from the editor

DAWN OF A NEW ERA  The wheels of change are certainly in motion for the legal fraternity, and in this issue of LawLink, we have our Editorial Team hot on its trail.

For the first time ever, we have our alumnus, The Honourable Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong ’61, appointed as the Chief Justice of Singapore following the retirement of Dr Yong Pung How LL.D ’01. In our exclusive interview, Chief Justice Chan shares with LawLink the valuable memories and experiences he recollects of his remarkable career as well as the vision he holds for the term of his new office.

Other significant changes within the judiciary include the appointment of Justice Andrew Phang ’82 as Judge of Appeal, Second Solicitor-General Lee Seiu Kin ’86 as High Court Judge as well as Sundaresh Menon ’86 as Judicial Commissioner. On a different note, Mr Chao Hick Tin has embarked on his first term as the Attorney-General of Singapore within the Legal Service after a long and fruitful career in the judiciary.

In this issue, we also bid fond farewell to outgoing Vice-Dean Associate Professor Robert C. Beckman, Vice-Dean Associate Professor Teo Keang Sood and Deputy Director of the Graduate Division Associate Professor Joel Lee, members of the Faculty who have contributed greatly to its advancement. At the same time, we extend our warmest welcome to our incoming Vice-Deans Associate Professor Victor V. Ramraj and Associate Professor Alan Tan ’93.

Last but not least, this 10th issue marks an important transformation to the heart of LawLink. As the newly inaugurated Editor, I am delighted to be a part of the new, and may I say, the first Editorial Team that comprises fresh graduates and future alumni members.

A big thank you to my dearest team members Delphie, Denise, Felicia, Jeth, Maur een and Shoumin!

To quote Heraclitus, “Nothing endures but change”. As LawLink continues to progress, it is my hope that the changes which we adopt will always be for the better.

Thank you for your support over the past five years. As always, remember to send us your comments and updates and enjoy reading this issue of LawLink!

Rachel Yee  DipSing ’06
Editor
The first half of 2006 has been an eventful one for the legal profession. After a long and successful tenure, Dr Yong Pung How LLD '01 retired as Chief Justice. He has made many contributions to the legal profession which have been documented extensively and his place in history is assured. We at the law school are grateful to him for the advice that he gave us, and my colleagues and I wish him every happiness in his retirement. Mr Chan Sek Keong '61 has since been appointed Chief Justice. Mr Chan is an alumnus of the law school's first batch of graduates. We are proud of his achievements and wish him every success in what we hope is a long tenure. Congratulations also go to Mr Chao Hick Tin, the newly appointed Attorney-General, our former colleague, Mr Andrew Phang '82, who was appointed Judge of Appeal, Mr Lee Seiu Kin '86, who was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court, and Mr Sundaresh Menon '86, who was appointed Judicial Commissioner. Messrs Phang, Lee and Menon are also alumni of the law school.

Having been Dean for more than five years with one more year of my second term left, this has been a time of reflection for me. As I reflect, there is much to be happy about. In terms of research, it is difficult to think of a time when faculty have been so productive. Not only have faculty been writing more, they have also been publishing in a wider range of law journals, many of which are recognised as leading journals internationally. More papers are also being presented at conferences and symposia and the law school itself is taking the lead in bringing leading academics together to engage in the presentation and discussion of learned papers on highly topical issues. Recent symposia organised by the law school were in diverse areas such as Global Anti-Terrorism Law and Policy, Developments in Singapore and Malaysian Law, Legal Education in Asia, Law and Multiculturalism, Support for Victims of Crime, and China, India and the International Economic Order, all of which have led or will lead to publications.

In terms of teaching, the range and diversity of courses mean that students have many exciting choices. Specialist Master of Laws programmes have also been developed and include the law school's Shanghai LLM programme in International Business Law and the dual LLM programme with NYU that will begin in 2007. One indicator of success on the curriculum front may be found in the record number of applicants for the law school's graduate programmes in the 2006/2007 academic year. Almost 300 applications from over 25 countries were received of which we expect to admit no more than a hundred.

In the area of service to the wider community, I am proud that so many of my colleagues are playing important roles within the wider legal community as well as within Singapore and overseas. At the same time, with a strong and growing international reputation, the law school has received many applications for academic positions. I have observed with great interest and satisfaction how over the years the quality and quantity of applicants have gone up steadily. This is of crucial importance to us because any academic institution is only as strong as its professoriate. We are currently considering a number of very interesting candidates of which two new professorial appointments have been confirmed. One is Professor Stanley Yeo '76 whom many in the profession will know because he taught at the law school many years ago before he left to take up an appointment at the University of Sydney. He is presently Dean of the law school at Southern Cross University. The other is Professor Andrew Simester, who is Professor of Legal Philosophy at the University of Nottingham and an affiliated lecturer at the University of Cambridge. Both are excellent appointments that will strengthen the law school.
So much for where we are today. The more important question is where do we go from here. In my view, universities are at the cusp of another paradigm shift, namely, how to develop into a globally-oriented institution of knowledge and research. Universities need to look beyond not only disciplinary boundaries that are often artificial, but also beyond narrow geographical and communitarian boundaries. In a more globalized world, those universities that can effectively transform themselves in such a manner will increasingly be the ones regarded as being in the first tier of universities. This is not to say that leading universities must not be concerned about the particular needs of their immediate communities; rather it is that such universities can and should look beyond this and in doing so will (in my view) also be able to contribute more effectively to the debate within their immediate communities.

So it is too with the NUS law school. Our place in Singapore and the need for us to contribute to Singapore jurisprudence and the Singapore legal system is without question a key priority for us; indeed it is our principal reason for existence. However, in an increasingly inter-dependent world, the law school must develop a more global mindset and contribute to the increasingly global dialogue that is taking place about law and legal institutions. Through this we will continue to advance Singapore’s interests and her place in the world. Our students will also receive an education that will better prepare them for a world where cross-border transactions and issues will become increasingly important.

This point is very eloquently put forward in an external review report prepared for the Provost of a major North American law school which I had the benefit of chancing upon when writing this message. The members of the review committee expressed their view that over the next twenty-five years the network of connections among the world’s research universities will become more and more dense, facilitating the more rapid movement of people and ideas in ways that will benefit all humanity. This will operate at the university as well as the school level. The schools will see themselves and be generally seen as special resources for their nations, embodying an ideal of excellence that has national qualities and making vital contributions to their nations’ continued prosperity. At the same time, they will also be institutions that have duties that transcend national borders—duties that require collective transnational investments that are calculated to advance the interests of people everywhere. In short, the report states, within a few decades there will be perhaps twenty or twenty-five universally recognised “global law schools”. It opines that many of these special institutions will be American but some will be found in Europe, Asia and South America.

To end an already over-long message, let me simply say that the NUS law school intends to be one of those twenty to twenty-five universally recognised “global law schools”.

Professor Tan Cheng Han, S.C. ’87

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**LAW SCHOOL BENEFACTORS JAN TO JUNE 2006**

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Assoc Prof Lyn Heng, Irene ’73 $2,000

**ALUMNI CIRCLE UP TO $1,000**
The Geoffrey Bartholomew Professorship
Y.B. Datuk Seri Dr. Mat Rais Bin Yatim ’73

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Soh Onn Cheng, Margaret Jane ’80

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Te Suen Wei Byron ’96
Wan Wai Yee ’96
Yee Mun Howe Gerald ’96
Yui Vivien ’96
The 19th Singapore Law Review Lecture

The Singapore Law Review, a wholly student-run journal at the National University of Singapore Faculty of Law, successfully organized and executed the 19th Singapore Law Review Lecture (the “SLR Lecture”) on 13 June 2006 at the Supreme Court Auditorium.

The lecture, titled “Recent Developments in Malaysian Constitutional Law”, was delivered by the distinguished Chief Justice of Malaysia, The Right Honourable Tun Dato’ Sri Ahmad Fairuz bin Dato’ Sheikh Abdul Halim ’67. In attendance were judges from the Singapore High Court, members of the Malaysian judiciary, the Attorney-General, Solicitors-General, legal practitioners, Faculty staff members, students and other members of the public. The event was generously sponsored by Tan Kok Quan Partnership.

The evening started off on a light-hearted tone, with the Chief Justice briefly reminiscing his time as a student at the Bukit Timah Campus. “To me, Singapore and the National University of Singapore when it was at the Bukit Timah Campus, bring back many fond memories,” he said.

However, members of the audience who were hoping for a juicy story or two were left unfulfilled, as the Chief Justice chuckled and continued, “But I will not divulge them for now.”

He did, however, take some time to say a few words of encouragement to the present students, saying “…my advice is not to let each moment go to waste while you are here. Know the true value of time. Snatch, seize and enjoy every moment.”

The Chief Justice then delved into the main substance of his lecture, that is, the 1998 legislative amendments to the Malaysian Constitution, which removed the right of civil courts to review decisions made by the Syariah courts. The reason he chose this topic is because several cases in recent years concerning the amended Article 12 caused the Malaysian courts to come under fire from the public.

Some of the more well-known cases are Lina Joy v Ketua Pengarah Pendaftaran Negara [2005] 6 MLJ 193 (the Lina Joy case) and Kamariah bte Ali and Lain-lain lwn Kerajaan Negeri Kelantan dan Satu Lagi [2005] 1 MLJ 197 (the Moorthy case).

In his speech, the Right Honourable Chief Justice demonstrated his intellectual prowess, taking the audience through the intricacies of Malaysian constitutional law, with a careful analysis of the other relevant statutes and cases.

He concluded that “…a written constitution must be viewed by a judicial arbiter as a living document sensitive to the needs of the time if it is to be relevant and beneficial as a sacred covenant between a state and her people.”

“…ideally any amendment or development in constitutional law should only be made to meet the needs of current environment and circumstances and for the betterment of human life in this planet.”

The speech was followed by a Question and Answer session moderated by Associate Professor Alan Tan Khee Jin ’93, Deputy Director of the Asian Law Institute and Vice-Dean of Research & Graduate Studies. The Chief Justice fielded questions from Dr. Kevin Tan ’86, a Singapore constitutional law expert and Mr. Abraham Vergis ’98, a litigator with Drew & Napier LLC, among others.

After the lecture ended, the Chief Justice chatted with audience members over a sumptuous buffet reception. There was also a mini-reunion of sorts when he caught up with his former teacher Professor Koh Kheng Lian ’61, and Class of 1967 classmates Mr. Chim Hou Yan, Mr. Glam Chin Toon S.C., Mr. Goh Phai Cheng S.C., and Mr. Kok Weng On.

The end of the event marked the culmination of more than 8 months of hard work by the SLR Editorial Board who are all Faculty of Law students.

The Singapore Law Review would like to take this opportunity to express its gratitude to High Commissioner M.P.H. Rubin ’66, Singapore’s High Commissioner to South Africa and former High Court judge, without whom this event would not have been possible, as well as the generous sponsorship by Tan Kok Quan Partnership.

A transcript of the Chief Justice’s lecture can be found at www.singaporelawreview.org/events/lecture/2006speech.htm
championing the development of law in Asia

the 3rd asian law institute (asli) conference at east china university of politics & law, shanghai, china

ASLI’s Third Conference, “The Development of Law in Asia: Convergence versus Divergence?” was warmly hosted by the International Exchange Center of the East China University of Politics and Law (“ECUPL”) at its Changning Campus in Shanghai on 25 and 26 May 2006. The conference attracted an overwhelming response: 234 scholars gathered from 24 countries including 164 paper presenters (as compared to 185 participants and 110 paper presenters last year). Consequently, the number of panels had to be increased from 12 to 14, one month before May 2006, with wide-ranging panel titles including Environmental Protection, Natural Resources & Customary Rights, WTO, Free Trade & Regional Co-operation, Criminal Law, E-Commerce, Computer Law and Technology Issues.

The conference opened with a keynote speech delivered by Professor Cao Jianming, Grand Justice of the First Rank and Vice President of the Supreme Court of P.R. China. At the plenary session, Professor Hikmahanto Juwana, Chairman of the ASLI Board of Governors, announced the creation of a new category of ASLI membership open to any law teaching university or research institute. Colleagues from the new member institutions will be entitled to apply for one of the proposed additional ASLI fellowships.

Professor Hikmahanto also launched the Asian Journal of Comparative Law officially after a brief introduction by the Chief Editor of the Journal, Associate Professor Alexander Loke ’90 of the National University of Singapore. Thereafter, all 13 ASLI founding law schools highlighted some of the key developments of law in their own jurisdictions. The panel sessions followed in the afternoon.

The closing ceremony was held at ECUPL’s new campus in Songjiang (a 45-minute drive away from its Changning Campus). After a speech by Associate Professor Gary Bell, Director of ASLI, Mr Du Zhichun, Chairman of the Governing Committee of ECUPL delivered the closing address.

The next ASLI conference will be convened in Jakarta and hosted by the University of Indonesia on 24 and 25 May 2007. The theme is “The Voice from Asia: Toward More Equitable Legal Systems of the World”. More information will be available on the ASLI website in September 2006.

The ASLI Board of Governors elected its new Chairman Nik Ahmad Kamal Nik Mahmood of the International Islamic University Malaysia and Professor Johannes Chan of the University of Hong Kong. The Board of Governors expressed its appreciation to the outgoing Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board, Professor Hikmahanto Juwana from the University of Indonesia and Professor Nik Ahmad Kamal Nik Mahmood of the Inter national Islamic University Malaysia. The Governors also welcomed the newest member of the group, the University of Malaya. ASLI was initiated by the NUS Faculty of Law in 2003, and there are now 13 founding member universities with NUS serving as its Secretariat.

For more information on ASLI, please visit http://law.nus.edu.sg/asli
Former High Court Judge Lai Kew Chai ’66 passed away on 27 February 2006, just 3 weeks after he retired on 7 February 2006. Mr Lai was born in 1941 in Perak, West Malaysia. He received his early education at the Methodist English School at Tanjong Malim and later, at the Methodist Boys’ Secondary School in Kuala Lumpur. He then obtained his Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Singapore in 1968.

Upon graduation, Mr Lai was called to the Bar and commenced practice with Messrs Lee & Lee. He became a partner in just 5 years and made a name for himself as a litigation lawyer.

In addition to his legal career, Mr Lai was also active in the affairs of the Law Society, the Board of Legal Education and as a member of the Military Court of Appeal. He served as Vice-President of the Law Society from 1980 to 1981 and was Chairman of the Post-Graduate Practical Law Course for the training of lawyers for admission to the Bar. He also served on the Military Court of Appeal from 1977 to 1981. He was elevated to the Supreme Court Bench in August 1981. At the age of 40, he became the first local law graduate to achieve the singular honour of the youngest judge to be appointed to the court. Soon after his elevation to the Bench, he became Chairman of the Board of Legal Education.

In a career spanning 25 years on the Bench, he has heard many high-profile cases, amongst them were the Huang Na murder trial and the Court of Appeal hearing for Australian drug smuggler Nguyen Tuong Van. Mr Lai penned more than 200 judgments covering almost all branches of the law, most of which adorn our law reports. He made his mark internationally when he passed what became a landmark decision in the Pertamina Case, which was endorsed by the Privy Council in Britain and subsequently applied in other Commonwealth Courts.

Mr Lai was held in high regard both by members of the Bar and fellow colleagues on the Bench. He was especially kind to the young and inexperienced lawyers, guiding them along and showing them how a particular point should be advanced or pleaded. He was patient and understanding, yet efficient and forceful and would not tolerate any mischief by counsel or parties.

Mr Lai has made a mark on many lives and his contribution to the legal profession and support for the NUS Faculty of Law will not be forgotten. He will be deeply missed by all, especially his wife Dorothy ’66, his children and grandchildren.

Professor Douglas Millar Johnston succumbed to prostate cancer, passing away peacefully on 6 May 2006 after celebrating his 75th birthday. Throughout his career, Professor Johnston taught at various institutions worldwide and was a Visiting Professor to the National University of Singapore Faculty of Law in the 1990s, before he retired in 1999. His significant contributions include the setting up of the Southeast Asian Programme in Ocean Law (SEAPOL), Policy and Management, the Dalhousie Ocean Studies Programme and the Maritime Awards Society of Canada that is dedicated to student scholarships. He was also the founding Chair in Asia-Pacific Relations at the University of Victoria. Professor Johnston will be fondly remembered by his students as an inspiring and generous mentor and by the international legal community as a theoretician.
22 MARCH 2006
GRADUATING CLASS OF 2006
COLLEGIATE DINNER
KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE
The Faculty and Lawlink extend our heartiest congratulations to Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong ’61 on his appointment on 11 April 2006 as Chief Justice of the Republic of Singapore.

Chief Justice Chan has had an illustrious and remarkable career in both private practice and public service. He has an unprecedented series of “firsts” – he was among the pioneering batch of law graduates from the then University of Malaya, the predecessor of NUS in 1961, and the first local law graduate to be called to the Malaysian Bar in 1962. Further, Chief Justice Chan was the first NUS alumnus to be appointed Singapore’s first Judicial Commissioner in 1986, Attorney-General in 1992, and now, Chief Justice of Singapore.

After assuming his position as Head of the Bench, Chief Justice Chan has been examining new initiatives to further develop the administration of justice and legal practice in Singapore. Some notable initiatives include the establishment of a Community Court aimed at offering a chance for offenders to rehabilitate and re-integrate into society, as well as the impending implementation of a rule in the Supreme Court to disallow the postponement of a case once it is ready to proceed for hearing or trial.

In this interview, Chief Justice Chan shares with Maureen Poh ’07 the wealth of his personal experience as well as his insights on the law.
of a new era

chief justice chan sek keong '61

first NUS alumnus appointed chief justice of Singapore
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT BEING THE FIRST NUS ALUMNUS TO BECOME THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF SINGAPORE?
I feel greatly honoured, and I hope to discharge my responsibilities fully and with credit with the help of my fellow judges and judicial officers of the Singapore Legal Service.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO CHOOSE TO STUDY LAW IN THE FIRST PLACE?
There was no inspiration. It was entirely fortuitous. My English teacher in 6th Form (Post-Secondary Cambridge) advised me to study Law as he thought I had the sort of mind for it. In an interview with the Singapore Law Review in 1993, I said I had no idea what a law degree meant in terms of a career. In April 1994, the Straits Times picked this up and published a Miel cartoon of me with the caption “He hadn’t a clue”, and pronounced that I was an “accidental” AG. I thought it was funny and clever piece of journalistic trivia, but was quite amazed that the ST took the trouble to write it.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE MEMORIES OF YOUR DAYS AS A LAW STUDENT? AND WHAT WERE SOME OF THE LIGHTER MOMENTS?
My favourite memories are of my times with a small group of fellow students who have become close friends. Among them are TPB Menon, Tommy Koh, Goh Yong Hong, Koh Eng Tian, Koh Kheng Lian, Thio Su-Mien, Amarnjeet Singh and Ronald Yeo. One of them, C. Thambiah, died about two years after graduation. Tommy was particularly kind to me in many ways, including inviting me to spend my holidays at his home. I should mention that I met my wife in my final year as a law student. That would be my favourite memory. There were many light moments. The one I still remember was a talk given to the Faculty by an Indian Professor of Constitutional Law on the constitutional role of the President of India. During the Q & A session, Amarnjeet Singh (retired Judicial Commissioner) asked the last question: whether the President was a rubber stamp under the Indian Constitution. It received a lengthy and animated rebuttal. Bernard Brown, our Constitutional Law teacher, then closed the session by saying: “Thank you, Professor, for speaking to my students. You may be assured that they will certainly leave no fissues untorned to investigate the subject further.” We all broke out in loud laughter but the Professor did not seem amused.

WHO WERE THE TEACHERS WHO LEFT THE DEEPEST IMPRESSION ON YOU OR INSPIRED YOU MOST?
Prof Sheridan was particularly intimidating. Prof G. Bartholomew was particularly inspiring. Harry Calvert was good but he left the Faculty early. Bernard Brown was the life of the teaching Faculty.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT YOUR ALMA MATER TODAY?
I am very encouraged and positive about its accomplishments. I have frequent interactions with the law teachers. We have an excellent law school, staffed by excellent teachers. I’m quite sure students today would receive a much better grounding in the law than I was able to.

memories of an illustrious career...

YOU WERE IN PRACTICE FOR 24 YEARS FROM 1962 – 1986. THOSE MUST HAVE BEEN EXCITING TIMES. COULD YOU SHARE WITH US YOUR EXPERIENCES AS A LAWYER IN PRIVATE PRACTICE?
There were ups and downs, as would be expected. I started practice as a generalist, litigating criminal as well as civil cases, conveyancing, drafting agreements, etc. I was lucky in practice as in my first year I argued a case on resulting trusts in High Court. However, my first foray into the law was not as counsel but as a petitioner. It was a memorable lesson in the truth of Holmes’ dictum that the life of the law is experience and not logic. In 1961, I had applied to the High Court in Kuala Lumpur to abridge the period of my pupillage on the ground that the legislation giving recognition to the LLB degree delayed my admission to the Bar. The Judge allowed my application, holding that the statutory requirement of “special reasons” also meant one “special reason”.

In 1963, the late Justice P Coomaraswamy invited me to join Bradwell Brothers as a legal assistant. In 1968, he became the Speaker of Parliament, whereupon I inherited his best client. That client was the Bank of America, then the biggest bank in the world. We had an excellent professional relationship which came to an end when I entered public service in 1986. From the late 70s until I entered public service, I had a very active practice in banking, and was involved in a large number of US3 syndicated loans.

I had a small advisory role in some legal aspects in connection with the notorious Gemini Chit Fund case. I had a bigger role in advising many banks in the Pan-EL affair which led to the suspension of the stock exchange for a few days. That resulted from defaults of stockbrokers under what was known as “forward contracts”. The stock exchange opened for business only after a lifeline agreement was signed between the 4 Singapore banks that were providing the lifeline and the stockbrokers’ firms that needed the infusion of capital.

Those were rewarding experiences. A bitter experience was when my partners and I were sued in 1983 for $25 million in damages. A partner had advised the clients on the setting up of a city country club, but the scheme was aborted after he and the clients were charged with the offence of inviting the public to subscribe for shares without filing a prospectus. They pleaded guilty to the charge and were fined. The clients claimed that the partner gave negligent advice. We notified our insurers of the claim. To our great shock, the insurers repudiated liability, claiming that the clients’ loss was the result of a criminal act by the partner. Naturally, we sued the insurers. Later, the clients withdrew their claim against us. We then informed the insurers that we would also withdraw our action against them if they paid our legal costs. They asked for a detailed bill, and when presented it, they insultingly offered to pay 10%. We told them we would proceed with our claim. They then paid the bill.

Private practice had its excitements and rewards, but, as you can see, dangers and difficulties were also lurking around.
WHAT WERE YOUR MOST MEMORABLE CASES AS JUDICIAL COMMISSIONER AND JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT?

The more memorable ones, in terms of public exposure, would be the following where I was involved as a member of the Court of Appeal:
a. the Ch’ng Suan Tze case on the Internal Security Act; b. the Asian Wall Street Journal case on interfering in the domestic affairs of Singapore; c. the BBJ contempt of Parliament case which concerned the constitutional relationship between Parliament and the courts.

WHAT WERE THE MOST CHALLENGING OR INTERESTING CASES YOU HANDLED AS ATTORNEY GENERAL?

The Attorney General handles many sensitive and difficult matters that, for one reason or another, never come to court. From a personal perspective, the most challenging and interesting cases that were in the public domain would be the following:
a. the prosecution of some journalists under the Official Secrets Act; b. the prosecution of Christopher Bridges under the Official Secrets Act; c. the Constitutional Reference on the constitutional powers of the Elected President; d. the Eddie Tew case on the constitutional powers of Parliament to enact extra-territorial jurisdiction; e. the Norzian case on the constitutional powers of the AG vis-à-vis those of the courts; f. the Lingle case on contempt of court, a particularly difficult case because the complainant did not expressly identify the Singapore Judiciary as the object of his contempt; g. the Gilbert Plus case on the relationship between a substantive law (the Penal Code) and a procedural law (the Criminal Procedure Code) regarding the maximum punishment that the High Court could impose in the exercise of its appellate jurisdiction; h. the Glenn Knight case on the evidentiary status of a letter sent to the AG by GK explaining why he should not be prosecuted; i. the Nick Leeson extradition case; j. the McCrea extradition case.

HOW IS THE CHALLENGE IN TAKING ON THE POSITION AS CHIEF JUSTICE DIFFERENT AS COMPARED TO THE CHALLENGES POSED IN YOUR POSITION AS AG?

It’s very different, almost like comparing apples and oranges. Their roles are diametrically different. The role of the Chief Justice is to set the ethos, tone and direction of the judicial system. However, both are guardians of the public interest in the integrity of the law and the rule of law from a different perspective. The principal role of the AG is to advise the Government on what the law is (or should be, if the law is not clear or not expressed in case law). The courts may not agree with him, as has happened in some of the more interesting cases I have earlier mentioned. The role of a Judge is to declare the law and apply it to the particular case. Both jobs are equally challenging, but in different ways.

on his new undertaking as chief justice...

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACHIEVE DURING YOUR TERM AS CHIEF JUSTICE?

To establish a justice system that is consonant with the needs of and respected by people in all walks of life. It’s a tall order, but I will try to achieve it.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE CHALLENGES FACING THE LEGAL PROFESSION?

There are many challenges, but I will refer only to the more important ones. The first is that it must improve its services to meet the challenges arising from the globalisation of legal services, a phenomenon dominated by global US and English law firms. The legal profession must embrace such globalisation but not in a way as to be consumed by it. The second is that many young lawyers are more concerned with short-term prospects than long-term prospects. The third is the perennial one of maintaining the integrity and honesty of our lawyers. Singapore lawyers as a group have a deserved reputation for integrity and honesty in their dealings with clients. We have built up a Singapore brand of honesty and trustworthiness and we must sustain it.

YOU MENTIONED THAT "WHILE THE REALITY OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION TODAY IS THAT LARGE FIRMS ARE MAINLY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES, IT MUST NOT BE FORGOTTEN THAT LAW IS NOT AN ORDINARY OCCUPATION BUT A VOCATION COMMITTED TO JUSTICE."

HAVING EXPERIENCED ALL ASPECTS OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION FOR A CONSIDERABLE LENGTH OF TIME AND WITH YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE LEGAL AND JUDICIAL SYSTEM, HOW DO YOU THINK THE LEGAL AND JUDICIAL SYSTEM HAS CHANGED AND/OR DEVELOPED OVER THE PAST 40 YEARS? WHAT ARE SOME OF THE NOTABLE DEVELOPMENTS AND IN WHAT DIRECTION DO YOU THINK THE LEGAL FRATERNITY SHOULD PROCEED HEREON?

Having been on all three sides of the legal services sector, I can say with confidence that our legal system has certainly made great progress and has changed very much for the better in every way over the past 40 years. The courts are known for their efficient administration of justice. There has been a great improvement in judicial output and the quality of judgments. The legal system is a paradigm for law enforcement. We have a large pool of lawyers, especially many in the public sector, who toil conscientiously and unceasingly maintain and improve their performance standards. Private lawyers are also doing their part. The presence of foreign law firms has spurred the legal profession to become more efficient in delivering better services to the public. Cases are more complex with advances in science and technology. More laws are being enacted every year.

The best way forward for the legal fraternity is to keep up with current developments and anticipate future developments in the law. The best way for the legal profession to retain the confidence of the public is to ensure that the quality of its services and the integrity of its members are maintained. I look forward to the NUS law school doing its part to produce such lawyers.
The Faculty extends its heartiest congratulations to the Honourable Mr Chao Hick Tin on his recent appointment as Attorney-General of Singapore on 11 April 2006 for a term of two years. Mr Chao took over the post of Attorney General from his predecessor, Mr Chan Sok Keong ‘61, who was recently appointed as the Chief Justice of Singapore following the retirement of Dr Yong Pung How, LLD ’01.

Mr Chao Hick Tin was born in Singapore and studied at Catholic High School, before receiving his legal training at the University College London, where he obtained his Bachelor and Masters of Law degrees in 1965 and 1966, respectively. After being called to the Bar as a barrister of the Middle Temple in 1965, he joined the Attorney-General’s Chambers in 1967 where he rose to become a Senior State Counsel in 1979. In 1968, Mr Chao represented Singapore at the UN Conference on the Law of Treaties in Vienna. He was also a member of the Singapore-delegation to the 25th UN General Assembly from September to December 1970, the third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea from 1974–81 and the first ASEAN summit held at Bali in 1976.

In 1982, he became the Head of the Civil Division in the Attorney-General’s Chambers and held that post until his elevation to the Supreme Court Bench on 1 October 1987 as Judicial Commissioner.

Prior to becoming a member of the judiciary, Mr Chao was a director of the Post Office Savings Bank, Sembawang Group of Companies and the Export Credit Insurance Corporation of Singapore. Further to the above, Mr Chao also assumed the position of Chairman of the ASEAN Law Association.

In recognition of his achievements and contributions, Mr Chao was awarded the Public Service Medal in 1976 and the Public Service Star in 1984. He was elevated to the position of a Judge of the Supreme Court on 15 November 1990, and appointed as a Judge of Appeal on 2 August 1999. Following his appointment as Attorney General on 11 April 2006, Mr Chao was appointed to the board of the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) on 22 May 2006. Mr Chao took over from Mr Lee Soo Kin ‘86, who stepped down from the eight-member board in April following his appointment as a High Court Judge. Mr Chao’s term as an MAS director runs until 31 December 2007.

In addition to the above, Mr Chao remains a keen supporter of the Faculty’s activities. He currently serves on the Advisory Board of the Singapore Law Review, having delivered the Annual Singapore Law Review Lecture in 1989 entitled “Ex parte applications: full and frank disclosure”.

Congratulations on your well-deserved appointment as Attorney-General!
Justice Andrew Phang Been Leong ’82 was elevated to the Court of Appeal on 28 February 2000. At the age of 48, Justice Phang is now the youngest judge ever to be appointed as a Judge of Appeal in Singapore. Justice Phang graduated with First Class Honours from the National University of Singapore, Faculty of Law, before going on to obtain his LLM and SJD from Harvard University in 1984 and 1988 respectively.

The Faculty salutes the inspiring and challenging lectures and tutorials, especially in the areas of Contract Law and Jurisprudence during his time here as a lecturer. In 1995, he was made a Professor of Law, and was also the recipient of an Outstanding University Researcher Award. He moved to the Singapore Management University to head their department of law in 2001. Judge of Appeal Phang has published extensively, both locally and internationally, being the author of several books and over 100 articles in these same areas.

In 2004, Justice of Appeal Phang was appointed Senior Counsel. He was then appointed a Judicial Commissioner on 3 January 2005 and became a High Court Judge on 8 December 2005.

Second Solicitor-General Lee Szu Kin ’86, was sworn in as a High Court judge on 11 April 2006. In 1975, Mr Lee came to Singapore from Malaysia on an ASEAN scholarship to study at National University of Singapore. He then went on to study engineering at the University of Adelaide, before working as an engineer with the Public Works Department for approximately 10 years. In 1992, the French Government offered him a postgraduate scholarship to do his MBA at INSEAD.

In 1996, Mr Lee graduated from National University of Singapore, Faculty of Law with an LLM, and went on to do his LLM at Jesus College, University of Cambridge. He began his legal career with the Attorney General’s Chambers as a State Counsel in 1977. From 1997 to October 2002, Mr Lee was seconded to the Supreme Court as a Judicial Commissioner. From 16 October 2002 to 10 April 2006, he was appointed as the Second Solicitor-General. Mr Lee, 52, is a keen golfer player and speaks English, Mandarin, Malay and French.

Mr Sundaresh Menon ’80 was appointed as a Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court from 3 April 2006 for a period of 5 years. Mr Menon, 41, graduated with First Class Honours from the National University of Singapore, Faculty of Law in 1986, obtained his LLM from Harvard University in 1991, and thereafter worked in private practice for 12 years.

Before his recent appointment, JC Menon was a partner at an international law firm, Jones Day, and handled the international litigation and arbitration practices in Asia. He is widely recognized as one of Asia’s leading lawyers in the fields of commercial litigation, arbitrations, and construction law. One section of the Asia Pacific Legal 500 (2004-2006) described Mr Menon as “unquestionably Singapore’s leading arbitrator”.

In 1996, JC Menon, then a partner with Rajah & Tann, represented the liquidators of the ill-fated Dalton Futures (Singapore) in a $270 million lawsuit filed against its auditors.

congratulations to our alumni on the bench * justice andrew phang been leong ’82 * justice lee szu kin ’86 * judicial commissioner sundaresh menon ’80
CLASS OF 1996

REUNION TEA
27 MAY 2006
MOOT COURT
Our class reunion had the privilege of being the last official function at the Moot Court, before the Faculty’s move to Bukit Timah. It was a “hello and goodbye” afternoon – most of our classmates have not been back to Law School since graduation, so this was a good opportunity for one last look before the big move to the swanky new campus. It was great to see all the familiar old faces ... but thankfully we are not looking any older! And judging from the number of kids running around the Moot Court, it looks like our classmates are doing their part to keep our national population growing. Very patriotic! (By the way, the Moot Court’s carpeted floors turned out to be very good for the toddlers who were learning to walk - a nice soft landing.)

Our 10th anniversary cake was of course provided by our very own Lyn Lee ’96 (a.k.a. Ms. Awfully Chocolate). Kudos to the planning committee, headed by who else but our master party-planner Michael Puhaindran ’96!

An update on the funding for the Edlyn Yap Memorial Bench: We are about halfway to our target sum of $10,000, which will give us the right to ‘name’ one of the foyer benches in the new Law School after our classmate Edlyn Yap ’96. What better memorial to her than a foyer bench where future generations of law students can lounge and discuss everything from the sublime to the ridiculous! As for all your questions about what the money will be used for: do not worry, we are not buying a gold-plated bench! It will be a traditional Law School foyer bench, with a tasteful bronze plaque in Ed’s memory. The money actually goes towards funding for student projects and the like.

To find out more about how you can contribute to Ed’s bench, call or email Faculty of Law at tel: 6516 4378 or lawlink@nus.edu.sg.
THE CHANGE OF THE GUARDS

(From Left) Associate Professor Victor V. Ramraj, Associate Professor Robert T. Beckman
For the past five years, Vice-Deans Associate Professor Robert C. Beckman and Associate Professor Teo Keang Sood headed the forefront of renewal at the Faculty of Law and greatly impacted the lives of the student population. Deputy Director of the Graduate Division, Associate Professor Joel Lee, joined them in the last year. The trio have officially stepped down from their positions to make way for Associate Professors Victor V. Ramraj and Alan Tan ’93, both of whom have taken over the Vice-Dean portfolios. Jeth Lee ’09 recently sat down with the out-going professors to look back on the accomplishments and challenges they faced during their time at the helm, as well as with the newly appointed Vice-Deans, to discuss their plans for the Faculty’s future.

OUT-GOING

Associate Professor Robert C. Beckman received his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and his LLM from Harvard Law School. He has been teaching at the Faculty since 1977 and has served as Vice-Dean (Academic Affairs) for the past five years.

WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO ACCEPT THE POSITION OF VICE-DEAN?
I was convinced by the Dean’s arguments as to why I should accept the position and I similarly shared his vision for the Faculty. It was a time when the University, the Steering Committee and the Dean wanted change, and I felt committed to the cause if we were really going to try to make major changes.

WERE THERE ANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS THAT STOOD OUT FOR YOU IN THESE PAST FIVE YEARS?
As Vice-Dean of Academic Affairs, I was Chairperson of the Faculty committee responsible for revising the curriculum. This includes the semesterisation of courses, the addition of new electives such as the legal writing courses and making the rules on examinations and degree classification more transparent. These changes helped the Faculty to move away from the traditional English focus towards a more globalised direction.

There are two noteworthy accomplishments with regard to changes to our curriculum. One was the decision to put most of our compulsory core LLB curriculum into the first two years, a decision that facilitated students participating in the exchange programme to pursue their year abroad. We also continued to open our elective subjects to undergraduates in their final two years and graduate students. This allows us to offer undergraduates a broader range of electives as compared to many other law schools and also provides a better mix of students pursuing the electives.

The other accomplishment was the initiative to invite visiting professors to teach intensive courses. It is through this new scheme that we are able to attract the best people in their fields to come to the Faculty to teach intensive courses, enabling us to provide a wider range of subjects for our undergraduates and graduate students.

ANY THOUGHTS ON STEPPING DOWN AS VICE-DEAN?
i have no regrets. I have tried to make my mark and assisted the Dean in achieving his objectives. I am looking forward to a sabbatical beginning August for 10 months. I think we left the place in a better shape than when we first entered and I look forward to the challenges of the future.

Associate Professor Teo Keang Sood was the Deputy Director of the Graduate Division for two years prior to his Vice-Deanship. He is an advocate and solicitor of the High Court of Malaya and was educated at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur and Harvard Law School.

DO YOU FEEL THAT YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED ALL THE GOALS YOU HAVE SET OUT FOR YOURSELF UPON ACCEPTING THE POSITION?
There is always room for improvement although I must say the graduate division has grown by leaps and bounds. The applicants applying to our graduate law programmes have doubled in the coming academic year. This is compared to the 150 we had when I first took office, and we expect to see more students continue to enrol. The quality of the applicants has also improved in terms of their language proficiency and academic grades, and they come within the top 15% of the institutions that they are from.
DO YOU EXPECT THE STANDARDS TO CONTINUE TO RISE?
I hope the standards will rise further. As far as Asia is concerned, we attract the best from the top law schools in Asia. I aspire to attract more applicants, who have completed their first law degree in say Cambridge, Harvard or Yale and are natives of those places to apply to us to do a LLM or PhD in the years to come. It would definitely be a further endorsement of our high standards.

WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE ENDEAVOURS?
I am going back to what I am being paid for – to teach and do research. I accepted the position because I wanted an idea of how the Faculty as well as the University operated and with my five year stint here – two years as Deputy Director and three as Vice-Dean – I definitely got an invaluable insight into NUS.

Associate Professor Joel Lee is an Honours graduate of the Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. He spent two years in New Zealand legal practice before returning to Singapore to take up a teaching position at the NUS Faculty of Law. He went on to obtain his Masters of Law at Harvard Law School. He was the Deputy Director of the Graduate Division.

WHAT WERE YOUR MOTIVATIONS BEHIND ACCEPTING THE POSITION OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR?
One very strong motivation was to give something back to the Faculty. I had been away for two years prior to that and I was grateful that the Faculty allowed me to be away for that period.

HOW HAVE THINGS CHANGED SINCE YOU FIRST TOOK OFFICE AT THE GRADUATE DIVISION?
I am not sure if things have changed; it is more a matter of refinement over time. Change is always there and is constant. Over the last year, the Graduate Division has grown in terms of its abilities. We have received more than double the number of applicants for our graduate programmes this year and we are getting some very strong candidates for the research programme. We have also signed an agreement with NYU – the NYU@NUS Dual Graduate Degree Programme. I think that is a big step in the right direction. We also have a couple more works in progress that must remain confidential for now. Growth and development are certainly in progress and I would like to think I contributed in some way; not necessarily in creating the initiative, but in helping to manage that change and ensuring a smooth transition.

HAS NUS SUFFICIENTLY ESTABLISHED ITSELF AS A REPUTABLE PLACE TO DO A POST-GRADUATE DEGREE?
It really is a choice. People do their LLM in different places for many different reasons. Although we may not have the same prestige as Harvard or Yale yet, I foresee that over time, we will become better known as a service provider of graduate legal education. Currently we are very well-known in China, India and Southeast Asia, while we are less well-known in Europe, Australia and North America. The number of Australian, American and Irish PhD and LLM students is steadily increasing. We are making our presence known and I would like to think that in this year, we have made one small step ahead. It is a long-term thing.

WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO ACCEPT THE POSITION OF VICE-DEAN?
As I was Deputy Director of the Graduate Division for more than two years before my sabbatical last year, I am quite familiar with the general policies and direction of the Faculty. As such, when the Dean invited me to be his Vice-Dean for Academic Affairs, I was more than happy to take on this challenge.

WHAT CHALLENGES DO YOU ENVISAGE FACING IN THE YEARS TO COME?
The first challenge will be the move to the Bukit Timah Campus. While I was away on sabbatical leave, my colleagues have worked hard to ensure a smooth transition, but new issues are bound to arise no matter how careful the planning. Another challenge is this: the Faculty is emerging as one of a small number of truly global law schools. As Vice-Dean, I will work with my colleagues to consolidate our position among the world’s top law schools. At the same time, as we move to the global stage, we need to ensure that we remain firmly rooted in Singapore and responsive to the evolving needs of the legal profession.

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE FACULTY UNDER YOUR LEAD?
I am not sure my vision is as important as the shared vision my colleagues and I have of the Faculty - a vision to serve the needs of Singapore while being Asian and international in its outlook.

BUT CAN THE FACULTY REALLY BE LOCAL, ASIAN, AND INTERNATIONAL AT THE SAME TIME?
It can, and it is. I do not really see a tension here. Singapore law has always been shaped by the laws of other jurisdictions and now, in many ways, it is exporting its own legal values and perspectives to other parts of the world. It is increasingly difficult to practise law without having an understanding of the legal developments and legal traditions in various jurisdictions. This makes it important for us not only to cultivate a broader perspective on law, but also to remain experts in our own law so that we can better advise others.
Associate Professor Alan Tan ‘93 received his bachelor’s degree from NUS and his Masters degree and doctorate from Yale Law School. He was a Justices’ Law Clerk at the Supreme Court of Singapore and recently interned at the International Maritime Organisation in London. Currently, he is the Deputy Director of the Asian Law Institute and also serves in the Executive Committee of the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law. Now, the position of Vice-Dean (Research and Graduate Studies) of the Faculty adds to his credentials.

WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO ACCEPT
A sense of service and a conviction that I can make a difference.

CAN YOU DISCUSS WHAT MAJOR GOALS YOU PLAN TO ACCOMPLISH AS VICE-DEAN OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS?
It is accurately a question of teamwork, with the Dean charting the direction of the Faculty with the contribution and support of the Vice-Deans and the whole Faculty. My position now allows me to work on enhancing the Faculty’s strong research focus and establishing the law school’s graduate programmes to be among the best in the world. We have exciting new Masters’ courses in the pipeline such as the LLM in Asian Legal Studies that will complement our existing offerings. At the same time, we will be launching the NYU@NUS partnership, which we hope will attract the best students to Singapore. In essence, it is very much about building and enhancing our niche in Asia.

ARE THERE ANY CHALLENGES YOU ANTICIPATE FACING IN THE YEARS AHEAD?
Competition for student as well as staff talent is bound to get fiercer, though we believe that we are strongly positioned to meet this challenge. At the same time, there will always be financial constraints. We would like to have additional resources and financial autonomy to provide more scholarships to students, to hire and retain good staff (both academic and administrative) and to organise more conferences, seminars and student events. Reaching out to our alumni is critical, and we will build on recent efforts to forge a strong sense of belonging to the law school. Having a historic and beautiful campus at Bukit Timah will help!

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE FACULTY?
A place with a strong intellectual environment that inspires all who come through it.

LawLink wishes to thank Associate Professors Robert C. Beckman, Teo Keang Sood and Joel Lee for their contributions to the Faculty of Law and also to extend our warm congratulations to Associate Professors Victor V. Ramraj and Alan Tan ‘93 on their respective appointments as Vice-Deans.

T. JASUDASEN ‘77 NAMED NEW ENVOY TO KUALA LUMPUR
Another of our alumni has done the Law School proud! Congratulations to veteran diplomat Mr T. Jasudasen ‘77 who has been appointed as Singapore’s next High Commissioner to Malaysia. Mr T. Jasudasen took up his new position on 19 June 2006, taking over from Mr Ashok Mirpuri. Formerly, he served as Singapore’s Ambassador to France from 1997 to 2004 and as Ambassador to Myanmar from 2004 to this year.
Mr T. Jasudasen graduated from the University of Singapore in 1977 and was the first Singapore student to attend the Ecole Nationale d’Administration in Paris in 1983. He was awarded the Public Administration Medal (Silver) in 1990 and the Long Service Award Medal in 2000. The French Government had also decorated him twice, with the Commander of the "Palmes Académiques" in 2002 and Officer in the "Légion d’Honneur" in 2004.
To quote Mr T. Jasudasen, “Diplomacy remains one of the few professions where you interact with the finest, and as your mind is constantly challenged, there is never a dull day”. Once again, LawLink extends our heartfelt congratulations.
What would you say in your defence as a non-profiting website that slogged to share free news and reviews of 1950s-60s music with fellow aficionados but now face lawsuits because you have permitted free downloads of such music in response to your users’ pleas? On the other hand, from the perspective of the recording company and composers, it is the copyright owner’s right to decide how to react to the market and nobody, even with an altruistic motive, can usurp that right.

This is an exceedingly simplified fact-pattern for the 4th annual Oxford International Intellectual Property Moot Competition (“OIPM”), held in Oxford University’s Oriel College on 1 & 2 April. As a two-person team, Suegene Ang ’06 and I (Felicia Tan Dipsing ’06) had to constantly role-play both sides to brainstorm the respective arguments of the appellants and the respondents in order to prepare for the competition. What made the preparation process even more challenging was the fact that this was the National University of Singapore Faculty of Law’s debut in the OIPM, which meant no alumnus to share their advice. As such, we had to trouble fellow NUS mooters who were training for other competitions to spare time from their already tight training schedule to listen to our arguments.

The ride in Oxford itself was not all smooth-sailing. We worked with an extremely tight schedule, mootng five times within two days, alternating between both appellants and respondents which made it really difficult to keep the nerves together. Nonetheless, every minute of the experience since December was worth it. Our enchanting coach, Associate Professor Eleanor Wong ’85, was always there to give her unwavering support and guidance. Both Suegene and I also worked superbly as we had the right chemistry despite being virtually strangers before. From our research styles to an inexplicable craving for the full English breakfast, we had astonishingly similar habits. We also had different but complementary speaking styles, making us a unique team.

All in all, the challenges and difficulties from the preparation to the competition itself, made our final victory over Oxford University particularly sweet, especially since we had narrowly lost to them in the preliminary round. Moreover, the final round was before a prestigious panel of Lord Justice Jacobs, Lord Justice Mummery and Justice Pumphrey, all graduates from Oxford University. Lord Justice Jacobs himself complimented us on our ability to think on our feet and for ward arguments as though they had just come to our minds; skills that marked true advocates. We also possessed the right blend of formal courtroom manners, a casual friendliness with the right amount of guts to banter with judges when the questions were patent to be taken as jokes.

For many, the greatest part of the experience might be the moment of victory but mine came earlier. During the judges’ deliberation, we were suddenly surrounded by other participating teams who congratulated us on our performance. I felt like a winner then when Asian and Non-Asian teams alike swore that we should win and that if we did not the OIPM organisers must have conspired against us.

When we were announced as the winners, the teams once again surrounded us with congratulatory words. They had to be asked to leave so that we could have a private moment with the 3 Lords. Justice and we felt extremely flattered and privileged. The after-dinner, the award dinner, post-dinner drinks, and even the following week where we rewarded ourselves by travelling in Europe flew by in the blink of an eye. That was really a testimony to our paramount joy which gave us the semblance that time had stopped at the pinnacle of happiness.

On a parting note, our unforgettable experience was not due to our victory. Ever yone had a fine time, and we all made new friends and learnt much from one another. I dare say that our friendly coach was definitely one of the most popular non-competitors in Oxford as even other mooters asked for her opinion on their mootings! Though Suegene and I panicked on the flight back home realising we had no time to study for the upcoming exams, it was incontrovertibly all well worth it.
In a move that will transform the very concept of global legal education, the NUS Faculty of Law has entered into a partnership with New York University School of Law (NYU) to create a dual degree programme in Singapore, Asia’s commercial and legal hub.

Informally entitled “NYU@NUS”, the programme will allow students from around the world to experience two educational universes, earning Master of Laws (LLM) degrees from both a leading U.S. institution and a leading Asian law school. At least fifty scholarships will be offered in each of the first four years.

The new initiative reflects both law schools’ commitment to the global study of law. “The NUS and NYU law schools have similar goals of developing globally-oriented teaching programmes and research and it is therefore natural for both law schools to collaborate. We are delighted to welcome the NYU School of Law to Singapore; not only is it a leading U.S. law school, it enjoys a richly deserved reputation as one of the most visionary law schools in the United States,” says Dean Tan Cheng Han S.C. ’87. “At the same time, this is one of the many developments that are taking place at the NUS law school as we respond rigorously to the challenges posed by the greater pace of globalizations today.”

“For NYU School of Law this is a natural step,” said Dean Richard L. Revesz. “Over a decade ago, we recognized that important changes in the way law was being practised required changes in the way it was taught. This led to the creation of our highly successful Hauser Global Law School Program. Our partnership with NUS takes that insight to the next level.”

The NYU degree that will be offered in Singapore will be called the LLM in Law and the Global Economy. If they wish, students will be able to focus their studies in either U.S. and Asian Business and Trade Law or specialize in Justice and Human Rights. Students enrolled in the NYU@NUS programme may also read courses towards the NUS LLM degree and can choose to focus their studies on Asian Law, Commercial Law, Intellectual Property and Technology Law, or International Law.

A distinct feature of the programme is that, whilst taking place in Singapore, the degree will be taught predominantly by NYU Faculty in residence at NUS. In keeping with the global orientation of the programme, there will be collaborative teaching between NYU and NUS Faculty. In addition to the academic programme – in all respects as rigorous as its counterpart in New York - students will be able to opt for internships with Singaporean and other Asia-based law firms, as well as governmental and non-governmental agencies.

“We expect the new program to attract two broad categories of applicants,” says Chair and Faculty Director of NYU’s Global Law School Program, Professor Joseph Weiler. “The first is Asian students who hope to acquire proficiency in American Law and benefit from the distinct methodology and style of American legal education, while also developing a comparative understanding of Asian Law. The second is students from the rest of the world who recognize the importance of Asia and want to combine the rigor of an American law degree whilst simultaneously acquiring proficiency in Asian law and institutions.”

The first cohort of students will commence studies in May 2007. For further information, visit www.nyunus.com
WELCOMING OUR NEWEST FACULTY MEMBERS

Mr Tey Tsun Hang recently joined the faculty as Visiting Associate Professor in April 2006. Tsun Hang will be teaching Law of Torts, Personal Property Law and Equity & Trusts in the next academic year.

We are also pleased to announce that Professor Andrew Perry Simester has joined the Faculty from 1 August 2006. Andrew will be teaching Theoretical Foundations of Criminal Law.

CONGRATULATIONS AND CITATIONS

The Faculty is pleased to announce the appointment of Professor M. Sornarajah as C. J. Koh Professor. The prestigious C. J. Koh Professorship was named after the late Mr Koh Choon Joo, a philanthropist and lawyer whose gifts enabled the law school to renovate the law library (now renamed the C. J. Koh Law Library) and to endow a professorship in his name. Professor M. Sornarajah has been with the Faculty for over two decades, and teaches and researches international investment law.

The sixth edition of Associate Professor Poh Chu Chai’s ’73 “Law of Life Motor and Workmen’s Compensation Insurance” was published in April 2006. The book was also cited in the Singapore Court of Appeal in Vaswani Roshni Anilkumar v Vaswani Lalchand Challaram and Another [2006] 2 SLR 257.

Associate Professor Chan Wing Cheong chaired the organizing committee of a two-day Symposium on Support for Victims of Crime in the Asian Region, organised by the Faculty of Law and Department of Social Work, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences in May 2006. The symposium was also held in partnership with the Subordinate Courts of Singapore and the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports. The project brought together leading academics and social service providers to assess the support given to victims of crime in the Asian region.

A Symposium on China, India and the International Economic Order hosted by the Faculty in June 2006, was conceived by Professor M. Sornarajah and Assistant Professor Wang Jiangyu. This symposium is believed to be the first of its kind and rides on Singapore’s strategic status as a bridge between China and India, and between North and South. This symposium brought together leading trade law scholars from China, India, the United States, Australia and Singapore to discuss topics such as the roles of China and India in the Doha Development Round, North-South dynamics, Asian economic integration and cooperation, the WTO’s dispute settlement system, and the law and development movement.

At the invitation of the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL) organised a 5-day course on Urban and Industrial Environmental Management for 25 participants from 21 developing countries from 6-12 June 2006. The course was very well received by the participants.

Associate Professor Lye Lin Heng ’73 has been appointed a member of the Technical Committee on National Drinking Water Quality Standards, Ministry of Environment & Water Resources, Singapore. Associate Professor Lye has also been re-appointed Visiting Associate Professor at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies for 2006-07.
VISITING PROFESSORS

Mr Dang Xuan Hop was a Visiting Fellow in our Faculty in AY 2004-05, before leaving for Oxford to pursue a PhD. He will be returning to NUS to offer an intensive course on Commercial Law in Vietnam.

Dr Daniel Fitzpatrick from the Faculty of Law of the Australian National University will tutor both Contract Law and Principles of Property Law, and offer an elective module in Land, Law & Development in Asia.

Dr Stephen Girvin from the School of Law, University of Birmingham will offer intensive courses on Maritime Law and Admiralty Law & Practice. Stephen will be assisted by Adjunct Associate Professor Neale Gregson in Maritime Law and by Adjunct Associate Professor Toh Kian Sing ‘90 in Admiralty Law & Practice.

Professor Kevin Gray from the Faculty of Law of Cambridge University and Trinity College, Cambridge will visit for two months and will assist in the teaching of Principles of Property Law.

Professor Wael Hallaq from the Institute of Islamic Studies (IIS) of McGill University will be returning to NUS for the third time to offer an intensive course in Islamic Law and to assist in the teaching of Comparative Legal Traditions.

Professor Andrew Harding LLM ‘84 from the Faculty of Law, University of Victoria started his teaching career at the Faculty of Law of the University of Singapore. Professor Harding will offer an intensive course in Law, Governance and Development in Asia.

Professor Michael J. Trebilcock from the University of Toronto, will be teaching an intensive course in Law, Institutions and Development.

Dr Martin Vranken from the Faculty of Law of the University of Melbourne, will offer an intensive course in the Civil Law Tradition.

Professor Zhu Lanye has visited NUS several times in the past, and is involved with the teaching of the NUS LLM in International Business Law programme in Shanghai. She will be teaching Chinese Intellectual Property Law.

Professor Zhang Qianfan from the School of Law of Peking University will be returning to NUS for the third time to teach Chinese Public Law.

Some of you may remember fondly Mr Koh Yong Song, who has been with the Dean’s Office since 1965. After forty-one years of sterling service to the Faculty, Mr Koh retired in April 2006.

Thank you, Mr Koh, for giving the best years of your life to the Faculty and for helping it to grow from strength to strength!
we have moved!
reconnected with
bukit timah campus
since 17 july

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ALL ALUMNI ARE INVITED TO VISIT US
Khoo Soo Eng ’63 sends greetings from New York! Soo Eng tells us that she has retired from law practice in Malaysia and is now living in the United States with her family.

Our hearty congratulations to Tan Chee Meng ’86 on his appointment as Senior Counsel. Chee Meng is currently the Managing Partner of Harry Elias Partnership.

Nurun Nisa Fuad ’92 and Tony Toh ’92 are now proud parents of Abdul Jamie Sulaiman Toh@Toh Yi En, who arrived on 20 March 2006. Jamie weighed 7 pounds 14 ounces at birth (almost an 8 pounder!) and was born with loads of hair on his head!!

Doreen Tan ’92 says ‘Nuhao (Shanghainese for Nihao)!’ from Shanghai! Having spent more than a year in Shanghai with FedEx’s in-house legal team covering greater China (Hong Kong, Taiwan and the People’s Republic of China), Doreen has this to share, “Professionally, it has been interesting, rewarding and often challenging. Cultural differences aside, there is Chinese law to learn and words to master. The size of the PRC, complex bureaucracy and local practices make this a varied (and sometimes frustrating) legal environment. Singapore is such a breeze and legal paradise in comparison.” Work aside, Doreen has enjoyed her stint in Shanghai. “Shanghai is very cosmopolitan and attracts people from all over the world. It retains (though is fast losing) some of its old world charm in certain areas next to sleek glass and steel high rises. It is a city perpetually under construction with ever changing landscape. I have enjoyed living here. Food and shopping are great and fairly affordable. It is also lovely to be travelling to many parts of China, with the occasional work trip escapes to Hong Kong and Taiwan for a sanity check.”

Heartiest congratulations to Wee Choo Hua ’95 and wife, Seow Chong, on the birth of their daughter, E Wen, on 10 March 2006! The baby, together with older daughter, E Gin, keeps Choo Hua and Seow Chong very busy!
Suzanne Lim ’96 joined the National University of Singapore’s Development Office in February 2006. A manager with DVO’s stewardship team, her job, in layman’s terms, “involves keeping the donors informed and happy so they’ll remember to keep giving NUS the moolah”. Prior to joining NUS, she spent 18 months as the marketing communications manager at the National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre, and before that, five years in the “not as glamorous as you think” magazine publishing industry, where she did get to enjoy the benefits of some pretty nice press junkets. Yes, she did practise law for a while (“two years, to be exact!”), in case anyone is wondering. In her free time, she wakeboards, tries to make half-yearly pilgrimages to Bali, and panders to Eddy, her Jack Russell Terrier, with whom she actually voluntarily went on a 5km trek through “some pretty nasty forest in Bukit Batok!”

Our best wishes to alumni Michael Puhaindran ’96 and Lo Hwei-Yen ’03 who have just gotten engaged! Don’t forget to send us your wedding photos when the time comes …

Andrew Quah Tzy Ming ’99 sends his greetings from Hong Kong! “On the move again … I have just been seconded to Hong Kong from Linklaters London for a period of 2 years. People always complain about the weather in London (which I don’t agree with) but so far, I must say that the weather is definitely a lot worse in Hong Kong. It rains far too much. Sky is gloomy most of the time. This is all topped up by the muggy weather with humidity hovering around 90+% most of the time. Tropical paradise …”

Jonathan Ooi ’99 and Serene proudly present a new family member, Daniel, born to them on 25 February 2006 at Thomson Medical Centre, weighing about 7.9 pounds. Congratulations to the happy parents on their new baby boy! Jonathan is still with SembCorp Industries as in-house counsel, and has been with the company since being called to the Bar in 2000.

Burton Ong ’99 & Joyce Chen DipSing ’97/LLM ’98 are pleased to announce the arrival of a new addition to their family. Baby Sebastian was born on 8 June 2006 at 10.15pm, weighing in at 3.15kg. His current hobbies include napping, feeding, and exploring new sights and sounds around the house. His sleep-deprived parents would like to thank friends and colleagues from law school for their congratulatory messages, phonecalls and gifts, and hope to properly introduce them to their bundle of joy some time in the near future.
Gao Lingyun LLM ’02 sends her greetings from Shanghai. After completing her LLM degree, Lingyun went on to obtain a J.D. from Willamette University College of Law in 2003. Lingyun has been teaching courses related to international law and comparative law in Fudan University School of Law since early 2004.

Clara Kwan ’02 sent us this update: “I’ve gotten married in June 2004 with Dr Foo Chong Wee (someone I’ve known since JC days) in Disney World, Orlando (see attached photo), and then went off to Linklaters, Hongkong for secondment. I’ve just gotten back to Singapore end of 2005 and we are finally going to move into our long-awaited matrimonial home.” Clara also has this to share: “The LawLink is definitely a great way to keep in contact with fellow alumni members, some of whom I had lost contact with, but having read the magazine, I now know what they have been up to!” Clara is currently with Allen & Gledhill.

Congratulations to Amrin Amin ’03 who has been awarded the Kathryn Aguirre Worth Memorial Scholarship and a scholarship from Islamic Religious Council of Singapore to pursue further studies! Amrin will be heading to Columbia Law School for his LLM.

Brandon Chia Tzu Chern ’03, Chris Chiam Tao Koon ’03 and Michael Chiam Daomin ’07, have made a foray into the business arena. The trio co-founded Qotion.com, a comprehensive credit facilities portal which gives consumers the ability to make informed decisions when they view, compare and apply for most major credit cards in Singapore.

A fascinating career path is what Stella Tan Wei Ling ’04 has in store for her. After joining the Singapore Legal Service in February 2005, Stella was posted as a Deputy Public Prosecutor/State Counsel in the Attorney-General’s Chambers and have been prosecuting in the Subordinate Courts since then. She has this to say, “I find my work to be extremely interesting as I get to deal with many different people everyday.” In July, Stella will be posted to the High Court Directorate which deals with serious offences, and she will also be lecturing a forensic science module in NUS Faculty of Science in the coming semester. We can just picture Stella saying these words, “Forget about the assumptions... These things will only confuse you. Concentrate on what cannot lie – the evidence.”

If you think that our law students are a brainy bunch, you are right! Congratulations to our fresh graduates Zachary Shim ’06 and Lam See Wai ’06 on the forthcoming publication of their papers in the Companies and Securities Law Journal. Zachary’s paper, entitled “Project Financing of the IR”, explores the possible use of project financing for the two IR projects recently approved by the Singapore Government. See Wai’s paper, entitled “SME Loans Securitisation by Banks: Improving SME Access to Finance”, examines the use of securitisation as a tool for SMEs to obtain funding.