Cover Story
All in the Family

$1 Million Gift to NUS Law School

Launch of Centre for International Law
Come reconnect with your Alma Mater!

Celebrate being an NUS alumnus by returning to the campus where you had once spent the best years of your life!

This year, NUS Homecoming 2010 will be held at both Bukit Timah Campus and Kent Ridge Campus on 8 July and 10 July respectively. So regardless of which campus you graduated from, be sure to block off those dates in your calendar to revisit your alma mater and reconnect with your friends.

You’re also warmly invited to visit the Shaw Foundation Alumni House, managed by the NUS Alumni Office. Located at Kent Ridge Campus, the Alumni House is a focal point and vibrant hub for NUS alumni to renew and strengthen ties with NUS, and to bond and network with one another through a year-round selection of alumni programmes and activities.

**NUS Homecoming 2010**

**Homecoming BTC**
Date: Thursday, 8 July 2010  
Time: 6.30pm to 9.30pm  
Venue: Bukit Timah Campus

**Homecoming KR**
Date: Saturday, 10 July 2010  
Time: 10am to 8pm  
Venue: Shaw Foundation Alumni House, Kent Ridge Campus

**Alumni Programmes**

**Feature Flicks: Stardust**  
Date: Thursday, 29 April 2010  
Time: 7.30pm  
Venue: Shaw Foundation Alumni House

**Between 1 to 2: Aging Successfully by the Tsao Foundation**  
Date: Tuesday, 11 May 2010  
Time: 1pm to 2pm  
Venue: Shaw Foundation Alumni House

**Feature Flicks: The Secret Life of Bees**  
Date: Thursday, 20 May 2010  
Time: 7.30pm  
Venue: Shaw Foundation Alumni House

**Feature Flicks: Wallace and Gromit in the Curse of the Were-Rabbit**  
Date: Thursday, 24 June 2010  
Time: 7.30pm  
Venue: Shaw Foundation Alumni House

**Mark your calendars now and visit** [http://www.alumnet.nus.edu.sg](http://www.alumnet.nus.edu.sg) **closer to the dates for more information, details or to register.**
Having been re-appointed to a 4th term as Dean, I am pleased to introduce the members of the new decanal team that will begin work from 1 June 2010. Two members of the present decanal team will continue in the new team. They are Ms Goh Mia Yang and Professor Amirthalingam Kumaralingam. Mia Yang as Associate Dean for Administration oversees the day to day management of the Dean’s Office and the work of the law school’s professional managers. Mia Yang has done much to professionalize the administration of the school and I am pleased to continue to work with her. Kumar, who was appointed Vice-Dean (International Programmes) in 2009 and is concurrently Director of the Asian Law Institute, will be appointed Vice-Dean (Academic Affairs) while continuing as Director of the Asian Law Institute. As Vice-Dean for Academic Affairs, Kumar will oversee all aspects of the school’s curriculum and teaching. Kumar began his academic career at the Australian National University in 1994 and joined NUS in 2000. In 2008 he was appointed Professor of Law. He has been an energetic and engaged colleague and I am happy that he will continue to remain a member of the decanal team.

The two new members of the incoming decanal team are Professors Simon Chesterman and Stephen Girvin. Simon holds a joint appointment with NUS and NYU. He is presently the Director of the NYU@NUS dual LLM programme, one of the Chief Editors of the Singapore Yearbook of International Law, and Deputy Secretary-General of the Asian Society of International Law. Prior to joining NUS in 2007, Simon’s previous positions include being Senior Associate at the International Peace Academy and Director of UN Relations at Crisis Group in New York. Simon was appointed Professor of Law in 2009. In his capacity as Vice-Dean (Graduate Studies), Simon will oversee the law school’s LLM and PhD programmes including the NYU@NUS programme. He will also be one of the Editors of the soon to be launched Asian Journal of International Law and continue as Deputy Secretary-General of the Asian Society of International Law.

Stephen will be appointed Vice-Dean (Research and International Programmes). In this capacity, he will oversee the school’s research funds, its Centres and our three journals. He will also manage the many student exchange agreements with our partner law schools, as well as other academic partnerships such as the Centre for Transnational Legal Studies (CTLS) and the Association for Transnational Law Schools (ATLAS).
administration of the undergraduate programme more efficient. He has discharged his duties excellently while maintaining a good research output and his customary good cheer. I shall miss him as a decanal colleague but am pleased that he will be the first NUS co-director of CTLS which is based in London.

Alan has done a marvellous job as Vice-Dean for Graduate Studies. Under his watch new specialist LLM programmes were developed such as the LLM in Maritime Law and the LLM in Asian Legal Studies. The quantity and quality of applicants to the LLM programme have grown significantly during his tenure as Alan built on the foundation laid by his predecessors. The increased number of applicants in turn has meant that we are able to admit more and better students. The statistics speak for themselves. At the turn of the century we admitted 24 LLM students. In the present academic year that number has grown to 157, an increase of 654%! Although we are able to admit even more students, we have decided for now to admit only around 150 students each year thereby focusing on quality rather than quantity. Like Victor, Alan has discharged his responsibilities well while continuing to publish highly regarded pieces. I wish Alan well as he fulfils his long stated desire to return to teaching and research.

Reading this issue of LawLink, you will notice that the law school continues to remain a vibrant intellectual thought leader. We established the Centre for International Law in the second half of 2009 because of the growing need for international law expertise and education in the Asia-Pacific region. Reflecting the growing stature and influence of the NUS law school as a key institution in the better understanding of Asian perspectives of law, we hosted a symposium on the changing landscape of Asian constitutionalism, the papers of which will be published in a special edition of the prestigious International Journal of Constitutional Law. The school also collaborated with the Asian Society of International Law to convene a symposium on Sovereign Wealth Funds, and the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law organized the 10th MFA/APCEL workshop on Urban and Industrial Development: The Singapore Model.

I wish all of you happy reading and a successful 2010.

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NUS Law School warmly congratulates:

Mr Sundarsh Menon SC ’86
on his appointment as Attorney-General of Singapore.

Mr George Lim Teong Jin ’81, Ms Jennifer Suriyiacala Marie ’83,
Mr Andre Francis Maniam ’90 and Dr Stanley Lai Tze Chang,
on their appointments as Senior Counsels.
## Law School Benefactors

**10 September 2009 to 31 March 2010**

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### ALUMNI CIRCLE – UP TO $1,000

| Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCECL) |
| Lye Lin Heng, Irene ’73 | $1,000 |

| Class of ’79 Grant |
| Ho Peng Kee ’79 | $1,000 |
| Kwa Kim Li ’79 | $1,000 |
| Daniel John ’79 | $700 |

| Class of ’89 Financial Relief Fund |
| Angela Hon ’89 | $1,000 |
| Kala Anandanarajah ’89 | $1,000 |

| Lee Sheridan Legal Education Fund |
| Andy Leck | $1,000 |

| Faculty of Law General Account |
| Yung Yang Thong, Isaac ’00 | $600 |

### FACULTY CIRCLE – UP TO $500

| Law Class of ’79 Grant |
| Edmund Maury Baker ’79 |
| Pereira Linus Barnabas ’79 |
| Grace Ko ’79 |
| Lee Hwee Khiam ’79 |
| Lee Sing Lit ’79 |

| Leng Siew Wei ’79 |
| Lim Soo Phui ’79 |
| Neo Kee Heng ’79 |
| Ng Heng Fatt ’79 |
| Soh Gim Chuan ’79 |
| Soh Kim Lian ’79 |
| Tan Ai Tong ’79 |
| Tan Ming Yong ’79 |
| Richard Tan ’79 |
| Teo Chek Siew ’79 |
| Teo Seok Chin ’79 |
| Vimla D Mulchand ’79 |
| Sam Yun Piew ’79 |

| Class of ’89 Financial Relief Fund |
| Lam Yu Yee ’89 |
| Tay Hsu Chieh ’89 |

| Lee Sheridan Legal Education Fund |
| A.Alamelu ’82 LLM ’94 |
| Julie Giouw ’09 |
| Kronenburg Edmund Jerome ’96 |
| Kee Lay Lian ’85 |
| Khoon Choon Sioo ’73 LLM ’80 |
| Kuek Chrystacle ’09 |
| Leong Lai Fung LLM ’02 |
| Lo Pang Foo, Steven ’95 |
| Ng Lian Chian ’63 |
| Ng Yin Yin ’67 |
| Poh Chu Luan ’80 |
| Tan Chee Meng ’86 |
| Tan Choon Nai, ’89 |
| Tan Su-Lin ’99 |
| Tang Hang Wu ’95 |
| Wong Peck ’89 |

| Lo Hwei Yen Memorial Scholarship |
| Jaclyn Neo ’03 |
| Leong Sheng Shun ’03 |
| U-Ming Marine Transport |
Ms Ella Cheong, a lawyer from Hong Kong and a specialist in intellectual property in Asia, donated a generous gift of $1 million to NUS Law School to establish new scholarships in intellectual property, bursaries for financially needy law students and a student loan fund. An inaugural batch of students received their awards at a launch dinner on Friday, 5 February 2010.
The Centre for International Law (CIL) was established in 2009 at the National University of Singapore in response to the growing need for international law expertise and capacity building in the Asia-Pacific region. The CIL is an outcome of close collaboration between the NUS Faculty of Law, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Attorney-General’s Chambers. CIL was constituted as a university-level research institute to foster multidisciplinary research with other NUS and external centres of research excellence. However, the Faculty of Law hosts the Centre at the Bukit Timah Campus, and also contributes its facilities and key members of its academic staff.

The founding director of CIL, Associate Professor Robert C. Beckman is well known in Singapore and Asia for his expertise in ocean law and public international law. The Centre is also guided by a Board headed by Ambassador-at-Large Professor Tommy Koh ’61 as chairman and Attorney-General Professor Walter Woon ’81 as deputy chairman.

CIL was officially launched by Senior Minister & Co-ordinating Minister for National Security, Professor S Jayakumar ’63 on 30 October 2009 at a ceremony graced by Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong ’61, Minister for Law K Shanmugam ’84 and other distinguished guests from the government, judiciary, diplomatic corps, academia and the private sector. The official launch featured a colloquium on “Singapore and International Law: The Early Years” moderated by Professor Walter Woon ’81. Singapore's pioneers in the practice of international law, Professor Tommy Koh ’61, Judge of Appeal Justice Chao Hick Tin and Mr Sivakant Tiwari ’68, shared their unique insights and first-hand experiences at the colloquium.

In the two months following the launch, CIL has hosted an international workshop on the ocean law topic of “Submarine Cables and the Law of the Sea” in December 2009 and a conference on the trade law topic of “International Investment Arbitration” in January 2010. CIL launched its online Documents Database, comprising ASEAN Documents and International Law Documents, in March 2010. This user-friendly database enables users to locate and download the text of important ASEAN agreements and other instruments by categories, years and keywords. In late May 2010, CIL will co-organise a conference on ‘Air and Space Law and Regulation’. CIL is also planning a conference on ASEAN law and policy in June 2010.

For more information on the Centre for International Law, its research and planned activities, please visit the Centre’s website at this web address: http://www.cil.nus.edu.sg.

Contributed by Dr Navin Rajagobal
The Gathering

It was an amazing lunchtime gathering with the Class of ’79 coming back to the Bukit Timah Campus after 30 years. Now in our 50s, it was a reunion in broad daylight; a public and unashamed display of age and blindness! Recurrent strains of “you look the same” could be heard despite the fact that thinning hair, receding hairlines and even some baldness were the order of the day. Was it social chit-chat or old age fondness for each other which forgave the ravages of time?

The Rapid Updates

The last class reunion was 5 years ago. We marveled how quickly the time had passed. Several classmates took the trouble to fly in from overseas just for the occasion. There was so much to catch up on - there is now even a grandfather amongst us. Congratulations to Daniel John, chairman of the Reunion Organising Committee, for clinching the “First Grandfather of the Class” award. He was voted “Class Comedian” in an opinion poll held 30 years ago and has not lost the ability to make the class laugh by his mimicking in thick Sri Lankan accent the infamous “piahs”, i.e. pears, the subject of R v Dalton (so affectionately taught by our 1st year criminal law lecturer Dr. Mark Cooray 35 years ago).

The Glam Debate

To simulate law school days, we started the programme with Indraraj Jeyaraj trumpeting into wonderland accompanied on the keyboard by Mag Tan Siew Chwee. Ong Keng Yong, our very own Ambassador-at-Large, scripted a wonderful powerpoint presentation of yesterday and emceed the class debate. It centred on the hopelessly one-sided motion - “Class of ’79 produced no glam!” Just say Vanessa Mae and how much more glam do you need? This internationally renowned classical/pop violinist’s mother, Pamela Tan, an accomplished pianist herself, was a member of the Class of ’79! Anthony Lee, a one-time poster boy for the Class of ’79 walked away with the “Best Speaker Award” with his very astute and daring tackling and redefining of “glam”. He good-humouredly chastised a
Senior Minister of State that the class produced, with the line, “Aiya, when you wear white all the time, how can you be glamorous?” The Supreme Court Judge which Class of ’79 produced was not spared either - “It’s hard to stay awake reading your judgments!” The opposition was given happily and with a little MCP indulgence to the ladies of the class, led by another glamour queen of the class, now called “Julie”, who played up shamelessly to the gallery to a round of applause with the argument that “Class of ’79 is glam because we are not ordinary!” And the masses, hecklers notwithstanding, bought it with a big dollop of self-delusion, heads nodding enthusiastically.

The Goodbyes

The lunch which had a free flow of wine donated by Choo Han Teck, who was rated as the most caring President of the Law Club, enticed many to linger and reminisce.

The lecturers, tutors and librarian who came for the reunion deserve a special mention. Their presence despite their hectic schedule and more pressing demands on their time was deeply appreciated. It also gave us that sense of awe and camaraderie of being a class, and even the hecklers were subdued by the honour they bestowed upon us. They included the then Dean and now Senior Minister Professor Jayakumar (our Legal Method, Constitutional Law and Public International Law Lecturer and tutor), Justice Tan Lee Meng, (then Vice Dean and our Contract and Insurance Law Lecturer, Dr Myint Soe (our Legal Method, Criminal Law, Tort and Administration of Criminal Justice lecturer and tutor) still bristling with wit, Judicial Commissioner Philip Pillai (our Legal Method and Company Law lecturer and tutor), Associate Professor Irene Lye (our Contract and Land Law lecturer and tutor), Professor Leong Wai Kum (our Family Law lecturer and tutor) and Mrs Sng Yok Fong, the ever helpful librarian.

Reflections

As the gathering drew to an end, Daniel recorded his appreciation to the following without which the event would not have been a success:

Ong Keng Yong and friends at the IPS for their unstinting help in the logistics and powerpoint show; Margaret Hauw, our Treasurer; Teresa O’Connor and Vimla Mulchand for tidying up the class members’ contact details and organising the registration table; Lily, Denise and Jacinta for chasing many many classmates to come; Louise and Kim Li for the wonderful food and catering arrangements; and the Faculty Alumni Office for helping with all the campus arrangements and logistics.

Contributed by Mokhana Sivam ’79

LawLink: The Class has to-date raised $30,850 to establish the “Class of 1979 Grant” to assist needy law students in study-related expenses. Further gifts from classmates to the Grant would be most appreciated.
When I chose to do the NYU@NUS programme, I had no idea just how rigorous it was - three semesters of classes, assignments and examinations (including 12-hour take-home ones!) over a calendar year—definitely not an experience for the faint-hearted. However, if one is prepared to work hard and consistently, the programme offers innumerable benefits.

Students enjoy the tutelage of both NYU and NUS professors, many of whom are top names in their respective fields. As the NYU professors have their own teaching commitments back in New York, their modules are taught on an intensive basis. This entails almost daily classes with the professors. Close relationships are forged and the learning process feels extremely personal.

Another benefit of the programme is the vast range of modules offered. The difficulty is not in choosing modules but in choosing which modules to forego!

Academic considerations aside, the cosmopolitan nature of the cohort (with representatives from almost every continent in the world) lends itself to a spirited exchange of differing views within and out of the classroom. My experience in the programme has been an enriching one, and I would highly recommend it to anyone who relishes a challenge.

Crystal Ong
NYU@NUS Class of 2009
Deputy Public Prosecutor/
State Counsel Criminal Justice Division,
Attorney-General’s Chambers, Singapore

NYU@NUS
A Dual LL.M. Programme for the Globally-Minded
When I first heard of the NYU@NUS programme, I immediately felt it was perfect for me. I come from Italy—a civil law country—but with my work increasingly involving common law transactions, I knew a common law LLM was imperative. I wanted a degree from a prestigious US university, and NYU certainly fit the bill. In addition, its tie-up with an equally prominent Asian university made the programme even more attractive, as I have always been fascinated by Asia and the amazing opportunities offered by its markets.

NYU@NUS gave me the chance to enhance my legal skills through exposure to some of the best law faculties in the US and Asia. At the same time, it offered me a front seat to savour a flavour of two of the most vibrant markets in the world. The programme has proven to be the best choice for me, both from a personal and professional point of view. Knowledge of the local legal system has also given me the opportunity to follow up directly after my studies on the programme with the setting-up and management of our firm’s new office in Singapore, and to assist our other Asian offices as well. This and the local networks we have developed have been assets to our organisation, an Italian firm rapidly expanding its services in Asia.

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Sovereign Wealth Funds: Governance and Regulation

Sovereign wealth funds (SWFs) played an important role in the economic crisis of 2007-2009, incidentally acquiring large stakes in some financial giants. Yet that role has also raised questions about the influence of these state-owned investment vehicles. The United States and the European Union have expressed concerns that SWFs – coming largely from developing nations such as China, Russia and the Gulf states – have more than commercial aims. There are concerns that SWFs seek political and strategic leverage on top of financial gain. Such anxieties have been exacerbated by the relative opacity of these large investors. Current discussion about these issues tends to concentrate on policy and economic matters rather than law.

This conference was jointly held by the National University of Singapore Law School and the Asian Society of International Law at the NUS Bukit Timah Campus from 10-11 September 2009. Organized by Professor Simon Chesterman and Asian Society of International Law Fellow Dr Tan Hsien-Li ’09, the intention was to widen the legal academic debate on SWFs.

More than twenty experts and fifty observers comprising academics, officials and senior executives from or involved in SWFs came together to discuss the five topics of Definitional Challenges, International Regulation, National Oversight, Internal Governance, and The Santiago Principles and Beyond. More information on the conference, including the report and working papers, can be found at http://law.nus.edu.sg/asiansil/conference/sovereignwealth.

Contributed by Tan Hsien-Li, PhD ’09

Changing Landscape of Asian Constitutionalism

A symposium on the Changing Landscape of Asian Constitution was convened by the International Journal of Constitutional Law (ICON) and co-hosted by the Asian Law Institute (ASLI). It was held at the NUS Faculty of Law on 17 and 18 February 2010 and funded by a generous research grant from NUS.

The symposium showcased what leading constitutional scholars from Asia have to say about the state of the discipline of constitutionalism in Asian societies, the primary issues shaping constitutional theory and practice in Asia given its particularities and priorities as well as the commitment to constitutional government. Papers presented at the symposium will be refereed and published in a special edition of ICON to be guest edited by Professor Thio Li-ann, who was the principal symposium convenor.

The paper presented included topics relating to the reach and limits of Western models of Constitutionalism in Asia, the role of the judiciary in conditions of political turmoil, the impact of imposed constitutionalism on the idea of constitutional foundings, the role of the basic structure doctrine in South Asia, the search for various models of legitimacy in Asian states, religious pluralism and democracy, transitional democracies, presidentialism and constitutional adjudication and soft constitutional law in non-liberal Asian democracies.

The presentations were moderated by Professor Joseph Weiler, New York University School of Law and Professor Barak Medina, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Contributed by Professor Thio Li-ann
The NUS Law Careers Fair (LCF), an event organised annually by NUS law students with the aim of connecting law students with their potential future employers, was held on 8th, 9th and 11th February 2010. Apart from law firms (both local and foreign) and the Singapore Legal Service, this year’s LCF also saw booths being taken up by the Law Society of Singapore and even an online portal, Open Law.

During the LCF, the Faculty experienced an influx of well-dressed men and women setting up booths, distributing fliers and goodies ranging from thumb drives to cupcakes. Excited students thronged the booths, eager to receive the freebies and talk to the people giving them out.

During LCF, several law firms also held small group seminars, which allowed them to have a more in-depth discussion with interested students about their firm and legal practice in general. In addition, the Attorney-General, Professor Walter Woon ’81, shared his views on the exercise of prosecutorial discretion, while the Law Society ran a “talk show” on the topic of running one’s own law firm.

All in all, LCF was an exhilarating and fruitful experience for everyone involved. Law students learned more about the variety of practice options awaiting them upon graduation which would enable them to make a more informed decision about their career path. The participating organisations were able to increase their visibility among the student population and hopefully attract more aspiring lawyers to join them.

Contributed by Daniel Gaw ’12 and Sam Ng ’12
All in the FAMILY

Mr Tan Lian Ker ’64, BBM, Mdm Lily Tan ’79 and Ms Elizabeth Wu ’09 represent three generations of a family that have passed through the NUS Law School. They share with Dorothy Tan Xuan Qi ’12 their experiences studying and practicing law.
Mr Tan Lian Ker's first encounter with law began when he came to Singapore from Malaysia to work as a court interpreter. He found law to be an interesting and challenging field, and decided to read Law at the University of Singapore on a part-time basis. Completing the six-year long course was no walk in the park for Mr Tan, as he was already married with children when he began his legal studies. By day, he would work as a court interpreter, and by night he would head to the Bukit Timah Campus for lectures that were conducted from 5 to 10 pm. While Mr Tan acknowledged that the going was tough, he was grateful for his wife's encouragement and support.

Mr Tan graduated from the University of Singapore in 1964, and thereafter entered into government service. During his time in Legal Service, he served as a State Counsel, Head of Legal Department in the Ministry of Defence and as a District Court Judge. He also presided on the Rent Conciliation Board and the Industrial Arbitration Court.

Mr Tan shared his thoughts on changes in Singapore's litigation landscape over the years, "There was the introduction of initiatives to streamline the court process, making it a more accessible and efficient system. This was also facilitated by the establishment of statutory boards to oversee specific types of disputes. Currently, the increasing focus on arbitration and mediation provides good alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. All these bode well for the development of Singapore as a legal hub in the region."

On being asked what he found to be the most rewarding part of his legal career, Mr Tan said, "To be able to use my legal knowledge to assist people by finding fair and appropriate solutions. That is most satisfying."

Mr Tan entered into semi-retirement in 1984 and took life easy for a year or so. He was approached to join several big law firms but he decided to set up a small law firm, Tan Lian Ker & Co, in 1985. He says of his firm, "I was happy to have more time to do other things, like be with my family and also serve as honorary legal advisor to several associations. I wanted a place where friends could come to me if they needed guidance on any legal matters."

During his time in private practice, Mr Tan was appointed a member of the Military Court of Appeal, the Maintenance of Parents Tribunal, and the Strata Titles Board. Mr Tan is currently President of the Strata Titles Board, a position which he has held since 1993.

Mr Tan was asked if he had any words of advice for young lawyers. He said, "You must be passionate in the area of law you choose. If practicing law is for the sole purpose of making money, you may be disappointed. You must have your client's interest foremost and conduct yourself with integrity."

Mr Tan's eldest daughter, Madam Lily Tan, graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Singapore in 1979. Mdm Tan was in private practice for some years before she moved in-house to be the company secretary and legal manager of two related public-listed companies. After more than ten years on the job, she left practice to spend more time with her family. Currently, she works with her father. On why she decided to follow in her father's footsteps and read Law, she said, "I witnessed my father's dedication to and love for the law since I was young and realised that I wanted to study law. There was no doubt about it. I think that came from observing the way my father helped people."

Mdm Tan was asked to recount her time as a student at the Law School. She says, "I have fond memories of my time at Law School. There was close camaraderie amongst the students in my year and a fair number of us still meet up regularly. In November last year, we had our 30th year reunion and the majority of the class turned up. We had a good time catching up and reminiscing about our student days."

Elizabeth Wu, Mdm Tan's daughter, recently graduated from NUS Law school in 2009 and is a practice trainee at Rajah & Tann LLP. She represented NUS at the 2007 Willem C. Vis and 2009 Phillip C. Jessup moot competitions, and attended the Instituto de Empresa in Madrid, Spain as
A briefing was conducted on 28 January 2010 for key stakeholders concerned about violence against women in Singapore. In the briefing, preliminary statistics derived from a research project initiated by Associate Professor Chan Wing Cheong was presented to representatives from MCYS, NCSS, the police, voluntary welfare organisations, hospitals and the media.

The research project, which adopted the International Violence Against Women Survey implemented overseas, involved surveying a random sampling of about 2000 women aged between 18 and 69 years old on their experiences of violence. It aimed to uncover the true extent of violence in Singapore, the profile of victims, severity and perception of the incident, willingness of victims to seek help from the police and other specialised agencies and so on.

A few key statistics uncovered by the survey include:

Singapore had the lowest rate of lifetime violence victimisation (9.2%) as compared to the other countries that participated in the survey.

More than half (58.8%) of the victims experienced repeated victimisation.

Of those who experienced violence in the last 12 months, the majority were aged 30 to 39 years old (47.2%), and there was an over-representation of Malays (18.9%) and those with university or post-graduate qualifications (30.2%).

Only about a quarter of those victimised reported the incident to the police (ranging from 21.6% to 25.3% for those victimised by non-partners and partners respectively) and even fewer contacted specialised agencies for assistance (7.0%).

The briefing ended with an exploration of the implications of the survey results by Mr Benny Bong and Ms Suzanne Anderson, both of whom are from the Society Against Family Violence and co-researchers of the project.

The final report of this first nation-wide victim survey is expected to be released in the second half of this year.

Contributed by Associate Professor Chan Wing Cheong
No task is too small for the students from NUS Pro Bono Group when it comes to helping out in the pro bono legal scene. From explaining court procedures to legal aid applicants to meticulously taking notes during legal clinics, the volunteers show that it is never too early to start using one’s legal knowledge to help others in society.

The NUS Pro Bono Group was formed in 2005 with the aim of informing, involving and inspiring law students to meet society’s legal needs through pro bono legal work. Since then it has developed and expanded to include projects which span from legal awareness workshops to doing research for legislative change, even including the provision of administrative assistance for events promoting legal awareness such as the Law Awareness Week 2009 held by the Law Society. The Pro Bono Group has worked with many notable institutions that promote pro bono work, including the Subordinate Courts, Law Society’s Pro Bono Services Office and the Ministry of Education.

One of the key projects that the Pro Bono Group is involved in is the University Court Friend (UCF) programme. In UCF, students go to the Subordinate Courts where they assist court users in the process of filing forms and making applications, which can be particularly confusing especially for applicants who are not fluent in English, or first-time court users who are unfamiliar with the court processes. Both the courts and the participating universities are fully committed to helping make the court application process one that is accessible to people from all walks of life. It was an honour to have the efforts of one of the NUS volunteers, Cheryl Seah, a second-year law student, recognised through an outstanding volunteer award by the courts for her help in developing the programme.

The NUS Pro Bono Group is always on the look-out for more avenues to provide and promote pro bono legal work, and can be contacted at: nusprobono@gmail.com. More information about the group’s activities can be found at nusprobono.wordpress.com.

Contributed by Anthony Wong ’12, President, NUS Pro Bono Group
Class of 2010 Collegiate Dinner

26 March 2010 • NUSS Kent Ridge Guild House
An NUS law school tradition lived strong as the graduating class of 2010 put up three nights of song, dance and acting from 18th to 20th September 2009 at the Auditorium, NUS Bukit Timah Campus. This was our batch’s Law IV Production, an entirely “home grown” musical to raise funds for the Teen Challenge DARE Centre, which helps young and older adults with life controlling problems such as chronic drug and gambling addictions.

The production titled “Worlds Apart” centred around a lawyer, Derek and his piano-teacher girlfriend, Mary, who have lost sight of one another. The obstacles to their happily-ever-after is compounded by Mary’s kidnap into the magical world of AHAVA Land and the temptation posed by Derek’s beautiful colleague who has fallen for him. The story does have a happy ending and the couple is reunited at the end of the musical after a harrowing journey for Mary in AHAVA land where she helps a struggling boyband, S.E.K.S.Y. regain stardom.

Featuring an original script, music and choreography by the graduating class of 2010, we managed to indulge our audience with a colourful alternate universe where music and dance rule. Despite our modest means and lack of prior experience, the production team put up a worthy show with strong performances from our cast and crew. By the time the couple reunited at the end of the story and hearing the applause that followed, we were convinced that the nine months of hard work put in to stage this production, were fully rewarded.

We are especially grateful to our Guests-of-Honour, the Honourable Judge of Appeal Andrew Phang ‘82 and Professor Tommy Koh ‘61 for gracing our performances. Special thanks are also due to Senior Minister of State, Associate Professor Ho Peng Kee ’79, Justice Lee Seiu Kin ’86, our sponsors, members of the Faculty, our classmates, friends and family for supporting us too.

Contributed by Ang Houfu ’10 and Natalie Lam ’10
Producers, Law IV 2009
St. Augustine once said, “The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page.” My four-month stint on an exchange programme to the University of British Columbia in Canada has opened my eyes to the world at large and granted me new found wealth – in knowledge, experience and friendship.

My time in Vancouver certainly marked a milestone in my life as for the first time, I got to thoroughly soak in a foreign culture, studied in a different system, woke up to the view of snow-capped mountains and developed deep friendships with international students I might never have known in Singapore.

Vancouver’s large immigrant population made it rather difficult to identify what constituted the true Canadian culture. There were, however, the ever-delicious maple syrup; the action-packed ice hockey; the craze for the upcoming 2010 Winter Olympics; and on a grander scale, the intriguing cultures of its First Nations people that constantly reminded me that I was unmistakably in Canada.

Admiring the beauty of Canada’s natural landscapes and interacting with the First Nations people helped me to finally understand why environmental protection and aboriginal rights feature so strongly in Canadian lawmaking. Economic development was clearly not their only concern which was something I found especially refreshing and heartening. Other interesting aspects of their legal landscape include rape shield laws which reflect the strength of feminist thought in their society.

The cultural shock was definitely not one-sided. My classmates at school were appalled at the fact that corporal and capital punishment remain in force in Singapore, but when they found out that the import and sale of chewing gum is banned here. In fact, in their bid to facetiously tease Singaporeans, they even gave me several packets of chewing gum as parting gifts!

The NUS Law Student Exchange Programme has given me a treasured experience that neither pictures nor words can fully capture. I am glad I seized this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and I hope that many others would too.

Contributed by Oh Wee Chun Derek ’11
WELCOME BACK

We welcome the return of Professor Walter Woon ’81 to the Faculty to resume his teaching appointment in April 2010.

CONGRATULATIONS

Heartiest Congratulations to:
Professors Ho Hock Lai ’89 and Simon Chesterman, Associate ProfessorsTey Tsun Hang, Wang Jiangyu and Lim Lei Theng ’92 on their promotions.

Assistant Professor Jean Ho Qing Ying ’03 who was awarded the LLM from l’Université de Paris I (Panthéon-Sorbonne) in July 2009.

APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor Irene Lye Lin Heng ’73 was Visiting Associate Professor at the University of Sydney Law School in September 2009, where she co-taught an intensive course on Asia-Pacific Environmental Law.

Associate Professor Chan Wing Cheong was invited to be a Founding Member of the newly formed Asian Criminological Society based in Macau and was elected a member of the Presidium on 18 December 2009.

Assistant Professor Jean Ho Qing Ying ’03 was appointed Editor of the Asian Journal of Comparative Law in December 2009.

Assistant Professor Sundram Soosay has joined ASLI as a Deputy Director from 1 January 2010.

Associate Professor Lim Lei Theng ’92 and Associate Dean Goh Mia Yang ’92 were appointed ad-hoc referees of the Small Claims Tribunal with effect from 15 January 2010.

Associate Professor Dora Neo was appointed as Chairperson of the Faculty’s Continuing Legal Education committee with effect from 1 February 2010.

Associate Professor Victor Ramraj has been appointed co-director of the Center for Transnational Legal Studies (CTLS) in London, of which NUS is one of the founding law schools, in the 2010/11 academic year.

CITATIONS

The works of Associate Professor Poh Chu Chai ’73 were recently cited in several judgments:


PUBLICATIONS


Emeritus Professor Koh Kheng Lian ’61 & Associate Professor Irene Lye Lin Heng ’73 co-edited “Critical Issues in Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol – Asia and the World” with Jolene Lin. Published by World Scientific Publishing Co Ltd, Singapore, 2009 xvii, 576 pp. It contains the selected proceedings of a closed-door workshop organized by APCEL in 2008 on Climate Change and the Law, with particular focus on the challenges that face Asian countries.

Emeritus Professor Peter Ellinger & Associate Professor Dora Neo co-authored “Letters of Credit”.

Professor M Sornarajah published the 3rd edition of “The International Law on Foreign Investment”.

Professor M Sornarajah and Associate Professor Wang Jiangyu co-edited “China, India and the International Economic Order”.

Professor Jeffrey Pinsler published the 10th Anniversary edition of the Singapore Court Practice 2009.

Professor Stanley Yeo ’76 co-authored with Mark Findlay of Sydney and Stephen Odgers, SC the 4th edition of “Australian Criminal Justice”.

Professor Michael Hor ’84 & Associate Professor Tang Hang Wu ’95 co-edited volume on “Reading Law in Singapore”. Targeted at potential students who may be interested in reading law at NUS, the book provides succinct overviews of key areas of law and is written to be accessible to laypersons.

Professor Simon Chesterman jointly edited “Private Security, Public Order: The Outsourcing of Public Services and its Limits”.

Associate Professor Irene Lye Lin Heng ’73 co-edited “Critical Issues in Environmental Taxation – International and Comparative Perspectives, Volume VII”. Published by Oxford University Press, it is a compilation of selected papers from the 9th Global Conference on Environmental Taxation, hosted by the Faculty’s Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL) in November 2008.

Associate Professor Poh Chu Chai ’73 published “Motor and Work Injury Insurance” in January 2010.

Associate Professor Victor Ramraj & Assistant Professor Arun Kumar Thiruvengadam co-edited a book on “Emergency Powers in Asia, Exploring the Limits of Legality”.

Associate Professor Tang Hang Wu ’95 co-edited the 3rd edition of Professor Tan Sook Yee’s “Principles of Singapore Land Law”.

Assistant Professor Jean Ho Qing Ying ’03 published “The Evolution of Legal Education” in 44(3) Kyunghee Law Journal in December 2009.
Emeritus Professor Koh Kheng Lian ’61
• Conducted a Video Conference with Asst Prof Asanga Gunawansa on “A Copenhagen Adaptation Framework? What Role Can ASEAN Play in its Formulation” with the University of Indonesia, organized by Indonesian students on 7 October 2009.
• Participated in and chaired a panel session at the 10th Annual Global Conference on Environmental Taxation, 23-25 September 2009, Lisbon, Portugal.
• Presented a paper on “Water/Freshwater Resources: Law, Policy and Governance: Singapore Case Study” at the 7th Colloquium of the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law, 1-5 November 2009, Wuhan, China.
• Participated in and was also a moderator in the session on “Environment” at the World Justice Forum 2009, 11-14 November 2009, Vienna, Austria.

Associate Professor Irene Lye Lin Heng ’73
• Attended meetings of the Governing Board, IUCN Academy of Environmental Law, as a member of the Board, and chaired a meeting of its Teaching and Capacity Building Committee in Nov 2009.
• Participated in the Academy’s 7th Annual Colloquium in Wuhan University, China, on the theme “Environmental Governance and Sustainability” and presented a paper “Applying the Polluter Pays Principle in the Regulation of Road Traffic in Singapore”.

Associate Professor Victor Ramraj & Dora Neo were faculty members at the Centre for Transnational Legal Studies (CTLS) in London from August to December 2009.

Assistant Professor Jean Ho Qing Ying ’03 was invited to be a Speaker at the International Conference on “Current Issues and Future Tasks for Educating Lawyers in the Age of Globalization”, October 29.

Emeritus Professor Koh Kheng Lian ’61
• Conducted a Video Conference with Asst Prof Asanga Gunawansa on “A Copenhagen Adaptation Framework? What Role Can ASEAN Play in its Formulation” with the University of Indonesia, organized by Indonesian students on 7 October 2009.
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• Participated in and was also a moderator in the session on “Environment” at the World Justice Forum 2009, 11-14 November 2009, Vienna, Austria.

OTHERS

APCEL - MFA Collaboration

APCEL continues to play a robust role in raising the profile of the Faculty of Law, NUS. At the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Singapore) it organized the 10th MFA/APCEL workshop on Urban and Industrial Environmental Management: The Singapore Model, held from 9 to 15 December 2009 at the Faculty of Law. Emeritus Professor Koh Kheng Lian was the Course Director and served as a resource person, together with others including members of APCEL, the NUS academia from other faculties, the private and government sectors. They were Lye Lin Heng, Penna LakshmiKanth and Asanga Gunawansa, Adhityan Appan, Christophe Inglis, Jeff Obbard, Kog Yue Choong, Malone-Lee Lai Choo, Richard C. Reidinger, Simon John Longman, Victor Savage and Yong Wei Hin.

There were 22 participants from 17 countries in Africa, Europe and Asia. The topics covered were wide-ranging demonstrating Singapore’s efforts in environment and development – brown, green and blue issues that have progressively turned Singapore into a success story in sustainable development. The Workshop considered the many challenges that Singapore faces, not the least the impact of climate change and adaptation. The role of Singapore in the regional and global context was also considered.
Professor Gerald Dworkin
is currently the Emeritus Professor of Law at King’s College, University of London.
Professor Dworkin has been actively involved in academic and professional activities in intellectual property matters for over thirty years. He has held, amongst other professorial posts, the Herchel Smith Chair in Intellectual Property Law in the University of London where he designed and taught a number of different undergraduate and postgraduate courses. He has also taught at many other universities in Europe, Australia, the USA and Singapore; participated in WIPO and other course and conferences; and provided in-house courses for legal and other professional groups. He has written widely on intellectual property and related matters.
Professor Dworkin will be lecturing in the Graduate Certificate in Intellectual Property Law course, jointly organised by the IP Academy and the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore, during his visit.

Ms Imola Streho is the Coordinator of the Total Law™ Team, and is Lecturer at Sciences Po, Paris, where she is Program Director of the Master of European Affairs. From 2002 till 2008, she was référendaire at the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg.
Ms Streho is a Doctor of Laws by the Law Faculty of the University of Paris 2 (Pantheon-Assas) where she is teaching seminars on the European Judicial System and the Law of the International Market (Institut des Hautes Etudes Internationales).
Ms Streho has also taught EU law at the National University of Singapore and the University of Melbourne. From 2000 to 2002, she was a visiting researcher at Harvard Law School and NYU School of Law where she was the Executive Director of its Jean Monnet Center.
Activities:

1. **7th ASLI CONFERENCE**
   - **Title:** Law in a Pluralist Asia: Challenges and Prospects
   - **Location:** Ahmad Ibrahim Kulliyyah of Laws, International Islamic University Malaysia, 25 & 26 May 2010, Tuesday & Wednesday
   - **Description:** 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.

2. **GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW 2010 / 2011 (10TH INTAKE)**
   - **Details:**
     - Courses commencing in August 2010.
     - For more information, please visit our website: www.ipacademy.com.sg
     - Or contact Naveena at 6232 9831
     - Email: naveena_methani@ipacademy.com.sg

3. **NYU@NUS DEGREE PROGRAM**
   - **Details:** A 10- to 12-month course of study, beginning in May and ending in February or April, yields two LL.M. degrees from world-renowned institutions.
   - **NYU DEGREE**
     - LL.M. in Law and the Global Economy
     - **Optional Concentrations**
       - U.S. and Asian Business and Trade Law
       - Justice and Human Rights
   - **NUS DEGREE**
     - LL.M.
     - **Optional Specializations**
       - Asian Legal Studies
       - Corporate and Financial Services Law
       - Intellectual Property and Technology Law
       - International and Comparative Law
       - Maritime Law
REUNIONS!
ARE YOU CELEBRATING A LANDMARK YEAR IN 2010?
If you are from the following classes:

2010
Class of ’70 – 40th Anniversary  Class of ’90 – 20th Anniversary
Class of ’75 – 35th Anniversary  Class of ’95 – 15th Anniversary
Class of ’80 – 30th Anniversary  Class of ’00 – 10th Anniversary
Class of ’85 – 25th Anniversary

The Alumni Relations team can help to organise your Reunion.
To find out more, please drop us an email at: lawlink@nus.edu.sg

Mrs Lakshmi Swaminathan ’61 (formerly Miss Muthulakshmi Raman) shared with LawLink that upon her return to India, she joined the civil service and worked in the Ministry of Law. She later became Member and Vice-Chairman of the Central Administrative Tribunal, Principal Bench at New Delhi. We would like to congratulate Mrs Swaminathan on her three-year appointment as Member Judge of the Asian Development Bank Administrative Tribunal, Manila in February 2010.

Judy Chang ’92 has this to share with us: “I was a victim of the GFC in 2009 and spent six months of gainful unemployment in Sydney climbing trees, trading forex online, writing for a London-based financial website, having regular sessions with my career coach trying to map out an alternative career (which doesn’t involve the law and mostly revolves around cakes, coffee, weekend markets and short film cinema) and enhancing my culinary skills. However, all good things come to an end, I have now relocated back to Singapore after four years in Sydney and am back to the Regulatory Compliance grindstone.”

Eng Siow Peng ’92 recounts his adventures since graduation from Law School:
“After pupillage, I joined a small firm doing mainly civil litigation work. Since my firm had a good number of unhappily married clients, I saw more divorces than marriages in my two years of practice. Thereafter, I headed to Australia to do a Masters in Economics ... basically an excuse for not engaging in gainful employment. Armed with my Masters, I returned to Singapore and joined a government ministry for two years before ending up in Singapore Turf Club ... as an employee, not a big time horse-owner. After five years with the Turf Club handling several different portfolios (not riding or cleaning stables), I left to join People’s Association. I have been with PA for five and a half years now and am currently a Deputy Director handling Volunteer Management.”

Emiley Yeow ’95 recently returned to Singapore after nine years away – first in San Francisco and then London, where her twins were born. She has joined Stamford Law Corporation as their Director for Corporate Relations and is enjoying being back in Raffles Place.

Edmund Kronenburg ’96 and Tan Kok Peng ’00 have re-booted Braddell Brothers, Singapore’s third-oldest law firm, having taken it over in October 2009. The firm was founded in 1883 by the sons of Singapore’s first Attorney-General, Sir Thomas Braddell. It counts amongst its alumni various High Court judges and even a former Minister for Law. Edmund and Kok Peng – both litigation / arbitration lawyers and former NUS Jessup mooters – hope to reclaim the firm’s former glory by re-establishing Braddell Brothers as a respected name in Singapore’s litigation and arbitration arena.

Wilson Ang ’98 & family - wife Esther, son Malcolm and daughter Emma-Claire.

Anand Nalachandran ’99 & Toh Wei Yi ’06 married in December 2009 - just in time to incur “ang-bao” obligations in the Year of the Tiger.

Tan Teck Wang ’99 has moved from private practice as a civil litigator in Rodyk & Davidson LLP to become the General Counsel of the Casino Regulatory Authority of Singapore. Present challenges at work involve assisting his colleagues to set up and calibrate the legal & regulatory framework for the gaming industry in Singapore. He enjoys spending time with his family (in particular one year old daughter Sarah) when home.
Announcements for Reunions

The Class of 1985 will be celebrating their 25th Anniversary on Friday, 9 July 2010! The organizing team comprising Ravi K, Genevieve, Wee Ling, Joyce and Ng Yuen would like to urge all classmates to attend the event. Please email lawlink@nus.edu.sg if you would like to be there.

The Class of 1990 will be holding its 20th Anniversary Reunion on Friday, 24 September 2010. The venue and cost per head will be confirmed in due course. The organizing committee, headed by Lee Teck Leng '90, hopes to see as many classmates as possible at the gathering. If you have not received an email regarding the reunion, please send an email to Teck Leng at leetl@leeassociates.com.sg or contact him at mobile no. 97942262 so that you can be kept in the loop.

The Class of 2000 will be organising its 10th Anniversary Reunion this year. The Organising Committee (made up of Nakoorsha Bin Abdul Kadir, Bernette Meyer, Ng Joo Kim and Wendy Tan) is proposing to hold a high tea get-together from 2.30pm to 6.00pm on Saturday 14 August 2010. Please e-mail lawclass2000@yahoo.com (with copy to lawlink@nus.edu.sg) to confirm your attendance, offer assistance and/or suggestions, as well as update your contact details. We look forward to hearing from you!

Michelle Elias Solomon '00 is presently residing in Los Angeles, California with her husband David and 15-month old daughter Helen who is her current boss.

Daphne Loke DipSing '01: "I've been in the UK for a year and a half and finally feel like I've settled in proper (having acquired the appropriate wardrobe for each season!). I'm now working in Business Development at Clifford Chance in Canary Wharf, London where some bits feel like Singapore's Raffles Place as the area is built on the site of formerly busy docks with views of the Thames that are (vaguely) reminiscent of the Singapore River, and has an underground shopping centre adjacent to the tube just like at Raffles Place MRT."

Jonathan Yuen '02 is currently a Partner at Harry Elias Partnership LLP in the Civil and Commercial Litigation Practice Group. After the rigours of NUS law school, he decided to punish himself again by embarking on further studies at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business where he has just graduated with an MBA. He married his wife Bow in early 2009.

Rachel Yee DipSing '06 - She has been an in-house counsel with Sembcorp Industries Ltd for the past three years, since being admitted to the Singapore Bar in 2007, and specialising in work areas relating to the provision of centralised utilities, purchase and sale of gas as well as power generation. She particularly enjoys the new experiences that working in Sembcorp exposes her to the most recent example being the opportunity to travel to Oman for a project completion.

Congratulations to Lin Shumin '08 and Jared Chen '09 on their engagement in December 2009! Will wedding bells be ringing any time soon?

Justine Tan '02: "I joined LAB after graduation in December for a short stint before my Part B course commences. The work at LAB is challenging because I see the impact of my decisions on people who are having a hard lot in life. It is a fearsome responsibility. Things never get mundane - even when cases become run-of-the-mill, I have a lot of autonomy to improve my legal service standards, and know that this makes a difference to the human stories in the files. I enjoy being my own boss in that way."