Greetings fellow alumni, supporters, colleagues and friends,

This is the fifth and final issue of LawLink that I have edited since I became the Law Alumni Director three years ago. I hope you have enjoyed reading LawLink, as much as my lean team of two enjoyed producing it time and again.

I am going to take a year of sabbatical from end-February 2010 to accompany my twin daughters Heather Jane and Laura Jean through a challenging school examination year. The several alumnus with whom I have shared my thoughts have applauded my priority in life. You see, for more than 20 years after my graduation from NUS, admission to the Singapore bar and obtaining my LLM, I have had a fulfilling career first in legal practice in Singapore and London, then as an in-house legal counsel and group company secretary for three large groups of companies respectively, and at my alma mater. Now, I realise how much I care to contribute some meaningful influence on my children at a crucial period of their lives.

I must say I have certainly enjoyed and continue to appreciate your friendship and support. I think the best thing I brought to this job was the network of law and business connections that I had previously known. My strategy has simply been to build bridges to strengthen bonds. In every project that I have managed, usually the initial contact is made to a helpful alumnus or alumna. In these three years, some 50 alumni-related events have been organised; ranging from smaller gatherings of 10-20 visitors to campus, 11 class reunions and other lunch/dinner events with 50-100 guests, the annual Collegiate Dinner with around 280-300 attendees, to larger-scale celebrations including the Official Opening of Bukit Timah Campus and the Appreciation Dinner for the Benefactors of the NUS Faculty of Law.

I am so grateful that you have been willing to participate and contribute or open doors to the appropriate parties in your organization. With your interest, we have continued to develop our local and overseas internship programmes from strength to strength, to the present 70 internship positions in our database and not even counting the many internship places offered to our students who apply directly to our alumni in law firms.

Donations in excess of $3 million have been made to the Faculty of Law during the 3-year period from January 2007 to date 090909. This is triple the amount of the previous 3-year period 2004-2006. From your generous donations, 20 new subject prizes, scholarships, bursaries, grants, a fellowship and a student loan fund have been established.

It has also been a great honour to serve as the secretary to the Law Advisory Board since their appointment in February 2007, and secretary for the Faculty’s departmental meetings. I am fascinated to witness top brains dissect issues and make decisions. Chairman Professor Tommy Koh ’61, Dean Professor Tan Cheng Han SC ’87 and the other members of the Board (including their PAs), Deanery and Faculty have been absolutely wonderful and considerate to work closely with. May I add congratulations to our two Board members, Dr Philip Pillai ’71 and Mr Steven Chong SC ’82, on their appointments as Judicial Commissioners.

Finally, I would record my heartfelt appreciation to Associate Dean Goh Mia Yang ’92, the legal managers and colleagues in the Faculty, and peers in other NUS departments such as Development Office, Office of Alumni Relations, Office of Admissions, Office of Corporate Relations and NUS Career Centre, who have facilitated my work. Many thanks as well to the contributors of the various LawLink articles and Christopher W.B for his administrative support.

Happiness and good health to all!

Joyce Khoo-Phua ’85
Editor of LawLink
Associate Director
Alumni Relations and Development
LLB Hons (NUS), LLM (London)
Advocate & Solicitor, Singapore
Solicitor, England & Wales

LawLink - NUS Faculty of Law
469G Bukit Timah Road Eu Tong Sen Building Singapore 259776.
website : www.law.nus.edu.sg/alumni
We want to hear from you, please contact us at:
email : lawlink@nus.edu.sg • tel : (65) 6716 3616 • fax : (65) 6779 0979
Update your personal particulars at: www.law.nus.edu.sg/alumni/update_particulars.asp
Design & Produced by Brownsea Services (S) Pte Ltd

A word from the Editor

Reflections and Regards

G

Update your personal particulars at: www.law.nus.edu.sg/alumni/update_particulars.asp
This is the penultimate issue of LawLink before Dean Tan Cheng Han SC ’87 steps down and he has kindly invited us to offer our thoughts and reflections on the Faculty from the perspective of our fourth and final year as his Vice-Deans. It is our privilege to do so.

It has been a remarkable time to have been part of the Faculty administration. The practice of law is in a period of rapid transformation, with important challenges for legal education. Though we should hesitate before positing that “globalisation” represents something entirely new, the ease and frequency of transnational interactions among states, businesses, and individuals has created novel challenges for the practice of law, challenges that law schools must confront.

These challenges include: the ease and speed of telecommunication which facilitates (for many, though not all) trade and commerce around the world, creating, often unwittingly, complicated transnational legal relationships; the rapid ascent of the transnational law firm increasingly advising clients whose legal problems take them quickly beyond national borders; the emergence and empowerment of transnational regulatory and dispute resolution bodies whose relationship to domestic legal orders gives rise to complex jurisdictional questions and competing legal norms. Of course, many legal problems still remain decidedly domestic, but even then, litigation will not always be the best or the only answer to a dispute: mediation, conciliation, and arbitration are here to stay.

It is against this backdrop and in this rapidly changing legal environment that the NUS Faculty of Law has had to prepare its students (both undergraduate and postgraduate). What sorts of tools and skills will tomorrow’s lawyers need to confront the challenges of an evolving legal practice? This question has been front and centre for us in our respective offices, and we have responded to it by facilitating and supporting the following programmes and initiatives of our colleagues and the Faculty of Law as a whole.

First, students should understand the basic legal principles and method of their own legal system and legal tradition as a firm foundation from which to learn and appreciate the complexity of transnational law. We are proud that NUS has always emphasised the importance of a firm understanding of the principles of the common law in which Singapore’s legal system is firmly grounded and the bulk of our resources are dedicated to making our core curriculum, including torts, contracts, criminal law, property law, company law, equity and trusts, and public law as strong as they can be. At the same time, we appreciate the need to expose our students to other legal systems and traditions, and to the complex regimes of international and transnational law. We have done so not only in our core undergraduate and graduate programmes, through subjects such as Comparative Legal Traditions (in the LLB) and Common Law Legal System of Singapore (for civil law trained LLM students), but equally in a vast range of electives that invite students to examine such fields as International Commercial Arbitration, World Trade Law, Public International Law, Conflicts of Law, as well as Islamic Law and various aspects of Chinese, European Union, Indian, Indonesia, Japanese, and Vietnamese Law. At the same time, we have sought (with the assistance of our colleague Vice-Dean Amirthalingam Kumaralingam) to ensure that as many of our students as possible have the opportunity to spend a meaningful period of time abroad studying and experiencing other legal systems. In the past few years, these efforts have led to several important double and concurrent degree programmes with New York University Law School, and several more such programmes with other universities remain in the works.

Third, we have sought in our academic programmes to demonstrate to our students that law and legal education defy disciplinary boundaries. Law cannot be understood fully without an appreciation of its normative and theoretical dimensions and its social, political, historical, economic, and religious contexts. We have therefore sought to foster an environment in which these important contextual dimensions of the legal system can be examined, and to encourage a holistic approach to problem-solving, rather than one that is seen solely and exclusively through the lens of the law.

Public Policy are a testament to these efforts, as are our elective courses that employ a transdisciplinary approach to complex, multifaceted problems that might unhelpfully be regarded as strictly legal ones – from the sociological dimensions of family law to the economics of competition and intellectual property law. From the graduate programmes’ perspective, we have a dual LLM degree programme with NYU (dubbed NYU@NUS), a unique LLM in International Business Law that is taught in both Singapore and Shanghai, a Graduate Diploma in Maritime Law and Arbitration and new LLM programmes in Asian Legal Studies and Maritime Law.

Our tenure in the Dean’s Office has also witnessed a proliferation of research in the Faculty of Law on a vast range of domestic, regional, international, and comparative topics, employing a wide range of methodological approaches from doctrinal to theoretical, historical to empirical. The influence of the Faculty’s research output can be seen in the judgments of all levels of courts in Singapore and around the world and in the increasing reference to our colleagues’ research in leading journals and scholarly writing in Singapore and around the world.

It remains to be seen whether these responses will be sufficient. More can always be done. But if any credit is due, it is not due to us; in the half-century of the Faculty, our service has been short,
and we have merely built on the foundations of predecessors and facilitated the work our colleagues. Credit is due, however, to the extraordinary efforts of a dedicated team of professional administrators and support staff. These women and men are, in many respects, the unsung heroes of the Faculty and the true reasons for its successes. We are privileged to call them our colleagues. It has also been a distinct honour to have worked alongside Associate Dean Goh Mia Yang ’92, the pillar of the administration, and with Kumar, who joined us belatedly as a third Vice-Dean, bringing his professionalism and wit to the Dean’s Office.

Finally, a few words about our Dean as he enters the last stretch of his nine-year tour of duty. The nature of accountability is such that it is both unfairly harsh and unduly praiseworthy to a single person for the failures and successes of the collective. But a leader is one whom, when the minor successes and failures fade into history, an imprint is left on an institution that is distinctly his or her own. When the story is told of this period in the Faculty of Law’s history, the largest share of the credit for its response to the challenges of these times will be due to Tan Cheng Han.

Victor V. Ramraj
Vice-Dean (Academic Affairs)

Alan Tan Khee Jin ’93
Vice-Dean (Research and Graduate Studies)
A simple man with simple virtues. This was perhaps the most apt memory of the late legal practitioner, Mr M. Amaladass, known to his close friends as Dass, whose quiet dedication to the practice of Criminal Law touched a friend so deeply that an anonymous gift of $1 million was made to the NUS Faculty of Law to set up a fellowship to honour Dass’ name.

It was thus not surprising that the luncheon hosted by the Faculty on 22 May 2009 to officially launch the Amaladass Fellowship and to celebrate the appointment of the inaugural Amaladass Fellow, Associate Professor Chan Wing Cheong, remained a simple and dignified affair. It was a cozy gathering of Dass’ friends and members of the legal fraternity, family members who had travelled down from Malaysia to attend the event and faculty members.

Senior Counsel Mr Sant Singh and Mr Chelva Rajah of Tan Rajah & Cheah, as long-time personal friends of Dass, spoke about their warm relationships with Mr Amaladass and occasional chuckles were heard from the gathering as they recounted days spent with Dass in the police force and in the sporting arena, and how, as a police officer in early days, Dass had already acquired a commendable understanding of the nuances of Criminal Law.

Attorney-General Professor Walter Woon ’81 delivered a speech expressing his deep appreciation for the generosity of the donor and officially launched the Amaladass Fellowship with a symbolic presentation of a token to the Amaladass Fellow Associate Professor Chan Wing Cheong.

The event concluded with Associate Professor Chan delivering a short address lauding the creation of the Amaladass Fellowship and thanking the donor who so graciously donated the money in memory of a friend so close and dear.

Contributed by Lim Yu Hui ’11
The 6th ASLI Conference in Hong Kong

The 6th Asian Law Institute (ASLI) conference was held at the University of Hong Kong on 29 and 30 May 2009. It was attended by over 200 participants with over 120 papers presented. The conference theme was “Dynamics of Change in Asia” and there were six parallel sessions over five consecutive sessions. To provide greater coherence and continuity, each parallel session had its own subtheme: Session A (International Business Law), Session B (Human Rights, Constitutional and Administrative Law), Session C (International Law), Session D (Intellectual Property and Information Technology), Session E (Cross Border Issues) and Session F (Corporate Law and Governance). This resulted virtually in six thematic conferences running concurrently under the broad theme. Due to the competitive process that was introduced this year, the quality of papers was markedly better, and with fewer papers per panel and greater adherence to the themes, the general discussions that followed the presentations were lively and intellectually stimulating.

Participants at the conference were treated to three highly engaging and thought provoking speeches by specially invited guests. The conference was opened by the Honourable Secretary for Justice of Hong Kong, Mr Wong Yan Lung SC who gave an informative and thoughtful presentation on law and justice in Hong Kong and the region. The conference dinner was graced by the presence of Mr Martin Lee SC, the former Chairman of the Hong Kong Democratic Party who gave a passionate talk on the importance of democracy and the rule of law. At the end of the conference, a Distinguished Lecture was delivered by Dr Ramachandra Guha, an eminent historian and writer based in Bangalore, India who spoke on a topical issue “Democracy and Violence: In Asia and Beyond”. The lecture highlighted the importance of recognizing and respecting pluralism and argued that the failure to do so was often the cause of violent extremism by marginalised citizens.

Apart from the excellent papers and lectures, participants also had the benefit of an update on the Legal Information Institute project, which has been highly successful in making legal materials freely available over the internet. A special forum on research was also organized where participants discussed funding opportunities and potential collaborations. It is hoped that the ideas thrown up at the Research Forum will continue to be part of an online conversation amongst participants and will result in some concrete research projects.

Finally, it should be noted that the city of Hong Kong, after having several wet days prior to the conference, put up on some magnificent weather during the conference. The organisers at the University of Hong Kong had also put together a highly enjoyable social programme, including dinner at Café Deco on the Peak with its impressive view of Victoria Harbour as well as a dinner cruise on a traditional junk on the following evening. Lying back on soft pillows under the red sails of the junk, watching the laser show and the magnificent Hong Kong skyline was the perfect way to end the conference.

Contributed by the ASLI Secretariat

Check out the new ASLI website at http://law.nus.edu.sg/asli/
A one-day symposium was jointly organised by Associate Professors Chan Wing Cheong from the Faculty of Law and Angelique Chan from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, in collaboration with the Duke-NUS Signature Program in Health Services Research, on 29 May 2009 at the Orchard Hotel.

The symposium provided a platform for researchers in various disciplines such as medicine, sociology, economics, anthropology and law to share their work with those concerned about the well-being of older adults, and to provide policy-makers in Singapore with the basis for better policy formulation towards the aged.

Minister Lim Boon Heng, Prime Minister’s Office, graced the occasion as the Guest-of-Honour. In his opening address, Minister Lim highlighted the urgency of addressing the ageing demography in Singapore and also spoke about the policies in place to promote healthy living. More services such as day care centres, community hospitals, nursing homes and support for long term care options at home will be developed to meet the needs of the ageing population. He concluded that it was not an easy task to design a health care system for an ageing population because it requires an optimum balance between quality, accessibility and costs, which changes as demands and expectations evolve.

A total of three panels of experts from academia and government organisations presented a rich variety of topics at the symposium such as palliative care challenges in Singapore, care giving, elder abuse, ageing in place issues, as well as legal and ethical issues in managing the terminally ill and end of life in Singapore. Speakers from the NUS Faculty of Law included Associate Professor Chan Wing Cheong, Associate Professor Terry Kaan ’81 and Assistant Professor Tracey Evans Chan ’97.

Over 120 participants from the social service sector, government organisations, hospitals and academics attended the symposium. Media coverage of the symposium was given by The Straits Times, Lianhe Zaobao and Shin Min Daily.

Contributed by Chan Wing Cheong
Welcoming the Graduates of LLM
Collegiate dinners are usually an opportunity for a graduating batch of students to come together for an evening of good food, socializing merrymaking, and Law Collegiate Dinner 2009 was no exception.

Held at the brand new NUSS Guild House at Kent Ridge on 27 March 2009, the Collegiate Dinner provided a fitting sense of closure, especially since this was the “old campus” at which the cohort begun our university days. After all, this was the same venue for the Dinner & Dance held at the end of orientation in our first year. As students streamed in and joined their dinner companions at the tables, there was a palpable air of nostalgia, warmth and companionship.

Our Dean Professor Tan Cheng Han ’87 took the stage to share his thoughts on the evening, peppering his speech with his trademark blend of dry humor and poignant life lessons. There was many a student in the audience thinking of their own untold futures in the legal profession, as Dean’s stories of his working experiences, especially his first summary judgment, provided a glimpse into the new chapter that was about to unfold upon graduation.

Amidst all the subsequent photo-taking and revelry, those still mindful of their growing stomachs were quickly satisfied by the sumptuous buffet spread of food, ranging from chicken with red peppers, beef kebab, sweet and sour fish to desserts like ambon cake and chocolate mousse. Yet, dinner never seemed slow or tedious, for the night was briskly moved along by a variety of party games such as an amusing trivia quiz and a mostly hectic scavenger hunt. A note to future organizers though, it’s cruel to ask for socks to be included in the scavenger list, especially for all-girl tables!

After the Dean gamely went around toasting tables, the emcees announced that the traditional nominations for “student awards” would begin. After a flurry of voting exercises, the winners for the night soon emerged – Jared Kok for Mr Superstar, Jamie He for Most Likely to be Tai Tai, Yeo Boon Kiat for Most Likely to be House Husband, amongst many others. As the winners sportingly accepted their awards amidst the cheering, it was clear that this batch of students had certainly grown closer over the years at university.

All good things must come to an end, and as Collegiate Dinner 2009 wound down, with some retiring for the night while others continued the partying elsewhere, perhaps the greatest gift for many were the indelible and precious memories of the magical evening.

Contributed by Liang Hanting ’09

Photographs courtesy of Muhammad Yusuf Bin Yaacob
The 2009 graduates from the NYU@NUS programme celebrated their convocation on 2 March 2009 at the Asian Civilisations Museum in Singapore. In attendance were families, friends, faculty members from both universities and the Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore, Professor S. Jayakumar ’63.

The group of 55 young graduates was the second batch to graduate from the unparalleled joint venture between New York University and the National University of Singapore that NUS President Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, who spoke at the ceremony, said “exemplifies how two top universities with a global vision have combined their strengths and exploited complementarities to create a programme that is unique in content and international in composition.”

The success of the NYU@NUS programme was made apparent by the excitement of the members of the 2009 graduating class, in spite of the current global economic conditions. In fact, a prominent theme at the ceremony was the ability of the graduates to better face the global economy with their dual degrees and the breadth of their knowledge gained in the course of the programme. One student speaking at the ceremony Sumiti Yadava ’09 noted that, “Within the crisis lies an opportunity to test our strength, to show what winners are made out of, and to prove that NYU’s motto which calls upon us ‘to persevere and to excel’ is not just words, but a way of life”.

The success of the NYU@NUS programme after its second year has also been made apparent in its increasingly well-known reputation and the larger pool of competitive applicants for its third year. The next class of 2010 is set to be as diverse and ambitious as its predecessors but, as director Professor Simon Chesterman remarked, “certainly has big shoes to fill”.

Contributed by Nadia Khan, NYU@NUS Class of ’09
I
n July 2009, a group of South Asian scholars, practitioners and judges gathered in the sylvan setting of the Bukit Timah campus of the NUS Law School. Their purpose was to explore how constitutional and legal traditions in South Asia are similar, intersect with, and influence each other. This symposium was conceived as a sequel to an earlier meeting held at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London in November 2006, and aimed at continuing and enriching the dialogue on South Asian law and constitutionalism.

The Singapore symposium featured presentations by the following participants: Sujit Choudhry, Faculty of Law, University of Toronto; Rohan Edrisinha, Director, Centre for Policy Alternatives, Colombo; Kamal Hossain, formerly the Minister for Law, and Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh; Sara Hossain, practicing advocate, High Court of Bangladesh; Anil Kalhan, Earl Macke School of Law, Drexel University; Jayanth Krishnan, Maurer School of Law, Indiana University; Martin Lau, School of Oriental and African Studies, London University; Justice S. Muralidhar, High Court of Delhi; Justice (retd.) Ruma Pal, former Justice on the Indian Supreme Court; R. Sudarshan, Legal Reform and Justice, UNDP Bangkok; Arun Thiruvengadam, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore; and Deepika Udagama, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo.

Issues discussed at the symposium included: the justification for, and viability of, a project on Comparative Constitutionalism in South Asia; the methodological and practical challenges of engaging in research on South Asian constitutionalism; the possibilities of linkages between public interest organisations and lawyers across South Asia; the challenges posed by secularism in individual South Asian nations and the law’s response; and the manner in which judiciaries across the region have reacted to the tumultuous politics within individual jurisdictions while seeking to maintain institutional legitimacy. The symposium witnessed a high degree of participation from NUS staff and students. Professor Michael Hor ’84 and Associate Professor Victor Ramraj acted as moderators for sessions. Professor Kumaralingam Amirthalingam opened the symposium in his capacity as Director of Asian Law Institute (ASLI) and also served as a session moderator.

The Singapore symposium was co-organised by Professor Sunil Khilnani, Director, South Asia Studies, School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University, Vikram Raghavan, and Assistant Professor Arun Thiruvengadam, NUS Faculty of Law. They have reached an agreement with a leading academic publisher to publish an edited volume sometime in 2010 consisting of papers presented in the London and Singapore sessions. The Singapore symposium was made possible because of generous research grants by the National University of Singapore and the Johns Hopkins University.

Contributed by Arun Kumar Thiruvengadam
Asian Deans’ Forum on Legal Education
6 - 8 July 2009

Initiated by NUS Law School, with generous funding from the Temasek Foundation, Singapore, as well as support from the Asian Law Institute (ASLI), the inaugural Asian Deans’ Forum brought together over 45 deans and leaders of law schools in the region for an intensive high-level meeting to discuss common issues regarding legal education from 6 to 8 July 2009. The participants were sought on a by-invitation-only basis and represented over 35 institutions from Asian non-OECD countries, including Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

Today’s law schools must prepare their students to face an increasingly globalised market for legal services. Many must also compete internationally for students. What special challenges face Asian law schools in this regard? What changes, if any, are required to law school curricula, culture and teaching methods? How can Asian law schools proactively cooperate and collaborate in these matters? While these questions have previously been discussed in various forms, this was the first time that a gathering of this level has been attempted. Comprising the leaders of their respective institutions, the participants are in a unique position to effect change within their institutions and also to participate in inter-institution projects arising from the Forum.

The consensus was that regular gatherings of this nature are useful to bring out commonalities and areas for collaboration. Plans are underway for a second such forum. Additionally, participants have found means to work together on specific projects, such as setting up an online community on legal education to continue sharing experiences, ideas and materials. The fledging community can be found at AsianLegalEd.Org.

Contributed by Eleanor Wong ’85

[News from Office of Alumni Relations]

Associate Professor Michael Ewing-Chow ’95 receiving an Inspiring Mentor Award from NUS President Professor Tan Chorh Chuan

Class Ambassadors at New Alumni Welcome Lunch 11 July 2009

Commencement Dinner 17 July 2009
Professional mediators sure have a vivid imagination. For example: A software company must close a deal with a vineyard without upsetting their software expert’s aversion to the number “4” and a host of other idiosyncrasies. This was just one problem drafted for the International Chamber of Commerce International Commercial Mediation Competition 2009 (the “ICC Mediation Competition”).

The ICC Mediation Competition is an annual event in Paris France that began in 2006 and has seen the number of participating universities and countries grow each year. This year there were 40 universities from 18 different countries testing their negotiation and mediation skills over a week of four preliminary and three elimination rounds. NUS did exceedingly well and emerged Champions against a much older team from Hamlin University School of Law (USA). It was very challenging for the teams particularly during the last three days, as the problems for each round would be released only a few hours prior to the actual session.

Although it is called a mediation competition, participants are not assessed as mediators, but rather, how well they are able to utilise the mediation process to negotiate the best outcome for their clients. Every round would take place between two disputing parties or teams, and each team would have one member role-playing as the client and the other as counsel.

It was a very rewarding experience, because we were able to perform in front of so many professional mediators and received valuable feedback. As a result, we learnt how to be effective negotiators within a mediation setting, how to present realistic solutions and even how to act convincingly as difficult clients. We had a blast being introduced to mediation through this competition and look forward to implementing and refining what we learnt.

NUS was represented by four Double Degree students in Law and Business: Marcus Lim ’12, Jeanne Duclos ’11, Lim Yu Hui ’12 (all Year 2 Law) and Jennifer Ong ’12 (Year 1 Law).

Contributed by Marcus Lim ’12
Four valiant guys from the Class of 1984, Tan Lai Huat, Michael Seow, Michael Hor and Richard Tan, got together and organised the 25th anniversary reunion of the class. It was held at the new Kent Ridge Guild House on Friday 24 July 2009. As this was an event organised by guys, there were no frills, no decorations and no programme. Neither was entertainment provided, save for Richard’s opening speech.

Apart from those living in Singapore, classmates flew all the way from Perth, Jakarta, Hong Kong, Houston and Melbourne. Former lecturers Kim Seah ’77, William Ricquier and Attorney-General Professor Walter Woon ’81 also made appearances. Well-wishes were received from classmates who were unable to join us and also from our former professors Tan Sook Yee, George Wei and S. Jayakumar ’63.

Professor Jayakumar, in sending his best wishes, summed up what most of us felt: “It is amazing how 25 years have passed so quickly”.

We were also glad to find out that our initiative at the 20th Anniversary Reunion in 2004 to establish the “Class of 1984 Bursary” for needy students has encouraged other classes to also raise funds.

It was great to see so many old friends together. Apart from the additional white hair (or loss of hair) and extra weight, most people looked like they did in law school more than 25 years ago. It was an enjoyable reunion for everyone, judging from the many complimentary emails we received after the event.

As Billy Joel once sang: “Life is a series of hellos and good-byes; I'm afraid it's time for goodbye again.” Looking forward to saying hello to everyone again the next class reunion!

Contributed by Richard Tan Ming Kirk ’84 and Agnes Sng ’84

Excerpt from Richard Tan’s welcome speech

Hi everyone

On behalf of the 3 other guys on the organising committee, welcome to the 25th anniversary reunion of our Class of 1984. We are honoured by the presence of some former lecturers and would like to warmly welcome them too. We would also like to thank the Faculty of Law for all their help and support for this event, without which it would have been so much more difficult to organize ...”

We have such talented and successful classmates (including the Law Minister, a law professor, an ambassador, a CEO and statutory board chairman, senior counsel, managing partner, former managing partner and even a tai tai or two) that makes it very difficult to say anything profound...

Two years ago, I was invited to a Practice Law Course dinner. At the dinner, I was seated in a table of 10 between two pretty young ladies who seemed eager to make conversation with me. I do not know, but they may have been told that they would be graded for the dinner. Anyway, the conversation went on quite well until one of them asked which year I graduated from the NUS. I said 1984. It was the year they were born!

... Finally, I just want to say it is great to see you all, thank you for coming and have an enjoyable evening!

LawLink: The “Class of 1984 Bursary” is being converted to a “Class of 1984 Grant” to assist law students in covering the fees & expenses of any conference, competition or other public event, whether held in Singapore or overseas, or overseas internship, that will contribute toward the applicant’s educational, professional or personal development. Gifts from classmates to the Grant would be most appreciated. Many thanks.
Justice Lai Siu Chiu is the first lady Judge appointed to the Supreme Court of Singapore.

Justice Lai graduated with an LLB Honours from the University of Singapore in 1972. She was admitted as an Advocate and Solicitor in Singapore in January 1973. She obtained an LLM from University College, University of London in 1977. Justice Lai was in legal practice with Allen & Gledhill specialising in litigation from September 1973 to end April 1991, prior to her appointment as a Judicial Commissioner on 2 May 1991 and a Judge of the Supreme Court on 2 May 1994.

As a Law Undergraduate

What inspired you to read law?

Law was not really my first choice. During my time in the sixth form class in Malacca High School (equivalent to second year Junior College in Singapore) I aspired to be a reporter in Fleet Street London. Because my headmaster advised that it would be difficult for a woman to be taken seriously as a journalist, I explored other options. Unlike my 3 brothers, I knew that medicine was not for me, and I had no interest in my mother’s suggestion of doing pharmacy either. In the end, I thought that law was a viable option.

Could you share with us on the Professors who taught you during your time in the University of Singapore?

The professors who taught me include Professors S. Jayakumar ’63 (Public Law), Tommy Koh ’61 (Administration of Criminal Justice), Koh Kheng Lian ’61 (Contract Law), Thio Su-Mien
economic concepts, and that was a rather steep learning curve.

More recently, I heard a case which involved knowledge of

High Court, the case went on before me for 7 weeks.

with regard to an article the newspaper ran on them. At the

of Israel) which sued a newspaper company for defamation

About fifteen years ago, I heard a case involving a cult (House

What were some of your more challenging cases?

case my first case a negligence suit went on for five days.

gender. Indeed, whilst judges often have their trial as a settled

penny! However I was not given easier cases by virtue of my

From the start, the other judges were very nice to me. I think

Besides, the other judges were very nice to me. I think

addressed me as “My Lady”.

Memorably, however, there was one very senior counsel who

Following my appointment to the bench, the mode of address

for judges became “Your Honour”, instead of “My Lord”.

Memorably, however, there was one very senior counsel who

addressed me as “My Lady”.

From the start, the other judges were very nice to me. I think

they remembered me because I was one of the few women

who regularly appeared in court – I kept turning up like a bad

penny! However I was not given easier cases by virtue of my

gender. Indeed, whilst judges often have their trial as a settled

case my first case a negligence suit went on for five days.

What were some of your more challenging cases?

About fifteen years ago, I heard a case involving a cult (House

of Israel) which sued a newspaper company for defamation

with regard to an article the newspaper ran on them. At the

High Court, the case went on before me for 7 weeks.

More recently, I heard a case which involved knowledge of

economic concepts, and that was a rather steep learning curve

for me. That said, I think law is a very good field for one to learn

about life in general – in the cases I have handled I have learnt

about prawn fishing, construction of private and commercial

properties, piling and kidney transplants, amongst others!

On the Legal Fraternity

Justice Lai is the Chairperson of the Singapore Academy

of Law’s (SAL) Membership & Social Committee (“the

Committee”). The Committee promotes interaction

amongst various branches of the legal profession.

Could you share on your experiences as Chairperson of the

Committee?

We have a huge membership of more than 6,000 members.
The Committee meets on a quarterly basis – it was difficult to

meet monthly because we have committee members from many

different segments, including National University of Singapore

Singapore Management University in-house counsel, and the

bar (both junior and senior lawyers).

We manage a whole calendar of activities. Because our

membership is very varied, it cannot be the case of one-size-

fits-all: for instance, we organise cheese and wine appreciation

sessions for the seniors and car rallies for the more junior ones.

We have also organised cooking classes, and the quarterly film

blockbusters are very popular.

Nonetheless, some young lawyers are not coming forward to

participate. I would urge them to become more involved and

try the activities we have planned for members.

Is there any particularly memorable event organized by the

Committee?

The recent SAL-Norton Rose Lawyers and Bankers Debate

2009 was very well received. Lawyers and bankers debated

on the topic “Lawyers need Bankers, more than Bankers need

Lawyers”. The lawyers won the debate, but the best speaker

prize went to one of the bankers. We had a very good turnout of

about 220. It was great fun for all who participated. The debate

was not too serious, but not too slapstick either. Members

were treated to a buffet dinner, Australian wine (both red and

white), as well as good entertainment by the debaters and by

the moderator Mr Brown.

You initiated the “SAL Law Students Event: Pre-Practice

Preparation for Law Students” on 21 August 2009. Do you

think law students should do internships?

Students should do internships, especially when one cannot

make up one’s mind on what to do after law school. Even a

week-long internship would help, for you get a glimpse of what

practice is about. I am encouraged to hear that the recently

concluded SAL Litigation internship – a pilot programme – was

very successful.

Lifestyle

Justice Lai is married to Dr Foong Weng Cheong, a

surgeon in private practice, who was the former head of

the National University of Singapore’s Department of

Surgery, Faculty of Medicine. They have 2 children, a son

and a daughter.
How do you balance the demands of judicial work with personal and family life?

When I am doing a judgment, there is usually insufficient time in office, so I will usually bring my work home. I try to do a bit more on weekends. I attend important functions, but generally my social life is kept to the minimum.

From young, my children knew that I worked. In fact once, when I got home one day early at around 5:30 pm, my then young son asked me why I was home so early! When they were younger, I did try to spend some time with my children on weekends, bringing them to places like Sentosa, circus performances and so on.

Do you have any hobbies?

My husband and I enjoy concerts and classical music, and I am a “friend of the SSO”.

I also enjoy exercising regularly – I utilise the Supreme Court gym (doing a whole circuit of exercises) once a week, and also have exercise regimes at my fitness clubs.

We travel as a family. My family is aiming to go to Niseko (Japan) for a skiing holiday which is an activity I do enjoy. Over the years I have gained more confidence, am willing to try the steeper slopes and I think (or hope) my skiing has improved. I am however rattled by the presence of snowboarders. They often have little control over their snowboards, and I am afraid that they will collide into me. Once, a snowboarder was knocked out after she hit my husband. Fortunately, my husband who is a doctor, managed to revive her.

Are any of your children following your footsteps to choose law as a future career?

My children did not want to do law, and I have never pressed them to do it. My son read economics and is working in a multi-national corporation in Shanghai, and my daughter is currently reading economics in University College London.

Words of wisdom

Do you have any words of wisdom for law students or young lawyers?

When there are good lawyers in court, young lawyers and law students should try to sit in, listen and learn. It is a good chance to learn from others, rather than learning from your own potentially costly mistakes! On a related note, when young lawyers come to court, it does not matter that they lack experience. I ask only that they come prepared – know your laws, know your cases, and know your case.

Above all, the legal profession is more than a mere “job” – it is a noble profession. We must also strive to live up to the expectations that the public has of us. Lawyers must live by the oath they took at the bar.

Interviewed by LawLink Editor Joyce Khoo ’85 and Justin Yeo ’10
Reflections on the Inaugural SAL Litigation Internship Programme

Which internship offers you a one-shot experience at the various branches of the Legal Service, first-hand interaction with some of the biggest names in the Singapore Law Fraternity, and direct mentorship under a Senior Counsel? The Singapore Academy of Law Litigation Internship Programme promises this, and much more ....

On 20 July 2009, 20 law students from NUS and SMU gathered at the Supreme Court Bistro for a welcome breakfast hosted by Senior District Judge Mr Tan Siong Thye ’79 that marked the first day of the SAL Litigation Internship Programme.

Indeed, our interaction with the SDJ was only the first in a series of meetings scheduled with other prominent names in the Singapore Legal Fraternity. The various dialogues presented excellent opportunities to garner insightful advice about embarking on a professional law career, many times leaving us with deep impressions on how to be a better advocate. I especially appreciated Attorney-General Professor Walter Woon ’81’s honest discussion about the Constitutional Reference in 1995, which he participated as an opposing counsel to the government. Professor Woon and Solicitor-General Mrs Koh Juat Jong AGP ’88 emphasized that young lawyers should always maintain a professional decorum and a gentlemanly etiquette both in and out of court.

At the Subordinate Courts, District Judge Roy Neighbour ’77’s hypothetical quizzes and his sharing of real-life anecdotes impressed upon us the difficult decisions that judges have to make. Through our discussions with subordinate court judges, we appreciated the responsibilities that lawyers owe to the society – to aid the courts in achieving as just a result as humanly possible.

A highlight of this internship programme was the attachment to a Senior Counsel. I vividly remember when I first arrived at Rodyk & Davidson LLP to report to Mr Philip Jeyaratnam SC. Despite Mr Jeyaratnam’s distinctive good nature and obvious approachability, I was still overwhelmed when assigned a case by him and asked to prepare for a discussion a few days later. Such anxiety was, of course, grossly unfounded. The days spent at Rodyk were short but enriching. We were attached to senior lawyers to witness court-action, one of which involved another Senior Counsel in the law firm cross-examining a difficult witness. One could not have asked for a better close-up view to observe an excellent litigator in action.

On 30 July 2009, the programme concluded with a tea reception graced by Judge of Appeal Justice V K Rajah ’82. Many of us had enrolled in this internship programme curious about the aspects of litigation work. That evening, most of us went home, more eager than ever to give litigation a shot after graduation.

Contributed by Ho Jun Yi ’10
The evening of Saturday 15 August 2009 saw 80 alumni from the Class of 1999, their partners and faculty staff members congregate at the Moot Court for the 10th Anniversary Reunion of the Class of '99, the single largest gathering of the cohort since Mass Call in the year 2000. There were alumni who had returned from abroad to attend the gathering, including Sameer Advani and Daniel Tan from New York and Belinda Yap from Tokyo, as well as a smattering of alumni’s young children who were given an advance preview of what might be their future campus.

The programme for the reunion kicked off with a class photograph and welcome speeches by Law Dean Professor Tan Cheng Han ‘87, chairperson of the reunion organising committee Francis Ng and class academic Burton Ong. Thereafter everyone settled down to a sumptuous buffet dinner.

The night’s proceedings were ably run by Chan Hoe and Jonathan Ooi, who was also crowned Senior Law King by unanimous vote in the course of the evening. Our original Law Queen, Charlene Chang, retained her title from 1995. As the night’s programme drew to a close, groups of alumni lingered behind in the Moot Court to chat while others headed off to various venues across the island for post-dinner drinks.

Those present at the reunion had a truly memorable time seeing familiar faces again, renewing acquaintances, reminiscing over events of a decade past, laughing over old photos and catching-up on each others’ lives. There was also talk overheard about the next reunion in 2019!

On that note, the Class of ‘99 would like to express its heartfelt thanks to the Dean and the Faculty for facilitating and making the event possible and wish the Faculty every success as it grows from strength to strength in the years to come.

Contributed by Francis Ng ’99
Parents of special needs children may be relieved to know that there is a new scheme to help them manage their funds for the benefit of their children after they pass on. The Special Needs Trust Company (SNTC) (http://www.specialneedstrust.org.sg) is a non-profit organization that aims to provide affordable trust services for special needs children.

The Chairman of the SNTC is the former Vice Chancellor of NUS, Professor Lim Pin, and he is joined by a distinguished panel of Board of Directors which include Mr Lim Cheng Teck (Chief Executive Officer & Vice Chairman of Standard Chartered Bank, China), Mr Bertie Cheng (former Chief Executive Officer of POSBank), Mrs Hauw-Quek Soo Hoon (former Executive Director of Insurance Supervision Department at the Monetary Authority of Singapore) and Mr Chee Yoh Chuang (Head, Corporate Recovery & Forensic Accounting of Chio Lim Stone Forest). One lawyer who also sits on the Board of Directors is Mr Conrad Campos ‘91, who currently runs his own law firm, and who has for many years volunteered at the Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore (MINDS).

Essentially, SNTC will help settlors to set up a trust for special needs beneficiaries with a principal from $5,000 and a provision for regular top up of the trust fund. This serves to fulfill a need as private trustees typically require at least $1 million from settlors. Trust moneys received by SNTC will go into a common fund invested and managed by the Public Trustee, so settlors can rest easy knowing that their money is in safe hands.

Naturally, a project such as this could not have taken off without the collaboration of many parties. In this regard, NUS law alumni played key roles in launching SNTC. The National Council of Social Services (NCSS) was approached early on and one of its board members, Mr Cyril Chua ’95 a partner of law firm ATMD Bird & Bird, was roped in to help with the legal aspects of creating the company. When more specialised trust knowledge was required trust lawyers, including Dr Tang Hang Wu ’95 an equity and trusts lecturer, were brought on board to advise on the implementation of the trust scheme. Ms Margaret Chew LLM ’98 provided invaluable assistance and Ms Stacy Choong ’94 and Ms Goh Eng Cher ’02 acted as legal counsel for SNTC. NUS law alumni, Mr See Kee Oon ’91 and Mr Lim Yew Jin ’88 from the Public Trustee’s Office, were also instrumental in getting this project off the ground.

Although the trust deed is now ready and SNTC has started operations, more pro-bono lawyers (especially those proficient in Mandarin) are still needed to help in advising parents of special needs children on the legal issues involved. The time commitment should be no more than 3 hours once every fortnight and the SNTC is looking for people who are able to volunteer for at least a year. Interested parties may email Dr Tang Hang Wu at lawthw@nus.edu.sg to find out more about the nature of the pro bono work.

Contributed by Shawn Ting Mingcai ’10 and Li Fangyi ’10
When I first received a call from the United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials (UNAKRT) with an internship offer for six months, my immediate reaction was to say “yes”, without even thinking through the decision. This was a dream opportunity come true and there was no way I could bring myself to turn it down. I am grateful that my family and NUS Law School, especially our Dean Professor Tan Cheng Han ’87, supported my decision to take time-off during my last semester of law school in 2009 to pursue this internship and the experience turned out to be an incredible one.

I was fortunate to have been working at the tribunal when the first trial commenced. It was a very exciting time to be not only at the trials, but to be in Cambodia, literally watching the making of history. Following years of negotiating the establishment of the tribunal and the issues that followed, it was a momentous time to witness the start of the first trial. As an intern during this time, I was able to help the Victims Unit with the various preparations for the civil parties at the commencement of the trial. Sitting in the public gallery of the courtroom, accompanying the victims, during those first few trial days, especially when Duch made his apology, was probably one of the most significant moments of my internship.

Life in Cambodia was an amazing experience. It was always fun living, working, playing and travelling with fellow interns who came from all over the world. Cambodian friends were always willing and happy to bring me for a local meal or to their hometowns. I also attended a colleague’s wedding and got to enjoy a truly traditional celebration, full of food, song and dance and wonderful ethnic outfits, all under the blistering sun. I must admit that before going, I did not think there would be much to see beyond the capital Phnom Penh and Siem Reap where the beautiful Angkor temples lay.

What I came to realise as I travelled through the different provinces of the country, was that Cambodia had a amazing variety of things to see, from jungle and elephant trekking and bountiful waterfalls in the northeast, to unspoilt beach paradise along the south coast. But the most beautiful thing about the country, undoubtedly, is its people. I have not met a more beautiful, kind and graceful people and this is especially pertinent given the cruel past the country has been through. It is easy to see why so many end up settling in Cambodia; it is too hard not to fall in love with the place. I am very thankful to UNAKRT and NUS Law School for giving me this opportunity and know that this is only the beginning of my relationship with this amazing place.

Contributed by Sangeetha Yogendran ’09
In many ways, my New Zealand student exchange programme was more than I could have ever wish for. Adrenaline-pumping adventures, breathtaking scenery, warm and friendly people, and a thoroughly enriching education – my exchange to the University of Auckland pretty much had it all.

I was eager and itching to get into the thick of what this self-proclaimed ‘adrenaline capital of the world’ had to offer. By the end of my exchange I found that I had, among other things, rolled down a hill in a giant plastic hamster ball (zorbing), bungy-jumped off the Auckland Harbour Bridge, white-water rafted down a 7-metre waterfall, trekked up an ice glacier, and endured 60 seconds of heart-stopping freefall (skydiving).

Besides taking part in these extreme sports, I also had many other exciting adventures with the group of international students I toured with. Together we passed through the stunning landscape at Arthur’s Pass (we won a Best Photo Competition with a picture we captured there), viewed the majestic and magnificent fiords of Milford Sound onboard an overnight cruise ship, caught glimpse of whales in the wild, and spotted penguins returning to their homes on the beach.

Throughout my exchange, I met many interesting people, both locals and visitors alike. I also discovered and even picked up some of the quirky slang of the locals. For instance, instead of saying “that’s great” or “awesome”, kiwis are fond of using the phrase “sweet-as”. Moreover, the phrase is not only used by students, as I have even heard it being uttered by some professors as well!

The legal landscape in New Zealand is very interesting and unique. A notable example is the absence of a medical negligence action in New Zealand. Although this is not entirely new to me, it was fascinating to learn how the compensation scheme and a separate complaints regime that replaced the common law medical negligence action actually work in practice.

In a way, just as it is impossible to capture the beauty of a scenery on camera, mere words do not do justice to what I have experienced here on my exchange to the University of Auckland. I hope that many law students will be inspired to embark on their own journey and take part in the exciting student exchange programme offered by NUS Law School!

Contributed by Lionel Chan ’10

LawLink: The Student Exchange Programme enables NUS law students to spend either one or both semesters of their third year in one of over 60 partner universities of NUS. Students in the double degree and concurrent degree programmes also have the opportunity to spend one semester of their upper years on the exchange programme. For more information please visit: http://law.nus.edu.sg/current/outgoing_exchange.htm
For two brilliant fine and sunny winter days at the end of July this year, 14 academics from the NUS Faculty of Law fraternised with peers at the Sydney University Law School (USYD) in their spanking new and state-of-the-art Law School building. The theme of this inaugural symposium of academics from two of the most respected and established law schools in the region was “Rights, Regulation and Responsibility: Australian and Singaporean Perspectives”. The 32 papers presented at the symposium examined how the “rights” of Australians and Singaporeans had been interpreted and developed by their respective lawmakers, and how are these impacted upon by regional and/or international obligations. The symposium offered the opportunity for academics from the two schools to present their views before small interest groups on how Singaporean and Australian laws have dealt with the issue of rights and their regulation in their respective areas of specialisation. To commemorate the event, 12 specially selected symposium papers will be published in a special joint issue of the Singapore Journal of Legal Studies and the Sydney Law Review.

The symposium commenced and ended with two plenary sessions involving all the participants brain-storming and discussing possible research and teaching collaborations between the two schools. One outcome is that USYD will be sending a delegation of academics to NUS in July 2010, with the aim of maintaining the momentum for joint research begun by this symposium. A special website is also planned which will publicise and disseminate research conducted by members of both schools, as well as grant opportunities. Additionally, a bold initiative is being considered that will involve professors traveling with small groups of students from their own school, to teach month-long courses on their areas of specialisation to their students and those from the other school.

This highly successful symposium marks a new chapter of the NUS Faculty of Law in directing some of its research and teaching programmes eastwards. The Faculty has done so in the full realisation of the increasing transnational and globalised nature of law and legal education.

Contributed by Stanley Yeo ’76
Margo Bagley
Professor Bagley is a Professor of Law at the School of Law of University of Virginia, where she specializes in the law of intellectual property. She was formerly an Assistant Professor of Law at Emory University (1999) and a Visiting Professor of Law at Washington & Lee University School of Law (2001). She will be teaching International Patent Law & Policy.

Dang Xuan Hop
Professor Dang has been a Visiting Senior Fellow in our Faculty since AY 2004-2005 and has returned annually to teach modules on Vietnamese Law. Professor Dang has an LLB from Vietnam and an LLB from Bond University. He also holds an LLM from Melbourne and is pursuing his PhD at Oxford. He will be teaching Choice of Law for International Contracts in Asia, and Foreign Investment Law in Vietnam.

Rochelle Dreyfuss
Professor Dreyfuss is the Yong Shook Lin Professor in IP Law. Professor Dreyfuss is a Professor of Law at the New York University School of Law, USA and the Director of Engelberg Center on Innovation Law and Policy. She has a Juris Doctor from the Columbia University School of Law and Master of Science in Chemistry at the University of California at Berkeley. She will be teaching Private International Law of IP.

Franco Ferrari
Professor Ferrari is currently a Full Professor of International Law at the Verona University School of Law, Italy. He is an Inge Renner Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law and Director for Center Transnational Litigation and Commercial Law at the New York University School of Law, USA. He has been teaching at the NUS Faculty of Law as a Visiting Professor since 2007.

Andrew Harding
Professor Harding is Professor of Asia-Pacific Legal Relations at the Faculty of Law of the University of Victoria. Professor Harding started his teaching career at the NUS Faculty of Law in the 1980s. He is a former Head of Department and Professor of Law at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, and Chair of the SOAS Centre of South East Asian Studies. He will be teaching Law, Governance & Development in Asia.

Catherine Kessedjian
Since 2000 Professor Kessedjian has been a Professor of Law at the University of Paris II (Panthéon-Assas), France. She was a Deputy Secretary General of the Hague Conference (1996-2000). She has been the Director of the European Law Center of the Université de Bourgogne. She will be teaching Negotiating & Drafting International Commercial Transactions.

Clark Lombardi
Dr Lombardi is an Associate Professor at the School of Law of University of Washington. He has established himself as an expert in Islamic Law. He is the author of State Law as Islamic Law in Modern Egypt: The Incorporation of the Shari’a into Egyptian Constitutional Law (Leiden: Brill, 2006) and numerous articles in leading law journals. He has several accolades to his credit, including a fellowship as a Carnegie Scholar from 2007-2009, to conduct research into Islamic and Constitutional Law in Muslim countries around the world. He will be teaching Islamic Law.

Rutsel Martha
Dr Martha is currently General Counsel of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (Rome, Italy). Previously he was the General Counsel at the International Criminal Police Organization in France. He was an adjunct Professor of Law at the Washington College of Law (American University, Washington, DC) in the year 1998 to 1989 and member of the Legal Department of the International Monetary Fund from 1987 to 1990. He will be co-teaching International Police Enforcement Cooperation with Professor Noble.

Ronald Noble
Professor 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. An expert on federal criminal law as well as international law enforcement, he served as assistant secretary for enforcement at the U.S. Treasury Department and then as the Treasury’s undersecretary for enforcement. He will be co-teaching International Police Enforcement Cooperation with Professor Martha.
WELCOMING OUR NEAREST FACULTY MEMBERS

The Faculty of Law warmly welcomes Associate Professor Lan Luh Luh '89 who holds a joint appointment in both the NUS Law and Business Schools.

Ranald Or '95 has joined the Faculty as a Lecturer. He will serve as Deputy Director of the LAWR programme.

CONGRATULATIONS

Heartiest congratulations to:

Associate Professor Victor Ramraj and Associate Professor Michael Ewing-Chow '95 for being awarded the inaugural Inspiring Mentor Awards.

Associate Professor Tang Hang Wu '95 and Assistant Professor Tan Seow Hon '97 who received their Annual Teaching Excellence Awards.

Assistant Professor Arun Kumar Thiruvengadam on the birth of his daughter Sanjana.

APPOINTMENTS

Professor Tan Cheng Han SC '87 was elected to the Board of the International Association of Law Schools for a 3-year term, on 25 May 2009 at its General Assembly held in Canberra.

Emeritus Professor Koh Kheng Lian '61 was re-elected as a member of the International Council of Environmental Law.

Professor M. Sornarajah was made Honorary Member of the Indian Society of International Law at its 50th Anniversary Conference along with Professor Brownlie of Oxford, Professor Falk of Princeton and Professor Edith Brown-Weiss of Georgetown.

Associate Professor Joel Lee has been appointed as Adjucidator for FIDREC. He is also a member of the Pro-Temp Council for Private Education and a member of the Subordinate Courts ADR Advisory Council.

Associate Professor Chan Wing Cheong was appointed as the Amaladass Fellow with effect from 1 July 2009.

CITATIONS

Emeritus Professor Koh Kheng Lian '61 presented a paper entitled “Capacity Building in Environmental Legal Education and Sustainability in the Asian Region” and chaired a panel session of the National Sustainability Conference, 20-22 February 2009, NUS Guild House at Kent Ridge.

She conducted a seminar, “ASEAN’s Response to Adaptation to Climate Change: What Role Can ASEAN Play?” at the APCEL/MEM Seminar on “An Introduction to Climate Change - Multi-Disciplinary Perspectives”, 16-17 March 2009, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore. She also conducted a seminar “ASEAN Cooperation in Environmental Management” at the APCEL/MEM/SEI Environmental Management Executive Programme, 30-31 March 2009 at the ENV Building.

She participated at the IUCN “Enhancing FLEG (Forest Law Enforcement and Governance)” in Southeast Asia & the Pacific: Regional NGO Meeting, 28-29 April 2009, Bangkok, Thailand.

She also wrote a book review on Marshall of Singapore: A Biography, Kevin Tan (2008), 614 pages (accepted for publication in JAMBRS (June issue 2009).

She presented a paper entitled “The Dynamics of Environmental Tran Boundary Issues: the Role of ASEAN in Shaping Environmental Law, Policy and Governance in Tackling these Challenges” and chaired a panel session at the 6th Asian Law Institute Conference, 29-30 May 2009, Hong Kong University.

She is the compiler and editor of ASEAN Environmental Law, Policy and Governance: Selected Documents (Vol I). World Scientific Publisher; 2009, 713 pages.


Professor Andrew Simester’s recent article entitled “Regulating Offensive Conduct Through Two-Step Prohibitions”, was the subject of a one-day symposium attended by academics and senior judges at the University of Uppsala, Sweden in October 2008.

As the Genest Visiting Professor at Osgoode Hall Law School, Professor M. Sornarajah delivered the Genest Distinguished Lecture on “Resistance to Neo-Conservatism in International Law”.

Adjunct Professor Kevin YL Tan ‘86 and Professor Michael Hor ‘84 jointly edited a collection of legal history essays, dedicated to the memory of former Law Dean the late Professor Geoffrey Wilson Bartholomew (1929-2005) which was recently published by the Singapore Journal of Legal Studies. This collection of 16 essays cover subjects as diverse as the history of Singapore’s sovereign status, built heritage, lawyers in politics and family planning legislation.

Associate Professor Joel Lee’s book “An Asian Perspective on Mediation” was launched at the 1st Asian Mediation Association Conference on 4 June 2009.


The NUS Law School organized 2 symposiums in September 2009 – “Symposium on Getting the Balance Right: Intellectual Property, Competition Law and Economics in Asia” by Visiting Professor Robert Ian McEwin; and “Sovereign Wealth Funds: Governance and Regulation” by Associate Professor Simon Chesterman, the latter being a joint activity with the Asian Society of International Law. The papers from both symposiums will be published.

Associate Professor Poh Chu Chai ‘73 works were recently cited in several publications and courts:


Associate Professor Michael Ewing-Chow ’95 contributed the Singapore Chapter to a project on “Derivative Actions in Asia” for the Ministry of Justice which was held in Osaka, Japan, 9-10 March 2009.

He spoke on the subject of “Corporate Governance in Singapore” at the Ishikawa International Civil and Commercial Law Centre in Kanazawa, Japan on 12 March 2009.

He also spoke on FTAs at the WTO RTPC Workshop in Geneva on 15 April 2009.

He was invited to speak on 6 June 2009 about social entrepreneurship at the Jane Goodall Institute (Singapore) Youth Symposium entitled “A Vision of Hope”.

NUS Law School hosted the WTO RTPC. It opened with Ms Indranee Rajah SC ’86 as Patroness on 18 May 09 with Adjunct Professor Margaret Liang as the Academic Coordinator. On 28 May 09, Indranee as Deputy Speaker of Parliament hosted the RTPC participants to a tour of Parliament and a discussion about the politics of Singapore.

The Centre for International Law was set up with Associate Professor Robert Beckman appointed as Director on 1 April 2009.


NUS Law School’s burgeoning foreign alumni is a sure sign that it is becoming truly global. We interviewed Worrawong Atcharawongchai of Thailand, LLM (Intellectual Property & Technology Law) ’08, who is well on his way to becoming a judge in his home country after having topped the Judge-Trainee Examinations.

Worrawong was set on this path almost by accident. His aspirations initially lay in medicine and pharmacy. However, he failed to gain entrance into those respective faculties, and was awarded a place in the Law Faculty at Thammasat University, Thailand. There, he discovered his passion and flair for law. He subsequently obtained an LLM in International Trade and Commercial Law from the University of Durham before enrolling in NUS under a Microsoft Scholarship.

Worrawong chose NUS despite receiving offers from several other reputable universities around the world. He attributes his choice to “its prestige, the quality of teaching, and facilities”. In an affirmation of the strides that NUS Law School has made in gaining global recognition, he says, “NUS is acknowledged as one of the best universities in Asia and in the world.”

Looking back, Worrawong has no regrets — to him, a judge, like a doctor, can cure the miseries of people seeking redress from the courts. More than that, however, he recognises that litigation may not always bring satisfaction even to the winning party. Given that the Thai society tends to be less litigious than most Western societies, he feels that there is more room for non-litigious methods of dispute resolution to operate in Thailand. After all, Thailand is the ‘Land of Smiles’ and as he says, the Court of Justice is often the last resort for Thais. With such promising graduates, NUS Law School can take pride in knowing that its alumni will be contributing to society for some time to come.

Contributed by Kelvin Koh Li Qun ’10
The inaugural Amaladass Fellow, Associate Professor Chan Wing Cheong, completed his undergraduate studies in Law in Oxford University (England) and his Masters degree in Cornell University (USA). He is an advocate and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Singapore, a barrister of Gray’s Inn (England), and a qualified attorney of New York State (USA). He recently published a book on Criminal Law entitled *Criminal Law in Malaysia and Singapore* and its companion case book. We interviewed Associate Professor Chan about why he entered academia, his work in the areas of Criminal and Family Law and how his involvement in social work has inspired his research.

Allow LawLink to first congratulate you on your appointment as the inaugural Amaladass Fellow. Care to share with us your thoughts on your appointment?

I am happy to have been appointed as the Amaladass Fellow. It is a recognition of my work in the area of Criminal Law and I am delighted to be able to continue Criminal Law research under the auspices of the Fellowship.

You are qualified to practise in 3 jurisdictions, why academia?

My only experience in legal practice was when I did my pupillage with Harry Elias Partnership. I left after pupillage to pursue my LLM in Cornell University and it was when I was in the US that I thought about going into research. I wanted try something new and I felt it would be interesting to contribute to the academic discourse in Singapore and also help develop young minds as a teacher.

Was being a lawyer your dream career?

I wanted to become architect when I was younger, because I was fascinated by the idea of transforming a 2- dimensional sketch into a building that has a physical presence. The very idea of such an endeavor intrigues me. However, one could say that being a legal researcher is very much akin to being an architect. You are building jurisprudence piece by piece and brick by brick. That is legal architecture and the work is no less important than an architect’s.

Any reasons why you chose to pursue Criminal and Family law research?

In both Criminal and Family Law, the issues you are grappling concern real people, it is not like corporate law where you deal with companies and you do not see the people involved. In Criminal and Family law, you are dealing with a real person caught up in a legal dispute which involves real repercussions that affect the person or the family.

Why did you not pursue litigation then? Surely litigators deal with real issues on a day to day basis?

Academia allows me to focus on a particular area of interest, but practice will not allow me to do so. If I am researching and teaching, there is a lot more control in what I want to do, what I want to teach and how I teach it. If you are working in a firm, you do not have control over the cases you get; you have to take the case as it comes.

Does your active involvement in social work guide or inspire you when you are researching?

Yes, it very much does. I am a member of several committees such as the Tribunal for the Maintenance of Parents and the Elder Protection team.

Through my involvement with these committees, I come to learn of true stories behind the plight faced by the elderly. There are various avenues of help, the legal avenue being one of them and sometimes the law does not have the right tools to provide support or solutions. When such tools are inadequate and you have the actual case that demonstrates such shortcomings, it helps form a good basis for research and proposals for legal reform.

Can you share with us any of your current projects?

I am currently conducting a study on violence against women in Singapore. The field work is completed and I am in the process of doing data analysis. The study involves interviews with 2,000 women in Singapore, based on a questionnaire that has been adopted internationally. This study allows us to benchmark ourselves internationally, in terms of the types of problems faced by women and also the kind of help that is available to them.

What is your advice to students who want to pursue criminal law?

You should join the Attorney-General’s Chambers as a Deputy Public Prosecutor. As a DPP, you will get full exposure to a wide array of criminal cases ranging from petty crimes to high profile cases like financial fraud. It would be a fruitful and fulfilling experience for anyone who wants to pursue criminal law professionally.

Interviewed by Lim Yu Hui ’12
Nelson Mandela. Apartheid. Cape Town. All of these invoke images of South Africa, where Assistant Professor Sandra Annette Booysen grew up and witnessed the political turbulence that culminated in the release of Nelson Mandela from prison and the country’s first democratic election.

Sandra obtained her LLB (with distinction) from the University of the Witwatersrand and started her career as a public prosecutor in Johannesburg. She describes prosecution work as “an interesting area of work which offers an insight into a side of life that you may not always know about”. She later practised commercial litigation in a London firm, an experience which she describes as “stimulating and rewarding”.

Before she joined the NUS Law Faculty as an assistant professor in early 2009, Sandra was a LLM student at NUS, where she also pursued her PhD under the mentorship of Emeritus Professor Peter Ellinger.

What made her come to NUS to pursue her postgraduate qualifications? “When I first came to Singapore in 1999 with my husband, I wanted to go into something which would allow me to juggle the demands of work and a young family. I decided to pursue an LLM and subsequently, the prospect of doing a PhD just became visible to me.”

Sandra enjoys academia because “it offers one the opportunity to critically analyse the law, a luxury which is not always available to lawyers in practice”. During her free time, she enjoys gardening, reading and outdoor activities, such as walking and biking with her family.

As one who has great respect for the enthusiasm and optimism of South African people, Sandra holds a sanguine attitude towards life; “Life may present unexpected turns and you just need to adapt to circumstances. I never contemplated doing a PhD, but in the end, I did it. Believe in yourself and you’d be surprised at how much you can achieve.”

Well said, Sandra!

Interviewed by Tan Ai Qi Angie ’10

The NUS Faculty of Law is looking to fill the post of

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS & DEVELOPMENT (AD)

The areas of responsibility for the AD will include the following:

- taking charge of the development and strengthening of alumni relations;
- organisation of activities and events designed to foster greater alumni-student-faculty interactions;
- production, publication and dissemination of the LawLink Alumni Magazine twice a year;
- organisation of alumni class reunions;
- developing good relations with the student population;
- spearheading fund-raising initiatives and organising fund-raising events;
- soliciting of gifts and donations;
- administering the internship and career placement programmes and financial assistance schemes for law students;
- undertaking any other task with the view to promoting alumni relations in general.

Candidates should preferably hold an LLB degree and be an alumnus of the NUS Faculty of Law, with an interest in establishing stronger contacts with alumni. Candidates should also possess:

- at least 6 years working experience;
- administrative and personnel management experience;
- editing, publishing and layout skills (preferable but not essential); and
- excellent communication skills and an outgoing personality and disposition to interest alumni in Faculty activities and fund-raising efforts.

The remuneration package will depend on the successful candidate’s experience and qualifications.

Interested applicants should send their resume to:

Associate Dean
Faculty of Law, NUS
469G Bukit Timah Road, Eu Tong Sen Building, Singapore 117590
Email: lawv6@nus.edu.sg

Closing Date: 6 November 2009 (Only shortlisted candidates will be notified)
The Class of 1989 Reunion was held on 22 August 2009 at the Space Bank, Bukit Timah Campus. It was quite amazing how the normally classroom-bland Space Bank could be transformed for a stylish evening party. Classmates used to sitting at the back rows of the lecture theatres in the eighties naturally took the modish (though wobbly) pub stools at the back of the room, just because some things never change.

Dinner was as elegant as the transformed room. It took everyone a looooong time to get dinner not because of long queues but because conversations catching up on 20 years’ of real and serious living (10 years, if they had met at the 10th year reunion) could not be interrupted even by dinner.

When Slimy Suhaimi sang, we wondered if he had turned professional. He had not, but he could certainly boss the class around during photo-taking time.

A classmate who had indeed entered the music industry is Rey Pereira; songs from his album were played that evening. A wonderful video presentation, prepared by Jane, provided a nostalgic journey with images of the class in garbs and argh, hairstyles of the eighties. Ying Ping and Eddie also presented a duet in country style.

Our trivia quiz on classmates reminded us of who our Jessup mooters were and which of us produced a child who topped the PSLE recently. Winners of the trivia quiz were rewarded with incredible AGE-defying beauty products.

The Class also embarked on fund-raising for law students of our alma mater in need of financial assistance. Fund-raising opened with the auction of a bottle of 1989 Balblair Single Malt Scotch Whisky brought to us so thoughtfully by our beloved former teacher George Wei. The karaoke fund-raiser began with Elvis Presley disguising himself as Daniel Soh Wee Din performing Are you lonesome tonight. Classmates paid good money to sing, and even more money for other classmates to sing. Further donations poured in quietly from classmates. This simply reflects the united spirit of the Class of 1989!

Contributed by Debbie Ong ’89

Some Class Awards:
- **The Waltons Award** – for the one who contributed the most to improving our national birth replacement rate: Stacey Ong (5 kids)
- **The Jimmy Neutron Award** – for the parent with the best genes and that raised a child that topped the entire PSLE cohort: Tan Pei Fong
- **The Boston Legal Award** – for the 1st to be the Managing Partner of a big time law firm: Tan Chong Huat
- **The Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader Award** – for the 1st to obtain a PhD: Dr Ho Hock Lai
- **The Ocean’s 11, 12 & 13 Awards** – for the one who made off with the most money: David Rasif (oops)

LawLink: As at 090909, the Class has raised $46,700 to establish the “Class of 1989 Grant” to assist needy law students in study-related expenses. Gifts from classmates to the Grant would be most appreciated. Many thanks.

Contributed by Debbie Ong ’89

Some Class Awards:
- **The Waltons Award** – for the one who contributed the most to improving our national birth replacement rate: Stacey Ong (5 kids)
- **The Jimmy Neutron Award** – for the parent with the best genes and that raised a child that topped the entire PSLE cohort: Tan Pei Fong
- **The Boston Legal Award** – for the 1st to be the Managing Partner of a big time law firm: Tan Chong Huat
- **The Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader Award** – for the 1st to obtain a PhD: Dr Ho Hock Lai
- **The Ocean’s 11, 12 & 13 Awards** – for the one who made off with the most money: David Rasif (oops)
A Casebook on Corporate Governance: the Good, the Bad and the Ugly was co-written by NUS Adjunct Associate Professor Tan Chong Huat ’89 KhattarWong’s Managing Partner & Head of Corporate and Securities Law Department, Chew Heng Ching Chairman of Singapore Institute of Directors, NTU Associate Professor Tan Lay Hong ’85, Long Hsueh Ching ’03 and Umakanth Varottil (NUS Law PhD candidate) and was published in June 2009. This follows an earlier title Corporate Governance of Listed Companies in Singapore published in 2006.

Tan Li-Lee ’89 has been in Hong Kong for 12 years and she is currently with Appleby law firm for the past 10 years.

Professor Mary Wong ’89 has been a Professor of Law at Franklin Pierce Law Centre in Concord, New Hampshire, USA for the past 4 years.

Chew Juliane ’92 and husband Dr Ian Chai have become parents for the second time with the birth of Hannah Chai on 12 June 2009. Big sister Joni Chai was born on 30 October 2007. Pictures may be viewed at http://tinyurl.com/hannahchai and http://tinyurl.com/jonichai.

Warmest Congratulations to both Associate Professor Daniel Seng ’92 and his wife Xu Le on the birth of their baby girl Rosemary.

Associate Professor Tang Hang Wu ’95 is the proud father of a baby boy.

2009 has seen a number of alumni from the happy Class of ’99 welcoming their third child. Luke born on 27 March joins elder siblings Tania and Justin, and parents Ho Keng Hoong ’99 and Goh Wee Ling ’99; Marcus born on 28 April joins elder siblings Matthew and Charlotte, and parents Francis Ng ’99 and Carol Fung; Josiah born on 24 June joins elder brothers Daniel and Joseph, and parents Bin Wern Sern ’99 and Sheri Ting; Sarah Elizabeth born on 4 July joins elder sisters Emma Karissa and Hannah Olivia, and parents Kevin Tay ’99 and Geraldine Wee; Shelylyn Leanne born on 7 July joins elder siblings Dylan Michael and Isabelle Aeryn, and parents Christopher Chong ’99 and Carolyn Tong ’99.

After almost 8 years with Harry Elias Partnership, Anand Nalachandran ’99 joined ATMD Bird & Bird (formerly known as Albam Tay Mahtani and de Silva) as head of the litigation and dispute resolution practice group - and has been working longer hours ever since!

Eugene Phua Weh Kwang ’02 and his wife Mariko are happy to announce the birth of their daughter Karin on 3 April 2009.

KUALA LUMPUR: Roger Tan Kor Mee LLM ’04 has been appointed a commissioner of the National Water Service Commission (SPAN) for two years from 1 June 2009.

Pierre-Paul André Jean Marie Saulou LLM (Maritime Law) ’09 - “The year in NUS has been more than I had expected: the heavy workload, the endless hours in the library, the addictive laksa from the canteen, the Arctic aircon everywhere... It was an overload of senses all around. More importantly, it was an opportunity to learn maritime law from leading professors and to meet students from all corners of the world. And it gave me the chance to discover a fascinating country where I have decided to stay.”

The Class of ’79 will be celebrating their 30th Anniversary on Saturday, 14 November 2009 from 11.00 am, right where it all began, at the Faculty’s Bukit Timah Campus. Calling all classmates to please sign up (provide your address, email address & contact numbers) and send your cheque of $80 made payable to “Margaret Hauy” to: NUS Law Alumni Office, 469G Bukit Timah Road, Eu Tong Sen Building, Singapore 259776. For details, contact Daniel John at email: daniel.john@goodwinslaw.com or tel: 6389 6066 (office) 9633 7336 (mobile).

Hi Class of ’85, it’s been 5 years since our 20th Anniversary party. We’re now planning our 25th Anniversary Reunion to be held on Friday, 8 January 2010 evening (venue/ $ to be confirmed). We’ve volunteered a reunion organising team (Ravi K, Genevieve, Wee Hauw) to: NUS Law Alumni Office, 469G Bukit Timah Road, Eu Tong Sen Building, Singapore 259776. For details, contact Daniel John at email: daniel.john@goodwinslaw.com or tel: 6389 6066 (office) 9633 7336 (mobile).

10th Anniversary Reunion of Class of ’00 next year 2010 - Would classmates please email: lawlink@nus.edu.sg to update your contact details.