

ECHOES

MBA NEWSLETTER | FROM MBA NEWSLETTER TEAM

2024 February Issue

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From the Newsletter team: Chief Editor's note

By Abhinaya Hari

Dear fellow classmates,

I'm stoked to present the 3rd edition of our Echoes Newsletter, for February 2024. January has gone by within the blink of an eye. It feels like yesterday when I think about New Year's Eve – and I sincerely hope the first month of the year has met your expectations! I've had such a busy month, with lots of learning, moments of fun & laughter and a good time bonding with fellow students.

For this edition, I'm sure you'll love reading about one of the best things that happened to us thus far – NUS winning the MBA Olympics title for 2024! With some special moments shared by our writers, I urge you to congratulate our NUS team when you see them – there are some familiar names there!

Our very own MBA Student Council President Prateek & Vice President Swetha have shared a few important recollections of memorable events, alongside Winn who has also shared some of her conversation excerpts with fellow classmates. Finally, do read some of our students' 2024 resolutions as shared (if you don't have one, do not fret – contact our very own Amanda who wrote this article, for ideas) and have a breezy read of Jack's motivations to join our MBA program from the "Getting to know your cohort" column, covered by our very own Tuhina.

I wish you all a wonderful & a prosperous CNY. Remember: recess week is around the corner, and it's time to take a break!! 😊

Cheers,
Abhi
Assistant Chief Editor, MBA Newsletter Team



The MBA Olympics, 2024: A Day of Glory for NUS MBA!



By Ankit Rajadhyaksha & Soumyadeep Sen

A Roaring Start to the MBA Olympics

On a bright sunny morning, the annual MBA Olympics, hosted by Nanyang Technology University (NTU), kicked off with a dash of humor. The NTU mascot, a vibrant and colorful lion, set the tone for the day with its endearing struggle to navigate the stairs, narrowly avoiding a tumble. Adding to the mirth was a lady who had a bit of a struggle catching her excited Pomeranian that had dashed onto the tracks. The crowd erupted in laughter, their spirits high and ready for the day's events.

The cheerleading squad of NTU took center stage, leading a lively warm-up session that got everyone's adrenaline pumping. The atmosphere was electric, the anticipation palpable. The stage was set for an unforgettable day of a "not-so-friendly" competition.



Photos by Faisal (MBA, FT 2023)

The Shota and Michael Show

The track events, the first of the day, began with the much-anticipated Dean's relay led by Prof. Jochen and the captain of the track events, Vishwa. The air was filled with excitement as the crowd waited with bated breath for the race to begin. The race was so meteoric that our players were flawless in their path to glory (barring a tumble from Aseem, who soldiered through like a true athlete).



Photos by Faisal (MBA, FT 2023)

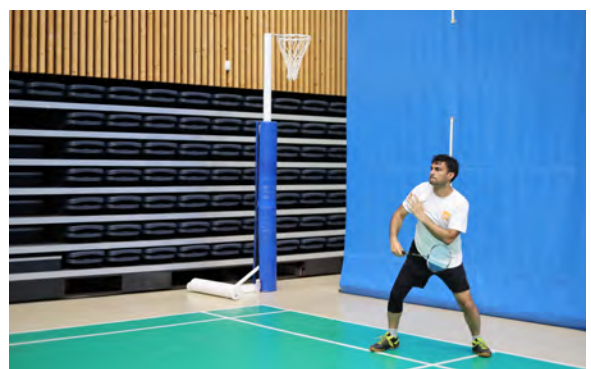
NUS emerged as the undisputed champions of the track events, clinching Gold in the Dean's relay, 100-meter race, and 200-meter race. Our runners, Michael and Shota, were so dominant that they spent half the race looking back and playfully taunting their opponents. Their performance was reminiscent of Usain Bolt's iconic race at the London Olympics, leaving spectators in awe of their prowess.

More Than Just a Game

In the words of the S&W Club President, Ashug, "We triumphed on the field, but more importantly, we have built winning connections with our peers from other schools that will last far beyond the final whistle."

Beyond Perfect Serves: Badminton Triumph Showcases Teamwork and Grit

The next event of the day was badminton, and we swept the medals in all categories. Nothing stole the show quite like the women's singles: Kahyun Kim breezed through her matches, defeating her opponents with ease and grace. She did not drop a single game, nor did she break a sweat, as she claimed the gold medal with a flawless performance. The mixed doubles were the crowd pullers, as they featured some close and thrilling contests. The crowd was on the edge of their seats, cheering every smash and intricate placement by our players, as well as heckling the opponents. The spirit of never giving up was displayed by Mayank, our S&W Club VP, who clinched a bronze despite losing his first game. He fought back with determination and skill, overcoming his initial setback and securing a podium finish.



Photos by Aom (MBA, FT 2023)



Photos by Aom (MBA, FT 2023)



Photo by David Chew (MBA, PT 2021)

Gold, Gold, Gold! Gold Everywhere! NUS Clinches Gold Medals in Table Tennis & Basketball

The next event of the day was table tennis, from which NUS bagged one gold medal and two silvers. The gold was won by Poy, who outplayed her opponents with her speed and accuracy. She was unstoppable, winning every match with a comfortable margin. The silvers were won by the mixed doubles team and Men’s singles by Elliot, who also displayed great skills and resilience in their games. They faced tough competition from the other schools, but they did not give up easily, fighting for every point. NUS was proud of their table tennis stars, who brought home glory.

After a delicious lunch and some traditional Singaporean ice cream sandwiches, our basketball team took the court, ready to dominate the tournament. They were the Dream Team, unbeaten and unstoppable. They looked like a team that was coached by Kobe Bryant himself. CJ and Hiro were hitting three-pointers like Steph Curry, raining down shots from beyond the arc. Liyu Fu was ice cold in her free throws, sinking them with ease and confidence. The rest of the team was equally impressive, playing with great teamwork, defense, and energy.



Photos by Aom (MBA, FT 2023)

The Invincibles!

Last was the Futsal tournament. NUS' group stage games were against SP Jain and NTU. The first game against NTU ended 1-0 in favor of NUS, with the game decided by a neatly taken finish by our treasurer and star midfielder Ankit 🌟🌟🌟.

The second game against S.P. Jain was a masterclass in game management by our captain, Min, who gave all 17 players in the squad an opportunity to play. The S.P. Jain team, coming off a 5-0 defeat at the hands of ESSEC, put on a spirited display but ended up losing the game 1-0 with Hansen Kwok scoring the winning goal.

The 2 victories set up the much-anticipated game against ESSEC, who had won each of their 2 group stage games by 5 goal margins. The first 5 minutes of the game was a cagey affair with our star goalkeeper Zamir Habib and defensive lynchpin Shota organizing the team masterfully to ensure NUS didn't concede. Shota Adachi opened the scoring with a direct goal from a corner kick, beating the goalkeeper from the most acute of angles! While the defense continued to hold their shape, Ryuhei Ikeda, scored the goal of the tournament to put the game to rest. The game ended 3-0 in NUS' favor and NTU's organizing committee needed to reserve 17 goal medals for the Futsal team.

The team ended the tournament without conceding a single goal and were deservedly crowned champions!

Captain and Manager Min proudly said of the team, "I am thrilled and proud of our team for how they performed during the Olympics. We scored some fantastic goals and conceded zero goals. We had overwhelming interest from the cohort to participate in the futsal tournament, which proved to be our biggest advantage."



Photos by Donn (MBA, FT 2023)

A Celebration of Camaraderie and the Indomitable Spirit

The MBA Olympics was not just a day of competition, but a celebration of camaraderie, sportsmanship, and the indomitable spirit of the MBA community. As we look back on this memorable day, we are reminded of the laughter, the triumphs, and the bonds forged on the field. Here's to the champions, the participants, and the unforgettable moments that made the MBA Olympics 2024 a roaring success!



Photos by David Chew (MBA, PT 2021)

NUS #1



Free shoot by basketball star - Liyu!



Starting with some warm-ups



Table tennis team!



Semester 2 Incoming Exchange Orientation

By Swetha Iyer



On January 12, 2024, we welcomed international exchange students at the MBA Lounge with an orientation led by the MBA Programmes Office Exchange Team.

The session delved into cultural immersion as Nicole shared captivating insights about Singapore and NUS. We kickstarted with a game on Kahoot!, breaking down initial barriers among the students.

Professor Jo and Vanessa, from the MBA exchange team, provided essential insights into academic and administrative aspects of the exchange programme. BIZCareers and MBA student council representation took the stage, presenting a kaleidoscope of activities and events, enticing the exchange students to actively participate in the vibrant campus community. The orientation concluded with a brief tour of key school facilities, including MRB, HSS, and BIZ2, offering a glimpse into the enriching academic journey ahead.





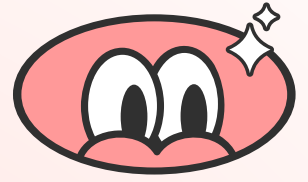
The Inaugural Students' Councils Mixer

By Prateek Puri

The Marmalade Pantry (Downtown) buzzed with energy as past and current Students' Council members across 8 councils gathered for the inaugural mixer on 12 January 2024. Prof. Jo welcomed everyone and emphasized the importance of this community in cultivating a vibrant MBA Ecosystem. The atmosphere ignited with an interactive networking bingo game, sparking lively conversations and connections. Dhea (PT, Aug 2022), Devi (PT, Aug 2023) and Aine (FT, Aug 2023) emerged as the networking bingo winners, being the first three to successfully obtain a full row of correct answers for their bingo card. Pui San from BizAlum then shared exciting plans for the upcoming Alumni Homecoming and extended invitations to all alumni presents. Amidst laughter and camaraderie, the event became a melting pot of fun and meaningful interactions, embodying the spirit of community-building. It was a night where memories were made, and new bonds were forged.



Semester 1's Recollection: MBA Favorites



By Winn Mar Saw

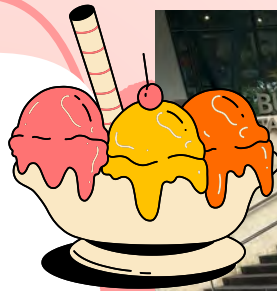
Revisiting beginnings holds a special magic. The MBA's 1st semester isn't just academics; it is friendships forged, challenges embraced, memories etched in our core. In this reflective journey, I had the pleasure of conversing with fellow comrades from 2023 cohort, delving into their memories, encapsulated in short and sweet narratives.



"Hey guys! As we step into the early days of our 2nd semester, I'd love to hear about your **most unforgettable experiences from the 1st semester**. Shower me with your highlights!"

JUNKI (FT 2023)

It was exploring our campus with my 3-year-old son. We had lunch, enjoyed ice cream, and took photos on the stairs in front of MRB. Now he says he wants to go to NUS in the future (I'm not sure whether he's serious lol).



KENT ZHUANG (PT 2023)

I greatly enjoyed the MBA Survival Kit (MSK) in which I got to work with a group of professionals with unique personalities and diverse background. We had as much fun putting our brains together to solve issues as cracking jokes just about anything!



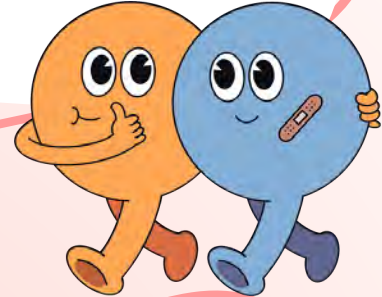
DOMINICO (FT 2023)

It was when I had my BBQ after dragon boat! I randomly join an invite in a group without any expectations but ended up immersing myself to Korean drinking culture.



SUSANTI (FT 2023)

I am pleasantly surprised with NUS MBA Community. From passionate professors that goes beyond classroom to connect with students to fellow MBA students that are selflessly sharing their experience and support.



HIN (CHI SIK HIN, PT 2023)

Associate Professor Winston Kwok makes financial accounting engaging by adding music, short educational videos, and one-time display of SIA pilot costume. While keeping things lively, he ensured a serious approach, effectively guiding students through the subject matter. I'll always remember how he gave us a fun evening in class after a day's busy work!!



GOKUL (PT 2023)

My fondest moment: Tiger Management case during the LYT bootcamp. I was initially jolted by one member of the dedicated union reps during the role-play, then it unexpectedly became funny. It also served as a reminder that real-life situations can be far worse. My second fondest: Prof. Kwok appearing as SIA pilot. Forget boring accounting! His dedication went beyond the usual, making it one of the best classes. His passion for teaching was infectious, and his innovative approach kept everyone glued to their seats. A true inspiration!





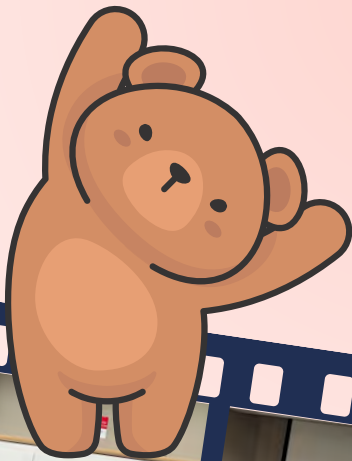
SHOTA (FT 2023)

India GIP! Super-exciting company visits and alumni dinners in the wonderful country India. I really appreciate the GIP leaders, our peers who supported them, and everyone who took part in making it one of my best memories in MBA!



MUHAN (FT 2023)

I love the fascinating insights gained in Operations Analytics class of Professor Joel. His engaging discussions and insightful case studies greatly enriched my understanding of Operations Strategy!



What Are Your 2024 Resolutions?

By Amanda Phan



In this edition, let's delve into the aspirations of our classmates for 2024 and discover how we can support each other in achieving our resolutions. Together, let's make this year one of growth and collaboration!

1. Finish at least 5 books this year.
2. Attain new friendships by making 1-2 new friends or connections every month.
3. Practice guitar at least twice a week.

1. Navigate a path in equity investment by finding an internship in Singapore.
2. Exercise more regularly by swimming 1-2 times/month and joining hiking & cycling events.
3. Expand social circles by making 1-2 new friends or connections per month.

Eron Li (FT 2023)

Donn Mulingtapang, Justinn (FT 2023)

hey



Need a guitarist for your next party? Invite Donn!
Don't have someone to share your love for books with? Ping Donn!
Or simply want to have a new friend? Donn's your guy 😊

We believe that not only Eron but many of us also love to meet new friends, get physically fitter, or pursue a career in equity investment and other related verticals post-MBA. Don't hesitate to join Eron & achieve these goals together!



1. Keep a sharp mind by sleeping before 1AM.
2. Adopt the mindset that strangers are just friends I have not met yet by making one new professional connection each month.
3. Have personal best records at work by actively asking for referrals and aiming at achieving 300% of revenue target every month.



If anyone sees her online at 1AM, can you please ping Ade and remind her to go to sleep?



Aine Tahara

(FT 2023)

1. Do more self-reflection by taking time every day to think and ensure that my actions align with my long-term goals.
2. Read at least one book to my son every night (in both Japanese and English).

If you encounter good children's books, you can refer them to Aine 😊



Kyohei Ohashi/
Kei (FT 2023)

1. Approach the goal of building a hub between Japan and Asia by maximizing learnings in class and having an internship.
2. Cherish every MBA moment by participating in more opportunities in classes, club activities, Utown activities, GIP, etc.

Let's join Kei and cherish every MBA moment!

Getting to Know your Cohort: Chang, Tsung-Jen (Jack)

By Tuhina Mehrotra

Each month, we get to jazz up the newsletter by highlighting one of our fantastic cohort members with an exclusive interview! With our bustling group of more than 200 individuals, it's a challenge to get to know everyone personally. So, when you read this column and meet them in person, don't shy away from saying "Hi!".

This time around, we're thrilled to introduce you to **Jack!** ✨

Tuhina: Hi Jack, thank you for taking the time to share your story with us! To kick things off, could you tell us a bit more about your professional background and what led you to pursue an MBA at NUS Business School?

Jack: Certainly! Before joining NUS Business School, I spent nearly a decade working as an **in-house legal counsel at a prominent security firm and two prestigious law firms in Taiwan**. My focus areas included **commercial transactions, syndicated loans, venture capital, and securities**. I hold an LLB from the National Taiwan University and pursued my LLM from the University of Minnesota in the United States.



The decision to pursue an MBA stemmed from my desire to **pivot towards exploring and working in the operations system within financial institutions**. I saw it as a crucial step in advancing my career and gaining a broader perspective on the business world.

Tuhina: From law to business, that's an impressive journey! Since you grew up and completed most of your education in Taiwan, tell us about the differences you've noticed in the educational approach between Taiwan and the U.S.?

Jack: One notable difference I observed is the teaching style – in the U.S., it's more conversational, fostering a dynamic learning environment. On the other hand, in Taiwan, the teaching approach tends to be more lecture oriented. Also, I've noticed a distinct mindset difference; people in the U.S. often have a clear vision of their career paths, while in Taiwan, the term "exploring" is commonly used, sometimes as a euphemism for prioritizing higher-paying jobs.

fAMILY



Tuhina: It's interesting to hear about those cultural and educational nuances. On a personal note, you mentioned being a family man. How has the experience been for you, being away from your family during your MBA journey?

Jack: Being away from my family, especially my 5-year-old son Matthew, has been the most challenging aspect of this journey. I truly miss them. However, their support has been unwavering, and I'm fortunate they were able to visit me here in Singapore. Despite the distance, the experience has strengthened my appreciation for family and the importance of balancing personal and professional aspirations.

Tuhina: Distance makes the heart grow fonder; they say! Shifting gears a bit, what is it that you enjoy doing when not working, studying, or spending time with family? What are your "me time" activities?



Jack: I enjoy **swimming and weightlifting!** I've always believed in **maintaining a balance between work and personal well-being** and these activities allow me to stay physically active and maintain a healthy lifestyle. Dominic from our MBA cohort really helped me out here! With the time I have on my hands during the MBA journey, I want to make the most of it! You see, the NPV here is positive.

Tuhina: Haha, looking at things through the financial lens! Prof. Ruth will be proud. Lastly, as someone who has experienced life in different places, what aspects of Singapore do you appreciate the most, and how has the adjustment been for your family?

Jack: One thing I appreciate the most about Singapore is the **sense of safety**. It's a reassuring environment, and that's particularly important for me and my family. Though when my wife visited me recently, it might or might not have been evident that she preferred Taiwan more, haha! So, let's see what the future holds - Taiwan or Singapore.

Tuhina: Thank you, Jack, for sharing your insights and experiences with us. It's been a pleasure learning more about your journey!



Our classmates and their junior versions rocking the NUS MBA romper!



Melody Kwok (PT 2023) & Baby Zephaniah



Lim Tern Poh (NUS-PKU 2022) & Baby Ryan

For the little ones – Baby Romper Giveaway

By Dhruv Madan Gopal



In case you didn't know, there is a **MBA baby romper giveaway!** Perfect for our littlest MBA enthusiast aged 6 to 12 months!

Redeem a baby romper for your little one via this link [here](#)

Already redeemed your romper? Submit photograph of your little one(s) in the baby romper by emailing the MBA Programmes Office (mba_programmes@nus.edu.sg), and be featured in the ECHOES Newsletter!

This giveaway is open to all MBAs and MBA Alumni.





Birthday Shoutouts!

February MBAers



Happy Birthday To

AMALIA DWI LESTARI
BEY HUI YUN JACINTA
DAVIDE MARINO
FERDINAND CHAN WAI KIT
GOH KIM HWEI
JUNLIN LU
KOH SEOW KEN
LEE HYUN JUNG
MA FUYAO
PHAN TRAM ANH
VELLORE NANDAKUMAR
HEMANTH KUMAR
ZHANG BOYU

KUSAKA YOSHIYUKI
IGNACIO REBLED LLUCH
YU JIAHUI
SOH WEE CHENG
BRYCE ZONG XIAN LIM
CHEN CHEN
RICARDO LOPEZ BARAJAS
MUHAMAD RIDWAN MALIK
KHAKHARIA PURVIL MAGANLAL
SUNGJIN LIM
MARCHELLA FEBRYANTI
KIM KAHYUN
ZHANG BO
ALVIN THEJAKUSUMA
LIM QING XIAN JACKSON
VENKATA KISHORE BAHADURSHA
YUAN ZHAI
JIHYE KIM

