



Medicine cover girl

Glowing Passion

NUS Rag and Flag 2012

Organised by the National University of Singapore Students' Union (NUSSU), in collaboration with NUS's Faculty Clubs and Halls of Residence, the annual Rag and Flag campaign has been a tradition since 1958.

For Flag Day 2012, held on 7 August, the NUS student body approached members of the public for donations which benefited 20 beneficiaries under the Community Chest's umbrella.



Medicine stands tall

Rag

By Lim Fang Yi and Jordan Sim

Rag was held on 10 August this year and it was a BLAST! For those who are unaware, Rag stands for "Receive and Give", where halls and faculties construct eye-catching floats complemented by outstanding performances. This is the students' show of gratitude to those who have donated to their assigned beneficiaries during Flag.

This year's NUSSU overall Rag theme was "Excandescent". Adapted from the word *incandescent*, it means "glowing with passion". Notably, NUSSU also altered the grading system for Rag performances in a bid to reduce competitiveness among the halls and faculties. Drawing on the Singapore Youth Festival grading system, participating bodies received gold, silver or bronze awards instead of first, second or third prize, according to their final score.

Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine's (YLLSoM) Rag Committee formulated the concept "Colour Your Life" in accordance to the overall theme. During the performance, our monochromatic float transformed into a vibrant, colourful float, symbolising how we should find colour and passion in our lives. Initially, our costumes were similarly

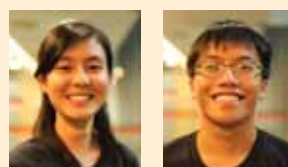
monochromatic and our dance was robotic to express loss of interest in our mundane everyday lives. However, as our dancers rediscovered their passions in life, colours were added to their costumes and they began dancing with added grace and vigour.

Four different colours were used to depict four aspects of life that are usually neglected due to an overly regimented work life. Yellow represented youthfulness and optimism, red symbolised love, green embodied the beauty of nature, and blue illustrated flight and escape. Our final performance, thus, featured a dazzling amalgamation of colours that highlighted how we should always live our lives to the fullest with colour, zest and passion.

After two months of hard work, heavily peppered with fun times and cheap thrills, we are delighted to announce that the Medicine Rag Team 2012 has done the faculty proud once again! Medicine was one of only three faculties that attained the gold award (the other two were Business and Engineering). In addition to that accolade, we also clinched Best Costumes, in recognition of our uniquely crafted outfits that could change colour on stage.

More importantly, however, old friendships were strengthened, new bonds were forged and precious memories created. Rag injected colour into our lives, and we dare speak for everyone when we say that the holidays could not have been better spent.

To our seniors, we are sincerely grateful for all the constructive feedback. Not only did it help us improve our performance, it also showed us the passion that previous raggers have, providing us with an invaluable source of motivation. To the juniors, never be afraid to venture into the unknown, because the rewards are always better than what they seem to be. **SMA**



Fang Yi and Jordan are second year students at YLLSoM, and Medicine Rag Heads 2012.

with the for Giving

The Flag Committee (L to R): Ting Fang, Qi Tian, Tony, Zhao Yang, Liang Sai and Gilbert. Absent: Wilhard, Tryphena, Jeanelle and Victor

As a show of appreciation to the public for their contributions to the underprivileged, Rag Day 2012 featured show-stopping performances and 14 spectacular floats, which were constructed out of recycled materials. This year, Rag Day was held on 10 August at the grandstand of the Sports & Recreation Centre at the NUS Kent Ridge Campus.

Flag

By Zhao Yang

It was quite a rare sight this year at YLLSoM as students, both juniors and seniors, decked in white and gold t-shirts, streamed out of the lecture theatre to embark on the annual NUS Flag Day with the theme, "Ex Animo", which is Latin for "giving from the heart". This was the first time, in many years, that we witnessed such a large turnout, with about 320 students from both the first and second years.

For the ten-member strong Flag Committee, however, the day had started the night before when they transported the logistics from the NUSSU headquarters to the Faculty of Medicine. By 6 am the next day, everything was ready and we waited for the arrival of our flaggers. Soon enough, medical students came in one after another, and filled the lecture theatre with much chatter and energy, despite the unusually early reporting time.

Unlike previous years, Flag Day 2012 enjoyed the good fortune of having the house system. Our flaggers not only enjoyed better company with their fellow house members, their welfare and safety were also ensured by the sound leadership of individual house captains. The synergy created through the collaboration with the house captains allowed the committee to operate with greater latitude and freedom, which gave us peace of mind even though we could not look after our juniors when they were out flagging.

Our team was also privileged to receive the goodwill of partner institutions, namely Hwa Chong Institution, Raffles Institution, Singapore Management University and Temasek Junior College, as we were given permission to flag within their premises. This gave our faculty an edge over others in the overall competition, and allowed us to raise more donations for the beneficiaries involved this year. Many of our flaggers also had the opportunity to return to their alma maters and share the spirit of giving with juniors and teachers alike.

High spirits lasted throughout the day. A second batch of students, joined by our nursing counterparts from the Alice



Year 2 Liang Sai briefing flaggers

Lee Centre for Nursing Studies, arrived to take over the good work from those in morning shift. And as the last flagger returned to the lecture theatre, the day finally came to an end.

Despite the team's fatigue, they did not shy away from the tedious job of sorting out coins the next day. The efforts put in by our juniors, classmates and future colleagues from nursing was definitely something to be proud of. Relief and happiness came upon us as the final figures were crunched out: \$22,000.

Our school was ultimately awarded the silver award for Flag at the prize presentation ceremony on Rag Day 2012. While it was a tremendous honour to receive the award, it was the selflessness of some of our classmates that merited celebration. Many of my schoolmates rose to the challenge and did far more than what was expected. One of them, although suffering from a foot injury, insisted on helping us with our efforts, and others also demonstrated initiative by volunteering to help us in coin counting and distributing logistics.

To conclude, I would say that our flaggers have done a fantastic job this year and the momentum of Flag is stronger than ever with the support from the Dean's Office, faculty and donors. We hope that such support will continue in the years ahead and we look forward to next year's Rag and Flag!

See you at Flag 2013! **SMA**

Photos: Tony Li, Colin Ng, Tan Juanmin and Seth Yeak (Class of 2016)



Zhao Yang is from the Class of 2016 at YLLSoM, and Medicine Flag Head 2012.