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SCOOP
NTU celebrates its third overseas convocation in China
南大在中国举办第三次毕业典礼

NTU’s overseas chapters in Changqing and Hubei
各方校友欢聚巴渝，共商校友会成立

Changqing: NTU Alumni Gathering on Official Launch of NTU Alumni Association (Changqing)
重庆校友相聚 举办校友会正式成立

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Meeting China-based alumni’s needs for continuing learning and networking
毕业十年，校友百年纪念论坛

NETWORKING
Making the first impression last, every time
留下良好的第一印象的重要性

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National recognition for exemplary teachers
表彰优秀教师

Teachers who give, receive
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师生情，校园情

Friends unite

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CLASS NOTES
Share your latest news with your fellow alumni and the NTU community!
分享您的最新新闻与您的校友和南大社区！
NTU celebrates its third overseas convocation in China

Into its third overseas convocation, NTU celebrated it in Chongqing, one of the largest industrial and commercial hubs in southwest China. As many as 233 China-based graduands from six China-focused executive programmes were conferred their master’s degrees. The academic success of the Class of 2008 was celebrated in high spirit, what with the ceremony being held in their homeland, and with families and friends in tow to offer congratulations.

Mr Chandra Das, Pro-Chancellor of NTU presided at the convocation ceremony. Distinguished guests from Singapore included Ms Lien Siaou-Sze, NTU Board of Trustees Member and Dr Su Guaning, NTU President. The CPC Chongqing Municipal Committee’s key figures were also present, amongst them Mr Chen Cungen, Member of the Standing Committee and Head of the Organisation Department, and Mr Yu Changming, Deputy Secretary-General. The convocation was held at the Great Hall of the People Chongqing, China, on 1 November.

Sino-Singapore connection

The graduating cohort of the Class of 2008 included the pioneer batch of the Master of Science in Finance programme. The other graduands were from the Master of Science in Managerial Economics (MME) and Master of Public Administration (MPA) programmes; the Nanyang EMBA (an NTU and Shanghai Jiatong University collaboration); the Master of Science in Technopreneurship and Innovation Programme (MSc TIP); and the Master in Educational Administration (MEA) programme. The latter is offered by Singapore’s National Institute of Education and these China-focused programmes are a year-long in duration.

On the significance of NTU’s China convocation, Dr Su said, “Our China-based graduates are experienced, up-and-coming professionals in government, in industry and in education. They ventured out from their comfort zones to become students once more, coming to our Yunnan Garden campus to gain new knowledge and exposure... Their NTU education stands them in good stead to advance their careers and fulfill their potential. (Besides) bringing back to China the multi-cultural education at a top science and technology university, they also bring back experience of Singapore society, the Singapore system and new ways of looking at problems.”

Dr Su also shed light on NTU’s motivation in continuing to maintain ties with the China-based graduates, many of whom are developing into influential decision-makers. After all, they already have established ties to Singapore.

Global alumni network

With the graduation of the latest cohort, the University now has a sizeable group of China-based alumni, totaling more than 10,000. Their number has indeed grown since the first overseas graduation two years ago and they made up more than 8 per cent of NTU’s 120,000 strong alumni community worldwide.

NTU is the first among the Singapore universities to hold convocation abroad. With its strong overseas base, it is set to take on the world stage, to be a great global university.
Two separate cities, one common mission. The University launched its NTU Alumni Association in Chongqing and Hubei on 1 and 2 November, respectively. These added up to eight in the total number of alumni associations the University has in China. Six others have been set up in Beijing, Shandong, Shanghai, Jilin, Liaoning, and Guangdong.

With the latest launch, Dr Su Guaning, NTU President, said that our alumni in China had reached the 10,000th mark. He highlighted that the overseas chapters set up across major Chinese cities would provide a continuing nexus, where alumni based in China can meet for an exchange, as well as strengthen ties with their alma mater.

Casting a wider net will also enable NTU to touch base with its overseas alumni for active engagement, while nurturing more networking and business opportunities. The newly launched alumni association in Chongqing and Hubei will cater to a 500-strong community.

To date, with the Chongqing and Hubei launch, the number of NTU Alumni Associations has added up to a total of 13 across China, Indonesia, India, Thailand, the UK and Vietnam.
各方校友 欢聚巴渝 庆重庆校友会成立

在11月1日于南大重庆校友会成立日，侣室在长江边举行了一场盛大的成立仪式。校会理事长兼重庆校友会会长徐校长在成立仪式上致辞，表示校友会是南大校友在重庆的平台，是校友们交流、合作的家园。他还强调，校友会的成立是南大校友在重庆的重要里程碑，它将进一步推动南大校友与重庆社会的交流与合作，为南大校友在重庆的发展提供更大的空间和舞台。
作为天津校友会的副会长，张校长在校友代表大会上对校友们表示欢迎并发表了讲话。他提到，校友会的成立是天津校友会历史上的一个重要里程碑。国家主席胡锦涛、天津校友会副会长、校友等也对校友会的成立表示祝贺。随后，天津校友会会长宣布校友会正式成立，并在会场内进行了热烈的掌声。
2008年11月2日，是一个值得纪念的日子。这一天，南洋理工大学校友会理事会成立仪式在南洋理工大学正式成立。这一天，校友们欢聚一堂，庆祝南洋理工大学校友会的成立。校友们齐聚一堂，欢声笑语，气氛热烈。南洋理工大学校友会理事会的成立，标志着南洋理工大学校友会正式成立。校友们对校友会的成立表示热烈的祝贺，对校友会的未来充满期待。

南洋理工大学校友会的成立，是南洋理工大学校友会发展历程中的一个重要里程碑。校友会的成立，将进一步加强南洋理工大学校友之间的联系，促进南洋理工大学校友与校友会之间的沟通交流，为南洋理工大学校友会的发展提供坚实的基础。校友会的成立，也将为南洋理工大学校友提供更多的资源和服务，帮助校友们更好地发展自己，实现自己的人生目标。

作为南洋理工大学校友会的一员，我感到非常荣幸和自豪。我会积极参与校友会的各项活动，为校友会的发展贡献自己的力量。我相信，南洋理工大学校友会的未来一定会更加辉煌，为南洋理工大学校友会的发展奠定坚实的基础。
为了这一场珍贵的重逢，南大校友会的会长任大文以及其他理
事成员一起商量策划，精心筹备；为了这一场久违的重逢，130
余位湖北省南大校友会首任会长、参会的校友纷纷来自各大市
长官、博士生、PGCD班、教师管理班等。由于条件
有限，部分校友只能自行前往。他们当中，有创新求变的
领军者，也有毕业了三十五载的，而PGCD班的徐家军则是在988
年毕业于南大，迄今已三十五年。但是，不管距离有多远，时
间有多久，都无法阻挡南大人对母校的深深感情。

南北湖北校友会的成立，为校友之间的学习、交流、合作提供
了平台，让湖北省的南大人找到了归属感。校长徐保乐博士的
出席，更让南北湖北校友会成立仪式的意义更加庄重。更为紧
要的是，校友们可以真诚地向校友们介绍江大校友会的发展状
况、取得的成绩以及各地校友会成立的情况。虽然遗憾，
就像父亲在远方的孩子诉说着家乡的变化，每一声问候、每一
句叮嘱，都是来自母校的关怀，凝聚着南大校友的心。

在这个喜庆的夜晚，徐校 exceptionally。当红娘湖北校友会的副会长、校友会、南大的校友
会长任大文在获奖仪式上发表致辞，热烈的掌声再次响起，灯光在 raj 投影。校友会长任大文在台上讲述了江大校友会的发展状
况，并作出了重要讲话。校友们共同唱响“长江大学，南大校友
会的辉煌，我们将继续携手，为母校的发展贡献力量”。”来自北

的30位校友校友会成立仪式，整个会场掌声雷动。

南校友会、山东校友会、西安的校友代表也纷纷前来祝贺，并
参加南北湖北校友会成立仪式。

为了这场盛会，2007年MBA教育培训工程班毕业的30多位同
学好友，纷纷赶了回来。再次携手为南大人献上了两年
前在南大的舞台上站起的《江大一分钟》。掌声雷动，意犹未尽的怀念…

对湖北校友会来说，这是此次校友会的影响巨大。这是一次
由校友会的校友们共同参与的盛会，属于南大人，南大人是我们共同的名字。
The inaugural Tan Chin Tuan Centennial Forum draws alumni from NTU’s Master of Science in Managerial Economics program, who hold key positions in China’s civil service. Also in attendance were representatives from the Singapore Embassy and business communities in China and Singapore.

Its panel of speakers comprised academics, government officials and entrepreneurs from China, the US and Singapore. They spoke from various perspectives on ‘Sustainable Development: Economic, Social and Government Policy’. The forum serves as a channel for China-based alumni to maintain ties with NTU. It was jointly organised by the Tan Chin Tuan Foundation, NTU and the China-ASEAN Association. Held in Tianjin, it ran from 24 to 25 October.

"A more environmentally-friendly alternative is the harnessing of bio-energy from industrial wastewaters," observes one of the speakers at the Tan Chin Tuan Centennial Forum. Topical issues such as China’s growing water crisis were the talking point at the forum. Held for the first time, it attracted 240 delegates. They were mainly PRC alumni from NTU’s Master of Science in Managerial Economics (MME) programme, who hold key positions in China’s civil service. Also in attendance were representatives from the Singapore Embassy and business communities in China and Singapore.

Meeting China-based alumni’s needs for continuing learning and networking

"..."
Two charismatic alumni invited to speak at the forum – Ms Teo Ser Lee (ACC/1988) and Mr Leonard Yeow (EEE/1990) – offered tips on the topic of ‘The art of making an impression: From inside-out, first time, every time’. Their combined sharing gave the crowd of 150 attendees the complete big picture on how to create good and lasting first impression.

The forum was graced by Guest-of-Honour, Prof Er Meng Hwa, Senior Associate Provost, NTU, and chaired by Mr Loh Pui Wah, Director, NTU’s Career and Attachment Office. Organised by NTU’s Alumni Affairs Office, it is ninth in its series of forums that address the prevalent issues of today.

Dress to impress
Can your image make or break you? Ms Teo, a pioneer in the business of providing etiquette and protocol services in Singapore, said that it is important to look presentable on the outside so as to create an impression. Looking good on the outside brings on confidence, which goes a long way to win people over; hers is an ‘outside-in’ approach to creating not only a good first impression, but a lasting one.

She also cited situational examples on how to look good and what to do when attending interviews or dining with guests, as well as addressed the importance of social graces. Her learning point: Respect is earned when etiquette is learnt. Ms Teo is the founder and Director of Protocol Academy Pte Ltd.

Impress to last
The second speaker of the forum, Mr Leonard Yeow, espoused on the importance of developing a genuine interest in the people one meets, and conversely, for one to be an interesting person. In other words, if an impression is to be made and sustained, one needs to work on the inside. One’s inside is as important as the outside, if not more. Mr Yeow certainly knows his subject; he is the founder and Chief Executive of The Eximius Group, which is the largest executive search organisation in the world.

Following their presentations was the eagerly anticipated question-and-answer session. The forum participants were keen to learn more, especially about impressing their employers. Although the questions came fast and furious, the answers were provided with ease, often peppered with anecdotes by the speakers. As amused as many of the participants were, they have had their self-awareness heightened.

FORUM PARTICIPANTS HAVE THEIR SAY

“I found the forum enlightening. I learnt a lot from the two speakers, whom I felt were knowledgeable and up-to-date. I especially enjoyed the sensible tips on career and image enhancement.”
Ms Jermaine Lek Li Ping / NIE / Class of 2004

“I find the forum a good form of networking. Besides building contacts, I get to learn new things. This will help me in my work as a freelance consultant with a land banking group.”
Mr Benjamin Chua / Commerce / Class of 1972
留下

良好

第一印象的重要性

在南洋理工大学举办的第9期“杰出校友论坛”上，出席者就如何留下良好的第一印象获得主讲人的许多指点和启发。

论坛的主旨内容包括：听众从自身经历的主讲者那里获得启发。

论坛的主题是“第一印象的艺术：从里到外、从一而终”。1988年会计系毕业生陈思豪校友和南大电机与电子工程学院1990年毕业生陈铭浩校友从不同角度展开演讲，给人留下深刻的印象。张女士是“由表及里”来讲解，而陈先生则“由里及表”来分析。他们两人的演讲使在座的150位听众充分了解到应该如何给对方留下良好的第一印象。

该论坛于9月12日在南大杨树校史礼堂举行。论坛由南大副校长余明华教授和论坛主席南大就业与指导处处长卢沛华先生共同主持并出席了该活动。

张女士是新加坡礼仪学院私人有限公司创办人和董事。这是一家教导礼仪和礼宾服务的非赢利性机构。她指出礼仪的重要性和分享了不少具体案例：例如，如何与客人握手的正确姿势，如何自己的经验体会到：学会礼仪才会赢得尊敬。

第二次主讲者陈先生是Exntrius集团的创办人和总裁，这是一家为人才搜索与咨询公司，他指出了对不同场合“穿不同鞋子”的重要性。他强调说，在初次见到一个人时，必须对他表现出兴趣和好奇，你也会必须是一个令人感兴趣的人物。

随之进行的是自由问答环节。许多到会的校友和学生迫不及待地提出各种问题，并得到主讲人的精彩解答。

国立教育学院2004年校友陆家强表示，自己从论坛中获得许多宝贵启发：“参加论坛令人眼界大开。我从他们两人的言语中学到了很多东西，他们不仅知识丰富，还具有现代的思考观念，我很特别从如何就业发展和提升个人形象这两个话题讨论中受益匪浅。”
Winning golfers: NTU President Dr Su Guaning (back row, centre), Senior Associate Provost Prof Er Meng Hwa (back row, 2nd from right) and Mr Anthony Teo, Secretary to the University (back row, 3rd from right), pose together with the winners.

Keen golfers tee off at the NTU President Golf Challenge amid camaraderie and fine sportsmanship.

At least 140 golfers took part in the second NTU President Golf Challenge. All who came were game for a good golf; among them fellow alumni, business partners, faculty and staff, as well as friends and students of NTU. The Challenge was held on 13 August at the Lake Course, Raffles Country Club.

The game of gentlemen

Divided into 35 flights, the Challenge saw fine gentlemen, proving their mettle, as they hit the greens at the 18-hole par 72 course, which was built on the banks of Tengeh Reservoirs.

In the spotlight were: Mr Chandra Das, NTU Pro-Chancellor; Mr Chia Ban Seng, NTU Board of Trustees Member; Dr Su Guaning, NTU President; Prof Er Meng Hwa, Senior Associate Provost; Mr Anthony Teo, Secretary to the University; Prof Lui Pao Chuen, Senior Advisor on Systems and Technology to the President of NTU; Mr Bobby Chin, Chairman, Singapore Totalisator Board; and Mr Gui Boon Sui, Chairman, Regency Steel Asia.

The winner takes it all

Seasoned golfer, Mr Nicklaus D’Cruz, CEO of OAAG (S) Pte Ltd, beat the rest to win the championship trophy. He also won the prize for making the longest putt. The first runner-up was Nanyang Business School student, Anthony Mo Chaoyua, while NTU alumnus, Mr Ng Eng Mling, was named the second runner-up.

Dr Su thanked all for their participation and support at the prize presentation ceremony, as well as the NTU President Golf Challenge Organising Committee for their hard work. The Chairman of the Organising Committee, Mr Teo, summed up the Challenge, saying thus: “The growing participation from the NTU community from our first to our second has helped to fuel our passion to make this Challenge an even better one…We hope that this event encourages the forging of many more strong ties with NTU.”

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无与伦比”的高尔夫球赛

网络大学“第二届校长杯高尔夫球挑战赛”在促进友谊和培养品格的气氛中举行。

晴空万里的天气吸引了出席南大第二届校长杯高尔夫球挑战赛的嘉宾们。约140位参赛者在南大校园内风景如画的高尔夫球场上热情洋溢，一边欣赏美丽的草坪，一边愉快地挥动球杆。挑战赛于8月13日举行，吸引了许多高尔夫球爱好者参加，他们中包括校友、学生、教员、朋友和学生。

绅士风度的比赛

参赛者分成30个小组，在坐落在碧绿的水池旁边的郁郁葱葱的18个球场上进行赛。

他们中突出的绅士有：南大名誉副校长梁达明先生、南大校友会荣誉会长谢万瑞先生、南大校长徐冠林博士、南大副校长余明华教授、南大副校长林悦孙先生、南大校长的特别顾问及南大校友会会长林悦孙先生。南大校友会名誉会长、立泰亚洲（私人）有限公司主席黄博仁先生等人士。

最佳者能

COAG（新加坡）私人有限公司总裁德克鲁斯（Nicklaus Murn）先生击球时没对手并赢得了最长推杆奖及球赛冠军杯。亚军由南大商学院学生戴晓元和南大校友黄荣贤获得。

参赛者在挑战赛后应酬出使章显徐锦华，徐冠林校长感谢大家出席并祝贺挑战赛组织者付出的辛勤。

南大秘书长兼南大校长杯高尔夫球挑战赛组委会主席张振才先生说：“出席第二届比赛的人数比第一届多，这促使我们提升这一国际赛事的水平，我们希望这活动将促使更多与南大建立更强的联系。”
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Mrs Ong-Chua Li Ling, Eileen (Haig Girls’ School)
She maximises students’ potential
For Mrs Eileen Ong, changing her pupils’ mindset towards Mathematics and maximising their potential are her greatest contribution to teaching. Currently the Level Head for Mathematics, Mrs Ong initiated the ‘A-Fractionally Yours’ project, where P6 students were given opportunities to design and create Mathematics ‘manipulatives’ to help their younger schoolmates learn and practise concepts on Fractions. The project was supported by the Ministry of Education (MOE)’s Teach Less Learn More (TLLM) Igniter as a School Curriculum Innovation in 2008.

Believing in holistic development, Mrs Ong spends time interacting with her pupils and capitalises on stories and ‘teachable moments’ to instil values.

Mrs Lee Kok Hong (Temasek Primary School)
She evokes students’ responsiveness
The Head of Department (Mathematics), Mrs Lee Kok Hong, is still passionate after 29 years of teaching. “I get excited about coming to school and seeing my pupils progress and gain confidence everyday in class,” she said.

An advocate of holistic development, Mrs Lee infuses into her lessons learning principles and the core values of the school. She also gets to know her students so she can respond to their needs better by organising student focus groups and one-to-one conferencing. At these sessions, she coaches and motivates them to re-focus, reflect and review, so they are spurred on to achieving their targets.

Mrs Lim-Ng Yee Ping, Diana (Coral Secondary School)
She believes that every student can learn
Mrs Diana Lim wears many hats: She is the Head of Department for Information & Communications Technology, a Teacher of Biology and General Science, and an initiator of innovative projects for teachers and students. To her, every child can learn, if properly guided and motivated.

She was instrumental in creating the school’s Student Action Research Programme (STAR), which investigates issues that affect the school and community. Under STAR, students adopt a systematic inquiry approach to planning, acting, observing and reflecting on the issues found. For its innovative and creative approach, STAR was picked as one of MOE’s TLLM prototypes.

Three outstanding teachers received the 2008 President’s Award for Teachers from President S R Nathan.

A record number of nominations were received this year, comprising 2,043 teachers from 225 schools. The nominations came from principals, teachers, students, parents and former students. The annual President’s Award for Teachers recognizes the commitment of teachers to the total development of students and to nation building. The Award was introduced in 1998.

Mrs Lee Kok Hong (Temasek Primary School)
She evokes students’ responsiveness
The Head of Department (Mathematics), Mrs Lee Kok Hong, is still passionate after 29 years of teaching. “I get excited about coming to school and seeing my pupils progress and gain confidence everyday in class,” she said.

An advocate of holistic development, Mrs Lee infuses into her lessons learning principles and the core values of the school. She also gets to know her students so she can respond to their needs better by organising student focus groups and one-to-one conferencing. At these sessions, she coaches and motivates them to re-focus, reflect and review, so they are spurred on to achieving their targets.

Mrs Lim-Ng Yee Ping, Diana (Coral Secondary School)
She believes that every student can learn
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On receiving the honour, Mrs Diana Lim highlighted the significance of the teaching profession. She said: “As a teacher, I wish to light up the minds of my students so they become ‘flaming beacons’ and be resilient to the winds of change and uncertainty.”

Three outstanding teachers received national recognition for demonstrating passion, innovation and dedication when they were conferred the Award, at the Istana on Teachers’ Day, 1 September. They were: Mrs Ong-Chua Li Ling, Eileen, from Haig Girls’ School; Mrs Lee Kok Hong from Temasek Primary School and Mrs Lim-Ng Yee Ping, Diana, from Coral Secondary School.

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Teachers who give, receive

Scooping on dedication and commitment to student welfare, 14 special teachers pick up the Caring Teacher Awards.

Everyday deeds and actions matter, as 14 school teachers found out. So were public opinions. For receiving high scores on these criteria, the school teachers, who are alumni of the National Institute of Education (NIE), were awarded the Caring Teacher Awards (CTA). They were recognised for caring for their students’ academic, moral, social, emotional and mental welfare, as well as for sharing their concerns.

Just how was care and share measured? The public were asked to nominate the school teachers, whom they felt exemplified what CTA stands for, following which they were shortlisted for an interview. The interview panel comprised representatives from NIE, ExxonMobil Asia Pacific Pte Ltd and community organisations. This year’s CTA, seventh in its series, was jointly awarded by NIE, ExxonMobil, with the support of Singapore’s Ministry of Education (MOE).

All 14 received their awards from Mr Wong Siew Hoong, Director of Schools, MOE, at a ceremony held on 5 September, at the NTU Alumni Club. Given out every two years, the awards were inaugurated in 1996.

National Level Winners

Primary School Level
Ms Halimatussa’idah bte Jaffar
Junyuan Primary School
Ms Halima exudes a warm and genial personality. Her genuine love and gentle words have endeared her to her pupils and colleagues. She motivates those pupils, who are initially reluctant learners, to develop joy and passion for learning.

She believes that every child is special and deserving of her attention, care and time. To her, every child has the ability to learn and grow.

Secondary School Level
Ms Deborah Ng
Ahmad Ibrahim Secondary School
Ms Ng, herself visually handicapped, believes that disability is no hindrance to learning. Teaching visually impaired pupils, she helps them to acquire knowledge, develop skills, and imbibe values, as well as cultivate the attitude to overcome adversities.

Her tireless efforts in developing visually impaired pupils have inspired many to persevere and work hard. She is revered by her colleagues for her tenacity to rise above her disability to seek long-term solutions to problems.

Junior College/Centralised Institute Level
Mr Kwok Weng Meng, Michael
Pioneer Junior College
Mr Kwok is the Head of Department for PE and coaches the College rugby team. Stressing on the holistic development of his student-athletes, he personally supervises their study sessions. He is regarded by them as a mentor and confidant.

He applies the same principled focus in helping students, who are at-risk candidates for General Paper and Project Work. Mr Kwok says that he is merely following his calling as a teacher.

Award of Commendation Winners

Primary School Level
• Mrs Khoo Phui Heng, Marymount Convent School
• Mdm Ng Wei Huah, Mee Toh School
• Mrs Diana Wang-Tien Choon Lan
Nanyang Primary School
• Mdm Kiren Kaur, Yamin Primary School

Secondary School Level
• Ms Lee Phui Jiun, Broadrick Secondary School
• Mrs Tan Lee Kiaw, Crescent Girls’ School
• Ms Tan Peiru, Jurongville Secondary School
• Ms Nelleke Eng Su-Ping, Northbrooks Secondary School
• Mdm Aishah bte Abdullah, Woodlands Ring Secondary School

Junior College/Centralised Institute Level
• Ms Caroline Manonmani Selvanayagam
National Junior College
• Mr Muhammad Salahuddin bin Ibrahim
Serangoon Junior College
A tribute to excellence: Our alumni, our stars
One is an advocate of international labour movement. Another has several dictionaries to his name. Yet another has the ability to level up society through education, helping students of diverse inclination to find their own in schools.

Whether they are changing the world, or changing the lives of students, this year’s Nanyang Alumni Awards winners are the ‘stars’ and pride of NTU. The brilliant contributions of the alumni ‘stars’ – 28 altogether – were celebrated with fellow alumni, faculty and special guests invited to the Awards presentation ceremony. The ceremony was held in conjunction with the NTU Alumni Day (turn to page 20 for the Day’s highlights). This year’s presentation ceremony was held on 4 October at NTU’s Nanyang Auditorium.

The Nanyang Alumni Awards embody the University’s effort to root a culture of excellence, where achievements were benchmarked against global standards. Of the 28 Awards winners, 10 deserve special mention, for distinguishing themselves in the top two of the four categories, namely, Distinguished and Achievement. The other two categories are Outstanding Young and Alumni Service.

Dr Ng is an exemplary humanitarian. No stranger to the labour movement, he has proven his mettle time and again through his various appointments in the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The ILO is a specialised tripartite agency of the United Nations that brings together governments, employers and workers of its member states to promote decent work throughout the world.

Dr Ng joined the ILO as Research Economist in 1974 in Geneva. This led to a career that spanned over three decades. A defining career and life’s milestone was Dr Ng’s cause célèbre in the International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour. As the Director of Operations for the Programme, he spearheaded a number of initiatives, including the creation of jobs for parents, so as to leave the children free to continue basic education. He also initiated the prevention of the trafficking of young children; and the improvement of labour conditions for those with no choice but to work, as well as put in place measures to eliminate the most brutal forms of child labour in various countries.

At the pinnacle of his career in 2006, Dr Ng worked with ASEAN member states in the promotion of progressive labour practices when appointed ILO’s Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific. He regularly organized and participated in regional and international meetings to follow up with the resolutions laid down during Social Summit in Copenhagen in 1995, and the International Labour Conferences.

Dr Ng Gek Boo
Bachelor of Commerce / Class of 1969
Meet Dr Yang, who mastered three languages – Chinese, Malay and English. Dr Yang shared that during his childhood days, it was common for children of different races to play together in the kampung, and through play, it was inevitable to acquire a smattering of Malay or English.

His interest for the Malay language blossomed into a lifelong quest in researching and eventual mastery of the language; a journey that spanned over five decades. Together with his wife, Dr Yang has compiled 12 dictionaries, which include Malay language only dictionary, Malay-Chinese dictionaries, as well as Malay-Chinese-English. The latter has proven to be a rarity, enabling individuals in Singapore and Malaysia, to learn all three languages in a tri-cultural mode. Dr Yang, who has lived through the turbulent 60s, where racial tension was rife in Malaysia and Singapore, commands great respect in the Chinese and Malay communities of both countries.

The intrepid linguist continues to garner laurels on both sides of the Causeway up till this day. Last year, Dr Yang was given the Honorary Doctorate of Letters by the National University of Malaysia (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, UKM for short) in recognition of his contribution to the research of the Malay language. In Singapore, he was the recipient of the Literary Award conferred by the Singapore Literary Association in 1993.

Currently, Dr Yang is collaborating with experts from the Department of Malay Language, Beijing Foreign Studies University, to compile ‘Kamus Umum Cina-Melayu Terkini’ (a comprehensive Chinese-Malay dictionary). He was appointed Visiting Professor in its Department of Malay Language till now.

DR YANG QUEE YEE
Bachelor of Arts / Class of 1960

A prolific composer and lyricist, Dr Liang remains one of the most influential figures in the music scene. His compositions have been sung by singers like Andy Lau, Jacky Cheung and Stefanie Sun. The tunes he has composed have dominated the Mandarin pop record charts, with some being selected as theme songs for drama serial productions, even advertisement jingles. A Mandarin musical based on his songs, ‘If There’re Seasons…’ played to a sold-out audience in 2007, and is the most successful Mandarin musical in Singapore to date. The score for Singapore’s first Mandarin musical, ‘December Rains’, was also composed by Dr Liang.

He is also a published poet and essayist. Having published over 10 books, Dr Liang’s works have paved a new direction for Singapore’s Chinese literature. He was voted the ‘Most Popular Writer’ by students in a poll by Chinese newspaper Lianhe Zaobao, in 1990. He also received the National Art Council’s first Young Artist Award in Literature.

Currently, Dr Liang is the Assistant Professor (Adjunct) at NTU’s Division of Chinese, where he teaches language, literature and creative writing in Chinese. He also runs the Xue Er You Language Centre, a Chinese language enrichment centre for primary and secondary school students.

DR LIANG WERN FOOK
PhD in Chinese Studies (NIE) / Class of 1999

A/Prof Chee has been lauded as one of the most outstanding contemporary watercolour artists in America, and his works have also received critical acclaim in China and Singapore.

A strong proponent of international exchange and understanding, the artist seized the first opportunity he had after China open its doors in 1982, and took the chance to organise the University of Minnesota Art and Crafts Tour. A/Prof Chee has held solo art exhibitions in China and Singapore. More notably, the artist was featured in the 22nd edition of the publication ‘Who’s Who in the World’, in 2005. He has also contributed watercolour illustrations to best-seller ‘Old Turtle’, a book written by Douglas Wood.

A/Prof Chee has been sharing his skills with young adults at the University of Minnesota, where he is currently Professor Emeritus. He constantly seeks to synthesise traditional Eastern influence with the Western training he has had. His ultimate goal in painting is to achieve the essence of Tao, which is the state of effortless creation.

ASSOC PROF CHEE CHENG KHEE
Bachelor of Arts / Class of 1961
Mr Lim has been the Chief Instructor at the NTU TaeKwon-Do Club since his undergraduate days. When he is not donning his Master Sixth Dan Black Belt, Mr Lim is the Director of Health, Safety & Environment (HSE) at Cameron (Singapore) Pte Ltd.

From 1999 to 2000, he was the Manager for HSE and Quality at Cameron in Asia-Pacific and Middle-East. Mr Lim was instrumental in catalysing a massive improvement in the company’s HSE culture. Its Singapore-based headquarters recorded a reduction in lost-workday-accident rate from 10 cases per year to zero, on average, in 2000. This set a new benchmark for the Singapore Metalworking industry, according to the records of the Ministry of Manpower.

A safety advocate, he went on to become the first Black Belt in Six Sigma for Cameron in Asia-Pacific and Middle-East. Under Mr Lim’s watchful leadership, Cameron has been winning the Ministry of Manpower’s Annual Safety Performance Award, year after year.

The Director for the Life Sciences Institute of NUS and a Professor at the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, Prof Ong has contributed to the understanding of Xenobiotics and Carcinogenesis. In particular, he highlighted how Carcinogens can cause cellular and DNA damage, and what could be done to prevent that.

On the international front, he has served as a World Health Organisation Consultant on Environmental Research. He was a Visiting Professor at several Chinese universities, including Fudan University, Sun Yet-Sen Medical University and Nanjing Medical University. He also serves as a Scientific Advisor of the Chinese Centre for Disease Control.

Closer to home, he was the Chairman of the International Expert Panel, advising the Ministry of Environment independently on the NEWater study, from 1999 to 2003. Prof Ong collaborates with colleagues at the Institute of Advanced Studies at NTU.

Mr Masagos founded the NTU Muslim Students Association whilst at NTU, and served as its President for two terms. Upon graduation, he joined the Singapore Telecommunications Ltd (SingTel). His stellar work record earned him a SingTel scholarship to pursue a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) at the University of Southern California in USA. After his MBA, he served SingTel’s subsidiary companies in East Indonesia and Australia. He took on eight different roles; the last being SingTel Global Offices’ Chief Executive Officer/Vice-President.

When he entered politics in 2006, Mr Masagos became a Member of Parliament for the Tampines Group Representation Constituency. He also took on the position of Senior Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Education (MOE). Today, Mr Masagos chairs MOE’s various committees to focus on opportunities to level up society through education. He is also a Committee Member of National Education. Apart from MOE, he was the Ministry of Home Affairs’ Senior Parliamentary Secretary.

At the grassroots level, Mr Masagos was the President of FORDAUS (a Association of Adults Religious Class Student of Singapore) from 1999 to 2006, where he re-defined community engagement beyond the Malays, the Muslims and the nation.

Prof Tan was the first Calligrapher to be nominated by then Singapore Tourist Promotion Board (now Singapore Tourism Board) to serve as its cultural ambassador in 1974. Currently, the President of the Chinese Calligraphy Society of Singapore (CCSS), Prof Tan not only founded CCSS, but also served for several terms as its President. He has continued in this capacity to promote calligraphy, which led to a career of lecturing calligraphy, two years after he graduated.

In 1974, he became a Lecturer at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, where he spent 12 years. Prof Tan was subsequently appointed a Lecturer of Chinese Calligraphy at the Centre for Chinese Language and Culture, NTU, and at the Department of Chinese Studies, NIE. He collaborated with famous sculptor, Mr Chern Lian Shan, to produce a bronze bust of the late Mr Lee Wee Nam, which is now a centrepiece, at the entrance of NTU’s Lee Wee Nam Library.

He has published over 200 essays on calligraphy and art, in books, magazines and newspapers. It is Prof Tan’s dream to spread the appreciation of Chinese calligraphy to the mass.
Mr Wu started investing in, and operating tourism-related infrastructure, in several tourist landmarks in China, during the 1980s. He formed partnerships with companies such as the China Poly Group and Singapore Technologies to develop large-scale tourism projects in Shanghai, Xi’an and Xiamen. These encompassed the construction of oceanariums and cable cars, as well as the preservation and reconstruction of famous heritage sites in China.

One of his main achievements was the investment and construction of the Shanghai Ocean Aquarium (SOA), along with partners from China and Singapore. The SOA is one of Asia’s largest closed-system aquaria and has since become one of China’s top tourist attractions.

In 2004, Mr Wu partnered a Chinese state-owned enterprise and successfully consolidated his tourism projects in China to launch a public-listed company in Singapore. As founder and Executive Chairman of the company – Straco Corporation Limited – he built the first Singapore-listed company that has its core business in tourism-related projects in China. This helped him kickstart Singapore’s investment in China’s tourism industry.

Establishing several breakthroughs in the course of her career

MDM ZURAIDAH BINTE ABDULLAH
Bachelor of Engineering (Civil and Structural Engineering) / Class of 1985

Currently MENDAKI’s Chief Executive Officer, Mdm Zuraidah has steered the organisation towards its goal of empowering and positioning the Malay/Muslim community. She has created several firsts for women in her career, which began with the Singapore Police Force (SPF).

Having over 20 years of service with SPF, she was the first female Malay/Muslim Commander to head a police division. As Commander of the Jurong Police Division, she was in-charge of a division that is the largest in terms of land-area coverage among the six police land divisions. In 2007, she upped the ante further by being the first woman to be appointed as a Council Member of the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore. She has even sat on the interview panels for the selection of students, wishing to gain entry into universities, through discretionary intake criteria.

Today, Mdm Zuraidah also serves on the governing boards of the National Council Against Drug Abuse, Northlight School Board of Governors, Health Promotion Board, the Cooperative for Women Enterprise and the Marriage Central Advisory Board.

RECIPIENTS OF THE NANYANG ALUMNI AWARDS 2008

NANYANG DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

• Dr Ng Suck Boo (Commerce/Class of 1989)
• Dr Yang Quan Yee (Arts/Class of 1960)

NANYANG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

• Assoc Prof Choo Meng Kee (Arts/Class of 1961)
• Dr Lim Wee Toon (NF/Class of 1987)
• Mr Lim Sui Seng (MA/Class of 1987)
• Mr Masagos Zulkifli bin Masagos Mohamad (EIE/Class of 1987)
• Prof Ong Choon Nam (Science/Class of 1972)
• Prof Tan Siew Kee (Arts/Class of 1972)
• Mr Wu Hsioh Kwang (Commerce/Class of 1974)
• Mdm Zuraidah binti Abdullah (EIE/Class of 1985)

NANYANG OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD

• Ms Beng Huei Lian, Shirley (NIE/Class of 1994)
• Mr Foo Chuan Yu, Henry (ECE/Class of 1997)
• Ms Lim Kian Huat, Ilue (NBS/Class of 1993)
• Ms Lim Yeun Heng, Nora (NKVSC/Class of 1997)

• Mr Ng Hui (NKVSC/Class of 2002)
• Mdm Pararajasingh/Ilue Sanitar Rajoo (NIE/Class of 1997)
• Mr Suck Wei Ting, Ryan (NBS/Class of 1994)
• Mr Tan Choo Meng (ECE/Class of 1994)

NANYANG ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

• Dr Cheng Kuee Sen (CCE/Class of 1987)
• Mr Koh Lian Hua (Commerce/Class of 1965)
• Mr Lee Ching Ying (SC/Class of 1997)
• Mr Lim Yuan Peh (Science/EIE/Class of 1987)
• Mr Ong Eng Bong (Commerce/Class of 1972)
• Mr Tan Ser Kwang (Science/Class of 1972)
• Mr Tan Yang Cheau, Andrew (NBS/Class of 2001)
• Ms Tay Swee Hoon (NBS/Class of 1980)
• Ms Wee Hui Kan (ECE/Class of 1987)
• Ms Yeo Tiong Eng (Commerce/Class of 1977)
Alumni, who graduated from as far back as 1960, had a reunion on NTU Alumni Day 2008, a day set aside to celebrate homecoming on 4 October. The annual affair also celebrated the sterling achievements of 28 special alumni, some of whom have flown in from the US and China.

Attracting a turnout of 1,000 alumni, staff and guests, the homecoming was made especially memorable with a photo exhibition to showcase the photos that had won the ConnectNANYANG Photography Competition. Both the photo exhibition and competition were held for the first time.

The NTU Alumni Day 2008 was graced by Guest-of-Honour Mr Lim Swee Say, Minister in Prime Minister’s Office.

“A home here and abroad warm up to a grand welcome and reception on NTU Alumni Day, as they come home to renew ties with their alma mater. Alumni here and abroad warm up to a grand welcome and reception on NTU Alumni Day, as they come home to renew ties with their alma mater.

Alumni here and abroad warm up to a grand welcome and reception on NTU Alumni Day, as they come home to renew ties with their alma mater.

“Today, I want to firstly congratulate you (recipients of the Nanyang Alumni Awards 2008). You have done very well... As a result, NTU is one of the top universities in the world and NTU graduates are probably one of the most marketable in Singapore. And not just in Singapore, in fact, in other places as well.”

Mr Lim Swee Say, Minister, Prime Minister’s Office, at NTU Alumni Day 2008

Changing times

Minister Lim, in his address, alluded to the impact that economic changes have had on education. He said: “The challenge of the future is for any educational institution, including NTU, to be able to produce students or graduates, who are able to keep pace with the move towards value creation.” He went on to add that top-class universities of the future are those that can ‘value multiply’. They are multi-disciplinary and multi-lingual and their graduates could prevail because they command multiple languages.

Minister Lim also congratulated this year’s recipients of the Nanyang Alumni Awards and presented them with the awards (more on their sterling achievements at page 16). He said: “You have done very well for NTU and at the same time you have done very well for Singapore.”

Also at the homecoming, NTU President, Dr Su Guaning, leveraged on the event to update alumni on the University’s latest developments. He thanked them for their support of NTU’s various initiatives. “Our alumni have a crucial role to play in the development of NTU. We engage our alumni in matters relating to our initiatives and plans, and it is heartening to see you give your all... Without you, we would not be able to build our closely knitted Nanyang alumni family,” he said.
The NTU Alumni Day 2008 also celebrated alumni connection, as seen in the winning photos of the ConnectNANYANG Photography Competition. Enhancing the significance of the homecoming, the competition was open to amateur and professional photographers. As many as 835 talented alumni, students and faculty members took part. It had the support of Nikon Singapore Pte Ltd and PhotoVivo.com.

Three photos, which captured vividly the defining moments of life on campus, won the top cash prizes. A Mechanical Engineering student, Eric Leong Jia-le, won the first prize with his 'Teamwork', a photo he took of a group of NTU students, paddling a dragon boat in synchronicity. “I believe my photo ties in with the idea of how networking and teamwork can bring us to greater heights,” said Eric.

All entries were reviewed by judges made up of representatives from NTU, namely, Asst Prof Shannon Castleman, School of Arts, Design and Media; Mr Goh Wee Sen, Asst Director, Centre for Educational Development; and Mr Soon Min Yam, Director, Alumni Affairs Office. The others included: Mr Steven Yee, an NTU alumnus and a professional photographer; and Ms Zoe Lim, President, NTU’s Photo and Videography Society.

Memorable finale

Guests were entertained by alumni and students from NTU’s Cultural Activities Club. Some Chinese ‘oldies’ were sung, but most related best to the finale song, ‘At the beginning’, and sang along to end the entertainment on a high note.

Lunch ensued with alumni and guests, treating themselves to food and some catching up. While several of them went on campus bus tours, the rest paid a visit to their respective Schools. It was indeed a memorable homecoming.

ConnectNANYANG
Photo Competition winning photos

* Photos published with permission of photographers
重温往昔
欢聚南大
校友回校日

千名校友于2008年10月4日重返南大，参加一年一度的南大校友回校日。校友们除了重温往日感情及欣赏精彩的文艺表演，南洋校友奖和南洋摄影比赛的奖项也在盛会上颁发。

近

当天一早，由精心挑选的南洋大礼堂演绎出的节目，吸引了众多校友的参与。在南大文化活动俱乐部的表演结束后，校友们发表了激动人心的话。南大校友总会表示，这是一个充满活力的南洋校友会。

南大校友总会会长对校友回校日表示，南大校友总会是一个充满活力的南洋校友会。

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The Ho’s happy family: A model of Nantah’s spirit and values

Dr Ho Ngiap Kum is entrepreneur, mentor, philanthropist and family man. He is where he is today, having overcome poverty and life’s obstacles. He also believes in seeking out role models and living by the Nantah values.

Speak with the 57-year-old Dr Ho and you’re instantly struck by his aura. For, here is a self-made man, who got where he is in life today, living out the values he caught on to during his Nantah days. Dr Ho is the principal partner of accounting firm, N K Ho & Co, and has been practising since 1985 as a CPA in Singapore. Today, he also supervises doctorate students and is an Adjunct Professor at the University of South Australia.

Nantah spirit alive
Dr Ho graduated from Nanyang University’s Faculty of Commerce in 1975. Recalling the impact the University has had on him, he singled out the great sense of belonging students had to the University; it didn’t matter which faculties they were from, for everybody lived like one happy family. He said: “The environment we were studying in was very different. All of us learnt how to care for one another and develop moral obligation. We didn’t differentiate one from the other; therein lie Nantah’s spirit and values, which I believe should rub off on to the new generation.”

Like father, like children, Dr Ho’s son and daughter also studied at NTU. And even his daughter-in-law. The son, Ho Hean Yoong, completed his studies in the School of Computer Engineering in 2005, while his wife, Sim Sin Ying, is an Accountancy graduate from the Nanyang Business School’s Class of 2002. Dr Ho’s daughter, Ho Seow Yan, graduated with a Bachelor of Electrical and Electronic Engineering last year. Studying at NTU was a deliberate choice, said Hean Yoong and Seow Yan, who cited the University’s hands-on approach as the motivation behind their decision.

Singapore’s NTU family
Of his children, Dr Ho observed: “I find my children very independent. They hardly give me any problems. We tend to behave like friends. I do not impose tight control nor do I encourage confrontation within the family.”

Dr Ho is proud of his children. Hean Yoong played the role of Project Manager in the nationwide Wireless@5G project at NCS and his sister, Seow Yan, who is involved in the SMART Downtown Line project, ensures Singaporeans good public transportation. She works for LTA. Daughter-in-law Sin Ying has an illustrious career at KPMG. If children are the mirror of every parent’s success, Dr Ho is one blessed family man.
Two generations of NTU alumni: Father and son (Dr Ho and Hean Yoong) visit their alma mater’s Chinese Heritage Centre the day they came by the campus.

Dr Ho pledges a donation to NTU at his son’s wedding. NTU is represented by family friend, Mr Lim Boon Kiat (far right), Deputy Director (Student Services).

A philanthropist, he (Dr Ho) recently donated S$125,000 to NTU to start the Dr Ho Ngiap Kum Bursary. With a dollar-to-dollar matching from the government, the total value of the bursary is $250,000. He shared: “Seeing how a bursary in my schooling days had helped me, I wanted to do the same now. When a person is given the opportunity for an education, he or she will change for the better.”

Road to success

Dr Ho’s journey was not paved with gold all the way. Born into a poor family, his life took a turn for the better at the age of 12, thanks to a special teacher. He shared: “The teacher advised me that although poor, I could still do well in studies. She recommended that I go for a bursary and I took her advice.” Her influence was impactful: Dr Ho went from being the last in class to the top. He never looked back.

After he graduated from university, Dr Ho encountered yet another life-defining event. He met a businessman, who offered him a job. Although it paid a nominal salary and the business was in the doldrums, Dr Ho took it on and pledged to help turn the company around. At the same time, he was providing consultation to then National Productivity Association (now SPRING Singapore), which paid him handsomely. He held two jobs and was diligently saving up so he could start his own business, but a promise was a promise. He did turn the company around, but more importantly, Dr Ho saw that he was capable of building his own enterprise.

Together with his wife, Dr Ho set up his Accounting business with the money he had saved up. “When we were starting out, we had to do everything ourselves. I didn’t have a single client,” said Dr Ho. Twenty years on, his company now provides professional CPA services in auditing, taxation, accounting, corporate financial planning and business growth strategy advisory services to local and global SMEs.

“My wife held it all together for us. She played a major role in the building of my business and raising the family,” he said of his wife, who has stood by him all these years.

Giving back to NTU

Dr Ho is grateful to have come far in life and wants to give back. He said: “I see life in three stages of 25 years. The first stage is that of growing up and making mistakes. The second, being the most critical, is the stage where you work hard and do well. As for the last 25 years, when you have made something of yourself, you will think more of others and give back to the community.”

Dr Ho is at that giving stage. A philanthropist, he recently donated S$125,000 to NTU to start the Dr Ho Ngiap Kum Bursary. With a dollar-to-dollar matching from the government, the total value of the bursary is $250,000. He shared: “Seeing how a bursary in my schooling days had helped me, I wanted to do the same now. When a person is given the opportunity for an education, he or she will change for the better.”
One was in Singapore and the other in China. Ocean’s apart, the two were brought together by an ally of sort. “They were in my very office when I first introduced them,” said Prof Sam Zhang, match-maker extraordinaire and Associate Chair of NTU’s School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. Had it not been for Prof Zhang’s match-making intervention, NTU alumnus Dr Ong Soon Eng might not have met his bride, Ms Han Hongzhen. Prof Zhang was also Dr Ong’s PhD supervisor at NTU. Prior to his PhD, Dr Ong read his Bachelor’s degree at the University.

Currently a Research Scientist on campus, Dr Ong sees NTU as his ‘second home’. Naturally, he chose the University as the place to hold his marriage solemnisation.

Everlasting love
While the choice of place is a celebration of his affinity to NTU, the choice of date was something else. 9 September 2008 became the choice date for this romantic-at-heart.

Dr Ong explains: “When expressed in Chinese, the date 09/09 represents ‘everlasting’. What’s more, it is the first anniversary of our encounter – we had our first date at the café by the Quad on 9 September 2007. My birthday also falls on 9 September.”

Special solemnisation
The marriage solemnisation ceremony of the romantic duo took place at NTU’s Nanyang Auditorium – the first time an event of this nature is being held at the venue. The ceremony was presided by Mr Soon Min Yam, NTU’s Director of Alumni Affairs and a licensed Deputy Registrar of Marriages.

Pleased to solemnise the pair, Mr Soon said: “I am happy to share in their bliss. The offering of such service to our alumni is one of the means we adopt in our cultivation of alumni relations.”

TU alumnus Dr Ong Soon Eng and Chinese national Ms Han Hongzhen find love in unexpected places and seal their romance on the auspicious date of 9 September, at NTU.
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Apply for the OCBC NTU Visa Gold Card now and get a complimentary OCBC Platinum MasterCard to enjoy the finest things in life. Best of all, you’ll enjoy 5-year fee waiver for both cards!
Alumni gathered at NTU’s Nanyang Auditorium foyer on 23 August to celebrate their 20th, 15th, 10th and 5th reunion anniversaries, respectively. They caught up with not only their former classmates, but also their professors.

Special Guest, Prof Er Meng Hwa, NTU’s Senior Associate Provost graced the momentous occasion, which saw the attendance of distinguished guests. They included Mr Anthony Teo, Secretary to the University, Prof Pan Tso-Chien, Dean of College of Engineering and Prof Cheong Hee Kiat, President of UniSIM.

The reunion was organised by a committee of alumni volunteers, led by Mr Walter Lee, Class of 1988 alumnus, School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering.

Role of alumni
Giving a welcome speech, Prof Er thanked the alumni for their support and encouraged them to continue their engagement with their alma mater. Mr Walter Lee, on the other hand, said in his address: “Indeed, NTU has come a long way and has established itself as a world-class university that we can all be proud of. Every great university has alumni, who are dynamic and influential in the society. As alumni, we can contribute to this effort by building upon our network in the working world, our contribution to society and ties with the university.

Activities galore
Alumni, attending the reunion, were treated to a campus tour, wine-and coffee-tasting, as well as a karaoke session. The event also witnessed the laying of the class plaques, bearing the class years of ‘88’, ‘93’, ‘98’ and ‘03’, at the University Quadrangle. The laying of class plaques is an annual tradition that began in 2005.

Ms Teo Ser Lee, an alumna from the Class of 1988, who was also the emcee, was honoured that she was able to contribute to the event. As for another alumnus, who came to join in the reunion, Mr Raman Bhadhri Prasad, Class of 2003, found the event enjoyable. He said: “It was a great opportunity to relive the NTU experience and meet old friends and senior management from NTU. Adding wine-tasting and gourmet coffee-tasting sessions was a nice touch.”

Also elated, Ms Sharon Lim, Class of 1998, said: “This event brought back feelings of nostalgia! It was great to see my old friends, as well as their spouses and children.” Echoing her sentiment was Mr Chew Chin Ming from the Class of 1993, who said: “It’s good to see old classmates again after 15 years. It’s amazing how time flies!”

I look forward to seeing you getting involved in NTU’s new phase of development and growth as an autonomous University. There is more to contribute as autonomy means we enjoy greater latitude in formulating NTU’s strategies and in taking bigger strides towards excellence.

Prof Er Meng Hwa, Senior Associate Provost, NTU
**Off to the kelong to fish!**

The deep blue sea of Pulau Sibu beckons alumni, eager for a big catch and a little island hopping.

A total of 60 eager participants went on a fishing trip, organised by the NTU Anglers Club, from 20 to 21 September. Among them were alumni, students and members of the public.

"Coming to this kelong trip is a totally new experience. It brought back memories of my student days in NTU. I find the trip unforgettable," said alumna Lauren Joy.

In their first afternoon of the trip, the anglers managed to haul in todaks and garoupas. They also caught a squid, weighing over 1kg, during their evening hunt. The second day was spent, doing more fishing, although many smaller bait fishes were caught. Many enjoyed the catch, but some of them also managed to go island hopping and discovered interesting sights.
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NTU Alumni Club
Class of Your Own
It has been almost 30 years since I graduated from Nanyang University in 1979. Time has passed by incredibly fast for me. Life is like a roller coaster ride and I have been through many ups and downs. Amid the backdrop of the current weakening global economy, I can’t help but recall one of the darkest moments in my entire career. About a decade ago, I was a victim of the Asian Financial Crisis. I lost my precious job and was absolutely shattered. Fortunately for me, I managed to survive the crisis and bounced back stronger. Looking back, one of the greatest takeaways from that rough ride is the importance of perseverance through timeless hard work. At work, I demonstrate great commitment to excellence. Off work, I continuously upgrade my knowhow because I believe knowledge acquisition is fundamental to self-development. More importantly, the Nanyang education has inculcated the never-say-die attitude in her graduates, including me. This is the single most important quality that one must have. Having built a strong portfolio through my employment with various multi-national corporations from America, Germany, Italy, Singapore and now Netherlands, I feel a great sense of accomplishment today. It's my pleasure to pen a class note here. Dedicated to the Nanyang community and my two sons who are about to graduate from university, I would like to share a phrase that constantly motivates me – ‘Be cool in the head, warm in the heart and hot in the hands.’

Teo Chin Nam
(Science/1979)
My wife and I had a chance to go back to NTU recently to join a homecoming event held on Saturday 4 October. It is called the NTU Alumni Day and is held once a year so alumni like my wife and I can renew ties with the alumni community, as well as their alma mater.

I am glad I was there, for I got to meet a number of alumni and friends. We actually got to touch base with those who flew back from overseas especially for the event. We shared many things, in particular, the progress we have made in life. We also posed for photos so we can have them for keepsakes.

Needless to say we have all changed and I like to think that it is for the better. Speaking of change, I noticed that the University has indeed transformed. It is now world-class and complete with tech-savvy facilities although I am glad that the surrounding is still lusciously green with trees all around.

My wife and I had a wonderful time at this year’s homecoming and we look forward to the next one.
Howard Woon  
(CEE/1998)

I find myself very fortunate to be able to live in the Land of Smiles, also known to many as Thailand. Five years ago, I left Singapore with very little money in search of a better life in Thailand. With financing from a Singaporean angel investor, I founded Financial Services Academy, which is today Thailand’s leading private financial education and training provider.

I later realised there was a void in a well-structured Investor Relations service in Thailand and started a joint venture with ShareInvestor, the region’s leading Online Investor Relations provider. Today, ShareInvestor (Thailand) represents close to 100 listed companies and financial institutions in Thailand.

Though I appreciate the comfort and security that Singapore offers, I also realised that the scarcity of our land and the rising cost of living meant that a comfortable retirement will become a more and more remote dream.

Though proud of what I have achieved, the things that warm me most today are the relationships and friendships that I have, especially with my mum and family. My businesses have made me a better person and my life in Thailand has made me a happier person. I live by something a wise man once said: “If you do what everybody does, you will get what everyone gets.”

I had the chance to wine and dine with some fellow alumni at the PINTU (Pelajar Indonesia NTU) gathering held on Sunday 24 August 2008. I enjoyed myself tremendously. The company was great and the food, a gastronomic delight. I was thrilled to have caught up with some of my countrymen at the gathering. I sure hope that there will be more of such events in the future.

I am especially keen on alumni activities like overseas tour, where I get to travel and see the world. Although my work keeps me busy, I am keen to help the NTU Alumni Affairs Office to organise overseas tours. I will be more than happy to be your assistance.

Joice Yang  
(IEEE/1999)

In every class, there is usually someone - sort of like a ‘class monitor’ - who keeps everyone in touch and connected. In my class, I’ve been unceremoniously “dumped” that role. I accept it quite willingly, I must add.

I guess my wife is right. She thinks I am perfect for the role because she says I am such a livewire. Of course, she didn’t tell you that it was what attracted me to her in the first place. Yes, our romance blossomed during our campus days. We went steady and today, we are blissfully married.

My wife tells me I am still the livewire and that I have not changed much. I must say I enjoy monkeying around, as it makes life less boring. These days, we do make time to meet our former NTU mates and have our own get-together. Most of us have settled down and have established our careers. Yes, I am still the one to call everyone up and check attendance.

I am a Business Development Manager with Agilent Technologies and handles product sales. It’s a challenging job, what with today’s market condition. It helps that I’m positive.

Teo Chee Keong  

In every class, there is usually someone - sort of like a ‘class monitor’ - who keeps everyone in touch and connected. In my class, I’ve been unceremoniously “dumped” that role. I accept it quite willingly, I must add.

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Recently, I visited Singapore on my way back, having represented India as a member of the ASME Asia Pacific District Operating Board, in Tokyo. I reached Singapore at 2am and had the option of staying at a hotel, or with relatives and friends. But, I chose to knock at the door of my former NTU roommate, Mr Sunil Bhangale.

Sunil was also from MAE and now works for Essilor. He and I had spent two years at NTU, which was why I had no inhibition to knock at his door in the early hour of the morning. I knew my former NTU roommate would be happy to see me and we would get the chance to relive our nostalgic moments at the University. Such is the power of keeping the alumni network alive. I am the President of the India chapter. I have made it a point to visit the campus whenever I can.

Besides Sunil, I also had the pleasure of meeting Mr Anthony Teo, the Secretary to the University. I was astounded by his memory and his ability to remember names and instances. He and many others from the Alumni Affairs Office (AAO) - Mr Soon Min Yan, Director, and Ms Christine Chua, Senior Assistant Director - had made time to meet and have lunch with me.

We had lunch at Hall 11, which hasn’t been built when I was studying there. I was happy to see that the Hall’s canteen had a special air-conditioned enclosure, which can be used for student activities. The enclosure had been specially kept open for me to have lunch with the officers of the University.

I am glad to note that each School has a special post created to maintain links with the alumni. I was happy to learn that my PhD Supervisor, Assoc Prof Eddie Ng Yin Kee, is now the Asst Chair of Alumni Affairs at the School of MAE. I could see the importance the University attaches to its alumni from the way it has set up the system. I would like to thank all of them for their kindness and support.

Lastly, I urge all alumni based in India, to please update your records with AAO by contacting Ms Chua at christinechua@ntu.edu.sg. This will help us to serve you better. Please do drop me a mail when you plan your trip to India so I can plan an event for you and fellow alumni.

Dr Natteri M Sudharsan (MAE/2001)

Andrew Tan Yong Chuan (NBS/2001)

Johnny Widodo (SME/2002)

It has been more than 10 years since I lived in Singapore. Imagine that? Of the 10, I spent at least six years at NTU. This means I’ve worked for four years at Chartered Semiconductor Manufacturing Ltd. Now I’m back at the University and have become a part of the NTU family again. I’m currently taking up a part-time postgraduate programme at NTU. I started my first trimester in August. It simply felt great. Anyway, I would like to take this opportunity to share my thoughts here on this page, which is ‘Do a job that you like and you won’t need to work at all’ Take care and cheers.
I completed my PhD in 2004 in the emerging field of Systems Biology, thanks to the support of Prof Lim Mong King and Dr Patrick Tan (of National Cancer Centre) at the then School of Mechanical and Production Engineering. After spending a couple of years at the Bioinformatics Institute of A*Star, I embarked on a new journey overseas, in ‘the land of the rising sun’ better known as Japan. Initially, I was apprehensive. Moving with a family of four was not easy, especially with the language issue. But, I did not find it an easy option to opt out of the offer of a faculty position from the prestigious Institute for Advanced Biosciences, Keio University. Which was how I relocated to Tsuruoka, Yamagata Prefecture in April 2006, with wife Krisvene, son (then 4 years-old) and daughter (then 2 years-old), in tow. We live in a small coastal town located 460km north of Tokyo, with a population of about 140,000. The mountains surrounding the town provide picturesque scenery that enthralles every visitor. The four seasons make this place a paradise to many. There are abundant cherry blossoms in springtime; greenery and deep blue sea during summer; different shades of leaves in autumn; and thick white snow in winter. The weather varies drastically, from as high as 40°C in mid-summer to as low as -4°C in winter. Hardly anyone speaks English in Tsuruoka, or anywhere in Japan. Even with the few who do, one has to speak slowly, so that they could catch up. The upside is people are generally polite, kind, well-mannered and accommodating. Many are also excited to meet someone of a different origin. This made us comfortable despite the stress we had to go through initially in not understanding road signs, restaurant menu, home appliances catalogues, etc. The people at the university, especially the secretaries went to great length to help us to settle in. Today, after about two-and-a-half years, we feel quite at home. Our Japanese is improving every day, especially for my children’s since they attend the local schools. They are beginning to speak like native Japanese. Although we do miss Singapore, our experience here is priceless.

Kumar Selvarajoo
(MAE(PhD)/2004)

Altona Widjaja
(SCE/2004)

It has been ages since I met up with all the other NTU friends. I can see that in a few years’ time, some of them would be working in the finance industry although they graduate from SCE, as in my case. I made the move to switch and found that I am not as familiar with programming. For those who have gone the same way I did, do email me so we can keep in touch. My email is altonaw@gmail.com.

I composed the following Chinese verse to express my special feelings for NTU.

徐平
(TIP/2006)

八面万州
忆往昔，舞翩跹中流，书生意气激。
观华堂旧貌，读经典文章，敬意悠悠。
恩师良教化，三教九流。
海水去无尽，恩师如娇。
五十载风霜过，育学子十万，盖七大洲。
声名享誉远，功绩当千秋。
2006年3月3日，徐平作于新加坡
南洋理工大学。
I first came to NTU with a thirst for knowledge and experience. Studying in Singapore’s NTU has been quite an experience. NTU has a good international environment that allows undergraduates to develop themselves along with campus mates from countries around the world. Learning more about others’ culture is, in my opinion, an essential survival skill in this world. Life in NTU is not only about excelling in study, but also about thriving in life. During my varsity days, I was active in CCA*. I was in my School’s main committee and helped organise a number of events. I especially liked to handle logistics - a portfolio that required proper planning and flawless execution for a smooth running of events. I also represented my School and Hall in board games competition - word games like boggle and scrabble and tactic games like chess and Othello.

Ever since I graduated last year, I have been working at ExxonMobil Chemical on Jurong Island as an Inspection Engineer. Faced with tough responsibilities, I have to withstand physically-challenging work and a mentally-exhausting environment. I am also exploring new things, learning new skills to develop myself and socializing to gain a strong network.

Although my hometown is in Medan, North Sumatra, Singapore is my home, for now. With globalization, we can be doing anything anywhere and everywhere for the betterment of humanity. The world is indeed getting smaller.

* Co-curricular activities
I did my master’s degree in Computer Control & Automation from EEE. Presently, I am employed by Honeywell (Singapore) Private Ltd as System Engineer.

I thoroughly enjoyed my studies at NTU and cherish the golden moments I spent there. My idea of a university is that it not only provides quality education to the students, but also inculcates in them a sense of responsibility. Universities grow students in a way that can help them face the challenges of life. NTU imparts knowledge and provides students with the opportunity to hone their talents and skills, be it in academic, projects, debates, and sports.

Though shy by nature, I was still able to interact with people around me with ease because of the multi-cultural environment of NTU. I was able to make friends with students of different nationalities, which I found enjoyable.

The Yunnan Garden Campus is certainly the best campus in the world. Its breathtaking and pleasant hillside scenery and eye-catching greenery will make you gasp in awe. There are probably very few campuses in the world that can match its beauty. NTU certainly boasts one of the best facilities in the world and it has given me everything that I could have wished for. It is now for us, the alumni and students of NTU to keep the flag of this university flying proudly on the world stage. Thank you, NTU, for making my study life great!

I find Singapore a very safe place to live in. I am from Indonesia and came here for my bachelor’s degree. I spent four years at NTU and the word ‘wonderful’ sums up the experience I had whilst studying there. I also made a lot of friends, many of whom were from countries like China, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Myanmar. I also met a lot of my countrymen and developed firm friendship with some of them.

I graduated recently and have been working with Surbana ever since. I am an Engineer there and handle infrastructure planning and water supply.
Having just graduated from NTU and being away from the campus sure can be boring. And surprise, surprise, I find myself missing the University. So, I am looking forward to attending events organised by NTU like the PINTU gathering I went to last August. So, to fellow alumni out there who wants to let me know of any events that are coming up, my email is hadi_et_lcs_aile@yahoo.com.

Stay in touch with fellow alumni and keep your Class Notes coming. To share, email alumni@ntu.edu.sg or call 6514 1078. We reserve the right to edit for clarity.
### PERSONAL PARTICULARS

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**UPDATE & WIN**

**UNTIL 31 DECEMBER 2006**

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