



ECHOES

OCT 2024

NEWSLETTER



COMPANY VISITS & EVENTS

From visits to **Google** and **Medtronic** to fun events like **picnic** and **Halloween** celebrations, October has been an eventful month! Check out the highlights in this issue.

WHAT YOU MISSED

Dive into leadership lessons and experiences shared by industry professionals at *Brew Up Connections - Coffee Chat Series*

AND MORE...

HELLO FROM THE NEWSLETTER TEAM!

Welcome to the October issue of the **ECHOES** newsletter!

October brought an exciting buzz to the MBA program as the student clubs dove into action, organizing an array of events — from company visits and movie nights to networking and social gatherings.

We know everyone's schedules can get packed, so if you missed out on any of these activities, don't worry! This edition has you covered with a full recap of the month's highlights.

In this issue, we feature:

- **Company Visits:** Engaging company visits organized by various clubs gave participants a firsthand look at industry operations, cutting-edge innovation, and potential career paths.
- **Coffee Chats:** Professionals from various industries shared their experiences at coffee chats, offering students valuable insights and guidance on navigating career opportunities post-graduation.
- **Social Events:** October was filled with opportunities for connection. Students relaxed at a Fort Canning picnic, shared stories over wine at UnWined, and got into the spooky spirit at a festive Halloween party.
- **Movie Night:** The Finance Club hosted a movie night featuring *The Big Short*, using the film to deepen students' understanding of the 2008 financial crisis.
- **Cultural Exposure:** A visit to the NUS Baba House and an authentic Peranakan meal gave students an enriching experience of Peranakan culture and heritage.
- **Wellness Events:** Promoting mental and physical health, the Healthcare Club and Sports & Wellness Club organized a rejuvenating yoga and gratitude session, encouraging wellness within the program.
- **Industry Exposure:** The Marketing Club introduced students to the world of luxury watchmaking with a visit to IAMWATCH, showcasing innovative strategies for marketing high-end products.

Warm regards,
MBA Newsletter Team

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM: EXPLORING BUSINESS THROUGH COMPANY VISITS

by Lin Lih Tsern (Laura), Duurenzaya Bukhbat

We've had the privilege to step beyond the classroom and immerse ourselves in dynamic industry environments. From exploring Medtronic's Customer Experience Center—where we witnessed cutting-edge healthcare technologies and global training facilities—to experiencing Google's Singapore headquarters, a hub for innovation, creativity, and cross-functional collaboration, these company visits exemplify the invaluable professional exposure NUS MBA offers.

Innovation at Medtronic's Customer Experience Center



Organized by the Consulting Club and Healthcare Club, an engaging visit to Medtronic's Customer eXperience Center offered MBA students a unique glimpse into the world's largest medical device company. The October 3rd event, held at Medtronic's Singapore office at 50 Pasir Panjang Road, marked the first company visit for the NUS MBA cohort.

Our tour of the facility featured three impressive stops. At the first station, we experienced Hugo, Medtronic's advanced robotic surgery system, where we had the unique opportunity to test the control console while wearing 3D glasses. The system's compact design and flexibility demonstrated innovative solutions for modern operating rooms.

The second stop highlighted Medtronic's pacemaker technology through an impressive XR (AR+VR) demonstration. This tutorial system allowed us to visualize pacemaker placement in the human body while learning about the company's journey in developing smaller, longer-lasting devices.

At our final stop, we visited a fully equipped tutorial room that mirrors a hospital operating room, complete with a broadcast system connected to international offices for real-time demonstrations. This facility exemplified Medtronic's commitment to global medical education and training.

What particularly impressed us was the center's customer-centric design, featuring multipurpose meeting rooms and flexible layouts that can accommodate various professional needs. We also learned about Medtronic's strategic evolution from creating individual devices to developing complete healthcare ecosystems, incorporating AI and data analytics for enhanced patient care.



For MBA students exploring possibilities in the medical device industry or considering careers in healthcare technology strategy and marketing, this visit offered invaluable insights. The experience demonstrated how Medtronic contributes to treating some of the world's most complex medical conditions while maintaining its position as an industry leader in healthcare innovation.

We thank the NUS MBA Consulting Club and Healthcare Club for organizing this enlightening visit and the Medtronic team for hosting us at their Singapore facility.

Where Ideas Take Flight: Exploring Google's Singapore Hub



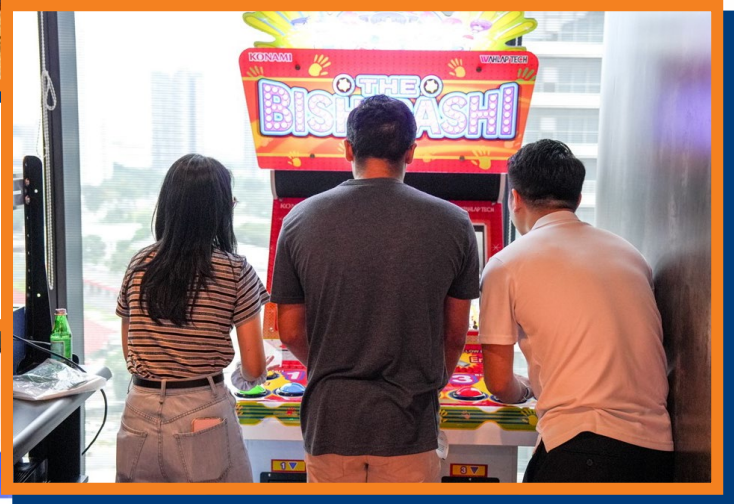
Organized by the NUS MBA Technology Club, the cohort visited Google's Singapore office, discovering a workplace designed to inspire creativity and collaboration.

Every corner seemed engineered to foster innovation and community. One of the highlights was a dedicated innovation zone, complete with a 3D printer and prototyping tools that encourage employees to pursue side projects and experiment with new ideas beyond their day-to-day roles.

We discovered that Google's culinary treats—ranging from a variety of snacks to freshly brewed coffee—weren't just there to curb hunger, but to fuel creativity.

Meanwhile, the playful recreational areas offered a welcome break, encouraging spontaneous interactions, relaxed problem-solving, and the kind of informal bonding that sparks new ideas. These thoughtfully designed spaces underscored how Google nurtures a culture where inspiration thrives amid both work and play.





Beyond the physical space, our visit also featured valuable conversations with Googlers in our cohort from various backgrounds, who generously shared insights into the company's culture and initiatives.

These personal interactions offered a glimpse into how Google empowers its teams—providing both the environment and the resources needed to help them push boundaries and redefine what's possible in the tech world.

INSIGHTS FROM COFFEE CHATS: BANKING, TECHNOLOGY, AND GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

Career Insights from Gloria Fung: A Story of Adaptability and Leadership Across Borders

by Xueting Kuang

Recently, the NUS MBA community welcomed Gloria Fung for an inspiring coffee chat. Gloria's career progression from Project Manager at SGS in Hong Kong to Head of Strategy in Singapore showcases her adaptability and strategic leadership across diverse regions, in Hong Kong, China, Vietnam, and Singapore.



Gloria emphasized the importance of adjusting strategies to fit different regional dynamics. Her ability to “connect the dots” between stakeholders from various functions and regions enabled her to drive holistic initiatives that balance local and global needs.

She shared her approaches to self-management and team leadership, highlighting the necessity of aligning with upper management and leveraging local resources to explore and capitalize on regional opportunities.

This session left us inspired to view our own journeys with the same strategic adaptability and to foster a purpose-driven approach in our roles at NUS and beyond.

Gloria candidly discussed workplace challenges such as discrimination and the “glass ceiling.” She encouraged focusing on strengths, continuously evaluating personal limits, and aligning career goals with personal and professional aspirations.

Her EMBA journey enhanced her ability to identify untapped opportunities and foster growth through a localized perspective, underscoring the value of continuous learning and strategic thinking in career advancement.

A Deep Dive into Private Banking with Meiyi Tu

by Gabriel Zhang



In an insightful coffee chat, EMBA alumna Meiyi Tu, Senior Managing Director at EFG International, shared her extensive experience from over 20 years in private banking. She began by discussing the industry's origins in 17th-century Europe, where nobles managed the assets of others during the Crusades, marking the birth of private banking.

Today, despite rapid technological advancements and AI's influence, Meiyi believes that private banking, especially for ultra-high-net-worth individuals, will continue to thrive. The human touch, emotional connection, and holistic financial planning remain irreplaceable.

Meiyi also reflected on her personal approach to managing clients. Over her career, she has focused primarily on the top 20% of her clientele, many of whom she has served for over 15 years. She shared that building long-term relationships allows her to witness key life events, such as clients' children studying abroad or getting married.

Meiyi emphasized the importance of standing in the clients' shoes, offering personalized asset management, tax, and insurance advice, and only recommending products she genuinely believes in.

For students interested in entering the private banking field, Meiyi encouraged them to focus on building strong client relationships. With no strict background requirements, passion and the ability to grow a client base are key. She noted that bankers develop their own styles—whether extroverted or more reserved—and that authenticity is essential to success.

Meiyi also highlighted the unique advantages female bankers possess, such as stronger empathy and rapport with clients' families, particularly female entrepreneurs and spouses of male business leaders. Her advice to the audience: maintain professionalism while building friendships with clients, ensuring that trust is paired with high-quality service.

Participants appreciated her candid advice on career growth and the opportunities available in private banking. This event showcased the significance of alumni connections in broadening our professional perspectives.

Careers Lessons in Technology With Amit Chopra

by Jillian Carpio Santos

On October 18th, a small group of NUS MBA students gathered in the MBA Lounge for an intimate Coffee Chat with Amit Chopra, a seasoned executive with over two decades of experience in program management, technical leadership, and business strategy. His impressive career spans leadership roles at top-tier companies like Microsoft, Google, Amazon, and Facebook, where he contributed to building innovative products and fostering strategic partnerships.

During the coffee chat, Amit shared three key lessons from his journey, providing valuable insights to the students as they prepare to navigate their own careers.

Your expertise should be shaped like a "T".

First, Amit emphasized the importance of developing a "T-shaped" expertise. Early in your career, he explained, it's crucial to specialize deeply in a particular area, which helps build credibility and a strong foundation.



Seasoned Tech executive Amit Chopra spent time sharing about his career with MBA and EMBA students.

However, equally important is the ability to acquire a broad range of skills outside of your core specialization, allowing you to remain adaptable in an ever-evolving job market. This balance between depth and breadth equips professionals to tackle complex problems while staying open to new opportunities.

Don't be afraid to take some risks.

Amit also encouraged students to take risks in their careers. Reflecting on his experiences at companies like Microsoft and Gemini, he spoke about the importance of making bold, calculated bets, even when the outcome is uncertain. He acknowledged that while some risks may not pay off, they often lead to personal growth and valuable learning experiences.



Attendees of the Coffee Chat asked Amit for advice on their own careers.



The small group size allowed for more intimate sharing between Amit and the attendees.

Be generous about sharing your experiences with others.

Finally, he stressed the value of sharing your experiences with others. Currently on a career sabbatical, Amit devotes time to mentoring MBA and EMBA students, highlighting how mentorship fosters both personal reflection and community building. By sharing knowledge, professionals can help others grow while refining their own perspectives.

Amit's lessons on expertise, risk-taking, and generosity offer a roadmap for young professionals looking to build meaningful and successful careers.

CSC Club: Picnic at Fort Canning

by Peewara Padungsatayawong (Ami)



On 5th October, the cohort came together for a picnic at Fort Canning, organized by the CSC Club. Attendees brought snacks and delicacies from their home countries, creating a mix of flavors for everyone to enjoy. The weather was just perfect for some outdoor fun, people played frisbee, badminton, strummed guitars, sang songs, and relaxed on picnic mats, chatting and soaking in the pleasant atmosphere. So much positive energy here!



Marketing Club: Exploring Time & Craft at IAMWATCH

by Jillian Carpio Santos

On October 18, the Marketing Club organized a visit to IAMWATCH, an exclusive event by The Hour Glass Singapore.

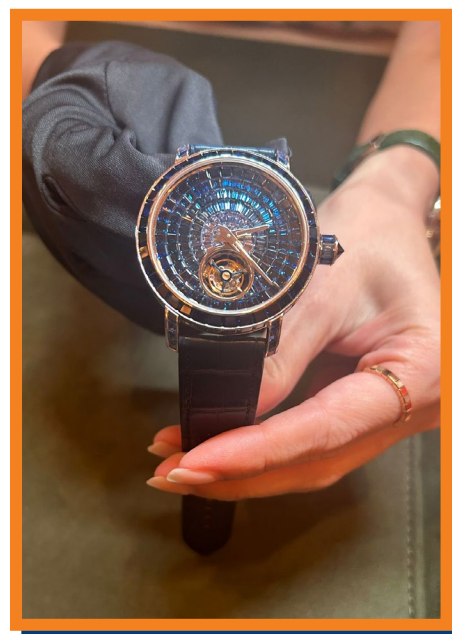
This immersive experience offered MBA students a rare glimpse into the artistry of watchmaking and the intricate strategies behind marketing bespoke timepieces to discerning clientele.



MBA students joined the Marketing Club at The Singapore EDITION Hotel for a tour of this year's IAMWATCH event.



The event also featured unique clocks and other time-telling devices.



An individual watchmaker presents a one-of-a-kind timepiece.

SandBox Club: UnWined

by Jillian Carpio Santos

“Good Food, Good Company, Good Stories”– this was the tagline of the SandBox Club’s UnWined event, where students connected over pizza, wine, and engaging conversations.

Held at the MBA Lounge on October 8, the event encouraged bonding through fun, thought-provoking questions like, “What was a weird food combination that you liked?” and “What is a superpower you wish you could have?”. By sharing stories and laughter, students strengthened their sense of community in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere.



SandBox Club President Anisha Sistla and Vice President Andrew Juwono shared the vision behind the event: to foster deeper connections within the cohort while providing a platform for students to practice and enhance their speaking skills.



Attendees bonded over slices of pizza and glasses of wine while listening to fellow MBA students share more about themselves.

Finance Club: Movie Night 🎬 🍿

by Peewara Padungsatayawong (Ami)



On October 17, the Finance Club hosted an engaging *movie night* featuring *The Big Short*! The evening kicked off with insights from a special guest from NUS MBA Class of 2007 who shared his firsthand experience during the financial crisis. The club also provided us with a helpful *cheat sheet* to decode complex financial terms (ping the club members to grab this valuable resource!).



With pizzas, chips, soft drinks, and beanbags creating the perfect setup, we dived into the movie. For me, it was my second time watching it, and thanks to the club's thoughtful preparation, I understood so much more this time around!

A huge shoutout to the Finance Club for such a fun and cozy event! 🍕

CSC Club: Exploring Peranakan Culture

by Peewara Padungsatayawong (Ami)

On October 18, CSC club organized a visit to explore the rich and vibrant Peranakan culture and indulge in the Peranakan cuisine. The visit offered a deep dive into the heritage of the Peranakans, a community that blends Chinese, Malay, and local influences into a unique cultural identity.



Happy faces trying the traditional signature Peranakan dishes at House of Peranakan!



Healthcare Club x S&W Club: Zen in Business – Yoga and Gratitude

by Ittikorn Phuangkoson (O)



On October 20, the Healthcare Club and Sports & Wellness Club organized a "Zen in Business – Yoga and Gratitude" event, where Ardhelia Triaratana Mulyana trained us in basic yoga (hopefully), followed by a moment to showcase gratitude for everything we have in life.

The session started with yoga poses ranging from basic to more challenging ones. Ardhelia, a certified yoga teacher, provided a warm and soothing experience. As someone who is not very familiar with yoga, I found the experience eye-opening. We learned how important it is to take care of our inner energy and vitality, which also affects our strength and athletic performance.



However, the real highlight of the event came at the end when we were asked a simple question: what are we most grateful for? Common answers revolved around friends, family, and health.

Ultimately, it is about incorporating appreciation into our lives; yoga is just another way to practice that state of mind.

CSC Club: Halloween Night

by Jillian Carpio Santos



At Le Jardin, students wore their scariest—and funniest—costumes for the occasion.

October wouldn't be complete without a touch of Halloween magic.

On October 26, the CSC Club hosted a thrilling evening packed with chills and fun.

The night began with a visit to Underground, a World War II-themed haunted house at Fort Canning, setting the tone for an eerie adventure. Afterward, students relaxed with drinks and socialized at Le Jardin, rounding off the evening with lively partying at Singapore's biggest nightclub, Marquee. It was a night of scares, laughter, and unforgettable memories!



A quick stop outside Marina Bay Sands before entering Marquee.



The evening finished with dancing at Marquee, where the theme was "Museum of Fears".

Human Capital Interest Group: **Unlock Your Potential**

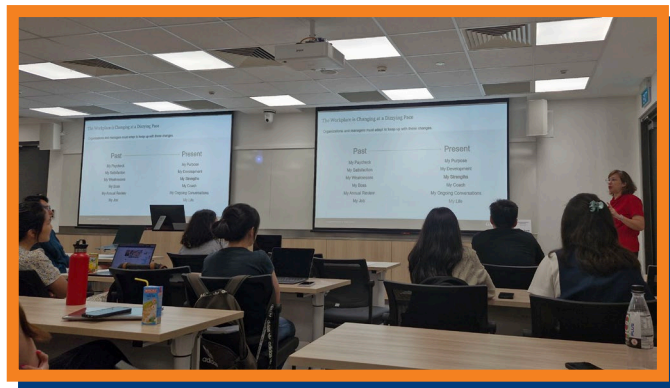
by Peewara Padungsatayawong (Ami)



Angie Santa Maria (in red), Gallup Workplace Advisor & L&D Consultant, with participants at the event.



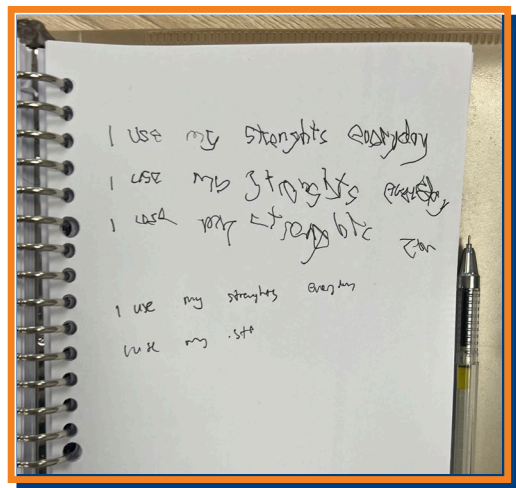
Each participant introduced themselves and shared their thoughts on the traits of a good manager, here's Subhashna sharing her insights.



The session included interactive lecturing from our speaker, keeping everyone engaged and inspired.



We formed teams to brainstorm strategies for managing diverse teams with different strengths from the StrengthsFinder assessment and shared our ideas with the other groups.



A fun yet insightful exercise had us writing a sentence with both hands under time pressure, teaching us that, like our weaknesses, we *can* improve with practice, even if it takes a bit more time!

Baby Romper Giveaway




Perfect for our littlest MBA enthusiast aged 6 to 12 months!

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.





HAPPY
Birthday
October MBAs

**JAE HOON OH
ZHANG YINAN
HU JIAKUN
LIUXU YANG
AMY OCTAVIANA RAMLI
LOKE MUN WAI ANDREW
KONG KA HEI
RYOKO YOKOI
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WONG MIN YI GRACE
JIN QIAO
RANA VIKRAM GUTGUTIA
MAO YASHAN
KEVIN JOSHUA KAWILARANG
ASHUG SURI
CORAL CHATTERJEE
UTKARSH MATHUR
QU ZHENGZHONG
WENG CHONGSHENG
GAO SHUANG
RUCHI AGARWAL
ANKIT VERMA
KOSUKE NAKANO
ERINN LEE SI MIN
CHEN YU JIA CLAIRE CHEN
KANNAN ARJUN**

**SUN YINGDI
CAO BEIBEI
YOUN SUHYUN
WAI CHUNG LAM
SHAKIYA SHA
LAI CHAOFAN
LE CHAU KHANH TRANG
LEW WEI LI
OKUDA MASAHIRO
ABHISHEK GUPTA
KIM SAE RYUNG
LI RUO
GONG LI
ANDREW JEREMY JUWONO
RYOHEI FUJITA
NGUYEN THI HUONG ANH
YEO ERN ERN
RYO YAMAGUCHI
LEE JESSIE
TANVI GURUDUTT BIJUR
ONG MUI HONG
LI YANGJIE
NAGAI AI
DUURENZAYA BUKHBAT
LI XUAN**



Crossword

Congratulations to Kevin for filling all answers and winning a \$10 Starbucks voucher! Stay tuned for more puzzles in the November issue!

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ACROSS

- 1 Launch Your ____
- 4 1 of 3 Students' Council Clubs
- 7 ____ Riady Building
- 10 South Korea & Taiwan
- 11 Our program!
- 12 Types of MBA students
- 13 In-Campus Residence
- 14 MBA student's favorite place

DOWN

- 1 1 of 3 Students' Council Clubs
- 2 No. 1 item left behind after class
- 3 1 of 3 Students' Council Clubs
- 5 Our lovely mascot
- 6 NUS MBA QS Global MBA Ranking 2025
- 7 Financial ____
- 8 NUS MBA's Alumni Network
- 9 The Best SIA Pilot

A BIG THANK YOU TO THE CONTRIBUTORS FOR THE OCTOBER 2024 ISSUE !!



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Be Part of The NUS MBA ECHOES Newsletter!

Do you have a story idea or a unique perspective to share? We'd love to hear from you! Whether you want to pitch an article feature or contribute content for upcoming events, this is your chance to be part of our vibrant newsletter community.

Simply reach out to Duurenzaya Bukhbat, Chief Editor at duurenzaya@u.nus.edu and Agatha Koh, MBA Programmes Office (Student Life) at agatha@nus.edu.sg to pitch your ideas or submit your articles! Alternatively, keep an eye on your inbox for contribution opportunities—we're always looking for writers and photographers to feature MBA-related events and activities!