



# Pioneer House

YEARBOOK

23/24







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# PIONEER HOUSE



Pioneer House (PH), formerly known as “PGP House”, was established in 2017 as the first House of the National University of Singapore (NUS).

Over the past few years, PH has implemented innovative programmes to provide proactive **pastoral care** and mentorship for the residents, and to develop a familial and inclusive residential community. The activities in PH were intended to encourage a balanced and vibrant on-campus living and learning experience for the residents, nurturing **micro-cultures, social networks, and a strong sense-of-belonging.**

Our signature **Peer Mentorship Programme (PMP)** offers freshmen an opportunity to receive academic guidance and student life-related care from a select group of accomplished seniors known as "**Peer Mentors**". **Resident Fellows** and **Resident Assistants** are also readily available to provide **pastoral care** and support to all residents. At Pioneer House, **every life matters** and we welcome you to join our PHamily!





## Message from the Master



We commenced the new academic year at the **Freshmen Orientation Camp (FOC)** in late July 2023, and I was delighted to witness many freshmen forming new friendships and enjoying themselves through the various games and activities organized by the FOC Committee. Throughout the year, the liveliness of residential life is visible, and I commend the **PH Student Council (SC)**, **Residents Assistants (RA)**, **Peer Mentors (PM)**, and **Interest Group Leaders (IGL)** for their outstanding efforts in planning and organizing a wide range of activities to cater to the diverse interests of the PH community. Many of you may not be aware of the dedication and hard work put in by your fellow student leaders to devise enjoyable and meaningful activities to engage the residents. In particular, the SC and RAs have consistently met with us (the management team) every month to discuss various issues concerning residents' welfare and how to enhance the residential experience in PH. I extend a heartfelt thank you to all the student leaders in PH for your invaluable contributions.

Focused on **Frugality and Sustainable Living**, Pioneer House has initiated 15 student-led projects to promote and nurture this lifestyle. Collaborating with external organizations like **PassionWave** and **Cloop**, as well as eco-conscious teams from **Helix House**, **KE7**, and **NUS Save**, PH launched initiatives like **Kayak & Clean** and **Fashion Swap**. PH have set up a community garden, vertical farm, and vermicomposting projects. PH also led the **PGP Cultural Showcase 2024**, a collaborative effort among Pioneer House, **LightHouse**, **Helix House**, and **Prince George's Park Residences**. Led by students and supported by the PH Cultural Subcommittee, we celebrated diverse cultural talents through artistic expressions and heritage displays.

As you may be aware, we have a residential wellness manager, **Ms. Jaya Rajesh**, who has provided invaluable assistance to numerous residents. I am pleased to see that some of you have proactively sought her assistance, leading to prompt and efficient resolution of issues. PH's founding resident fellows (RF), **Prof. Quan Chenggen**, left PH in 2022, followed by **Mr. Soong Swee Kit, Alan** in April 2023 and **Dr. Wu Xi Vivien** in December 2023. On behalf of the PHfamily, I would like to express our gratitude for their support in establishing Pioneer House. Another RF, **Prof. Vinicius Rosa**, assumed the Mastership of **Sheares Hall** in 2023, while **Mr. Ho Boon Yeow** was promoted and transferred to the **Office of Student Affairs (OSA)** in 2024. **Ms. Jean Wang** and Mr. Ho have played instrumental roles in the diligent management of the house since 2017. We are fortunate to welcome new RFs, including **Dr. Tan Hee Hon**, **Prof. Tam Wai San Wilson**, **Prof. A. Senthil Kumar**, and **Dr. Yee Zhuangli**. It is a pleasure to have Dr. Yee join PH, especially considering her prior service as a Resident Assistant during the early stages of the house's establishment.

I also want to express my gratitude to each of you for staying and journeying with us over the past semester(s). I hope you have cherished your time living in PH and have created fond memories here. For some of you, this is just the beginning of many more experiences, and I hope you will return next semester to continue actively contributing to our community. To those who are graduating or will no longer be staying in PH after this semester, please stay connected with us as part of the **PH Alumni** network.

Whether you are staying or not in the next semester, you will always be an integral part of our PHfamily. Lastly, I wish everyone success in all your endeavors and encourage you to embody our House motto, "**Be frugal and pay it forward**", wherever life takes you.

**Dr. Prahlad Vadakkepat**  
Associate Professor, CDE, Master of Pioneer House



# THE MANAGEMENT TEAM



Photo by: Joshua Tsu,  
Chief Communications Officer (AY23/24)





# STUDENT COUNCIL



Hey there PHam!

As the **Chairman** of the Student Council, I feel deeply honoured to have represented and served our PH community this year. Working alongside each of you was a rewarding journey, and I hope the events we organised and interactions have fostered a strong sense of belonging among us all.

Looking back at this eventful academic year, we have grown together so much as a community, from our first-ever PGP-wide event to the memorable comeback of **PHamigos!** I am genuinely grateful to be a part of it, and I believe these memories will be etched within us years to come. A massive shoutout to my fellow SC members—y'all have been nothing short of a dream to work with, and made this AY the best one thus far! So proud of us all, and I'm truly lucky to have gained eight other lifelong **friendships** 🤍

My journey in Pioneer House does not end here. I am excited to see how much more we will grow, and looking forward to returning to our PHome again next AY. Thank you, and I wish everyone the best!

Your Chairman,  
**Rajvin Singh**

# PH MURAL

This year, we are proud to present the first ever PH Mural, *designed* and *painted* by our very own residents. The project would not have been possible without the *collaborative* efforts of the community. The mural is situated right outside of the *Student Lounge at B1*, and we hope that it will be a great reminder of PH's communal spirit to everyone who walks by!



# PHAMIGOS

The first-ever edition of *PHamigos!* saw some 30 over PH residents take to the streets, visiting *Fort Canning*, the *National Museum of Singapore*, and *Hong Lim Food Centre*. The event allowed the locals in our midst to act as guides for a day, introducing our international friends to some of Singapore's landmarks, history, and of course, food. Many, I'm sure, learnt something new themselves - whether about Singapore or about the many countries that our international friends come from.





# DEEPAVALI PHESTIVAL



The Deepavali PFestival, the first of its kind in Pioneer House, was a celebration of Indian culture, and a time for many to be introduced to the Festival of Lights. Pioneer got a chance to try out Rangoli, paint Diya Lamps, and light up sparklers. Dancing to festive music and digging into a massive spread of sumptuous Indian cuisine, our residents were immersed not just in the noise, but also in a rich culture and tradition shared by many in Singapore and around the world.



## NATURE WALK

PH Nature Walk was held during NUS Wellbeing day to give residents a chance to relax in the wild biodiversity of Labrador Park. It was a great learning opportunity for residents to explore the diverse flora and fauna in Labrador Park, while participating in exciting group challenges to win prizes





# IG PHAIR



To give PH residents a headstart in deciding which Interest Groups to try out, the IG PHair was conducted to showcase the best of what Pioneer has to offer. Our Interest Group Leaders (IGLs) shared about their activities with pride, enticing one and all to join in their sporting, performing, gardening, and even cooking escapades. Those who joined their Telegram groups and weekly activities have been having a blast since.



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# PH ALUMNI COMMITTEE

The *Pioneer House Alumni Sub-Committee* comprises residents committed to organizing events for both current and former residents of Pioneer House. Collaborating closely with the *Pioneer House Alumni Committee*, composed of former residents, our goal is to foster a strong sense of community, ensuring that past and present residents remain connected. Through our efforts, we provide platforms for alumni to share their experiences and insights with current residents, thereby enriching their community experience. Since the onset of Covid-19, this initiative has been steadily gaining momentum, with the aim of becoming a cornerstone for all alumni relations to reflect upon. Any resident is welcome to take part and contribute in their own way!



The *No Shop Talk* event is organised to provide networking opportunities for current residents, by inviting alumni from different industries and encouraging them to share about their transition from school life to working life. We witness many different alumni return, sharing their experiences and wisdom, even introducing opportunities for some residents in their industry.



The *Alumni Dinner* was organised to give thanks to alumni for their hard work in contributing back to Pioneer House and also allow them to catchup with friends and staff in Pioneer House. We organised a performance by our very own *PH Band* and *PH Dance*, showing our alumni a wonderful time. There were even small games and lucky draws to liven up the event.

# RESIDENT ASSISTANTS



**Lukas Lie Wie Howe**  
RA Lead

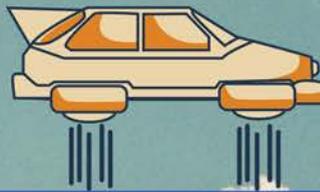
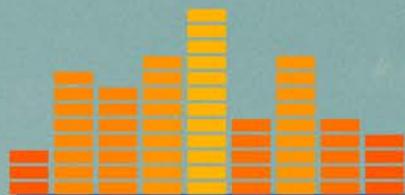
Though at times misperceived to be “policemen” (and “policewomen”) of Pioneer House, the *Resident Assistant (RA) Team* plays a much more significant and integral role within the PH community, ensuring that a welcoming and safe environment is created for residents. Over the past academic year, the RA team has done a phenomenal job in both these aspects, ensuring that residents are kept safe through conducting regular walkabouts and assisting in fire drills, as well as promoting a lively and vibrant residential life through organizing a wide range of events and activities. From cozy PCT events (*Dining with Master* and *Chill & Chat*) for residents to get to know one another and make friends to exciting House-wide events and activities (*Back to the PHuture*, *PHright Night*, and *The Amazing Race*) that create opportunities for residents to dress their best, come together, and have fun!

It has been a humbling and fulfilling journey as an RA Lead, working together with amazing individuals across all three student leader bodies. I am thankful to have been able to work closely with the other Student Leader Heads, Rachel and Raj, to build toward a stronger SL support network for the betterment of the House. Above all, I am immensely grateful for the privilege to work alongside such thoughtful, supportive, and genuine RAs whose behind-the-scenes care for PH and its residents is seen by few, felt by many, and deeply appreciated by me.





## BACK TO THE PHUTURE



"*Back to the PHuture*" draws inspiration from the beloved classic movie, "*Back to the Future*". Just like the iconic film, our event takes residents on a journey through time. During the demanding mid-semester period, when academic pressure can become overwhelmingly intense, "*Back to the PHuture*" serves as a unique and much-needed escape. The central theme, "*Back to the PHuture*," not only pays homage to the movie but also transports residents to a nostalgic and retro world of the past.

Amidst a multitude of memorable moments, one that truly stands out is witnessing our residents enthusiastically embrace the retro theme. The event came to life as attendees arrived decked out in a dazzling array of retro attire, from denim classics to vibrant '90s fashion. Their commitment to the theme not only elevated the overall mood but also transformed the ambience into a vibrant, nostalgic time capsule.





# PHRIGHT NIGHT

## Don't be PHrightened!

Presenting Pioneer House's Halloween-themed PHright Night. With over 300 attendees, the venue was packed with frightening and scary figures, decked out in LED accessories all set to experience a unique and unforgettable night. Dressed up as scary nuns, ghosts, ghouls, vampires, sharks, cute onesies, and many more, our excited residents had an absolute blast hanging out, making new friends, and rejoicing with current ones in our dark-lit, chilling atmosphere. Coupled by stellar night-long performances put up by the **Dance, Singing, and Band Interest Groups**, PHright Night also boasted a professional photo booth and a multitude of booths consisting of different foods, such as hot dog buns, cup corn, truffle fries, nuggets, ice-cream, churros, popcorn and candy floss. The night concluded with a **Best-Dressed** event and a tantalizing lucky draw. The cauldron was simply brimming with fun and engaging activities!





## TUAN YUAN PHAN 团圆饭

Pioneer House welcomed residents back in semester 2, with a *Tuan Yuan PHan* (a play on "reunion dinner"), our CNY-Themed Welcome Event.

Residents gathered for a buffet-style feast, coupled with other exciting segments to introduce residents to the Singaporean way of celebrating the *Lunar New Year*. These segments included a *Lion Dance*, a form of traditional dance in Chinese culture and other Asian countries in which performers dressed in a lion costume mimic its movements to bring good luck and fortune, and to drive away evil spirits, and *Lo Hei*, one of the biggest highlights during Chinese New Year, where friends and family come together to "toss up a good fortune".

A traditional *Chinese calligraphy booth*, hosted by the Arts and Crafts IG, was also present to allow residents to try their hands at writing *chunlian* which are couplets, typically used to express wishes in the upcoming year. A photobooth was also present for residents to take cute commemorative photos to capture the memories. Of course, everyone also received *Angbaos* and specially curated CNY-themed stickers!





# SPRING PHEST

Spring PHEST welcomed more than 400 residents to an exciting start of the new academic year. Embracing the theme of Spring and new beginnings, residents arrived in their best floral or vibrant attires. The 'Best Dressed' competition celebrated the ones who truly caught everyone's eyes. Attractions included a variety of booths, from a professional photobooth to henna stations. The highlight of the evening was the electrifying performances by the PH Band IG, MaIPHunction, who ensnared us with their melodic genius. The event also offered free dinner, lucky draw prizes, and (most importantly) fostered new friendships in our PHamily. Overall, the Pioneer Spring PHEST was a testament to PH's spirit of togetherness, and we couldn't have had a better kick off to the new academic year.





# PH AMAZING RACE



For one night, PH Amazing Race saw PGP transformed into an exhilarating adventure playground for more than **100 residents**. This novel event combined engaging puzzles with physical excitement, presenting participants with a dynamic and fun experience. Before the race began, our refreshment booth offered delicious finger foods and refreshing drinks from **Mr. Coconut**, keeping our residents well-hydrated and energized. The inclusive prize distribution set the event apart by rewarding not just the top performers, but also anyone who completed the race in time. Overall, PH Amazing Race was a fresh and exciting addition to PH's lineup of events, promoting engagement, teamwork, and a sense of achievement among our PHamily.



FINISH



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# PHANTASY PHIESTA

The PHantasy PHiesta event was a night full of magic and fun, where residents were transported to a world of wonder and excitement. Amidst the busy season of submissions, assignments and final exams, the Destress Event was a good opportunity for residents to wind down, relax and enjoy each other's company. Many residents came dressed to impress, with fantasy-inspired costumes that added a touch of dazzle and whimsy to the festivities. It was a night full of good food and lively music courtesy of our Band Interest Group. We also had many captivating performances including a roving magician, tarot card reader, and delectable offerings from our talented Coffee, Tea and Baking Interest Groups. It was truly an enchanting evening to remember!



# PEER MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME



**Rachel Tan Tze Yuin**  
Peer Mentor Lead

The *Peer Mentorship Programme* unique to Pioneer House is designed to assist new residents in navigating the challenges of settling into a new environment and in forging friendships, as they adjust to university life. It has been an honour to oversee the programme this academic year, equipping the *Peer Mentors* with the knowledge and attributes to instill the values of Pioneer House within the PHamily. Credits go to the Peer Mentors who have made a positive impact on the community, by extending their care and support. They acted as *cluster leaders*, *mentors*, and *friends* to our fellow residents. I am grateful to have worked with such a dedicated team of individuals!

Within this nurturing environment, my aspiration is for the Peer Mentors to explore new ideas for engagement and realise their utmost potential. Serving with a heart for the people has been the cornerstone of my approach for the programme. Therefore, I hope to inspire future Peer Mentors with my passion so that they may continue to build up a loving community that is welcoming and inclusive. I am excited to see the ongoing advancement of the programme, and I am confident that it will continue to form the foundation of Pioneer House's culture!



# PCT HIGHLIGHTS



## PCT 1

PCT 1 started off the semester with a bang! The students gathered for a lively barbecue event organized by the student leaders. The aroma of sizzling chicken wings and pizza filled the air. Friends were made as they savored delicious grilled delicacies and refreshing beverages. It was a fantastic way to kick off the new semester, fostering a sense of community and camaraderie among residents.



## PCT 2



PCT 2 Angel and Mortal event is a 2 week-long activity designed to bring residents together after the winter break and foster a sense of community. Residents anonymously act as "angels" for each other, leaving small gifts and well wishes in their hostel rooms. With the help of this event, this encourages interaction, creates lasting memories, and starts the semester on a positive note. By familiarizing themselves with each other's rooms, residents are also more likely to connect for future activities and meals.

## PCT 3

PCT 3 BBQ event held in week 3 rekindled the dormitory's communal spirit after the winter break. By gathering residents in a relaxed setting, we bridged the gap created by the break, encouraging residents to share their stories, strengthen bonds, and rejuvenate the sense of belonging that defines our motto: live, learn, love.



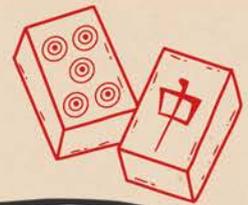
## PCT 4

PCT 4 came together to celebrate the Lunar New Year through our vibrant He Jia Xing PHu (阖家幸福) Lo Hei activity. While Lo Hei is deeply rooted in our tradition, we typically engage in it with our families, following the lead of our respected seniors. However, during this celebration, no one within our PCT was well-versed in leading the ritual. Hence, we turned to Google and YouTube for guidance. The experience was both educational and enjoyable, especially for our international residents who enthusiastically embraced the spirit of Lo Hei. Our collective celebration became a delightful fusion of cultures and traditions.



## PCT 5

During the workshop, residents got to learn what mahjong is, what kinds of tiles are there, how the game works, and how to win as well. After that, residents tried out a game of mahjong or two, eventually realizing the reason it's so popular in Pioneer House!



## PCT 6

PCT 6 held a Lantern Walk event at West Coast Park for Chinese New Year!  
● We walked from Supper Stretch to WCP with our lanterns, while enjoying the night breeze. Reaching the coastline, we played with sparklers (*the photo!*) and ate mooncake together before heading back to Pioneer House



# PCT 7

For PCT 7's lantern making event, the Peer Mentors, Student Council and Residential Assistant purchased the equipment. In addition, some members of the PCT also brought along mooncakes. After meeting at the foyer outside the auditorium to make and decorate the lanterns, we proceeded to the barbeque pit area where the environment allowed for the lighting to be better observed. We also played with sparklers, to create a memorable experience.

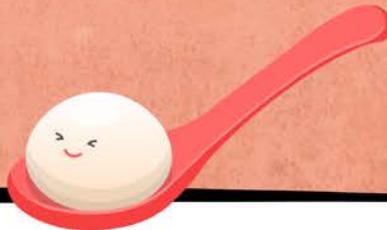


# PCT 8

We organized an Angel and Mortal gathering for our residents in PCT 8, providing a chance to unwind and connect beyond academics. Over two weeks, participants exchanged gifts, fostering camaraderie. The event concluded with a revealing session, where we met and guessed our respective angels, sharing laughs and enjoying bubble tea together.



# PCT 9



Tangyuan cluster event held in the Chinese New Year period. Eating tangyuan on the Lantern Festival symbolises reunion in chinese culture and our cluster has successfully bonded together like a true family through making something cute and yummy together.





# PH GALA '23

Having hosted a stellar lineup of physical events in 2023, we celebrated the completion of our recovery from COVID-19 pandemic with the reintroduction of the **PH Dinner and Dance**, reimagined as **PH Gala 2023**. This landmark event marked the conclusion of the academic year of 22/23, providing residents a chance to celebrate the completion of final exams. More importantly, it served as a fundraiser for our **PH Bursary**, designed to provide financial assistance to future PH residents. Thanks to the generous contributions of our participants, we have successfully kickstarted the fund, and will continue to build it!

The event was held in May 2023, at **Peninsula Excelsior Hotel**, where we had the pleasure of hosting 200+ participants, including our alumni, current residents and management staff. The event included a delectable multi-course meal, engaging stage games, a concluding speech from our House Master, Dr Prahlad, and an award ceremony to recognize the hard work and dedication of our student leaders. We also took this opportunity to warmly welcome the new batch of Student Council members.





# PGP CULTURAL SHOWCASE



NOW PLAYING:



Pioneer House's cultural scene was marked by the introduction of the PGP Cultural Showcase 2024. This event was driven by the enthusiasm of residents within PGP and brought to life by the *PH Cultural Subcommittee*, marking a significant milestone in fostering unity and appreciation within our diverse community. For the very first time, *Pioneer House, LightHouse, Helix House, and Prince George's Park Residences* came together to celebrate the vibrant cultural tapestry thriving within our midst, and showcased their artistic expressions.

The event was truly unforgettable and filled with memorable moments. It was incredibly heartening to see the entire PGP community come together to celebrate the diverse cultural talents of our students. The performances by both the dancers and bands were truly captivating and thoroughly enjoyed by all attendees. We had a mix of performances, from *hip-hop* to *street jazz* dance, and various tunes from the different bands, showcasing the variety of cultures within our PGP community. As part of the organizing committee, it felt great to see our efforts pay off and bring everyone together for a memorable night. Looking ahead, we're excited to keep the momentum going and continue providing opportunities for residents to showcase their talents and celebrate their cultural backgrounds. This event was a success, and we're confident that future events will only strengthen our sense of community here in PGP.



# FOC'23 – ETHA NOVEA

Energetic. Inclusive. and Spirited



The air buzzed with excitement as 200 eager freshmen gathered for their orientation camp. **Pioneer House**, founded in 2017 and known for its inclusivity and sustainability, had transformed into a buzz of lively activity. Laughter and cheers filled the grounds as groups of students engaged in various ice-breaking games, from spirited rounds of tug-of-war to intriguing scavenger hunts that revealed hidden nooks of the sprawling campus. As teams strategized and competed, friendships began to form, knitting together a tapestry of diverse backgrounds and stories. The sun dipped low, casting a warm glow over the jovial crowd, symbolizing the bright beginnings of their university journey in NUS at **Pioneer House**.



# OPEN HOUSE'24



The annual **Open House** is a chance for us to showcase our wonderful community to incoming freshmen and all visitors. We hope that everyone had a great day exploring NUS and getting to know **Pioneer House** in person!

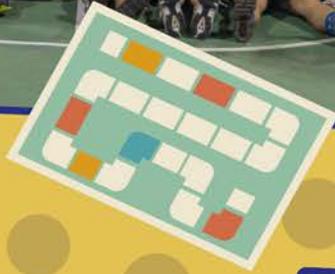
*Handwritten text in a cursive script, likely a list or notes, partially obscured by the green text box.*

canva stories



**Flag** is a charitable event where residents raise fund for a target beneficiary. Funds raised this year were donated to our beneficiary, **Metta School**, which provides learning opportunities for children with mental disabilities.

# FLAG 23/24



# INTER BLOCK GAMES'24



2024 saw PH's *Inter-Block Games* return once again, in full force. Battling it out in 10 sports and games (Basketball, Chess, Badminton, Captain's Ball, Poker, Floorball, Mahjong, Dodgeball, Ultimate Frisbee, and Bowling), PH residents paired up in blocks (*Blocks 20/21, 22/23, and 24/25*) to compete for the top spot in PH. Our *Sports Committee*, led by *Zheng Jing*, our *Chief Sports Officer*, brought us an exhilarating 2 weeks of fun and, frankly, exhaustion, as amateurs and athletes alike represented their Blocks in this year's games. Congratulations to *Blocks 24/25* on clinching the Title, and good job to all who came down to play, support, or simply admire from afar. See you next year for more!!







The **Southeast Asia Friendship Initiative (SFI)** Course is a comprehensive 4-unit program offered by Pioneer House, designed to immerse students in the rich cultural tapestry of **Indonesia**. Throughout the semester, participants delve into modules covering Indonesian history and language, gaining a deeper understanding of the nation's heritage. The highlight of the course is a 10-day excursion to vibrant destinations like **Yogyakarta**, **Semarang**, and **Malang**, where students engage with local businesses, communities, and traditions firsthand. This **experiential** learning journey fosters **cross-cultural exchange** and personal growth, enabling participants to develop invaluable insights and skills. Through activities, discussions, and observations, students not only expand their academic knowledge but also forge lasting connections and friendships. The SFI Course empowers students to become global citizens with a nuanced understanding of Southeast Asia's diverse landscapes and cultures.

## MALANG



RF Andi giving a summary and translating for PH students at **Bumiaji**, a local Farm located near **Malang** Region.



Pioneer House hosting **Universitas Brawijaya** students when they came over after our trip.



Mount Bromo National Park, the **highlight** landmark of the trip.



Students made it to the **top** of the cliff opposite Mount Bromo, approximately **3300 meters** above mean sea level.

# YOGYAKARTA



Students were exposed to the local Indonesian tradition of *handmade* Batik, the image above are drying Batik cloths processed by *our students*.

Students engaging in a meaningful discussion with local farming representatives at *Mina Padi* in *Samberembe Yogyakarta*, where the representatives shared ongoing efforts to convert all local crop farmland into *hybrid* padi fields that can accommodate the rearing of *fish*.



After the initial sharing, students walked the ground of *Mina Padi* to reinforce their understanding of the *hybrid farming* concept involving the combination of fish rearing together with the traditional rice fields to achieve better yields for the local farmers.



Student *Michael Gonathan* presenting the Pioneer House Yearbook in appreciation to the *Co-founder* of *JALA*, a technology company based near *Semarang* focused on developing solutions for Shrimp Farms in *Indonesia*.



Built in the *10th* century, our students visited the Prambanan Temple, the largest temple compound dedicated to *Shiva* located in *Yogyakarta, Indonesia*.

# FRUGALITY & SUSTAINABILITY



**Claressa Beh**  
Director of Frugality & Sustainable Living

The focus on *Frugality and Sustainable Living* serves to encourage PH residents to recognize their ability to make significant contributions to both the community within the House and the broader society. This year the F&S *subcommittee* consisted of 15 lovely and passionate individuals. Special thanks to **Duocai Wu** for being the co-director, I'm not sure where F&S would be without him. His dedication and collaboration have been invaluable to our efforts. Together, our focus this year was on promoting a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness between our actions and the environment, introducing fun yet meaningful activities to engage residents in frugality and sustainability, and fostering a more *inclusive* community.



**SUBCOMMITTEE**

## NATURE WALK @ LABRADOR PARK



The Nature Walk at Labrador Park offered residents a chance to get to know Singapore's natural biodiversity, providing opportunities to spot wildlife in one of Singapore's last patches of primary rainforest. Waking up with the morning birds, participants made their way to the park to reconnect with nature while engaging in bingo challenges to spot different wildlife. Through this event, participants got to forge bonds through teamwork and collaborative creativity, while appreciating the diverse flora and fauna that Labrador Park has to offer.

# TERRARIUM WORKSHOP

The Terrarium Workshop, organized by PH Gardening and PH Mental Wellness IGs with the support of PH F&S, offered residents a unique opportunity to delve into the world of terrarium making. During the Terrarium Workshop, participants worked with plants propagated within the PH garden & transplanted them into decorated terrariums to keep in their rooms. Through this hands-on approach, participants learned about terrarium making and basic plant care, as well as picking up basic landscaping skills at a small and manageable scale. Through this event, residents fostered a connection with the natural world which is incredibly valuable, and got a keepsake to remind them of our connection with our environment.



# HALLOWEEN DECOR: "RE-PHRESHING ART"

The Re-Phreshing Art event focused on upcycling everyday items into Halloween decorations, reducing environmental impact while contributing to Halloween ambience. Guided by facilitators from both the F&S and KE green teams, residents learned to transform everyday items into spooky decorations, such as toilet paper rolls into spooky lanterns. Through the four station event, we fostered connections and promoted sustainability, raising awareness of the value of upcycling, as well as promoting a culture of making recycled & DIY decorations for events.



# LITTLE FARMS OUTING

The Little Farm Outing provided PH residents with an opportunity to tour and explore a local sustainable farm. Led by staff from Little Farm Explore Pte Ltd, residents spent their morning exploring the communal farm and learning about crop farming via guided tours and workshops. These workshops focused on the advantages of supporting local farming and showcasing innovative, sustainable farming methods, with a goal to empower residents with practical skills that promote sustainability in their daily lives, and the residents greatly enjoyed the time spent outdoors in the fresh air.





## BEACH CLEAN UP

The Pasir Ris Beach clean-up event was an exciting way for residents to give back to our community by removing litter from our shores. Through collaborative efforts, residents bonded while cleaning beaches and raising awareness about responsible waste management. The event inspired a heightened sense of environmental responsibility among residents, and provided an activity to bond over, as well as helping to raise awareness on the plastic problem that plagues our communities and oceans.



## ISLAND ADVENTURE: A CYCLING ADVENTURE TO PULAU UBIN

The four-hour cycling trip at Pulau Ubin provided participants with a unique opportunity to explore the island's biodiversity, and enjoy the beautiful natural scenery. Visits areas such as Chek Jawa's seagrass meadows, Pekan Quarry, and Butterfly Hill offered insights into Pulau Ubin's diverse ecosystems. By indulging in the joy of cycling, participants also got a taste of the low-carbon lifestyle while appreciating the beauty of nature. The trip also served to educate participants about biodiversity in Pulau Ubin as they visited habitats such as mangroves and secondary rainforest, fostering a deeper connection with the environment. Overall, the trip provided much-needed relief and relaxation for participants, preparing them for upcoming midterm challenges.

## KAYAK & CLEAN

This year's Kayak & Clean event encouraged PH residents to embrace environmental stewardship while enjoying the tranquility of reservoir waters. Held at Jurong Lake Gardens, the event merged the enjoyment of kayaking with the responsibility of environmental conservation, raising awareness about preserving the cleanliness and health of our water environments for future generations. In collaboration with PH Mental Wellness IG, the event allowed residents to de-stress while out on the water, while also making a difference and cleaning up the environment. It also helped to raise awareness about the detrimental effects of littering in freshwater environments, inspire personal action to prevent pollution, and provide a fun and meaningful way for residents to bond while contributing to the cleanliness of our local aquatic ecosystems. Through this initiative, participants were empowered to make a positive impact on both the environment and their well-being.



## UGLY FOOD RESCUE

Addressing the prevalent issue of food wastage in Singapore, we organized an event focusing on repurposing "ugly food," which refers to items nearing their expiry date or with less-presentable appearances which are nevertheless still consumable. This event aimed to promote responsible food consumption practices, and raise awareness about Singapore's food wastage problem. By collecting and transforming these "ugly food" items into presentable dishes for communal dining, residents were encouraged to see the value in reducing food waste. Through education on safety, nutrition, and culinary possibilities, the initiative fostered a culture of environmental responsibility and frugality. Additionally, the event allowed residents to come together, enjoy meals, and bond, as well as contribute food that would otherwise go bad. With a focus on minimizing waste, leftover ingredients were distributed for cooking or placed in the composting bin of the Gardening IG.



## RECYCLING INITIATIVE

We conducted an experimental recycling initiative to assess and promote recycling culture within the community. The experiment aimed to evaluate the extent of recycling practices, assess the feasibility of a comprehensive recycling program and accumulate recyclables for potential repurposing. Recycling bins were placed in selected pantries across Pioneer House for four weeks during Semester 2 of AY 23/24. Daily surveys were conducted to assess bin cleanliness, with unsatisfactory bins leading to centralized recyclable collection. Results were analyzed to gauge the initiative's effectiveness. The experiment sought to instill a lasting recycling culture in Pioneer House, and is set to continue next year.



## FASHION SWAP

Continuing on from last year's edition, the F&S team set up a **Telegram** platform for residents to virtually exchange old clothes in good condition, promoting sustainability and **reducing fashion waste** within the community. Managed by the F&S publicity team, the platform operates throughout the academic year. Residents submit their old clothes via a Microsoft form, adhering to set rules and guidelines posted in the channel. Valid submissions are posted weekly for swapping opportunities, as a way to foster consistent **sustainable fashion practices**, community engagement, and resourcefulness among residents.

In week 10, the physical extension of the PH fashion swap telegram platform came to life in the PH foyer, providing residents with a tangible opportunity to exchange old clothes that they no longer wanted to wear. This initiative aimed to promote sustainable consumption among residents and foster a **circular economy** by encouraging the reuse of clothing items. By reducing reliance on fast fashion and discouraging cloth waste, the swap event educated residents on the importance of proper disposal of clothes and the benefits of **second-hand shopping**. Additionally, it offered residents the chance to obtain good quality second-hand clothing within PH, promoting a sense of community and resourcefulness. Through this initiative, residents were empowered to make environmentally conscious choices, and learn about the value of a circular economy.





# INTEREST GROUP SPOTLIGHT



## GARDENING

IGLs: Patrick Chew and Chong Xern Hu

It's been a vibrant year filled with unique gardening adventures. From harvesting *banana leaves* for eco-friendly plates to the thrill of hunting for worms in the garden for *Vermicomposting*, every session brought us closer to nature. The relocation of our *water spinach*, *durian* and *avocado* were successful and are thriving well in the garden. Both the *Terrarium workshop* and *Radish Growing competition* sparked enthusiastic participation. We even enjoyed frequent sightings of *Dmitri* the lizard, our unexpected garden companion. We at Gardening are thankful for your enthusiastic involvement and we look forward to seeing how the seeds we've planted grow. Let's keep nurturing our garden and each other! Till next time, Happy Gardening!



## VERTICAL FARMING

Over the past three years, the Vertical Farming IG at Pioneer House has thrived, driven by our passion for sustainable living and community involvement. We have introduced innovative gardening techniques and diversified our garden, which has not only beautified our communal spaces but also served as a practical example of sustainable practices. This year's highlights were a *BBQ harvesting* session to commemorate our agricultural achievements and workshops on *germination* and *hydroponic* methods, underscoring our commitment to green innovation and sustainable living. Looking forward, we aim to broaden our impact through more workshops, collaborations, and sharing hydroponic knowledge in the *F&S monthly newsletter*, all aimed at integrating sustainability into the very essence of Pioneer House. Finally, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to *Dr. Senthil*, *Dr. Andi*, our technical support vendor, and all community members who have significantly contributed to our journey.

IGLs: Yu Peng and Ramond



## ARTS & CRAFTS

As the arts and crafts interest group leader for semester 2, I am grateful for this role passed to me by the previous IGL, allowing me to unleash my **creativity** in planning engaging sessions for the residents. Beside utilizing **craft kits**, we also explored new initiatives like **wax seal** and **beading**, creating a new experience for our residents. We've delved into crafts with practical applications, such as **painting tote bags**, and hope to increase the difficulty to actually make a bag in the next semester. Looking ahead, our goal is to recreate attractive craft workshops typically offered by vendors through our very own arts and crafts sessions.

IGLs: Sandy Kek and Lee Li Ying

Baking IG aims to impart knowledge of baking **pastries**, **parfaits**, and other confectioneries to PH residents with an interest in crafting these delicacies. The IG also teaches **baking theory**, such as the functions of baking powder, common mistakes when adding too much/too little of one ingredient, as well as how to evaluate food through taste and texture. Ways to make **healthier** adjustments to recipes and ingredients will also be taught. This allows participants to have a heightened **appreciation** and **awareness of food** that can be applied in their daily lives. We aim to foster a family-like environment among PH residents through our baking sessions. Moreover, we are hoping to extend this to the PH House Master and Resident Fellows, to provide them with more avenues to connect with the PH resident community.

IGLs: Annabelle Chan Shihui and Elyse



# BOARD GAMES

IGLs: Zhu Yiran & Zhao Xingqi



As the Board Game IGL, the year has been a delightful journey of *strategic plays*, *laughter*, and *community building*. Our roles extended beyond mere game facilitation; we were the architects of an inclusive environment where camaraderie and friendly competition thrived. Our responsibilities included curating a *diverse* library of games, ensuring a welcoming atmosphere for all members, and fostering a space where *strategy* and *fun* intersected seamlessly. Key achievements for the year included the *expansion* of our game collection, a testament to our commitment to variety and accessibility. Performance-wise, the increase in regular attendees highlighted the success of our engaging meet-ups. The acquisition of new games not only refreshed our repertoire but also promised a future rich with novel experiences. Looking ahead, the goal is to *broaden* our membership base, further diversifying the perspectives around the table, and to continue our quest for the next great game that will captivate the minds and hearts of our community.



# COFFEE



Coffee awakens, inspires and renews. Here at coffee IG, we aim to serve you not just coffee or *matcha* or *Hojicha*, but an experience. From the second the milk hits your lips until the second you toss your cup into the bin - a stream of *euphoria* that elevates your day.



IGLs: Seah Yi Xun Ryo and Jessica Yeo

# COOKING



This year, the Cooking IG has been keeping up with the traditional biweekly sessions for two pantries, sharing moments of joy and tears (mostly from chopping onions) with residents in Pioneer House. A year of breakthroughs would be how we describe this year's sessions, in which we challenged ourselves with new recipes like *Nasi Lemak*, *Mala* and even *Kimbap*, where we put ourselves to the test by rolling our own seaweed meals! The results were not always gourmet-par quality, but it's the fun during the process that made every session memorable for us, and hopefully for the participants that joined us in our journey this year. As we look forward to a new academic year, we are eager to tackle more innovative recipes and engage residents in sharing our enthusiasm and joy for cooking!



IGLs: Brian Bong and Jin Zhen

## MENTAL WELLNESS



The Mental Wellness IG has been an integral pillar of **support** and **camaraderie** within our community. As its leader, I've seen firsthand the positive impact of our initiatives on our peers' well-being. While our group has achieved significant strides in promoting a positive living environment through events like the **Terrarium Workshop** and **Fire Gazing**, there have been challenges. The dedication of my committee members has been instrumental in our accomplishments, resulting in increased participation in activities and awareness. As I pass down my leadership, I have confidence in the capabilities of the new committee who have supported me throughout this AY. Looking forward, there's immense potential for growth, including expanding **outreach** efforts and introducing new programs to meet evolving needs, ensuring we continue to support our community effectively.

IGLs: Tei Yee Chong and Dhiraputta Pathama Tenggara



IGLs: Tan Chee Xiang and Chong Chin Heng

## TEA



Tea IG has come a long way from being an elusive ground-up initiative that only a small number of residents knew about. We now have over **200 members** and an arguably larger presence in Pioneer House, as one of the few IGs offering a relaxed, de-stressing and unique experience that is bound to calm your nerves and soothe your mind. We've done regular **Tea Distributions** where we serve up some delicious tea to our residents, have hosted biweekly small-group sessions where participants get the chance to learn how to make their own tea (Eg. **Matcha Latte making**) and have even taken a trip down to **Tea Chapter** for an authentic **Chinese Tea Appreciation Ceremony**! Come down and join us as we savour a nice hot cup of tea together with a small cozy group of like-minded tea fanatics in the comfort of the PH pantry, and get to know one another! We have a series of amazing activities lined up for you soon as well (spoiler alert: **bubble tea pudding's** in the horizon \*\*)

IGLs: Kelly and Babu Gayatri



## PROGRAMMING

This academic year marks the exciting start of our **Programming IG**. Starting from scratch posed its challenges, but we're making strides. Initially, we had a good turnout, but keeping up momentum was tough. We experimented with different approaches and landed on collaborative projects, like our latest hit, **NUS-CLASS-CONNECT**. It's awesome to see members engaging beyond our formal meetings. While we're taking things at our own pace, we're also open to partnering with tech companies for talks and maybe even organizing **coding challenges** for more fun and involvement. Our goal remains making programming enjoyable and accessible for all. Join us as we continue to grow and connect over shared interests!

# BAND



IGLs: Alyanna, Lucas and Arnold



# DANCE



IGLs: Tang Yuan Yuan, Yin Li

# GUITAR



IGLs: Willson Han Zhekai, Chew Ting Yi

# SINGING



IGLs: Tang Chi Yin and Yang Yong Sheng



# BADMINTON



IGLs: Lee Hui Yong

# BASKETBALL



IGLs: Keane Chan Xing Zhao and Dai Yizhuo





# FLOORBALL



IGLs: Chionh Jun Hwee and Ong Jia Yi Megan



# ROAD RELAY



IGLs: Davidson Chua and Law Cheng Yi Precia

# RUN



# ROCK CLIMBING



IGLs: Lim Kai Xiang Sean and Wen Fang



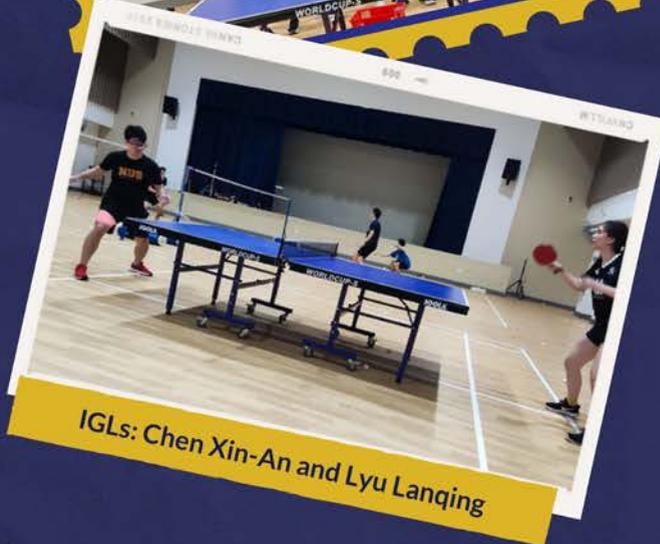
# FRISBEE



IGLs: Jerrie Shaffie



# TABLE TENNIS



IGLs: Chen Xin-An and Lyu Lanqing

# TENNIS



IGLs: Lu Jiyuan and Lu Yi Fan



# VOLLEYBALL



IGLs: Yan Xiaoying



# SHARINGS FROM OUR RESIDENTS!

## Chionh Jun Hwee

Some of my most notable memories would definitely be reviving PHloorball IG a few days after FOC, late night heart-to-hearts tarot card readings and the various PH events like Halloween and CNY etc. Above all, I am most grateful for the friends I've made here whom I'm sure will be lifelong!



## Nicholas Russell Saerang

I truly cherished the moments spent together as a PCT in any event, especially PH-wide events held by the RAs, that's the best opportunity one can bond as a family on top of being friends, having lots of things to talk about and share with each other. Having stayed in PH for the entire four years of my university mainly as a Peer Mentor, I personally enjoy helping my mentees and my residents whenever they needed help. The desire to share the knowledge and experience is what kept the residential life that lively! I wish all the other and upcoming residents the most fulfilling time in PH!

## Bhuvanesh Gonugunta

My most cherished memory at Pioneer House is undoubtedly the Semester 2 Dining-with-Master event. Reuniting with PCT mates, resident fellows, and the Master after the winter break was truly heartwarming. The delightful food added to the joy of reconnecting, and the Master's captivating stories and shared hobbies created a warm atmosphere. The event not only facilitated a meaningful gathering but also provided an opportunity to introduce and welcome the new residents of Pioneer House. It was a perfect blend of camaraderie, delicious cuisine, and the creation of lasting memories. Truly a highlight of my time at PH.



## Tan Chee Xiang

Remembering my time as a Programming Igl feels like riding a roller coaster. We had our ups and downs, but we never stayed down for long. When things got tough, we bounced back, rolled up our sleeves, and got to work. We kept building cool stuff, exploring new ideas, and finding what got us excited. It was like an adventure, full of twists and turns, but always leading to something fun and interesting. Looking back, those were some pretty wild times, but man, they were worth it.





## Chin Heng Chong

It was certainly a groundbreaking idea to decide to found an interest group, and we certainly spent a good amount of time settling down on the ways we can bring joy and impact to Pioneer House. Eventually, things start to stabilise and we managed to bring together residents of PH who are as interested in programming as we are, to work on projects and feel the joy of building things.

## Kedar Pai

Organizing PH's showing for the NUS Open Day, a grand showcase of residential life on campus, has been a tapestry of memories etched with creativity, teamwork, and a sense of pride. From the initial brainstorming sessions to the bustling day of the event, each step has been a journey of collaboration. Crafting engaging presentations, interactive exhibits, and immersive experiences, we aimed to offer a glimpse into the vibrant tapestry of residential life at NUS.

The camaraderie among the organizing team became the heartbeat of our efforts, as we navigated challenges and celebrated triumphs together. Witnessing the excitement in the eyes of prospective students and their families as they explored the residential facilities and interacted with current residents has been profoundly rewarding.

As the Vice Project Director, the Open Day has not only been a showcase but a testament to the transformative power of community and the lasting impact of fostering connections.



## Anthony Goh

Mahjong nights, random adventures, late-night grinds fueled by early morning McBreakfast with the best people - this year was a wild and unforgettable ride.

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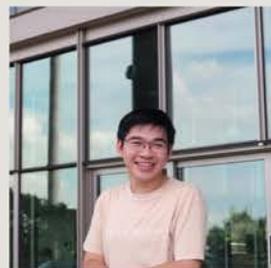
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**Joshua Tsu**  
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Every Day with  
this team



P'huat Ah!!

26 January



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