Sun Tzu and Machiavelli to feature in curriculum

FROM PAGE A1

faculty at the Yale-NUS College said academic freedom was discussed considerably at Yale’s main campus in New Haven.

But he noted that those involved in the project and the institution as a whole “don’t see that this is going to be a problem in the classroom and in scholarly research”.

Mr Lee said he is confident that more Singaporeans will join the Yale-NUS College when they come to see the value of a liberal-arts education.

The four-year programmes offered by the college will comprise two years of broad-based education, followed by two years’ study of a major.

The Analects of Confucius, The Art Of War by Sun Tzu, and The Prince by Niccolo Machiavelli are examples of key works that students may study in the first two years, Professor Lily Kong, NUS vice-president (university and global relations), said in a separate briefing yesterday.

Yale’s president, Professor Richard Levin, said the new college will “draw equally on Asian and Western literary and philosophical traditions” for its first-year humanities course, which will be designed by both Yale and NUS faculty.

Some of Yale’s faculty are already thinking about introducing such a course in New Haven, he added.

Prof Bailyn said some Yale faculty members have been identified to join him here.

“NUS will identify faculty members in equal numbers, hopefully (with) somewhat different expertise, so we...will have a combined mix,” he said.

The Yale-NUS College will comprise three residential colleges to be built in Clementi Road. It will take in an inaugural batch of 150 students in August 2013 and 250 students yearly after that.


Yale-NUS can ‘blossom’

BY RACHEL CHAN

The new Yale-NUS College will be a complex project, considering the United States’ and Singapore’s different cultures, values and norms, said Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong yesterday.

However, Singapore is a society in which a liberal-arts college can blossom and grow.

“Understandably, it will be a complicated project because Singapore has a different social and political context from the United States,” Mr Lee, who was guest of honour at the official launch of Singapore’s first liberal-arts college at the National University of Singapore’s (NUS) University Hall in Lower Kent Ridge Road.

Mr Lee noted that the two countries have a different balance between rights and responsibilities, and the individual and society. But among Asian countries, Singapore is probably the least dissimilar in ethos to Western societies, he said.

“We’re open and rational, we own the spirit of inquiry and we encourage independent thinking,” he explained.

“Speaking and working in English is just one aspect, but it reflects the ethos of a society to be open and connected to the world, to want to change, to want to examine ourselves,”

A society with such values is one within which a liberal-arts college “can blossom and grow”, Mr Lee said.

The new college is a collaboration between NUS and Yale University.

Talk of the joint venture led to intense debate last September among Yale’s faculty and alumni, who argued that Singapore did not have enough academic freedom for a meaningful liberal-arts programme.

Yesterday, Professor Charles Bailyn, the inaugural dean of CONTINUED ON HOME A6

HUB OF LEARNING: The new Yale-NUS College (left) will be built in Clementi Road. It will comprise three residential colleges in which students will live, dine (below) and study.

ARTISTS IMPRESSIONS: YALE-NUS COLLEGE

UNVEILED: (From left) Education Minister Ng Eng Hen, Yale president Richard Levin, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, NUS Board of Trustees chairman Wong Ngok Liong and NUS president Tan Chorh Chuan at the liberal-arts college’s launch yesterday. (PHOTO: ONG WEE JIN)
博雅育“通才” 求职路更宽

杨丹旭 蔡秀娟

华

华中中学中五生陈妍欣（17岁）对采用博雅教育（Liberal Arts Education）模式的耶鲁—新加坡国大学院（Yale-NUS college）充满期待。

她说：“现在年轻人出去工作不只要掌握单一科目的知识，这类学府能培养多才多艺的学子，人文知识也能提高我们的修养。这种科目涵盖范围广的课程，也对将来转换职业跑道有帮助。”

让学生天马行空地跨学科学习是博雅教育的特色，但这种模式下培养的“通才”是否会向来注重“专才”的新加坡面临就业挑战？

陈妍欣的母亲郑巧洁（50岁）就表示，自己会尊重孩子的兴趣，“但未必每个父母都愿意让孩子上这类学府，有些父母很现实，或许会觉得自己家的子女很难找到好工作。”

耶稣大学校长Richard Levin昨天在新学院的推介仪式上说，新加坡以及其他亚洲国家的确在传统上更注重职业技能教育，但近年来博雅教育的概念已在亚洲流行，中国、韩国等国家也在尝试推行通识教育（broad-based education），耶鲁—国大学院因此“站在了这个发展趋势的前端”。

不少企业也对博雅教育毕业生有兴趣。目前已有超过30家本地和国际公司表示会与新学院合作，为学生提供实习机会。

星展资产管理（D B S Asset Management）总裁何玉珠说，经济、金融等专业知识可以在工作时学习，公司在招聘毕业生时更看重毕业生是否在作决定时能考虑不同层面，是否有批判性思维、能独立思考，以及能否与其他文化背景的人通力合作等，这些都是博雅教育所培养的。

人力顾问公司The GMP Group企业服务部副主任吴坤豪指出，虽然雇主不会指明要拥有通识背景的毕业生，但就业市场对这类毕业生有需求的。

“博雅教育课程比较适合涵盖层面广、需要‘通识思考模式’（broad-based thinking）的职业岗位，例如处理企业事务、投资者事务、决策事务和进行战略规划等。”

耶鲁—国大学院将在本地推行的博雅教育有什么特色？学生如何从中获益？《热点新闻》带你了解。

详文刊B3
热点新闻

博雅教育学院知多些

杨丹旭

耶鲁—新加坡国立大学

( Yale-NUS College )

将耶鲁大学近200年的雅教育( Liberal Arts Education )理念带到本地，
为本地高校教育带来新气象，也希望成为本地及亚洲大学教育改革
的催化剂。

（文）通过5WH，带你
了解本地博雅教育学院。
YangD@ntu.edu.sg

Who——
学生和学者

耶鲁一国大学院提供的博雅教
育适合想要获得更多识（bread-
base）教育的学生，尤其是
在高中毕业后，还未决定想
要专攻哪个科系的学生。

学院规划生150人，等
运作上轨道后，每学年
将录取250名学生。绝大多数学生将
来自新加坡，国际学生约占学
生总数20%。

目前校方未公布学费和寄
宿费，但估计学院为学生
提供奖 学金和经济援助，确保被录取的
学生都负担得起学费。

学院将邀请约100名对学
有专长的学生参与多科专
修，涉及的领域包括艺术、人文、社会学、自然科学、物理
科学、数学等。

学生将接受八年大学本科
教育，前2年参与博雅课程
学习；到第3年和第4年，
学生可根据自己在大学前2
年所学的兴趣，选择主修经
济、历史、生物或心理等。

学院预计有12至16门主修
科系供学生选择。毕业后，学
生将获得本大学颁发的耶鲁一国
大学文凭或理学士(荣誉)
学位。

学院将采用小组研讨会
的授课模式，强调互动和对
论，为学生的好奇心、批判
和创造力提供发展空间。

何——
学生成益处

博雅教育强调“通才”教
育，学生在大学期间只需花
三年至四年的时间学习主
修科目的同时，仍然可以
修读其他课程。它强调发展
学生的分析能力，并让学生
接触从文学到自然科学等不
同领域的知识。

多才多艺

在英国普林斯顿(Princ-
eton)完成大学学业的叶毅
(26岁，执行人员)说，
大学当时实行的博雅教育让
他有机会学习各种才艺。

叶毅原本主修工程科，却也
同时可修读古典音乐赏析、
西方艺术鉴赏、德语、意大利
语等。“这些课程虽然与我
的主修课程无关，却让我
大开眼界。”

思维更成熟

陈理明也指，未来的毕业
生将面对多元复杂的世界，学生
通过接受博雅教育，使他们能
深入思考不同的课题，并
以跨文化思维看待问题。

When——
开课时间

新学院将于2013年开课。新
校方预计2016年竣工，在这之
前，学生会先在现有的NUS
设施上课。

Why——
学院所在

占地4.68公顷的学院位于NUS
肯特里德校园北
部，毗邻大学城。

学院除了设有学习空间、
演讲厅、剧场、健身房等
设施外，也有两座寄宿学院
( residential colleges )。

寄宿学院与本地学生住
在不同。每个寄宿学院有
自己的文化，很像一个学生在外界
交流和学习的场所。

 vaccin

What——
学习内容

课堂内

学生将参与多科专修，涉
及的领域包括艺术、人文、社会学、自然科学、物理科学、数学等。

学生将接受八年大学本科
教育，前2年参与博雅课程
学习；到第3年和第4年，
学生可根据自己在大学前2
年所学的兴趣，选择主修经
济、历史、生物或心理等。

学院预计有12至16门主修
科系供学生选择。毕业后，学
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大学文凭或理学士(荣誉)
学位。

学院将采用小组研讨会
的授课模式，强调互动和对
论，为学生的好奇心、批判
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博雅教育强调“通才”教
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三年至四年的时间学习主
修科目的同时，仍然可以
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陈理明也指，未来的毕业
生将面对多元复杂的世界，学生
通过接受博雅教育，使他们能
深入思考不同的课题，并
以跨文化思维看待问题。

Page B1: Liberal arts graduates have broad choice of careers

Hwa Chong Institution student Chen Yanxin, 17, is looking forward to going to the Yale-NUS College, which adopts a liberal arts education model.

She said: "Young people today do not want to have knowledge in just one area when they enter the workforce. Such an institution can nurture scholars who are multi-talented. Knowledge of the humanities can make us a more cultured person. Such disciplines cover a broader range of courses and will help when making a career change in the future."

The unique feature of a liberal arts education is that it spans a breadth of disciplines. However, will such "generalists" lose out to the conventionally-trained "specialists" when looking for jobs in Singapore?

Chen Yanxin's mother, Zheng Qiaoxi, 50, said that while she will respect her child's interests, "not every parent will be willing to let their child enroll in such an institution. Some parents are very practical and may feel that a liberal arts degree may not allow one to earn as much money as those who possess a professional degree, such as law or medicine."

At the launch of the Yale-NUS College held yesterday, Yale President Professor Richard Levin said that Singapore and other Asian countries have traditionally placed more emphasis on specialized education. However, the concept of a liberal arts education has become popular in Asia in recent years, with China, South Korea and other countries starting General Studies programs. The Yale-NUS College stands at the forefront of this trend.

Many companies have expressed interest in liberal arts graduates. Currently, more than 30 companies in Singapore and abroad have agreed to work with the new College to offer internship opportunities.

DBS Asset Management Chief Executive Officer Deborah Ho said that knowledge about economics and finance can be acquired on the job. During recruitment, companies look for graduates who can analyze issues at different levels when making a decision, think independently and critically, as well as work with people from different cultural backgrounds. These are the qualities that a liberal arts education instills in its students.

Josh Goh, Assistant Director of Corporate Services at The GMP Group, a human resources consultancy company, noted that while employers will not specifically ask for graduates with a liberal arts background, there is a demand for such graduates.
"A liberal arts education is more suited for positions that involve greater breadth and require broad-based thinking, such as corporate affairs, investor affairs, policy matters and strategic planning."

**Page B3: How much do you know about a liberal arts college?**

The Yale-NUS College will bring liberal arts education, which Yale has had for close to 200 years, to our shores. This will change the landscape of local tertiary education, which has always placed more emphasis on specialized education, and could become a catalyst for reform in university education in Singapore and Asia.

Using the "5W1H" method of inquiry, MyPaper will help you understand Singapore's first liberal arts college.

**Who - Students and academics**

The liberal arts education offered by the Yale-NUS College is suitable for students who want to receive a broad-based education, especially those who have yet to decide on their majors after graduating from junior colleges or polytechnics.

The College will start with an inaugural intake of 150 students and will grow to a steady state intake of 250 students each year. The majority of its students will be Singaporeans, with international students accounting for about 20 per cent of the total student population.

The College has yet to announce the tuition and boarding fees, but it will provide scholarships and financial aid to students to ensure that those accepted will be able to afford the fees.

The College will recruit about 100 academics who have an interest in teaching and are passionate about academia as its first batch of faculty members. The recruitment will begin in the summer of this year.

**When - Commencement of classes**

The new College will begin its classes in 2013. The construction of the new residential colleges will be completed in 2014. Prior to this, students will attend classes in the NUS campus.

**Where - Location of the College**

The College will be located north of NUS’ main campus at Kent Ridge, next to the University Town (UTown).
The Yale-NUS College will have facilities such as a Learning Commons, a performance hall and a gymnasium. It will also include three residential colleges.

The residential colleges will be different from student dormitories. They will each have their own distinctive culture, and will be a venue for interaction and learning.

**What - Curriculum**

- **Inside the classroom**

The students will study a range of core subjects, involving the arts, humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, physical sciences and mathematics.

They will take general education courses in the first two years. They will then choose majors such as economics, history, psychology and biology in the third and fourth years based on their interests.

The College expects to offer between 12 and 15 majors. Students will be awarded a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) or Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree from NUS when they graduate.

Teaching will take place in small, seminar-style classes, with an emphasis on interaction and debate to allow students to develop intellectual habits of curiosity, critical inquiry and creative thinking.

- **Outside of the classroom**

Both local and international students will be required to live on campus during the four-year program, and there will be abundant opportunities for students and professors to interact.

Each residential college will be led by a Rector and Vice Rector. Four or five professors will also live in the residential college. Some professors will also set up their offices within the residential college to facilitate interactions among professors and students.

The college will provide students with various extra-curricular activities, exchange programs, internships and research attachments, as well as other special programmes to develop leadership skills.

**Why - Appeal**

- **Asian elements**

The Yale-NUS College is not merely an “import” of the Yale liberal arts education model to Singapore. It will also incorporate Asian elements into its curriculum, such as programs incorporating studies of Asian histories, societies, cultures, economies and politics.
NUS President Professor Tan Chorh Chuan stressed: "The College has chosen the most outstanding elements of the Yale education model and combined them with the Asian characteristics of NUS as a top global university in Asia. We will integrate Asian thinking and background in designing a range of subjects."

He highlighted that the College, which incorporates both Asian and Western perspectives, is an ideal choice for students who want to take advantage of the unlimited potential and opportunities in Asia.

- New choice

This new liberal arts college also provides more options for local and Asian students.

Yale University President Professor Richard Levin highlighted that the Ivy League universities in the US accept a limited number of international students each year.

Citing Yale University as an example, he said that among the 1,200 new students accepted each year, only 120 to 130 of these are international students. Of these, three to four students would be from Singapore. "The number of Singapore students enrolled into renowned American universities each year, combined with those enrolled into Oxford and Cambridge, must be below 250."

Therefore, he believes the Yale-NUS College provides another option for those who keen on a liberal arts education.

How - Many benefits await graduates

Liberal arts education focuses on "generalist" education. Students only spend one third to half of their time on their majors. The remaining time can be spent studying other subjects. It emphasizes on critical thinking skills and exposes students to various disciplines, such as the arts and sciences.

- Having a broad knowledge base

Lu Hanqiong, 26, an executive and a graduate of Princeton University in the US, said that she was exposed to different skill sets through a liberal arts education at the university.

She majored in financial engineering, and also studied classical music appreciation, Western art appreciation, German and Italian. "Even though these courses were not related to my major, they helped widen my perspective."
- Maturity in thinking

Prof Tan highlighted that graduates in the future will face an ever-changing and complex world. Liberal arts education can nurture students who will have an understanding of a breadth of disciplines, who can think deeply and view problems from a multicultural perspective.