Title: Falling in Love and Fighting the Big Boys at the Old NUS
Alumni share pieces of nostalgia at their homecoming

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At this evening's homecoming, many alumni also took time to relive the memories of the past.

One couple, who'd met on the grounds of the Bukit Timah campus, marked their 45th wedding anniversary while a lawyer reminisced how she held her own in the male dominion of the law faculty in the late 60s.

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The variety of grass that lines the upper and lower quadrangles of the new Bukit Timah campus may not be of the type that encourages one to lounge on the ground.

But many still hold it dear for various reasons.

Founder of Wong Partnership Wong Meng Meng graduated from the NUS law faculty in 1971 but he still finds it hard to forget the significance of the two quadrangles.

When I compared the presence of the quadrangle with the absence of quadrangles at Kent Ridge, I realise the students at Kent Ridge were missing alot.

It was on these grounds too that Chairman of the Institute of South Asian Studies Gopinath Pillai first met his wife over 45 years ago.

It was a very lively place with a lot of student activities including political activities. I met one friend who's my classmate and I married her and today's our 45th wedding anniversary. I came here because we spent some nice time together in this campus.

Spending time on the campus too as law faculty dean between 1969 and 1971 was Dr Thio Su Mien who was appointed to the position at the age of just 30.

She was the one who'd proposed converting the trimester system to the current two semesters a year structure.
Her classmates in the pioneer batch include Professor Tommy Koh.

But despite the higher male population - she says there was hardly any need to fight the big boys.

I never encountered glass ceiling in my life so I guess I'm very grateful to be in Singapore and I mean it's there but we operate on meritocracy. It was very heady days and when I went to law practice too I became directors of companies and I's much younger than all the other guys but for me it's such a great advantage to be a woman.

Looking ahead how does Dr Thio feel the new campus will take shape?

I think law and policy is going to be very significant in the development of Singapore in the next 9 years. Because in 9 years Singapore will be Jubilee, 50 years old, so I believe that something very special will happen in our political system and legal system which will be well-based in righteousness and justice and that justice will no longer be blind but discerning.

Apart from the law faculty, the site is also home to the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public policy among other research institutes.