

Chem^{NUS}CONNECTIONs

Newsletter of NUS Chemistry



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Editorial Notes

We warmly extend our best wishes to everyone for a joyful and prosperous New Year 2025 and a fulfilling Year of the Snake, filled with good health and productivity. In this issue of ChemConnection, we are excited to share with you the latest events in the Department of Chemistry, including the Opening Ceremony of the newly renovated Chemistry S8 Level 3, the Chemistry Alumni Reunion at the Chemical Bonding Lounge, the Chemistry Award and Appreciation Lunch, and the monthly Tea Breaks with Chemistry Undergraduates and Department of Chemistry's Staff Afternoon Tea Together. This issue also features reflections from our student, Marie Ang (Chemistry Year 4), and Dr. Cheryldine Lim (Class of 2016).

Alumni Reunion at the Chemical Bonding Lounge

In celebration of the grand opening of the upgraded Chemistry S8 Level 3 and the Department's 95th Anniversary, we are thrilled to announce the initiation of our quarterly reunions at the brand new and cosy Chemical Bonding Lounge. The inaugural event on November 29, 2024, was a resounding success, offering chemistry alumni a perfect backdrop to reconnect and share cherished memories with former mentors and classmates over an exquisite dinner. The evening was truly unforgettable as it was filled with laughter, shared stories and vibrant conversations between more than 40 alumni and staff. Mark your calendars for the **next reunion on April 4, 2025**. This can be your chance to reunite with old friends and make new connections within our community. Gather your classmates or research group mates and **sign up [here](#)** by **March 28, 2025**. We eagerly anticipate welcoming our alumni back for these exciting reunions and celebrations!

Calling all NUS Chemistry Alumni!

NUS Chemistry Alumni Reunion

Gather your ex-classmates or research group mates to join us for the Chemistry Alumni Reunion at the new Chemical Bonding Lounge at NUS Chemistry! Reconnect with your friends and pros, and expand your alumni network. We can't wait to see you here!

Date : 4 April 2025 (Friday)
Time : 5pm – 8pm
Venue : Chemical Bonding Lounge S8-03-01
(click [here](#) for direction)

Scan and register now!



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We welcome contributions from our alumni. If you are interested in writing for the newsletter, please contact the Editor at chmcws@nus.edu.sg.

Opening Ceremony of the new Chemistry S8 Level 3 floor

The Department proudly celebrated the grand opening of the newly renovated Chemistry S8 Level 3 on November 26, 2024. The event commenced with a prestigious ribbon-cutting ceremony at the main entrance lobby, officiated by NUS President Professor Tan Eng Chye, Faculty of Science Dean Professor Sun Yeneng, and Head of the Chemistry Department Professor Lu Yixin. Following this auspicious beginning, distinguished guests were invited to explore the state-of-the-art facilities and the collaborative spaces on the revamped floor.

Professor Lu Yixin delivered an inspiring welcome speech in the Executive Classroom, highlighting the transformative impact and significance of the new spaces. About 120 guests and staff were in attendance, contributing to the success and memorability of the occasion. The celebration concluded with a delightful lunch at the Chemical Bonding Lounge, offering attendees the opportunity to network and appreciate the beautifully redesigned environment.



Chemistry Award and Appreciation Lunch

On February 19, 2025, the Department of Chemistry at NUS organised the *Chemistry Award and Appreciation* event, celebrating the generosity of donors who have significantly impacted students' lives. A total of 37 bursary students were given the Study Awards from the Chemistry Alumni Fund in this Academic Year, highlighting the crucial contributions of these donors.

Held in the Chemical Bonding Lounge (S8-03-01), the *Chemistry Award and Appreciation* event commenced with a welcome and fund update by Associate Professor Chin Wee Shong. A highlight was the Award Presentation ceremony, where donors personally presented certificates to the awardees, capturing memorable moments. Attendees then enjoyed a lunch fostering engaging conversations and deeper connections between donors and students. These interactions offered insights into students' academic journeys and future aspirations. Awardees expressed gratitude through letters to their donors, acknowledging the vital support received. The event strengthened the bond between donors and students, enriching the academic community. The Department sincerely thanks all donors for their generous support.



Tea Break with Chemistry Undergraduates

The Department has launched a series of *Tea Breaks with Chemistry Undergraduates* as a monthly recurring event starting this semester, designed to foster connections between students and faculty staff in a relaxed setting. Held in the Chemical Bonding Lounge, this gathering provides a welcoming space for students to engage in meaningful conversations while enjoying tea and refreshments. Beyond social interaction, it serves as an avenue to stay informed about research opportunities, experiential learning trips, internships and other initiatives offered by the Department. By facilitating open discussions and networking, the event aims to enhance the undergraduate chemistry experience, encouraging collaboration, and greater awareness of academic and professional growth opportunities.



Department of Chemistry's Staff Afternoon Tea Together

The Department has introduced *Staff Afternoon Tea Together*, a monthly event beginning this semester, aimed at strengthening connections between current and retired staff. Hosted in the inviting atmosphere of the Chemical Bonding Lounge, this gathering offers a relaxed space for attendees to engage in meaningful conversations over a selection of tea and refreshments. The event serves as an opportunity for retired staff to reconnect with former colleagues, share experiences, and stay updated on departmental developments, while current staff can gain insights and inspiration from those who have shaped the department's legacy. By fostering these intergenerational connections, *Staff Afternoon Tea Together* not only nurtures a sense of community but also celebrates the contributions of both past and present members. The Department looks forward to seeing this event grow into a cherished tradition, strengthening the bonds that make the workplace a more connected and supportive environment.



A Reflection of Fireside Chat with Professionals session

by Marie Ang, Chemistry Year 4

“Attending the *Fireside Chats with Professionals* on February 5 and 26, 2025, was an enriching experience that broadened my understanding of the diverse career options available to chemistry graduates. Hosted by the Department, these sessions offered invaluable insights into industries like materials, analytical sciences, and forensics, while providing an opportunity to engage with experienced alumni.

The first session featured Ms. Grace Teong from Applied Materials and Ms. Yap Boon Huey from Hewlett-Packard, who shared their journeys transitioning from technical roles to managerial positions. They highlighted the challenges of shifting from data-focused work to managing people, emphasizing the importance of adaptability, emotional intelligence, and communication skills. This resonated with me, as I recognized the value of developing soft skills alongside technical expertise. Their advice on networking—connecting with professors, past supervisors, and industry professionals—underscored the significance of relationship-building in career growth.

The second session introduced me to the analytical and forensic industries through insights from Dr. Sivarajan Kanimozhi of Shimadzu Asia Pacific and Dr. Ang Thiam Peng of the Health Sciences Authority. They discussed the skills required in these evolving fields, uncovering career paths I hadn't considered. These sessions gave me confidence in pursuing my aspirations, offering practical advice to guide my career in chemistry.



“My Journey in Chemistry: Passion, Career, and Future Aspirations ”

by Dr Cheryldine Lim (Class of 2016)

“**C**hemistry has always been a subject that captivated me, both within formal education and beyond the confines of textbooks. It is the very foundation of many scientific disciplines, allowing us to explore the fundamental building blocks of matter and uncover the mechanisms that govern the physical world. What excites me most about Chemistry is its ability to train the mind to think critically and creatively—skills that are essential for solving complex problems and driving innovation.

Beyond its academic appeal, Chemistry offers a vast range of career opportunities. It permeates various industries, from organic and inorganic chemistry to analytical sciences, materials science, environmental sustainability, and medicinal chemistry. No matter where one goes, Chemistry remains a highly relevant and in-demand field, making it an ideal major for those who wish to merge their scientific curiosity with real-world applications. To me, Chemistry is both an art and a craft, shaping the way we understand and transform the world around us.

Currently, I am deeply involved in the sustainability ecosystem at Equalithium, where we focus on closing the loop in the circular economy for electric vehicle batteries. Our mission is to ensure responsible end-of-life battery management, recovering critical materials while minimizing environmental impact. My role involves overseeing treatment processes, refining methodologies, and collaborating with industry players to stay ahead of advancements in battery technology. These continuous innovations inspire our R&D team to develop effective solutions, and I am preparing to lead this team soon. My background in Chemistry, coupled with my doctoral studies in batteries, has been instrumental in allowing me to contribute meaningfully to this field.

Beyond the technical aspects, my job has also provided me with opportunities to expand my skill set beyond the lab. I have been involved in marketing, financial planning, investor relations, and business development, which gave me a broad understanding of the sustainability industry. These experiences have broadened my perspective and reinforced the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in tackling global challenges. The dynamic nature of my work keeps me engaged and motivated, as each day presents new challenges that push me to grow both professionally and personally.

Looking ahead, I see boundless possibilities in this industry. The sustainability sector is evolving rapidly, and I am eager to embrace new challenges, expand my expertise, and drive impactful change. I believe in continuously pushing the boundaries of knowledge and innovation, leveraging every opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the field and grow as a professional. My journey in Chemistry has been an incredibly fulfilling one, and I am excited to see where this ever-evolving path takes me next.”

“The boundless possibilities and opportunities presented within this industry are well beyond the confines of language. Looking ahead, I am excited to explore new horizons, to embrace inventive challenges, and to continue to expand my skills and knowledge.”

- Dr Cheryldine Lim (Class of 2016)

