Top Cambridge don takes up NUS post

A LEADING Cambridge academic has been picked to chair a new professorship in property law at the National University of Singapore (NUS).

Professor Kevin Gray said yesterday that his subject is particularly important for “a land-scarce city”.

Last month, he took up the chair of the Kwa Geok Choo Professorship in Property Law, set up to pay tribute to the late wife of former prime minister Lee Kuan Yew.

The academic is also both a college dean and a professor of law at Britain’s Cambridge University, which was recently ranked world No. 1 by higher education consultancy firm Quacquarelli Symonds.

He has been teaching part-time at NUS’ law faculty since July 2008.

Prof Gray said in a statement: “I believe that an education in land law and its future development represents a vital interest of any nation.”

He added that as the first person to chair the professorship, which was set up in July, he is devoted to making meaningful contributions to the university and the entire legal community.

Prof Gray was invited to take up the three-year position because he is the “pre-eminent” academic in land law and brings to the school a wealth of experience, said Professor Tan Cheng Han, the law faculty dean.

Madam Kwa, who died last October after a series of strokes, was a successful conveyancing lawyer who co-founded law firm Lee & Lee with her husband and his brother in 1955.

In July, the university also announced it was setting up bursaries and scholarships in her honour, as well as a distinguished visitors programme.

It counts Madam Kwa as one of its alumni because she attended its predecessor, Raffles College.

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