Interview with DPM Professor S. JAYAKUMAR '63

aLAWmnus Feature:
2nd Solicitor-General Professor Walter Woon '81

New Advisory Board

50 Years of Legal Education in Singapore
A word from the Editor

Back to the Future

We are back at BTC! - Bukit Timah Campus, where it all began. Teaching for the LLB degree first started here in September 1957. Forty two full-time students were admitted. Fast forward to September 2007. Thousands of law students have been taught. Thousands of law graduates are proud to associate themselves with NUS Law School as their alma mater. We have now reached a landmark milestone to celebrate 50 years of legal education in Singapore.

In this issue of LawLink, we introduce our Advisory Board, chaired by Professor Tommy Koh ’61, and comprising prominent names in the law fraternity. They will advise the Dean of Law and the NUS Vice Chancellor on the direction of the Law School and will act as a liaison between NUS and the legal profession.

We are indeed honoured to feature two of our most distinguished alumni, Deputy Prime Minister Professor S. Jayakumar ’63 and 2nd Solicitor-General Professor Walter Woon ’81. I was touched by the warm sentiments they have for the Law School as they spoke freely about their happy undergraduate days. Both returned upon graduation to join the Faculty to “give back” to their alma mater. They made a difference.

We have a host of events, which started from October 2006, lined up to celebrate 50 years of legal education in Singapore. This issue of LawLink reports on some of the talks and activities. The social calendar will culminate in the Gala Dinner to be held on Saturday 1 September 2007 at the Shangri-La Hotel. It would be a great opportunity to catch up with friends and peers whom we have not met for oh too long! Do watch for updates in our website: law.nus.edu.sg/alumni.

During this exciting year for our NUS Law School, I find myself in the pleasant role of handling Alumni Relations. It is my sincere wish to reach out to as many law alumni as I possibly can. I am one of you. So, if you know of classmates or law friends who have not received LawLink or our invitations to visit the new campus, perhaps it is because their current contact details have not been updated in our database. Please do us the favour and ask them to call us or update their particulars at: www.law.nus.edu.sg/alumni/update_particulars.asp.

This will be the only issue of LawLink to be produced in 2007. In the later part of the year, a commemorative book to mark the 50th anniversary celebrations will be published.

I would like to thank my colleague Goh Mia Yang ’92, Assistant Dean, who did much of the groundwork for this issue and held the fort for Alumni Relations prior to my arrival on the job, Kevin Tan ’86 for his good advice drawn from his publishing experience, the team of writers and contributors who are acknowledged in their respective articles and Celestine Chan, Management Support Officer, Alumni Relations, for her keen interest in photography.

Warmest thanks as well to our alumni who have supported us over the years.

Happy reading!

Jayce Khoo-Phua ’85
Editor
Associate Director
Alumni Relations & Development

LawLink - NUS Faculty of Law
469G Bukit Timah Road Eu Tong Sen Building Singapore 259776
website : www.law.nus.edu.sg/alumni

We want to hear from you, contact us at:
email : lawlink@nus.edu.sg  •  tel : (65) 6516 3616  •  fax : (65) 6779 0979
Update your personal particulars at: www.law.nus.edu.sg/alumni/update_particulars.asp
The Department of Law of the then University of Singapore began in 1956 when Professor Lee Sheridan arrived in Singapore to take up appointment at the Department. The first classes began a year later in September 1957 with an intake of 42 full-time students that included Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong ’61, former Dean and Ambassador-at-Large Professor Tommy Koh ’61, former Dean Dr Thio Su Mien ’61, and Professor Koh Kheng Lian ’61. 50 years later in 2006, the now Faculty of Law of the National University of Singapore has moved back to the Bukit Timah campus where she began her existence in 1956. And now in 2007, the Law School celebrates the 50th anniversary of the beginning of formal legal education in Singapore.

Over the first 50 years of her history, the Faculty of Law has come a long way. Today, she is widely regarded as Asia’s leading law school and one of the most globally oriented law schools internationally. Each year, the number of applications received for the Faculty’s Bachelor of Laws and graduate programmes far exceed the number of places available. The Faculty’s international reputation is such that the foreign students admitted to her graduate programmes now constitute around 85% of the total enrolment. Usually more than 20 nationalities are represented, mainly from China, India and Indonesia, but also from countries such as Canada, England, Germany, Nigeria, Peru, Switzerland and the United States.

I am also struck by how many requests I receive from other law schools for some form of collaboration with the Faculty. Many of these requests are from good law schools that we would be proud to have a closer relationship with. Unfortunately, I often have to say to them that we are a law school with only around 50 full-time academic faculty, that we have obligations to our students, the wider legal fraternity and government ministries, and there is therefore a limit to the number of collaborations that we can engage in. Amongst our more important international collaborations are our joint Master of Laws programme in Shanghai with the East China University of Politics and Law, our dual Master of Laws programme with NYU, our management role within the Asian Law Institute and the Asian Society of International Law, our partnership with the WTO to provide training to government officials from the region, our agreement with Microsoft for capacity building in Intellectual Property in South-East Asia, not to mention the many international conferences we organise in collaboration with other leading law schools. Believe me, there is a great deal going on that keeps my colleagues and I very busy throughout the year.

As we celebrate 50 years of excellence in legal scholarship, I want to pay tribute to the many present and past colleagues of mine who have collectively made this institution what she is today.

Many past Deans such as Lee Sheridan, the late Geoffrey Bartholomew, Thio Su Mien ’61, Tommy Koh ’61, S. Jayakumar ’63, Tan Sook Yee, Tan Lee Meng ’89, and Chin Tet Yung (to name only some of them) have progressively brought the Law School to new heights. They did not labour alone but had the support of many dedicated faculty members such as Koh Kheng Lian ’61, Tan Keng Feng ’71, Walter Woon ’81, Kim Seah, Phiroze Irani, Peter Ellinger, Andrew Phang ’82, David Chong ‘84, George Wei, Robert Beckman, Leong Wai Kum, Lye Lin Heng ’73 and so many others too numerous to name.

Following upon this tradition, my colleagues today extend to me their generous support for which I am extremely grateful, especially given the fact that legal education is undergoing a paradigm shift and becoming much more globally oriented.

Also, even as we celebrate this milestone and have much to be proud of, we will continue to face challenges. Some challenges can be clearly seen, others are less clear, and no doubt there are still others that we are unaware of. For us to continue to remain a leading
law school, the formula of the past will continue to serve us well even if the exact measures may be different. We will have to continue to keep our eyes open for developments that may affect us, be nimble and never afraid to change and adapt to new circumstances even if this means leaving behind something that has served us well in the past, continue to identify, develop and nurture talented academics, and provide a conducive environment that will facilitate good teaching and research.

Finally, let me thank from the bottom of my heart all our supportive alumni. All institutions go through good times and challenging times. In our good times you gladden our hearts with your good wishes. In challenging times you sustain us with your support. No great law school can scale new heights without the support of alumni and such support comes in many different forms.

As we celebrate 50 years of legal education, I hope you will all join our Gala Dinner celebration on Saturday 1 September 2007.

With my very best wishes,
Professor Tan Cheng Han SC ‘87

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEAN’S CIRCLE – ABOVE $1,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASIA PACIFIC CENTRE FOR ENV LAW (APCEL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LYE LIN HIREN ‘73</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS OF 1986 BENNETT LAM SCHOLARSHIP FUND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHANG CHENG MEI CAROLINE ‘86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEW KEI-JIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIA EE LIN EVELYN ‘86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAM SIU PING ANITA ‘86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIAH LAY HOON ‘86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDRANEE THURAI RAJAH ‘86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOK VI MING ‘86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHOA SI GRACE ‘86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. K. KUMAR &amp; ASSOCIATES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIN BOON ANN ‘86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUNDARESH MENON ‘86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAN, RAJAH &amp; CHEAH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAY SEONG CHEE SIMON ‘86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YAP WAI MING ‘86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAP POH LEONG ‘86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATION COMPETITION FUND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LEE TYE BENJAMIN JOEL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE PRIZES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THE LAW SOCIETY OF S’PORE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEE SHERIDAN EDUCATION FUND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALLEN &amp; GLEDHILL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLIN NG &amp; PARTNERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DREW &amp; NAPIER LLC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KHATTAR WONG &amp; PARTNERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOHAN REVENDRAN PILLAY ‘85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAJAH &amp; TAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SENG Kiat BOON DANIEL ‘92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SINGAPORE ACADEMY OF LAW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAMFORD LAW CORPORATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAN RAJAH &amp; CHEAH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WONG PARTNERSHIP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THE GEOFFREY BARTHOLOMEW PROFESSORSHIP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALLEN &amp; GLEDHILL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DREW &amp; NAPIER LLC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAJAH &amp; TAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT PAL KHATTAR ‘71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ALUMNI CIRCLE - UP TO $1,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APPA BOOK PRIZE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIAN PATENT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLASS OF 1986 BENNETT LAM SCHOLARSHIP FUND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEAH KOK LIM ‘86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEW SIOK ENG JOYCE ‘86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEW WAI KUEI RITA ‘86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAU LI-CHOO ‘86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOW CHAI CHONG‘ 86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NG LAI CHENG‘ 86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUS LLB CLASS OF 1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHE NAM CHUAN ADRIAN‘ 86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAVILWALA FAKHRURDDIN HUSENI‘ 86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIVANESAN SIVAGNANARATNAM‘ 86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAN ENG HOE JEFFERY ‘86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAY IM HOCK CHRISTOPHER ‘86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THIAN PHIN HOCK ALEX‘ 86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATION COMPETITION FUND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLOBAL IP SERVICES LLP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRIZE IN CORPORATE INDUSTRY 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAJAH &amp; TAN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEE SHERIDAN EDUCATION FUND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AVTAR KAUR ‘80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALASUBLAMANIAM REDDY ‘80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEW SIEW LENG ‘80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHONG KAH WEI ‘96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHONG SIEW KOO ‘67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDMUND KRONENBURG‘ 96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEONG LAI FONG‘ 86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEOW LI SAN SERENE‘ 96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIM MEI FONG AUDREY‘ 96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICHAEL STEPHEN PUHAIHANDRAN‘ 96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOK LIP WEE FRANCIS‘ 96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAIR JON NATHANIEL‘ 04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONG BAN CHAI‘ 68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHAIH VEE LUNG DAREN‘ 96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SONG EE PIN MARCUS‘ 95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAN EE LIAN ELAINE‘ 96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAN WEE MENG‘ 96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YUI VIVIEN‘ 96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FACULTY CIRCLE - UP TO $500</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
The NUS Faculty of Law has appointed a new Advisory Board on 22 February 2007. Leading the new Advisory Board as Chairman is Professor Tommy Koh ’61, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the Institute of Policy Studies.

Said Professor Tommy Koh, “The Faculty of Law has made great strides since its establishment in 1956. The NUS Law School is today regarded as one of the best in Asia. Our ambition is to be recognised as one of the best law schools in the world. While mindful of our duty to provide an outstanding education for lawyers in Singapore, we also wish to attract to the school talented students, teachers and researchers from the region and the world. The Advisory Board will help the school to achieve its ambition and to maintain a close relationship with its stakeholders in Singapore.”

Professor Tan Cheng Han ’87, Senior Counsel and Dean of the Faculty of Law commented, “I am delighted to have such a distinguished group of legal professionals on the NUS Law School’s Advisory Board. As a professional school, it is essential that the Faculty of Law continues to engage, and obtain advice from the profession. Only then can the Law School ensure that her programmes and courses remain relevant and up to date. I look forward to the views of the members of the Advisory Board and am grateful to them for consenting to assist the Law School.”

The newly appointed Advisory Board replaces a Steering Committee for the NUS Faculty of Law which was established in 2001 to advise the Dean and the NUS Vice Chancellor, and to act as a liaison between NUS and the legal profession.

The Members of the NUS Faculty of Law Advisory Board are:

- **Chairman Professor Tommy Koh ’61**
  Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- **Justice Andrew Ang ’71**
  Judge, Supreme Court of Singapore

- **Mr David Chong Gek Sian ’84**
  Senior State Counsel, Attorney-General’s Chambers

- **Senior Counsel Philip Jeyaretnam**
  President, Law Society of Singapore and Partner, M/s Rodyk & Davidson

- **Senior Counsel Indranee Rajah ’86**
  Deputy Speaker of Parliament and Partner, M/s Drew & Napier

- **Senior Counsel K. Shanmugam ’84**
  Member of Parliament and Partner, M/s Allen & Gledhill

- **Senior Counsel Steven Chong Horng Siong ’82**
  Managing Partner, M/s Rajah & Tann

- **Senior Counsel Professor Tan Cheng Han ’87**
  Dean, Faculty of Law, NUS

- **Senior Counsel Wong Meng Meng ’71**
  Consultant, M/s Wong Partnership

- **Dr Philip N. Pillai ’71**
  Managing Partner, M/s Shook Lin & Bok

- **Mr George Lim Teong Jin ’81**
  Former President, Law Society of Singapore and Partner, M/s Wee, Tay & Lim

- **Ms Chew Gek Khim ’84**
  Chief Executive Officer and Deputy Chairman, Tecty Group and Deputy Chairman, Tan Chin Tuan Foundation.

- **Ms Angeline Joyce Lee Siang Pohr**
  President, Singapore Corporate Counsel Association and Head, Legal & Corporate Communications, SPH Magazines

The Faculty of Law also thanked the outgoing members of the Steering Committee, Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong ’61, Justice VK Rajah ’82, and Senior Counsel Mr Davinder Singh ’82 for their valuable contribution to the Law School over the last 5 years.
In September 1957, 42 full-time students were admitted into the Law Department of the University of Malaya and commenced their legal education in the buildings formerly occupied by Raffles College at Bukit Timah. These were members of the Class of 1961 (their graduating year), and among them were individuals who would later become legal luminaries in Singapore, including Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong, Ambassador-at-large Professor Tommy Koh, former NUS Law Dean Dr Thio Su-Mien and Emeritus Professor Koh Kheng Lian.

In 1959, the Law Department became a full Faculty within the University of Malaya, which then became the University of Singapore and, as it is known today, the National University of Singapore (NUS). Together with the rest of the university, the Faculty of Law relocated to the Kent Ridge campus in May 1979. In 1980, it moved into its own building at Kent Ridge. In July 2006, the Faculty returned to re-occupy the Bukit Timah campus and is presently housed in the newly-renovated Upper Quadrangle.

The full-circle return of the Law Faculty to Bukit Timah - where it all began 50 years ago - heralds a new and important chapter of legal education in Singapore. The ranks of our full-time academic staff have more than tripled in size, with more than 55 academic lawyers specialising in areas at the frontiers of commercial law, criminal law, international law, environmental law, intellectual property law and legal jurisprudence.

The Faculty’s undergraduate academic programme is further strengthened by its comprehensive legal writing and skills-based programmes, with invaluable contribution by part-time and adjunct staff members from the legal profession. Students have a choice of over 50 overseas law schools to pick from for student exchange programmes. At the same time, double-degree programmes with the Department of Economics, the Faculty of Business Administration, the Faculty of Science, the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy and the New York University Law School have been introduced to offer our students a wider menu of undergraduate academic pathways.

The Faculty’s graduate degree programmes have also been strengthened considerably, offering specialised LLM degrees in Corporate and Financial Services Law, Intellectual Property and Technology Law, International and Comparative Law, International Business Law, Maritime Law and Asian Legal Studies. Over the years, a large number of post-graduate law students from North and South America, Europe, Africa, Australia and all across Asia have completed their masters and doctoral degrees at the Faculty. The establishment of the Asian Law Institute (ASLI) at the Faculty in
2003, in collaboration with leading law schools from various Asian jurisdictions, has led to the launch of a new LLM in Asian Legal Studies.

In addition, 2007 will see the launch of NYU@NUS - a new dual degree LLM programme jointly administered by the Faculty of Law and the New York University Law School.

The Faculty’s alumni continue to distinguish themselves in varied fields. In addition to alumni from the pioneering Class of 1961, other distinguished alumni include Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Law Professor S. Jayakumar ’63, Chief Justice of Malaysia Tan Sri Ahmad Fairuz Sheikh Abdul Halim ’67, Judge of Appeal Andrew Phang Boon Leong ’82, Judge of Appeal V. K. Rajah ’82, Justice Tan Lee Meng ’72, Solicitors-General Chan Seng Onn ’86 and Professor Walter Woon ’81, ASEAN Secretary-General Ong Keng Yong ’79, Artistic Director Ong Keng Sen ’88, artist Namiko Chan Takahashi ’97 and many others.

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of tertiary legal education in Singapore, the Faculty of Law invites you - our alumni and all members of the legal fraternity - to join us in a series of events we have lined up from October 2006 to September 2007 to mark the occasion. We hope to welcome you to our home at Bukit Timah in the near future.

---

**Calendar of Events**

**October 2006**
- 13th: Reunion Dinner for Classes of 1961 to 1969
- 19th: Seminar by Eugene Tan ‘95 on Singapore’s Promotion of Religious ‘Moderation’ Post-9/11
- 23rd: Seminar by Professor Stanley Yeo ’76, Southern Cross University, on Teaching and Learning Differences between Singaporean and Australian Law Students
- 27th: Visit of Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong ’61 and Judge of Appeal Andrew Phang ’82, followed by dialogue with the Law School community

**November 2006**
- 10th: Seminar by ASLI Fellow Chew Li Hua (University of Malaya) on the Right to Religion and Legislating Faith in Malaysia
- 17th: Seminar by ASLI Fellow Puteri Nemie (Int’l Islamic Univ. Malaysia) on Malaysian and Islamic Perspectives on Medical Law

**December 2006**
- 11th – 12th: HKU-NUS Symposium on The Common Law in the Asian Century

**January 2007**
- 5th – 6th: Symposium on Terrorism and the Rule of Law: Legal Theory in Times of Crisis
- 19th: Public Lecture by Professor David Dyzenhaus, University of Toronto, on the Constitution of Law

**February 2007**
- 2nd: Reunion Dinner for Classes of 1970 to 1979
- 9th: Public Lecture by Sir Michael Wood on the UN Security Council and International Law

**March 2007**
- 2nd: Reunion Dinner for Classes of 1980 to 1989
- 9th: Inaugural Professorial Lecture by Professor M. Sornarajah: The Globalisation of Singapore Law
- 10th – 11th: Law Open House
- 12th: Launch of NUS-WTO Regional Trade Policy Course
- 21st: Second Professorial Lecture by Dean Professor Tan Cheng Han ’87: Change And Yet Continuity – What Next After 50 Years Of Legal Education In Singapore?
- 30th: Law Fraternity Concert

**April 2007**
- 7th – 9th: Launch of the Asian Society of International Law and Inaugural Conference – International Law in Asia: Past, Present and Future
- 13th: Reunion Dinner for Classes of 1990 to 1999

**May 2007**
- 16th: Launch of the NYU@NUS dual degree programme

**July 2007**
- 8th: Official Opening of Bukit Timah Campus and NUS Homecoming 2007

**August 2007**
- 17th: Reunion Dinner for Classes of 2000 to 2006
- 22nd – 23rd: Singapore Conference on International Business Law
- 30th – 31st: Symposium on Climate Change and the Environment, Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law

**September 2007**
- 1st: 50th Anniversary Gala Dinner, Shangri-La Hotel

---

Please refer to http://www.law.nus.edu.sg/faculty/50th.htm for more events and details. Some events are subject to confirmation.
A joint symposium between the faculties of law of Hong Kong University and NUS was held for the first time on 11 and 12 December 2006 at the Hong Kong University campus. The event was the brainchild of Kelvin Low '99, Assistant Professor at HKU, Tang Hang Wu '95 and Michael Hor '84, both of the NUS Faculty. 27 papers, showcasing the current research of both institutions, were presented under the theme “The Common Law in the Asian Century”. The similarities between Hong Kong and Singapore, in terms of a common law heritage and cultural and economic contexts were fruitful ground for a comparative exchange of ideas. A number of papers were HKU-NUS faculty collaborations: Eleanor Wong '85 and Soong-I-Ping (HKU) tackled the fascinating area of student and teacher expectations in legal education, Burton Ong '99 and Thomas Cheng (HKU) took on competition law issues, while Andrew Halkyard (HKU) and Stephen Phua '89 spoke of the challenges of taxation. Other stimulating papers included those that were given by leading constitutional lawyers Johannes Chan and Albert Chen of HKU and Thio Li-ann of NUS. The 20 strong NUS delegation was treated to HKU’s overwhelming hospitality, excellent conference facilities and the island’s outstanding cuisine. HKU Law Dean Professor Johannes Chan and Kelvin Low '99 headed the Hong Kong team which worked tirelessly to make the symposium the success it was. The NUS Faculty has a tough act to follow when it hosts a team from HKU in the not too distant future.

Contributed by Tang Hang Wu '95 and Michael Hor '84
The Continuing Legal Education Programme aims to provide an avenue for the Faculty to engage the legal community in professional dialogue, and to provide a forum for the dissemination of views and sharing of expertise relating to various areas of law. It runs public seminars and courses throughout the academic year, and conducts the following regular programmes:

Continuing Legal Education Auditing Programme allows legal professionals to attend the postgraduate subject courses conducted by the Faculty and receive the accompanying course materials. This is ideal for those who are unable to undergo a full postgraduate programme.

Graduate Certificate in International Arbitration is a course designed for lawyers and non-lawyers who wish to be involved in the practice of arbitration. On successful completion of the course, candidates will be qualified for direct admission as Fellows of the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators (SI Arb) and accredited for admission as Members of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb).

Graduate Certificate in Intellectual Property Law is a 34-week part-time programme to train persons seeking to be registered as patent agents in Singapore.

BAR/BRI New York Bar Review Course is a 4-month licensed course to prepare law graduates for the New York Bar Exam.

For more information, please visit: http://law.nus.edu.sg/cle/
2nd Solicitor-General Professor Walter Woon was one of those who made it back for the 25th reunion of the Class of 1981. Walter and his family returned from a 9-year stint as an ambassador in Europe, where he was most recently Singapore’s ambassador to Belgium with concurrent accreditation to the European Commission, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and the Holy See.

LawLink caught up with this illustrious alumnus to get an idea of the sights and sounds of the Bukit Timah Campus in the late 1970s.

**LAWLINK: What was the Bukit Timah Campus like when you were a student?**

**WW:** The buildings looked rather similar to the way they are now, except less tidy. There also used to be some Nissen huts scattered around, which were like half a corrugated tin can with windows and doors. No air-conditioning – we were more tolerant of the heat then! (he chuckles) Of course, when it rained, we could only hear the sound of the rain on the tin roof and nothing that the lecturer said.

**LAWLINK: What were the professors like?**

**WW:** My recollection is that there were some very good teachers and some who were indifferent and not the brightest bulbs in the chandelier. There was a Caucasian lecturer who would come to class still half asleep, with a cup of coffee in hand. I remember him because he gave me a D on an assignment and wrote “Next time, complete the assignment”. I went to him and I said, “Sir, there is more on the back of the sheet.” And he said “Oh” and gave me a C. Dozy foreigners were the standard that we had back then.

**LAWLINK: Are there any particular professors who stand out in your memory?**

**WW:** I remember Justice Tan Lee Meng ’72, who was at the time a fellow of Raffles Hall. He noticed that I was being ostracized by the seniors in the hostel, because I had opted out of hall orientation and he made it a point to befriend me. I remember Professor Tan Sook Yee, who was a terror in the way she pursued questions. If you were a girl and you were well made up, she would notice and ask you questions. Needless to say, the girls were petrified!

**LAWLINK: Are there any particular professors who stand out in your memory?**

**WW:** I remember Justice Tan Lee Meng ’72, who was at the time a fellow of Raffles Hall. He noticed that I was being ostracized by the seniors in the hostel, because I had opted out of hall orientation and he made it a point to befriend me. I remember Professor Tan Sook Yee, who was a terror in the way she pursued questions. If you were a girl and you were well made up, she would notice and ask you questions. Needless to say, the girls were petrified! Professor Robert Beckman was well-liked, but there was some trepidation because of his Harvard-style of asking questions. I often sat alone in the first two rows of the lecture hall and everyone else would sit in the back. It hasn’t changed! Not just students, but diplomats, lawyers - nobody wants to sit in the first row!
LAWLINK: Do you have any favourite spots or places in BTC?

WW: The tree behind the Oei Tiong Ham building, in the lower quadrangle. It used to have benches under it, and I would sit there after class and relax. I also spent quite some time in the library. Back then, there were only a few copies of the law reports and you could not get your hands on them before tutorials or lectures because at least 20 students would be waiting to read them. To avoid the rush I read them at night after the other students went home.

LAWLINK: In your 16 years of teaching, did you encounter any funny incidents?

WW: There was this girl who brought her teddy bear into the examination hall. I am not sure if she passed, but the teddy bear certainly did! Also, there was a flasher at Kent Ridge. He disappeared after he exposed himself to one of my classmates and she laughed.

LAWLINK: What got you so interested in company law that you wrote the textbook?

WW: I and another student in my year joined the Faculty together. I was supposed to teach international law and she, company law. I heard that she was a bit intimidated by the other professor teaching it, so they asked me if I would like to teach it. I said “not really” but I did it anyway. I wrote the textbook simply because there was none on Singapore company law. You can’t teach from a foreigner’s textbook. I wanted to do something simple, to just give it out to students. And it grew.

LAWLINK: In a nutshell, 16 years as a law professor, 9 years as a diplomat, what’s next?

WW: Ha, that’s not within my control. As long as I have a job to do, I will do it. I still have ambassadorial rank, and I am still a professor at NUS – yes, one head with 3 hats. What happens next depends on what crops up.

Interviewed by Tan Shou Min ’07 and Joyce Khoo ’85
1. Raffles College Campus in 1931.
2. The old Oei Tiong Ham Hall.
3. Student in dormitory in the Upper Quadrangle.
4. Group of students outside Manesseh Meyer Block.
5. Students studying in the library, originally located in the Oei Tiong Ham Block.
6. Thomas Silcock, Professor of Economics, in a game of chess with his student.
7. Practising for the annual College Ball.
On 2 February 2007, alumnus and former Associate Professor Dr Kevin Tan ’86 presented a talk entitled Grande Dame of Education: A Brief History of Bukit Timah Campus.

The talk was the first in a series of events to kick off the Faculty’s celebration of 50 Years of Legal Education in Singapore. For over two hours, Kevin kept the 60-strong crowd riveted with stories of how the campus developed over time, and the schools that have occupied the premises.

Starting with an overview of the area in the early 1800s, Kevin explained how the site was originally home to gambier plantations, but was subsequently acquired for use as a botanic garden. Evidence of early settlement in the area can be found in three tombstones near Block A, which Kevin asserted were the oldest in-situ Chinese graves in Singapore.

It was interesting to learn that it was only in 1919 that the Straits Settlements Government decided to inaugurate a $2 million endowment fund to create a tertiary educational institution – Raffles College. The site on which the campus now stands was originally part of the Economic Gardens of the Botanic Gardens and was cleared for the campus. Other than the Government, the largest donors for the project were Sir Manasseh Meyer, Oei Tiong Ham, Tan Soo Guan and Eu Tong Sen. Today, three blocks carry the names of these pioneer philanthropists.

In 1922, legislation was passed to incorporate Raffles College and in 1924, an architectural competition was organized throughout the British empire for a design befitting the College’s lofty aspirations. The winning design was submitted by Cyril Arthur Farey (1888-1954), and Graham Richards Dawbarn (1893-1976) of London.

Since then, the campus has been home to Raffles College (1928-1949); the University of Malaya (1949-1962); the University of Singapore (1962-1981); the National Institute of Education (1982-1991); College of Physical Education (1984-1991); National Institute of Education of Nanyang Technological University (1991-2000), Singapore Management University (2000-2005) and the National University of Singapore (2006-present).

The talk was accompanied by the many old photographs (some of which are reproduced here) which showed a very different campus from what we have today, and a very different way of life for the students. Students of days gone by seemed to have much more time for socialising and interacting with each other. It also helped that the College population was small and most students lived in the dormitories located in the Eu Tong Sen and Federal blocks.
Our Old Kent Ridge Campus

Auditorium

Moot Court

Gymnasium

CJ Koh Law Library
Our New Bukit Timah Home

Seminar Rooms: 13
Classrooms: 12
Small Meeting Rooms: 6
Executive Classrooms: 1
Lecture Theatre: 1
Auditorium: 1
Moot Court: 1
General Study Room: 1
Computer Lab: 1
Alumni Lunch
with the Chief Justice and NUS President 15 February 2007

Front Row (from left to right):
Assoc Professor Teo Choo Soo (Director, Office of Alumni Relations), Ms Melanie Chng ’05, Professor Tan Cheng Han ’87 (Dean, Faculty of Law), Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong ’61, Professor Shih Choon Fong (President, NUS), Ms Low Siew Ling ’03.

Back Row (from left to right):
Mr Wee Choo Hua ’95, Mr Gregory Vijayendran ’92, Mr Lee Eng Beng ’92, Mr Steven Chong ’82, Mr Dilhan Pillay ’88, Mr Anand Nalachandran ’99, Ms Joyce Khoo ’85 (Assoc Director, Alumni Relations & Development, Faculty of Law), Ms Goh Mia Yang ’92 (Assistant Dean, Faculty of Law).

Alumni Visits

Alumni 60’s
Alumni 70’s
Alumni 80’s
Alumni 90’s
As part of the Law School’s 50th anniversary celebrations, members of the Law School community were invited to a dialogue session with the Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong ’61, an alumnus of our pioneer graduating Class of ’61, and Judge of Appeal Andrew Phang ’82, a former professor of the Law School, on 27 October 2006 at the Bukit Timah Campus Auditorium.

The Chief Justice delved into a lively speech covering legal education and the profession in general. He shared details of his rise through the ranks – from a partner in law firm Shook Lin & Bok to Attorney-General to his current position as head of the legal profession. Noteworthy was an anecdote the Chief Justice presented – he recalled that when he was a litigation practitioner, the tendency of the local judiciary in the past was to simply follow English precedents, instead of forming their own judgments based on the law. Having seen the inefficiency resulting from such a mindset, the Chief Justice enunciated his resolve to provide more detailed judgments as and when he could.

Judge of Appeal Andrew Phang shared the Chief Justice’s sentiment in this regard and spoke about a judgment he wrote in a recent case he presided, where he referred to the academic works of a few of his former colleagues. His words drew both laughter and knowing glances, as the auditorium was filled with a light-hearted atmosphere.

The short but insightful speeches were followed by a question and answer session moderated by Dean Professor Tan Cheng Han ’87. The Chief Justice and Judge of Appeal candidly answered questions from budding lawyers-to-be that covered a broad spectrum of issues, from constitutional law to the gruelling work hours that lawyers face. The exchange clearly showed the passion of the speakers.

Contributed by Jeth Lee ’09
Should public officials ever be permitted to act outside the law in times of crisis? Would condoning such conduct preserve or undermine the rule of law? In a provocative article, “Chaos and Rules: Should Responses to Violent Crises Always be Constitutional?” in the Yale Law Journal in 2003, Oren Gross argues that disobedience by public officials, when faced with the possibility of catastrophic violence, should be permitted, provided that such conduct is publicly disclosed and open to the possibility of public ratification after the fact. This approach would preserve the rule of the law by isolating such conduct and subjecting it to political rather than judicial controls. David Dyzenhaus (“The State of Emergency in Legal Theory” in Victor V. Ramraj, Michael Hor, and Kent Roach, eds., Global Anti-Terrorism Law and Policy, CUP, 2005; The Constitution of Law, CUP, 2006) challenges this “extra-legal measures model” arguing that it would permit egregious departures from norms of legality. Dyzenhaus argues, instead, that through “experiments in institutional design” we can deal with emergencies in a way that is consistent with the rule-of-law project and which transcends a formalistic separation of powers by developing solutions that involve both the legislature and the executive. It is this debate that inspired Victor V. Ramraj to convene a closed-door, two-day symposium, Terrorism and the Rule of Law: Legal Theory in Times of Crisis, at the Faculty of Law, NUS. In addition to Oren Gross (Minnesota), David Dyzenhaus (Toronto), and Victor V. Ramraj, a distinguished group of experts on legal, political, and social theory took part in the symposium, including R. Rueban Balasubramaniam (Toronto), Colm Campbell (Ulster), Tom Campbell (CAPPE), Simon Chesterman (NUS/NYU), Johan Geertsema (NUS), Kanishka Jayasuriya (Murdoch), Nomi C. Lazar (Chicago), C.L. Lim (NUS), Terry Nardin (NUS), Kent Roach (Toronto), William E. Scheuerman (Indiana), Andrew Simester (NUS) and Mark Tushnet (Harvard). The papers presented at this symposium will be edited by Victor V. Ramraj and published in 2008.

Contributed by symposium convener Victor V. Ramraj
people of the region. If there is no departure from the law made social, political and other aspirations of the state and the for fashioning a law acceptable to the region, that suits the region to Singapore for settlement. This imposes responsibility litigation and arbitration involving business disputes in the had to make the region its hinterland, attracting commercial however, being a city-state, lacks a hinterland. As a result, it has the culture of globalisation to their hinterland. Singapore, process of globalisation. Cities become globalised and spread provided by the studies which emphasize the role of cities in the explanation for the Internationalism of Singapore Law is Professor Sornarajah summarised his thoughts: The possible educated in more than one discipline in the future, some faculty should be in the past, and shared his thoughts on what legal education would be like in the future. He said that we are likely to see in the next decade, the emergence of a handful of ‘global law schools’. Such schools would continue to play a significant role within their jurisdictions while at the same time be engaged in transnational legal issues, as the law will be an important tool to manage the tensions and concerns that will inevitably arise in a more globalised world. Thus, comparative law will grow in importance and the Law School should seriously consider sending young faculty to further their studies in civil law countries, rather than having them read graduate degrees in other common law jurisdictions.

As for the curriculum, Dean Tan expects the NUS Law School to engage the profession more extensively in periodic reviews of what is taught in specific courses to ensure that the profession continues to be supportive of the Law School. He also expects coverage of regulatory instruments to play a larger role in the curriculum in addition to case law and legislation. At the same time, to ensure that students have a better understanding of law in its context, the integration of relevant cross-disciplinary perspectives into existing law subjects will continue to grow. This implies that in the future, some faculty should be educated in more than one discipline and/or more teaching should take place in collaboration with colleagues from other NUS Faculties.

Dean Tan expressed great satisfaction with the teaching and research at the Law School. He felt that the NUS Law School had made great strides in both areas since the time he was a student in the 1980s. However, he voiced some concern about the future of the tutorial method because while it was a superior mode of teaching, it was highly labour intensive and placed a great strain on the Faculty’s resources. In the area of research, Dean Tan opined that collaborative research across jurisdictions and disciplines will become more and more important and it was therefore necessary to secure sufficient funding for such research which is more expensive than the traditional single authored publications.

Dean Tan concluded with two points. Firstly, he said that the NUS Law School is now regarded internationally as one of the leading law schools in the world. This was testimony to the work of his predecessors and past and present faculty members. Nevertheless, the international legal education landscape was becoming increasingly competitive and the Law School could not afford to be complacent. Secondly, Dean Tan spoke warmly of how the establishment of the SMU law school was to be welcomed and expressed his hope that both schools would collaborate and have a constructive relationship. He announced how he had invited the SMU law school (as well as the NTU Department of Law) to join the NUS Faculty of Law to jointly organise a conference on the law and policy relating to interactive and digital media and that SMU (and NTU) had accepted his invitation.
Professor S. Jayakumar’s close association with the Faculty of Law spans four decades. He graduated from the University of Singapore with a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) in 1963 and returned to teach at the Faculty after his admission to the Singapore Bar in 1964 up to 1981. He was the Dean of the Faculty of Law from 1974 to 1980, after which he entered politics. Professor Jayakumar was appointed as Minister for Law in 1988, a position he has held for nearly 20 years in combination with other Cabinet portfolios. He was appointed as Deputy Prime Minister in 2004. Professor Jayakumar shares his thoughts about the Faculty and legal education with LawLink Editor Joyce Khoo ‘85.

LawLink interview with

Professor Shanmugam Jayakumar ’63

Deputy Prime Minister,
Co-ordinating Minister for National Security and
Minister for Law
Singapore
THEN DAYS

LawLink: Professor Jayakumar, what led you to read law in the first instance?

DPM: When I was in Raffles Institution (RI), I participated in interschool debates with topics related to government systems. I also read a bit and became interested in law in a very general way. At that time, to read law, you had to go to England but I could not afford it. So when the law department started, it was a prime opportunity. I did not have to go England, neither did I have to learn Latin which was an entry requirement for reading law at the universities in England in those days. The new local law school was an exciting prospect and I enrolled for the 3rd intake. Those were the reasons; nothing spectacular.

Shortly after I enrolled, the law department elevated to become a faculty. After sorting out certain issues, the Government and the Bar recognized the law degree and the Legal Profession Act was revised accordingly.

LawLink: You were one of only two students in your cohort to secure a second-class upper honours degree – a sterling achievement! What were your favourite subjects during law school and why did you find them interesting?

DPM: I had particular interest in subjects like constitutional law and public international law; basically, public law rather than bread and butter subjects like conveyancing, even though everybody knew those areas made money. When I went into teaching, there was very little practice of public law. Also at that time, we were not independent and did not have a foreign policy.

LawLink: Professor Jayakumar, you were active in your student days as Vice President of the Students’ Union and President of the Students’ Law Society - what exciting activities did you lead in these capacities?

DPM: I tried staying in the hostel for 1 term, just to get an idea of how life was like there, but I never made it on time for meals. As a ‘non-hostellite’, I spent much time on extra curricular activities and my parents were worried that it might affect my studies.

The law student community was small. There was a lot of vibrancy in students’ activities. I also had a lot of interaction with Nanyang University’s students and their student union activists. The Nantah student leaders were very politically conscious and were pressing for a national union of Singapore students. In fact they seemed puzzled and bemused that students in our campus were more pre-occupied with organizing dances, ‘rag and flag’ days and such social events.

During this period, the ‘Professor Enright’ issue took place and more than 600 students turned up at a first-ever emergency general meeting. It was a big story in those days.

LawLink: What other fond memories do you have of campus life? What was the “old” Bukit Timah campus like in those days, from a personal perspective?

DPM: There was a good mix of Malaysian and Singaporean students, which resulted in a certain vibrancy. It made Singaporean students wonder why the Malaysian students were more dynamic with class activities and leadership. We concluded that in fact, being away from home and parents, albeit just a stone’s throw away, they had to fend for themselves. That is why I feel that Singaporean students should travel outside of Singapore, be it to study, work or live for a while, to gain a broader perspective of life.

DEAN DAYS

LawLink: Did you meet your wife Dr. Lalitha Rajahram during your university days?

DPM: Yes, we knew each other from university days. She was from Kuala Lumpur and studied medicine in Singapore.

LawLink: We note your significant achievements as the Dean of the Law Faculty from 1974 to 1980, such as the Jayakumar-Chin Report (May 1981) on curriculum reform. However from a personal point of view, which contributions as the Law Dean did you find the most satisfying?

DPM: Those years when I was the Dean were a transitional period for the Faculty, due to the departure of several expatriate lecturers and staff. It had an unsettling effect on the students. I tried to play the role of recruiting more local faculty members. The brighter graduates had more lucrative prospects in the private sector. There were those who responded, like Philip Pillai and Tan Lee Meng. These outstanding law graduates who came back to teach and stayed had a stabilizing effect on the Faculty.

I am glad that I initiated an interview procedure for students applying to read
law. I felt that selecting students on ‘A’ levels results alone was not adequate and I introduced the interview, which mainly was to ensure that our students should have an excellent command of the English language and be able to think and express themselves well. Although a few students did not make the cut-off criteria, if we spotted talent and thought that they were not too far off the mark, we accepted them into Law School on those grounds.

The Jayakumar-Chin report found that lawyers elsewhere did not only play a role in legal practice, as there were a good number of law graduates performing non-law roles in the private sector. The law curriculum should therefore not be solely tailored to training for the practice of law, but should also be broadened to expose our students to optional subjects offered by the other faculties. The choice of non-law subjects should however not be taken as soft options. Studying some complementary subjects of interest outside the law faculty would make law students well rounded and relevant to work effectively in Singapore’s business and financial sectors.

LawLink: When you were talent-spotted to enter Singapore politics in 1980, you were then the Dean of the Faculty of Law. Please do tell us how that happened.

DPM: SM Mr Goh Chok Tong at that time was asked by then PM Mr Lee Kuan Yew to build a second team and Mr S. Dhanabalan approached me to consider going into politics. Although comfortable in what I was doing as an academic, I did some soul searching and found it difficult to say no. Much earlier I was seconded to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to serve as Singapore’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN) and High Commissioner to Canada.

TODAY

LawLink: From your perspective as the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Law, how do you see the development of legal education in order to effectively respond to the demands of globalisation?

DPM: Compared to the ‘60s and ‘70s, Singapore has changed. It is now a thriving and dynamic country, doing well in the commercial and financial sector. The future is bright. Examining the role of the legal sector, I believe Singapore should position itself as a legal services hub for this part of the world. NUS, and now SMU as well, cannot just teach local Singapore law. We have to gear our law students up to have a regional and international outlook. For example, looking ahead, Singapore can succeed as an international arbitration centre. Our legal system is highly rated. We have English as a working language. Many aspects of our infrastructure are way ahead of other countries in the region. So we are well positioned.

But we need to rethink both our legal education and postgraduate training of lawyers, that would include what to teach and how to change the mindsets of the law students to be more in line with what Singapore is aspiring to be. This calls for the Faculty of Law to be more aware of the kind of versatile graduates they should produce. A report to recommend what needs to be done will be submitted by a committee led by Justice V K Rajah in about a month or two.

We may need to make some fundamental changes, not just tinker at the edges.

LawLink: You recently visited the Faculty of Law at the new Bukit Timah campus on 12 September 2006. What do you think of the new campus?

DPM: It has been done very well. The designs of the facilities are well integrated. But at the end of the day, it’s not the buildings that really matter. It’s the students and teachers. Those days in the ‘60s, there was no self contained law school. Tutorials and lectures were held in scattered Nissen huts and we had to borrow other faculties’ facilities. There was no Faculty of Law building. Yet, there was a great sense of the law fraternity spirit and there was a good teacher-student rapport. I hope that remains so today.

LawLink: We are celebrating 50 years of legal education in Singapore this year – a landmark milestone. What do you think of the changes in the Faculty of Law over the years?

DPM: In the past, there were a large number of students who were studying part time, doing a 4-year course over 6 years. Some were teachers and civil servants who took the course because there was never an opportunity to do so before. To cater for these part time students, most of the classes were held in the evenings. That was why I was free to do student union or law club activities in the day time. The part time course was eventually phased out, having served its purpose of catering to the initial group.

LawLink: We read in your resume (www.cabinet.gov.sg / Cabinet Appointments) that one of your forms of exercise is in-line skating. That’s a little-known fact! How did you get into this sport?

DPM: I guess it is an extreme sport for my age! I started it 2 years ago. My wife, daughter and I took it up. I did get a bit of instruction on how to skate. It is a very good form of exercise and helps to achieve a sense of balance and strengthen your legs. I do it twice a week and skate about 8 to 10 kilometres each time. My favourite route is along East Coast Parkway, from Fort Road to SAFRA Club.

LawLink: Do you have any specific plans for the future?

DPM: 26 years! (raises his hands) I take things as they come. Well, it has been a fantastic experience to work with 3 outstanding Prime Ministers.
When the curtains came down after the last act, our hearts skipped a beat. We had completed yet another chapter in our young lives.

From the beginning, we knew that the Law IV musical was going to be an ambitious project. Indeed, it was a daunting task right from the start. We encountered hiccups along every step of the way, but we forged on. We neglected our studies. We fell asleep in class. Despite the increasing stress, we told ourselves, “We can do it.” It took the combined effort of eighty people, from the cast to the crew, from the heads of committees to every member and still, the work seemed endless. When we finally held our musical on 9 and 10 September 2006, then we knew it was all worth it.

The musical, And I Choose, was a smashing success! The acting was flawless, the song lyrics were accompanied by catchy tunes and we played to a full house. The storyline was about people like us; how we should and must choose for ourselves what we want to do in life, because your life is yours and only yours to live. As we watched the performance, our hearts swelled with pride – that we were part of this amazingly talented team.

But the Law IV musical was not just about a successful stage performance. Strangers became friends. Friends reached out to help one another in need. When we saw understanding and forgiveness among friends, we knew this was what we had worked so hard for – friendship.

This was also a particularly meaningful experience, as we managed to raise money for the charity Association of Women for Action & Research (AWARE) and NUS Law School Financial Assistance Fund. We would like to thank everyone who had rendered their assistance and support for our musical, And I Choose.

Contributed by
Lee Bik Wei ’07 and
Cheryl Tan ’07
Welcoming the
Graduates of Graduate Diploma in Singapore Law
Class of 2006

Graduates of LLB and LLM
Commencement 2006

Graduates of LLM International Business Law, Shanghai
In November 2005, Simon Tay – the last of our classmates still teaching at the Faculty of Law – sent a few of us a cryptic 3-line email to ask if we wanted to ‘do something’ about our impending 20th anniversary since graduation. Before long, Anita Fam, our erstwhile Law Club President swung into action and formed a committee to get the whole thing going. Our first meeting was set for February 2006.

The committee, comprised Anita, Angela Sng, Olivia D’Costa, Joyce Chew, Lorraine Nonis and myself met on Wednesday mornings over breakfast. Over some 20 meetings, we managed to iron out all the details – food, venue, music, quiz, lucky draw, silent auction and programme. It was spectacular fun since much time was spent recounting our happy days at Kent Ridge. The challenging part was locating all our classmates. Through various channels and the internet, we found almost everyone, many scattered throughout the globe.

From the outset, we were determined that the reunion be used as an opportunity for us to say “Thank You” to our alma mater. To this end, we decided to establish a scholarship in the name of our class and late classmate, Bennett Lam, to benefit needy law students. For that task, the skills of a Senior Counsel were needed, and Lok Vi Ming gallantly came forward. Vi Ming did an incredible job, raising over $100,000 for the ‘Class of 1986 - Bennett Lam Scholarship Fund’.
On 19 August 2006, more than 90 of our 160 classmates descended at the Churchill Room of the Tanglin Club. There were so many faces we had not seen in over two decades. Some of our teachers were there too. Former Dean Tan Sook Yee looked resplendent and not a day older than when she first terrorized us in Land Law class. Philip Pillai ’71, dapper and greyer came along with Robert Beckman who looked most distinguished in his mop of white hair. Bill Ricquier came along with Anita (of course), and others present included the ever-youthful Lye Lin Heng ’73, Kim Seah ’77, Elizabeth Choo ’73, Leong Wai Kum, and Valentine Winslow. Later that evening, Ho Peng Kee ’79 joined us and even autographed a FIFA World Cup ball which was won in the silent auction by Din.

The programme was kept simple, as everyone was more intent on catching up than listening to speeches. Dean Tan Cheng Han thanked us for the invitation and generosity in the scholarship donation. Rupert Ong was Master of Ceremonies and even sung for us. The silent auction, featuring many items – air tickets, wine, books, jewellery boxes and more – donated by classmates and well-wishers raised a tidy sum for the scholarship. Jamal and Yu Chien treated us to a spectacular impromptu dance item and even as the evening drew to a close, many groups lingered to talk or to adjourn elsewhere to keep the conversation going. Till the next reunion... in 5 years’ time.

Contributed by Kevin Tan ’86
Professor Stanley Yeo ’76 has come a full circle. He has returned after two decades living in New South Wales Australia, where his last position was a Chair of Law in the School of Law and Justice at Southern Cross University where he also served as Head. Stanley has more than 26 years of experience teaching law in several tertiary institutions and is a recipient of a university award for excellence in teaching. Many of us from NUS, who were taught by Stanley between the years 1980 to 1985, would recall his challenging classes in the areas of criminal law, torts and the administration of criminal justice. Doubtless, the current law undergraduates are experiencing the same.

Stanley has a strong publication record that includes five monographs, three textbooks, numerous chapters of books and reference works and over 80 articles in well regarded refereed legal journals. His major research interest is in substantive criminal law, particularly in comparative criminal law. For his sustained and influential work on criminal defences, he was awarded the Doctor of Laws degree by the University of Sydney in 2003.

One of Stanley’s major contributions to Australian legal scholarship during his years in Australia, was as co-editor of the Criminal Law Journal, the leading Australian journal for criminal law, criminal procedure and evidence. He shared the direction of the publication for 16 years, which translates to 15 volumes, more than half of the life of the Journal. The Honourable Justice Michael Kirby of the High Court of Australia penned his thoughts about the retirement of Stanley from the Journal as follows: “One of the most important contributions that Professor Yeo has made to legal writing on criminal law is the strong emphasis he has placed on comparative law. His awareness of developments in criminal law in other Commonwealth countries is reflected not only in what he has written and published in these pages but also in essays of his that are published in the Indian Law Institute Journal, the Malaya Law Review and the Singapore Journal of Legal Studies... A measure of Professor Yeo’s standing in Australia during his co-editorship has been the extent to which Justices of the High Court of Australia have referred to his writings in their opinions... Stanley Yeo can depart his co-editorship sure in the knowledge that this Journal and its sister publication the Australian Criminal Reports, have helped to strengthen the intellectual content of, and respect for, criminal law in this country. That is no mean contribution to leave behind.” (2006) 30 Crim LJ 197.

Contributed by Joyce Khoo ’85

Professor Andrew Perry Simester

After completing his doctorate at Oxford, Andrew taught at the Universities of Cambridge, Birmingham and, more recently, at Nottingham. He is also an adjunct professor at the University of Cambridge, where he has been teaching experience on the LLM programme since 1994.

Andrew is a leading scholar and educator in the fields of legal philosophy, criminal law and restitution, who has published extensively across every major common law jurisdiction. His articles regularly appear in leading doctrinal and theoretical journals, including The Law Review Quarterly, The Criminal Law Review, the Oxford Journal of Legal Studies and Legal Theory.

Speaking about his work, Professor Andrew von Hirsch, of the Institute of Criminology at the University of Cambridge, had this to say: “Simester has to his credit a substantial corpus of papers, in leading criminal law and legal theory journals in the UK and US, on the theory and philosophy of criminal law. The analytic power of these discussions is most impressive – and offer some of the best examples of criminal law theory being written today. He is, in my view, the best criminal law theorist of his generation.”

The reviews support that judgment. Andrew’s book (with G.R. Sullivan) on English criminal law, Criminal Law: Theory and Doctrine, has been widely praised by pre-eminent legal scholars including Professor Andrew Ashworth, Vinerian Professor of English Law at Oxford University, who described it as “the most significant book on criminal law to be published for many years” and a “fine example of many of the best features of legal scholarship”.

Contributed by Maureen Poh ’07
A familiar and affable figure around the Faculty for over two decades, Professor M. Sornarajah, the Faculty’s C.J. Koh Professor, has enjoyed a long career marked by sterling scholarship and a great passion for teaching. What is most remarkable about him is his enviable “globalised” education, research and teaching which fittingly reflect his expertise in international law.

Graduating with a first class LLB degree from the University of Ceylon, Professor Sornarajah went on to obtain LLM degrees from the London School of Economics and the Yale Law School and his PhD from King’s College, London. He was also awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws by the University of London.

Professor Sornarajah is a highly-respected scholar in various aspects of international law, particularly in investment, commercial arbitration, public and criminal law. Most notably, he is a leading global expert on the international law of foreign investment. One of his primary areas of interest in this important and rapidly changing branch of international law lies in analysing how international foreign investment law should accommodate the interests of developing states in Asia in order to promote their development.

One of the hallmarks of Professor Sornarajah’s scholarship and teaching is his emphasis that the law should not be regarded as merely a system of rules, but should be understood in a larger societal context, and therefore be policy-oriented.

He has researched and published extensively, both locally and internationally, being the author of several books and well over 100 articles in legal journals and other publications worldwide. His seminal book, The International Law on Foreign Investment (Cambridge University Press, 2nd Edition, 2004), has been lauded by the British Yearbook of International Law as “an excellent book” and one which “deserves to be a classic”.

His outstanding research on international law has led to many prestigious appointments, including Sterling Fellow at the Yale Law School, Research Fellow at the Centre for International Law, Cambridge and at the Max Planck Institute for Public International Law and Foreign Law at Heidelberg, Germany, International Law Fellow and Visiting Professor at the American University at Washington DC.

Professor Sornarajah is currently also Professorial Fellow at the Centre for Petroleum and Natural Resources Law at the University of Dundee, Scotland and Visiting Professor at the World Trade Institute of the Universities of Berne and Neuchatel, Switzerland. He sits on the UNCTAD Expert Panel on Investment, the regional panel of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre and is a Fellow of the Australian Chamber of International Commercial Arbitration. He has been counsel and arbitrator in several arbitrations involving foreign investment disputes.

In addition to being an internationally renowned legal scholar, Professor Sornarajah has been an inspiring teacher to legions of students in Singapore and Australia, where he was Head of the Law School of the University of Tasmania prior to joining our Faculty. He is also at the forefront of promoting international law in Singapore, playing a major role in establishing The Society of International Law (Singapore).

Contributed by Maureen Poh ’07

---

Sultan of Johor Recognised for Bilateral Relations

On 12 April 2007, His Majesty Sultan Iskandar Ibni Almarhum Sultan Ismail, Sultan and Sovereign Ruler of the State and Territories of Johor Darul Ta’zim, was conferred the Honorary Doctor of Laws by NUS. The award was given in recognition of His Majesty’s integral and unique role in nurturing the development and prosperity of the State of Johor, Singapore’s closest neighbour and strategic partner; as well as his enduring contribution to the longstanding bilateral relations between Singapore and Malaysia and those of Singapore and Johor.
Professor Adrian Briggs from the Faculty of Law at the University of Oxford, assisted in the teaching of both International Commercial Litigation and International Trusts.

Professor Ago Shin-Ichi from the Faculty of Law, Kyushu University in Japan, member of the Board of Governors of the Asian Law Institute (ASLI), taught an intensive course on International Labour Law.

Professor Francis Reynolds is a Professor Emeritus at Oxford University, expert in contract law, commercial law, and conflicts of law. He taught Carriage of Goods by Sea.

Professor Geoffrey Morse from University of Birmingham has research and teaching interests in the fields of corporate, partnership and tax law. He taught an intensive course, Corporate Takeover Regulations.

Associate Professor Dr Daniel Fitzpatrick from the Faculty of Law, Australian National University, taught Contract Law and Principles of Property Law in Semester 1 and offered an elective, Land Law & Development in Asia in Semester 2.

Professor Gerard McCormack a Professor of Law at the University of Manchester co-taught Equity and Trusts and offered a new module on Secured Credit and Corporate Rescue.

Professor David Dyzenhaus, a Professor of Law and Philosophy and Associate Dean (Graduate Studies) at the University of Toronto, taught an intensive course, Emergencies and Legal Theory.

Professor Ian Holloway, Professor and Dean of Law at the University of Western Ontario, taught a new module, Comparative Administrative Law.
**Professor Jianfu Chen,**
Professor of Law at LaTrobe University in Australia, is a leading scholar on Chinese Law and author of 10 books on the subject. He taught a course on Legal Development in China.

**Professor Margo Bagley,**
Professor of Law at the University of Virginia School of Law, is widely-published and she taught an intensive course, International Patent Law and Policy.

**Professor Reto M. Hilty,**
Managing Director of the Max Planck Institute for IP Competition and Tax Law and a Professor of Law at Ludwig-Maximilians-University of Munich, also holds an additional position as Professor of Law at University of Zurich. He taught an intensive course, Topics in IP Law as the Yong Shook Lin Professor of Intellectual Property Law.

**Imola Streho** is the Coordinator of the team. She is referendaire in the cabinet of the Estonian Judge and previously worked in the cabinet of the French Advocate General at the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. She writes in the field of EU law.

**Professor Joseph H. H. Weiler** is University Professor and holder of the Jean Monnet Chair at the New York University (NYU) School of Law. He writes in the fields of International Law, the Law of the European Union, and Comparative Constitutional Law.

**José M. de Areilza** is Professor of European Union Law and Vice Dean of Legal Studies at Instituto de Empresa, Madrid. His research focuses on European institutions and EU-Member States competences.

**Damian Chalmers** is a Professor in EU law at the London School of Economics and Political Science. He has held Visiting Appointments at the College of Europe, Copenhagen, Lund, Helsinki, Michigan, Instituto de Empresa and Fudan (PRC).
WELCOMING OUR NEWEST FACULTY MEMBERS

Associate Professor Simon Chesterman joined us in January 2007 as Global Professor and Director of the New York University School of Law Singapore Programme (NYU@NUS). Simon also holds a concurrent appointment as Associate Professor at NUS. From 2004 to 2006, he was Executive Director of NYU’s Institute for International Law and Justice. Educated in Melbourne, Beijing, Amsterdam, and Oxford, Simon’s teaching experience includes periods at the Universities of Melbourne, Oxford, Southampton, Columbia and Sciences Po, as well as NYU.

NUS Law School welcomes back Comparative Criminal Law scholar Professor Stanley Yeo ’76, who has taken up a Chair in Law from December 2006. This is a homecoming for Stanley, who was a graduate of the Faculty (Class of 1976), taught with us for several years in the 1980s, and was more recently the David Marshall Visiting Professor of Law in 2004. Stanley comes to us from Southern Cross University, New South Wales, where he served as Head and Professor of the Law School. His research interests are in the fields of criminal law and torts, and he will be teaching in these areas as well.

APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor Irene Lye Lin Heng ’73 went to Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies from 21 February to 2 March 2007 as a Visiting Associate Professor to teach their graduate students an intensive course on Comparative Environmental Law. The course was conducted jointly with Professor Nicholas Robinson, Gilbert & Kerlin Professor of Environmental Law, Pace University Law School and former Chair of the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law.

Yale University’s Center for Environmental Law & Policy has appointed Associate Professor Simon Tay ’86 to serve as a charter member of its External Advisory Board. Simon pioneered the international environmental law course at the NUS and holds a number of international appointments on environmental issues, as well as chairing the National Environment Agency of Singapore.

Associate Professor Yeo Hwee Ying ’80 took over from Associate Professor Dora Neo as Director of the Continuing Legal Education Programme (CLE) with effect from 1 May 2007.

Professor Walter Woon ’81 has returned to Singapore to join the Attorney-General’s Chambers as Second Solicitor-General. Our former colleague and Vice-Dean, Walter spent the last nine years abroad in the diplomatic service as Singapore’s Ambassador to Germany and later to Belgium, while concurrently accredited to the European Commission, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and the Holy See. As Second Solicitor-General, he works closely with Attorney-General Chao Hick Tin and Solicitor-General Chan Seng Onn ’86. Like his previous diplomatic appointment, Walter is on secondment leave from the Law School.

CONGRATULATIONS

19 April 2007 - The Faculty of Law takes great pride to announce the appointment of Emeritus Professor Koh Kheng Lian ’61.

Professor Koh’s lifetime achievements include her significant contributions to the fields of criminal law, environmental law and specific areas of law such as Straits in International Navigation and Credit and Security in Singapore. Her publications have been cited in leading English textbooks on contract, criminal law and law of the sea, and have been translated into French and Chinese.

She is a founding member of the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL), NUS Faculty of Law, in partnership with the World Conservation Union - Commission on Environmental Law (IUCN-CEL), and in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Under her leadership, APCEL has put NUS on the world map as one of the leading centres for environmental law working in collaboration with numerous international, regional, national organizations and government agencies.

APCEL has been involved in numerous activities in the region and globally including organizing capacity building courses for judges from Nepal and senior officials in developing countries in the region and throughout the world.

Professor Jeffrey Pinsler was awarded the Public Administration Medal (PBM) for his work as a member of the Criminal Law Advisory Committee. The Committee examines cases to ensure that there is sufficient evidence for the issue of detention or police supervision orders under the Criminal Law (Temporary Provisions) Act and makes recommendations to the President.

Associate Professor Simon Tay ’86 was awarded the Public Service Medal (PBM) for his contribution as Chairman of the National Environment Agency (NEA), under the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources. Simon has guided the NEA since its formation in 2002 as the main government regulator and facilitator for environmental protection and public health and in its responses to such issues as dengue, the regional fires and haze and Singapore’s accession and implementation of the Kyoto Protocol.
Dean Professor Tan Cheng Han SC ‘87 was awarded the Public Administration Medal (Silver) for his dedicated service and contribution to the nation at Singapore’s 41st National Day celebrations.

Dean Professor Tan Cheng Han SC ‘87 was appointed as a Specialist Judge to the Subordinate Courts Bench in August 2006 to preside over the ‘Informatics’ case. Cheng Han together with our alumnus Tan Chee Meng ’86 were appointed under a pilot scheme introduced by the Subordinate Courts to bring in experienced members of the legal profession and academia to hear specialised cases.

The NUS Faculty of Law congratulates Teo Keang Sood, Thio Li-ann and Hans Tjio who have been appointed as full Professors, Tang Hang Wu ’95 and Burton Ong Tze En ’99 who have been made Associate Professors and Arun Kumar Thiruvengadam for his reappointment as an Assistant Professor. Keang Sood specialises in land law, while Li-ann and Hans Tjio are our experts in public international law and international trusts respectively. Hang Wu teaches equity and trusts, and Burton teaches intellectual property. Arun’s specialty is the contemporary Indian legal system.

Warmest congratulations to Associate Professor & Mrs A Kumaraelingam on the birth of their second son Ishan Jetly Amirthalingam, born on 23 March 2007, weighing 3.685 kg.

CITATIONS
Vice-Dean Associate Professor Alan Tan’s ‘93 article “Liberalizing Aviation in the Asia-Pacific Region: The Impact of the EU Horizontal Mandate” has won the 2006 Isa Diederiks-Verschoor Prize in Europe. The prize is named in honour of a Dutch jurist, and the article has been published in Volume 31 (2006) of Air & Space Law, a leading aviation law journal.

The book “A Mandarin and the Making of Public Policy” was launched to bring together reflections of Mr Ngiam Tong Dow, a veteran civil servant and pro-chancellor of the NUS. Associate Professor Simon Tay ’86 of the NUS Faculty of Law served as editor, writing both an introduction and an epilogue, to set the reflections in the context of the policy-making processes and politics of Singapore.


The article by Associate Professor Barry Clive Crown “Equity Trumps the Torrens System” [2002] SJLS 409 was cited by the Singapore Court of Appeal in United Overseas Bank Ltd v Bebe bte Mohamed [2006] 4 SLR 884.

Professor Tom Li-ann and Siew Kum Hong ’00 were appointed as Nominated Members of Parliament (NMP) in the Republic’s 11th Parliament. Li-ann is a constitutional law expert who teaches public international law and human rights law at the NUS Faculty of Law. Kum Hong is a legal counsel at a software MNC and a regular columnist for the Today newspaper. Li-ann is the third NUS Law Faculty member to be appointed NMP, after Professor Walter Woon ’81 (8th Parliament, 1992-1996) and Associate Professor Simon Tay ’86 (9th Parliament, 1997-2001).

Professor Thio Li-ann with President and Mrs S.R. Nathan at the Istana, Nominated Member of Parliament Swearing in Ceremony, 18 January 2007.

IN MEMORIAM
The Faculty notes with much sorrow, the passing of Reginald Hugh (RH) Hickling on 11 February 2007. Hugh Hickling, as he was affectionately known, was best known as author of the Internal Security Act and key draftsman of the Malayan Federal Constitution. Born in Malvern, Worcestershire in 1920, Hickling became the youngest person to graduate with a law degree from Nottingham University. He taught at the Faculty from 1974 to 1980. The author of numerous books and articles, Hickling delivered the 1986 Singapore Law Review Lecture, “Breaking Apron Strings”. He is survived by his wife Beryl Dennett and three children.
NUS faced off against the best and brightest mooters in Asia, and emerged champion of the Asian Law Schools Association (ALSA) International Commercial Arbitration Moot, held in Bangkok on 21 January 2007.

The NUS mooting team, consisting of Jason Leong ’10 and Alexander Yeo ’09, only 1st and 2nd year law students respectively, mooted on difficult points of law on the Convention for the International Sale of Goods, such as conformity of goods to contract, mitigation of loss and frustrating impediments to contractual performance. Despite not having studied international trade law, our young mooters beat opponents from the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia who were mostly in their 3rd or 4th year of law school.

In the preliminary round, the NUS mooters faced the Malaysian team, and beat them soundly by a huge margin. When asked just before the result was announced, both mooters had been very uncertain: “The Thai and Filipino judges come from a completely different point of view! They placed emphasis on arguments that we think are peripheral at best. I was warned that the civil law and common law approaches were different, but not this different!”

However, once the NUS mooters reached the Final round, they had become more accustomed to the new forum. In a Final round judged by the head of Thailand’s international arbitration commission, the Thai Solicitor-General and a Thai judge, the NUS mooters beat the competent and senior Indonesian team by the narrowest of margins, neck-and-neck down to the very last minute of both teams’ rebuttal speeches. “The case literally boiled down to how ruthlessly Jason and I could point out the one fact in our favour that the Indonesians could not explain away, and how many ‘even-if’ arguments we could flood the other side with,” said Alexander Yeo.

When asked how they managed to grapple with the totally unfamiliar field of international trade law, Jason Leong deadpanned, “We read CISG (Convention for the International Sale of Goods) cases from dusk till dawn.” On a more serious note, Alexander Yeo added, “We assumed that international trade law would be a compromise between the civil and common law. Starting from that perspective, we began to see commonalities between the common law jurisdiction’s version of the law of contract and the CISG. Just like the common law, the CISG has a doctrine of fundamental breach, mitigation of losses and frustration. That common ground made it much easier to jump into it.”

Most of all, the mooters both agreed that they could not have won without the enormous help of their training mentor, Assistant Professor Lim Lei Theng ’92, who met up with the mooters several times before the moot, and helped arrange spars with the NUS Willem C. Vis Mooting team, who mooted on the same issue on 31 March 2007.

Contributed by Alexander Yeo ’09
The launch of the Regional Trade Policy Course (RTPC), jointly hosted by the NUS Faculty of Law and the World Trade Organization (WTO), marked a new milestone as the first-ever partnership between a Singapore university and the WTO.

Last year, NUS beat stiff competition from other universities from Malaysia, the Philippines and Taiwan to win the bid to host this highly prestigious RTPC. The Singapore version of the course is largely modeled after the Trade Policy Course, which is held annually at the WTO in Geneva. It will however provide a greater emphasis on regional trade issues. NUS is expected to continue hosting this 12-week intensive course in Singapore for the next two years to 2009.

The start of this important partnership between the WTO and the University’s Faculty of Law was commemorated with an Opening Ceremony and Dinner at NUS’ Bukit Timah campus on Wednesday 14 March 2007. Gracing this event as Guest-of-Honour was Dr Balaji Sadasivan, Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Information, Communications and the Arts.

The VIPs present during the evening’s ceremony included senior government officials from Singapore’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and representing WTO at the event was Mr Paul Rolian, Director of the WTO’s Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation.

Twenty-eight government officials from countries in the Asia-Pacific region have enrolled in this year’s RTPC. Classes for the participants were held at the Faculty’s Bukit Timah premises, with participants getting the opportunity to utilise the Faculty’s state-of-the-art teaching tools and facilities.

To augment their classroom experience, the programme also included study visits to institutions that demonstrate Singapore’s trade and economic policies in practice. These include visits to organisations like CrimsonLogic to see how trade tools like TradeNet help to facilitate trade in Singapore, and visits to private sector companies to see how the Singapore logistics sector benefit from such facilitation. The participants also visited the Jurong Town Corporation industrial parks and the ports to see how these have contributed to Singapore’s economic development.

The course content covered virtually every aspect of WTO’s agreements and negotiations and was taught by WTO, NUS and regional experts. Participants, who are mainly trade policy officials in their home countries, would then be able to return to their countries with a comprehensive understanding of WTO’s laws and policies, which would then enable them to contribute positively to their own government’s trade policy-related decision-making processes.

The Faculty of Law’s Associate Professor Locknie Hsu ‘85 is the Academic Coordinator leading the team set up to manage the RTPC in Singapore.

---

**10th SCIBL**

Singapore Conference On International Business Law

The Regulation of Wealth Management

22 & 23 August 2007, Supreme Court Auditorium, Singapore

Singapore has positioned itself as a wealth management centre to rival others such as Switzerland. While it has a long way to go in that respect, its current rate of growth and future potential in the area has created a great deal of buzz and excitement in the marketplace. In a sense however, it is simply reverting to its core strengths in private banking, political stability and the rule of law.

This Conference will examine the unique characteristics of Singapore in the area of wealth management, namely:

(i) its common law legacy and the flexibility of trust law and equity;
(ii) innovative approaches to the use of tax incentives;
(iii) the plethora of alternative business and investment vehicles now found in Singapore;
(iv) the willingness of its Government to encourage and develop the area at a time when restrictions are appearing elsewhere in the wealth management world;
(v) its sound regulatory framework in a globalised environment;
(vi) the promotion of hedge funds and private equity.

The proceedings will be the tenth in the series of Singapore Conferences on International Business Law, with the last one held in 2001 focusing on Capital Markets and Financial Regulation. As has been the case with the previous SCIBL Conferences, this Conference will blend comparative, academic and practical perspectives, and it is envisaged that participants will comprise specialist lawyers, senior corporate and banking officials, officers and employees of trust companies, government officials and academics.

For further details, please visit us at [http://law.nus.edu.sg/ccls/scibl2007/](http://law.nus.edu.sg/ccls/scibl2007/) or Conference Secretariat via Tel: (65) 6332 4149/ (65) 6332 4032 or Email: les@sal.org.sg.

Jointly Organised By:

- **NUS**
- **Faculty of Law**
- **Centre for Commercial Law Studies**
Samuel Lim ’08 shares his Exchange Experience in Copenhagen.

The Student Exchange Programme, or what Law students refer to as SEP, has been a life changing experience. As I wonder why European countries with impossible languages do not abbreviate, my European friends probably wonder why we find “Student Exchange Programme” so hard to articulate in full.

I studied subjects ranging from International Sports Law to the Law of Armed Conflict. Though my classes were of Masters level, the training I received at NUS Faculty of Law put me in good stead to take on the courses. It was easy adapting to studying international law and taking oral examinations.

In one Media Law class, my classmates were slightly taken aback to learn that the Singaporean press is state-owned. In another class, I was tickled to learn that under Danish Law, children under the age of 7 are prohibited from viewing the movie “The Lion King”. It seemed the death of Simba’s father was deemed too depressing and thus unsuitable.

In Denmark, I have noticed how one’s quality of life is more important than material wealth. I have witnessed the power of peaceful protest. I enjoy reading English newspapers that engage in investigative journalism, question authority and contain opinions that take sides. A Swedish friend was astounded to learn that we have awards and prizes in the Faculty of Law for the top students. Her home university only has the Best Friend award.

On the other hand, I see how some of the immigrant communities in Europe face obstacles in integration. Efficiency is not a mantra at most offices. There is no wireless internet in classrooms, shops close too early and my café latte costs $8.

Living in Europe allows one to learn how to differentiate the many nationalities. You learn their accents, their look and their culture. More interestingly, you learn how the Europeans view Singaporeans and Asians. Having black hair and slit eyes have resulted in my being greeted in Mandarin and Japanese from zealous restaurant owners. Once, a Swedish tour operator laughingly asked me not to eat his huskies.

Spending a year in Denmark has presented me with the fantastic opportunity to travel widely across Europe. From the icy wilderness of Kiruna, Sweden in the Arctic Circle to the chaos of Marrakech, Morocco; from identical train stations in Russia to grand boulevards in Paris; from paella in Barcelona to mussels in Brussels. Travelling has made the world smaller and bigger at the same time.

Soon, I will be heading home. As much as I dread the end of my exchange experience, I am looking forward to reuniting with my loved ones and, of course, our glorious local food. It will be nice to be greeted with the familiar “Oei!” It will be goodbye SEP and hello AYE, PIE, NUS and BTC.
Tan Mei Mei ’75 is currently working at Portcullis Trust (Singapore) Ltd.

Sng Hwee Lee Agnes ’84 sends greetings from Bulgaria! “The last time I said ‘Hello’, I was in Romania. My husband’s job posting took us to Bulgaria in May 2006, so now we can say we have lived in the two countries which will become the 26th and 27th members of the European Union in January 2007.

In between the packing, unpacking and finding my feet in yet another new country, I decided to capture some memorable moments (although some I would prefer to forget) of my expatriate life in a book, in case anyone wonders what I have been up to all these ten years (apart from trying to hide the grey hairs and wrinkles).

I see fellow alumni posting pictures of their cute babies here in ‘Class Action’, so here’s a picture of my ‘baby’ delivered in October 2006. (she is referring to her book!)

Victor Chew ’87 LLM ’91 relocated to Amsterdam in 1993 – originally for a year, but it’s been 14 years and counting. He is now working at International Bureau of Fiscal Documentation (IBFD) as the Information Architect for the online portal and also managing research projects. What is more interesting is that Victor is performing jazz numbers in various gigs during the summer and come July he will be in the choir to perform West Side Story open air at the Amsterdam Harbour. Exercising 4 times a week; yoga, weights, swimming and tennis; keeps him bright-eyed and bushy-tailed.

Lim Sok Bee ’88 is currently serving in the Army and enjoying every moment of it.

Bruxelles, Ma Belle by Reynold Pereira ’89
Home to the European Commission and NATO, Brussels has always been perceived as a city where men in dark suits and ‘wannabe’ lobbyists run around trying to convince civil servants to view things from their point of view. Yes, this side exists but there is also another side to Brussels.

For me, Brussels is like a small ‘kampong’ where you can still find warmth and kindness on the streets; a green place where there is an abundance of parks where your kids can play; where after 8.00 pm you have no problems finding a parking space, unlike Paris (where my wife Karine and I were for two and a half years) where parking can be a nightmare.

Our decision to move to Brussels after the birth of our first son Raphael. Somehow Paris became expensive and after going for several job interviews, I opted for a job in Brussels. I currently work as a communications specialist, though I do harbour thoughts about moving back to legal practice, provided I can get pass the Civil Code exams in French!

Of course, going to a new country is always a thrilling experience but after two or three months, I began to wonder whether I had made the right move. I had left a city which is, in my opinion, a ‘living museum’ to move to a place where you can have a beautiful ‘Art Deco’ building lying smack between a drabby ‘sixties looking’ building and a square concrete block which passes off as housing. Unfortunately Brussels has been victim to the rivalry between the Flemish (Dutch speaking) community and the Wallon (French speaking) community and years of stalemate in terms of decision making has left the builders free to decide on architectural styles according to their ‘whims and fancies’ and exploit the lack of planning control.

But slowly the beauty of the City creeps into your bones. You begin to appreciate the space you have and people always seem to have time for a friendly chit-chat. You begin to discover those lovely cafes from a bygone era and in some areas, you sense that you have walked back in time (the kind of places that, sadly, are fast disappearing in Singapore). Brussels has a real ‘retro’ feel to it. You then begin to discover the magnificent architecture (The Grand Place, Victor Horta’s house, Palais Des Beaux Arts and the Atomium among others).

It also helps that the cost of housing is manageable here and we were fortunate to buy a lovely house (built in 1875) with our limited budget, though it needed quite a bit of restoration work. I had to learn ‘Bricolage’ (Do-It-Yourself) which seems to be the passion of Belgians and especially since it is expensive to hire someone to work on your house unless you can find a Polish or Albanian labourer!

When we miss Singapore and Singaporean food, we have the SABL (Singapore Association in Belgium and Luxembourg) to come to our rescue. They usually organise around five or six events per year, all centered around food, of course (Are you surprised??) It gives me a chance to meet fellow Singaporeans and catch up on news from Singapore.

My part-time musical career has also been revitalised here. I have a band called XRey. We released an album of original songs last year and in fact some of my former hostle mates from Kent Ridge Hall (who have set up a music label called Vibes Music) will be releasing the album in Singapore. Please buy the CD!

After six years and with the birth of our second son Tristan last year, we have decided to make Brussels our new home on a more or less permanent basis.

Should you be visiting Brussels, please don’t hesitate to contact me at: reynold.pereira@skynet.be
NUS Law Alumni Harpreet Singh Nehal ’91 and Toh Kian Sing ’90 were appointed as Senior Counsel on 6 January 2007.

Angelina Hing ’93 and Gabriel Wong ’93 wrote, “It has been more than 13 years since we graduated from law school. My husband and I met in law school. After graduation, we completed our Practice Law Course and pupillage and practised as litigation attorneys. My husband’s stint as a litigator was short-lived – all of 6 months. He joined the Ministry of Defence. I, on the other hand, stuck on for 3 years before joining a company as in-house counsel to experience what it was like on “the other side” dictating the deadlines to outside counsel. After one and a half years, I found myself missing the adrenaline rush of litigation and returned to private practice. Almost 4 years later, my husband and I decided that he should accept the posting to the Washington DC which was offered to him. Time really flies. We are now into our 5th year in the United States. Our children, Joshua (8) and Andrea (6) are having the time of their lives. There is absolutely no pressure in school. Their teachers are very nurturing. They learn at their own pace and enjoy the process of acquiring new knowledge which is almost always presented to them in an interesting and creative manner. It is a joy and privilege for me to be able to spend lots of time with them after school and watch them grow and mature with each passing day. Both my husband and I thank God for this opportunity to step out and experience a different rhythm of life.”

Our warmest congratulations to Audrey Goh ’93 and Ho Seng Chee ’93 on the birth of baby Abigail Jia-Qian (嘉茜) on 23 January 2007 with the healthy weight of 7lbs 1oz and length of 19.5 inches.

Benjamin Ang ’93 and Jane Lau ’93 Gabriella Ang was born to Ben & Jane 93 at 8.18pm on 24 May 2006 weighing 2.8 kg. She is the darling of her sister Leandra and brother Luke. Jane is busy being a full time mom and business owner (www.parentings.com) and Ben has returned to practice as a Director at Regional Law LLC (www.regionallaw.com) specializing in electronic payments law.

Hoo Cher Liek ’94 sends his best wishes to all his classmates from the Class of ’94. Since leaving practice, he has found his way into the Ministry of Education, where after serving a few years as a teacher at an all-girls’ school, he currently pushes paper at the CCA branch. He is glad that the Faculty has taken over the Bukit Timah campus as he enjoyed many memorable moments there as a trainee teacher when NIE was housed there. If anything, it makes it easier for him to meet his law professors as his office is just down the hill from BTC. He is also glad that many of them are still with the Faculty and looking as youthful as ever, and would like to thank them for the invaluable learning experiences he had when he studied with them.


Connie Heng ’95 sends her greetings from Hong Kong. Connie moved to Hong Kong, a year after qualification in early 1998, to join Herbert Smith. After two and a half years, she joined Clifford Chance where she has been a partner since 2005, specialising in capital markets work. She says, “Hong Kong is an energetic and dynamic city. When I first moved there, it was right after the handover and the stock market crash in December 1997. I was very lucky to even get a job at that time. Professionally, I have lived through the internet bubble, SARS, periods of intense activity and periods where there was absolutely nothing to do. I love Hong Kong for its volatility and continue to be amazed by its unrelenting ability to bounce back after an economic downturn.” Although Connie enjoys living and working in Hong Kong, she also misses Singapore.

“The air pollution is bad in Hong Kong and the skies are grey most of the time. I miss the clean air, blue skies and sunshine in Singapore - I no longer take those for granted when I am back! The constant buzz and activity in Hong Kong also gets to me sometimes. Fortunately, travel is very convenient and I can get away every couple of weeks, either back to Singapore or around the region, to preserve my sanity!”

Lum Weng Yun ’95 is an in-house counsel with JAFCO Investment (Asia Pacific) Ltd.

Congratulations to Namiko Chan Takahashi ’97 who triumphed over a record slate of 1,380 entrants to win the 2006 UOB Painting of the Year Award, with her nude painting of a woman entitled Charisse. Chief judge Kwok Kian Chow, director of the Singapore Art Museum, commended that “It’s a powerful work through which the personality is seen, about the plight of womanhood.” Art teacher Namiko will take a break from nurturing a passion of art in the young, in favour of nurturing her own as a full time artist.

Steven Lam Kuet Keng LLM ’00/ LLM ’03 has since left the hustle and bustle of litigation practice and is currently heading the legal, corporate secretarial and compliance and insurance departments of an energy MNC.

Our new Administrative Manager, Corporate Communications and Public Relations

Wendy Tan ’00

Wendy Tan ’00 joined the Faculty of Law in April 2007 as Administrative Manager, Corporate Communications and Public Relations. After graduation, Wendy worked in the Marketing Communications Department at Marina Mandarin till 2002. Since then, she has been holding the fort at home taking care of her 2 young children and freelancing as a copywriter, before returning to serve her alma mater at the new Bukit Timah Campus.
Terence Yeo Choon Meng ’00

“My wife Michele and I have become proud parents for the first time on 23 August 2006 to a beautiful baby boy Jonavon Yeo. The boy’s name is from the Hebrew language and means: The Lord is Gracious and Wise.” Warmest Congratulations!

Cho Pei Lin ’01 left legal practice to start a Public Relations firm - Asia PR Werkz Pte Ltd and spearheaded legal PR in Singapore.

Samuel Ang ’02 sends his warmest greetings as a poor graduate student trying to survive Boston’s brutal icy winter that “builds character”. This year, he will be graduating with an MPA from Harvard. He was recently admitted to the UK Bar and also completed an MBA (Distinction) with Imperial College London as the best MBA student. In all these pursuits, he finds that his NUS LLB legal training has prepared him well for these challenges with a distinct competitive advantage of strong communication skills and rigorous analytical thought. Looking for the next summit to climb, notwithstanding his passion for the law, Samuel will be venturing into management consulting with Bain & Company.

Assistant Professor George Akpan LLM ’03 is currently teaching Business Law at the University of New South Wales, Asia after his post doctorate fellowship with the United Nations University, Institute of Advanced Studies, Japan. George recently visited the Bukit Timah campus and “was highly impressed with the state of facilities that will further enhance academic work. I also note with interest the rapid increase in the number of graduate students and the innovative programmes that have been introduced. I am sure this is due to the quality of the degrees issued by the Faculty and the reputation it has garnered over the years.”

LawLink: our total graduate student intake in 2006/2007 is 105 and projected intake in 2007/2008 will be about 140.

Sara Lee D. San Jose LLM ’05 informed that she has moved from Kelvin Chia Partnership as a Foreign Legal Advisor to American International Assurance Company Limited (AIA) as Assistant General Counsel in the Legal Department.

Daniel Jonathan Seehye ’06 is currently taking a break from the law in order to pursue other interests. He returned to Singapore after travelling through parts of Asia for 3 months and he will be embarking on a 7-month intensive Mandarin course at NUS Extension from January 2007.

Liu Qi, LLM ’06 (philclinton1979@yahoo.com.cn) emailed Dean Tan: “I am now working in a famous German company as an in-house Legal Counsel with a good salary. Many thanks to you for all your help to me. I love NUS!

My father, a senior judge of the High Court of China, also conveyed his thanks to you. You and the Faculty took care of your students not only in our academic affairs, but also in our personal development.

I always knew NUS was a leading university in Asia, but I didn’t realize that it is so popular and famous in China and the world. My best friends and I have no difficulty in finding good jobs in China. One of my friends, also a graduate in 2006, is working in a famous law firm Fang Da Law Firm which ranks fifth in China, and second in Shanghai. Another one is working in People’s Bank of China. I was also lucky. I received an offer within two weeks from SupportPlus, a multinational company and a subsidiary of Siemens Co. Meanwhile, I also received job offers from Google Co in Beijing China and one of the biggest law firms in Beijing, Your degree has given me so many opportunities.

As a son of a well-connected family in politics and law in China, I am sure that my family will widely promote the NUS Faculty. Working as lawyer is not my final ambition. I have confidence to play a future role in the political stage of China. I will always bear in mind that it was the NUS Law Faculty that helped me to take my first step in my career. I feel that my encouragement and my hope to give scholarships for Chinese law students to study at NUS Faculty of Law would be the best thing I can do to respond to what you have given to me. I was once a son of the NUS Law family. I am a son of it forever!”

Paul Tang Wuzhen Exc ’06, an exchange student wrote, “Thanks to NUS Faculty of Law. I had a wonderful time in Singapore. Even now when I am back in China and about to graduate, I still recall NUS from time to time. I miss my classmates and teachers. I thank you all for each and every kindness you’ve given to me. I will come back!”

Introducing the new Editor of LawLink Joyce Khoo ’85

Joyce Khoo Phaik Lian ’85 joined the NUS Faculty of Law in January 2007 as the Associate Director of Alumni Relations and Development. As part of her portfolio, she is the Editor of LawLink. Joyce has also been appointed as the Secretary to the Advisory Board of the NUS Faculty of Law.

Prior to joining us, Joyce was the Assistant Vice President, Group Company Secretary of Banyan Tree Holdings Limited from 2004 to 2006. She was Assistant Vice President, Corporate Secretariat and Group Company Secretary of Singapore Power Limited from 1995 to 2003. Between 1986 and 1995, she was in legal practice in Singapore and London, and also worked as a Legal Counsel in Pidemco Land Pte Ltd. Joyce holds a Bachelor of Laws Honours degree from the National University of Singapore and a Master of Laws degree from King’s College, University of London. Joyce was admitted to the Singapore Bar in 1986 and to the Roll of Solicitors in England and Wales.
Bukit Timah Campus

from a different perspective