Cover Story
Roses of ’61

50th Anniversary Gala Dinner
Official Opening of Bukit Timah Campus

aLAWmnus Feature:
Serena Lim ’87
Namiko Chan ’97

50 Years of Legal Education in Singapore
Reunions, Renewals and Relationships

This issue of LawLink is a wrap up of all our events and activities during the second half of 2007, in celebration of 50 Years of Legal Education in Singapore. The main occasions included the Official Opening of Bukit Timah Campus and our 50th Anniversary Gala Dinner. We also had three book launches, reflecting the productivity of our faculty. The first was a commemorative book entitled *Scales of Gold: 50 Years of Legal Education in Singapore* written by Dr Kevin Tan ’86, a former faculty member. The second was the Faculty’s first Festschrift – *Lives in the Law*, a collection of essays in honour of three of our longest serving professors - Emeritus Professor Peter Ellinger, Emeritus Professor Koh Kheng Lian ’61 and Professor Tan Sook Yee. The third and most recent book launch was for two books, namely *Elements of Family Law in Singapore* written by Professor Leong Wai Kum and *Criminal Law in Malaysia and Singapore* jointly authored by Professor Stanley Yeo ’76, Dr Neil Morgan and Associate Professor Chan Wing Cheong.

There were eight brave young ladies who studied in the midst of thirty-four gentlemen in that pioneer Class of ’61. We brought six of the “Roses of ’61” together. They chatted as though not a day had passed since their carefree student days. They shared some pearls of wisdom (cover story on page 19).

In this LawLink issue, we also featured two other women of substance, Namiko Chan ’97 our very own artist who had recent exhibitions of her paintings, and Serena Lim ’87 who started her own business Bizibody Technology to provide technology consulting for the legal services industry.

As we had moved to Bukit Timah Campus not so long ago, 2007 was peppered with reunions organized for groups of law alumni across the different decades. There were also visits from several law firms whose partners and associates returned to their alma mater to give talks, sponsor or participate in the various campus events or student activities, such as the Law IV musical, careers fair, moots training and the like. We were encouraged by the friendly and enthusiastic response and support.

Our plan for 2008 is to organize reunions further afield - in Shanghai on Saturday 8 March 2008, Hong Kong and Kuala Lumpur (dates to be confirmed). Another special event on our calendar will be the Appreciation Dinner for Donors to be held on Friday 19 September 2008. Do update your contact details at: www.law.nus.edu.sg/alumni/update_particulars.asp so that we will be able to invite you.

I would like to thank the team of writers and contributors who are acknowledged in their respective articles and especially Celestine Chan, Management Assistant, Alumni Relations and Development, for her continuing support and brilliant photography.

Our academic faculty and administrative staff would like to wish all our dear alumni, donors and friends a happy and healthy 2008!

Happy Reading!

Joyce Khoo-Phua ’85
Editor
Associate Director
Alumni Relations and Development

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The Administration team at the Faculty of Law
In the globally competitive environment that universities operate in, it has become increasingly important for universities to be able to articulate why prospective students should choose one university over others.

The NUS law school is no exception and over the years we have continued to innovate so as to be able to offer what is one of the most diverse and exciting law programmes that can be found anywhere in the world. Nevertheless the process of innovation must continue and there have been some wonderful recent additions to the opportunities available to our students.

First, we have continued to add exciting student exchange opportunities. Some of our recent partners include Georgetown University Law Center, Boston University, and Instituto de Empresa in Spain. Second, with the accreditation of the NUS accounting programme, the law school has added the Law and Accountancy double degree programme as the fifth double degree programme to be available to our students. The existing programmes are in Economics, Business, Life Sciences and Public Policy. The combination of Law and Accounting is a powerful one and I am looking forward to enrolling the first batch of students in the coming academic year beginning in August 2008.

The law school recognises though that not all students may wish to spend an extra year reading a double degree programme but would welcome more than a de minimis understanding of another discipline. To meet this desire for a broader education within law, the school will allow its students to spend slightly more than a semester reading a Minor in another discipline. Some of the Minors available to law students include Business, Technopreneurship, China Studies, Communications and New Media, Psychology, Economics, Financial Mathematics, Computer Science, and Real Estate.

A fourth initiative has been to provide opportunities for students to read another law degree from a foreign jurisdiction. The two pioneering programmes are the Bachelor of Laws and Juris Doctor programme with NYU law school, and the Bachelor of Laws and Master of Laws programme also with NYU law school. The NUS law school is presently in discussion with other law schools to offer similar programmes.

While all these initiatives are important, hiring quality faculty is also crucial to the long term development of the law school. In this regard I am pleased to say that we have made a number of strong hires at the senior, middle and junior academic levels. In addition, the law school is presently considering a number of very exciting applicants whose additions will strengthen the school further. Moving forward, I expect that we will continue to be aggressive and pro-active in identifying and persuading the right people to join the NUS law school.

I am also pleased that our graduate programme continues to grow in strength and stature. It wasn’t too long ago that our graduate programme was small, largely made up of part-time students, and had very few foreign students. In the present academic year we enrolled 150 students from more than 20
For the coming academic year, we have received a record number of almost 400 applicants from more than 30 countries with applications yet to close. With the larger numbers has also come a rise in the quality of students and indeed we are under no financial pressure to increase student numbers for higher revenue. This is a happy state of affairs and my personal view is that we should continue to maintain our existing numbers and focus on continuing to increase the quality of our graduate students which has also become a potential source of legal talent for law firms in Singapore.

The competitive higher education landscape means that it is imperative that the NUS law school continues to innovate and improve. The global competition amongst law schools will intensify in the years ahead and we cannot afford to be complacent. If we don’t keep running we will be overtaken. I am glad that we do not run alone. Increasingly, our alumni are running with us by offering their support in a variety of ways. Thank you for this. We very much appreciate all the assistance that you have given to us and will continue to provide us with. On our part, we will continue to build a law school that you will continue to be proud of.

Finally, let me wish our alumni a successful year in 2008.

With my very best wishes,
Professor Tan Cheng Han SC ’87
The Faculty of Law’s commemorative book *Scales of Gold: 50 Years of Legal Education at the Faculty of Law* was officially launched by Singapore’s President, His Excellency S R Nathan, at the NUS Bukit Timah Campus on the afternoon of Tuesday 18 September 2007.

A former student of the University of Malaya when it was located at the Bukit Timah Campus, President S R Nathan took a walk down memory lane as he was brought on a guided tour of the restored and refitted campus by NUS President Professor Shih Choon Fong, Ambassador-at-Large and Chairman of the NUS Faculty of Law Advisory Board Professor Tommy Koh ’61, and Dean of NUS Faculty of Law Professor Tan Cheng Han ’87.

Written by Dr Kevin Tan ’86, NUS law alumnus and former Faculty member, the commemorative book traces the Faculty of Law’s development from a department offering a law degree for the first time to the whole of Malaysia and Singapore, to the current NUS Faculty of Law that is today touted as Asia’s Global Law School.

*Scales of Gold: 50 Years of Legal Education at the Faculty of Law* may be purchased from the NUS Faculty of Law (please contact Alumni Relations and Development at Tel: 6516 3616 or email: celestine@nus.edu.sg).
My period at Bukit Timah Campus is full of fond memories. I remember with nostalgia, my teachers (Dr Thio Su Mien ’61 and Professor Koh Kheng Lian ’61), and the long discussions with my classmates about legal cases and the great “teh tarek” at the food stalls.

Sivakant Tiwari ’68

Law School changed my life!
Darius Chan ’07

It’s very heartening to see generations of alumni meeting at the Bukit Timah Campus; essentially it’s the past meeting the present in this place of great tradition and heritage.

Teo Kai Xiang ’09
I enjoyed especially the fact that the Official Opening of the Bukit Timah Campus Dinner was held on the Upper Quadrangle. Every university campus should have a quadrangle for students to gather. I hope the students of the Faculty of Law will take full advantage of the joys of having a quadrangle which will almost exclusively be theirs.

Wong Meng Meng SC ’71

I loved my 4 years of varsity life in Bukit Timah Campus. There was great camaraderie and bonding amongst law students and other faculty students in the “Union House” (Students’ makan place), sporting arena, Students Union activities, library and the Lower and Upper Quadrangles. My deans were Professor Tommy Koh ’61 and Professor Jayakumar ’63. They and the teachers made our lives ‘interesting’ and we all matured as adults as the years went by. We had student protests, were idealistic and that made campus life vibrant. We all became loyal and aspired for greater heights. I wish Bukit Timah Campus and the Faculty of Law in particular every success!

Chandra Mohan K Nair ’76

I had the best time in Law School, laughing and hanging out with friends. The support from the lecturers and faculty was amazing. And of course it was a great time of learning and grooming. The “Global University” right at home. Thank you Dean & NUS Law School for everything!

Clarissa Chan ’07

The evening was a wonderful experience and I hope that many more such events will be organized because the 4 years I spent as an undergraduate will be something I will never forget and will always cherish. Any opportunity to meet up with friends from university and relive the good old days will be greatly appreciated.

Ramesh Kumar ’07

This beautiful campus makes everyone feel so much at home.

Nathaniel Khng DipSing ’07

I enjoyed especially the fact that the Official Opening of the Bukit Timah Campus Dinner was held on the Upper Quadrangle. Every university campus should have a quadrangle for students to gather. I hope the students of the Faculty of Law will take full advantage of the joys of having a quadrangle which will almost exclusively be theirs.

Wong Meng Meng SC ’71

Beautiful colonial buildings. Serene lawns. A rich heritage and history. I’m just glad to be able to enjoy my final year in Law School at this special place.

Delphia Lim ’08

I loved my 4 years of varsity life in Bukit Timah Campus. There was great camaraderie and bonding amongst law students and other faculty students in the “Union House” (Students’ makan place), sporting arena, Students Union activities, library and the Lower and Upper Quadrangles. My deans were Professor Tommy Koh ’61 and Professor Jayakumar ’63. They and the teachers made our lives ‘interesting’ and we all matured as adults as the years went by. We had student protests, were idealistic and that made campus life vibrant. We all became loyal and aspired for greater heights. I wish Bukit Timah Campus and the Faculty of Law in particular every success!

Chandra Mohan K Nair ’76
Namiko, you have just had a series of two exhibitions. Could you tell us a little bit about each of them? The first one was Parables. Each of the twelve portraits in this collection sought to depict and elaborate on a specific Biblical parable. These parables often involved a character facing a moral dilemma and Parables was the product of an exploration into the moral question involving values, choices, causes and consequences.

The second collection was Meeting which portrayed a dancer, who represents each of us. The portraits depicted her going through her routine which was intended to be reflective of our daily routines. The paintings highlighted the moral dimension in the dancer’s actions and the collection was symbolic of our interactions with and responses to the challenges of daily life.

We understand Parables involved a collaborative process between yourself and the models depicted in the paintings. What did this collaborative process entail? Oh... the parables were recounted to the models and the models then interpreted the significance of each parable through their physical movement. I then put paint to canvas to illustrate the model’s expression. The idea was for the model to be the actor and for her movement and expression to embody the story in the parable.

Were there instances where you did not quite see eye-to-eye with the model’s interpretation? Yes, there were only a few such instances. The good thing about being in my position was that I got the final say (laughs). But, for the most part, the process was true to its initial concept - a collaborative process. I had the opportunity to bounce ideas off my friends as well, which made the process all the more fulfilling and enjoyable.

Any memories of your time in Law School where you had the opportunity to engage your creative talents? Well... there was the Law IV musical where I was involved in costume and design. I recall having to fulfill the difficult task of making a youthful looking Siraj Omar look much older!

Namiko, since we’re on the topic of Law School memories, is that where you and your husband first sowed the seeds of love? I think that honour goes to the Board of Legal Education! I first got to know Aaron (Aaron Lee ’97) through a friend, during the Practical Law Course.
We hear Aaron’s a poet. Could you tell us a little about him and the dynamics the both of you share?
Yes, Aaron’s a poet and he’s released his second book of poems titled *Five Right Angles*. Aaron’s my soul mate and he’s really supportive of my work. We’re both very open to each other’s ideas. I like to get Aaron involved in my work, because he’s got an artistic eye and his comments are very helpful when I am working on a piece. I too pitch in with my comments when Aaron’s working on his poetry. And, while there are moments where we might disagree with each other on certain things, there is mutual respect and the matter is usually resolved sooner rather than later. It also helps that he is not the “litigious” sort!

Now, back to art. Did you have a favourite portrait in the Parables Collection?
My favourite was not seven times, but seventy seven. It was a painting that fell into place very quickly with the model’s pose resonating with my own interpretation of the story. The execution of the illustration was demanding though. It was quite a challenge trying to capture the texture of the blue skirt but in the end it was all worth the effort. I felt that this portrait was most visually appealing to me.

Do you have any gripes about Singapore’s visual art scene?
I do feel that there aren’t many art collectors who take collecting seriously. This is not helping the local scene because there simply is no market locally for works of art.

What do you think could be done to improve the situation?
I think the key is in educating the young. I used to teach art at a secondary school. Sometimes, I found it difficult to get the necessary support to go about implementing ideas that would help inculcate an interest in art among the children. I recall I used to bring some students of mine on excursions to art exhibitions. On some occasions, I had to pay for the bus ride for these children out of my pocket. But it was very rewarding as most of the kids were genuinely interested and I found them engaging with the works they were exposed to. Of course there were some children who weren’t interested at all...

What are your plans for the near future?
I have plans for two new collections. I hope to finish the first collection sometime in 2008 and the second one will probably be a little later. I am also thinking about furthering my studies with a Masters in Fine Art; but that would depend on whether I get a scholarship. Hopefully, I will get the chance to show some of my work overseas. I’ve been told that there’s an interest in the Philippines for my type of art work so that could be a possible avenue; maybe even New York or Australia. Things are pretty much in flux now.

Interviewed by Ramesh Kumar ’07
Graduates of Graduate Diploma in Singapore Law

Welcoming the

Graduates of Graduate Diploma in Singapore Law
Class of 2007

Graduates of LLB

Graduates of LLM
15th Anniversary Reunion
Class of 1992
The 15th anniversary reunion of the NUS Law Class of 1992 at Bacchus Boathouse at the Fullerton on 2 November 2007 was set against the backdrop of the twinkling lights of Esplanade Drive and Marina Bay. Refusing to admit that we were quite old enough to reminisce, this was a happy get-together over a free flow of wine and good food. Naturally, we gossiped about those who could not attend, and those living and working overseas, so if you want to set the record straight, do keep in touch!

Contributed by Lim Lei Theng ’92
BOOK LAUNCH

Elements of Family Law in Singapore by Leong Wai Kum and Criminal Law in Malaysia and Singapore by Stanley Yeo ’76, Neil Morgan and Chan Wing Cheong

In his speech, his honour spoke warmly of Professor Leong’s contributions over the years in shaping the law through her representations to the Select Committee on the suggested amendments to the family law of Singapore. Elements of Family Law in Singapore is Professor Leong’s first book in 10 years. In her speech, Wai Kum shared that the most pleasurable part of writing such a book was the opportunity to dedicate the book and express her gratitude to her family members (from her 86 year-old mother to her little grandniece).

His honour also highlighted the various achievements of Professor Stanley Yeo ’76, Professor Neil Morgan and Associate Professor Chan Wing Cheong in the field of criminal law. He noted that Neil had previously collaborated in an earlier work Criminal Law in Singapore and Malaysia: Text and Materials nearly 20 years ago while Stanley remains the “foreign talent” that Singapore hopes to be fortunate enough to attract on a more permanent basis. Wing Cheong has always been the academic who gave much of his time and efforts to volunteer work.

The youngest guest at the event was Stanley’s granddaughter who charmed the other guests while slung in a baby-carrier in her parents’ arms. Stanley said that he thoroughly enjoyed writing this latest work because he saw a real need for such a text for students and legal practitioners, and also because his co-authors were such good people to work with.

Contributed by Debbie Ong ’89
Excerpts of the Speech by

The Honourable Attorney-General Mr Chao Hick Tin

at the Book Launch of Elements of Family Law in Singapore and Criminal Law in Malaysia and Singapore held on 31 January 2008

I am delighted to be with you this evening to celebrate the latest contributions to Singapore Legal Scholarship, the launch of two books. First is *Elements of Family Law in Singapore* by Professor Leong Wai Kum and second, *Criminal Law in Malaysia and Singapore* by three authors jointly, Professor Stanley Yeo, Dr Neil Morgan and Associate Professor Chan Wing Cheong.

Wai Kum is one of the long standing members of the Faculty. Ask any student and he or she will tell you that Wai Kum is synonymous with Family Law. Though she is now very much one of us, a Singaporean, she was in the seventies a foreign talent which we had attracted to these shores. She has devoted her academic pursuit all these 30 odd years to Family Law and all issues relating to women.

She is the recognised authority on the subject in Singapore and has written extensively on it. Her works have been cited in judgments of the Family Court, High Court and the Court of Appeal. But I should hasten to add that her interest in the subject is not purely academic. She has contributed to shaping the development of Singapore law. For example, in 1980, she made representations in her personal capacity to the Select Committee of Parliament on the Women’s Charter (Amendment) Bill 1979. Again in 1996, she made representations to the Select Committee on the Women’s Charter (Amendment) Bill 1996. A few years ago, she assisted my Chambers with her expert advice in the drafting of an internal paper on the legal status of pre-nuptial agreements. More recently in 2005, the discussion paper published by the Law Reform and Revision Division of my Chambers on the Review of Custody Law quoted extensively from Wai Kum’s scholarly writings in the area of child custody law.

Last year she was cited in the Parliamentary debate on the Penal Code amendments as having made representations together with Associate Professor Debbie Ong on the issue of widening the exemptions to marital immunity to rape. I understand that her representations were incorporated into the Penal Code amendments which are coming into force tomorrow. So she has contributed not only to the development of Family Law but also the development of Criminal Law.

Stanley is also a foreign talent. He did his basic law here at the law school. Upon graduation, he joined the Faculty. He pioneered the course “Administration of Criminal Justice” at the Faculty in the mid-eighties. I understand that it was then, and still is, one of the most popular subjects with the students. As a teacher, he is well regarded. Then, in the mid eighties, he left NUS to join an Australian Law School. In 2006, he returned to NUS. His last appointment in Australia before returning to Singapore was the Professor of Law at Southern Cross University. His special area is Criminal Law and Criminal Justice. Incidentally, Stanley is now an Australian. We need to work harder on him to make him become one of us.

I ought to mention that in 2003, Stanley was awarded the LLD, Doctor of Laws by Sydney University for his contributions to legal scholarship in the area of criminal defences in the common law world.

In 2002 at a speech delivered at Southern Cross University, Justice Michael Kirby of the High Court of Australia paid Stanley the accolade of being “a world respected expert in criminal law”. In 2004, he was given the honour of delivering the David Marshall Professorship Lecture on the subject of “Reforming the Penal Code”. Upon rejoining NUS in 2006, Stanley agreed to write the chapter on Criminal Law in the “Annual Review of Singapore Cases”, a publication of SAL. His first contribution appeared in the 2006 issue of the Annual Review which was published mid last year.

Turning to Dr Morgan, while I might not have met him before this evening, he is no stranger to Singapore. He taught for some three years at the Law Faculty from 1985 to 1988. So those of you who did law at NUS during those years might well have had him as a teacher. Thereafter, he has returned to the NUS occasionally on shorter assignments. Dr Morgan is presently a Professor of Law at the University of Western Australia Law School. Before this, he was the Director of Studies at the Crime Research Centre of the same University. His area of specialisation is Criminal Law, including the question of sentencing. His latest publications are in the area of mandatory sentencing. I should add that this is not the first time that Dr Morgan is venturing into an academic pursuit with local academic staff. In 1989, he co-authored with Emeritus Professor Koh Kheng Lian a book on Criminal Law.

Wing Cheong’s specialty relates to Criminal Law and Family Law and has written widely on the two subjects, including a monograph on “The Development of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice in Singapore” which he co-authored. For some six issues of the Singapore Academy of Law Annual Review stretching over six years from 2000 to 2005, he contributed a chapter on Criminal Law. He is a regular speaker at conferences and forums on the two subjects close to his heart. He is a volunteer probation officer with the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS) in Singapore, for which public service he was awarded the Outstanding Volunteer Award in 1999. He is also a volunteer mediator with the Family Court of Singapore.

Family Law and Criminal Law are two of the subjects which are of great interest to members of the public and, of course, equally so to the legal profession. These two works will undoubtedly be very much welcomed by all who are concerned with the law. I commend the four authors for their industry in research and writing. I also commend the Faculty for being at the forefront in promoting research and writings in various areas of the law.

I share the belief of many that there are universal general principles within the law but the details within the law will likely vary from one legal system to another. In Family Law and Criminal Law, in particular, the details would have to be finely tuned to suit local conditions and cultures. Academic works such as these two being launched today will guide and help the practising lawyers to understand the broad general principles as well as the fine local details.

The legal profession in Singapore is fortunately well served by the legal academia. I congratulate law academics in general, and those on the NUS Faculty of Law in particular, on their consistent research accomplishments. I also congratulate LexisNexis for its contribution in the publication of these two books.
Midway up the convex paths between the road and buildings old, stands the old rain tree ashen, grim, and rooted deep; In the buildings, and in the halls, where time has spun fifty years full, students and dons, scholars all, regroup within the once musty library walls since rebuilt and painted new, and bearing the name of Koh; more names - Dicey, Bromley, Smith, and Holmes, wade through decades to meet us still in the library beyond the hill. Older minds recall, some with maudlin tears, of whisky, stout, and beer free flowing in the nearby Guild; some have never paid, some never left its gates. Those other sober some remember only books with browned out leaves, gripped firmly above their heads as they slopped through floods that some years bring. Heavy is the heart that feels - not for moments when Dicey wasn’t getting through, but for not branching far enough and pulling back the ones we lost. Those who stayed have prospered too; reminiscing the ‘fifty’ past, they now yearn for fifty more.

Choo Han Teck ’79
The National University of Singapore Faculty of Law hosted its 50th Anniversary Gala Dinner at the Shangri-La Hotel on Saturday 1 September 2007, to commemorate its milestone achievement of 50 years of formal legal education. The dinner brought together the Faculty’s former Deans, staff as well as alumni and proved to be an elegant affair with a gathering of some of the most distinguished and prominent members of the legal profession.

The Guest-of-Honour was The Honourable The Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong, alumnus of the Faculty’s pioneer Class of 1961. Other distinguished guests at the dinner included Deputy Prime Minister Professor S. Jayakumar (former Dean and alumnus, Class of 1963); Minister for Transport and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Raymond Lim Siang Keat (former faculty member); Ambassador-at-large Professor Tommy Koh (former Dean and alumnus, Class of 1961); Attorney-General Mr Chao Hick Tin and Solicitor-General Professor Walter Woon (former faculty member and alumnus, Class of 1981).

The Department of Law of the then University of Malaya began its first classes in September 1957 with an intake of 42 full-time students. Within a short span of 50 years, the Faculty, through its innovative curriculum, international collaborations, achievements in international moot competitions and list of illustrious graduate students, has achieved recognition as Asia’s leading Global Law School.
In his fifty years as a banking lawyer, Professor Ellinger observed and studied the developments that have taken place in banking law and practice in the period following the 2nd World War. After a brief introduction of the nature of banking practice and banking law in earlier periods, the lecture reviewed the technological developments in banking (including the effects of computerisation and of the electronic revolution), the emergence of multi-national banks and the general globalisation of banking. In the process, banks have evolved from locally orientated financial institutions into a financial sector controlling the international movement of funds and practically in charge of wealth management. The lecture then dealt with the effects of these commercial developments on both international and local banking law, including a review of the role of legally trained personnel on the relationship between banker and customer. The reaction of courts and of legislatures to one-sided and harsh general terms and conditions drafted by banks were covered in detail. The enactment of statutes such as the Unfair Contract Terms Act and efforts to establish a doctrine of good faith in contractual dealings were reviewed in the context of banking law. Emphasis was placed on Recent Developments in Singapore Litigation.

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The “Joint Communiqué”, issued by the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN, following its meeting in Manila from 29-30 July 2007, welcomed the proposal by Singapore to focus on “Energy, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development” as the theme for discussion at the 13th ASEAN Summit meeting held in Singapore from 18-22 November 2007. This is the first time in the history of ASEAN that environment has taken centre stage. Perhaps not much is known that since 1977 ASEAN has been slowly but steadily developing environmental instruments. Today, there are more than 70 such instruments dealing with various aspects of environmental law, policy and governance.

This lecture assessed and analyzed the progressive development of environmental law in ASEAN, particularly in terms of implementation, compliance and enforcement. It also considered the role of ASEAN in facilitating the implementation of global MEAs (Multilateral Environmental Agreements) and other environment instruments.

As ASEAN celebrated its 40th anniversary last year it was timely to take stock of its progress in this field as it moved forward to the ASEAN Charter, the ASEAN Declaration on Environmental Sustainability, and the Singapore Declaration on Climate Change, Energy and the Environment, which were outputs of the 13th Summit.
Law IV Musical 2007

“Many people have a wrong idea of what constitutes true happiness. It is not attained through self-gratification, but through fidelity to a worthy purpose”
– Helen Keller

Kopi Shop Rock

Guided by these wise words, the Class of 2008 set about with the task of creating the latest edition of the proud Law IV tradition from scratch. And what a memorable chapter it turned out to be! In front of three sell-out crowds at our Bukit Timah Campus auditorium, the cast of Kopi Shop Rock sang and danced their hearts out – all in the name of charity. In the short space of three hours, the audience fell in love with Joshua and Eliza, flirted with the gregarious Melody, got involved in a love triangle, witnessed a cabaret not seen since the days of Gay World, and for good measure, brought the house (the Kopi Shop, rather) down with everybody’s favourite baddie, Lim Ah Long.

Kopi Shop Rock represented the culmination of a year-long effort by the Class of 2008. Guided by two principal aims: to raise as much money as possible for our adopted charities and to put up a wonderful show in the process, the Law IV committee worked tirelessly all year round, skipping countless lectures and burning weekends in the process. And these sacrifices were ultimately richly rewarded. In addition to raising in excess of $15,000 apiece for our adopted charities, the Children’s Cancer Foundation and the Straits Times Pocket Money Fund, Kopi Shop Rock met with overwhelmingly positive reviews by all who witnessed it and was even invited by the Musical Theatre Society to consider possible incubation for the commercial stage. Much credit must go to everyone in the Law IV committee for their unceasing hard work, enthusiasm and selfless sacrifice, without which the musical would have remained a mere dream.

As the curtain fell on our kopi shop for the last time, a mix of sadness and relief engulfed everyone connected to the production. Most of all, there was the happiness that stemmed from the realization that we had had just been part of a most magical experience for a very worthy purpose.

Contributed by Emmanuel Duncan Chua Co-Producer, Class of 2008 Law IV Committee.
These six brave ladies all from the pioneer batch of law students challenged the gauntlet and emerged women of substance - Aileen Chong, Devi Sandrasegara, Koh Kheng Lian, Lakshmi Swaminathan, Low Leng Fong and Thio Su Mien.

Joyce Khoo '85, LawLink Editor and Jeth Lee '09 interviewed these ever-youthful, affable Roses of '61 to chart their illustrious lives and share some pearls of wisdom.

LawLink interview with Roses of '61

LAWLINK: What made you want to read law and at a new law school as the University of Malaya’s Law Department then was?

Devi: There were two close family friends – Miss P. G. Lim and Miss Gunn Chit Wah – who were the first lady lawyers in Malaysia. I admired them. Also, my maternal grandfather and father were both lawyers, so going into law was a natural choice for me. It was so thrilling to be among the first undergraduates of a new law school with Professor Lionel Astor Sheridan at the helm!

Aileen: My mother was a teacher, but I wanted to carve a niche of my own. I enrolled as a part-time student then, because I wanted to do something different from the others.

Devi: The university wanted to let only a few in to maintain high standards, but the arts faculty was about to be moved to Kuala Lumpur. I met with Professor Sheridan to see if there was a possibility of enrolling in the new law school. He offered a ‘non-graduating’ position, which I took up. About a month into my studies, I converted to a ‘graduating’ student status. I chose law.

Su Mien: At that time, only the rich could afford to do law in England. I had a scholarship to study the arts, but the arts faculty was about to be moved to Kuala Lumpur. I met with Professor Sheridan to see if there was a possibility of enrolling in the new law school. He offered a ‘non-graduating’ position, which I took up. About a month into my studies, I converted to a ‘graduating’ student status. I chose law.

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Aileen: My mother was a teacher, but I wanted to carve a niche of my own. I enrolled as a part-time student then, because I wanted to do something different from the others.

LawFong: At that time, choices were limited as to the courses you could take at university. I was not keen on science and the only other option before the law school started was arts and social sciences. I chose law.

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I remember Professor Sheridan saying, at a time when the university wanted to let only a few in to maintain high standards, that he would have thought the purpose of the university was to let people in and educate them, not to keep them out. He was very bold and willing to do the exceptional.

Kheng Lian: Law is a noble profession and it aims to provide solutions to the many varied problems in life. I was inspired by Portia in Shakespeare’s Merchant of Venice, the lawyer who delivered the time-honoured “mercy and justice” speech – I took the part of Portia in a school play. Another inspiration was from the former well-known and respected lawyer, Sir Song Ong Siang, one of the founders of my school, the Singapore Chinese Girls’ School. I also did a series of ‘Radio Law’ talks conducted by Professor L.A. Sheridan and his team. At the end of the series, those who did the course and homework were invited to go to Kuala Lumpur to attend a conference. I enjoyed the conference and when I returned to Singapore, I applied for admission to the law school.

Lakshmi (interviewed from New Delhi): I had an innate desire to become a judge and do “justice” and learning the law was the first step! This was encouraged by my father, who had also wanted to do law but his family could not afford to send him to England to pursue his studies. Though I was admitted to the Middle Temple, London in 1957, I decided to come back to Singapore and luckily the law school in Singapore just started. Hence I happily became a student there.

LAWLINK: How was it like competing against several brilliant minds in the same class, not least Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong and Professor Tommy Koh?

Devi: I am so grateful that I was totally oblivious of how brilliant those minds were. Had I known then what I know now, any self confidence I had would have been shattered! Let us not forget the equally brilliant female minds (including Su Mien and Kheng Lian) we had to contend with.
Kheng Lian: In every class, the brilliant students are a boon as they provide the inspiration and the ballast. We are proud that Sek Keong and Tommy are not only brilliant but also have the EQ and all the desirable human qualities that make the great, truly great. They have the brains, the humility, the humanity, the heart and the soul.

LAWLINK: How was it like being the few ladies amongst the students admitted to the law school back then?

Roses of ’61: There was never a gender issue. It was clearly a meritocracy and we are grateful that we could prosper the way we did without any worry whether we were male or female. We are grateful that Singapore is that kind of nation.

LAWLINK: There is little doubt that campus life back then was vibrant. What were your memories of the former Bukit Timah Campus and life as a student?

Su Mien: Things were very different then. There were few rooms with no air-conditioning and when the fan blew, all the papers flew. There were no casebooks, but we were very good at finding things. This enabled us to go back to first principles. Whatever you don’t have, you just have to find out. I remember also doing editorial work for the *Malayan Law Review*. Ahmad Ibrahim, Singapore’s first Attorney-General after independence, and A.V. Winslow, then Solicitor-General, and other senior lawyers would come. We sat there and listened to all the talks and we got a flavour of what it was like from people who practised. It was nothing formal and yet we learnt a lot.

Where there was a dearth of legal writings on Singapore law and comparative law of Asean countries, there is now a respectable body of legal writings on Singapore law and comparative legal studies with neighbouring countries.

The Law School has an excellent reputation and our graduates have excelled themselves in the premier universities in the US and Britain when they go for postgraduate studies and they have upheld the reputation of their first alma mater.

The Law School graduates have made their mark in different sectors of society not only in Singapore but also internationally. The Bench, the Bar and the Legal Service in Singapore are manned primarily by our graduates who have fared well. The graduates of ’61 have set the standard by their achievements in different aspects of the law.

Lakshmi: The lecture rooms were in the old block, with old fashioned wooden doors and windows which used to shut with a great bang! There was only air-conditioning in the library, where we used to freeze, because we were told the books needed the low temperatures.

Devi: I remember Dr Bashir Mallal and his library. He was very generous and we worked in his library. He was one of the key figures in the starting of the law school.

Kheng Lian: I would like to add a few words about Dr Mallal. He was a remarkable man and dedicated his whole life to the Malayan Law Journal. I had the pleasure of working in his office during the vacation. He was extremely generous and gave me a number of books, including the *British Commonwealth Series, Vol 9, Malaya and Singapore, the Borneo Territories*, edited by L. A. Sheridan. He autographed this book to me and it has become one of my most precious momentos from him.

The Bukit Timah campus was very vibrant with many departments housed there. I was in the Law Club (equivalent then) and we organised a number of interesting talks. I remember when Mr Lee Kuan Yew was in the opposition party, he was invited by us to give a talk to our class in a lecture room in Block A (now Lee Ka Shing Building). I also used to attend talks by David Marshall who taught us criminal procedure. Han Suyin, the famous author of many books including *A Many-Splendoured Thing* was also invited to the campus to give talks – I remember very well, one of her talks was on the Communes in China. The talk was held at the Eu Tong Sen Building (which is now part of the Dean’s office) – it was a full house! The BT campus was also abuzzed with student activities particularly discussing the politics of the day.

LAWLINK: For the sake of our younger alumni out there, do tell us about how your lives have panned out since graduating from the Law School.

Roses of ’61: Leng Fong established her own corporate secretarial practice Singapore Secretarial Services Co. (Pte) and she used to handle a broad portfolio, including listed companies.

Devi did well in the Port of Singapore Authority and made her mark as Counsel in the statutory board, in line with her family’s legacy. She is now happily retired.

Aileen still practices as a conveyancing lawyer at her own firm Aileen Chong & Co. She probably minted more money during our early career years than any of us - she really has business acumen.

Lakshmi retired as Vice-Chairman of the Central Administrative Tribunal in New Delhi (equivalent to a judge). Kheng Lian is an Emeritus Professor at NUS Faculty of Law and teaches Environmental Law courses. She is currently Director of the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law.
Su Mien: Geoffrey Bartholomew once said to us as students that we tended to only focus on legal principles and not techniques. Law is seamless. Your mind must be flexible to see the big picture. Law is based on values and you operate from that. We all learnt as first year students, law ought what law ought to be and what law is. We need to be very rigorous in our thinking and the law is a very good training ground.

Law students must understand that in real life and in law practice, law is seamless and is often an interplay of many different streams (subjects). This is a factor which should be borne in mind.

They should understand principles of the law so that they can reason from first principles when faced with a case of first impression.

Law is an honourable profession distinguished by the civility extended by lawyers to each other. Unfortunately the standards seem to have fallen and it is imperative for the reputation of the profession that students be inculcated with a sense of honour which is reflected in the way they conduct themselves. They should be men and women of integrity and this includes intellectual honesty. They are also officers of the court and should conduct themselves appropriately and with honour.

They should develop habits of thoroughness in all their undertakings and not opt for short cuts which will bring them to grief.

Lakshmi: One has to work very hard, especially in the beginning and keep on working hard. Success comes sometimes from unexpected quarters.

Leng Fong: The practice of law is a noble and honoured profession. It is a calling.

LAWLINK: Any plans for the future?

Kheng Lian: I hope to continue my research in environmental law. There is so much to be done – so much room for innovative thinking to save the sick planet. We should be stewards of the earth.

Roses of ’61: We live by the day, God willing. But we endured through a profession and we have all excelled through hard times. What we may have accomplished as the first batch of female graduates has set the tone for this law school. Our lives serve as an example of what you all can do better, for you stand on our shoulders.

Lawlink: There are 2 other female classmates in the Class of ’61. Lovey Tan is living in USA. Ong Cheng See has passed away.
Class of 1987 20th Anniversary Reunion
Arts House • Friday 3 August 2007

The Organising Committee
It all started with a friendly remark: “It has been twenty years! Shall we have a Law School Reunion?”

We were not short of members for a committee and as the plans went into action, the support we received from classmates, two decades old, was tremendous. Tracking the ones who had ventured beyond our fair shore did not prove as challenging as reaching out to those with Singapore secretaries trained only to permit business calls. But we were on the roll and the number of “yes attendees” grew. Almost 90 people came, an impressive turnout and the Arts House could not contain us. Groups spilled out and you could hear their laughter, feel the nostalgia. Recalling our days in the faculty, the lecture halls, the study benches, we worked quickly to piece those many years that had separated us after graduation.

Familiar faces went on stage that evening. The Dean of the NUS Law Faculty, Cheng Han, our classmate, welcomed all of us. Some had made the long journey from the United States, China, Australia and Europe. A few, with the wind still in their hair, drove in from up country Penang and Kuala Lumpur. It was indeed a nice home coming.

Our classmates, Sheng Kwai and Victor Chew sang slow renditions, a sign of OUR time, OUR kind of music. Our very own “Getai Girls” (May See, Monica and Woon Chui) were a hoot, performing an old Chinese tune in their silky black dresses and feather boas.

The camera man was everywhere and we posed boldly. No one thought of double chins, receding hairlines and pot bellies. Our smiles were spontaneous. We were familiar faces and our eyes twinkled with the memory of the evening.

“Five hundred, twenty five thousand, six hundred minutes. How do you measure a year in the life?” How do you measure 20 years? As the song goes, the story never ends. We celebrate. We remember a year in our life in the company of friends.

Contributed by Ambrose Chua ’87

LawLink: The Class of ’87 raised almost $30,000 to establish ‘The Class of 1987 Bursary’ for needy students.
Interview with Serena Lim ‘87

At the Class of ‘87 Reunion, we chatted with Serena Lim ‘87, who shared about the pivotal change in her career direction to set up her own business venture Bizibody.

LawLink: Why did you start Bizibody?
Serena: I started Bizibody with my twin sister, Corinna Lim and a few colleagues from KhattarWong in 2000. Bizibody was conceived as a dotcom, not a legal technology / management consultancy. “Bizibody”, which is short for “Business Information Body” was a portal where business people could post and receive answers to non-textbook, on-the-ground type of information related to doing business in Asia.

As to why we started Bizibody? We were gripped by the dotcom frenzy and fueled by a desire to be part of this exciting new internet-entrepreneur community. For me, it was also an opportunity to work with Corinna.

I had spent 11 brilliant years in KhattarWong (the last 5 years as the managing partner of KhattarWong’s Hong Kong branch), and I felt it was time to embark on a new venture. I toyed with going back to school to study TCM (Traditional Chinese Medicine) or cordon bleu cooking. But when Corinna, who was then completing a Masters in Public Administration at Columbia University on a Fulbright Scholarship, asked me to start Bizibody with her, I leapt at the opportunity.

As I had no formal background in IT, running a dotcom company was incredibly challenging – we had to learn everything from basics, from how to get investors in, to making critical decisions on business models and technology platforms.

When Nasdaq crashed in 2001 and the dotcom boom died with it, we shut down Bizibody.com and changed our name to Bizibody Technology to design and build applications for legal practice. From here, it was a small step towards technology consulting for the legal services industry.

LawLink: Was management consultancy something you always wanted to do, or was it an idea that just struck you?
Serena: Our core strength has always been in advising on and implementing technology solutions which help practice owners run their practices and provide a better service to their clients. Our solutions range from web marketing to financial management and automated document assembly.

Implementing practice management systems in law practices has brought us deep insights and first hand back-room knowledge of what works. This, together with our on-going dialogues with managing partners and operational staff in law practices and our collaboration with the Law Society in devising a nationwide practice management standard called PRIMELAW, gave us enough experience to operate a management consultancy service focused entirely on the legal services industry.

LawLink: How would you say that 12 years as a lawyer have impacted upon your current work?
Serena: Without the 12 years I spent as a lawyer; from pupil to the managing partner of KhattarWong’s Hong Kong office, I would not be able to understand the competitive pressures that lawyers work under nor the demands for better service delivery from their clients. As it is, I am indebted to those KhattarWong years for my practical understanding of how law practices operate.

As for running a business, I think the lawyering skills that have served me best are:

(i) an ability to reason from first principles, logically and systematically, this has helped me to understand IT programming and database concepts,

(ii) an understanding of the imperatives of client-focused service delivery standards, and

(iii) an ability to structure business partnerships that have been critical to our success.

LawLink: What did you love about being a lawyer that you now miss?
Serena: The camaraderie amongst my colleagues and fellow-strugglers in the legal rat-race. However, as I am still very much involved in the legal community, my network and community ties have also expanded due to Bizibody, and for that reason, there is probably not much that I miss.

LawLink: We’re sure you remember fondly your years in NUS law school. What are two things that you took away from it?
Serena: For me, NUS Law School was an exciting time, both in terms of exploring and building relationships and intellectual stimulation. Apart from classes which were demanding enough, I was also very much involved in student...
activities and have fond memories of my time at the tennis courts, KE Hostel, Law Club and Law Camp.

The thing that I cherish most from my Law School days are the opportunities it gave me for personal and intellectual development. I hated the rote learning in college, and Law School challenged me to think, and thank God, I didn’t fare too badly at all.

I have a pretty hopeless memory generally but I still remember the lecturers who inspired me. My favourites were Andrew Phang ’82, Tan Yock Lin and Kenneth Tan.

LawLink: Where will you be in 5 years’ time?
Serena: In 5 years time, I might have just the energy to explore new ventures in social enterprise, perhaps less ambitious “business-wise”; but I am not sure what yet.

LawLink: What inspires you?
Serena: Technology that creates opportunities for personal betterment and communities; and levels the playing field.

I remember that when I was in my 2nd year of legal practice, I thought life was oh so predictable, no wars, no revolutions, no opposition in Singapore. I have lawyering skills that were only useful in the context of a Singapore law firm. It won’t help me to see the world, and I didn’t think that practicing real estate and corporate law was going to be the sort of difference I wanted to make to the world. I could see 10 years beyond, the usual track of lawyer, wife and family, grandchildren. Not exciting.

Technology has had a profound impact on my life. It has broadened the sphere I inhabit, provided me with a livelihood that is closer to making the sort of difference that I would like to make. I love the way that it pervades every aspect of our life, and changes the way we think, work, play, create and interact. Now the world is smaller, small is the new big, and Asia is where the action is. And technology underlies all of that.

I think that we live in exciting times, and that I am privileged to be able to see first hand close up, the impact of technology on everything we do.

LawLink: What would you say to those who may be considering the next step in their career paths?
Serena: Be bold. Venture forth. You always have your law degree to fall back on.

LawLink: You sponsored the website for your Class of ’87 Reunion and came up with an exciting new technical activity for your classmates at the reunion itself. What was that about?
Serena: The website was the most efficient way to organize a get-together for a time-challenged and disparate group of individuals that makes up the Class of ’87. My classmates could visit the website for information about each other, register for the reunion party online and continue to keep in touch with each other.

The most exciting service offered on the website was the 3G video-upload facility. My classmates could video-record a greeting on their 3G mobile phones, then dial in the video recorded greeting to upload the video clip to the reunion website.

Interviewed by Charis Tan En Pin ’07
Too often retired academics are allowed to go gently into that good night with only their dusty writings to remind us of their significant contributions. However, on Tuesday, 30 October 2007, the NUS Faculty of Law launched its first Festschrift (German for a “celebration publication”) in the form of a book entitled Lives in the Law honouring the contributions of three of our longest serving professors, Emeritus Professor Koh Kheng Lian, Professor Tan Sook Yee and Emeritus Professor Peter Ellinger.

Over one hundred legal luminaries who gathered at the Wine Company @ Evans to honour scholarship of these three scholars highlighted how much of an effect they have had on the legal fraternity in Singapore and in fact on all who have been fortunate enough to have been taught by them or simply been in contact with them. Members of the Cabinet, the Judiciary, the Attorney-General’s Chambers and the Bar including a sizeable contingent of colleagues, erstwhile colleagues and former students all gathered in an evening of nostalgia, humour and of course good spirits (including the alcoholic kind).

Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong ’61, who wrote the foreword to the book, was the guest of honour and graced the occasion by signing three posters of the book as mementos for the honourees while wistfully suggesting that such events should also be done for retiring judges.

Indeed, the sheer quality of the written contributions in the book was an eloquent tribute to the three lives so honoured. Engaging biographies of all three academics lead off each of the three parts of the book which thereafter contain insightful articles on Banking Law arising from Peter’s work, Criminal and Environmental Law in honour of Kheng Lian and Property Law and Equity, Sook Yee’s field of research.

Credit must be given to the three editors, Dora Neo, Michael Hor ’84 and Tang Hang Wu ’95 for producing a book which manages to inform the reader both about the past while also commenting on the future. The reader is reminded of that old aphorism that we see today only because we have been carried on the shoulders of giants. Lives in the Law may be purchased from the Singapore Academy of Law’s Academy Publishing (contact Ms. Pauline Wong, Tel: 63320056 or email pauline_wong@sal.org.sg).

Contributed by Michael Ewing Chow ’95
Excerpts of *Festschrift* Speeches

...*Festschrift* is a German word from the word ‘fest’ which as you can guess means a celebration and ‘schrift’ which means writing, that is, a celebration in writing. It dates from the late 19th Century and comprises a volume of writings or essays by different authors presented as a tribute, especially to a scholar...

What a fitting celebration this is for three of our most respected professors of law and pioneers of our Law School, a celebration of their learning, a tribute to their contribution to the law in Singapore and their dedication to teaching generations of lawyers...

**Reflections by Emeritus Professor Koh Kheng Lian ’61**

I would like to reflect on some of my writings and those of the faculty, as this is also the 50th anniversary of the Faculty of Law...

Back in the 1960s, I was inspired to do research because as a student and a young academic, I was faced with a dearth of local legal writings on Singapore law and the application of English law “in so far as circumstances permit”. There was a sense of urgency and responsibility for local graduates to develop our own law and jurisprudence. So began my voyage of discovery into research.

I was teaching criminal law and found that despite our own Penal Code, our judges at times applied English notions and even used terminology alien to the Penal Code. I had four publications on the subject, some of which were co-authored. These were published in 1974, 1976, 1989 and 1995.

The late David Marshall... the most notable criminal lawyer of the day wrote a Foreword for the first book, *The Penal Codes of Singapore and States of Malaya: Cases, Materials and Comments*, published in 1974 and 1976. He said: In... rethinking and reformulating our legal system to meet the needs of our national character and aspirations, we naturally expect considerable assistance of our Law Faculty... Marshall would be glad to know that Singapore has recently had occasion to rethink some areas of its criminal law... Our faculty members have been in the forefront of some of the debates regarding the recent amendments.

I would like to pay tribute to my colleagues who have gone beyond my modest research in criminal law which ended in 1995 on the eve of my retirement when my interest turned to environmental law. In 2005 Michael Hor ’84, Chan Wing Cheong and Victor Ramraj published a case and materials book on *Fundamental Principles of Criminal Law*. In 2007, a first ever comprehensive textbook, *Criminal Law in Malaysia and Singapore* by Stanley Yeo ’76, Chan Wing Cheong and Neil Morgan was published.

I am always fascinated with current legal issues of the day. For an academic, this provides opportunities to blaze the trail and break new ground...

So it was when I did research in the late 1960s on *Credit and Security in Singapore: The Legal Problems of Development Finance* (published in 1972). Singapore was undergoing rapid economic development after it gained independence in 1965. My research explored our credit and security laws and commercial practices to see if there were constraints in development financing...
From the late 1960s to early 1980s saw the 3rd United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in the making. Tommy was the President of the 3rd UNCLOS... I chose to research on the regime of transit passage through straits in international navigation as the Straits of Malacca was hotly debated by many countries, including Singapore. The Singapore voice for transit passage in the Malacca Straits was led by the then Foreign Minister, the late S Rajaratnam. Others included S Jayakumar '63 (now Deputy Prime Minister) and Chao Hick Tin (now Attorney-General). My book Straits in International Navigation: Contemporary Issues was published by Kluver in 1982.

In 1992, my passion turned to environmental law after the United Nations Conference in Environment and Development (Earth Summit) at Rio de Janeiro... Lye Lin Heng's '73 essay in this Festschrift, "Capacity Building in Environmental Law – The Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law" (APCEL) traces APCEL's response to the call in Agenda 21 (an outcome of UNCED) to build capacity in environmental law. There is much research to be done in this relatively new field...

...This Festschrift is a celebration of faculty members’ and graduates’ writings which have in no small measure contributed to a legal renaissance not only in Singapore but the region and in the international arena.

Professor Tan Sook Yee

The rewards of an academic life, as we all know, lie not in money. But one does feel gratified, vindicated when one’s views of the law published in articles or books are cited or quoted... As I see it now, the best reward of an academic’s life is when a student says how much she enjoys one’s class or how she

for over 41 years... I was asked to teach Courts Legislation and Precedent and then also Torts. Soon Equity was added. I learned as I muddled along just a step ahead of my students, some of whom were older than I was. Then I was asked to take charge of Land Law. So it was an arranged marriage all along of the good old fashioned kind – no preview – certainly no trial marriage. But as with arranged marriages – one just got on with it and in the course of time with study and understanding came the respect, admiration and affectionate attachment.

I respected the solidity of land law and its pragmatic logic, seen in the tension between rights of present owners and those of the future, and between the interests of the collective, the state and the individual. The need for clarity and certainty on the one hand, and the equal need for flexibility on the other have also to be finely calibrated.

I also admired the principled flexibility of Equity, softening the hard edges of the common law and statute law. The interplay between certainty and flexibility so as to respond to the foibles of human nature, the personal need for privacy and the public need for publicity, transparency, pervade both the subjects Land law and Equity and Trusts... I hope that I have in a small way passed along to my students a bit of the excitement and enthusiasm that I felt.

As for administration, I also started from the very bottom viz organizing the ‘coffee club’ – I was the purveyor of the coffee and milo (for Tan Lee Meng ’72) and biscuits way back in Bukit Timah days (the first time around). When duty called I assumed more administrative duties and became Vice-Dean under the deanship of now DPM Jayakumar ’63. Finally there was no choice and when I had to take on the office of Dean, I did so with much trepidation. But with the help in one way or another of my vice deans and subdeans – Philip Pillai ’71, Chin Tet Yung, Tan Lee Meng ’72, Stanley Yeo ’76, Kim Seah ’77 and administrative staff... and the encouragement and support of Faculty colleagues and the University administration, we grew in numbers and in achievements...

It has been said that there is a time for everything and for me after 41 years it was time ‘to return to husband and home’. This brings me to tell you about the second step that I took in 1964.

On 31 October of that year, I married Tan Boon Teik. It is often said that behind every successful man is a woman. My version is that beside me all the time from 31 October 1964 are my husband and later my two children. I have to thank TBT, Pip and Sui Lin for allowing me ‘to do my thing’ and for their quiet solid support all the way...

I should like to quote from a Tang poem – “Deng Le You Yuan” by Li Shangyin: “Xi yang wu xian hao, Zhi shi jin huang hun.”

Freely translated in my own words: “Resplendent are the hues of sunset, softly fading with the dying light.”

Chan Sek Keong CJ
(from the Foreword)

Peter, Kheng Lian and Sook Yee are role models in the world of legal scholarship in Singapore, with no higher ambition than to study, teach and disseminate legal knowledge for the public good. The legal community in Singapore, especially the students who have studied under them, owe them a great debt of gratitude for their dedication.
Launch of NYU @ NUS Programme

Presentation by Dean of NYU School of Law
Richard L. Revesz, 16 May 2007

An Agenda for Reforming the Cost-Benefit Analysis of Environmental and Health and Safety Regulation. The book is an effort to rehabilitate cost-benefit analysis as a policy tool rather than an ideological weapon.

Cost-benefit analysis traditionally served as a tool to maximize the net benefits of regulation. Net benefits are calculated by subtracting the costs of a regulation - for example, compliance costs, job losses and reduced consumer well-being due to price increases - from its benefits - such as lives saved, disease and disability averted, visibility improved, and employment and recreational opportunities created. From the late 1970s and early 1980s however, it came to be dominated by anti-regulatory interests and rejected by those seeking greater government intervention.

The meeting took place at NUS Faculty of Law on 16 May 2007, chaired by Professor Koh Kheng Lian ’61 of the NUS Faculty of Law, and with Professor Euston Quah, Head of Economics at NTU, serving as discussant.

In a move that will transform the very concept of global legal education, New York University School of Law (NYU) and the National University of Singapore’s (NUS) Faculty of Law have launched a dual degree programme in Asia’s commercial and legal hub, Singapore.

Entitled NYU@NUS, the programme allows students from around the world to experience two educational universes, earning Master of Laws (LL.M.) degrees from both a leading U.S. institution and a leading Asian law school.

The formal launch took place on Wednesday 16 May 2007, at the residence of the Ambassador of the United States to the Republic of Singapore, the Honorable Patricia L. Herbold, who hosted the event together with the deans of the two law schools.

The first cohort of students, who began studies earlier in May, was drawn from twenty-three countries across six continents. This included students from Chile and China to Rwanda and the Russian Federation. All have basic law degrees and many have significant work experience.

The NYU degree offered is the LL.M. in Law and the Global Economy. Students may choose an optional concentration in either U.S. and Asian Business and Trade Law or Justice and Human Rights. To ensure a rich range of choices, twenty members of NYU’s faculty taught in Singapore, offering intensive courses over a “Summer Term” from May to August and during the regular NUS semester which began in August.

Students enrolled in the NYU@NUS programme also took courses towards the NUS LL.M. degree and could choose to focus their studies on one of five specialisations such as Asian Law or Intellectual Property and Technology Law. Their new qualifications and global experience will make them particularly attractive to employers with a presence or interest in Asia.

Up to fifty scholarships are available for each of the first four years of the programme.

Contributed by Associate Professor Simon Chesterman (Director of the New York University School of Law Singapore Programme)

(From left to right): Professor Tan Cheng Han ’87 (Dean, Faculty of Law), Professor Shih Choon Fong (President, NUS), The Honorable Patricia L. Herbold (Ambassador of the United States to the Republic of Singapore), Professor Richard L. Revesz (Dean of the New York University School of Law), Associate Professor Simon Chesterman (Director of the New York University School of Law Singapore Programme)
Andrew James Harding
Professor Andrew James Harding is Professor of Asia-Pacific Legal Relations at the Faculty of Law of the University of Victoria and a member of the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives. He is a former Head of Department and Professor of Law at the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London, and Chair of the SOAS Centre of South East Asian Studies. He returned to the Faculty to teach Law, Governance and Development in Asia.

Dang Xuan Hop
Senior Fellow, Dang Xuan Hop, has an LLB from Vietnam as well as an LLB from Bond University and an LLM from Melbourne. He is currently a doctoral candidate at Oxford University. Hop Dang has several years of experience in international commercial practice in Australia and Vietnam. He offered an intensive course, Foreign Investment Law in Vietnam.

Joseph Weiler
Professor Joseph Weiler is University Professor and Jean Monnet Chair at the NYU Law School. He is Chairman of the NYU Global Law School Program and Director of the Jean Monnet Center for International and Regional Economic Law & Justice. He is also an Honorary Professor at London University and University of Copenhagen. He writes on international law, the law of the European Union, and comparative constitutional law. Professor Weiler returned to the Faculty to teach an intensive course, World Trade Law.

Kurt Deketelaere
Professor Kurt Deketelaere is a Professor of Law in the Faculty of Law at the University of Leuven in Belgium. He is an expert on EC Energy Policy and Environmental Law and a member of the Brussels Bar. He has held visiting appointments at the University of Sydney and the University of Melbourne. He participated in a symposium on Climate Change at the Faculty of Law in August 2007 and taught Energy Law & Climate Change.

Bruce Chapman
Professor Bruce Chapman is a Professor of Law at the University of Toronto, where he teaches Tort Law and Rational and Social Choice Theory. He is an expert in tort law and economic analysis of law. He has held visiting appointments at, among others, Oxford, Yale, and ANU. Professor Chapman offered an intensive course on Topics in Law & Economics: Rational Social Choice & Law.

Franco Ferrari
Professor Franco Ferrari is currently a Professor of International Law at the Verona University School of Law in Italy. He was a Global Hauser Visiting Professor of Law at the New York University School of Law in 2005. Professor Ferrari taught two consecutive intensive courses, Comparative Law of Torts & Contracts and European Private International Law.

Kevin Gray
Professor Kevin Gray is a Professor of Law at the Faculty of Law at the University of Cambridge and Dean and Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. He is also a member of the Advisory Council of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London. Professor Gray has published widely on land law and property law. He returned to the Faculty of Law for two months to co-teach Principles of Property Law.

Lionel Bently
Professor Lionel Bently is the Herchel Smith Professor of Intellectual Property at the University of Cambridge. He is also the Director of the Centre of Intellectual Property and Information Law at the University of Cambridge and holds a Professorial position at Emmanuel College, Cambridge. He taught an intensive course, Topics in IP Law.
Ronald K. Noble

Professor Ronald K. Noble is a tenured Professor of Law at New York University School of Law, on leave of absence while serving as Interpol’s Secretary General. He was elected Secretary General by the 69th Interpol General Assembly in Rhodes, Greece, in 2000, and was unanimously reelected to a second five-year term by the 74th Interpol General Assembly in Berlin, Germany in 2005. Professor Noble co-taught International Police Enforcement Cooperation with Professor Martha.

Stephen Girvin

Professor Stephen Girvin is a Professor of Maritime Law at the School of Law of the University of Birmingham. He is an expert in maritime law and company law. Professor Girvin joined Birmingham in January 2006 after two years as an Associate Professor at NUS. He remains a regular visitor to NUS. He co-taught two intensive courses, Admiralty Law & Practice and Carriage of Goods by Sea and he is the MPA Professor in Maritime Law to the Faculty.

Zhu Lanye

Professor Zhu Lanye is a Professor of Law at East China University of Politics and Law (ECUPL) in Shanghai and an arbitrator with the China International Economic & Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETAC). She is an expert in intellectual property law and returned to NUS to teach Chinese Intellectual Property Law on an intensive basis.

Rutsel Martha

Dr. Rutsel Martha, currently General Counsel at the International Criminal Police Organization in France, and an adjunct Professor of Law at the Washington College of Law (American University, Washington, DC) from 1988 to 1989, co-taught International Police Enforcement Cooperation with Professor Noble.

Ziba Mir-Hosseini

Professor Ziba Mir-Hosseini is a Hauser Visiting Professor for the Global Law Program at the NYU Law School. She is a legal anthropologist with interests in Islamic Law, women’s rights and legal development. She also has extensive research and consultancy experience in Iran, Morocco, Malaysia, and Indonesia. She taught two intensive courses, Islamic Law and Human Rights and Legal Anthropology: How Culture Shapes Law.
WELCOMING OUR NEWEST FACULTY MEMBERS

The Faculty of Law warmly welcomes Ms Cheah Wuiling ‘03 who joined us as an Assistant Professor and Ms Jaclyn Neo Ling Chien ‘03 who joined us as a Teaching Assistant in August 2007. Wuiling and Jaclyn are currently doing their LLM at Harvard University and Yale University respectively. The Faculty also welcomes Ms Jean Ho ‘03 who joined us as a lecturer in November 2007.

APPOINTMENTS

Professor Jeffrey Pinsler was appointed as a District Judge of the Subordinate Courts in August 2007. Professor Pinsler will hear appeals from the decisions of Deputy Registrars in interlocutory matters (in civil cases), including applications for summary judgment, to strike out an action or pleading, the setting aside of a judgment or order, discovery and other interim remedies and reliefs. Professor Jeffrey Pinsler was also appointed as a Senior Counsel at the opening of the Legal Year 2008.

Professor Jeffrey Pinsler’s latest publication (written for the Singapore Academy of Law) is entitled Ethics and Professional Responsibility: A Code for the Advocate and Solicitor.

In November 2007, Professor Andrew Simester was elected to a fellowship at Cambridge University’s Wolfson College. He was elected in recognition of his expertise in criminal law doctrine and his outstanding contributions in recent years to the philosophy of criminal law. Those latter contributions included analyses of the boundaries of criminal intent, criminal negligence, liability for omissions, and the criteria for criminalizing harmful or offensive conduct.

When he is in Cambridge, Professor Simester will also be conducting research at the Centre for Penal Theory and Penal Ethics at the Institute of Criminology, of which he is Senior Research Fellow and an active participant.

Dean Professor Tan Cheng Han SC ‘87 has been appointed to the Steering Committee for the Review of the Companies Act. He has also been appointed to the Board of Yellow Pages (Singapore) Limited.

Associate Professor Kumaralingam Amirthalingam was appointed to the International Review and Assessment Committee for the College of Law at Sultan Qaboos University (SQU), Oman in November 2007. The Committee’s task was to review the SQU College of Law in order to make recommendations to transform the college so it could meet the contemporary needs of Oman as an integral player in the global economy. Amongst other things, the Committee made recommendations on governance and human resource issues as well as curriculum design, which geared towards a more international legal education.

Associate Professor Chan Wing Cheong was re-appointed to the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports’ Elder Protection Team.

Associate Professor Simon Tay ‘86 was appointed the new Editor-in-Chief of the Singapore Year Book of International Law (SYBL). Associate Professor Tay also served as a speaker at the International Bar Association Annual meeting held in Singapore in October 2007.

Assistant Professor Yvonne Lee ‘96 has been appointed as a member of the Films Consultative Panel.

CONGRATULATIONS

In July 2007, The Institute of International Banking Law & Practice dedicated the volume of The Annual Survey of Letter of Credit Law & Practice to Emeritus Professor Peter Ellinger in honour of his lifetime of scholarship and teaching on commercial transactions in general and letters of credit in particular.

Professor Teo Keang Sood was awarded the Public Service Medal during National Day 2007 for his work with the Singapore Academy of Law, in particular his editorship of the publication entitled Annual Review of Singapore Cases 2000-2006 which has enriched the corpus of Singapore law. Under his editorship, this publication has grown in strength from an initial fifteen chapters in the inaugural First Volume in 2000 to twenty-two chapters in the latest Seventh Volume in 2006.

Professor Teo attributed the success of the Annual Review of Singapore Cases to teamwork. As he said, “This award is truly on behalf, and in recognition, of all contributors, members of the excellent editorial team and that of the Publications Committee of the Singapore Academy of Law who worked tirelessly to make the Annual Review a success.”

Associate Professor Robert Beckman was awarded the Public Administration Medal (Bronze) in August 2007 for his contributions to the Faculty of Law as Vice-Dean (Academic Affairs). During his Vice-Deanship from 2001 to May 2006, Professor Beckman chaired the Academic Affairs Review Committee that reviewed the core curriculum and made important recommendations that led to the Legal Analysis Writing and Research programme and the introduction of three new perspective courses - Introduction to Legal Theory, Singapore Legal System, and Comparative Legal Tradition.

In November 2007, Assistant Professor Helena Whalen-Bridge LLM ‘02, Deputy Director of the Faculty’s Legal Skills Programme, was recognised as a “Friend of the Law Society” for her work with the Law Society’s Project Law Help, an organisation that matches non-profit charitable organisations with legal needs with attorneys willing to assist them in pro bono work. Helena has been a member of the Project Law Help Committee since the project was launched in January 2006. The Council of the Law Society presents “Friend of the Law Society” awards to non-members of the Law Society who during the course of the year made significant contributions to the Society’s activities.

The NUS Faculty of Law congratulates Assistant Professor Tan Seow Hon ‘97 on being awarded the Annual Teaching Excellence Award for 2006-2007.

Assistant Professor Michael Ewing Chow ‘95 was awarded the Social Entrepreneur of the Year award for his
work spearheading the launch of both aidha (a non-profit, educational organisation dedicated to ’enriching lives through financial education’) and UNIFEM’s Migrant Workers Program.

Professor Leong Wai Kum’s latest book Elements of Family Law in Singapore (Singapore, LexisNexis) was published on 25 October 2007. Since her 1997 text book Principles of Family Law in Singapore (Singapore, Butterworths Asia), although there has not been any major reform, there were significant developments in the family law. The Court of Appeal continued to lay down interpretations of the law particularly in guardianship and custody, the division of matrimonial assets and the maintenance of a former wife. Developments outside Singapore, in international conventions and the domestic laws of other countries, should be studied if the law here were to keep pace and not become insular. All judgments including those of the Family Court are now accessible online through LawNet2 so that the family law in Singapore has ‘grown’ exponentially in terms of what forms required research. This book has been written as a fairly complete guide through the current family law in Singapore. In the massive chapter on division of matrimonial assets Professor Leong has discussed the rules, principles and significant decisions of both the superior courts and the subordinate Family Court.

Professor Stanley Yeo ’76, Associate Professor Chan Wing Cheong and visiting professor Dr Neil Morgan published a book entitled Criminal Law in Malaysia and Singapore (LexisNexis, 2007) which comprises a detailed examination of the general principles of criminal responsibility in Malaysia and Singapore, analysed with a view to assisting the application of the law, and to advocate law reform. The book also covers the major offences against the person and property to illustrate the operation of the general principles by considering cases heard in Malaysia, Singapore and India and certain common law jurisdictions which shed light on the law.

The publication of the 3rd edition of Simester and Sullivan, Criminal Law: Theory and Doctrine by Professor Andrew Simester, has established it as a leading criminal law textbook in the UK and internationally (cited, for example, by the High Court of Australia as well as the House of Lords). See http://www.hartpub.co.uk/books/details.asp?isbn=9781841137056

The book entitled Land Law in Malaysia by Professor Teo Keang Sood was cited with approval by the Malaysian Federal Court in Robert Lee @ Robert Seet & Anor v Wong Ah Yap & Anor [2007] 4 MLJ 393 at [32] and [34] and by the High Court in EON Bank Bhd v Gandarama Sdn Bhd [2007] 4 MLJ 247 at [50].


Law of Insurance by Associate Professor Poh Chu Chai ’73 was cited by the Malaysian Court of Appeal in Kementerian Pertahanan Malaysia & Anor. v. Malaysian International Shipping Corp Bhd. & Ors. [2007] 5 M.L.J. 393.

Law of Pledges, Guarantees and Letters of Credit by Associate Professor Poh Chu Chai ’73 was cited by the Malaysian Court of Appeal in MBF Insurans Sdn. Bhd. v. Lembaga Penyataan & Pemulihan (Unreported, Mahkamah Rayuan Sivil No. W-04-100-2005, Judgment dated August 9, 2007).

Associate Professor Chan Wing Cheong served as editor, writing a book entitled Support for Victims of Crime in Asia (Routledge, 2008).


CORRIGENDUM – Reference is made to LawLink Vol. 06 Issue 01, Jan-Jun 2007, Faculty Update on page 30. The sentence should read “At the National Day Awards 2006, Professor Jeffrey Pinsler was awarded the Public Service Medal (PBM) for his work as a member of the Criminal Law Advisory Committee”.

LawLink 33
I wondered on the flight to Brisbane: Would the three-week internship programme turn out to be one of those drudgerous coffee-making and photostating affairs? Would I be able to work effectively with Australian law and adapt to the foreign work culture?

On the first day of our internship programme, we were greeted by the ebullient Miss Tanya Hughes, the office manager of Sparke Helmore Lawyers, Brisbane. As she gave a briefing on the organization of the law firm, what immediately impressed was the way different offices of the firm in various states of Australia functioned as one cohesive entity and the strong support network provided to all employees of the firm.

My fellow intern Si Xuan and I were posted to different departments. I worked with the Property, Development and Finance Group, while Si Xuan worked with the Environmental Protection Group. From day one, I was assigned to do research on the rights of a tenant under the Queensland Residential Tenancies Act. It was an eye-opener researching Queensland legislation and putting to use all the technical skills acquired through LAWR. I was progressively involved in other property development matters from constructing property development timelines to working on purchases under the Community Titles Scheme of Queensland.

We also had the opportunity to observe how a jury trial was conducted. The differing scope of work between the solicitors and barristers seemed difficult to grasp initially. Admittedly the practice of barristers and judges wearing ceremonial wigs took some getting used to. We also had the opportunity to attend a call over hearing at the Brisbane Community Court and went for a tour of the Federal and Magistrates Courts. Amidst the regular hum drum of work, we attended several social functions organized by the firm, such as the regular Friday night interaction sessions.

It was not all work and no play for us. The weekends were eagerly awaited as they gave us the opportunity to do some traveling and sightseeing - from skydiving off an airplane at 14,000 feet to swimming in the turquoise blue waters off the Gold Coast; from watching in amazement at the sight of whales and dolphins frolicking in the Pacific Ocean to trying out high-speed high-adrenaline rides at Dreamworld – we had endless hours of fun enjoying all the sights, sounds and tastes that Brisbane had to offer.

What initially seemed like a long time, passed by in a blink of an eye. Before we knew it, we were on the flight back to Singapore. As I reminisced about my overseas internship experience, I felt fortunate to have been given this amazing learning opportunity. We not only had a taste of Australian legal practice and work culture, but more importantly had the opportunity to mingle with top Australian lawyers and learn from their work experience and expertise. I have no doubt that in this age of globalization and expanding regional practices, the skills and exposure gained through the overseas internship programme would certainly hold us in good stead in our career.

Contributed by Saifuddin B Fakhruddin ’08

LawLink: For more than ten years, the NUS Faculty of Law and the University of Queensland’s T.C. Beirne School of Law (UQ) have run the highly successful NUS - UQ Vacation Internship Programme. Each year, a selected number of NUS law students are given the opportunity to work between two weeks to one month as interns at reputable Australian law firms.

It is envisaged that this overseas internship will provide NUS law students with valuable experiences gained from working in a foreign legal system and the unique opportunity to gain insights into how top Australian law firms work.
Madrid in General
The Spanish experience was nothing short of amazing. Mention Madrid - and visions of a bustling city, beautiful architecture and tapas and sangria-filled nights immediately come to mind. Here is a city where her people speak more rapidly than Singaporeans (albeit in Spanish, of course), a city which welcomes visitors with much enthusiasm and gusto (even if they do not speak her language), a city of hidden treasures and secrets which await the intrepid explorer (or in our case, foolhardy exchange students). Madrid is fascinating. She has everything to offer even the most discerning visitor. From awe-inspiring cathedrals and opulent palaces to bustling Sunday street markets, from elaborate sit-down meals to tapas in standing-room only bars, from lazy afternoons spent in the city park to non-stop shopping along one of Madrid’s many shopping streets - our time spent in Madrid was extremely fulfilling and it was truly an experience that we will always hold dear to our hearts.

Priscilla Lua ’09 and Elizabeth Wu ’09 share their Exchange Experience in Madrid, Spain

Studying in Madrid
One of the great benefits of studying at the Instituto de Empresa is its emphasis on all business elements of international legal practice to better meet the needs of the corporate client, in line with its excellent MBA program. We had the unique privilege of studying MBA-type modules such as economics, financial management and strategic management to augment our understanding of law courses including international contracts, international trade law and international intellectual property law. Furthermore, as the course at the Instituto de Empresa is a Master’s course, our peers were all graduates coming from diverse backgrounds such as corporate lawyers, arbitrators, public prosecutors, entrepreneurs and former employees of international human rights organisations. It was eye-opening to be exposed to such a wealth of working experience and to learn about the legal regimes of different countries. Even though we were all from dissimilar cultures and backgrounds, the warm and welcoming nature of our peers helped to ease any homesick pangs and made us feel at home in Madrid.

LawLink: The Student Exchange Programme enables NUS law students to spend either one or both semesters of their third year in one of the leading law schools. Students in the double degree and concurrent degree programmes also have the opportunity to spend one semester on exchange of their upper years in one of the many partner universities NUS has. For more information on student exchange programme, please visit: http://law.nus.edu.sg/current/sep.htm.
Michael Ewing Chow ’95, aidha’s vice president, and UNIFEM Singapore’s honorary secretary was recognized as the “Social Entrepreneur of the Year” for his work spearheading the launch of both aidha and UNIFEM’s Migrant Workers Program. The award was presented at a gala ceremony hosted by NUS’ BINGO (Business Incubator for Global Business). BINGO is an international society promoting entrepreneurship, business networking, and business and cultural understanding. The society also works actively to champion social responsibility among entrepreneurs and to help the less privileged improve their lives and their families’ lives through entrepreneurship.

In receiving the award, Michael noted that “Singapore has been blessed by the number of foreign workers who come here to build our homes and take care of our families. It is only right that we should contribute to their success by providing them with education and empowerment during their time here, so they can build their own dreams and futures.”

Assistant Professor Ewing-Chow specializes in corporate law and world trade law. He worked in the corporate department of Allen & Gledhill before joining the Faculty of Law at NUS. He has a First Class Honors degree from the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore and a Masters from Harvard Law School. He has been a consultant to the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Finance and the World Bank. He has been involved in negotiations for Singapore’s free trade agreements and has been involved in trade law training of government officials in Asia and Latin America. He has also assisted the Company Law Reform and Frameworks Committee which was tasked with the recent major corporate law reform in Singapore. He has written and published articles on various topics such as corporate governance, trade law and investment law. He also volunteers his time with various non-governmental organizations’ such as aidha and the United Nations Development Fund for Women, Singapore.

When asked to comment on Assistant Professor Ewing-Chow’s award, Dr. Sarah Mavrinac, aidha’s president, noted that “Michael has been a tremendous force in aidha’s growth and development. We are enormously proud of Michael’s award and congratulate him heartily for this well-deserved recognition. We are honored to have his leadership at aidha.”

Bryan Tan ’96, director of Keystone Law Corporation, shared his thoughts on winning the “Best Entrepreneur Award”. Bryan has led the firm to be ranked as a leading Singapore firm in the fields of IT and Intellectual Property.

“I was pleasantly surprised to have received this award - I had not prepared an acceptance speech, but I used my moot and advocacy training to deliver an impromptu one! Lawyers are called many things but entrepreneur is not one of the more common ones. However, the practice of law is also a business, as it seeks to deliver services to meet the needs of clients. Understanding what the client wants, knowing the market and delivering the service are all concepts from the business world that law firms can easily identify with. But the law is more than that - it is a calling - to provide legal representation in upholding the rule of law as officers of the court.

I am blessed to have a dedicated and like-minded team at Keystone. We believe in building upon our strength in IT and telecommunications law into other areas of law. We also believe in giving back to the fraternity and have announced our support for the establishment of book prizes for students of the NUS IT Law courses.

I had previously only practised in large law firms and I remember the time taken by many of the senior partners of such firms in sharing with me, as a young lawyer, their vast experience. I hope that I remember those lessons and have applied them wisely.”
Some 20 members of the LLB Class of ’73, gathered in Penang for 3rd to 5th November 2007. The event was a spontaneous follow-up from the Faculty of Law’s 50th Anniversary Gala Dinner. Some flew in from the United States (Monica Hendroff-Skelchy and Savita Mansukhani), others from Australia (Chai Loy and Choong Yee Wah). Those from Singapore included Jeffery Chan, Chua Siak Kim, Vivian Ho, Khoo Oon Soo, Irene Lye Lin Heng, Mirza Namazie, Albert Yeo Toon Mok, Tan Swee Choo, Alfred Tan Yew Seng, and Nellie Yang. Those from Malaysia included Philip Ong Liang Kui (who flew in from Sarawak), Satwant Kaur, Betty Chew Phaik Khim, Raman Sadacharam and Datuk SP Annamalai. Annamalai organised our accommodation - the new G Hotel along Gurney Drive and Yee Wah organised our reunion dinner.

This was a seafood buffet, held on 3rd November at the G Hotel. Copies of LawLink were distributed, together with address forms to update the Faculty’s records. A minute’s silence was observed for classmates who had passed away. They were: the late Saraswathy Menon & Alexis Chong (both of whom passed away in Sydney), Loke Poh Yoke and Teo Choo Hong (Singapore), and Salmah bte Abdul Rahman (who passed away in Kuala Lumpur). The rest of the evening was spent making music at a karaoke lounge in Gurney Plaza. The next day, the group toured Penang’s eating spots. Funds were raised for the Ramakrishna Ashrama (Orphanage) in Penang, of which Annamalai was Deputy President.

We parted company on Monday 5th November, planning to meet again in Sarawak in May 2008. Tragically, our memories were shattered when the very next evening, Annamalai was fatally stabbed while walking towards his car after work. A note in the Malaysian Bar website questions if his killing may have to do with a case he handled, involving the resettlement of squatters. See http://www.malaysianbar.org.my/content/view/12136/2/

Dear Annamalai was cremated on 9th November. Ever the keen intellect, he had been thinking of winding down his practice and doing an LLM in Australia. He was a kind and helpful soul, always calm, with a gentle smile. His loss has strengthened our resolve to treasure the friendships forged when we were in law school.
The Faculty of Law congratulates our law alumni Sundaresh Menon '86 and Hri Kumar '91 on being appointed as Senior Counsel at the opening of the Legal Year 2008.

Dr Chandra Kanagasabai '78 - I am currently a visiting fellow at the Institute of South East Asian Studies in Singapore.

Tan Siew Huay '80 is working at the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore and holding the post of Director (Legal) there.

Chiam Lu Lin '85 is currently with the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore.

Dr Uma Suthersanen '87 - Just received my first LawLink magazine and felt quite nostalgic - must be the 40's. Briefly, having completed my LLB at NUS, I did a 2-3 year stint at law firms in Singapore before realising that I was a disaster in practice. So I headed off in 1990 to Queen Mary, University of London for my Masters and PhD. And never left academe! Or London where I live with my partner and son in Islington. Do drop a line if you are around London. My email/telephone details are available at: http://www.law.qmul.ac.uk/people/academic/suthersanen.html.

Chung Ting Fai '89 - I attended the month-long Inaugural China Asean Legal Training Course at the China Asia Legal Training Base which is in Guangxi Universities of Nationalities Nanning China organized by the China Law Society in August 2007. The course was attended by lawyers and judges of all Asean member states.

Ang Chin Peng '92 - I have been with the firm Ang & Lee for the last 14 years. There are 3 partners in the firm. I am married with 1 daughter and 1 son. We went for the A380 ride in December 2007.

Chang Mong Theng Judy '92 wrote that she had recently obtained a Masters in Art Administration.

Elvin Wan '92 - Having done 8 years in Hong Kong, I have been back in Singapore for nearly 5 years now. The family has also expanded and I now have 2 lovely princesses (a 5 year old and a 2 year old).

Warmest Congratulations to Goh Mia Yang '92 on her promotion to Associate Dean of the Faculty of Law National University of Singapore with effect from 1 September 2007.

Lai Pui Ming '92 is a legal counsel with Pramerica Real Estate Investors (Asia) Pte Ltd and is married with 2 children.

Lee Kay Tuan, David '92 - I have been with a property and investment holding company for the last 6 years, having left the comforts of legal practice since December 2001.

Mohan Subbaraman '92 - I’m currently practicing in Gurbani & Co, a boutique firm that does mainly maritime law related work. I’m probably a fairly rare breed in that I’ve been here since pupillage (almost 16 years ago!). I’m happily married and have 2 sons.

Phuah Kok Liang Marcus LLB '92 / LLM '95 - It was great catching up with our class of '92 on Friday 2 November 2007. Looking forward to our next gathering - it keeps me young!
Chay Wei-Min Karen Mary ’93 - I am currently with the in-house legal department of a bank, managing the negotiation and documentation of its derivatives business. My husband, Kai, has just finished his JD. On top of work and studies, we have our hands full taking care of our sons, 2-year-old Aidan and 8-week-old Anselm, making sure they do not get into too many scrapes. Life has been busy but interesting and fulfilling! Cheers, Karen.

Jack Tsen-Ta Lee ’95 has begun the third year of his PhD in Law at the University of Birmingham in the West Midlands, UK. He said, “The toughest part of doing a PhD is being disciplined. Now that it’s the summer vacation, I’m trying to get as much work done as possible, as I will begin teaching first-year undergraduates again as part of my duties as a Postgraduate Teaching Assistant when the new semester begins in October 2007.”

Low Suk Ling ’95 - I am with Manulife Financial as their Chief Legal Officer for South East Asia.

Leong Chi-Keong (Danny) ’96 - After testing the waters in several diverse career paths, Danny Leong ’96 and Avalyn Lim ’97 (formerly Lim Bee Hong) have settled down into a life of comparative stability. Danny now runs his own film and video production company Intuitive Films, while Avalyn is Business Services Director in a branding and communications company. Their three-year old son Adan keeps them both busy after hours with repeated screenings of his favourite cartoons, Lego and non-stop questions.

Miao Miao DipSing ’03 - I am now in Shanghai, working for Shearman & Sterling’s Shanghai office. My main focus is on China related project development and finance deals.

Michael James Bowes Exc ’04

I am a double alumnus of the NUS, having studied in the Faculty of Law in Semester 2 of Academic Year 2002/2003 as the first ever law exchange student from Scotland and I returned in 2004 for Universitas 21. I am passionate about Singapore and its people. I have become a terrible bore telling all of my British friends how fantastic Singapore is and how other countries should be modelled on the success of Singapore.

While studying both English and Scots Law simultaneously, I managed to accomplish several business awards in a short space of time with my business Bowes Enterprises. I also invented a product ‘Barhand’ – I was nominated for the UK National Business Plan Competition, where I emerged as the winner – UK Entrepreneur of the Year.

‘Barhand’ - The robotic arm of Barhand is one of its main features. This robotic arm, which is built into the machine, lifts the drink from the shelf of the vending machine and gently brings the bottle from the shelf with its ‘Barhand’ to ‘your hand’ without spillage whatsoever.

This product is a completely new concept and will surely dramatically change bars, clubs and hotels across Europe and beyond.

Bowes Enterprises is expanding into new markets and devising new products. The hotel market is reacting very positively towards the machine as it gives them the opportunity to reduce costs as well as the need for costly minibars. The Barhand is now also being introduced into many clubs and bars across the UK.

With pubbing and clubbing worth an estimated 19 billion pounds per year – this market is huge!

The next new challenge is internet based – so if you are accomplished in this field and wish to make some ‘wonga’ (as we say) feel free to pop me a line – info@barhand.com

Michael’s Business Achievements:

- British Business Man of the Year 2005 - 2006 as voted by the British Institute for Enterprise.
- Scottish Student Businessman of the Year 2005 - 2006
- Glasgow University Businessman of the Year 2005 - 2006
- Voted as the Director of the Month January 2006 by the British Institute of Directors
- Runner Up Alumni of The Year Glasgow University 2006

Jeong Chun Phuoc LLM ’05 currently in the employ of Ypmp Law Corporation, Singapore (Advocates & Solicitors, Notary Public).

Pradeep Bansal LLM ’05 - I am currently working as a Senior Consultant in a Singapore / India based software development firm.

Lee Kwok Ting Exchange ’07 - After finishing a hectic and somewhat packed schedule of classes and fun at NUS in the fall of 2007, I recharged my batteries (and soaked up what little tropical sun there is) in Malaysia and flew off to wintry Switzerland to join a private equity firm as a financial analyst in their compliance division.
Alumni are the essence of a great university. Without our alumni, a university will be just a collage of buildings without soul and form. As one of our alumni, you belong to a community of over 186,000 NUS alumni in Singapore and around the world. Keeping in touch with your alma mater and fellow alumni can enrich your lives both personally and professionally. NUS President Professor Shih, in sharing NUS’ vision of greatness with students, faculty, alumni and the broader community, mentioned the pivotal role of alumni in advancing our aspirations and upholding our good name. He fervently urged all alumni to stay connected with the University, even as they venture into new territory.

NUS Alumni Office reaches out to NUS alumni through a variety of innovative channels, services and activities that cater to your changing needs. NUS Alumni Office understands that most alumni feel a greater sense of loyalty to their faculties/schools or halls of residence and therefore, collaborates with faculties, schools and halls of residence to cultivate meaningful and lasting relations with the alumni.

Collaboration with Faculty of Law
NUS Alumni Office works closely with the Faculty of Law on maintaining close ties with the law alumni. To facilitate bond-building with the law alumni, Associate Director Ms Joyce Khoo has been appointed to oversee alumni relations. She is contactable at email: joyceckhoo@nus.edu.sg.

There are presently a total of 17 alumni groups under the Associate Directors Scheme, which includes different faculties, schools and halls of residence. To effectively maintain ties with an alumni population that will double in the next decade, NUS Alumni Office will continue to work closely with the Associate Directors to build strong alumni support.

Alumni Services and Privileges
Did you know that as an NUS alumnus, you are entitled to a host of exclusive services and privileges? The NUS Alumni Office actively seeks out collaborations and partnerships with external organisations, in order to deliver value to our alumni and to enhance the overall alumni experience.

The AlumNUS Card
Tailored exclusively for all NUS graduates, the complimentary AlumNUS card will be presented to you once you sign up with us. As an NUS alumnus, you can enjoy complimentary access to our business and recreation facilities and the NUS library, and various discounts from participating merchants. You can also be part of the Alumni e-Community network to connect, communicate and exchange information with fellow alumni globally.

For more information and to download the application form, please visit: https://www.alumni.nus.edu.sg/alumNET/alumnuscard.jsp

Bank Affinity Cards Programme
NUS Alumni Office partners with DBS Bank and Standard Chartered Bank to offer alumni exclusive debit and credit card privileges. NUS Alumni Office believes in cultivating a culture of “giving back to the alma mater and society”. Thus, a percentage of every purchase made on the debit and credit cards will be channeled to various student financial aid programmes.

For more information and to download the credit/debit card application forms, please visit: https://www.alumni.nus.edu.sg/alumNET/creditcard.jsp

NUS Alumni Office has made excellent strides in 2007. We will continue to seek out new collaborative opportunities in 2008 to better serve our alumni and to further enhance the connectivity between our alumni and the alma mater. So stay connected with us at www.alumni.nus.edu.sg!
ASLI
Asian Law Institute

5TH ASIAN LAW INSTITUTE
CONFERENCE
Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore
22 & 23 May 2008

The Asian Law Institute (ASLI) is pleased to announce its 5th Annual Conference, which will be hosted by the Faculty of Law of the National University of Singapore (NUS) on 22nd and 23rd May 2008.

ASLI welcomes legal scholars, both from ASLI founding institutions as well as other institutions within and outside Asia, to attend and present papers at its annual conference. The conference is open to all, whether or not they present a paper. The conference provides excellent opportunities for scholars in Asian law to meet and exchange ideas and to form closer working and personal relationships.

This conference will in one sense represent a return to ASLI’s roots, given that NUS was the venue for the Inaugural ASLI Conference in 2004. In another sense, however, the conference will offer a new experience, since the Law Faculty moved in 2008 from the main Kent Ridge Campus to its current premises in beautiful old buildings set amidst the tropical vegetation of the Singapore Botanic Gardens. This site, which was the home of the original University of Singapore, is of great historical significance to NUS. The Law Faculty therefore looks forward to welcoming delegates to its ‘new’ old home.

More information about ASLI and the conference (including the registration form) can be found on http://law.nus.edu.sg/asli/. Enquiries may be directed to Ms Siah at email: asliconference@nus.edu.sg or tel: 6516 7499.

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW
2008 / 2009 (8TH INTAKE)

The Graduate Certificate in Intellectual Property Law (GCIP)

Jointly organised by the IP Academy (Singapore) and the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore.

The Graduate Certificate in Intellectual Property Law is a foundation law course suitable for those training to become registered patent agents in Singapore. Successful completion of this certification course is one of the pre-requisites for admission onto the register of patent agents in Singapore.

This basic foundation course in IP is also suitable for those who wish to train as in-house IP advisors, IP-portfolio managers and licensing / technology transfer executives.

Courses commencing in August 2008.
For more information, please visit our website:
www.ipacademy.com.sg
or contact Shuh Ling at 6232 9815 / low_shuh_ling@ipacademy.com.sg
Bukit Timah Campus

from a different perspective