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EIGHT NUS STUDENTS RECEIVE KWA GEOK CHOO BURSARIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Other than these bond-free bursaries and scholarships, NUS has also established the Kwa Geok Choo Professorship in Property Law and the Kwa Geok Choo Distinguished Visitors Programme under which top foreign legal scholars teach and conduct research in Singapore.

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Eight undergraduate and graduate students from the NUS Faculty of Law were the inaugural recipients of the Kwa Geok Choo Bursaries and Kwa Geok Choo Graduate Scholarships. They each get between \$8,000 and \$17,000 to help them achieve their goal of being practicing lawyers.

NUS announced the bursaries and scholarships named after the wife of Singapore's founding Prime Minister Mr Lee Kuan Yew last year.

Mrs Lee, who passed away on 2 October 2010, was an outstanding property lawyer. NUS decided to set up the bursaries and scholarships in her name mainly as a tribute to her contributions as the wife of Singapore's first Prime Minister in supporting and helping her husband behind the scenes to build Singapore into what it is today.

Second-year NUS law student Mak Shin Yi, 21, was among the six undergraduates awarded the bursary. To pay for her annual tuition fees of more than \$9,000, she has had to borrow from friends and family and give tuition and take on part-time work while studying.

She hopes to become a litigation lawyer after graduation and expressed her gratitude at getting the \$8,000 bursary as this would mean she would not have to worry any more about her school fees. She plans to join a student exchange programme next year to study in Spain and expand her horizons.

There were two recipients this year who received the \$17,000 Kwa Geok Choo Graduate Scholarship. 23-year-old NUS law graduate student Constance Lee was one of them.

Graduated from the Oxford Law School, Constance is currently studying for her Master's degree in Law at NUS and is specialising in corporate and financial services law.

Her ambition to become a lawyer was stirred at a young age from watching drama serials involving law and lawyers. She hopes to develop in the field of corporate law in the future. She will complete her Master's degree programme by the middle of this year and work in London.

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The first Kwa Geok Choo Professor in Property Law is Professor Kevin John Gray, Dean of Trinity College in the University of Cambridge. He was appointed in August last year for a term of three years. Mr Gary Born, Chair of the International Arbitration Practice Group in Wilmerhale, was invited to lecture in Singapore under the Kwa Geok Choo Distinguished Visitors Programme in January this year.

Thirteen organisations and an individual have donated to this programme, including Singapore Press Holdings, Ngee Ann Kongsi, Wing Tai Foundation under Wing Tai Holdings, Lee and Lee and Drew & Napier. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong made a personal donation to the Kwa Geok Choo Bursaries but the University did not reveal the amount of donations contributed by each of its donors.

According to an NUS spokesperson, the donors have pledged \$5.6 million. With an additional \$5.1 million matched by the government, the University will have around \$10.7 million in funds to push forward these projects.

Professor Simon Chesterman, Dean of the NUS Faculty of Law, noted that NUS Law has received strong support from the government in implementing many programmes, such as bursaries for students. But to reach the very top tier of law schools in the world — and to ensure that in doing so we do not leave deserving students behind — we must seek additional support from the wider community.

The NUS Law Faculty organised a dinner last evening to thank its donors. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and President Tony Tan attended the dinner held at the St Regis Hotel.