

ASPIRING TO A LIFETIME LOVE OF LEARNING

Inaugural Tan Chin Tuan Professor of Chinese Studies, Professor Scott Cook, talks about his new role and his hopes and dreams for Yale-NUS College and its students.

How did you feel about your appointment?

It was a tremendous honour. With its vast and generous contributions to the social welfare and sustained development of Singapore and Malaysia, the Tan Chin Tuan Foundation is an organisation of tremendous renown, and its establishment of a programme for Chinese studies at Yale-NUS, which will serve to promote a deeper understanding of Chinese culture around the world, is unquestionably an initiative of great significance.

What do you think will set this experience at Yale-NUS apart?

I think it will primarily be the student body. I have long taught in a liberal arts environment, and I have had many gifted students in my classes, many of them international students.

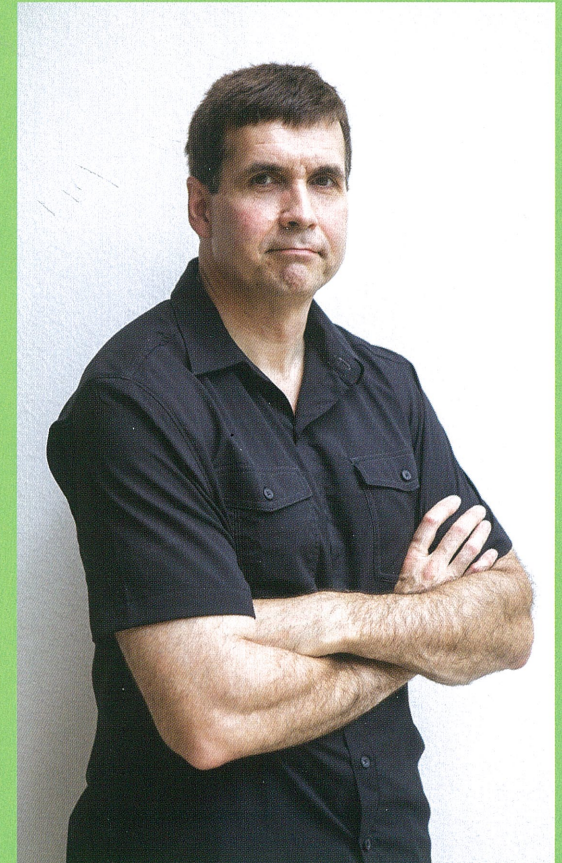
But I think the international mindset here - the commitment to explore meaningful and intellectually informed dialogues with students and faculty of other cultures - will be much stronger here than anywhere else I have taught.

What do you hope to achieve in your capacity as the Tan Chin Tuan Professor of Chinese Studies?

I hope that Chinese studies will become an important component of the educational experience of a significant number of our students. I would also like to make Yale-NUS a focal point for academic conferences or workshops related to the fields of expertise of our Chinese studies faculty.

If you had one great hope for your students, what would it be?

That, like Confucius himself, they be inspired to possess a lifetime love of learning. So long as they have that, everything else is possible. ■



Professor Scott Cook