

Welcome Home, CAPTains!

Welcome CAPT Freshmen – and welcome back, Seniors!

This Semester, we have an exciting lineup of learning and growth opportunities:

- A new Junior Seminar on *Our Common Nature: Communities, Conservation, and Connection*, taught by Dr Debby Ng
- A new Reading Group on *Intergenerational Futures*, led by Dr Kankana Mukhopadhyay and Ms P. Keerthana, Founder & Overall Lead, GenLab Collective
- SFI study trip to Indochina, led by Dr Joelle Lai & Ms Angie Tan
- A Reading Group on *Family Histories in Global Context*, led by yours truly
- Plus our existing offerings: Junior & Senior Seminars, Capstones, Independent Study Courses (ISCs), and Undergraduate Learning Opportunities (UROPs)

You can also read about our recent SFI Thailand study trip, STEER Botswana internships, and past Summer Community Internships. And do please join me in congratulating our RC Scholarship and Honour Roll awardees.

Assoc Prof Daniel Jew
Director of Studies, Aug 2026



Dr Jew with past & present Dragon student leaders

NEW JUNIOR SEMINAR:

UTC1424 Our Common Nature: Communities, Conservation, and Connection

Dr Debby Ng



Our Common Nature: Communities, Conservation, and Connection explores how human and ecological wellbeing are intertwined. Through weekly discussions, films, and short readings, students learn how conservation, culture, and community health intersect in everyday life. Hands-on field activities and creative projects encourage students to observe nature in urban spaces, from campus courtyards to coastal mangroves. Working in small groups, they reflect on how personal choices shape shared environments and communicate their discoveries through storytelling and visual media. The course introduces foundational ideas in ecology, sustainability, and social responsibility, drawing links between science and the arts to imagine more compassionate, creative approaches to conservation and coexistence in an urbanising world.

Find out more on Junior Seminars, visit

<https://capt.nus.edu.sg/current-students/utcp/junior-seminars>

NEW READING GROUP: ***Intergenerational Futures***



A collaboration between GenLab Collective, a registered social impact organisation, and NUS CAPT, this reading group series combines scholarly literature with hands-on practical design thinking approaches to help students bridge generational gaps and co-create innovative, community-based well-being initiatives for older adults.

From 14 September | 7.30-9.30pm | SR4

Contact: Dr Kankana Mukhopadhyay (kankana.m@nus.edu.sg)

Schedule

Week 6 (14 and 15 September 2026), Week 8 (5 October 2026), Week 9 (12 October 2026), Week 10 (19 October 2026), Week 11 (26 October 2026), Week 12 (2 November 2026)
There will be a field trip on Saturday, date to be confirmed.

CAPT HONOUR ROLL

The College is pleased to announce the CAPT Honour Roll for AY2025/2026. The Honour Roll recognises CAPTains who have contributed consistently to UTCP courses, helping to create a vibrant learning environment within the classroom.

Master's Honour Roll	
Lim Zhi Han, Brandon Lim Zi Jie Stevson Sim Zhi Yu Jerlene	
Honour Roll	
'Alya Humaira Binte Muhammad Hafiz Christine Liu Hongzhi Fan Siew Ning Kieron Benedict Oei Jun Jie	Lee Bing Lun @ Shang Leng Lee Si Xiang Noah Seethor Layang Oh Yi Hui Eliora Ting Ze Si, Adrina

To find out more about the **CAPT Honour Roll**, visit: <https://capt.nus.edu.sg/capt-honour-roll>

RESIDENTIAL COLLEGES SCHOLARSHIPS

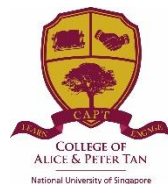
The RC Scholarships recognise academic excellence amongst students who provide intellectual leadership in the College's formal and informal curricula. Congratulations to the successful applicants for AY2026/2027.

• Ang Jayden • Anthia Ng Xinyi • Caleb Anasarias Chew Soon Lee • Gabrielle Ong Zhi Xuan • Gabrielle Teng Jia Hui • Lee Jia Xuan Kirsten	• Muthukumar Kriti • Prasanna Ranjana • Raelyn Yap • Samuel Ong Jie En • Tan Shih Han • Tricia Tan Le Xuan • Wang Yujie
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To find out more about **available scholarships**, visit:

<https://osa.nus.edu.sg/accommodation/hostel-options/#hostel-options-tab-2>

the academic bulletin



UTC2501 Community Internship FEATURES AY2025/2026 Special Term

Partner Organisation: Ray of Hope

Supervisor: Dr Toh Tai Chong

Students: Gabriel Cheong and Sharleen Lim



Over two months at Ray of Hope, a Singapore charity blending crowdfunding with casework, our paths took different directions. One led us into a pilot programme for a rental flat community in Marsiling, where building client profiles and figuring out vulnerability tiers taught us that a proposal for a vulnerable community cannot just look good on paper: it has to work for complex, real cases. The other led us into grant writing and donor engagement, securing \$50,000 for youths with autism facing the "post-18 cliff" into employment. Different paths, same lesson: impact is built up close, not planned from a desk.

Partner Organisation: TalentTrust

Supervisor: Dr Toh Tai Chong

Students: Nicholas Tan and Janice Chung

As a "charity for charities," TalentTrust gave us insight into the organisational and strategic challenges many non-profits face - from finance to marketing and communications to human resources. TalentTrust acts as a bridge, helping non-profits, whether struggling or thriving, identify and address these issues.

Our internship broadened our understanding of non-profits beyond their programmes and volunteering opportunities. It revealed that, much like for-profit organisations, non-profits rely heavily on strong business fundamentals to function effectively.



STEER Botswana: 13 to 27 May 2026

As part of NUS' Study Trips for Engagement and EnRichment (STEER) programme, 24 CAPTains embarked on a 14-day trip to Botswana, travelling through Maun and Kasane to explore how conservation, community, and everyday life intersect around the Okavango Delta, a renowned UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Through engagements with organisations such as the Okavango Research Institute, Thari-E-Ntsho Storytellers, and Green Horizons, students got a firsthand look at how communities balance social, economic, and environmental pressures. One recurring tension was between formal conservation institutions and on-the-ground knowledge held by local guides, herders, and community members, that no textbook can quite capture. Students also examined human-wildlife coexistence strategies, including Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM), which works by giving wildlife economic value so that communities are motivated to protect rather than eliminate animals. As one researcher reminded the group, "resources are not, they become," a reminder that communities must first recognise what they have before they can protect it.

If there's one thing that the trip made clear, it's that conservation cannot merely be understood as an isolated environmental effort, but rather as a complex process shaped by relationships between people, ecosystems, economies and knowledge systems which has offered meaningful reflections for Singapore's own sustainability journey.



CAPT Botswana Team with the Okavango Research Institute (ORI).



Engagement with Green Horizons Network



CAPTains at Moremi Game Drive

UTC2420B Sustainability in Southeast Asia: Study Trip to Thailand: 4 to 15 July 2026

A total of 16 CAPTains participated in the Southeast Asia Friendship Initiative (SFI) Special Term course, UTC2420B Sustainability in Southeast Asia: Study Trip to Thailand, embarking on a 12-day experiential learning journey through Nan Province from 4 to 15 July 2026. Prior to the trip, students prepared through Thai language lessons, learning about the history and culture of Nan, class presentations, and a visit to the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum. During the trip, students engaged with researchers, local communities and development practitioners through site visits, community engagement and hands-on activities such as goat milking and tree planting. Students gained first-hand exposure to local agricultural practices and explored how farmers integrate new techniques and scientific knowledge with local practices to promote sustainable agriculture and improve livelihoods. Through interactions with Chulalongkorn University students, they also gained a deeper appreciation of Thai culture and the similarities and differences between Singapore and Thailand, while forming lasting friendships.

