



Students from Kent Ridge and Sheares halls doing a cheer in front of their dragon-and-time inspired float. They also showcased different genres of dance, such as hip hop and contemporary styles. ST PHOTOS: NEO XIAOBIN

NUS Rag Day goes back to its roots with campus fun

Flag Day raises \$460k for charities including hospices, special schools

THE intricately designed floats and choreographed mass dances were of Chingay standard, proclaimed the master of ceremonies.

He was praising freshmen from the National University of Singapore (NUS) whose participation in its annual Rag Day was as enthusiastic as that shown by others in the Chingay event to celebrate Chinese New Year.

This year, to bring Rag Day – short for “receiving and giving” – back to its roots, NUS held the event on campus yesterday. It aimed to foster camaraderie and the spirit of giving, said student union president Ang Yu Qian, 25.

Students built floats using recycled material and had to seek out sponsors to defray the costs.

Kent Ridge Hall and NUS Business School won the Chancellor’s Shield award for best hall and faculty respectively. They were judged on their floats, Rag Day performance and amount of money they raised during Flag Day.

In keeping with tradition, 5,000 students took part in Flag Day on Tuesday, fanning out islandwide to seek donations.

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RITE OF PASSAGE

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 More than \$460,000 was raised for 20 charities ranging from hospices to schools for children with special needs.

The Rag and Flag tradition, started in 1958, is part of the induction programme for incoming NUS students. Over the past decade, Rag and Flag has raised more than \$4.3 million for charities.

President Tony Tan Keng Yam, the guest of honour yesterday, inspected the floats and watched the students showcase their talents in a capella music, acrobatics and mass themed dances.

“Rag and Flag is a rite of passage for all NUS freshmen,” said Mr Ang. “We hope to spread the passion and spirit of our students to everyone.”

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Above: Pharmacy students from the Faculty of Science dressed as cowboys and Vegas girls performing yesterday.

Left: Freshman Justin Ho, 21, from the Faculty of Law, posing in front of the Romeo and Juliet float, which took two months to complete.