

NGS SCHOLARS' ALLIANCE EDITORIAL



Issue Highlights

Fellow scholars, thank you for your great support in the NGS L.O.R. Symposium earlier this year. We hope that all participants had a wonderful time at the event. The focus of this issue shall be a short round up of the symposium.

Also in this issue, we present to you two other major events in NGS for the past six months. That includes the NGS Awards cum White Coat Ceremony 2012 and the Induction Day – January 2012. We will also describe the newly introduced NGS Buddy System. Since last issue, NGSSA has co-coordinated a screening of the PHD Movie. At the end of this issue, we hope to prepare you for some of the exciting events lined up ahead.

Issue #5, April 2012

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NGSSA T-shirt Design

We should have a NGS T-shirt designed!

Like · Comment · Unfollow Post · February 17 at 8:57pm

Indeed, it is about time we have our very own NGSSA T-shirt! However, we need ideas from the designers among you! NGSSA is calling for submissions. Please contribute actively to create symbol of our NGS identity.

The submission should comprise of at least an image for the front of the T-shirt, approximately 640px x 800px. Please include additional information such as colour of T-shirt. Additional

images on the other parts of the T-shirt (e.g. back, sleeves) may also be included.

Kindly send your submissions to the NGSSA email: ngs.alliance@gmail.com. Please ensure that your original image(s) have a resolution of at least 300 dpi.

Entries shall not contain any copyrighted or inappropriate material (that includes but not limited to the following: discrimination based on gender, race, sexual orientation, religion or hatred against any group or individual).

NGS L.O.R. Symposium Roundup

NGS L.O.R. Symposium

Held on 16th January 2012, the 4th NGS Symposium is a student-run symposium that serves as a platform for the family of NGS scholars to present and share ideas.

The main inspiration of the 4th NGS Symposium is the Graduate Student - the life of the student, the research the student undertakes, and the opportunities that await after graduation.

The theme of the symposium is Life, Opportunities, and Research (L.O.R.) This brings us the key aspects of this NGS symposium. NGS L.O.R. featured research and general talks, poster presentations and discussions with members of the industry.

We strive to bring something new to the table by making it relevant and accessible to everyone. Essentially, presenters were advised to share their work to a general audience of diverse research backgrounds.

Keynote

Prof. David G. Fernig from the University of Liverpool graced the event by sharing insights on 'Interdisciplinary research: so what's new?' The focus of his talk was on the proposition that researchers should and must engage in interdisciplinary research if they were to take hold of the reins of their research and innovate. He used many personal experiences in his thought-provoking and entertaining address.

Presentations

This year, we received a total number of 13 presentation submissions. And among these, 10 presentations that were most synchronous with our theme were selected. These talks were divided into 2 main categories, i.e. Talks on Life and Talks on Research.



Flavour 1 - Talks on Life

Introduce your perspective on PhD life, the challenges you face, as well as briefly sharing about what you're doing (or trying to do). This is what the novelty of this year's symposium encouraged. Of course, the presenters have first given an accessible introduction and motivation section to allow audiences to follow through. Nonetheless, this has not stopped them from being creative and giving an interesting and engaging presentation. Highlighting interdisciplinary aspects of both work and life turned out to be a distinguished point in comparison with other speeches. A great example is Jonathan Lee's inspiring debate on 'PhD - Not Perishing hopes and Dreams, but Personal hebetude Development.'

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Flavour 2 - Talks on Research

Speakers mainly introduce their research topic in a nutshell, sharing motivation and significance of their interdisciplinary work. Most of the talks in NGS L.O.R. fell under this category. The full list of speakers is at <http://goo.gl/VhYxb>. Three awards were given out to acknowledge the effort of the presenters. The best presenter award, along with a brand new Amazon Kindle Fire, was presented to the talk with the highest number of votes from the audience.

Poster Presentations

A total number of 16 outstanding poster presentations were displayed at the symposium. The winner of best poster award walked away with an Amazon Kindle. This award was also presented based on the number of votes from the attendees.

Industrial forum

The forum was a new addition to the symposium program this year. It is expected to turn this into

an opportunity for the students to find out more about career options after graduation, both mainstream and alternative, and a chance for them to network with some potential employers. We were honoured to have Mr Lu Yoh Chie (founder of Biosensors International Group Ltd), Dr Adrian Yeo (Deputy Director, School of Chemical and Life Sciences, Singapore Polytechnic), Dr Jonathan Loh (Principal Investigator at Institute of Medical Biology, A*STAR and NGS alumnus) and Dr Koh Wee Shing (Independent Investigator at Institute of High Performance Computing, A*STAR) with us in a roundtable session to share and answer queries on life and opportunities beyond graduate studies. The session itself proved to be rewarding to its attendees, with the experts selflessly elaborating on their expertise and ideas.



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Epilogue

This year's NGS symposium takes another style of trial from its distinguished name with connotation of our integrative graduate studies not only between different disciplines but also among practical life. Many have been learnt by experience and effort, just as how we improve our experiments and study. Therefore, let us encourage ourselves to take such a chance to share, learn and unite together. Lastly, we would like to thank all guests, organizers and participants for making this event a great success!

More photos have been uploaded and shared in the group of NGS Scholar's Alliance on Facebook, links can be found here:

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/ngs.scholars.alliance/photos/>

Video presentations will be uploaded at the following website:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/ngssalliance/videos>.

NGS Awards cum White Coat Ceremony 2012



The NGS awards and White Coat ceremony 2012 is held right after the NGS L.O.R. symposium. The NGS Teaching Commendation Award was presented to NGS Faculty members who have been outstanding and commendable in teaching NGS subjects in the each Academic Year. This year we included the Inaugural NUS Excellent Mentor Award. The recipients for AY 2010/2011 are:

Inaugural NGS Excellent Mentor Award

- Prof Lim Chwee Teck
- Prof Lee Hian Kee
- Prof David Marc Virshup
- Assoc Prof Michael Raghunath

Second NGS Teaching Commendation Award

- Prof Soong Tuck Wah
- Assoc Prof Gavin Dawe
- Assoc Prof Annett Schirmer

The White Coat Ceremony is an event to congratulate NGS scholars who have passed their PhD Qualifying Examination. This is inspired by that the medical schools, which hold this ceremony to commemorate the graduation of aspiring scientists. For more pictures of the event, please refer to the corresponding photo album of our NGSSA administrator account on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/media/albums/?id=1010331370>

Induction Day – January 2012



NGS hosted the AY 2011/2012 January Intake Induction day on 6th January 2012 at the Center of Life Sciences. This time round, we welcomed 14 students and introduced the official NGS buddy system. The day started with welcome addresses by NGS Executive Director Professor Philip Keith Moore and Deputy Executive Director Professor Ding Jeak Ling. Professor Ding went on to brief the new students on academic-related matters. Of course, information on coursework, scholarship matters, as well as settling-in information was provided by our NGSSA members. Anyone in need of this information can always refer to our NGSSA webpage at: <http://ngssa.weebly.com/3/post/2011/08/presentation-slides-for-induction-day.html/>

After these talks, the new scholars were designated to meet their pre-assigned senior students. During the refreshment session, the senior students gave valuable advice and shared their personal experience with regards to NGS scholars' life.

NGSSA would like to thank the participants for making this event successful. We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the newly enrolled scholars to the NGS family once again!



NGS Buddy System

Whenever a new semester approaches, NGS welcomes freshmen to the big family. Due to the diversity nature of NGS, students might find it difficult to adapt at early stages of their PhD life. Moreover, interactions among NGS students often do not go beyond the Induction Day. For these reasons, NGS introduces the NGS Buddy System. Under this system, senior students who had been through the same can offer valuable advice, either in administration, academic and social life, to the freshmen.

To encourage participation in this program, a maximum of 10 hours can be counted in fulfilment of the 40 hours of the NGS teaching requirements. Senior students, especially those in Year 2 or 3, are encouraged to serve as senior buddies to the freshmen. Generally, freshmen will be matched to senior students based on (i) area of research, (ii) same gender, (iii) freshmen located at RI will have

seniors stationed at NUS. Senior students are required to meet with the freshman at least 3 times per semester. At the end of the semester, both the senior student and freshman are to submit the Buddy Feedback Report.

For more information and guidelines on the NGS coursework requirements and the new NGS Buddy system, please refer to the following websites:

http://www.nus.edu.sg/ngs/course_reqd.html
or

[http://www.nus.edu.sg/ngs/current_students/SOP-Guidelines for NGS Buddy System.pdf](http://www.nus.edu.sg/ngs/current_students/SOP-Guidelines%20for%20NGS%20Buddy%20System.pdf)

The Buddy Feedback Report can be downloaded at:

[http://www.nus.edu.sg/ngs/ngs_forms/Buddy_Feedback form.pdf](http://www.nus.edu.sg/ngs/ngs_forms/Buddy_Feedback_form.pdf)

PHD Movie Screening



NGSSA and other student communities in NUS jointly organized screening for The PHD movie on the 8th December 2011. (<http://www.phdcomics.com/movie/index.php>)

The picture on the left shows the eager faces at LT27 before the movie began.

Do check out our Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/groups/ngs.scholars.alliance/> regularly for more of such events in the future.

Upcoming Events

Cycling Event

Fellow scholars, the NGSSA is organizing a cycling trip! It will be held at East Coast Park, one of the nicest and most enjoyable parks of Singapore to hang out. We will meet at the Central Forum at NUS before taking SBS Bus No. 30 to head directly to the park. Once we are there, we will rent bicycles and go ahead exploring the park and its surroundings together. There are plenty of outlets to eat and drink around the park, so we can have lunch there. Apart from there we should be taking a scenic trip up towards Changi and cycle next to the airport runway.

Date: 14 April, Saturday
 Meeting time: 9:30 AM
 Meeting point: Forum (under Central Library), NUS
 What to bring: Comfortable clothes and shoes, money for bike rental and lunch

For more information, please join our Facebook Event:
<http://www.facebook.com/events/192600270856925/>

Other Upcoming Events

In May 2012, NGSSA hopes to organize a Career Forum to prepare present and graduating scholars for the path ahead.

In June 2012, we also hope to create a Durian Feast outing. Do join us to savour this infamous fruit of the tropics.

NGSSA is recruiting!!

NGS Scholars' Alliance (NGSSA) is recruiting NEW members. We urge you to take a step forward and volunteer your services in one of our three main committees: Communications, Scholar Development, and Social Welfare.

If you want to be part of the new team or wish to find out more on how you could contribute, please contact Ms. Irene Chuan from the NGS office at ngscic@nus.edu.sg

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

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