundation**
The Lions Community Service Foundation has renewed its pledge to provide an additional $10,000 in support of the Singapore Lions Clubs’ Bursary Fund at FASS.

**Lembaga Biasiswa Kenangan Maulud**
LBKM has renewed its pledge to provide an additional $30,000 in support of the LBKM-THK Bursary Fund at FASS.

**Institute of Social Analytics and Research**
International Geographic Information System (GIS) software supplier Esri has made a gift of $110,000 in support of the research work at Institute of Social Analytics and Research, led by Professor Paul Cheung, Department of Social Work.

**Tsao Foundation**
The Tsao Foundation has renewed its gift commitment and further pledged $750,000 towards the Tsao-NUS Ageing Research Initiative, led by Assoc Prof Angeline Chan. Assoc Prof Thang Leng Leng and Assoc Prof Chia Ngee Choon joins as co-PIs in this new phase of the research initiative.
Student Activities & Achievements

Student Wins Competitive Thesis Research Grant

Fourth year PhD economics student, Lu Yunfeng, received a Competitive Thesis Research Grant funded by the Science of Philanthropy Initiative in the University of Chicago. Under the supervision of Profs Chew Soo Hong and Richard Ebstein, he designed a field experiment on charity fundraising. The research will randomly assign the donors into different referral schemes, and examine how people behave in these schemes. The amount of this thesis grant is US$6,400. Yunfeng also attended the SPI Annual Conference on 17 October to present his idea.

The Science of Philanthropy Initiative in the University of Chicago is a newly established research center led by leading researchers such as John List. Its goal is to develop a deeper understanding of the types of social preferences that shape philanthropic giving and to apply this knowledge to inform both practitioners and policymakers interested in philanthropy and the private provision of public goods.

Student Research Group Wins Singapore Psychological Society Awards

The NUS Department of Psychology is very proud to have snared, among all the research entries from various Universities and Institutes in Singapore, the Best undergraduate group research Award, as well as the Overall Best undergraduate research Award conferred by the Singapore Psychological Society (SPS) this year.

The 2013 SPS Best Undergraduate Group Research Award

For at least 350 centuries, humans have invented music that offered special aesthetic appeal. Yet, our understanding of the reasons for these preferences and effects remains fragmented. The winning work is titled “What We Move to Moves Us: Biological Rhythmicity Predicts Musical Preferences”, which tested and found support for the hypothesis that the answer lies, at least in part, in the fit between musical rhythms and human biological motions. This research was accomplished by Tan Jun Hao Nicholas and Wong Shi Hui Sarah as their Undergraduate Research Opportunity Programme (UROP) project, under the mentorship of Dr Lim Wee Hun Stephen, the new Founding Director of the NUS Cognition Lab.

This undergraduate research has earlier been presented at the 35th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society – the world’s landmark international research conference for Cognitive Science – in July 2013 in Berlin, Germany, and recently earned an international refereed research journal’s endorsement where one of its expert reviewers commented, “The question of music preferences and metrical regularity is interesting, and the authors’ method of determining an association between preferences and “logically human” movements to music (without sound) is cute, even ingenious”.

The 2013 SPS Overall Best Undergraduate Research Award

The winning work, by Yap Jit Yong, is titled “Media Multitasking Predicts Unitary Versus Splitting Visual Focal Attention”. Jit Yong graduated from the NUS Department of Psychology with First-Class Honours, and had earlier completed this work as his Honours Thesis research under Dr Lim Wee Hun Stephen’s tutelage. Dr Lim comments, “The question of whether visual attention can split and be deployed to two separate visual spaces concurrently continues to attract vision scientists’ interest today. Here’s a quick DIY demonstration: Try really focusing into both eyes of your friend simultaneously and you’ll probably feel difficult. Recent evidence suggests that splitting attention is possible, although the exact circumstances under which this happens are not well understood. Here, we show that individual differences, in terms of media multitasking, predict the splitting phenomenon; those who use multiple media forms concurrently appear to be more adept to adopt a splitting mode of attention than those who do not. Our data paved a new way of thinking about and approaching research on visual focal attention.”

This undergraduate research is currently in press at the Journal of Cognitive Psychology, an international, peer-reviewed research journal housed under the Taylor & Francis Group.
MA Student Awarded First Prize in the 14th Singapore Tertiary Prize for Literature

Chinese Studies graduate student, Sun Yi-Feng, was awarded First Prize in the 14th Singapore Tertiary Prize for Literature – Prose in 2012. The Singapore Tertiary Chinese Literature Awards (STCLA), formerly known as the NTU Yunnan Literature prize and NUS Kent Ridge Prize, was jointly organised by the NUS Chinese Studies Society and the NTU Chinese Society and Singapore Hokkien Clan, and co-organised by Lianhe Zaobao and the Lee Foundation. The objective of the competition was to promote the usage of Chinese, raising the standard in Chinese Literature writing and discover potential writers. There were altogether six categories: Novels, Prose, Literary Appreciation, Poetry, Young writers (only for Singaporeans), and Drama.

Success for Malay Studies Society Musical Production

A Malay musical titled “Langkat Muazzam” was staged on 22 September 2012 at the Kallang Theatre as part of the NUS Malay Studies Society’s (MSS) Cultural Night. Spearheaded by a group of students from the society, this initiative involved a total of 60 youths ranging from those in primary schools to tertiary institutions. It was based on the history of the Malay Sultanate, aimed at creating awareness about the rich history of the Malay Sultanate.

The former President of MSS, Nur Diyana Abdul Kader, (then a fourth year Malay Studies major) said that intensive research was done in order to replicate as close as possible the feudal life of the Malay society during the golden age of the Sultanate.

Diyana, who was also the producer, said that the audience was impressed that the MSS was able to successfully execute the production, especially considering that they were a very small student society to begin with. Members from the audience also encouraged MSS to continue this effort as classical Malay productions are rare in Singapore.

Putting together a production of this magnitude was no easy feat and the biggest challenge facing the society was funding, which affected their plans in getting training spaces as the project was tight on budget.

The organising committee was thoroughly satisfied after the production and they were encouraged by the large turnout—about 1,200 tickets were snapped up. It was beyond their wildest expectation as many queued and bought tickets at the door. It was their first production and they made quite an impression by garnering rave reviews from members of the audience as well as getting positive coverage from the local newspaper Berita Harian.

Encouraged by the success of this musical, the society is hoping to make Cultural Night an annual event. The Malaccan Sultanate is the most famous of the Malay Sultanates but there were scores of other Sultanates throughout the history of the Malay world as well. The Society wants to educate the public on these different Sultanates and plans to present the different Sultanates in future musicals.
My Experience as a Youth Fellow at the International Monetary Fund World Bank Annual Meetings 2012
By Foo Xian Yun (Year 4, Economics)

It was indeed an honour for me to have been selected by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to represent Singapore as a sponsored Youth Fellow at the IMF World Bank Annual Meetings 2012 in Tokyo, Japan. My experience at the youth dialogue, meetings, plenary session, as well as interaction with youths, academics, civil society representatives and senior management of the IMF and World Bank was truly amazing. It was a once in a lifetime experience, and will become a memory that I will treasure deeply years down the road.

Including myself, there were altogether 11 IMF Youth Fellows. Seven of them were Japanese students who were finalists of an essay competition that was held in Japan. The other three students came from China, Korea and Thailand. There was some diversity amongst this group, and such diversity really allowed us to learn from one another – be it about economic issues or politics in each of our countries. I believe that one of my biggest take-away from the meetings is the friendship that was forged between myself and the other Youth Fellows.

One of the highlights of the meetings for the Youth Fellows was the high-level Youth Dialogue titled “Asian Youths: Voicing Their Future” with the IMF Managing Director, Ms Nemat Shafik, and Nippon Television Corporation host, Ms Saki Yagi. The session was actually live webcasted via the IMF website and later televised on Japanese national TV! I personally posed two questions to Ms Shafik during the dialogue – relating to underemployment as education levels in societies increase, as well as how Asia can grow peacefully and cooperatively to foster greater economic growth as a region.

Aside from the Youth Dialogue, I also participated in more than ten different dialogue sessions and meetings. At a dialogue session with IMF Deputy Managing Director, Mr Naoyuki Shinohara, which included Asian Fellows from various civil society organisations, I was asked by Mr Shinohara to share about the ageing population in Singapore. As I also had the privilege of working at the Ministry of Trade and Industry earlier this year on a project relating to ageing and productivity, I further shared with the group some of the policies that Singapore have adopted to try to ameliorate the impact of ageing on productivity and economic growth.

Also, I had the extreme privilege of attending the Civil Society Organisation (CSO) Townhall session with IMF Managing Director, Ms Christine Lagarde and World Bank President, Mr Jim Yong Kim. I will never forget how it felt to be sitting at the same table as them! That aside, Ms Lagarde spoke about how the IMF is evolving to adapt to a changing global environment, while Mr Kim gave his full commitment to ending poverty – a message that he strongly believes in and has launched an entire campaign for. Last but not least, one of the final events I attended was the plenary session – the session that is attended by all governors, Ministers of Finance, CSO representatives and management officials of the IMF and World Bank.
The meetings allowed me to better understand the roles that the IMF and World Bank play in international development. I had rare opportunities to interact with senior officials of the IMF and World Bank, and for that I am truly thankful. However, I think my biggest take-away from the meetings is not from the formal dialogues or sessions, but rather, the engagement that I had with people I met. The interaction with diverse people during the period of the meetings inspired me deeply. Many of the people I spoke to were leaders in development in their countries. They were people who were working to provide the most basic necessities to people in their country; people who were advocating education for women in countries that discriminated against females; people who were empowering youths by providing them with opportunities to learn and even start a business. These people were deeply engaged in their society and truly passionate about what they were doing. It was indeed an honour to have been able to speak to them and hear about their experiences.

I loved that these meetings were so international, allowing me to interact with people from countries I never thought I would meet. At a lunch session, I spoke to a Bangladeshi professor about women’s rights in Bangladesh. Before the CSO Townhall session started, I talked to a Nigerian CSO leader who shared with me his personal story of setting up his development organisation after he was released from jail, and how his son was entering law school. A female professor from Afghanistan told a group of us Youth Fellows that she enjoyed hearing our views during the Youth Dialogue and that she was delighted to meet us.

To conclude, these experiences are truly unforgettable for me. The personal relationships forged and stories shared are what I will remember years down the road. For this, I am truly thankful to NUS for nominating me as a representative, and for giving me this chance to learn from such a diverse group of people.

Chinese Studies PhD Thesis Wins Prestigious Prize

Our heartiest congratulations goes to Zhang Songjian on winning the second prize in the 12th Beijing Philosophy and Social Sciences Outstanding Achievement Award (Language and Literature) for his PhD thesis “The Re-start of the Modern Poetry: Exploration on China Forties Modernism Poetry Influx”.

Beijing Philosophy and Social Science Outstanding Achievement Awards are government awards organised by the CPC Beijing Municipal Committee and the Beijing Municipal People’s Government. The main aim of the awards is to promote the development of philosophy and social sciences in Beijing, to encourage social scientists to carry out academic research and take an innovative approach to theoretical research around China’s reform, opening up and socialist modernisation and to contribute to the development of the capital city. As a set of biannual awards, the first Beijing Philosophy and Social Science Outstanding Achievement Awards were handed out in 1987, and they are the highest honour bestowed in the field of philosophy and social sciences in Beijing.

Psychology Honours Thesis Wins Young Investigator Award

Augustine Kang’s honours thesis project recently won him the Young Investigator Award from the International Society for Peritoneal Dialysis (ISPD). The research that earned the award was titled “Quality of Life & Emotional Adjustment in Peritoneal Dialysis vs. Hemodialysis: the Paradox of Higher Care Satisfaction in Peritoneal Dialysis Patients Despite higher Depression and Poorer Physical Health”. This was presented at the 14th Congress of the ISPD from 9 to 12 September 2012, in Kuala Lumpur, an annual international meeting that brings together renal health care professionals, nephrologists, nurses and social workers that work in patient front care.
Staff Spotlight

Annual Teaching Excellence Award (ATEA) 2011/12

The Faculty congratulates the following recipients of the Annual Teaching Excellence Award (ATEA) 2011/12:

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs Chen Ing Ru</td>
<td>Centre for Language Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Chi Seo Won</td>
<td>Centre for Language Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Lee Seow Ting</td>
<td>Department of Communications &amp; New Media</td>
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<td>Mr Gui Kai Chong</td>
<td>Department of Communications &amp; New Media</td>
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<td>Assoc Prof Chia Ngee Choon</td>
<td>Department of Economics</td>
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<td>Dr Aamir Rafique Hashmi</td>
<td>Department of Economics</td>
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<td>Dr Yeoh Guan Hin, Gilbert</td>
<td>Department of English Language &amp; Literature</td>
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<td>Dr Christopher Michael McMorran</td>
<td>Department of Japanese Studies</td>
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<td>Assoc Prof Loy Hui Chieh</td>
<td>Department of Philosophy</td>
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<td>Dr Yoshinori Nishizaki</td>
<td>Department of Political Science</td>
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<td>Dr Lim Wei Hun, Stephen</td>
<td>Department of Psychology</td>
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<td>Dr Goh Chor Leng, Esther</td>
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<td>Assoc Prof Paulin Tay Straughan</td>
<td>Department of Sociology</td>
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Two of the above faculty members – Assoc Prof Loy Hui Chieh and Ms Chi Seo Won – have won the ATEA for the third time, and have been placed on the ATEA Honour Roll for their sustained high performance in teaching.

In addition, we extend our warmest congratulations to Dr Lim Wei Hun Stephen who has been selected for induction into the NUS Teaching Academy. The Teaching Academy serves as an important think tank to reflect on educational issues, innovations, values, and trends that will have a bearing on academic policy, systems, practices, and culture at NUS, sending a powerful signal to the NUS community and beyond. Dr Lim was formally inducted as Fellow during the University Awards Ceremony on 26 April 2013.

Professors Benjamin Friedman and Darrell Duffie Appointed as MAS Term Professors

Prof Benjamin Friedman served as a Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) Term Professor in Economics and Finance from 17 to 21 June 2013. During his visit, he interacted with faculty members, graduate students, MAS policymakers and Government of Singapore Investment Corporation (GIC) staff, delivered a public lecture on “The Moral Consequences of Economic Growth and Stagnation”, a talk at MAS entitled “The Simple Analytics of Monetary Policy”, and a talk at GIC entitled “Monetary Policy and Economic Prospects in the US and Europe”. Prof Friedman is the William Joseph Maier Professor of Political Economy, and former Chairman of the Department of Economics at Harvard University. He joined the Harvard faculty in 1972. He has written extensively on economic policy, and in particular on the role of the financial markets in shaping how monetary and fiscal policies affect overall economic activity.

Prof Darrell Duffie also served as a MAS Term Professor in Economics and Finance, from 30 June to 6 July, 2013. He gave a public lecture on “Regulatory Boundaries for the Banking System.” He also met with NUS students, faculty members and government officials from various agencies during his time here. Prof Duffie is the Dean Witter Distinguished Professor of Finance at Stanford University’s Graduate School of Business. He is a member of the Financial Advisory Roundtable of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, a Fellow and member of the Council of the Econometric Society, a Research Fellow of the National Bureau of Economic Research, a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a member of the board of directors of Moody’s Corporation since 2008. Prof Duffie was the 2009 president of the American Finance Association. His recent work focused on how the behaviour of financial intermediaries impacts the reallocation of capital from one segment of asset markets to another and the implications of imperfect trading opportunities for asset price behaviour, especially in over-the-counter markets.

Goh Keng Swee Professorship

Prof Cheng Hsiao was appointed as a Goh Keng Swee Professor in a joint appointment with Risk Management Institute, from 14 January to 9 February 2013. Prof Hsiao is a Professor of Economics at the University of Southern California. He is an Academician at Academia Sinica and Fellow of the Econometric Society and a world-leading expert in panel data econometrics.

Prof Jeffrey Ely was also appointed as a Goh Keng Swee Professor. His appointment is for three years, for visits lasting two weeks per year starting from academic year 2012/2013. His first visit was from 28 January to 9 February in 2013. Prof Ely is the Charles E. and Emma H. Morrison Professor of Economics at Northwestern University. He is a leading expert in economic theory and game theory. Prof Ely has very diversified research interests in repeated interactions, asymmetric information, mechanism design, evolution, and behavioural models. He has published a series of influential work.

Prof Li Tong, too, was appointed as a Goh Keng Swee Professor. The appointment is for three years, for visits lasting three weeks per year starting from academic year 2012/2013. He was on his visit from 29 July to 16 August 2013. Prof Li is the Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Professor of Economics at Vanderbilt University since 2011. He is a distinguished scholar in the area of Econometrics and Empirical Industrial Organisation. He is on the editorial board of three well-known journals, *Journal of Econometrics*, *Journal of Economic Behaviour and Organisation*, and *Journal of Applied Econometrics*.

Another Goh Keng Swee Professor is Prof Matthew Shum. His appointment is also for three years, for visits lasting three weeks per year starting from academic year 2012/2013. He was on his visit from 1 to 21 August 2013. Prof Shum is a Professor of Economics at the California Institute of Technology since 1998. Since receiving his PhD in 1998 from Stanford University, he has published many articles in top journals such as *American Economic Review*, *Econometrica*, *Review of Economic Studies*, *Journal of Economic Theory*, *Journal of Econometrics* and *RAND Journal of Economics*.

Prof Vincent P. Crawford was also a Visiting Professor for the 4th Asia Summer Institute in Behavioural Economics from 22 July to 2 August, 2013. He lectured for 7 sessions at the summer institute. Prof Crawford is the Drummond Professor of Political Economy and Fellow of All Souls College, University of Oxford and Distinguished Professor Emeritus and Research Professor at University of California, San Diego.

Prof David Laibson, too, was a Visiting Professor for the 4th Asia Summer Institute in Behavioural Economics, from 29 July to 2 August, 2013. He lectured for 7 sessions at the summer institute. Prof Laibson is the Robert I. Goldman Professor of Economics at Harvard University.

Visiting Professor for the 4th Asia Summer Institute in Behavioural Economics

Prof Matthew Rabin was a Visiting Professor for the 4th Asia Summer Institute in Behavioural Economics from 22 July to 2 August, 2013. He lectured for 11 sessions at the summer institute. Prof Rabin is the Edward G. and Nancy S. Jordan Professor of Economics at University of California, Berkeley.
Forum on Poverty in Singapore Strikes a Chord

On 24 September 2013, the Singapore Research Nexus hosted its most anticipated event to date. “Building an Inclusive Society: Understanding and Empowering the Poor in Singapore” brought together academics, practitioners and policy-makers to discuss who are the poor in our society and what it might take to help them cope with the daily necessities of living.

The Forum was co-organised by FASS’ Singapore Research Nexus (SRN), the Social Science and Policy (SSP) Cluster and the Centre for Social Development Asia (CSDA). To set the scene, the organisers screened a short film that they had co-produced regarding local attitudes towards poverty in Singapore.

The first morning panel addressed ‘Research and Conceptual Issues of Poverty’ and was chaired by Mr Donald Low, Associate Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP).

The first speaker, Assoc Prof Irene Ng from the Department of Social Work, shared for the first time the results of her survey of 383 Singaporeans on their attitudes towards poverty. Next up was Mr Laurence Lien, CEO of the National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre and Nominated Member of Parliament. Mr Lien’s presentation highlighted the need to bring greater awareness to and reflection on the realities of poverty on the ground. The final speaker for this panel was Assoc Prof Hui Weng Tat (Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy) who brought his expertise on labour markets to bear on the ‘working poor’ in Singapore.

After a vibrant Q&A session the second panel was called to present on ‘Policies and Strategies to Uplift the Poor’.

Moderating this session was Professor in Social Policy and Analytics, Paul Cheung (Department of Social Work), who invited Ms Seah Yang Hee, Director of ComCare and Social Support Division in the Ministry of Social and Family Development to present on Singapore’s social security system. This was followed by Mr Teo Tee Loon, Executive Director of Lakeside Family Services who shared his experiences of running a homeless shelter. Rounding up the second session, Associate Professorial Fellow S Vasoo (Department of Social Work) shared his experienced thoughts on low income families and the challenges they face today.

After a further chance for Q&A, organiser Assoc Prof Tan Ern Ser (SSP Cluster) thanked all the presenters and participants for their efforts, concluding that there was plenty of scope for more dialogue and solutions to many of the issues raised at the forum.
Departmental News

Department of Chinese Studies

Department of Chinese Studies Celebrates Its 60th Anniversary

The Department of Chinese Studies officially opened in October 1953. In commemoration of its 60th anniversary, the Department organised the following events:

Wu Teh Yao Memorial Lecture 2013 “The Story of the Stones”

Prof Kenneth Dean presented his findings from his research on Chinese epigraphic materials in Singapore at the Wu Teh Yao Memorial Lecture Series on 27 July and 24 August. The lecture entitled “The Story of the Stones” is organised together with Lianhe Zaobao.

Workshop on Chinese Clans Culture and Singapore Society “华人族群文化与新加坡社会”研讨和座谈会

The Department organised the public workshop at the SPH News Centre Auditorium on 24 August 2013. The workshop was chaired by Prof Kenneth Dean and the speakers comprised Assoc Prof Yung Sai-Shing, Assoc Prof Lee Cher Leng, Assoc Prof Lee Chee Hiang, Assoc Prof Koh Khee Heong, Ms Lai Yu-Ju, Prof Phua Kok Khoo, Prof Lai Ah Keow, Dr Ho Soo Guang, Mr Lee Ah Fong, Mr Perng Peck Seng, Mr Lim Chin Joo and Ms Grace Tan.

Associate Professor Lee Cheuk Yin

Assoc Prof Lee Cheuk Yin received the Award for Academic Excellence from the International Association for Confucian Ritual Studies in May 2013.

Confucius Foundation Scholarships

Loo Yi Xin, Wang Koon Lee Dean, and Chew Geok Joo – were awarded scholarships from the Confucius Foundation. The Confucius Foundation Singapore was set up by the Nanyang Confucius Association in 2010. The objective of the scholarship is to encourage more local students to study Chinese philosophy in both NUS and NTU. The Foundation also aims to hold at least two international Confucius seminars every year, inviting scholars from all over the world to participate.

Department of Communications & New Media

Pitch Marketing Competition - NUS Communications and New Media Society

The Pitch Marketing Competition is an inaugural marketing competition that is specially crafted to simulate the real working environment of a marketing professional for tertiary students.

Jointly organised by the NUS Communications and New Media Society and NUS Bizad Club, this event is an opportunity for all tertiary students to apply their academic knowledge into actual situations, nurturing the marketing and media specialists of tomorrow.

Participants were expected to create a viable marketing campaign that achieves the aims of a client (e.g. increasing market presence or promoting a new product line), by applying different sets of knowledge and skills learned. Through private mentoring sessions provided by marketing and media professionals, participants get to refine their ideas and concepts before presenting them to the client in the final round. The competition was held from 14 January to 30 March 2013.

Department of Economics

4th Asia Summer Institute in Behavioral Economics

The 4th Asia Summer Institute in Behavioral Economics was held at the Mochtar Riady Building, NUS from 22 July to 2 August 2013.

Co-organised by the Department of Economics and the Centre for Behavioral Economics (CBE), NUS Business School, the purpose of the Summer Institute was to introduce graduate students and beginning faculty in economics, business and related disciplines to the findings and methods of behavioural economics.

Students were introduced to the psychological foundations of various economic topics, including decision-making under risk and uncertainty, misprediction of behaviour, biases in judgment, limited self-control, and social preferences. These concepts were applied to topics such as consumption, savings behaviour, household finance, macroeconomics, and welfare economics.

Additional sessions explored foundations, experimental approaches, and evidence in behavioural game theory.

The co-organisers of the Summer Institute were Prof Ho Teck Hua, Prof Matthew Rabin, Assoc Prof Chong Juin Kuan, Assoc Prof Sumit Agarwal and Dr Song Chang Cheng. The teaching faculty were Prof Vincent Crawford (University of Oxford), Prof David Laibson (Harvard University) and Prof Matthew Rabin (University of California, Berkeley).
Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society

The Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society was held by the Department from 2 to 4 August 2013 at the NUS University Town and Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel.

The first day of the conference, which consists of invited lectures, was held in the lively University Town. The Welcome Address was delivered by the Guest-of-Honour, Prof Tan Chor Chuan, and followed by three plenary addresses (by Nobel Laureate Eric Maskin of Harvard University, Matthew Jackson of Stanford University and Matthew Rabin of the University of California at Berkeley).

The eight invited lectures were given by Xiaohong Chen (Yale University), Vincent Crawford (Oxford University), Frank Wolak (Stanford University), Nobuhiro Kiyotaki and Wei Xiong (Princeton University), David Laibson (Harvard University), Alessandro Pavan and Elie Tamer (Northwestern University).

The parallel sessions were held at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel on the last two days of the conference. It was the first time for the Asian Meeting to have parallel sessions that were organised by many dedicated individual organisers.

There were 132 two-hour sessions with over 500 session speakers in total. The speakers were not only from Asia but also from North America, Europe and Australasia, with the largest group of speakers from the United States (over 100 speakers). The conference themes covered virtually the entire range of Economics.

The Conference was well-attended by more than 600 participants. The Programme Committee Chairs were Han Hong of Stanford University and Yeneng Sun of NUS. Yeneng Sun and Yi-Chun Chen of NUS also served in the Local Organising Committee as the Chair and the Organising Secretary respectively.

The Seventh Joint Economics Symposium of Five Leading East Asian Universities

The Seventh Joint Economics Symposium of Five Leading East Asian Universities (Fudan University, University of Hong Kong, Keio University, National University of Singapore, and Yonsei University) was held on 25 January 2013 at the NUS Guild House. Organised by the Department’s Singapore Centre for Applied and Policy Economics (SCAPE), the symposium was attended by about forty participants. 18 papers were presented with two plenary sessions in the morning and four parallel sessions in the afternoon.

Prof Naoyuki Yoshino (Keio University) made the opening presentation. He presented a model to analyse why the Japanese economy could withstand a debt to GDP ratio much higher than that of Greece. In the second paper, Assoc Prof Chia Ngee Choon (NUS) presented the results on Singapore’s retirement adequacy, a research commissioned by the Ministry of Manpower. In the third paper, Assoc Prof Tilak Abeyesinghe (NUS) presented a methodology to estimate equilibrium, fundamental and affordable housing prices in relation to Singapore.

The symposium also accommodated three papers that did not fit into the main theme. One was by Mr Li Jingping (NUS) who presented survey results on gender differences in image-seeking preferences in charitable giving. The other two were econometric methodology papers by Ms Yeseul Hyun and Mr Soo-Bin Jeong both from Yonsei University.

Goh Keng Swee PhD Scholarship in Economics

Starting from AY2013/14, the Department will award the Goh Keng Swee PhD Scholarship in Economics, valued at $40,000, to the top PhD student who has completed four years of the PhD programme and who intends to spend a fifth year in the programme. The Scholarship, disbursed in the student’s fifth year of candidature, will pay for tuition fees for the fifth year, and the balance will be disbursed in two equal sums in August and January of that academic year. Ms Qian Neng, enrolled in the Department’s PhD programme in August 2009, is the recipient of the award.

K R Chou PhD Scholarship in Economics

The family of Prof Chou Kai Ren has pledged an endowed gift to set up the K. R. Chou PhD Scholarship in Economics to support the most promising students during their first year of study at the Department of Economics at NUS. The Scholarship will be awarded concurrently with a University Research Scholarship, enabling support for the recipients’ entire duration of study of up to 5 years. The award of this scholarship will commence in AY2014, subject to availability of funding.

Dr Chou Kai Ren was an Economics lecturer during the early 1960s at NUS’ predecessor institution, the University of Malaya, and he later served as Professor and Head of the Department of Economics at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and at Nanyang University.

Department of English Language & Literature

Emeritus Professor Edwin Thumboo

Emeritus Prof Edwin Thumboo received the Sunthorn Phu Award from Thailand’s Ministry of Culture upon nomination by Singapore’s National Arts Council. Sunthorn Phu Award was established in 2012 at the initiatives of the Ministry of Culture of Thailand in collaboration with the Poet Association of Thailand. The main aim of Sunthorn Phu award is to promote and honour the literary talents of the ASEAN creative poets, thus contributing to greater understanding and closer ties within the ASEAN member countries.

Emeritus Prof Thumboo was awarded a memento and a cash prize of USD1,500 during the ceremony on 26 June 2013 held at the Thailand Cultural Centre, Bangkok.

Emeritus Prof Thumboo also served as a member of the international jury for the Pannonius Prize and was in Hungary for the presentation last July 2013.

(Photo on next page)
Emeritus Professor Edwin Thamboo (3rd from left) together with the other Sunthorn Phu poet laureates

Department of Geography

Professor Neil Coe
Prof Neil Coe has been appointed an academician by The Academy of Social Sciences, UK. He was conferred the title in September 2013.

Prof Neil Coe has been appointed an academician by The Academy of Social Sciences, UK. He was conferred the title in September 2013.

Associated Professor James Terry
Assoc Prof James Terry organised a session at the International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG) in Cité des Sciences, Paris, France during the 8th International Conference on Geomorphology. He was the secretary of a new working group and the convenor of one session. The conference was held from 27 to 31 August 2013.

Assoc Prof Terry also organised the 10th Annual Conference of the Asia Oceania Geosciences Society (AOGS) conference at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Australia. He is the member of the Executive Committee and Council of AOGS. He was also invited to give a presentation during the conference which took place from 24 to 28 June 2013.

Assoc Prof Terry gave the keynote address at the 2nd Annual International Conference on Geological and Earth Sciences held from 28-29 October 2013 at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa, Phuket, Thailand.

Professor Jonathan Rigg
Prof Jonathan Rigg chaired the 2013 Annual Conference of the RGS-IBG which had about 1700 more delegates than ever before. The conference lasted from 27 to 30 August 2013 at the Royal Geographical Society, London.

Prof Rigg was also the keynote speaker at the International Conference on Thai Studies. The event was held from 22 to 24 April 2013 at the University of Sydney, Australia.

Professor Brenda Yeoh
Prof Brenda Yeoh is currently serving on the advisory board and is part of the coordinated research project on “Integration in Southeast Asia: Trajectories of Inclusion, Dynamics of Exclusion” (SEATIDE). She was appointed by Ecole française d’Extrême-Orient (EFEO) in 2013.

Prof Yeoh was also nominated by the Department of Geography at the University of Sheffield as the candidate of choice to be their Hart Fellow from 23 to 26 September 2013. Since the mid 1980s, the Department has been endowed with The Hart Fellowship, which stems from a bequest from the Estate of Miss Hart, the first female geography graduate of the University. The Fellowship is used to bring a scholar of international reputation to the department, to interact with staff and research students (formally and informally), to give a public lecture (to which the University as a whole is invited), and a research seminar open to undergraduates. Hart Fellows are chosen by the Department’s staff with selections reflecting areas of research strength and activity amongst our own specialisms.

Back in Singapore, Prof Yeoh is serving on the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG). Her appointment is from 31 August 2013 to 30 August 2015.

Mandai Mangrove and Mudflat Symposium
The Symposium was held on 31 August 2013 at the Department of Biological Sciences, NUS. It was co-hosted by Dr Dan Friess (Geography), Mr Sivasothi N. (Biological Sciences) and supported by the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research.

29 speakers presented their research conducted at the Mandai mangrove on topics as varied as botany, crabs, geomorphology, sedimentology, management and coastal law. Speakers comprised faculty members and students from NUS (including several undergraduate and graduate students from Geography) and local NGOs such as the Nature Society Singapore.
Advancing Postcolonial Geographies: an International Symposium

Organised by Prof Jane Jacobs (Yale-NUS), Prof James D Sidaway (Department of Geography) and Dr Chih Yuan Woon (Department of Geography), the Symposium took place on 21 and 22 February 2013 at the Value Lab, CREATE Tower, University Town.

Prof Brenda Yeoh (Dean, FASS) gave an opening address, positioning the event and agendas in the context of Geography at NUS and its predecessor institutions. The invited speakers were Dr Naushine Anwar (ARI, NUS), Prof Amriah Buang (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia), Dr Ruth Craggs (University of Hull), Assoc Prof Julie Cupples (University of Canterbury), Dr Mark Jackson (University of Bristol), Dr Tariq Jazeel (The University of Sheffield), Prof Ananya Roy (Department of City and Regional Planning, University of California, Berkeley) and Dr Ting-jeih Wang (National Taiwan University).

The papers presented are currently under review for a prospective special issue of The Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography.

NUS Geography Challenge 2013

In its 17th edition, the NUS Geography Challenge 2013 saw a record 96 schools competing in the preliminary rounds on 1 March 2013. The theme for this Challenge was “Made in Singapore: Stitching Our Identity”. The students braved through an individual quiz as well as a team application question component. The top 40 teams were selected for the semi-finals where they competed in the Geo-Stop and Geo-Trail rounds. For the Geo-Stop component, participants had to produce an advertisement per team, targeted at tourists, to showcase the Singapore Identity. The Geo-Trail component took the participants on an adventure trail on 30 March 2013. They visited various places (such as Haw Par Villa and Clarke Quay) that had representative landmarks and significance. At each station, participants applied different geographical concepts to advance to the next station. Finally, the top 4 teams battled it out on stage in the grand finals at the University Town and Raffles Institution proclaimed the title for the 5th time.

Birdlife International-NUS Internship Project

Leon Gaw Yan Feng, a third year Geography major was selected to join a dedicated team of people working to conserve wild birds, their habitats and global biodiversity from May to July 2013. This project provided an opportunity for Leon to explore methodologies for gathering information from a variety of sources and to apply solving, data research and GIS skills in a workplace environment. It also allowed Leon to gain experience in a spectrum of skills necessary in GIS reporting: project design, researching information, undertaking GIS analysis, collating information from a variety of sources, and presenting the data in an easily understandable format.

Department of History

Workshop on “Developing your EQ skills - History Begins with You”

The Department of History organised a two-day workshop for History majors who have an interest in teaching. “Developing your EQ skills - History Begins with You” is a new initiative aimed at helping potential teachers develop social and emotional skills which they can then impart to students through history lessons in schools. Held on 13 and 14 June 2013 at University Town, the workshop was also attended by a history PhD student and a few faculty and administrative staff members who joined as observers-participants.

Associate Professor Maitrii Victoriano Aung-Thwin

Assoc Prof Maitrii Victoriano Aung-Thwin was elected to the Southeast Asia Council (SEAC) of the Association for Asian Studies for three years and he is also co-chair of the Burma Studies Group of the Association for Asian Studies, one of the largest organisations of Myanmar Studies scholars in the world.

Assoc Prof Aung-Thwin was also appointed as a trustee of the Burma Studies Foundation, an international collective of scholars who advise the Center for Burma Studies and oversee its collections at Northern Illinois University in the USA. The appointment is for a five-year term with effect from June 2012.

Associate Professor Timothy Barnard

Assoc Prof Timothy Barnard was appointed as an editor of the KITLV book series “Power and Place in Southeast Asia”, which publishes one or two manuscripts a year.

Dr Chua Ai Lin

Dr Chua Ai Lin was elected President of the Singapore Heritage Society from 28 September 2013 to September 2015. In July 2012, Dr Chua participated in the Cultural Heritage Preservation project organised by the United States Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership Program. This programme brings together ‘current or emerging leaders’ in specialised fields to travel in the USA for professional exchange with related organisations.

From a pool of international applicants, 16 individuals from 14 countries were selected for this project. She was the only representative from Singapore and this marked the first time that Singapore takes part in the IVLP Cultural Heritage Preservation project.

The meetings and site visits included the Penn Cultural Heritage Center based at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia and the Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Georgia, where we were hosted by the faculty from the Department of Historic Preservation.

Associate Professor John N. Miksic Earns Recognition for his book ‘Philippine Ancestral Gold’

Assoc Prof John Miksic was presented with a Certificate of Recognition in November 2012 by the Republic of Philippines National Book Development Board and the Manila Critics Circle for his book ‘Philippine Ancestral Gold’. The book which was published by the Ayala Foundation, Inc. was a finalist in the Art Category of the 31st National Book Awards in the Philippines.
The Departmental News

He was also re-appointed Chair of Museum Valuation Sub-Committee. Associate Professor (Honorary) was elected to the international advisory board of the Journal of Tourism History (Routledge).

Mr Kwa Chong Guan

Mr Kwa Chong Guan, Adjunct Associate Professor (Honorary) was re-appointed Chair of the NUS Museum Valuation Sub-Committee. He was also re-appointed Chair of the National Archives of Singapore Advisory Committee and member of the National Library Board. He also accepted membership of the National Heritage Board National Collection Advisory Panel. As Co-Chair of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific Singapore Executive Committee, Kwa took on Co-Chairmanship of a Study Group on Maritime Security.

Dr Lee Seung-joon

Dr Lee Seung-joon has been awarded the Harvard-Yenching Institute Visiting Scholarship, which requires him to spend the entire academic year of 2013/2014 at the Institute, Cambridge, MA, USA.

Associate Professor Malcolm Murfett

Assoc Prof Malcolm Murfett delivered a keynote talk, “Things Historians Know That Policymakers Could Do with Knowing Too” to senior civil servants, including a few ambassadors and permanent secretaries at the Civil Service College on Wednesday, 16 January 2013.

Assoc Prof Murfett was also re-elected as a Research Associate of the Cold War Studies Programme at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) London, UK. He was also appointed as Associate of the Corbett School for Maritime Policy Studies at the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom.

Associate Professor Maurizio Peleggi

Assoc Prof Maurizio Peleggi was elected to the international advisory board of the Journal of European History with effect from 1 September 2012 for 3 years.

Mr Seng Guo Quan

Mr Seng Guo Quan, teaching assistant at the department, received the NUS-Overseas Graduate Scholarship 2013/2014. The scholarship will cover his PhD studies in History at the University of Chicago, USA, from 16 September 2013 to 30 June 2016.

Dr John Michael Van Wyhe

Dr John Michael Van Wyhe was appointed as Professorial Fellow of Charles Darwin University, Australia with effect from 1 September 2012 for 3 years.

Student Achievements

Do Truong Giang and Ruel Vacio Pagunsan received the 2013 Research Fellowship for Southeast Asian Scholars granted by The Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS), the Bentley Library and the University Library of the University of Michigan. Do Truong Giang will be on a four-week research fellowship with effect from July 2014 at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor Campus while Ruel Vacio Pagunsan’s four-week research fellowship will commence on March 2014.

Do Truong Giang was also awarded the Postgraduate Study Grant by the Southeast Asian Studies Regional Exchange Programme on 28 February 2013. The grant aims to encourage the study of a Southeast Asian country other than one’s own or a comparative study across the region by M.A. or Ph.D. graduate students. This grant will support Mr Giang’s thesis research on “Campa-Khmer Angkor Links (800-1400 CE): Evidences from Historical and Archaeological Sources”. The grant is worth US$3,661 and covers Mr Giang from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.

Sandee Ray received the Grand Prize in the Asia Award 2012 on 25 October 2012 for his work, “The Sound of Old Rooms.” The prize was awarded by the 8th Taiwan International Documentary Festival held in Taipei, Taiwan.

Department of Japanese Studies

Japanese History Research and Educational Training in Theory and Practice

The Department hosted the Japanese History Research and Educational Training in Theory and Practice workshop on 10 and 11 January 2013 at NUS.

The three central objectives of the workshop were: (1) to advance knowledge through the sharing of international research and educational philosophies, techniques, and methods; (2) to facilitate greater research cooperation between Japanese historians in Japan and Asia including among graduate students; and (3) to explore future possibilities for cross-institutional specialist exchange and joint initiatives in the
areas of Japanese historical research and educational training.

The workshop brought together Japanese history experts from Japan and various departments and institutes at NUS to share knowledge and to discuss problems they experienced undertaking historical research on Japan and when engaging in educational training. The speakers comprised Prof Takashi Tsukada (Osaka City University), Prof Ashita Saga (Osaka City University), Dr John Porter (University of Hawaii/Osaka City University), Ms Mio Shimazaki (Osaka City University), Dr Shigoru Yagi (Osaka Museum), Dr Timothy Amos (NUS), Dr Zhong Yijiang (NUS), Dr Hajimu Masuda (NUS) and Mr Tong Koon Fung (NUS).

Workshop on Japanese Language and Interaction

The workshop on Japanese Language and Interaction was convened on 6 and 7 September 2013 to explore Japanese language and interaction.

The participants examined video-recorded naturalistic data and discussed how Japanese speakers organise their social lives through the moment-to-moment co-construction of talk-in-interaction. Day one was focused on caregiver-child interactions, examining the ways novices in a community are socialised in how to participate in interaction and how to understand (or to use) Japanese language for pragmatic ends. Day two was a data session led by Dr Shimako Iwasaki (Monash University) examining video-recordings of naturally occurring ordinary and multi-party conversations amongst speakers of Japanese (both native and non-native).

Assoc Prof Matt Burdelski (Osaka University), Dr Tomoko Endo (Kyoto University), Dr Michie Kawashima (Kansai Gaidai College), Dr Emi Morita (NUS), Assoc Prof Akira Takada (Kyoto University) and Dr Tomoyo Takagi (University of Tsukuba) were speakers at the event.

Manga Festival in NUS

The NUS Manga festival was held on 7 November 2013. The main speaker was Mr Otsuka Eiji, acclaimed author of many books on manga, anime and otaku, novelist and magazine editor. He delivered a lecture on the origins of manga in Japan. Kidani Takaaki, CEO of Bushiroad (producer of collectible and trading cards) spoke on working in popular culture industry and expanding to ASEAN markets. This was followed by a panel discussion with the editorial and productions team behind the manga/anime series Shingeki no Kyojin (Attack on Titan): Mr Kawakubo Shintaro (editor at Shonen Magazine), Mr Tateishi Ken suke (producer at Kodansha) and Mr Kinoshita Tetsuya (producer at Pony Canyon). They discussed how Shingeki no Kyojin became so popular this year and the process of turning it from print to animation. Another panel discussion with students and industry professionals also took place with panelists Mr Inoue Shinichiro (editor at Kadokawa), Mr Endo Satoshi (Kadokawa ASCII Research Labs), Mr Otsuka Eiji and NUS Japanese Studies major, Jeremy Lim.

Drawing Manga “Japanese Style”

The hands-on Drawing Manga “Japanese Style” workshop was held in conjunction with the Manga Festival on 7 November 2013. It aimed to provide an experience of drawing manga according to the long-established norms and conventions found in the Japanese manga industry, as well as a chance to observe how regional artists and fans outside Japan have been reinventing manga styles in their works. It was led by Otsuka Eiji, cultural critic, editor, media creator and Professor at the International Research Centre for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken). Apart from creating a large number of story manga (Personality Detective Psycho, The Kurosagi Corpse Delivery Service manga), he has published widely on animation, popular culture, and the political history of Japan.

The workshop was assisted by Asano Tatsuya, a manga artist and teaching assistant at the Kobe Design University.

“Reinventing Japan” Project with Kyushu University Students

From 20 to 27 July 2013, several members of the Department welcomed Kyushu University students and faculty who were in Singapore as part of their “Reinventing Japan” project. Activities included heritage-focused visits to Pulau Ubin and other locations, as well as a Japanese language exchange session at the Ministry of Education Language Centre in Bishan. These are recollections by two of our Japanese Studies majors Sebastian Sim and Karen Ang.

Sebastian:
The Japanese visitors visited Pulau Ubin with the intention of getting to know the “other side of Singapore”, or the furusato of Singapore. I guess it did not take them long to get to know this other side. Trees, swamps and other elements of nature and cyclists greeted us during our trail to Chek Jawa Wetlands. All these elements spoke of a Singapore in more “primitive” days, and a more carefree, laidback lifestyle almost foreign to today’s generation of children in Singapore.

Karen:
We explored Pulau Ubin on foot, and the students were fascinated by the island’s flora and fauna; stopping almost every 10 to 15 minutes to take pictures. They got really excited when we crossed paths with a family of wild boars and when we spotted a monkey on a tree. We visited the jetty, Chek Jawa and walked along the coast of the island. Along the way to Chek Jawa, we passed by some old houses, and the students started asking us questions about the lives of the island’s residents and what they did for a living. If not for the sudden downpour, we would have spent more time admiring the beautiful scenery along the coast and exploring other parts of the island.
**Student Achievements**

Ong Soon Huat Eddie, a third year Japanese Studies major, received the Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho:MEXT) Scholarship for 2013 on 5 August 2013. The award was granted by the Japanese Government’s Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). This is a full scholarship for him to study at Kyoto University, Japan from October 2013 to September 2014.

Titus Teo Teck Lim, a year three Economics and Japanese Studies major, also received the Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho:MEXT) Scholarship for 2013 on 5 August 2013. He is on a full scholarship to Osaka Gakuin University, Japan from September 2013 to May 2014.

Another recipient of the Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho:MEXT) Scholarship 2013 is Tan Li Yun Evelyn. The third year Japanese Studies major is on a full scholarship to Kanazawa University, Japan from October 2013 to August 2014.

Tan Jing Yi Germaine, also a third year Japanese Studies major, was awarded the JCCI Singapore Foundation Scholarship granted by the Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry (JCCI) Singapore Foundation. She is on a full scholarship (of up to $50,000) to Waseda University, Japan from September 2013 to July 2014.

**Department of Malay Studies**

**Kota-Sastera-Kota (Urban Literature and The City of Literature)**

Dr Azhar Ibrahim, Dr Nazry Bahrawy and Puan Noridah Kamari presented at the Conference held on 3 November 2013 at the Imagination & Possibility Rooms, National Library Board.

Sastera Kota (Urban Literature) and Kota Sastera (The City of Literature) were the themes for this year’s literary conference, organised by the Department of Malay Studies, NUS and the National Arts Council in conjunction with the Singapore Writers Festival. The conference featured three main papers presented by researchers on Malay-Indonesian works, with some emphasis on comparative literature. This was followed by two panel sessions where writers from Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore discussed on the theme of urban literature and how the urban spaces itself has conditioned and inspired our writers.

**Department of Philosophy**

**Joint Meeting of the Society of Asian & Comparative Philosophy and the Australasian Society of Asian & Comparative Philosophy**

The Joint Meeting of the Society of Asian & Comparative Philosophy and the Australasian Society of Asian & Comparative Philosophy was held from 8 to 11 July 2013 at the NUS University Town. Nearly 100 philosophers from all over the world attended the event. It was the first time that the two societies held a joint conference and it was a significant milestone in their collaboration. The theme of the meeting was “Conflict and Harmony: from Embodied Emotions to Global Realms”. The keynote speakers were Prof Vrinda Dalmiya of University of Hawaii and Prof Fang Wanquan of Academia Sinica and Soochow University in Taiwan. Among the highlights of the programme was a joint panel of philosophers from NUS (Assoc Prof Loy Hui Chieh) and NTU (Prof Alan Chan and Assoc Prof Li Chenyang) discussing the topic of “Harmony in Early Chinese Philosophy.”

**37th Annual IAPL Conference 2013**

The 37th annual International Association of Philosophy and Literature (IAPL) Conference was hosted by NUS’ Tembusu College in University Town from 3 to 9 June 2013. The conference theme was “Hospitalities: Biopolitics/Technologies/Humanities”. Over 120 speakers and attendees gathered from around the world for 6 days of panels, discussions and events on a wide range of topics. The conference was co-sponsored by the Departments of English Language and Literature (ELL) and Philosophy. The host coordinator was Assoc Prof John Phillips from ELL, assisted by many other faculty and students from NUS.

Mr Hugh J. Silverman, the executive director and program coordinator of the IAPL, passed away shortly before this year’s conference. His years of devotion to the organisation he founded were memorialised by several attendees whose own experiences with the annual conference stretched back to its early days.

**Department of Political Science**

**Professor Theodore G Hopf**

Prof Ted Hopf from the Department of Political Science received the Robert L. Jervis and Paul W. Schroeder Best Book Award for his book Reconstructing the Cold War: The Early Years, 1945-1958. Given by the American Political Science Association (APSA), the Jervis-Schroeder Award recognises outstanding contributions to the study of international history and politics.

The feat was noteworthy considering the exceptionally large number of 75 strong nominations submitted for the 2013 award. The judges unanimously selected Reconstructing the Cold War, noting: “The committee is especially impressed by Hopf’s deep knowledge of time and place, thoughtful employment of cultural analysis, and extensive use of archives and primary materials. A consequence of this deep cultural and historical reading is that Hopf is able to speak to the specifics
of Soviet history at this moment, and use that moment to speak to broader debates in international relations theory.”

Prof Hopf also won the 2013 Marshall D Shulman Award for Best Book on the International Relations of Eastern Europe and Eurasia. He last won the award in 2003 for “Social Construction of International Politics: Identities and Foreign Policies, Moscow, 1955 and 1999,” (Cornell 2002), making him the first two-time award winner in the history of this international competition held by the American Association for the Advancement of East European and Eurasian Studies.

Matthew Evangelista, President White Professor of History and Political Science at Cornell University is the only other person besides Prof Hopf to have won both the Jervis/Schroeder and Shulman Awards.

Professor M Shamsul Haque
Prof M Shamsul Haque received the Fred Riggs Award for Lifetime Achievement in International and Comparative Public Administration from the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) on 17 March 2013. The Fred Riggs Award was established by the ASPA Section on International and Comparative Administration in 1985 to recognise those who have made significant, substantial, and widely recognised contributions to the conceptual, theoretical, or operational development of international, comparative, or development administration. The award is named in honour of Fred Riggs, a pioneer in these fields and a founder of the section. The award is made annually at the section's Business Meeting, held in conjunction with ASPAs annual conference.

An excerpt from the ASPA-SICA website reads: “A close look at Dr Haque’s academic contributions highlights how he has followed in Fred Riggs’ footsteps when it comes to contextualizing public administration scholarship in the developing world. The article entitled “Rethinking development administration and remembering Fred W. Riggs,” is a wonderful example of Dr Haque’s commitment to rekindle Riggs’s brilliant vision of international comparative development administration.”

Professor Reuben Wong
Assoc Prof Reuben Wong was awarded the Jean Monnet Chair in European Integration and Foreign Policy by the European Commission Education, Audiovisual and Cultural Executive Agency (EACEA). Under the named professorship, Assoc Prof Reuben Wong is awarded €45,000 to teach and research European integration and foreign policy, specifically the EU-China relationship in NUS. This is the first-ever Jean Monnet Chair awarded to a scholar in Singapore, or one based in Southeast Asia.

The EACEA is an agency operating under supervision of the executive body of the European Union and is responsible for the management of certain parts of the EU’s programmes in the fields of education, culture and audiovisual.

Department of Social Work

Dr Mohamad Maliki bin Osman
Dr Mohamad Maliki bin Osman, currently on secondment, was promoted to Minister of State with effort from 1 September 2013. He will remain in the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of National Development.

Associate Professor Jan De Mol
Assoc Prof Jan De Mol from the Belgium University of Louvain visited the Department from 1 to 14 September 2013 under the FASS Visiting Fellowship for Distinguished Scholars Scheme. During his visit, he taught four seminars for the Family Therapy module, conducted a seminar on ethics in social work field supervision and collaborated in grant writing with Dr Esther Goh.

Seminar on the Mental Capacity Act

The Department held a seminar on the Mental Capacity Act on 25 February 2013. More than 80 students, academics and social service practitioners came to hear Mr Daniel Koh, Public Guardian from the Ministry of Social and Family Development speak about issues involving the Mental Capacity Act.

The seminal legislation came into effect on 1 March 2010 and set the precedence for individuals to plan ahead to protect their interests while they still possess the mental capacity. At its core, the Act serves to uphold the dignity of an individual, providing guidelines for decision making on behalf of such vulnerable persons.

The Public Guardian, Mr Daniel Koh speaking on the Mental Capacity Act
Project PLAY

In response to the “hidden” poverty they saw on their home visits, the Society of Social Work Students organised Project PLAY (Poverty Living Around You), which consists of a theatrical production titled Unseen, as well as an exhibition segment. Through the play, the students hope to change the perspectives of the audience towards poverty in Singapore. “Unseen” explores the tensions and challenges that exist in Singapore regarding to the poor. It is a devised piece conceptualised by the actors themselves, exploring everyday scenes in Singapore through the lens of the poor.

A total of 3 shows were held on 11 and 12 October 2013 at Drama Centre Blackbox at National Library Building. The team was honoured to have the presence of NUS Provost Prof Tan Eng Chye, Vice-Dean of FASS Assoc Prof Chang You Chuang, Head of Social Work Department Dr Rosaleen Ow, as well as the Minister of Social and Family Development Mr Chan Chun Sing and the Executive Director of National Council of Social Service Ms Ang Bee Lian.

After the second show, the team had an engagement session with Mr Chan Chun Sing, whereby they gained a deeper insight on the issue of poverty in Singapore through his sharing. It was also a good platform for the team to ask poverty-related questions, which were addressed by the Minister.

Prior to the start of the play as well as at the end of the play, an exhibition was set up outside the Blackbox to raise the audience’s understanding of the hidden poor in Singapore. This was done through a simulation of a 2-room rental flat, as well as a photo gallery that depicted the living conditions of people living in poverty. Furthermore, organisations were also invited to share about the ongoing work carried out to empower the poor in Singapore and to provide avenues for the audience to volunteer.

After watching the play, a member of the audience commented: “I realised that I really am in no position to judge how poor is poor. And there are more who need help than I think.”

The Practical Utility of Systemic Ideas in Social Work and Other Contexts

Ms Barbara McKay, director of the Institute of Family Therapy, UK spoke at the departmental seminar “The Practical Utility of Systemic Ideas in Social Work and Other Contexts” attended by about 100 social work practitioners on 20 August 2013. In her talk, Ms McKay provided an innovative way of practicing social work in child protection, child welfare and youth delinquency. Systemic framework was introduced to provide social workers with the framework and theoretical concept in guiding their work.

Center for Social Development Asia (CSDA) Seminar & Launch of CSDA Website

The Center for Social Development Asia (CSDA) held a seminar on youth work by social work on 19 July 2013. The event, well-attended by social work practitioners and students, started with the launch of the CSDA website by Assoc Prof Ho Kong Chong, Vice Dean of Research. The main presentations were delivered by three social work honours students—Elirani d/o Kanak Rajah, Sharyn Ng Xue Ling and Zakiyah bte Ibrahim—and chaired by Assoc Prof Irene Ng from the Department of Social Work. The speakers presented their local research studies on outreach work with youth-at-risk, youth gangs and youths in residential care.

Student Achievements

Gina China, Chee Li Ping and Wong Hui Mei (Social Work Honours year students who graduated in July 2013) each presented a paper based on their honours theses supervised by Dr Goh in the Global Childhood Conference held in Oxford University from 18-20 July 2013. It was an achievement for the three students as they were the only undergraduate student presenters at the international conference. Only 55 papers were selected from international submissions.
Department of Southeast Asian Studies

The Story of Manikmaya: An Evening of Javanese Shadow Puppet Theatre and Music

On 8 March 2013, the Department of Southeast Asian Studies presented an outdoor performance of Javanese shadow puppet theatre. It featured the puppeteer Ki Sujarwo Joko Prerhatin, SEAD’s own NUS Singa Nglaras Gamelan Ensemble directed by Pak Jan Mrázek, two visiting Javanese master musicians, as well as friends from Gamelan Asmarandana. The 2-hour dramatic performance was preceded by gamelan music played by students from the “Old and New Music in Southeast Asia” module (SE2221).

Taksu II: An evening of Balinese Dance

Held on 20 November 2013, this concert showcased Balinese dances performed by students enrolled in SE2214: Arts of Southeast Asia. The event will also include performances by former students as well as guest dancers.

Joint Visiting Committee

The Departments of Southeast Asian Studies and Malay Studies hosted the Joint Visiting Committee between 8 - 12 April 2013. The committee members were:
1) Prof Leonard Andaya, University of Hawaii
2) Prof Bernard Arps, Leiden University
3) Prof Vicente L. Rafael, University of Washington
4) Prof Adrian Vickers, University of Sydney

South Asian Studies Programme (SASP)

Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry Scholarships

The Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SICCI) will be donating $8000 per year for awards targeted at SASP Honours, MA and PhD students in the following categories:

Honours Thesis (Best) - $2500
The best honours thesis for the South Asian Studies Programme will be awarded a cash prize of $2500. The “best honours thesis” is the honours thesis with the highest mark. In case of a tie, two prizes of equal worth ($2500 each) will be awarded if there are sufficient funds; otherwise, the single prize of $2500 will be shared equally.

Honours Thesis (Commendable) - $1000
The commendable honours thesis for the South Asian Studies Programme will be awarded a cash prize of $1000. The “commendable” thesis shall be the thesis with the next highest mark. In case of a tie, the prize of $1000 will be shared equally.

Graduate (Best PhD dissertation) - $3000
The best PhD thesis will be distinguished by the examiners’ reports and the judging will be by a committee consisting of SASP faculty.

Graduate (Best MA dissertation) - $1500
The MA thesis will be distinguished by the examiners’ reports and the judging will be by a committee consisting of SASP faculty.

Centre for Language Studies (CLS)

Professor Michael Byram

Prof Michael Byram, Professor Emeritus at Durham University, was invited by CLS to give a lecture on “Principles and Practice in Teaching for Intercultural Competence and Intercultural Citizenship” on 10 December 2012.

The CLS International Conference - CLaSIC 2012

CLaSIC, the Centre for Language Studies International Conference, is a forum for exchanges on the latest developments in current development in foreign language teaching and learning.

The Conference was held from 6 to 8 December 2012 at the Shaw Foundation Alumni House. The invited speakers were Prof Michael Byram (Durham University), Kimi Kondo-Brown (University of Hawai‘i at Manoa) and Claire Kramsch (University of California Berkeley).

Japanese Speech Contest

The Japanese Speech Contest was jointly held by the Embassy of Japan, Japanese Cultural Society, Japanese Association, Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Japanese University Graduate Association of Singapore on 11 July 2013 at the Japanese Association. Three NUS students of the Japanese Language Programme at the CLS gave excellent speeches. Lim Hon Lee Jeremy received the 1st prize; Por Shi Qi came in 4th while Goh Hwee Hwee was awarded the 5th prize. Jeremy won a trip to Japan (a homestay in Shizuoka Prefecture), $500 living expenses for the homestay and a Canon video camera. He will be invited to major Japanese companies and schools in the region during the trip.
Between Our Shelves

CENTRE FOR LANGUAGE STUDIES
Perspectives on Individual Characteristics and Foreign Language Education
Wai Meng Cham, Kwee Nyet Chin, Sunil Kumar Bhatt, Izumi Walker (Eds.)
Germany: De Gruyter Mouton, 2012

Learner characteristics have been at the centre of second language acquisition and foreign language education research in response to the puzzling questions: Why are there often large differences in second language (L2) learning achievement and why do many learners, though proficient first language speakers, not succeed in learning a L2? The papers in this book explore and challenge the three key factors in individual difference research: language aptitude, language learning strategies and motivation.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
Changing Landscapes of Singapore: Tensions, New Discoveries
Elaine L.E. Ho, C.Y. Woon and K. Ramdas (Eds.)

Landscape is not only the visible material surface of places but also refers to ways of interpreting fluid or contested social relations and spatial arrangements. The essays in this book critically examine how material and immaterial landscapes take shape in Singapore and their impacts on the population. They further assess how different social groups in Singapore inhabit landscapes and negotiate changing societal dynamics and conditions. The book contextualises developments in Singapore within regional and international trends. A standard Singapore Studies textbook, this book will appeal to anyone seeking to understand this ever-changing island, city and state.

Reef-Platform Coral Boulders: Evidence for High-Energy Marine Inundation Events on Tropical Coastlines
James P. Ferry, Annie A.Y. Lau and Samuel Etienne
Heidelberg: Springer, 2013

The primary goal of this newly-released book is to present a treatise on the significance and value of coarse clastic carbonate sediments on tropical coastlines for understanding both modern and pre-historical (Holocene) high-magnitude marine inundation events. There has been a rapid groundswell of interest in large carbonate blocks on tropical coasts over the last decade, yet it is not widely appreciated that such features were observed and recorded back in the early explorations of Matthew Flinders on the Great Barrier Reef in the 1800s. This book illuminates how various characteristics of datable carbonate materials torn up from coral reefs and deposited on reef platforms yield important evidence about the storms and tsunamis that emplaced them over decadal and centennial timescales. No comprehensive review has so far been published. This volume therefore fulfils the need for a ‘definitive reference’ on coral boulder research, which details the earliest observations, changing terminology, sedimentology, and relevance for coastal hazard research in the tropics. A wide range of examples are incorporated from across Asia, Australia, the Pacific and the Americas, as well as a full up-to-date review of the existing literature. Researchers of coastal geomorphology should find this book indispensable, but it will also appeal to those concerned with tsunamis, tropical cyclones, coral reefs, clastic sedimentology, dating methods, and to all those with a curiosity about the environmental impacts of extreme events on coastlines.

Return: Nationalizing Transnational Mobility in Asia
Xiang Biao, Brenda S.A. Yeoh and Mika Toyota (Eds.)

Since the late 1990s, Asian nations have increasingly encouraged, facilitated, or demanded the return of emigrants. In this interdisciplinary collection, distinguished scholars from countries around the world explore the changing relations between nation-states and transnational mobility. Taking into account illegally trafficked migrant workers, temporary laborers on short-term contracts, and highly skilled émigrés, the contributors argue that the figure of the returnee energises and redefines nationalism in an era of increasingly fluid and indeterminate national sovereignty. They acknowledge the diversity, complexity, and instability of reverse migration, while emphasising its discursive, policy, and political significance at a moment when the tensions between state power and transnational subjects are particularly visible. Taken together, the essays foreground Asia as a useful site for rethinking the intersections of migration, sovereignty, and nationalism.

Singapore Street Names: A Study of Toponymics
Victor R. Savage and Brenda S.A. Yeoh (3rd edition)

Place names tell us much about a country - its history, its landscape, its people, its aspirations, its self-image. The study of place names, or ‘toponymics’, unlocks the myriad interlocking stories that are encoded in every street and landmark. In Singapore, the coexistence of various races, cultures and languages, as well as its history of colonisation, immigration and nationalism, have given rise to a
complex tapestry of place names. Alkaff Quay, Coleman Bridge, Ann Siang Hill, Bukit Merah - how did these places get their names? Nee Soon or Yishun? Serangoon Road or Tekka? First published in 2003 as Toponyms, this updated and expanded edition of the book incorporates a wealth of new findings, from archival research and interviews, and sets out to answer these questions - and any question that might be asked about the origin, meaning or significance of place names in Singapore.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
All About History
The Making of the Contemporary World Order 1870s-1991
Unit 1: European Domination and Expansion in Southeast Asia in the late 19th century
Dr Loh Kang Seng, Dorothy Lim, Dionne Hua
Consultants: Dr Peter Borschberg, Suhaimi Afandi
Singapore: Pearson, 2013

Unit 2: The World in Crisis
Judy Ling, Dr Aron Paul
Consultants: Dr Peter Borschberg, Suhaimi Afandi
Singapore: Pearson, 2013

A History of Myanmar Since Ancient Times: Traditions and Transformations
Michael Aung-Thwin and Maitrii Aung-Thwin

In A History of Myanmar since Ancient Times, Michael Aung-Thwin and Maitrii Aung-Thwin take us from the sacred stupas of the plains of Pagan to grand, colonial-era British mansions, revealing the stored past and rich culture of this country. The book traces the traditions and transformations of Myanmar’s communities over nearly three millennia, from the relics of its Neolithic civilisation to the splendors of its pre-colonial kingdoms, its encounters with British colonialism and the struggles for the republic that followed the end of World War II. The authors also consider the complexities of present-day life in Myanmar and examine the key political events and debates of the last twenty-five years that have brought the world’s attention to the country. By exploring current developments within the broader patterns of Myanmar’s history, culture and society, they provide a nuanced perspective on the issues and questions surrounding Myanmar’s future. This updated edition considers the changes that have taken place since the elections of 2010, the reforms that the civilian government introduced, and the ramifications of the country’s new international status. It also assesses the implications of the 2012 by-elections, the ensuing political dynamics among various stakeholders, and the continuing socio-economic challenges facing Myanmar in the twenty-first century. The most comprehensive history of Myanmar ever published in the English language, this book makes a significant contribution to our understanding of Southeast Asian history and will surprise, challenge, and inform in equal measure.

Asia Redux Conceptualising a Region for our Times
Praesnijt Duara (Ed)

“In the erudite essay that opens this forum, Praesnijt Duara laces together both indigenous thinkers and the premodern past for tools with which to think about Asia in a global age. Contemporary modalities of regional exchange – ‘weakly bounded, network-oriented, pluralistic, multitemporal’ – chime with earlier patterns of cultural circulation without state domination, giving rise to a prophetic vision of ‘Asia Redux’. This attempt to capture the contours of a (re-)emerging region was calculated to provide... And what a debate it kicks off... Wang Hui resolutely reframes imagining Asia as a political project on a world-historical canvas... Tansen Sen greatly complicates the map of intra-Asian commercial exchange in earlier times... Amritav Acharya outlines five competing conceptions of Asia in the domain of international relations alone...; Barbara Watson Andaya teases out the paradoxical ways in which regional religions make clashing claims about Asian unity; and Rudolf Mrzek asks, what of the Asia that bleeds? What of exploitation and its spawn, the inglorious ‘built-ends’ of the global economy? The reward for those who read this collection straight through is a thrillingly cacophonous conversation about how to grasp Asia in our time.”

Karen E. Wigen, Stanford University

Cold War South East Asia
Malcolm H. Murfett (Ed.)
Contributing authors include Ang Chang Guan, Dewi Fortuna Arwara, Cheah Boon Kheng, Brian P. Farrell, Ricardo Trota Jose, Brian M. Linn, Bruce Lockhart, Malcolm H. Murfett, Sutayut Osornprasop, Merle C. Ricklefs, Tan Tey Yong

This book reveals in fascinating detail, country by country, how the Cold War shaped the destiny of Southeast Asia. The competition among the world powers - the USA, USSR, Britain, China - led to dramatically differing fates for the region. Vietnam was to be the worst affected, effectively destroyed in the clash between superpowers, at tremendous cost to all sides. In Malaya and Singapore, the British fought a long-drawn-out Communist insurgency that broke out in 1948 - an insurgency they saw as part of a consolidated Cold War movement inspired by Moscow or Beijing. But was it? As this volume shows, the states of Southeast Asia were never mere pawns in an international war of ideology. Many local players in fact strategically manipulated Cold War doctrines to their own political advantage - chief among them Indonesia’s Suharto, who played the anti-Communist card with aplomb.

Dispelling the Darkness: Voyage in the Malay Archipelago and the Discovery of Evolution by Wallace and Darwin
John van Wyhe

“...the facts of variability, of the struggle for existence, of adaptation to conditions, were notorious enough; but none of us had suspected that the road to the heart of the species problem lay through them, until Darwin and Wallace dispelled the darkness.” T H Huxley (1887) Charles Darwin remains one of the most famous scientists in history. His life and work have been intensively investigated by historians for decades. In comparison, the other man to conceive of evolution by natural selection is comparatively forgotten - Alfred Russell Wallace. This book is based on the most thorough research programme ever conducted on Wallace. There are many surprises. As he travelled from island to island collecting vast numbers of exotic birds and insects, his ideas about species gradually evolved. This book reveals for the first time how Wallace solved one of the greatest mysteries of life on Earth.

From the Ground Up: Perspectives on Post-tsunami and Post-conflict Aceh
Patrick Daly, R. Michael Feener and Anthony Reid (Eds.)
Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 2012

Indonesian Translation
Bangkit dari Debu: Muliperspektif tentang Aceh Pasca Tsunami dan Pasca Konflik
Patrick Daly, R. Michael Feener and Anthony Reid (Eds.)
Bandung: Ak/Jakarta: Denpasar: ICAS/ KITLV/ Pustaka Larasan, 2013

The tsunami that struck a dozen countries around the Indian Ocean on 26 December 2004 evoked international sympathy on a scale beyond any previous natural disaster. The international relief effort broke all records both in scale and diversity, with seven billion U.S. dollars donated from all over the world through public and private agencies for Sumatra
alone. Simply as a reconstruction effort, therefore, the disbursement of those funds and the rebuilding of housing, infrastructure, and economy posed major national and international challenges. However this was not simply a reconstruction effort. Aceh at that time was a war zone, with Indonesia’s military engaged in a major operation to crush a separatist rebellion that had been simmering since 1976. Even though the funds had been donated for tsunami relief any real reconstruction of Aceh had to consider the impact of the conflict on the well-being of the population, as well as governance and administrative capacities. This volume serves the purpose not only of discussing some of the lessons of the Aceh reconstruction and peace processes, but also of maintaining critical links between Aceh and the international community after the initial tranches of aid expire.

**Naval Warfare 1919-45: An Operational History of the Volatile War at Sea**

Malcolm Murfett

London: Routledge, 2012

Naval Warfare 1919–45 is a comprehensive history of the war at sea from the end of the Great War to the end of World War Two. Showing the bewildering nature and complexity of the war facing those charged with fighting it around the world, this book ranges far and wide: sweeping across the powers performing major, as well as minor, roles within them. Armed with the latest material from an extensive set of sources, Malcolm H. Murfett has written an absorbing as well as a comprehensive reference work. He demonstrates that superior equipment and the best intelligence, ominous power and systematic planning, vast finance and capable training are often simply not enough in themselves to guarantee the successful outcome of a particular encounter at sea. Sometimes the narrow difference between victory and defeat hinges on those infinite variables: the individual’s performance under acute pressure and sheer luck. Naval Warfare 1919–45 is an analytical and interpretive study which is an accessible and fascinating read both for students and for interested members of the general public.

**Reconstructing Bodies**

**Biomedicine, Health, and Nation-Building in South Korea Since 1945**

John P. DiMoia

Stanford, California, Stanford University Press, 2013

South Korea represents one of the world’s most enthusiastic markets for plastic surgery. The growth of this market is particularly fascinating as access to medical care and surgery arose only recently with economic growth since the 1980s. Reconstructing Bodies traces the development of a medical infrastructure in the Republic of Korea (ROK) from 1945 to the present, arguing that the plastic surgery craze and the related development of biotech ambitions is deeply rooted in historical experience. Tracking the ROK’s transition and independence from Japan, John P. DiMoia explains how the South Korean government mobilised biomedical resources and technologies to consolidate its desired image of a modern and progressive nation. Offering in-depth accounts of illustrative transformations, DiMoia narrates South Korean biomedical practice, including Seoul National University Hospital’s emergence as an international biomedical site, state-directed family planning and anti-parasite campaigns, and the emerging market for aesthetic and plastic surgery, reflecting how South Koreans have appropriated medicine and surgery for themselves as individuals, increasingly prioritizing provision of health care.

**Shari’a and Social Engineering:**

**The Implementation of Islamic Law in Contemporary Aceh, Indonesia**

Michael Feener

Oxford University Press, 2013

This volume brings together a range of critical studies that explore diverse ways in which processes of globalisation pose new challenges and offer new opportunities for religious groups to propagate their beliefs in contemporary Asian contexts. Proselytising tests the limits of religious pluralism, as it is a practice that exists on the border of tolerance and intolerance. The practice of proselytising presupposes not only that people are freely-choosing agents and that religion itself is an issue of individual preference. At the same time, however, it also raises fraught questions about belonging to particular communities and heightens the moral stakes in involved in such choices. In many contemporary Asian societies, queasiness about the limits of acceptable proselytic behavior have taken on added urgency in the current era of globalisation. Recognizing this, the studies brought together here serve to develop our understandings of current developments as it critically explores the complex ways in which contemporary contexts of religious pluralism in Asia both enable, and are threatened by, projects of proselytisation.

**Southeast Asia and the Cold War**

Alastair Liew (Ed.)

London and New York: Routledge, 2012

The origins and the key moments that shaped the Cold War in Southeast Asia have been widely debated. This book focuses on an area that has received less attention, the impact and legacy of the Cold War on the various countries in the region, as well as on the region itself. The book contributes to the historiography of the Cold War in Southeast Asia by examining not only how the conflict shaped the milieu in which national and regional change unfolded but also how the context influenced the course and tenor of the Cold War in the region. It goes on to look at the usefulness or limitations of using the Cold War as an interpretative framework for understanding change in Southeast Asia. Chapters discuss how the Cold War had a varied but notable impact on the countries in Southeast Asia, not only on the mainland countries belonging to what the British Foreign Office called the “upper arc”, but also on those situated on its maritime “lower arc”. The book makes an important contribution to the fields of Asian Studies and International Relations.

Peter Borschberg (Ed.)


Jacques de Coutre was a Flemish gem trader who spent nearly a decade in Southeast Asia at the turn of the 17th century. He left history a substantial autobiography written in Spanish and preserved in the National Library of Spain in Madrid. Written in the form of a picaresque tale, with an acute eye for the cultures he encountered, the memoirs tell the story of his adventures in the trading centres of the day: Melaka, Ayutthaya, Patani, Pahang, Johor, Brunei and Malacca. Narrowly escaping death several times, De Coutre was inevitably drawn into dangerous intrigues between the representatives of European power, myriad fortune hunters and schemers, and the rulers and courtiers in the palaces of Pahang, Patani, Siam and Johor. In addition to his autobiography, De Coutre wrote a series of memorials to the united crown of Spain and Portugal that contain recommendations designed to remedy the decline in the fortunes of the Iberian powers in Southeast Asia, particularly against the backdrop of early Dutch political and commercial penetration into the region. Annotated and translated into English for the first time, these materials provide a valuable first-hand account of the issues confronting the early colonial powers in Southeast Asia, and deep into the societies De Coutre encountered in the territory that today makes up Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia and the Philippines. The book is fully illustrated with 62 maps and drawings of the period, including many examples not previously published.

The University Socialist Club and the Contest for Malay: Tangled Strands of Modernity

Contributors: Edgar Liao (History) and three other alumni of the History Department: Dr. Loh Kah Seng, Mr. Seng Guo-Quan, and Mr. Lim Cheng Tju


Using a wealth of material including interviews, official documents, and student writings, the authors recount the rise of newly independent states in postwar Malaya and Singapore through the engagements of a left-wing group of university student activists. The University Socialist Club and the Contest for Malay brings to life various contemporary movements, including democratic, Marxist, socialist, ethnicity-based groups which seek to influence postcolonial Malaya, as well as their fluid relationships with one another, at a time when allies became enemies, and vice versa. An original and vital study, this volume delves into the complex mental worlds and historical milieu of political and student activism.

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Asian, the location of the world’s fastest-growing economies, is also home to some of the fastest rates of urbanisation humanity has ever seen, a process whose speed renders long-term outcomes highly unpredictable. This volume contrasts with much published work on the rural/urban divide, which has tended to focus on single case studies. It provides empirical perspectives from four Asian countries: India, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand, and includes a wealth of insights that both critique and expand popular notions of the rural-urban divide. The volume is relevant not just to Asian contexts but to social scientific research on population dynamics more generally. Rather than deploying a single study to chart national trends, this volume does more than extend our understanding of the interplay between cities and hinterlands within Asia. It enhances our notions of rural/urban cleavages, connections and conflicts more generally, with data and analysis ready for application to other contexts. Of interest to diverse scholars across the social sciences and Asian studies, this work includes accounts ranging from youth real estate entrepreneurs in Hyderabad, India, to social development in Aceh province in Indonesia, devastated by the 2004 tsunami, to the relationship between urban space and commonly held notions of the supernatural in Thailand’s northern city of Chiang Mai.

Departments of Indian Network Studies Beyond the Western Liberal Order: Yanaihara Tadao and Empire as Society

Ryoko Nakano

United States: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013

Beyond the Western Liberal Order explores the international thought of Yanaihara Tadao (1893-1961), the most prominent Japanese social scientist of empire, population migration, and colonial policy during the 1920s and 1930s. Nakano provides a detailed analysis of Yanaihara’s study of empire, including global migration, economic disparity and hierarchy, ethnic conflict, and regionalism. This comprehensive work concludes by demonstrating the contemporary relevance of Yanaihara’s ideas to current debates and discussion in International Relations.

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A Gathering of FASS Alumni, Students and Friends

FASS Alumni got together with their mentees, guest students and faculty members for a great get-together event at MEDZS Millenia Walk on Wednesday, 21 August 2013.

Featuring a Mediterranean buffet, the spacious restaurant brought together over 200 participants from both the FASS Mentorship and the “My FASS Family” Host Programmes for a combined dinner event.

Connecting senior FASS undergraduates to FASS alumni who provide insights on specific career sectors, the FASS Mentorship Programme has 86 mentees and 55 mentors this year. Alumnus Cheong Kok Hwee (National Parks Board), who has been an FASS mentor since 2007, said that the event ‘provided a casual platform’ for him to meet his past and present mentees. In turn, his current mentee Joel Koh said that it was great for him to be able to meet his mentor at an informal setting over dinner and that it was good to learn from past mentees – “hearing their stories and where they are now”.

The “My FASS Family” Host Programme is a non-homestay programme that invites FASS Alumni to befriend international students who are in Singapore for the first time. This year, the programme has 21 local hosts and 40 international students from 18 countries. Peter James Cole, an exchange student from Sheffield University, says that the hosts were ‘very friendly and welcoming’ at the dinner and the programme allowed him to develop better cross-cultural understanding.