NUS Real Estate emerged Champion at the CoreNet Global Academic Challenge 4.0!

We are proud to announce that our Real Estate undergraduate students representing NUS has won the CoreNet Global Academic Challenge 4.0 held at Boston, USA from 14-17 October 2018.

The team comprises Real Estate final year students, Dayna Ang Hui Shan, Loh Yi Min, Tan Yi Jun Vanessa and Tong Lok Lam, who will receive US$5,000 prize money and a complimentary student membership at CoreNet Global.

The team beat 2 other finalist teams from Temple University and University of South Carolina in the finals to emerge Champion. The 3 finalist teams were earlier shortlisted from a list of competing institutions from all over the globe. The competition is open to all students (undergraduate/graduate, full-time/part-time) who are registered at a recognized university.

“The team worked tirelessly and enthusiastically during the hackathon to prepare a most convincing case presentation. At the competition, the team presented a confident and eloquent performance with a well-conceived and beautifully designed set of powerpoint slides. As faculty advisor, I am very pleased with the team’s amazing teamwork and conscientious work attitude, and am extremely proud of their well-deserved achievement.”, noted Dr. Grace Wong, faculty advisor who accompanied the team to Boston.

Congratulations to the team on their achievement!

By Candy Tan
Department of Real Estate
School of Design & Environment
29 Oct 2018
The Department is pleased to welcome Mr. Felix Lim, Head of Architecture, Exyte. An architect by training, Felix is also our MSc (Real Estate) alumni. Armed with both skills, he has delivered an interesting talk focused on his personal pro bono school project in Cambodia that he has passionately been involved in for the past 10 years.

There are many lessons Felix has accumulated from his project in Cambodia. From building a school from scratch, working with the local community and authorities, funding, etc. An important point he has highlighted when working on such projects in the foreign country, is to “un-learn and re-learn. Do not assume you know best. Respect the locality.”

More information on the school can be found at https://www.facebook.com/sangkhimcanaanschool/.

This is part of the Nurturing Young Leaders Talk series brought to you jointly by NUS Institute of Real Estate Studies, Dept of Real Estate and BEMS society.

Article contributed by Candy Tan
Department of Real Estate
School of Design & Environment
5 Oct 2018
The 2nd EdgeProp Singapore Excellence Awards Gala Night was held on Wednesday, 3 Oct, at The Fullerton Hotel. Associate Professor Yu Shi Ming, Head of Department of Real Estate NUS, is one of six judges for the awards. He is also the only returning judge this year.

The awards are set out to recognise the best property players in Singapore. This has been carried out in the belief that the quantitative attributes of a developer alone is not sufficient to earn it the title of an outstanding player.

Full list of 2018 Winners are available here: http://awards.edgeprop.sg/2018-winners

Issue on 2018 Winners are available for download here: https://www.edgeprop.sg/pullout/the-edge-property/15-oct-2018

Article by Candy Tan
Department of Real Estate
School of Design & Environment
5 Oct 2018
Updated 17 Oct 2018
On Wednesday (19 Sep 2018), we held the popular annual ULI-NUS Networking Night at Canvas Boat Quay. In this 5th edition, we have introduced a new format – speed mentoring where students get the opportunity to speak with several mentors within an hour. Thereafter, the floor is open for all to mingle freely.

For many years now, this has been one of the opportunities for our alumni to catch up with their peers as well as their juniors, at the same time get to know more senior industry professionals. The students look forward to this event every year. Many of whom were eager to learn from the mentors’ experiences and to solicit advice.
The Singapore WSH Conference 2018 is a symposium that highlights Vision Zero, a movement that aims to inculcate a mindset that all injuries and ill health at work are preventable as well as a belief that zero harm is possible. Youth Symposium 6 is one of the programmes within the conference which involves youths from diverse backgrounds sharing their perspectives such as total WSH, how technology helps reduce incidents at workplace and how to build a culture of health and safety.

One of the topics which resonated strongly with me was regarding how millennials are in a dilemma of choosing between social life, academics and sleep, with the latter usually being the one of least priority. I am also guilty of this offence, due to the fear of missing out on numerous activities such as extracurricular activities, social gatherings and studies. As mentioned by the first speaker, Ms Jasmine Tan from NUS, having a sleep deprivation is detrimental to our health because we will be more prone to binge eating and have lesser focus, which thereby increases our risks to injuries. Taking the speaker’s experience as an example, Ms Jasmine’s perpetual sleep deprivation has ended up with stitches on her knee due to a fall into a drain while on a bicycle. She reiterated that it is important to have a balanced lifestyle through proper time management.

Technology is being harnessed to improve the safety, health and wellbeing in the workplace. The use of Virtual Reality (VR), Augmented Reality (AR), Artificial Intelligence (AI), drones and automation are increasingly being adopted in the workplace. For instance, real working environments can be simulated with the help of VR. In order to familiarise workers to new processes, VR can be used to simulate real working environments, which further reduces the exposure to risks. Singpost Ecommerce Logistics Hub houses a fully automated parcel sorting facility which reduces the reliance of manual pick-up from racks. This is beneficial because the repetitive exertions and rapid motion from workers will be eliminated. According to WSH Report 2017, musculoskeletal disorder has an incidence rate of 23.6% per 100,000 employed persons. In hopes that with adopting automation, the situation can be improved. While these advancements generate a safer work environment and promote the well-being of workers, obsolete jobs will be superceded. It is therefore important for workers to be equipped with higher skill sets, be adaptable, have an open mind, and keep up with latest technologies.
Culture influences how safety is perceived. It is important to inculcate the value of safety starting from home and school, which will then be transferred into the workplace. Often, many people view safety as a mandatory obligation, instead of an inclination. The mindset of ‘this will not happen to me’ is prevalent among individuals, which exposes them to unnecessary risks. However, injuries can happen to anyone, anywhere and anytime. The lack of understanding and awareness of danger, and its consequences, increases the chances of injuries. Only through proper education, a shift in mindset as well as good awareness and practice at home can a culture of safety be fostered.

I strongly recommend that future undergraduates participate in future symposiums of this nature as I believe that they will gain valuable insights. Attending the WSH Symposium was an eye-opening and thought-provoking experience for me, as I have learnt that WSH not only revolves around the workplace, but also involves our surrounding environment and most importantly, it starts with the individual to cultivate a mindset of safety.

The Workplace Safety and Health Council ("WSHC") has invited students from SDE to join the Youth Symposium, held in conjunction with the biennial Workplace Safety and Health Conference 2018: Transforming for the Future - Healthy Workforce, Safe Workplaces.

By Koh Jun Li, Year 3 Real Estate undergraduate
Edited by Candy Tan
Department of Real Estate
School of Design & Environment
2018
The Department is very pleased to have established a new student exchange agreement for undergraduate students with Partner University – Shanghai University of Finance and Economics (SUFE), School of Public Economics and Administration.

Professor Lam Khee Poh, Dean of School of Design & Environment, NUS, was accompanied by Associate Professor Yu Shi Ming, Head of Department of Real Estate and Associate Professor Tu Yong, Deputy Head (Research), at the MOU signing ceremony held on 25 May 2018 in Shanghai, China.
Article by SUFE: http://spea.shufe.edu.cn/5b/e4/c538a89060/page.htm

Article by Candy Tan
Department of Real Estate
School of Design & Environment
31 May 2018
NUS Real Estate Information Session and High-tea Reception 2018

It was a full house on Saturday afternoon (19 May 2018). About 340 prospective students and parents attended the NUS Real Estate Information Session and High-tea Reception held at Shaw Foundation Alumni House, NUS.

Head of Department, Associate Professor Yu Shi Ming, welcomed the prospective students and family members. Followed by a presentation by Dr. Seah Kiat Ying Sky, Deputy Head (Academic), who spoke about the exciting world of Real Estate.

This year, we are very honoured to have lined up a panel of 8 distinguished alumni for the Real Estate Information Session. The panelists include:

- Mr. Augustine Tan, Executive Director of Property Services Division, Far East Organisation;
- Mr. Chia Ngiang Hong, Group General Manager of City Developments Ltd;
- Ms. Chong Siak Ching, CEO of National Gallery Singapore;
- Mr. Gerard Lee, CEO of Lion Global Investors Ltd;
- Ms. Lynette Leong, CEO of CapitaLand Commercial;
During the alumni dialogue session moderated by A/Prof Yu, our panel of distinguished alumni shared candidly about how they came to decide on their university course and how well the choice turned out to be for them. We found out that their experiences were not very different from what many prospective students are experiencing nowadays. “I was a confused kid”, confessed some of the panelists. Eventually, none of them regretted their choices. The camaraderie among the panelists were also clearly on display during the light-hearted 1.5-hour session.

Many of the prospective students and parents were also impressed by the plethora of career opportunities available for our real estate graduates both locally and overseas. “Real estate is multi-disciplinary” said Ms Leong. Ms Chong added that “The skill sets I’d acquired allowed me to adapt and transcend easily, when I moved into the arts scene.”
We are looking forward to welcoming the new cohort in August 2018!

Article by Candy Tan
Department of Real Estate
School of Design & Environment
May 2018
On 19 April, 16 teams of Year 3 real estate students presented their findings on 16 town councils, where they were divided into 4 zones. Students had to present their findings based on the designated 4 areas of assessment – Physical, People, Finance and Organisation.

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 teams. Out of which, 3 teams emerged as winners and received cash vouchers kindly sponsored by EM Services Pte Ltd. The top team presented on People, Central zone. CEO of EM Services, Mr Tony Khoo, presented the prizes to the winning teams.

“You have all done very well. As part of the industry transformation roadmap, the sector will be more exciting in the future. I hope that you will consider facilities management as your career choice.” said Mr Tony Khoo in his closing speech. Associate Professor Yu Shi Ming, who teaches the module has also commented that he is very happy with 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.

Article contributed by Candy Tan
Department of Real Estate, SDE
25 April 2018
NUSS Professor Marlon Boarnet delivered an informative lecture Thursday, 15 March 2018 at the NUS Kent Ridge Guild House on the topic “The city as experiment – How smart cities and big data can allow urban planners to experiment and innovate”. The power of telecommunication and big data has brought forth many opportunities to revolutionise the process of urban planning in cities.

He also shared through the example of transportation, on how smart technologies can be used to build a tradition of experimentation, evaluation and learning in times of rapid change.

Professor Marlon’s visit is hosted by the Department of Real Estate, School of Design & Environment.

Marlon Boarnet is Professor and Chair of the Department of Urban Planning and Spatial Analysis at the Price School of Public Policy at the University of Southern California. He has studied how transportation planning can reduce greenhouse gas emissions to promote healthier, liveable cities. Professor Boarnet is also an advisor to U.S. agencies as well as the World Bank.

CoreNet Global Academic Challenge 3.0

Our RE students, Mah Poh Ee Year 3, were one of three teams at the finals held from 13 – 15 March 2018 at The Ritz-Carlton, Millennia.
Nurturing Young Leaders Lecture Series: Corporate Real Estate A ‘Real World’ Overview

Speaker:
Mr Ching Meng-Cheng, Regional Director for Workplace and Travel Services, Unilever

Date: 22nd Feb 2018

On 22th February, BSc (Estate Management) alumni, Mr Ching Meng-Chew from Unilever’s Corporate Real Estate division gave us a sneak peek into the importance and roles of Corporate Real Estate (CRE). He spoke on how CRE plays a significant role in providing conducive working environment, creating new business opportunities, spearheading the company’s long-term agenda, and managing risks, especially in major businesses and corporations such as Unilever, from an end to end delivery standpoint.

Read more here: https://sdebems.wordpress.com/.

Article contributed by Building and Estate Management Society (BEMS), NUS
Compiled and edited by Candy Tan
Department of Real Estate
School of Design & Environment
1 March 2018
"The National University of Singapore (NUS) … is the top ranking university for the third straight year …. The continued reign of NUS at the top of the rankings is not surprising given the number of authors NUS has in the top 34. In addition to having a large number of publications and productive faculty, the authorship of the publications reveals authors at the beginning of their careers, in addition to existing faculty with well-established research productivity." (p. 332)


1 Feb 2018
The Homer Hoyt Institute has inducted Assoc. Prof. Sing Tien Foo as a Fellow of the prestigious Weimer School of Advanced Studies in Real Estate and Land Economics (USA) in January 2018. Most Weimer School Fellows are faculty members in major university real estate programs and researchers with organizations such as the American Enterprise Institute, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, U.S. League of Savings Institutions, and the Joint Center for Housing Studies/Harvard University.

25 January 2018