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**Nanyang Distinguished Alumni Award**

This is the highest honour bestowed upon the alumni of the University, to recognise the truly remarkable accomplishments of alumni who have gained national, regional or international distinction as outstanding exponents of their chosen fields or professions and whose endeavours reflect admirably on or bring honour to the University.

Criteria:

- Have distinguished themselves on a national, regional or international basis in their chosen fields, such as in one or more of the following fields: Academia, Arts, Business, Culture, Education, Health, Industry, Professions, Public or Community Service (including non-profit organisations and government), Recreation, Science, Sports, Technology, etc.

**Nanyang Alumni Achievement Award**

To recognise alumni who have gained national standing due to the significant contributions made to their chosen fields or professions that are worthy of recognition and have brought honour to the University, and/or

To recognise alumni who have demonstrated extraordinary service, commitment and dedication for the advancement of the University.

Criteria:

- Have risen to a national level of distinction in their chosen fields, such as in one or more of the following fields: Academia, Arts, Business, Culture, Education, Health, Industry, Professions, Public or Community Service (including non-profit organisations and government), Recreation, Science, Sports, Technology, etc.

and/or

- Have made outstanding voluntary contributions to the University and/or been involved in activities substantially benefitting the University and/or have shown significant commitments to the advancement of the University.
**Nanyang Outstanding Young Alumni Award**

To recognise alumni under age 40 whose endeavours in their chosen fields or professions are worthy of recognition and have brought honour to the University.

Criteria:
- Must not have reached his/her 40th birthday before 31 December of the year in which the award is conferred.
- Have brought honour to the University by having excelled and being highly recognised in their chosen fields, such as in one or more of the following fields: Academia, Arts, Business, Culture, Education, Health, Industry, Professions, Public or Community Service (including non-profit organisations and government), Recreation, Science, Sports, Technology, etc.

**Nanyang Alumni Service Award**

To recognise alumni whose dedication and volunteer commitments through alumni clubs/associations or to the University’s programmes/activities have significantly enriched the University, so as to encourage continual commitments in the future.

Criteria:
- Have rendered dedicated voluntary contributions to the University through alumni clubs/associations, schools and other University’s activities that are substantially beneficial to the institution.
About the Trophy

The Nanyang Alumni Award Trophies

Oriental fusions of life-giving elements

The design of the trophy incorporates the elements of nature and embodies an admiration for and appreciation of ancient Chinese art, particularly, bronze artifacts and classic jade. Although shaped like a jade tablet (圭), it is also reminiscent of the obelisk, a monumental sculptural form commonly used in the West to commemorate important events.

The elements of nature flow through the tablet.

The main element, Water, signifying the “South Seas”, is conveyed through stylised waves representing Nanyang (南洋) and a water sphere expressing perfection.

The award is cast in solid bronze which also embodies the Metal element. Bronze is melted into the mould with another key element, Fire.

The original prototypes were carved out of Wood, modelling paste and clay. Some of the weathering effects were achieved using the reddish clay found on the NTU campus grounds.

The Earth element is incorporated by having the bronze tablet mounted on a fine stone.

The circle and the sphere are used in many cultures to express perfection. The circle, which appears in two of the four awards, represents a water drop with zero gravity – a water sphere that transforms and recreates.

The wave patterns at the bottom of the Nanyang Outstanding Young Alumni Award transform into a cloud in the upper part of the Nanyang Alumni Service Award. Both the Nanyang Alumni Achievement Award and the Nanyang Distinguished Alumni Award include a spherical pattern over the waves, but the latter is the tallest of them all.

The trophies were designed by Professor Isaac Kerlow, Dean of NTU’s School of Art, Design and Media.

The design prototypes were drawn and carved by hand, while the tablets were cast in a foundry in Mumbai, India.
Having served in public office from the early days of Singapore’s independence and to this day continuing to play an active role on the boards of various committees and organisations, Mr Ch’ng Jit Koon’s presence has been felt in diverse sectors ranging from community and social services, to business, education and health, and can indeed be said to have made his mark on the very fabric of modern Singapore.

Graduating from Nanyang University with a Bachelor of Arts (Economics and Political Science) in 1960, Mr Ch’ng’s 28-year career in government service began with his election as Member of Parliament for Tiong Bahru constituency in 1968. From 1982 to 1984, he was Senior Parliamentary Secretary in the Prime Minister’s Office. From 1984 to 1991, he served as Minister of State for Community Development, in which he continued as Senior Minister of State from 1991 until his retirement from politics in 1996. He also served as a Director of the People’s Association Board of Management, Director of PAP Community Foundation, Chairman of the Oral History Advisory Committee, Director of NTUC Welcome Supermarket Co-operative, Chairman, Council of Advisors in Union for Building, Construction & Timber Industries Workers’ Union. In honour of his public services, he was conferred the NTUC Friend of Labour Award (1979), the NTUC Meritorious Service Award (1998) and the NTUC Distinguished Service Award (2003) and has been appointed a Justice of the Peace since 1998.

Mr Ch’ng has been an active member of the Singapore business community. Currently the Chairman of public listed Pan-United Corporation Ltd, he also serves as director on the boards of numerous public listed and private companies. As Chairman of the Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) Practitioners Board from 2001 to 2007, he oversaw the introduction of a scheme of registration for acupuncturists and TCM physicians in Singapore, the establishment of the Singapore TCM-physicians Registration Examination, the promulgation of the Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines for TCM Practitioners, and the validation of the local TCM training programme as a graduate course.

As a champion of social service communities, he has headed or served on the boards of institutions such as the Singapore National Olympic Council, the Singapore Dragon Boat Association, the Chinese Development Assistance Council and the Business China. His interest in education has also led him to positions with the Board of Governors of The Chinese High School, the School Management Committee of Hwa Chong Junior College and the Advisory Committee for Tanglin Technical Secondary School.

Over the years, Mr Ch’ng has offered valuable support to NTU initiatives, such as the Tan Lark Sye and E W Barker Professorships and RSIS Endowment Fund. He is also Chairman of the Fund Raising Committee for the NTU 21st Century Fund.
Tan Sri Dato’ Lim Guan Teik

The entrepreneur who built an empire on paper

Tan Sri Dato’ Lim Guan Teik is nothing short of a household name, credited with pioneering and defining the paper products and packaging industry in Malaysia with the inception of his company, Muda Holdings Berhad. It has the honour of being the first paper-making and paper products company listed on the Malaysian stock exchange. Today, the business that Tan Sri Dato’ Lim started with the purchase of a single factory in 1980 (after working for 20 years at a paper mill) is one of the largest enterprise groups in the country. It employs about 2,700 people and comprises paper mills, carton factories and paper product facilities in Malaysia and China. The group also has marketing departments in Britain, Hong Kong, Singapore, China, Papua New Guinea and Australia.

Graduating with a Bachelor of Commerce degree from Nanyang University in 1961, his involvement in activities and the organisation of a student union were early signs of the leadership qualities and social responsibility that have since become synonymous with his name. Committing himself to the development of Malaysia’s paper industry beyond his company, he advocated the creation of the Malaysian Pulp & Paper Manufacturer Association in 1985, serving as its President for eight years before being appointed as its Advisor until today.

Continuing his philosophy of “returning to society what one gains from society”, Tan Sri Dato’ Lim serves on the boards of various commercial organisations and Chinese associations. He was previously the President of both the Associated Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (ACCCIM) and the Kuala Lumpur and Selangor Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KLSCCCI) from 1995 to 2003 and 1998 to 2003 respectively. In 2003, he was the organising chairman of the 7th World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention, which was officiated by the then Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Bin Mohamad. Currently, Tan Sri Dato’ Lim serves as the Honorary President of ACCCIM and KLSCCCI.

Following last decade’s Asian financial crisis, the government invited him to join a special task force, the Malaysian National Economic Consultative Council. Going a step further, he took the lead to establish the Malaysian Patriotic Working Committee, aimed at stimulating the economy through the promotion of local goods.

He has also maintained his connection to his alma mater, establishing the Nantah Education and Research Foundation in 2000. Under his leadership as President, the Foundation promotes advanced research and awards scholarships to local students, enabling them to further their education at NTU. The Nantah Alumni Association of Malaya has also benefited from his six-year tenure as its President, during which he was the organising chairman of the 8th Global Nantah Reunion in 2002. Since stepping down in 2003, he continues to serve as its Council Member.
Foresight, leadership and an appreciation of hard work.
Mr Ang Swee Tian has demonstrated these qualities not only in words but in action. Recognised this year by the Futures Industry Association (FIA) as a key contributor to the global community, he became the first person from an Asian exchange to be inducted into its Futures Hall of Fame. Previous recipients include Alan Greenspan, the former US Federal Reserve Chairman and OMX founder, Olof Stenhammar.

Armed with a Bachelor of Commerce (Accountancy) degree (1969) and a Bachelor of Commerce (Accountancy) First Class Honours degree (1970) from Nanyang University, Mr Ang went on to obtain a Master of Business Administration with distinction from Northwestern University in the United States. Returning to Singapore, his career quickly took off, reaching its zenith with his appointment as President of the Singapore Exchange until his retirement in January 2006 where he continues to serve as Senior Adviser. In the years between, he served at the Monetary Authority of Singapore and played an active role in launching the Singapore International Monetary Exchange Limited (SIMEX) as its General Manager in 1984, building Asia’s first futures exchange into a well-respected institution. The establishment of the world’s first Mutual Offset System between SIMEX and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange also took place under his charge. The FIA notes that it is “one of the ... most successful exchange linkages in the history of the derivatives industry”.

Following their initial success in putting Singapore on the world map, the SIMEX team, led by Mr Ang, launched several innovative products such as the MSCI Taiwan Index™ Futures and the Nikkei 225 Futures. These ventures contributed heavily to the rapid pace of liberalisation and globalisation of the Asian financial futures market. In 1999, SIMEX merged with the Stock Exchange of Singapore (SGX) to form the Singapore Exchange with Mr Ang at the helm as its President. During this time, he continued to take an interest in all aspects of its operations, overseeing the Securities and Derivatives business. It was during his tenure that the Barings collapse of 1995 occurred. As head of the exchange, he succeeded in minimising the fallout and preserving the integrity of the exchange. Ever the optimist, he saw the crisis as a milestone in helping SIMEX grow into “a stronger and more effective organisation”.

No stranger to high praise, Mr Ang has been called “an important pillar to SGX” and his contributions to the industry have won him similar accolades and recognition. NTU has often been a proud recipient of his knowledge and experience, which he shares through volunteer engagements such as keynote speeches at the International Forum on Global Gold Outlook, Infrastructure Support and Market Development in 2004, and at the inaugural Distinguished Alumni Forum in 2005.
A dynamic public figure known for her contributions to professional, grassroots, educational and disadvantaged communities, Er Lee Bee Wah has been tireless in trying to raise the bar for herself and fellow Singaporeans. After she graduated as the pioneer batch from the then Nanyang Technological Institute with a Bachelor of Engineering (Civil and Structural) in 1985, she worked with Singapore Technologies Construction for nearly 10 years. During that time, she completed a Master’s Degree in Maritime Civil Engineering from the University of Liverpool, under a scholarship from the company. She then worked with the successful Wing Tai Properties Management company for two years before she founded her own civil, structural and project management consultancy in 1996. Today, she is the Principal Partner of LBW Consultants LLP, now a leading firm that has earned top placement with the Defence Science and Technology Agency and the Building and Construction Authority Panel of Consultants.

Er Lee has served in various committees and engineering task forces including the Institution of Engineers Singapore (IES) and the Ministries of National Development, Manpower, Health and Law. Her contributions to the IES were recognised in 2000, when she made history by becoming its first female Vice President. Today, she is its Deputy President and will be its first ever female President in 2008. She was also one of the four Professional Engineers to be the first batch of elected Professional Engineers Board Members.

She has also maintained an interest in the growth of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) at her alma mater. President of the Nanyang Civil and Environmental Engineering Alumni Association since 1998, she is committed to raising funds for underprivileged students in NTU’s School of CEE; she initiated the NTU CEE Alumni Book Prize for graduating students. For these and numerous other efforts, she was awarded the NTU Alumni Service Award in 2000. She continued her fundraising efforts through the NTU Class of 1985 Pioneer Fund, which has raised over S$500,000 to date. She also initiated the NTU CEE Alumni Bursary which was established with S$300,000 in 2006. This was the first endowed bursary fund set up by an alumni association. Invited back as a speaker at the 2nd Distinguished Alumni Forum on “Entrepreneurship in Singapore – How are we doing?”, she shared her experience as an entrepreneur.

At the community level, Er Lee’s participation and contribution has also won her recognition. She began in 1999 as a grassroots leader in Kebun Baru and was elected as a Member of Parliament for the Ang Mo Kio Group Representation Constituency in 2006. She is the Deputy Chairman of the Government Parliamentary Committee, Ministry of National Development and Ministry of Environment and Water Resources. Despite her professional commitments, her chief interest has always been finding ways to improve people’s lives. As such, she never misses her weekly Meet-The-People session and even makes house visits twice a week.
Mr Lim Jim Koon graduated from Nanyang University with a Bachelor of Arts (1972) and a Bachelor of Arts Honours (1973), majoring in Government and Public Administration. As Editor of the Lianhe Zaobao (LHZB), a Chinese newspaper published by the Singapore Press Holdings, Mr Lim has overseen all aspects of its phenomenal growth and is responsible for directing its recent popularity in China. Known for its high standard of reporting and insight, the paper is a trusted and respected source for news and opinions in Singapore with 600,000 readers each day. It has also become an established brand name in China and the foremost Southeast Asian Chinese daily with the widest reach and greatest influence among Chinese readers around the world. This is a remarkable achievement for a paper that was originally meant for local readership.

Starting his career as a translator with Sin Chew Jit Poh, Lianhe Zaobao’s predecessor, Mr Lim rose through the ranks as Foreign Editor, Local News Editor, Executive Editor and Associate Editor before becoming the Chief Editor in 1995. Developing a foresight to identify trends ahead of the curve with his 30 odd years of experience, Mr Lim has given his paper an edge in two important areas.

First, Mr Lim realised the importance of new media to the business of news distribution and consumption. He founded LHZB’s online presence, zaobao.com, as early as 1995. Under his leadership, the website has become one of the world’s most popular Chinese language electronic newspapers with daily page views that run into the region of five million. The second area of Mr Lim’s visionary contribution is his recognition of Chinese culture’s growing importance and the rise of China as a superpower. From early on, he worked to promote Chinese culture and language in the belief that news outlets bear a responsibility towards the growth of their societies. By covering artistic and cultural events and organising forums and symposiums, his newspaper differentiated itself from competing news sources, eventually becoming, in the words of Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong, “a major Chinese intellectual and cultural institution”. The paper has also gained recognition as an authoritative source of news and views on China with the 2003 launch of its “Zaobao China” section.

Mr Lim’s expertise has earned him nominations to various boards. He is an advisor to the Center for World Chinese Media Studies at Peking University and has been a board member of local bodies such as the National Arts Council, National Heritage Board and Urban Redevelopment Authority. In 2006, he was a panel speaker at the NTU Distinguished Alumni Forum on “Chinese as a Global Language and its Challenges to Singapore”.

The man behind the nation’s leading Chinese newspaper and Internet news website

Alumni Achievement Award

Mr Lim Jim Koon
On 8 May 2007, a long-held dream spanning two decades in the making finally came true for Mr R Sinnakaruppan – it was the day the new NTU Alumni Club at NTU’s one-north campus opened with much pomp and grandeur.

When Mr Sinnakaruppan and his peers graduated as the pioneer batch in 1985 from the then Nanyang Technological Institute (NTI), they recognised that it was their responsibility to establish an alumni association that would keep them and future generations connected to the University in the years to come. When the NTI Alumni Association was officially registered in 1986, its members hoped that one day, they would have a permanent clubhouse of their own. In 1991, Mr Sinnakaruppan was appointed to the NTU Council. He moved to create the first NTU Alumni Club, which was opened on the site of the former National Institute of Education campus at Bukit Timah in 1994. However, due to the constant increase in membership base, this clubhouse, along with the subsequent clubhouse which was built on rented premises in River Valley in 1998, had insufficient room and facilities to be viable as a long-term solution. Despite the challenges, Mr Sinnakaruppan never gave up his dream nor his passion.

It is this same tenacity that has enabled the Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical and Production) graduate to enjoy a successful professional career. Starting as a Research and Development Engineer at National Semiconductor in 1985, his role in creating what is believed to be Singapore’s first industrial robot won him the prestigious Foreign and Commonwealth Scholarship and a Master’s programme at Loughborough University of Technology in 1987. Upon his return, he was seconded to the Economic Development Board where he displayed a talent for business and quickly excelled. Never one to slow down, Mr Sinnakaruppan began a 10-year career in politics in 1991. He became a Member of Parliament for Kampong Glam and Kreta Ayer-Tanglin GRCs while at the same time, he was also the Managing Director of a high-tech start-up company. During that period, Mr Sinnakaruppan was also appointed Assistant Secretary-General to the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC), made Director of its Leadership and Productivity Development departments, given jurisdiction over co-operatives such as FairPrice and Income and was General Manager of NTUC Pasir Ris Resort. In 1998, he graduated from Harvard University’s management school with an Advanced Management Program. At present, he is a Managing Partner of a corporate advisory firm IndusAge Advisors and Chairman/CEO of Kip McGrath Worldwide Education Centres.

Through all of this, Mr Sinnakaruppan still found time to serve at NTU. He was the first NTU Alumni Club President in 1988 and he has continued to serve faithfully in this capacity, even until today. Indeed, from being the very first president of the NTI’s Student Union as an undergraduate to becoming a Council Member, Mr Sinnakaruppan has been a driving force behind the alumni movement.
Mr Tan Kim Seng

In a business league of his own

A dynamic leader and innovator in the business world, Mr Tan Kim Seng, founder and former Executive Chairman of KS Energy Services Limited (previously known as KS Tech Limited), has led his company from strength to strength. The same year he graduated from Nanyang University with a Bachelor of Science (Mathematics) in 1974, he started an industrial hardware business before expanding to cater to the international oil and gas and petrochemical industries. With over 30 years of experience in the trading business, Mr Tan oversaw the firm’s business strategies and directions, leading to its listing on the SGX-SESDAQ in 1999 and the SGX Mainboard in 2002.

One early reason for his success was a willingness to take risks; KS Energy Services was one of the first local companies of its kind to enter the Chinese market, as early as 1982. Though the challenges were immense, Mr Tan’s foresight and courage has enabled his company to take full advantage of the blossoming Chinese market and KS Energy Services now reaps the rewards of his wise decisions. Another of Mr Tan’s business innovations was to mould his company into a comprehensive and leading one-stop supply and services provider for the oil and gas, marine, mining and petrochemical industries. This gave the group a significant edge over competitors. Over the last two decades, it has established close working relationships with such major oil and gas companies in the region as Maersk, Gulf Drilling International Limited and the CNOOC Group.

In 2006, the company with offices in China, Vietnam, Thailand, Qatar, the UAE, USA and Malaysia was ranked 12th in BusinessWeek’s “Top 100 Hot Growth Companies” in Asia, one of the top 200 “Best Under a Billion” companies by Forbes Asia and received Asiamoney’s “Best Corporate Awards for Excellence”. Today, he remains as a substantial shareholder of the company.

Apart from his business interests, Mr Tan is also an active grassroots figure, acting as Patron of the Hong Kah North Citizens’ Consultative Committee and Member of the Fuhua Primary School Advisory Committee. Showing concern for the development of the University, he readily stepped forward and contributed S$1 million to the Wee Kim Wee Legacy Fund, set up by NTU in honour of Dr Wee Kim Wee’s belief in the wide-ranging benefits and influence of journalism. This fund goes into developing NTU Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information — named after the late President of Singapore.
In matters of corporate dealing, finance management and international business strategy, Mr Chia Choon Hwee Dennis’ performance has been outstanding.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Accountancy from NTU in 1990, he started his career at Price Waterhouse as an auditor before moving on to Mobil Oil where he held various managerial positions, including stints in Hong Kong and China. The annual turnover doubled in 1996 under his leadership as Regional Finance and Administration Manager. He then worked at General Motors before joining Frontline Technologies and later Behringer Corporation where he was Group CFO. Dennis led both firms to successful listings on the Singapore Exchange. From the time he joined Behringer in 2003 until moving on in 2006, he was a key figure in its legal restructuring and matters such as tax planning, transfer pricing and acted in the capacity of Managing Director for Europe for one year, when he was based in Germany. Now as Lear Corporation’s (a NYSE Fortune 500 company) Vice President of Finance for the Asia Pacific region, his responsibilities include overseeing 26 manufacturing and administrative locations across Asia and 250 regional finance staff. He is tasked with its financial and process reengineering, with a regional turnover of approximately S$3 billion.

Playing his part in shaping the next generation of NTU graduates, Dennis recently impressed as a speaker at the 3rd Distinguished Alumni Forum on “High Flying CFOs in Town - The Role of CFOs in Today’s Ever-Changing Economy”.

Well-spoken, inquisitive, keenly interested in current affairs and possessing a flair for writing, Mr Derrick Augustine Paulo knew early on that journalism was his passion. From leading inter-varsity debates to writing for the Nanyang Chronicle (NTU’s student newspaper) during his undergraduate years, this Bachelor of Communication Studies student who graduated in 2001, displayed all the qualities of a successful journalist. Starting as a News Assistant at CNBC Asia-Pacific and then as a reporter for MediaCorp Press’ TODAY newspaper, Derrick has consistently proven himself capable of covering a wide range of news topics including politics and education.

In April 2006, he was selected by the US Embassy in Singapore for the inaugural three-week Edward R. Murrow International Program for Journalists. As one of over 100 journalists who gathered from around the world to discuss their work with their American counterparts, Derrick presented his experiences from working in Singapore, noting that it was the job of the press to “stand up for alternative voices”. At TODAY, he has been promoted from reporter, senior reporter to correspondent and assistant news editor currently and was named “Journalist of the Year” at this year’s MediaCorp News Awards on account of his outstanding work. Speaking after the ceremony, Derrick summed up his raison d’être in a few words: “The important thing for me is to bring the news and issues that matter to the readers and the public. Awards are a bonus. If we get distracted in the chase for such honours, we forget our real stakeholders — the readers.”
Ms Lu Rui En

One of the most recognisable faces on the local entertainment scene, Ms Lu Rui En’s career as an artiste literally rose to meteoric heights in 2001 after she appeared in a popular SingTel hi!Card commercial as the iconic “running girl”. She was barely out of junior college then but managed to balance her burgeoning career with studying for a Bachelor of Business degree at the Nanyang Technological University till her graduation in 2004. To the industry experts at Artiste Networks, her potential was apparent from that very first advertisement. They signed her up and in 2002 she released her debut album. Featuring a variety of musical genres from Rock to R&B, it revealed a mature and powerful singing voice.

Starring in Taiwanese superstar Jay Chou’s music video, “Secret Code”, Rui En quickly moved to add acting to her list of pursuits. In the five years since, she has starred in over 10 MediaCorp drama series and won two Star Awards while continuing to perform at concerts for the Nanyang Technological University, Community Chest and the President’s Star Charity Shows. In 2005, her place in the public eye was cemented when she was chosen to sing the National Day song, “Reach Out for the Skies”. Asked to reflect on her career so far, the multi-talented beauty concluded that she loves both acting and singing. But with a track record like hers, it is anybody’s guess what she will surprise us with next.

Ms Shen Bing

Many in China will know Ms Shen Bing as the face of China Central Television (CCTV) programmes, such as Dialogue, I Love World Cup, Economics 30 Minutes and Decision Maker Talks. She is one of the few versatile hosts who can anchor sports, finance and current affairs programmes. After graduating with a Bachelor of Accountancy degree from Nanyang Technological University in 1999, she worked as a reporter for Singapore Press Holdings. In 2001, she returned to China and started her career as a TV presenter with CCTV after winning first runner-up in a National TV Host Competition. She has gone on to win numerous national TV awards in China – “Best Talkshow Host” in 2002, “Best TV Programme of the Year” and “Best Originality of the Year” in 2003, “Most Popular TV Host in University” in 2004 and “Best TV Host for News Commentary and Business” in 2005. She was also honoured as one of the Top 10 Most Influential Media Figures of the Year (2002) and Glamour 50 of the Year (2005). This year, she was invited to be a Business Advisor for the Tangshan Municipal People’s Government.

Besides being a media personality, many also know her as a philanthropist. Earlier this year, with the support of her family, Shen Bing donated S$100,000 toward the building of a school in Yunnan and sponsored another S$40,000 for the construction of a children’s library in Xinjiang. President of the newly-formed NTU Alumni Association (Beijing), she led a group of over 400 members in a community project to help needy students this July when the association held its first charity event titled “The Heart of Nanyang”.

Photo courtesy of Artiste Networks
Outstanding Young Alumni Award

Ms Tan Cheng Yin Esther

A year before graduating from the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Nanyang Technological University in 1999, Ms Tan Cheng Yin Esther caught the adventure racing bug. By 2002, she had become a regular competitor, taking on multiple races each year. In 2002 alone, she completed one of the world’s toughest adventure races, the 6-day New Zealand Southern Traverse; the notoriously hard Australia XPD Race, a 10-day race covering 700 kilometres across Tasmania; and the Langkawi Ironman triathlon, where she was placed overall third. This year, Esther entered the Adventure Race World Championship held in Scotland and the Aviva Ironman 70.3 Singapore Triathlon, where she came in as the first Singaporean female.

This “G.I. Jane” of Singapore is renowned for her determination in the face of adversity. With her characteristic will to succeed at any task put before her, Esther became the first female diver of the Singapore Armed Forces’ elite Naval Diving Unit. By displaying leadership skills and a positive attitude, she has since earned a promotion to the vaunted rank of Major.

Esther’s achievements in the sporting arena have made her a role model for young women. She has given talks at schools, polytechnics, colleges and the Girls’ Home and is a mentor to three young athletes at Temasek Junior College. These contributions were recognised in 2006 when Her World declared her “Young Woman Achiever of the Year”.

Mr Tay Lee Chye Lester

With nearly a decade of professional experience in audit and finance with a number of the Big Four accounting firms, Mr Tay Lee Chye Lester has achieved much in a short span of time. Graduating with a Bachelor of Accountancy degree from Nanyang Technological University in 1998, he was one of five alumni invited to speak at the NTU Distinguished Alumni Forum on “High Flying CFOs in Town - The Role of CFOs in Today’s Ever-Changing Economy” in 2006. In the interim years, the spirited achiever proved himself capable of leading large-scale audits, due diligence engagements, consultancies and IPOs involving corporations in Singapore, Australia, Malaysia, China, the Americas and Europe.

By 2004, at the young age of 30, Lester was already Group Financial Controller of Asia Water Technology Ltd, a China-based water treatment firm whose IPO he helped launch on the Singapore Stock Exchange. Initiating and completing six funding exercises in three years, Lester raised a total of S$150 million for the company. Having handled press conferences, interviews and large-scale presentations while previously at Arthur Andersen, Ernst & Young and Deloitte & Touche, he naturally became “the international face of Asia Water”, as noted by The Business Times.

With an impressive track record, Lester is now up for his next challenge as the CEO of Rockstead Capital Group, a fund management company he co-founded that specialises in investing in Chinese companies, with presences in Singapore, China, Canada and Australia. The company manages a portfolio worth more than S$72 million.
In 2005, before participating in the 168-kilometre “Run Round Singapore” event, held in conjunction with NTU’s 50th anniversary celebrations, teacher and endurance athlete Yong Yuen Cheng said, “If I can’t run anymore, I will jog. When I can’t jog anymore, I will walk. And when I can’t walk, I will crawl. I want to prove that it (only) takes an ordinary person with extraordinary spirit to complete this run.” He did more than just complete; he set a new national record for the under-40 category in the process. Extraordinary spirit, indeed.

Combining his love for sports with a selfless heart, this well-loved teacher with the National Junior College (NJC) has kayaked, climbed, cycled, swum and run thousands of kilometres in aid of needy students and various other causes. Since graduating from the National Institute of Education in 1997 with a Post Graduate Diploma in Education, he has devoted his time to teaching physics, coaching young canoeists and training for his altruistic endeavours.

Perhaps his finest hour yet, Yuen Cheng became one of the first two Southeast Asians to complete the “Death Valley Challenge” ultramarathon in California this July. Enduring temperatures of over 50 degrees Celsius in one of the hottest and driest places on Earth, he persevered through 217 gruelling kilometres of perilous terrain, finishing in 54 hours. The money raised went towards helping the Mountbatten Citizens’ Consultative Committee, where he is Vice-Chairman of the Constituency Sports Club, and the NJC Student Development Fund. Over the years, this tireless fund-raiser’s contributions to society have also helped the Down Syndrome Association, President’s Challenge and Diabetic Society of Singapore.
**Alumni Service Award**

**Dr Chan Yan Chong**

Dr Chan Yan Chong has led an illustrious life respected for his views on economic and management topics after graduating with a Bachelor of Science (Mathematics) from Nanyang University in 1975. A well-known figure in the Hong Kong media, Dr Chan holds two senior positions at the City University of Hong Kong as Director of the Faculty of Business’ MBA Programme and Associate Professor at the Department of Management Sciences. He has published about 17 books, 30 papers in academic journals and 4,000 articles. His business insight is much sought after by enterprises, organisations and media programmes in China, the United States, Hong Kong and Singapore. In 2007, he was awarded the Medal of Honour by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government where he has been a council member and advisor. Currently, he is the economic advisor to the Government of Ganzhou City, Jiangxi Province.

Since 1997, Dr Chan has been an executive committee member of the Nanyang University Alumni Association of Hong Kong. Sharing his talents with fellow alumni, he has spoken at a number of forums on matters of economic development and was the Chairman of the 6th Global Nantah Alumni Reunion which also commemorated the centennial birthday of Nanyang University Founder, Mr Tan Lark Sye. His involvement with the alumni associations is not just restricted to Hong Kong as Dr Chan has also given talks in Singapore at the invitation of the Association of Nanyang University Graduates and during the 8th Global Nantah Alumni Reunion held in Malaysia.

**Mr Chua Kok Wei**

A strong desire to see NTU sweep both the men’s and women’s table tennis titles at the Institute-Varsity-Polytechnic games is what brought school representative Mr Chua Kok Wei back to volunteer as the University’s table tennis coach after graduating with a Bachelor of Accountancy degree in 1995. Combining a passion for sports with an enduring love for his alma mater, Mr Chua has led the team to fulfil that objective at least five or six times over the past decade.

The coach of 12 years looks upon his players as family and takes every opportunity to share his wealth of experience, both as an athlete and a student of NTU, with his “brothers and sisters”. He says of his work: “I not only wanted a champion team, I wanted a team with the right attitude towards sports and life.”

Mr Chua has also served as President of the NTU Hall of Residence 6 Alumni Association since 1999. The association has organised career talks with successful alumni returning to give advice; participated in sporting events with their own table tennis, football and softball teams; and had regular gatherings for their members. A kind and generous leader, his sponsorships have helped the Hall 6 student committees hold their orientation activities and celebrations such as the annual Dinner and Dance.
Mr Darryl David

A graduate from the Nanyang Business School with a Master of Business Administration degree in 2001, Mr Darryl David is the face and voice of some of the biggest media events and launches over the past decade for clients such as Visa, Prestige Magazine, Daimler-Chrysler and the Singapore Tourism Board.

Dedicating much effort and time to his alma mater, Mr David has, on a number of occasions, volunteered his expertise to host University functions such as the NTU Alumni Night 2005 and the official opening of the NTU@one-north campus. He also applied his articulacy and excellent interpersonal skills as Forum Chairman for the 4th Distinguished Alumni Forum titled “The Role of Young Singaporeans in Shaping the Future of the Nation” in 2006.

Mr David became a household name in the 1990s hosting The Pyramid Game. It was Singapore’s longest running television game show and had the highest-ever ratings in its category. He went on to anchor several sporting programmes for Channel i and ESPN Star Sports, often providing expert commentary over live broadcasts. In between engagements, he wrote features and columns for The New Paper, Her World and other top magazines. Today, Mr David leverages his passion for the media industry by supervising Temasek Polytechnic’s Division of Communication and Media Management as a Course Manager, a position he has held since 2006.

Mr Lie Ngian Keng

After graduating with a Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical and Electronics) degree from Nanyang Technological Institute (NTI) in 1989, Mr Lie Ngian Keng worked as an Operations Director for several years. He is currently involved with several educational enterprises in Indonesia; he is the Director of Apple Tree Pre-School and the Director of Schools (Academic) for Bina Bangsa School.

In 2006, when the idea of an alumni association in Indonesia was conceived and first mooted, Mr Lie volunteered to assist in its formation and eventually took on the role of President of the Nanyang Alumni Association Indonesia. During the establishment of the Protem Committee, Mr Lie provided meeting facilities, administrative manpower and personally contacted Indonesian alumni, encouraging them to come forward in support of the new association. To help get the alumni association off the ground, he generously offered Bina Bangsa School’s facilities for the association members’ meetings and leisure activities. He was also the main organiser of the NTU Alumni Get-Together cum Launch of Alumni Association in Indonesia held in May 2007.

On his hopes for the new association, he says, “We are bound by our common heritage as graduates of NTU. As such, we need to serve to fill the longing of alumni to continue to be a part of NTU and also be a channel of communication for alumni so that they can benefit from the interaction.”
Alumni Service Award

Mr Liew Sing Hun

Lifelong learning and fostering an appreciation of the arts are two objectives close to the heart of Mr Liew Sing Hun. From his humble beginnings, Mr Liew persevered to pursue his passion for Chinese Literature and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Modern Languages and Literature) from Nanyang University in 1962. In 1970, he was admitted as an associate member of the prestigious Chartered Insurance Institute of England. Today, this professional insurance practitioner is a self-made businessman and an accomplished playwright and writer of short fiction; he won the Ministry of Culture’s Outstanding Award for his play, *All Men Are Alike*, and had several collections of his Chinese writing published. He has also authored a book on insurance theory and practice.

When NTU organised the 5th Distinguished Alumni Forum on “Chinese as a Global Language and its Challenges to Singapore” in 2006, Mr Liew was inspired to create an endowment fund and literary award to boost the study and creation of Chinese literary works. His proposal was to raise S$1 million and he led by example by contributing S$100,000. This quickly won wide support and the idea was taken up by the board members of NTU’s Confucius Institute. The Institute was officially opened on 14 July 2007 and the Confucius Institute Fund was launched on the same day. The fund currently stands at S$2 million with funding support from the Singapore government. Mr Liew’s idea of a literary award was also realised. Named the World Chinese Literature Award, it will offer the largest amount of prize money of its kind when the first award is given out in 2008.

Mr Lim Boon Kok

Mr Lim Boon Kok has been the Vice President of the NTU Alumni Association (Shanghai) for only a few months since its official launch this June, but he has already accumulated significant experience as an alumni leader in China. Based at his company’s regional office in Shanghai, the Bachelor of Engineering (Civil and Structural) degree holder who graduated from Nanyang Technological University in 1994 is currently the Vice President (China) of FYFE Asia Pte Ltd. His responsibilities include formulating business plans and strategies to penetrate various Chinese regional markets and gathering market intelligence. In 2004, he became part of a group of alumni in Shanghai to form a voluntary Shanghai Nanyang Alumni Association.

Mr Lim has facilitated committee meetings and alumni events around visits by NTU lecturers, including a notable welcome dinner for NTU President, Dr Su Guaning, when he attended the official opening of the NTU Shanghai office. Reflecting on these events, he shares that many “were centred on Singaporeans’ most loved activity: food”. As a spirit of community began to develop over these intimate dinner gatherings, Mr Lim emerged as one willing to share his local knowledge and network to help his peers. Accepting his nomination as Vice President, he considers it the association’s role to provide “a good avenue for newly arrived alumni to get to know fellow Singaporeans when far from the comforts of home”.

A dedicated member of the Nanyang University Alumni Association of Malaya for more than 20 years, Mr Low Hing King’s enthusiasm and commitment are well-known to his peers. After graduating with a Bachelor of Commerce from Nanyang University in 1969, he has been the Association’s Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary since 1973 and is currently its Deputy President.

Mr Low has also been an active volunteer in every Global Nantah Alumni Reunion, an event that is organised by Nantah alumni for Nantah alumni all over the world. Since the very first reunion organised in 1992, he has made it a point to attend each reunion regardless of the country in which it is being held, helping out whenever necessary. This has made him one of only a small handful to have witnessed the complete history of this event. To help others share in the joy of reuniting with old friends, Mr Low has played a major role in coordinating the registration process and travel plans, encouraging the participation of other Malaysian alumni.

When the Nantah Education and Research Foundation was established in 2000, it endeavoured to promote postgraduate research work at NTU through the award of scholarships. Mr Low saw it as an opportunity for alumni to contribute to the University and joined as its Treasurer. Professionally, he operates Low Hing King & Co. Secretarial & Management Services, a successful firm that provides contract secretarial and management services for over 300 companies.

Exemplifying loyalty, patience and tenacity, Mr Ng Yok Kuan respects every commitment as a meaningful bond. This has been demonstrated in his service with the Association of Nanyang University Graduates (ANUG), which he joined after graduating with a Bachelor of Commerce degree from Nanyang University in 1974. Having been on the committee of the association since 1980, he is currently its longest serving committee member. Mr Ng has also played an instrumental role in the organisation of countless events and has held the positions of Treasurer and Vice Secretary. He is currently the Vice Treasurer and Trustee of the association.

Serving as the Vice Chairman of the Nanyang University’s 50th Anniversary Reunion Dinner Organising Committee in 2005, he was present at the first ANUG dinner organised over 20 years ago, which attracted about 200 graduates at that time. “The attendance of subsequent dinners organised by ANUG increased tremendously,” he says, adding, “In recent years, attendance has exceeded a thousand.” He cites the strong bond between members and the success of such gatherings as highlights of his service with the association.

Professionally, Mr Ng has been in the employ of Ethylene Glycois Pte Ltd since 1985, where he is currently the Manager of Accounting, Finance and Procurement. He also serves with various other associations and clan committees, such as being the Director of Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital and the Vice Chairman of Peck San Theng Building and Development committee.
Alumni Service Award

Mr Tan Kin Siong

A firm believer in the importance of the bond between alumni and alma mater, Mr Tan Kin Siong agreed to be the Class Agent for his School of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE), Class of 1987. Prior to that, he was part of the organising committee for CEE Class of 1987’s 10-year gathering. He went on to serve as the Honorary Secretary of the NTU CEE Alumni Association, a position he has held since 1997. In the association, Mr Tan is a Special Interest Group leader; he is in charge of organising talks and seminars for the benefit of alumni, around his area of speciality: legal issues in the construction industry.

Graduating with a Bachelor of Engineering (Civil and Structural) in 1987, Mr Tan completed his Master of Science in International Construction Management, also from NTU, in 1997. During this time, he worked on several residential and industrial building projects and marine construction works. In 2003, Mr Tan obtained the Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from the University of London (UOL) and joined Singapore’s largest property agency, PropNex Pte Ltd, as its Legal Manager. He also holds a Master of Laws (LLM) from the UOL, which he obtained in 2005. Currently, he is engaged as a Contracts Manager with Chip Eng Seng Contractors (1988) Pte Ltd, where he oversees the company’s tenders and contract administrations on a number of projects.

Mr Th’ng Beng Hooi

Having received the Singapore Airlines Group Scholarship to read Accountancy at Nanyang Technological University and graduating in 1991, Mr Th’ng Beng Hooi has long been a believer in giving back to the community, which is evident through his unwavering support and contributions to the NTU Alumni Club. Invited to join by a former classmate, the Bachelor of Accountancy holder has dedicated himself to serving on the Alumni Club committee since 1997, aiding in the key areas of financial control and administration. During his decade of service, he has steered the Club’s management towards long-term planning for matters such as membership drive and accounting. Currently the Club’s second Vice President, he has also been its Honorary General Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Membership Chairman.

In 2006, Mr Th’ng became an Honorary Auditor for the Nanyang Business School Alumni Association. As with all of his honorary NTU appointments, he has worked tirelessly for the betterment of the Association despite his own heavy work commitments. Mr Th’ng is currently Secretariat Director of CFA Singapore and previously worked with Singapore Airlines and Kim Eng Securities.

On being an active Alumni Club committee member, he speaks of the important role played by alumni who contribute their time and effort, putting their experience and education to use. Above all, it is “the camaraderie and good company of fellow members and the sense of loyalty to the university” that makes it all worthwhile.