NUS Real Estate undergraduates winner of Wisma Atria Case Competition 2017!

The Wisma Atria Case Competition 2017 has concluded on Thursday (28 Sep). Out of the 6 finalist teams, 3 were from SMU and 3 from NUS.

We are proud to announce that the winning team comprised none other than our NUS Real Estate undergraduate Year 2 students – Low Meijun, Tong You Xin and a BBA Year 2 student. The winning team will receive a cash prize of $3000 + $500 Wisma Atria gift vouchers. The runner-up team was also NUS Real Estate student – Angeline Chua (Year 4) and a BBA (Year 4) student. They walked away with $2000 cash prize + $500 Wisma Atria gift vouchers. An attachment opportunity is also open to the finalists.

The topic of the case competition was for teams to come up with strategies to help Wisma Atria reposition their image and branding in their retail property. The competition is open to all students from NTU, SMU and NUS.

Congratulations to the winning teams and our real estate students, you have made NUS Real Estate proud!

Winning Team – (from right) Tong You Xin, Low Meijun, Calvin Wee

Article by Candy Tan
Department of Real Estate
School of Design & Environment
29 September 2017
ULI Networking Night 2017

It’s ULI Networking Night on Thursday evening! In this 4th edition, the event is held at the Alchemist Beer Lab at South Beach - a mixed-use development that integrates four historical buildings with Grade A office space, luxury residences, F&B, retail and a designer hotel with club facilities.

Our real estate undergraduates were there early to soak in the atmosphere and started the ball rolling pretty quickly. They were all excited to meet the ULI young professionals to listen to their sharing and address the burning questions.

It was a night well spent catching up with the industry professionals. Our students look forward to the event every year and has this to share: “The young professionals were very willing to share their experiences and very generous with dishing out advice for us. We had a lot of fun.”

Article by Candy Tan
Department of Real Estate
School of Design & Environment
21 September 2017
The Building and Estate Management Alumni (BEMA) Bursary was set up in 2013 for needy undergraduates from NUS Department of Building (DOB) and Department of Real Estate (DRE) whose families have experienced unexpected changes financially. Each bursary is valued at $5000. To date, BEMA Bursary has helped four undergraduates – two from DOB and two from DRE.

One of the beneficiaries, Ms Goh Qinyu, a Year 3 Real Estate student, is grateful for the timely assistance. "My mum has been struggling with poor health since an accident in 2006, and things took a sharp turn for the worse in 2016. The bursary came as a lifeline, as I could relieve my family of my education fees, with more to spare for my mum's treatment."

On 31 August 2017, BEMA made a $100,000 donation to top-up the BEMA Bursary. Dr Teo Ho Pin, President of BEMA, presented the cheque to the two Heads of Department, Professor Willie Tan from DOB and Professor Deng Yongheng from DRE. Dr Teo commented, "It is heartening to know that the donation from BEMA has made a difference and an impact to young lives with a bright future before them. In our giving, we hope that undergraduates who have benefited will pay it forward in future and make the community a better place for all, especially for the needy and vulnerable."
JTC Case Challenge 2017

After 3 weeks of preparations, today is the Finals of the JTC Case Challenge held at the JTC Summit!

The 1st and 2nd prize went to Team Ellie & Co. (Jonathan Lee, Lee Chin & Ellie Yee) and Team TXY (Amanda Lim, Charis Tan & Toh Wei Ni) respectively. Both teams are undergraduate students from NUS Real Estate, while the 3rd place was awarded to NTU. A panel of distinguished judges from JTC Corporation have evaluated the teams based on their creativity, feasibility and presentation.

All teams were required to propose new features and amenities to be implemented in JTC Launchpad, with the intent to create a more vibrant, dynamic and innovative workplace for the companies in the estate. The judges were impressed by the winning team’s creative concept and ideas showcased through their wonderfully prepared slides.

From a total of 75 teams, the top 5 teams were shortlisted to present their plans to the judges in the finals. Out of the shortlisted teams, 3 of them were represented by NUS Real Estate. The top 3 winning teams walked away with cash prizes of $3000, $2000, and $1000 respectively. 2 consolation teams also received cash prizes of $500 each. Outstanding participants may also be offered internship, scholarship or graduate opportunities!

After the challenge, all participants were brought on a tour of the new-concept offices in JTC Summit.

The JTC Case Challenge is open to all students currently pursuing their undergraduate studies at the local universities.

1st prize: Team Ellie & Co. (Jonathan Lee, Lee Chin & Ellie Yee)
2nd prize: Team TXY (Toh Wei Ni, Amanda Lim & Charis Tan), with one of the judges - Director (3rd from right) of JTC Launchpad

One of top 5 Team: Team JAM (Ong Jiamin, Alison Lee, Mok Zhuang Ying)

Article by Candy Tan
Department of Real Estate
School of Design & Environment
08 September 2017
Congratulations to Professor Ong Seow Eng

Prof Ong Seow Eng’s paper entitled “Are REIT Investors Overly Optimistic after Equity Offerings? Evidence from Analyst Forecast Errors” was selected as the best paper presented at the American Real Estate Society (ARES) Annual Meeting in San Diego in April 2017, in the Real Estate Finance category. The paper was co-authored with Dr Hendrik Devos.
Internship Firm: Ascendas-Singbridge

“I was mainly assisting the Real Estate Development and Services department to streamline their Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for projects across all countries. Besides, another project that I was involved in was formulating an excel spreadsheet that auto-tabulates the score (similar to CONQAS) to increase efficiency and to standardise across projects. I also had the opportunity to attend meetings relating to their development project in Korea which is still in the initial stage of design and obtaining authorities approval.

The streamlining of SOP has enabled me to gain a deeper understanding of the whole Real Estate Value Chain, which is far more detailed compared to what the curriculum offers. This exposes me to the Project Management side and broadened my knowledge on top of what was taught in Real Estate. Furthermore, the meetings I attended has allowed me to learn much more beyond the books, particularly on how issues are solved in the real world.

The most valuable soft skill that I gained from the internship was leadership – being more proactive and taking charge of tasks that were assigned to me.”

- Yap Mei Xuen
NUS-HKU Future City Summit 2017 (2 – 6 August)

On Thursday, the NUS-HKU Future City Summit was held at The University of Hong Kong. Resonating with the major trends, the summit seeks to explore 4 major issues of megacities – Smart Technology, Sustainability and Green Living, Entrepreneurship & Development and Humanitarian Affairs.

In partnership with HKU, a group of 10 NUS Real Estate students organised 2 panel forums on Smart Technology – ICT as problem solvers in contemporary megacities; and Humanitarian Affairs – Neighbourhood development and management. Our students led the forums and sat in as panellists with senior management executives from leading companies. They include Mr Zhu Baoquan, Senior Vice-President, CEO of Property Service Business Headquarters, China Vanke Co. Ltd; Mr Joel Lim, Technology Advisory Leader of EY Advisory Practice; Mr Daniel Chun, General Manager & EVP of Market Innovations, Remotec Technology Ltd; and Professor Deng Yongheng, Head of Department of Real Estate, NUS.

Both panels had very insightful discussions on how innovations in new technology creates impact on traditional industry/businesses and eventually transforms the use of real estate. The panel forums were well-
attended by delegates from around the world namely, Japan, Malaysia, Taiwan, Philippines, Cambodia, Germany, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Netherlands, China, etc.

At the Humanitarian Affairs panel, a real estate undergraduate student, Stuart Siew also spoke about his local and overseas community service experience. Fellow panellists from the industry were very impressed with our students’ knowledge and contributions.
High Table Dinner with HKU Vice-President and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) Professor Ian Holliday (3rd from left, front row) and Master of St John’s College HKU, Dr. Eric Chong (4th from left, front row), and Head, Dept of Real Estate NUS, Professor Deng Yongheng (3rd from right, front row).
**About Future City Summit 2017**

Future City Summit 2017 is a five-day international academic program held in Hong Kong. It is an international curation with a group of young leaders from the University of Hong Kong since 2016 on future city developments. The summit has received much support from universities in the region during its inaugural run last year, and Future City Summit endeavours to generate a greater impact this year through its collaboration with NUS Real Estate.

Article by Candy Tan  
Department of Real Estate  
School of Design & Environment  
6 August 2017
Our congratulations to Prof Heng Chye Kiang & Assoc Prof Yu Shi Ming for receiving the National Day Awards 2017.
NUS Real Estate undergraduates emerged winner of MSIG Insurance Risk Management Challenge (RMC) 2017

At the MSIG Insurance Risk Management Challenge (RMC) that concluded on 11 March this year, the winning team is none other than our NUS real estate Year 2 students – Sammel Yeo, Tong Lok Lam, Loh Yi Min and Pearlie Ting. The team also walked away with a cash prize of $3000.

The teams were issued a case study of BuildingSG, a fictitious company vested in property development and retail malls management and asked to do a risk assessment on the company’s upcoming plans to remain on a positive growth trajectory, in the face of thinning profit margins and a downward trend in sales and revenue.

RMC finalists were judged based on their understanding and appreciation of the case, their analysis and thought process, how they arrived at their conclusion, and presentation of their report, including how they handled judges’ questions.

The winning team beat 40 teams, made up of 143 participants from various local universities. Judges were impressed by its efforts to understand the industry, proposing solutions with their professional slides.

The case competition is organised by the Nanyang Technological University’s (NTU) Risk Management Society (RMS). This year, RMC was sponsored by MSIG, Bank of America, Merrill Lynch, BDO, Dun & Bradstreet, KPMG and the Singapore Commercial Credit Bureau.

Photo credit: Asia Insurance Review

Article by Candy Tan
Department of Real Estate
School of Design & Environment
14 June 2017
NUS Real Estate Information Session cum High-tea Reception 2017

On Saturday afternoon (13 May 2017), about 250 prospective students and parents attended the NUS Real Estate Information Session cum High-tea Reception held at Ngee Ann Kong Si Auditorium, University Town, NUS.

The day started with Professor Deng Yongheng, Head of Department, welcoming the prospective students and family members. Associate Professor Liao Wen-Chi, Deputy Head (Academic), then spoke about the exciting world of Real Estate. During the alumni dialogue session moderated by Professor Joseph Ooi, a couple of our Real Estate alumni who are now at various top organisations such as GIC, JP Morgan, Knight Frank, Standard Chartered Bank, Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS) and URA shared generously on their experiences and even offered valuable advice to the prospective students. A group of our undergraduate real estate student volunteers have also turned up to support the event by helping to answer the burning questions the parents and prospective students had.
Many of the prospective students and parents were impressed by the scope of the BSc (Real Estate) programme and the plethora of career opportunities available for our real estate graduates.

We are looking forward to welcoming all of them in the new Academic Year 2017.

Article by Candy Tan
Department of Real Estate
School of Design & Environment
May 2017
Student presentation on Town Council Management

20 teams of Year 3 real estate students presented their findings and recommendations on 20 different topics on town council management last Thursday. This is part of a project done by students reading the module Residential Property Management. A panel of 3 judges from the senior management of township management company – EM Services Pte Ltd were present and evaluated all 20 teams. Out of which, 3 teams emerged as winners and received cash prizes kindly sponsored by EM Services Pte Ltd. CEO of EM Services, Mr Tony Khoo, who is also one of the panel judges presented the cash prizes to the winning teams.

“This year’s topics are much more interesting and I am happy to see so many teams presenting their excellent work.” said Mr Tony Khoo in his closing speech. Associate Professor Yu Shi Ming, who teaches the module has also commented that he is impressed by the quality of work presented by the teams. Students have found the module very useful as they have learned so much about town council management and the important roles that a managing agent play.

Assoc. Prof Yu (left) with 1st prize winning team and Mr Tony Khoo (right)

Article contributed by Candy Tan
Department of Real Estate, SDE
Our team of real estate undergraduates was awarded 3rd place at the annual USC International Real Estate Competition 2017 last Saturday. Many were impressed by the excellent work put up by the NUS Real Estate team. Congratulations to the team – Tian Feng, Wei Jie, Irene, Zhong Yi, Brandon and Samson, you did us proud!
Date: 5 April 2017

Congratulations Marcus Lee 李俊纬, our final year NUS Real Estate undergraduate on winning the Singapore leg! We are so proud of you and all the best to you in the next round of competition in China!


Source: Straits Times
Our annual Open Day was held at University Town on Saturday, 11 March 2017. Students dropped by and experienced our campus vibrancy, and chat with professors and students about the exciting world of NUS Real Estate.

Date: 28 Feb 2017

Congratulations to the following faculty members who have received the School Teaching Excellence Award for AY 2015/2016: They are Dr Lee Kwan Ok, Dr Masaki Mori, Dr Seah Kiat Ying & Dr Grace Wong.

Congratulations to Dr Grace Wong who has been awarded the NUS Annual Teaching Excellence Award (ATEA) for AY 2015-2016. The award is given by the University to recognize faculty members who have demonstrated a high level of commitment to, and achievement of, good teaching.
Dr Malone-Lee Lai Choo is appointed by the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) as a member of the farming industry consultation panel for one year starting from 16 January 2017.

Congratulations! Professor Heng Chye Kiang, Lum Chang Professor in SDE, receives a MND Medallion for Distinguished Service from Minister Lawrence Wong in recognition and appreciation of his valuable contributions as Board Member of Building and Construction Authority.

Congratulations! Assoc. Prof Yu Shi Ming receives a MND Medallion for Distinguished Service from Minister Lawrence Wong in recognition and appreciation of his valuable contributions as Chairman of Examination and Professional Development Committee and Member of the Council for Estate Agencies.

Congratulations to Associate Professor Joseph Ooi who has been promoted to Full Professor in recognition of his significant contributions in education, research and service in the field of real estate and beyond.
A visit by a group of students and two professors from Faculty of Geoinformation and Real Estate, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia to the Department of Real Estate, NUS.
World Cities Summit 2016

The World Cities Summit 2016 in July was held at Marina Bay Sands Singapore. This was jointly organized by Singapore's Centre for Liveable Cities and the Urban Redevelopment Authority.

At the summit, distinguished city leaders discuss important issues regarding urbanization. The city mayors and planners shared strategies they have adopted and the challenges they face while planning a sustainable city.

As one of the liaison officers of the event, we hold a key role in assisting the foreign guests during their 5 days’ stay in Singapore. We have to attend to their queries and plan their accommodation and transportation in Singapore. We also helped to bridge the network between different city leaders and coordinate meetings for them with potential partners. During our free time, we had the precious opportunity to sit in and listen to the discussions. By listening, we learnt the most. This year’s summit aligns focus on urban and social innovation and public private partnership to build resilient cities.

I am very appreciative of the opportunity provided by the Department of Real Estate to be part of the World Cities Summit 2016 and it was definitely one of the highlights from my summer break 2016.
The network of friends that I had managed to build is priceless and I am immensely grateful for that. It is very important for young leaders like us to be involved in such discussions in order to understand the concerns of many world leaders. This makes me more interested in building a more resilient city in the future. I am excited as many cities continue to grow and overcome the challenges they face.

Article contributed by Charline Choo Zhi Xi, Undergraduate Year 3, (BSc Real Estate)

Edited by Candy Tan