

## MORE ABOUT OUR MND EDGE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

### *The Animal Doctor*

#### **Mr Liang Junyuan, (梁峻源)**

Age: 20

Field of study: Veterinary Medicine, University of Edinburgh

Agency: AVA

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Since Junyuan was young, he was never allowed to keep pets because his mother was allergic to fur and his parents did not want animals in the house. Nevertheless, being fascinated with animals, the seven year old Junyuan would secretly smuggle tadpoles, insects and other small creatures into his room to take care of them. At age 12, it was this same passionate interest and love for animals that cemented his decision and resolve to one day become a veterinarian.

Inspired by his love for animals, Junyuan feels it was a natural choice for him to pursue a career as a veterinarian under the AVA Undergraduate Scholarship. Although he knew that being an AVA veterinarian that he would not be working in a regular vet clinic, he finds the work more meaningful as the job scope is more diverse and complex. AVA plays an integral role in safeguarding the health and welfare of animals and protecting our loved ones from zoonotic diseases like Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Avian Influenza.

In his time with AVA, Junyuan hopes to be able to achieve his goal of maintaining and improving the country's animal health and welfare standards through the implementation of policies. Being awarded the scholarship, Junyuan is very grateful to be given the chance to serve the people of Singapore and to give back to society. He feels he can do this by helping AVA's mission in ensuring a resilient supply of safe food, as well as safeguarding the health of plants and animals.

## ***The Caring City Planner***

**Ms Wu Jia Min (吴嘉敏)**

Age: 18

Field of study: Bachelor of Sociology, Vassar College, USA

Agency: URA

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Jia Min loves literature, film and sociology because they allow her to understand society and people in different ways – their stories, dreams, fears and desires. Exploring this interest, she has directed her own short films during her junior college years, and also did an internship with the Straits Times.

When she interned as a journalist chasing stories, she enjoyed visiting many different corners of Singapore and interacted with people from all walks of life, including shopkeepers, housewives, underprivileged kids and the elderly. This experience has allowed her to understand the importance of walking the ground to understand the needs of the diverse community – a key attribute of a good urban planner.

Jia Min feels that Singapore has to work hard for its beauty as we are not blessed with natural landscapes like mountains or lakes as other countries have. Every wonderful area is the result of good planning and vision. She thinks that a lot of thought has been put into providing Singaporeans with a liveable, efficient and beautiful city that fulfils various needs. She hopes to combine her personal interest and passion to understand how societies and people function, in order to help shape Singapore into a city that caters to its people above all else.

She feels that as Singapore braces itself for a larger and older population – one that belongs to a global and interconnected world - it will come with new social challenges, dreams and priorities. She hopes to be part of the team that understands and addresses these issues through thoughtful and insightful planning of our city. She also hopes that her passion and love for exploring new ideas will contribute to a fun and dynamic MND community.

## ***The Aspiring Architect***

### **Mr Muhammad Rahmat Bin Khairudin**

Age: 23

Field of study: Landscape Architecture, National University of Singapore

Agency: URA

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Since kindergarten, Rahmat has been interested in architecture and city skylines. He would sketch, build Lego models and take pictures of cityscapes wherever he went. His love for buildings broadened when he began travelling, and when overseas he learnt to compare the urban environment of other cities to Singapore by understanding their unique culture and history.

After his mother's passing in 2008, Rahmat came up with a detailed life plan to prioritise his goals and ambitions. He enrolled into his dream course in Singapore Polytechnic to obtain a Diploma in Landscape Architecture, and while many of his peers furthered their studies after National Service, he decided to start work in the landscape architecture industry. He spent time in two architecture firms – Ecoplan and Stephen Caffyn Landscape Design – where he gained invaluable experience through working on numerous local and international projects.

During his work stints, he also visited construction sites to observe and learn from on-going projects. This provided him with rich insights into the entire planning process – from drawing up building plans, construction, to seeing through the completion of projects.

At present, he believes that furthering his studies in landscape architecture will help him to make the next big leap in his life. This would bring him one step closer to realizing his childhood dream of becoming a good master planner and landscape architect. He is also grateful to be able to work in URA, as that has always been part of his dream.

Rahmat also loves public speaking and reading the newspapers to keep abreast of local and global current issues. He has a strong interest in community service, and feels a deep sense of fulfillment every time he helps the less privileged. He intends to focus on experimenting and delivering innovative ideas that will help shape the urban landscape of Singapore for many generations to come.

## ***The Artistic Nature Lover***

### **Ms Rebecca Lee (李美慧)**

Age: 18

Field of study: Bachelor of Geography, University College London

Agency: NParks

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Rebecca's personal interest lies within the field of conservation, where she has a deep appreciation for biodiversity and fascination with nature. The exposure to local green spaces has opened her eyes to the extent of biodiversity that thrives in Singapore, and deepened her interest in the natural world.

Her earlier studies with ceramics in School of the Arts, Singapore, has given her the opportunity to work intimately with clay, which she likens to understanding soil on a greater level and its fundamental role in our ecosystem. Together with the skills which she hopes to attain as a Geography student, she wishes to highlight the importance of the natural environment in relation to Singapore's urban development.

Particularly, she wants to return to NParks to contribute to conservation and sustainable development in Singapore. She also feels that being exposed to the international community in London will allow her to consider global geographical issues from various perspectives.

In her spare time, she continues to practice ceramics as she believes in the power of art to communicate the beauty of nature and ideologies of environmental protection. Marrying her love for art and nature, she is currently working on an art piece that celebrates the beauty behind biological processes in corals.

## ***The Nature Explorer***

### **Ms Yeoh Yi Shuen (杨怡璇)**

Age: 18

Field of study: Bachelor of Biological Sciences, University of Oxford

Agency: NParks

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Yi Shuen is interested in nature, particularly in the field of botany, plant communities and forest conservation.

As a regular volunteer for ground-level conservation works, she has had many interesting experiences in our forests, working with passionate staff and volunteers for forest patrols, native plant propagation, invasive species removal, camera trapping, and etc. She has also helmed a research project with two other school mates to explore the tree and seedling communities of MacRitchie Reservoir and consider how the plant community is affected by different environmental factors. She recalls how they found many interesting plants and animals, and even saw a colugo in flight!

Yi Shuen feels that Singapore is blessed with rich plant diversity and it is heartening to know that despite massive deforestation, our nature reserves still contain a high proportion of its native flora and fauna. She notes that in this year alone, Singaporeans have seen the discovery of several new plant species endemic to Singapore! This is exciting news and it further underscores the need for proper management and preservation of our wild areas.

She aspires to see a Singapore that cares about nature and consciously makes it a part of our lives. In particular, she hopes to see the younger generations encouraged to explore the natural world, which is full of surprises and wonders. She feels that as Singapore continues to develop, we must not stop striving to make greenery an integral part of our landscape.

Yi Shuen is very excited by the prospect of carrying out conservation work in Singapore. She hopes to tap into and expand the scientific databases, and use the ecological data to enact and monitor the success of conservation initiatives.

## ***A passion for creation and Star Wars***

**Mr Jarron Isaac Tham (谭劼融)**

Age: 22

Field of study: Bachelor of Architecture, University College London, UK

Agency: HDB

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To Jarron, a home is more than just a place we live in. It is a reflection of you and me; of who we are. Home is where the heart is tied to and it contains many of the things we love. This is why Jarron chose to read Architecture. He understands the importance of a home and wants to contribute to shaping these precious memories and heartstrings by joining HDB, an agency that builds most of the homes in Singapore.

Jarron looks forward to reading Architecture at the renowned Bartlett School of Architecture. As with other designers, Jarron's dream is to see his work materialise, and subsequently impact the people around him in a positive way. He is a creator and finds a great sense of fulfilment from creating new things, turning his daydreams into reality. He believes that there is a good story behind every great creation, and he will gladly share his stories with those who would listen.

Jarron is driven by the design philosophy his mentors taught him: "If something is worth doing, do not hesitate to make it beautiful." He believes that great design must be always beneficial to its users.

Jarron is a huge Star Wars fan. How avid of a fan is he? He spends evenings under the MRT tracks at Ang Mo Kio with a growing community of likeminded enthusiasts to practice lightsaber combat and dueling. All the enthusiasts train with their own lightsabers. Jarron is also waiting excitedly for the new Star Wars movie coming up.

## ***Mastering Tai Chi and Civil Engineering***

### **Ms Wong Liang Ning (黄菱甯)**

Age: 19

Field of study: Bachelor of Civil Engineering, National University of Singapore

Agency: BCA

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Liang Ning has a sporty nature. In her recreational time, she would go on various hiking trails around Singapore, such as the Southern Ridges and MacRitchie Reservoir. Hiking allows Liang Ning to slow down and appreciate the beauty of wildlife – something that she feels city-dwellers have somewhat grown to neglect as we immerse ourselves in the hustle and bustle of city life. Liang Ning has also been a Tai Chi practitioner for over 10 years, having picked it up from her Wushu days in secondary school and Junior College.

Aside from sports, Liang Ning also enjoys cross-stitching, an uncommon hobby amongst youths. The sense of satisfaction and accomplishment when her piece of handiwork comes to fruition is something she relishes.

Liang Ning looks forward eagerly to the range of activities and curriculum that university life can offer, such as the overseas student exchange programmes and experience of campus living. She believes that these can enhance her undergraduate learning experience, and hopes to apply her civil engineering skills and knowledge in her future career at BCA.

Liang Ning wants to make Singapore a better place to live in for all. She aspires to play a part in ensuring that our buildings are structurally safe and of high quality. She also hopes to raise public awareness, and subsequently acceptance, of BCA's policies and initiatives on the safety, sustainability, quality and user-friendliness of the built environment.

## ***The Inquisitive Urban Planner***

### **Mr Adam Shehabuddin**

Age: 19

Field of study: Urban Planning (*applying to universities*)

Agency: MND

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Since he was a child, Adam has always had a peculiar hobby. He loves reading maps and street directories, always curious about how his neighbourhood and community were planned. The macro perspective that came with reading maps taught Adam that the social fabric of any community was made up of more than people. It is also greatly influenced by the built landscape. Adam aspires to create and influence the built landscape of Singapore in more innovative and meaningful ways.

Adam believes that Singapore's growing population and our citizenry's diversifying needs call for more innovative and inclusive solutions in apportioning and developing our land. While some hold the belief that land scarcity in Singapore is an impassable problem, Adam believes that we should focus on how to make full use of what little land Singapore has instead.

During his time in school, an ecological literacy programme which Adam participated in led him to appreciate the natural environment. He is now a firm believer that whilst we develop our urban environment, a robust environmental conservation policy must also be in place to ensure that natural ecosystems can continue to thrive within. Adam is interested to look at this aspect of our urban planning and development and work towards creating a sustainable Singapore.



## ***Dreaming for Singapore***

**Mr Bradley Yam Li-Jian (严礼健)**

Age: 19

Field of study: Bachelor of Economics, Yale University

Agency: MND

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Bradley's vision of Singapore in the next 50 years: a diverse and sustainable home, a technologically and environmentally progressive society, and a nation that strives to preserve its cultural identity. Bradley also hopes that Singapore could one day be the leader in urban development, providing advice and expertise for other cities over the world in terms of city management, sustainability and infrastructure planning.

Being part of the MND Family gives Bradley the exciting opportunity to be a part of all that, and to see his work make a direct impact on the lives of fellow Singaporeans. He aspires to build a vibrant, diverse, and sustainable home for Singaporeans, rooted in our cultural wealth. He is keen to learn about the critical issues facing urban development today, and the appropriate skills to tackle them. Bradley knows that he is only at the foot of the hill, but he is committed to traverse it with a spirit of life-long learning and excellence.

Bradley enjoys good food, especially local delight *zichar* and durians. He also has an appetite for literature and the arts. He appreciates fine arts, be it visual, auditory or dramatic.