



PIONEER HOUSE YEARBOOK AY24/25





Some of the memories we've made in AY24/25! <3



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PIONEER HOUSE

LIVE, LEARN, LOVE



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 are 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. Currently, there are **more than 30 Interest Groups** to allow residents to explore and excel in various areas such as **sports, crafts, cultural, sustainability** and more!

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**". There are elected **Student Council** members to plan events and lead various sub-committees. **Resident Fellows** and **Resident Assistants** are also readily available to provide pastoral care and support to all residents.

Message from the Master

Dear PHamily,

As we reflect on another vibrant year together, I am filled with gratitude and pride for the journey we have shared within the warm embrace of Pioneer House. More than just a residence, Pioneer is a space where hearts find connection, minds are inspired, and values take root.

Our House is built on three quiet but powerful pillars — a sense of belonging, a sense of mattering, and a spirit of frugality and sustainability. These aren't just lofty ideals, but living values that echo in our corridors, laughter, late-night chats, shared meals, and the small kindnesses exchanged every day.

It's heartening to see how effortlessly we smile at one another on the way to class, how we pause to listen, to help, or simply to say "hi." That spirit of connectedness makes Pioneer a home — one where everyone feels seen, valued, and embraced just as they are. Whether you're a first-time resident or someone who's been with us for years, you've helped weave this tapestry of togetherness.

To our graduating residents — thank you for leaving your mark, for leading with compassion, and for showing what it means to live, learn, and love in community. To those continuing — carry forward this spirit and keep nurturing this special place.

Throughout the year, the vibrancy of residential life at Pioneer House has been distinctive. I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the PH Student Council (SC), Resident Assistants (RAs), Peer Mentors (PMs), and Interest Group Leaders (IGLs) for their remarkable efforts in curating a wide range of activities that reflect the diverse interests and passions of our community. Much of this liveliness is thanks to the tireless work happening behind the scenes. Many may not realize the thought, care, and dedication our student leaders invest in creating meaningful and engaging experiences for everyone. Notably, the SC and RAs have met regularly with the management team each month, thoughtfully discussing matters of student welfare and seeking ways to enrich the residential experience.

To all our student leaders — thank you. Your commitment, creativity, and heart have truly made Pioneer House a home.

We are delighted to welcome Dr. Quek Sue Ing as our new Resident Fellow, along with Ms. Lai Cheng Jun, who joins us as the new Manager in the Master's Office. Dr. Tan Hee Hon will be taking on the role of Master of Temasek Hall in May 2025.

Let us continue to grow as thoughtful individuals, respectful of the Earth and each other, always anchored by care, purpose, and joy.

With warmest wishes,

A/P Prahlad Vadakkepat
Master of Pioneer House

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the MANAGEMENT team



Management Team:

Master: A/P Prahlad Vadakkepat
House Managers: Ms Jean Wang, Ms June Lai

Block 20-21: Dr. Tan Hee Hon, Dr. Yee Zhuangli
Block 22-23: A/P Wilson Tam, Dr. Park Mihi
Block 24-25: A/P Senthil Kumar, Dr Quek Sue Ing



STUDENT COUNCIL



SC Members: Nikol, Kedar, Matthew, Edison, Serena, Elaine, Claressa, Pheeby, Prisha, Sharmaine, Joshlyn

Message from SC Chairman

Hey PHamily,

Serving as your Student Council Chairman this past year has been one of the most meaningful experiences of my life. As I look back on this journey, I'm filled with deep gratitude for the memories we've created, and more importantly, for the people who made every moment special.

From the cheers at Inter-Block Games to the laughter at Beach Day every part of this year has left a lasting mark on my heart. The warmth of our PH community, the friendships we've built, and our shared belief in making this place feel like home, these are the memories I'll always carry with me.

Shoutout to my fellow SC members, thank you for your strength, heart, and for walking alongside me through every challenge. Your commitment, humour, and unwavering support turned leadership into a privilege. To everyone in PH, thank you for trusting us, for showing up, and for shaping the soul of this house. I hope we've made your time here just a little more joyful, meaningful, and connected.

As this chapter comes to a close, I'm not saying goodbye, just turning the page. Pioneer House has given me more than I ever expected - a family, a purpose, and a place where I truly felt like I belonged.

With all my heart, thank you, Pioneer House.



Nikol Goh Zhi Wei
Chairman

Your Chairman,
Nikol Goh

RESIDENT ASSISTANTS



Sharmaine Teo Hai Zhen
Resident Assistant Lead

Being a Resident Assistant in Pioneer House has definitely been one of the highlights of my university journey. It's been such a meaningful experience and I've grown not just in how I handle responsibilities, but through the people I've had the privilege to work with and the many residents I've met along the way. From planning events to iconic RA quotes, I've come to realise that it's the small moments that make a big impact. Whether it's staying behind to clean up after an event or checking in on someone after a long day, these are the moments that build a sense of home.

I'm also incredibly grateful for the collaboration and support from other student leaders. We've all worked hand-in-hand to build something bigger than ourselves, and see how much care goes into making Pioneer House the vibrant community it is. To the residents, thank you for bringing so much life and warmth into this space. Lastly, I'd like to thank the Residential Fellows and the management team for their guidance and support throughout this journey. Their encouragement and trust gave us the space to grow as leaders and as individuals.



RAs: Darren, Gavin, Ryan, Marcus, Anthony, Sharmaine, Sandrina, FeiFei, Yaoyi, Hannah, Valerie



PH ALUMNI COMMITTEE

The AY24/25 Alumni Committee was a powerhouse of passion, creativity, and teamwork. Made up of driven individuals who genuinely cared about building connections across generations of Pioneer House residents, the team worked tirelessly behind the scenes to conceptualize, plan, and execute meaningful events. From coordinating logistics to crafting conversation prompts and curating heartfelt experiences, every detail was thoughtfully handled. More than just organizing events, the committee cultivated a spirit of community—one that brought alumni and residents closer, and made Pioneer feel like home long after moving out.



PHUNCH & MUNCH

Our first event of the year, PHunch & Munch, welcomed back Pioneer House alumni with warm conversations, laughter, and a sprinkle of nostalgia. Hosted in a lively setting with tea booths, trivia games, and an engaging networking segment, the event created a vibrant space for past and present residents to connect. Highlights included a heartfelt address from the Master and a light-hearted Kahoot session that had everyone smiling.

PHRIENDZONE

PHriendZone was our mid-year initiative that redefined alumni engagement through purposeful conversations. Drawing inspiration from discussion circles, this closed-door event featured themed tables guided by conversation cards, facilitating genuine dialogue on career journeys, workplace dilemmas, and personal growth. With alumni and residents seated together, it was an evening of thoughtful exchanges, mentoring, and solidarity—reminding us that wisdom shared is a gift multiplied.

PHAMILY NIGHT

To cap off the year, we hosted PHamily Night—an intimate sit-down dinner that brought the entire Pioneer community together. Over a buffet spread, residents, staff, and alumni shared stories, participated in storytelling games, and celebrated their shared roots. The laughter, heartfelt advice, and sense of belonging that filled the room were testaments to the enduring bond we all share as members of the PHamily.

PHAMIGOS



To warmly welcome our PHamigos participants, we started our events by hosted **PHot Luck!** It was a potluck-style gathering celebrating food, games, and culture. From muahchee and Ramly burgers to satay, rendang, and mac & cheese, each dish represented the diverse backgrounds of the residents. Alongside the feast, local games like mini mahjong and an upscaled country eraser game brought laughter and friendly competition. PHot Luck sparked meaningful cultural exchanges and new friendships, proof that food really is the universal language of connection.

PHair Play was an evening of strategy, laughter, and cultural exchange through games that bring people together. Residents were introduced to local-favorite board games like Kopi King and taught how to play Singapore's unique variant of Mahjong, a staple in many households here. The event aimed to go beyond just fun and games, encouraging cultural appreciation through gameplay. It was a wholesome evening of bonding, learning, and discovering the joy of play across cultures.



This year, we also implemented **OpenJios!** This was a concept where we invited residents to step out of PH and explore what Singapore has to offer. From visiting Parliament House and the Old Ford Factory to catching the lights at the Night Festival and F1, each trip offered something different. We also incorporated fun activities, like bowling and exploring NTU! More than just sightseeing, these experiences brought people together and made it easier to connect outside of school. Sometimes all it takes is a change in scenery and a "jio" to turn strangers into friends.



Batik PHactory invited residents to explore hands-on batik techniques while uncovering the tradition's deep Southeast Asian roots. More than just art, the event fostered meaningful interaction between PH residents, IISMA awardees from Indonesia, management, and our housekeepers (who play an invaluable role in our daily lives to keeping PH a comfortable place). Together, Batik PHactory became a platform for connection, recognition, and celebrating the beauty of doing something together!





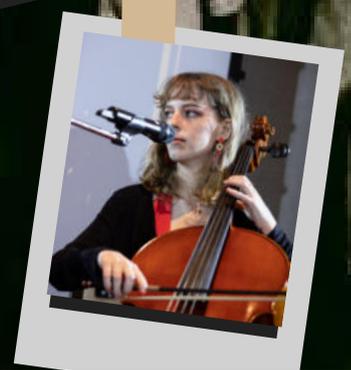
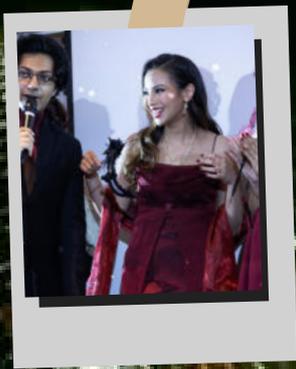
Throughout the Academic Year, Pioneer House Student Council members, Resident Assistants, and Peer Mentors have diligently worked to plan different events for our residents. We are ever so grateful that many have participated actively in the activities, and the beautiful memories we've created together.

Let's take a trip down memory lane, shall we?



EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

PH GALA '24 - APHTER PARTY



FOC'24 – BLOOM VS DOOM

The AY24/25 Freshmen Orientation Camp was a key event to warmly welcome both new freshmen and senior residents to Pioneer House. It provided a meaningful opportunity for everyone to connect, get to know their seniors, and experience the vibrant culture that defines the Pioneer House community.



KExPH Rag 24'

The theme for RAG this year was 'back to our roots'. We decided to include multiple elements that paid homage to Singapore's culture and history, including our iconic Toa Payoh dragon playground and gardens by the bay, to create a vibrant performance.



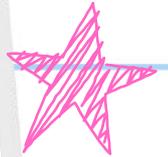
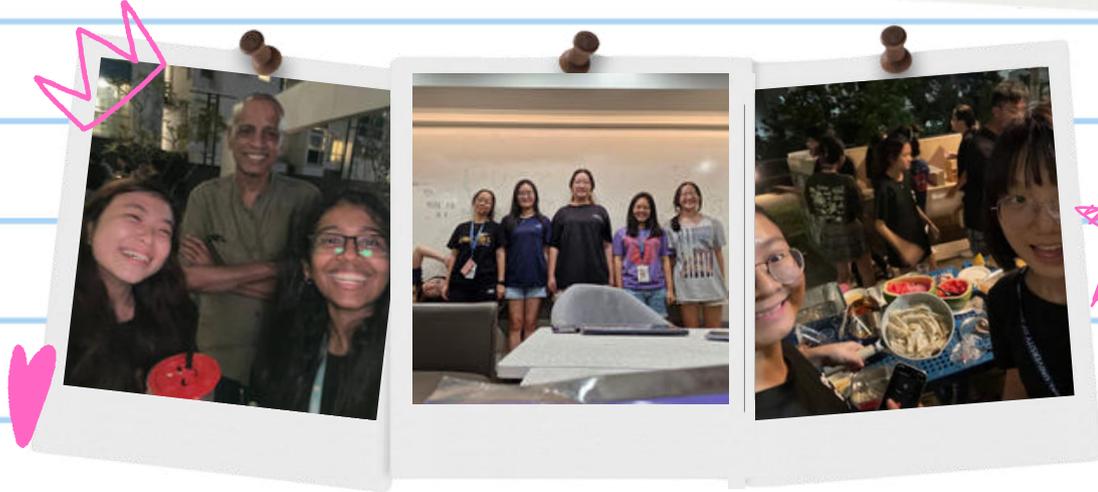


Best PHriends



PHorever

Best PHriends PHorever (BPP) is a fun, lighthearted event where PH residents pair up to take on weekly challenges, earn points, and make new friends across blocks and PCTs. With exciting prizes like Sony headphones, an air purifier, a Prism monitor and more, BPP is all about forging PHriendships that last PHorever!



IG PHAIR

Starting out in a new place can be overwhelming, but this year's IG PHair made it a little easier for our new PH residents to find their crowd! With fresh bakes and demos from our singing and dancing IGs, it was a vibrant showcase of the Interest Groups. Residents left not only with new friends and more knowledge, but also with fun prizes like a cozy Hooga diffuser and delicious snacks!



MINION PHUNFAIR

Our residents kicked off the new semester with a fun-filled night of mischief and mayhem at the Minion PHunfair event! Dressed to the theme in blue and yellow, they bonded with their PCT mates over dinner and games, and enjoyed groovy performances from our Band IG, making unforgettable memories that set the tone for an exciting semester ahead!



MacBreakPHest



MacBreakPHest served up warm hotcakes and muffins to fuel Pioneer House residents through the mid-terms grind. More than just a welfare giveaway, it was a heartfelt chance for students to connect, unwind, and celebrate community over good food.



Slumber Phest

Inspired from classic American movies and shows, we brought the fun and relaxing vibes back to PH! Our Slumber Phest was a cozy night of snacks and bonding. From cookie decorating to intense pillow fights on the bouncy castle, PHam came in style (and slippers!) to unwind and win some epic prizes!



Portfolio Submission Workshop

As part of the PH senior retention system, residents are encouraged to submit a portfolio highlighting their contributions to the wider Pioneer House community. To support this, we launched a Portfolio Workshop through the Student Council. This new initiative aimed to guide residents through the process of crafting and submitting their portfolios, while also emphasizing the importance of creating meaningful impact within the community. It served as a valuable platform for residents to reflect on their experiences and document their journey at Pioneer House.



Deepavali PHestival

This year's Deepavali PHestival brought Indian culture to life with vibrant food, music, and dance. From crowd-favorite pani puri to energetic performances and desi beats, it was a joyful, inclusive celebration. The night ended beautifully with sparklers lighting up the sky – a perfect close to an evening full of color, flavor, and unity.



aPHterlife

aPHterlife was Pioneer House's signature Halloween-themed de-stress event, drawing nearly 300 residents with eye-catching publicity and exciting sign-ups. The MPH buzzed with IG booths like Band, Dance, and Baking, alongside crowd-favorites such as henna art and a chocolate fondue fountain. With spooky games, a photo booth, and a best-dressed contest, it was a night of fun, food, and PHrighteningly good vibes!



Jingle & Mingle

Jingle and Mingle was an initiative to allow residents who stayed in Pioneer House during the vacation to celebrate Christmas together! It was also a collaboration with the different student leader bodies: SC Chairman (Nikol), RA (Ryan) and Vice PM Lead (Yi Heng). Together with a fried chicken dinner – we had gift exchange, a gingerbread house competition and fun karaoke night.



INTER-BLOCK GAMES

IBG'25 was a spectacular showcase of Pioneer House spirit, teamwork, and friendly rivalry! Over several action-packed days, residents came together to represent their blocks in a wide range of sports – from football and captain's ball to badminton and chess. The energy was electric and the support for one another was heartwarming. A huge thank you to all participants, volunteers, and supporters who made this year's IBG'25 so memorable.



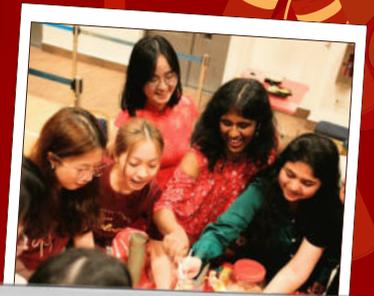
PH BEACH DAY

PH Beach Day offered Pioneer House residents a chance to unwind and connect through meaningful outdoor interactions at Tanjong Beach. Held in the midst of the academic hustle, the event promoted wellness, active living, and community bonding—all in a refreshing beachfront setting perfect for recharging before finals.



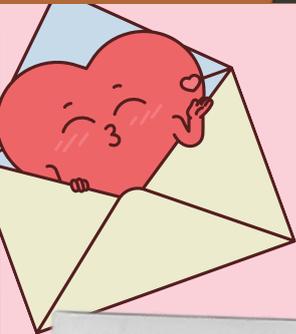
Gong Xi PHa Cai

We welcomed the Year of the Snake and celebrated the PHESTivities together! From the tasty mini buffet to nostalgic Dragon Beard Candy and a roaring Lion Dance, CNY together with PHamily brought laughter, good vibes, and prosperity!



supPHer Fest

supPHer Fest was a Semester 2 welfare initiative held during mid-terms to lift spirits and bring residents together over hearty bowls of laksa, freshly made prata, and cups of Milo. With good food and great company, it was a night full of warmth, laughter, and PHfriendship.



PHorever Yours

Held during the season of love, Phorever Yours was Pioneer House's very own Valentine's Day celebration, bringing together residents from all walks of life in a heartwarming night of connection, laughter, and shared moments. While romance was the theme, the true beauty of the event was how it brought friends closer, sparked new bonds, and reminded everyone of the joy in companionship.



Cultural Fest

Cultural Festival is an annual collaboration showcase event between LightHouse and Helix House, giving the residents opportunities to showcase their talent in singing and dancing. It is also an opportunity for inter-house residents to connect to each other.



CuttlePHish Games

We ended off Semester 2 with a thrilling night at CuttlePHish Games — a playful twist on Squid Game, with none of the danger but all of the fun! Residents went head-to-head in a series of nostalgic childhood games that tested their speed, wits, and strength — all for a shot at winning some amazing prizes. The night was bursting with adrenaline, laughter, and just the right amount of chaos, making it an unforgettable end to the semester!



PEER MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME



Joshlyn Looi Jing Xin
Peer Mentor Lead

The **Peer Mentorship Programme (PMP)** at Pioneer House is a distinctive initiative aimed at helping new residents ease into university life by building meaningful connections and adapting to a new environment. It has been a true privilege to serve as the Peer Mentor Lead this academic year, supporting and guiding our Peer Mentors as they took on the roles of cluster leaders, friends, and role models within our vibrant PFamily. Together, we've cultivated a supportive and inclusive culture where residents feel a sense of belonging. I'm incredibly proud of the team's accomplishments—their dedication, empathy, and creativity have brought life to the programme and positively impacted countless residents.

This role has been deeply fulfilling, and I look forward to seeing the PMP continue to evolve, with Peer Mentors bringing forth fresh ideas and deeper engagement. My hope is that this spirit of service and community lives on through every cohort of mentors. As we continue to grow, I am confident the programme will remain a cornerstone of Pioneer House—fostering friendships, empowering leaders, and strengthening our shared identity.



PCT 1

Chill Picnic

PCT 1 had a chill picnic where we cooked up a bunch of chicken wings and nuggets, grabbed some pizzas, and just hung out together. Everyone brought good vibes, and we spent the evening talking, laughing, and watching the sunset. It was a simple but cozy time—good food, great company, and a beautiful sunset to end the day.



PCT 2

Boards Game Night

Following a fun-filled February with the Inter-Block Games and Beach Day over, we had Board Games Night with close to 40 residents from 5 floors gathering to eat and bond over games. We got to link up with new residents and catch up over Jollibee chicken and Truffle Pizza. It was a fun night learning new games and discovering shared interest!



PCT 3

Movie Night: Screen & Snacks

PCT 3 hosted a cosy bonding session where residents came together to enjoy Spirited Away after the fire drill. With bubble tea and snacks recreating the comfort of a cinema experience, residents took a well-deserved break from their academic stress and reconnected with one another. Residents appreciated the chance to unwind and spend quality time together. The event successfully strengthened ties within the PCT and set a warm, positive tone for the rest of the semester.



PCT 4

Angel & Mortal

PCT4 Angel & Mortal is an activity in sem 2 that aim to facilitate bonding within PCT. In this activity, the angels will anonymously send gifts or do pranks (within boundaries set) to the mortals. This event encourages interaction between residents who may not know each other previously and had a positive impact of encouraging residents to join more PCT events.



PCT 5

Angel & Mortal

The Angels and Mortals event brought a wave of joy, kindness, and connection to the team. It aimed to create a lighthearted yet meaningful experience where participants could secretly care for one another through small surprises, kind notes, and thoughtful gestures. Participants could also prank their mortals stealthily adding to the mystery. The event culminated in a heartfelt reveal, filled with laughter and appreciation. It was a memorable experience that strengthened bonds and reminded everyone of the warmth found in simple acts of kindness.



PCT 6

Internship Sharing

Over the past academic year, PCT 6 community bonded through a series of fun and meaningful events— such as karaoke nights, bowling sessions, and late-night suppers. Beyond the fun, we also held academic sharing sessions where the PMs supported the mentees with Internship and SEP tips and insights. These moments strengthened our friendships and reminded us of the value of growing together as a community.



PCT 7

BBQ event

PCT 7 BBQ event held during the semester brought our garden of residents back to life held at the start of the semester. By gathering everyone in a laid-back setting, we nurtured new friendships, rekindled old bonds, and celebrated the diversity that defines Dandestra. Through food, laughter, and shared stories, we revived the spirit of inclusion and support. The evening reminded us of the strength we find in one another, and the joy that blossoms when a community comes alive with warmth and connection.



PCT 8

Angel & Mortal

Angel and Mortal was a two-week event held in Semester 2, designed to foster friendships and strengthen bonds among participants. The game involved anonymous exchanges of thoughtful gifts and harmless pranks, all based on the comfort level of the receiver. This element of mystery and fun helped members of PCT get to know one another better in an engaging and lighthearted way. Despite everyone's busy schedules, the event offered a refreshing opportunity to take a break and connect with friends through playful interactions.



PCT 9

Perfume Making Workshop

PCT 9's post mid-term perfume-making workshop offered a unique sensory experience for residents. Participants had the opportunity to craft their own personalised fragrance blends using a variety of essential oils, with hands-on session serving as both a creative outlet and a chance to unwind after midterms. The workshop fostered a meaningful way of strengthening the sense of community within the PCT.



INTEREST GROUPS HIGHLIGHTS

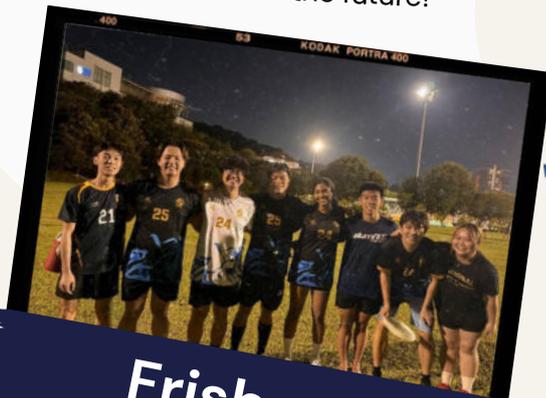


Basketball

This year has been a thrilling way for residents to stay active and connect through the game. With weekly sessions held at the MPSH courts, players of all levels came together for friendly matches filled with fast breaks and seeing new faces stepping out of their comfort zones. A big thank you to everyone who showed up and made the **Basketball** IG a part of their week.!



PHrisbee has been fun and fulfilling this year with countless scrimms against the other houses and exciting friendlies against other residences. It truly means a lot to see people step out of their comfort zones and trying something new. A special shoutout to the alumni for coming back despite their busy schedules to play. Hope to see more frisbee sessions in the future!



Frisbee

Rock Climbing



discover

NO CLIMB NO GO HOME. It's been a great AY filled with **rock climbs**, challenges, and good company. From figuring out tough routes to cheering each other on, every session had something to take away. There were falls, sends, and plenty of moments in between but we kept showing up and improving. Whether it was trying something new, working on a project, or just enjoying the process, the year has been both fun and fulfilling.



Volleyball

This year **volleyball** has grown into a vibrant, supportive and inclusive community, where we hold weekly sessions regardless of skills level. We take time to teach beginners the basics, helping them build confidence and improve their skills. Through a shared passion for the game, we've built strong bonds and made volleyball a highlight of the week for many residents.

explore

Phloorball has been a fun and energetic way for residents to stay active - From quick plays to unexpected goals, our sessions were always filled with friendly competition and laughter. A highlight of the year was hosting a friendly match with Helix House, where we met fellow floorball enthusiasts. Whether it is your first match or your fiftieth, everyone brought something to the court!



Floorball



Pickleball

What a smashing good time on the courts for **Pickleball IG**! Great rallies, even better vibes, and memories made under the stars. From first-timers to seasoned pros, everyone brought their A-game. Big thanks to everyone who came down and made it such a fun evening – can't wait to see y'all next semester!



Football

Football IG has hosted weekly football sessions every Thursdays where football enthusiasts can join and participate in laidback, friendly football games hosted at the PGP caged court. We welcome people regardless of their football background and skill level to play alongside one another. Fortunately, we had consistent attendance of about 15 players every weeks, even during reading weeks where many were still enthusiastic to come together and play!



Tennis

Tennis kept the momentum going with beginner sessions focused on basics and next sessions brought the thrill with fun games and friendly matches. We introduced a shared music playlist to played our favorite tunes while rallying and launched an Instagram page to capture and celebrate our best moments. We continue to be a vibrant, inclusive space where members from everywhere connect through a shared love for tennis!



Badminton

This semester, the **Badminton IG** rallied together for countless fun-filled sessions, bringing players of all levels together for smashes, laughs, and unforgettable memories. Beyond the court, we showed support during stressful times with little welfare boosts to keep the energy going strong. Whether you were landing perfect drops or just vibing with the group, your presence made every session a smash hit!



Road Relay

Road Relay IG explored a beautiful new route at Kent Ridge Park and hosted two unforgettable welfare runs—one to Marina Barrage with a sunset picnic, and another to West Coast Park that ended with a McDonald's supper. Every run deepened friendships and built a stronger sense of community. It was especially meaningful to introduce new residents to Road Relay and see them grow to love the joy of running together! it's been a year of unforgettable memories forged one stride at a time. Looking forward to what the future year brings for Road Relay!



Table Tennis

Table Tennis IG enjoyed a relaxed and enjoyable year of weekly sessions. From beginners learning the basics to more experienced players refining their technique, everyone practices at their own pace in our judgment-free environment. The casual points we play have led to natural improvement while keeping the focus on fun rather than competition.

Singing IG believes that music is one of the most powerful ways to bring people together, and over the years, we've witnessed how a simple song can lift spirits, ease stress, and spark lasting friendships. Whether you're a seasoned performer or someone who just enjoys singing along in the shower, we welcome everyone with open arms. From our cosy weekly sessions at FR4 to belting our hearts out at Teo Heng karaoke nights, we've built a safe and supportive space where residents can unwind, have fun, find their voice and offer members a platform to share their talents and cheer one another on.



Singing

Over the past year, **malPHunction (Band IG)** rocked over 10 events! Highlights included Cultural Fest, Rockfest, and Halloween. From rock to pop, funk to jazz – we've done it all! We kicked off the AY with an internal showcase, giving beginners a chance to try new instruments and make new friends. malPHunction also brought our music beyond PH, performing at gigs like STUDYO at Utown and collaborating with Helix House and Light House for Cultural Fest. Big thanks to everyone in malPHunction for being amazing performers and bringing energy to PH life.



Band



Guitar

What a year it's been for **Guitar IG**! Every Wednesday night has been chill with music and chatter. We are glad to have had new members who joined as beginners at the start and gradually progressed in learning to play the guitar. From Coldplay to Genshin Impact to Indonesian Music, we seem to have covered most of the songs, especially with the new addition of PH's Guitar Pro Subscription!



Dance

This year, **Dance IG** had the opportunity to welcome a new batch of dancers and provide them with performance opportunities in PH's events – more specifically for Halloween and Cultural PHest. We explored new genres of dance like Latin, K-pop and popping through our open classes and exposed new dancers on how preparing a performance is like. Most importantly, we focused on teaching our dancers the basics of dancing, so as to inculcate a deeper appreciation for dancing and enjoyment for performing on stage.



Vertical Farming

This year, **Vertical Farming** IG cultivated not just crops, but also community spirit through a range of hands-on, sustainable activities. From engaging hydroponics workshops and germination to a sizzling BBQ harvest and cooking session, we turned our harvest into wholesome meals. A visit to U-Farm also inspired us with fresh perspectives on urban farming beyond PH. With sustainability at our roots and growth in our hearts, we're working towards making farming fun, nourishing, and social.

It's been a wholesome and rewarding year with **Gardening** IG, watching both plants and friendships grow! We kicked off with the Terrarium Workshop, where everyone had fun creating mini glass gardens. Things got even more exciting at the Vermicomposting Workshop, learning how worms turn scraps into rich compost. But the highlight? Our weekly garden sessions—celebrating papaya trees fruiting, and watching kang kong, French beans, choy sum, mint, and kale thrive. Big thanks to everyone who joined us—let's keep growing together!



Gardening



Upcycling

Hi, we're PH's new **uPHscycling** IG! We turn everyday items into unique treasures through upcycling. Though newly formed, we've already made plushies from old socks and plant pots from drink cans! Our hands-on workshops and eco-friendly challenges spark creativity and reduce waste. Join us to reimagine the ordinary and promote sustainable living in Pioneer House. We've had so much fun this year—can't wait for more next AY!



Arts & Crafts

Arts & Craft IG explored a wide variety of crafts, from candle and perfume making to LEGO building, string art, and the popular decoden mirrors and photo frames. Looking ahead, we're excited to introduce even more creative and engaging projects. Our aim is to show that arts and crafts go far beyond just drawing and painting and that no artistic background is needed to take part and have fun. It's all about enjoying the process and expressing creativity in diverse ways.

CUTE

Come one, come all! Who can resist the smell of freshly baked cookies, brownies, and cakes? **Baking** IG curates recipes for all skill levels and aim to make baking inclusive. One of our favorite egg alternatives is Greek yogurt—perfect in our green tea cookies and brownies! We join PH events like Valentine's Day, Halloween, and Open House, offering vegan, halal, and vegetarian options. And yes, we brought cricket cupcakes to Halloween! Thanks for the fun memories and support, may your bakes keep thriving~



Baking



Board Games

This year, **Board Games** IG brought together residents for thrilling strategy battles and laughter-filled game nights. From classic favorites like Catan and Citadels to discovering new gems like Machi Koro and Galaxy Trucker, every weekly session was a blend of fun and camaraderie. We even had game exchange with Helix House to experience their collections, like Throw Throw Burrito and Ghost Blitz. We look forward to more roll-of-the-dice moments and strategic showdowns.



Cooking

From sizzling stir-fries to creamy pastas, our bi-weekly **Cooking** IG sessions are a delicious way to unwind and learn. Designed for beginners, we explore both Western and Asian dishes like rose shrimp pasta, clam chowder, and Chinese tomato egg stir-fry. Each session is hands-on, fun, and filled with laughter (and great smells!). Whether you're new to the kitchen or a seasoned home cook, there's always something tasty to try. Join us in the pantry for a scrumptious bonding session!



E-Gaming

This has been a very fun year for **E-Gaming** IG, filled with exciting and thrilling moments throughout. From the fast-paced races of Mario Kart 8 Deluxe to the strategical combat of Super Smash Bros. No matter if you're here for momentary stress-relief or to train your competitive skills, E-Gaming IG has always been a place where you could come down and vibe with your fellow residents. Keep on grinding fellow gamers, we hope that your love for video games never die!



Programming

In 2025, the **Programming** IG introduced members to AI tools and tech topics in a relaxed, accessible way. A key highlight was our collaboration with the Volunteer IG on Programming for Kids, where we taught Scratch to primary school students. After a successful March trial, we're planning a full event in June. At NUS Open House, our Scratch game booth drew great attention and sparked conversations. We're excited to build more engagement in the coming year!



Mental Wellness

This semester with **Mental Wellness** IG was packed with great vibes and even better company! We got hands-on at our String Art night, finding calm in creativity. Then came the Terrarium Workshop, where we built little green worlds in glass, perfect for brightening up our rooms and minds. Kayak & Clean brought us to Marina Bay, paddling with purpose while helping the environment. Each moment reminded us how fun and energizing wellness can be. Thanks for joining us and see you soon!



Beading

It's been a lovely semester for our **Beading** IG, with residents looking forward to Monday nights filled with joy and laughter. From making customised bracelets to beaded animal keychains, everyone amazed us with their creativity and skill. Though we've just started this semester, it's been such a joy getting to know one another and building this warm community. We're so thankful for everyone's participation and hope to bring more fun projects next semester. Let's keep making new friends — hope to see you all again soon :)

Over the past year, **Coffee** IG has been a cozy little corner of Pioneer House where caffeine and community came together. With our weekly coffee giveaways in the early mornings, our IGLs worked tirelessly to give our residents a nicely brewed cup of coffee to start their day. Thanks for making every cup count!



Coffee



Crochet

It's been 3 years since **Crochet** IG began, and each semester we're excited to welcome back familiar faces—especially those who first picked up crochet with us! Tuesdays are our cozy escape from hectic NUS life and a push out of bed. With fun beginner projects, a growing yarn stash, and wholesome company, there's always something to enjoy. This AY, PH residents came together to create our first-ever granny square pillow for the lounge. Returning seniors—spot your patches this August!

It's been a memorable year for us here at Pool IG, as we welcome more than a few new faces to the lounge. From bonding sessions at Harbourfront Centre to our regular sessions at the lounge, each of us has honed our skills. This year, we are proud to announce the arrival of a new pool table, the Club English. It offers a much smoother and enjoyable experience compared to the previous pool table, which is why we're looking forward to all the fun we'll be having together next year. Until next time, PHam!



Pool



Southeast Asia Friendship Initiative

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 a vibrant destination – 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. The SFI Course empowers students to become global citizens with a nuanced understanding of Southeast Asia's diverse landscapes and cultures.



Malang



Our PH students, accompanied by the UB (Universitas Brawijaya) students, get hands-on experience cutting Tempeh, a traditional fermented food in Indonesia that has for a long time acted as an affordable protein source.



PH students get to visit the local farms in Malang to learn first hand what goes into making fresh and affordable green produce. From seed to the table.



At the local farm, part of the experience offered to our PH students was the first hand opportunity to plant seedlings



Students were treated by the UB counterpart to a Kuda Lumping performance (Traditional Javanese dance originated from Ponorogo, East Java depicting a group of horsemen.) in a local village near the outskirts of Malang.





Former PH Staff Professor Andi and current lead staff for SFI Professor Senthil with the important stakeholders of UB. Fun fact is that Professor Andi was a graduate of UB which was a key driver in making our Malang SFI happen.



Visit to a local tea plantation, where they grow and process tea leaves. Which is made into the all time known and favourite drink in Indonesia as Teh Manis



A visit to one of the main dams near Malang that allow for power generation and protection of many local farms from flooding



PH Students team up with UB students to reflect on the local SME and businesses they have visited and present on opportunities the local businesses could leverage on



PHOLUNTEERS



This year, PHolunteers worked on maintaining good relations with our existing initiatives but we also saw a few changes, welcoming and starting new initiatives and saying goodbye to a few. We had the chance to work together with PH Programming for a new initiative, welcoming back our volunteering initiatives involving animals and resuming our OCIP in-person.

We hope that our volunteers have enjoyed themselves, and learnt something while doing so! In the upcoming AY, we hope to welcome both existing and new members/initiatives back. Lastly, we would like to thank all our volunteers for dedicating themselves to our initiatives the past year and making an impact on the wider community.



Singapore Children's Society (SCS)

This AY, PHolunteers x SCS continued to make a meaningful impact on children from less privileged households. Through regular academic guidance, many showed marked improvement and renewed enthusiasm for learning. Beyond studies, volunteers led sports and games to support social-emotional growth. To motivate them before exams, we hosted a cheerful "KFC Feast," and ended the year with a heartwarming celebration with the children, their families, and our volunteers.

Programming for Kids

This AY, Programming for Kids was launched under Pioneer House in collaboration with Care Corner, marking the first PHolunteers initiative with the Programming IG. Our debut sessions ran over two days in March at Big Heart Student Care @ West View Primary, where volunteers taught Scratch to underprivileged children. We'll return for a seven-day run in June and hope more passionate volunteers will join us to expand this initiative and create a lasting impact across Singapore.



Project Homeworks

In collaboration with Habitat for Humanity, our volunteers work closely with social workers and beneficiaries to rehabilitate homes and improve living conditions. From repainting walls and decluttering to tackling infestations, we aim to enhance the Quality of Life for those we serve. The impact of Project HomeWorks goes beyond physical changes—volunteers often find deep meaning in witnessing the positive differences they make. This experience also offers a deeper understanding of a less visible, yet vital, part of our community, fostering empathy and broader perspectives on life in Singapore.



PHOLUNTEERS



Krsna's Free Meals

This academic year, volunteers continued visiting Krsna's Free Meal to help ensure everyone in our community has access to a nutritious meal. It was meaningful to see the ingredients we trimmed become meals for those in need. Sharing a warm plate of food truly brightened someone's day. It was also a great chance to connect with volunteers from other committees. I'm grateful we were brought together by warm hearts to share love. Thank you everyone, and hope to see you all in next semester too <3.



KidsLearn

We worked with preschool children aged 5 to 6 every Saturday as part of the KidsLearn program. Through games, stories, and simple activities, we helped them build early reading and phonics skills. Over time, we bonded almost like older siblings — and watched their confidence grow week by week. The experience taught us how to communicate with young children, be patient, and adapt to their needs. It was incredibly rewarding to see their excitement when they learned something new, and we've grown just as much as they have.

Causes for Animals

In this AY, we resumed Causes for Animals, providing a platform for our residents to volunteer with animals. Despite the sessions being really early and really really far away, our volunteers persisted and made it for our weekly sessions at the shelter. It is truly heartwarming to see the dedications that our volunteers have for this project despite all these barriers. They might not be able to speak, but we're sure that if the dogs are grateful to you guys for helping keep their enclosures clean.



The LightHouse

This AY, we continued our collaboration with NTU for The LightHouse, reaching out to rough sleepers in Taman Jurong and Boon Lay. Through late-night walks, we formed friendships, offered support, and even helped some find housing. These sessions provide a safe space for conversations, challenge misconceptions about homelessness, and connect individuals with government support. We hope they also inspire volunteers to reflect resilience, privilege, and social responsibility.

Frugality and Sustainability



Prisha Ramesh Babu
Director of Frugality and Sustainable Living

At Pioneer House, we take pride in being a community rooted in the values of frugality and sustainable living – principles that not only define who we are, but also shape how we live and grow together.

Our vision this year was to increase engagement and involvement among the resident population by scaling up the scope of our events and crafting experiences that were both fun and deeply meaningful.

From the various events, we sought to make sustainability more accessible, memorable, and part of our everyday lives. This year also marked the exciting addition of a new Interest Group – Upcycling for residents to get hands-on with sustainability, and connect more deeply with the environment.

A special thank you to Tapasya Jain, my wonderful co-director, whose initiative, support, and unwavering drive helped bring our shared vision to life. I'm grateful for her leadership and collaboration every step of the way.

Most importantly, thank you to our resident community for showing up, supporting our journey, and participating in our events with such heart. We hope that FnS will continue to inspire and empower residents to embrace more sustainable ways of living.





Nature Walk

We kicked off the AY with an energizing Nature Walk to MacRitchie Reservoir, trading screens for scenery and group chats for birdsong. As the early morning sun lit up the canopy, residents made their way through the winding trails, soaking in the calm and beauty of nature. It was more than just a walk—it was a grounding reminder of the natural world we often overlook, and how important it is to pause, breathe, and reconnect with it.

Eco-Pledge

Our Eco-Pledge event asked a simple but powerful question: “What can you do?” Residents reflected on how they could live more sustainably and wrote down their commitments on bright post-its—ranging from reducing plastic to taking public transport. Each pledge came with a tiny succulent, a daily reminder to nurture growth. It was fun, heartfelt, and rooted in the idea that even the smallest changes matter when we commit to them.



Fashion Swap

Style met sustainability at the Fashion Swap, where wardrobes got a fabulous refresh—guilt-free! In collaboration with Cloop, residents swapped pre-loved fashion finds or scored stylish thrift pieces, proving that conscious fashion can be just as fun, fabulous, and affordable. The event showed just how fun and fashionable sustainable living can be, all while promoting mindful consumption and circular fashion practices within our community.

Island Hopping

Mid-sem break brought us Island Hopping to St. John’s and Lazarus Islands—a trip that blended fun, exploration, and reflection. With stunning coastlines and marine biodiversity all around, residents enjoyed a well-deserved getaway. A tour of the Marine Lab deepened our appreciation for biodiversity, and left us in awe of the vibrant ecosystems hiding in plain sight. It was a powerful reminder that even paradise needs protecting, and that environmental stewardship starts with awareness.





Yoga Session

Just before finals, we unrolled our mats and took a collective deep breath at Yoga Welfare. With every stretch and pose, residents found a rare moment of stillness amid academic chaos. Beyond fitness, the session offered space to reset mentally and emotionally. It served as a quiet but impactful reminder that caring for our minds is essential to sustaining the lives we lead.

Kayak & Clean

Armed with paddles and purpose, residents took to Marina Bay in Kayak and Clean, collecting a whopping 18.1 kg of trash from our waters. This hands-on clean-up reminded us how pollution hides in plain sight and that making a difference can be as fun as it is impactful. The experience was equal parts fun and sobering, reinforcing that our actions leave a mark, and it's up to us to make it a positive one.



Goat Farm + Sungei Buloh

Our visit to Hay Dairies Goat Farm and Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve was a day of discoveries. We began at Hay Dairies, where we met friendly goats and learned about sustainable dairy farming. Then, we wandered through the sprawling wetlands of Sungei Buloh, spotting everything from crocodiles to otters and hornbills. Between laughter and awe, the day offered serious reflection on animal conservation with the importance of preserving the ecosystems in our urban lives.

Coney Island Beach Clean-up

At our Coney Island Beach Clean-Up, what started as a picturesque day quickly revealed a harsher truth—trash is everywhere, even in our most beautiful spaces. Residents filled bag after bag with debris, from plastic bottles to oil containers. It was humbling to realize how easily litter accumulates, and it was a powerful reminder that every piece of litter matters—and that we all have a role to play in keeping our shared spaces clean.





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