

# HIS WORLD ANIME-TED

With a stellar list of research and academic achievements, Jan Han had an action-packed learning journey at NTU.

TEXT **LYNETTE KOH** PHOTO **JASON HO**

There is another reason why Jan could not be an *otaku*: He simply would not have the time.

Having recently graduated with first-class honours from NTU's Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information (SCI), not surprising for the 24-year-old who has been on the Dean's list throughout his undergraduate years, Jan will commence his master's programme in media economics come August.

Eventually, he hopes to undertake doctoral studies in the same field.

It is a natural path for the Communication Research major, whose penchant for academic work saw him not only participating in the challenging URECA (Undergraduate Research Experience on Campus) programme but writing additional research papers "for fun".

For his URECA project, Jan carried out a study on blog readers. His research took him far beyond the campus: In

2005, Jan attended the annual conference of the Asian Media Information and Communication Centre (AMIC) in Beijing, where he was the only undergraduate to present a paper.

Jan recalled: "My experience at the AMIC conference was really an eye-opener. It was nerve-wracking, as the only undergraduate student there, presenting my study to professors and other graduate students, and having to answer their questions!

"However, I am grateful for this opportunity which NTU has given me. Without the guidance from my profes-

sors and fellow course mates, I believe I would not have gotten so far."

The experience spurred him on and Jan went on to write two more independent research papers, one on political podcasts, and another on media coverage of the local political elections.

As school examinations were underway, one of Jan's professors presented his research on podcasts at an international conference in the Philippines in April.

Said Jan: "I like thinking about things analytically, and I enjoy reading other people's research because I get to learn something new."

He added: "A day without gaining knowledge is a day wasted for me."

Along with his team of seven writers from all over the world, Jan updates his *THAT Anime Blog* daily with up-to-date reviews of the latest *anime* series, as well as commentaries on various hot-button *anime*-related topics.

Being part of a collective was ideal for Jan. "I like working in a group, when you can have intensive discussions together."

In addition, opportunities to gain new knowledge abound for Jan, thanks to the thousands of readers visiting his blog every day.

Jan enthused: "Sometimes, they bring up things that I'd never thought about, and it's like, 'Wow, why didn't I think of that?'"

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## JAN HAN

- Pursuing master's programme in media economics at NTU
- Student researcher

## MORE FROM CLASS OF 2007



### TOH MINGLIN

School of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering,  
College of Engineering

- Institute-Varsity-Polytechnic volleyball player
- First-class honours
- Pursuing PhD at NTU

“One of the best things about studying at NTU is its dedicated lecturers and top-notch, state-of-the-art research equipment. In fact, it made me decide to pursue my doctorate at the School of Materials Sciences and Engineering.

The emphasis by the school to guide, and not to lead the students, has instilled a sense of independence and developed a self-learning initiative within us. Moreover, our industrial attachments have been specially arranged to give us better insights into the working world.



### ZHONG DE SHENG, ADRIAN

School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE),  
College of Engineering

- Process Integration Engineer, Chartered Semiconductor Manufacturing
- Captain of squash team
- Sports secretary of the EEE club
- Student researcher

“The best thing about studying at NTU is the chance to stay in the Hall of Residence. I was fortunate enough to have stayed on campus throughout my four years there and that has made me a more mature and independent person.

An NTU education equipped me with a set of knowledge and tools required for my area of specialisation. It also helped me develop the necessary set of thinking and soft skills which are crucial for success in the workforce. The broad-based education gives me the flexibility to work in different industries yet excel in my area of specialisation.