The world’s a stage

Mr Jake Goh gets many different perspectives at Yale-NUS College

ESTHER TEO

WHILE Mr Jake Goh had always been strong in mathematics and science subjects, he was not a uni-
versity education that was steeped in the liberal arts as well.

To begin the best of both worlds, he decided to enroll in the then newly
opened Yale-NUS College in 2014. A double major in molecular biology and
psychology, Mr Goh’s decision to study at Yale-NUS College, which
granted him a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) or Bachelor of Science (Honours) de-
gree in Singapore, he received the brand new Yale-NUS Faculty
Scholarship, which provides an ann-
ual award of $10,000 for tuition;

Now into his second year at the li-
eral arts college, Mr Goh is pursu-
ing a major in mathematical, com-
putational and statistical sciences
– a discipline he is very passionate
about.

"In my second year, I was

sparked when I took a com-
puter science course that was

tought by a professor known for
giving very challenging assign-
ments," Mr Goh remembers stay-
ing up till the wee hours of the morn-
ing trying to solve the professor’s very relatable problem sets.

"It was a new experience for me," he recalls.

"Despite being less comfortable and well

versed in subjects other than science, he has enjoyed moder-
nating such as Philosophy and Politi-
cal Thought in addition to his

Modern and International Black History.

The modules helped him un-

derstand how the world works from
different angles and perspectives.

They also helped him connect the
dots between seemingly distant topics.

"I learned that there are a

lot of highly relevant in the globalised world today," he says.

"Mr Goh says: “The liberal arts g

discipline not for everyone.

It will challenge you in ways

you don’t even expect.

“I find incredible how it makes

you grow as a person and foster

your own learning journey.

It is truly more complex than

knowledge and problem solv-
ing, and it is very subtle, but

surely, changed my thought pro-

cess in looking at a solution.”

Not confined to the classroom

Besides lectures on campus, there are also projects and learning out-
side the classroom.

During his time at Yale-

NUS College, the opportunity to study commonly

across various countries for a re-
muneration period of more than six

month – all in just two years of

being with the programme.

He has been in Sarawak, Malas-

ia, to live with the Bajau people, who were former headhunters.

In 2015, he was invited to a 20-
day field-based leadership expedi-

tion in Wyoming, United States, to

experience living in the wilderness at the Wind River Range.

This is the same place where the

company TOPMEN, in Porto, Por-

guese is headquartered and par-

ticipated in the same programme that the Future Global Leaders Fellowship.

Mr Goh is a recipient and a fel-

low of the New York-based Future

Global Leader Programmes, an

accreditation programme for top uni-

ders. The following year, he was

members of the Future Leaders, the

world’s first private network of

leaders.

Even when he is in Singapore, the activities do not stop for Mr

Goh. He is a member of a variety

of clubs and societies, includ-

ing the Yale-NUS Debate Team, the

Hacks lab and the Yale-NUS

Greener Grasses, which is an envi-

ronmental awareness group.

Apart from the vibrant univer-
sity college life, he also travels

the smaller and more intimate experiences as a Yale-

NUS College student. He

enjoyed exploring different

parts of the globe and

continues to travel the world.

He says: “There’s too much

in this world to learn and experience,

it is a prerequisite to dig out and

get as much as you can.”