Bennett Lam (second from left) and his classmates with the late Chief Justice Wee Chong Jin after their call to the bar.

16 March 2011

National University of Singapore (NUS) Faculty of Law (FoL) alumnus Bennett Lam disappeared at sea while on a fishing trip, but his memory lives on at his alma mater thanks to a scholarship set up by his classmates in his honour. The Class of '86 Bennett Lam Scholarship Fund, set up at a 20th anniversary class reunion, has awarded 32 scholarships over the last three years.

Yap Wai Ming, member of the Class of '86 Bennett Lam Scholarship committee, says, “Coming together to celebrate our anniversary offered us an opportunity to renew our ties with old friends and relive the wonderful times we had at Law School. We remembered the financial difficulties our classmates faced, and realised it was our chance to make a contribution to the future of Singapore’s legal fraternity as our legal education opened many doors for us.”

Scholarship recipient Shen Xiaoyin, a Final Year Law student also majoring in Economics, used to tutor students six times weekly and work as a violin teacher in a music school to finance her education. She is now able to concentrate on her studies, and says, “It is not the monetary value that matters most but the opportunity given to students to realise their full potential in studies and in life, not being restricted by limited financial circumstances. Being at the receiving end of others’ kindness has made me realise the value of giving to those in need. I would certainly give back to NUS in the future when I am in the position to give. I will always remember that my success would not be possible without the kindness of the people who have supported me during difficult times,” adds Xiaoyin, who was able to spend one semester in Austria on an exchange programme.

Says the family of Bennett Lam, “We are happy and proud that Bennett’s classmates have sought to remember him by naming the Scholarship after him. The Scholarship is a clear testimony of their public-spiritedness and generosity, as well as the depth of the bonds and friendships they formed in Law School.”

Scholarship recipient Melvin Loh, a Final Year Law student, was struggling to afford school fees. He says, “The Scholarship has not just helped me financially, it has also given me the chance to give back to society and to apply what I learn in Law School. I am now able to help others through pro-bono legal work and volunteerism.”

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Law alumni honour missing classmate through scholarships

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