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Dear Yale-NUS students, faculty, staff, and alumni,

You will have received NUS President Tan Eng Chye's announcement that NUS plans to combine Yale-NUS and USP to create a New College. As he explained, this is part of NUS's planned reorganization to encourage greater interdisciplinarity and flexibility in educational programs for all NUS students. As Yale University's Vice President for Global Strategy, I am writing on behalf of Yale's leadership to underscore our continuing commitment to the success of Yale-NUS College over the next four years and our wishes for the success of the new college thereafter.

As many of you know, I first became involved with planning for Yale-NUS College 11 years ago, and I spent five years as founding president of the College from 2012 to 2017. This was one of the great endeavors of my life, and I will forever be thankful to the faculty, staff, and students who have worked so hard to create this remarkable community.

Yale President Peter Salovey, the university's trustees, and my other senior colleagues feel strongly that Yale-NUS College is a remarkable institution. (You can find a [statement on today's news from President Salovey](#).) The College has attracted excellent faculty, staff, and students. The innovative common curriculum and co-curricular and residential activities have been distinctive and influential. We are proud that Yale-NUS alumni have launched their lives after college successfully, whether in employment or graduate education. Distinguished for its culture, Yale-NUS is one of the leading liberal arts colleges in the world.

Seven years ago, I gave a speech to the entering class of 2018 about the College's "collective effervescence," borrowing a term from the sociologist Emile Durkheim. From what I have seen, even under the conditions of the current pandemic, Yale-NUS retains that essential quality—buzzing with excitement, serious of purpose, and committed to learning.

It is my hope that when, in four years, Yale-NUS combines with USP to create something new and at greater scale, the distinctive DNA of each will be discernible, and the new combination will become essential to the future of liberal education in Singapore and in Asia more broadly. At the request of NUS President Tan Eng Chye and Yale President Peter Salovey, I will be involved as an advisor in the development of the new college, along with several of the current Yale-NUS leaders.

Along with the Yale-NUS Governing Board, I am also committed to ensuring that during the next four years, enrolled students get the full Yale-NUS educational experience and that the various commitments to Yale-NUS faculty and staff are respected. Faculty will continue to teach Yale-NUS students—and in future will take on teaching in the new college and other parts of NUS. Yale-NUS staff will continue to provide for the residential and extracurricular life of Yale-NUS—and many of them will go on to provide similar support to the new college or add their talents to other parts of NUS.

Yale will continue to offer summer opportunities and academic year exchanges between now and 2025, and we will continue to provide professional development opportunities to Yale-NUS faculty and staff, coordinated by the Yale-NUS New Haven Office. Yale-NUS alumni will continue to be international affiliates of the Yale Alumni Association and will remain part of the broader Yale community.

So, with bittersweet emotion, I write to thank you for all that you have already contributed to the tremendous success of Yale-NUS and all that you will do over the next four years to continue it. I also wish the NUS leadership well in planning for the future of liberal education in Singapore. Although I have not had the opportunity to meet some of the current Yale-NUS students, faculty, and staff, I feel that we all belong to one community of learning, and we will remain part of that community going forward.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pericles Lewis", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Pericles Lewis