DEAN’S MESSAGE
DONORS
THE SPIRIT OF GIVING
LAW SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS
ONCE AND AGAIN
GRADUATING CLASS OF 2005 COLLEGIATE DINNER
INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION
MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF LAW IN ASIA
ASIA EXCISE TAXATION CONFERENCE
NUS LAW STUDENTS VISIT VIETNAMESE LAW MAKERS
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE - UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA CENTENNIAL LAW SYMPOSIUM
alAwome FEATURE
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IN MEMORIAM
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from the editor
It’s been a busy time for the Law School.

The past 6 months have marked the passing of 2 great men, each of whom played an integral part in the history of Law School; much-loved Professor Phiroze Irani, and former Dean and lecturer Professor Geoffrey Barthisome. But as Antoine de Saint Exupery said, “He who has gone, so we but cherish his memory, abides with us – more potent, may, more present than the living man.”

On a hoppier note, there is the good news that we have been successful in our campaign to take back the Bukit Timah Campus. Law School has also been the happy recipient of generous donations from 2 classes of alumni who are celebrating landmark ‘reunion years’ in 2005.

With all these developments in mind, this issue of LawLink is dedicated to reflection and reminiscence of where we’ve come from, with a view to where we are going next.

Over the past 2 years, LawLink has afforded me the opportunity to meet and correspond with alumni both within and outside of the legal profession, in Singapore and all over the world - it’s amazing how far we’ve spread and all the interesting things we are doing! I’m sad to leave, but know that I leave you, dear Reader, in the capable hands of my friend and colleague Daphne Loke ’01, who takes over as Editor of LawLink.

It has been my pleasure to be involved in the production of this magazine. I hope that LawLink has been as enjoyable for you to read as it has been for me to edit.

Adelino Ang ’96
Editor,
Assoc Director,
Alumni and Development
DEAN'S MESSAGE

These are interesting and exciting times for the law school. Over the past several years, the law school has made great strides in its educational programmes, its research, and its contributions to the wider community. These efforts have been recognised with the Times Higher Education Supplement ranking NUS as number 10 in the world in the social sciences. Of course, the social sciences include other disciplines as well but the law school can certainly take pride in this ranking. We do not intend to rest on our laurels though. While we have an excellent international reputation, we have to be mindful of the many other ambitious law schools around the world who are striving to improve themselves. At the same time, we recognise that there is room for improvement and the quest for excellence is a never-ending one.

Many of our alumni will have read in the newspapers earlier this year that the university has approved a double degree undergraduate programme in Law and Economics that had been mooted by the law school. This is the first double degree undergraduate programme in NUS. Under this programme, law students will be able to complete honours degrees in both Law and Economics in 5 years. The university has also recently approved a second double degree undergraduate programme, once again involving the law school together with the business school. These double degree programmes involving a complementary discipline will ensure that many of our future law graduates will not only have depth of legal knowledge but also a broader education that should enhance their legal education. It also demonstrates the law school’s innovative and enterprising spirit to higher education. A third double degree programme in Law and Science is now being contemplated to support Singapore’s intellectual property and technology strategy.

The law school will also be moving from its current Kent Ridge campus to the Bukit Timah campus that was once the home of the university. This move was announced by Deputy Prime Minister Dr Tony Tan on 28 May 2005. The move to the historic and charming Bukit Timah campus is expected to take place around June 2006. One reason for the move, from the law school’s perspective, is that it will allow the school to cater better to its larger student numbers today and the anticipated further expansion. Currently, the student population at the law school is about 1,000, an expansion of around 40% over the last 4 years, and it is expected that student numbers will increase further to between 1,200 – 1,300 students within the next 3 – 5 years.
There is no further room at Kent Ridge for the law school to expand its facilities. All the space that is available has been fully utilised. The move to the Bukit Timah campus will allow the law school to reconfigure its facilities to better accommodate the increased student numbers and to provide better facilities for faculty and students. The charming and tranquil campus will also foster a more conducive educational and scholarly setting for all members of the law school community. The proximity to town is another advantage which will, amongst other things, make the law school and its library more accessible to members of the legal profession. The planning for the move to the Bukit Timah campus will involve a great deal of work and I look forward to the support of all our alumni and friends.

There are many more exciting potential developments involving the law school and these will be featured in future issues of LAWLINK. I would like to take this opportunity now to express my thanks and appreciation to 3 colleagues who have left or will be shortly leaving the law school. Professor Tan Sock Yee, our former Dean, will retire towards the end of the year after spending more than 30 years at the law school. Also retiring is former Vice-Dean, Associate Professor Tan Keng Feng, who is well known for his contributions to the law of Torts. Finally, Professor George Wei, who taught many of us intellectual property, is leaving university service. On behalf of the law school, I thank them for their many years of dedicated service and wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

Singapore recently lost one of its legal giants, the late Dr Wee Cheng Jin, our former Chief Justice. As Dr Wee retired as Chief Justice not long after I was called to the bar, I only appeared before him once. From my recollection, it was my first appearance in court after my call. My opponent was a very senior lawyer and during the hearing it seemed to me that he tried to take advantage of my inexperience. The late Chief was alive to this and would have nothing of it. This was a kindness that I have always remembered and to which I have remained grateful for. The law school has expressed its condolences to Dr Wee’s widow and I am confident that he is in a better place.
The spirit of giving

Law School has always been grateful to have the steady support of our alumni. A fair number quietly and regularly donate to the School, and many rally around Law School causes and needs which we highlight to our Law School alumni community.

One example of such a cause is the Peter English Memorial Prize, established in memory of this much-loved Law School lecturer who passed away in 2000. We are proud to report that through your generosity, together with the kind support of Lexie Nixie, we have to date collected a total of $8,300 in donations, which are being used to fund an annual book prize for the student who performs best in Peter's subject—Criminal Law.

In recent years, we have been especially heartened by the initiatives of various graduating classes who have looked to the needs of the Law School community, and given generously to their junior brethren.

The Class of 1975 found themselves with a bit of a surplus in funds after their 25th anniversary reunion, and decided to donate the money, $623.77 in total, to the Leo Sheridan Legal Education Fund. (The Leo Sheridan Fund was named after Law School's first Dean, Prof Lionel Astor Sheridan. It is the fund into which we receive donations which are not earmarked for any specific purpose. The donations are used to fund visiting professorial appointments, scholarships, and other such academically-related matters.)

One issue which particularly pulls at our alumni's heartstrings (and purse-strings) is that of financially-challenged students. Contrary to the popular image of Law School students being car-driving, designer-clothes-wearing, upper-middle-class pampered princes and princesses, not all of us were or are rich brats in Law School. Those among us who remember struggling financially through Law School ourselves, or perhaps recall a friend's struggles, know that having to support yourself through Law School invariably takes a toll on your performance in school. And ironically, this puts you out of the running for scholarships and prizes, which would help ease your burden. In cases like this, a bursary would be the best solution.

At the University level, a limited number of bursaries are granted to needy students each year, in order to decide whether a student is needy, a very stringent 'means test' is applied, and successful applicants are awarded a $1,500 bursary. The allocation of bursaries is proportional to the size of that faculty. As the Law School is one of the smaller faculties, it is only allotted a small percentage of the bursaries available, regardless of the number of students within the faculty who are applying for financial assistance.

Our Class of 1984 got together and decided to make use of the monies left over from their class fund of 20 years ago—this fund became the seed money of the Class of 1984 Bursary, which to date has collected $12,000.

The Class of 1985, inspired by this idea, did some fund raising as well, and at their 20th anniversary reunion (see pages 16 and 17 of this issue for photos), surprised our Dean with a giant cheque! Alumni from this class have raised an amazing $30,500 for the Class of 1985 Bursary.

And proving that you are never too 'young' to make a difference, the Class of 1995 got together and donated $2,735 to Law School, stipulating that the money be used to help sponsor Law students who are applying to attend overseas legal conferences, meeting competitions, and other such events. (Most of the time, our students are accepted at a subsidised rate by the organisers, but still need to raise quite a substantial amount (up to a few thousand dollars, for some events.)

To our very generous Law School alumni, we say a big "Thank You". Your loyal support inspires us in our continuing efforts to build a Law School that our Alumni can be even prouder of.

If you would like to find out more about any of these funds, or if you are thinking about establishing a fund, Scholarship or Prize, do get in touch with Mrs. Daphne Lake, our Alumni and Development Officer. Address: 8-874-3181.

Email: lawwmd@nus.edu.sg
Former Chief Justice Wee Chong Jin was Singapore’s first Asian Chief Justice. He held the post for over 27 years, from 1963 to 1990, thus making him the longest serving CJ in a Commonwealth country.

Mr Wee was 87 years old when he passed away on 5 June 2005. The Penang-born lawyer studied law at St John’s College, Cambridge University and was called to the English Bar in 1938. He practised law in Malaysia and Singapore until 1957 when he became a judge. He was the first Asian lawyer to be appointed a judge. He was only 45 at the time, making him the youngest to be appointed to the position of Chief Justice.

It can be said that he saw Singapore through its formative years, steering the young nation’s jurisprudence through his landmark judgments. He was appointed to succeed Sir Alan Rose as Chief Justice of Singapore on 8 January 1963. From Chief Justice of the State of Singapore, he became Chief Justice of the Malaysian State of Singapore and finally in August 1965, he was Chief Justice of independent Singapore. Mr Wee chaired a 10 member Constitutional Commission to help formulate Singapore’s Constitution.

In 1991, he was presented with the Distinguished Service Order at the National Day Awards for his contributions to the Singapore Judicial system. Significantly, the citation noted his efforts in bringing the Bench, the Bar, the Legal Service and the Law Faculty closer. He was instrumental in the setting up of the Singapore Academy of Law (SAL) and was its first President. In his speech at the Opening of the SAL in 1990, he expressed his wish for the SAL to bring together the various branches of the legal profession to “gather together the sum total of their collective experiences and expertise in the law” and “facilitate social and professional interaction between members of these branches of the profession”.

In September 1990, Mr Wee Chong Jin retired as Chief Justice, and the current Chief Justice, Mr Yong Pung How, took over as the head of the Judiciary. Although he reached the constitutional retirement age of 65 in 1982, Mr Wee’s tenure of office was extended for eight more years. Mr Wee served as a legal consultant after his retirement.

Mr Wee is survived by his wife and four children (including Patrick Wee ’89). He is remembered fondly by all who knew him as a kind person, a loving father and a compassionate man.

His seminal contributions to the legal profession have certainly assured him a place in the annals of Singapore’s legal history.
welcoming our newest law school alumnus

conferment of honorary degree of doctor of laws on sultan of brunei

On 27 January 2005, NUS conferred an Honorary Doctorate of Laws on His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, the Sultan of Brunei. The award was made in recognition of His Majesty’s leadership in leading Negara Brunei Darussalam in its impressive development, as well as for His Majesty’s outstanding contributions to bilateral relations between Singapore and Negara Brunei Darussalam.

His Majesty is involved in the conduct of the State affairs internally and globally as Brunei’s Prime Minister, Defence Minister, Finance Minister and head of religion of Brunei Darussalam. As a working and caring monarch, the Sultan works tirelessly for the well being of the Bruneian people and takes every effort towards maintaining the peace, progress and prosperity of his country as well as his people’s quality of life. His people have access to a high standard of education, housing, health care and social facilities and the high literacy and life expectancy rates are testimony to excellent facilities that His Majesty’s Government has made available to all Bruneians.

One of his many noteworthy achievements was the setting up of the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation in 1992, which is targeted at financing research-related works, especially in the fields of knowledge. These include the awarding of scholarships, providing of donations to the unfortunate, and contributing of funds to the building of mosques and religious schools in Brunei. This foundation is a gift from his Majesty to his people.

His Majesty has also guided Brunei in the active pursuit of a foreign policy that develops bonds with other nations. Since Brunei was declared an independent sovereign nation by His Majesty in 1984, the country has consistently pursued an active foreign policy that stands on the pillar of developing bonds with other nations, both near and far. Brunei has established itself as a responsible participant in regional and international organisations and in their deliberations. Through these endeavours, he has endeared himself to his regional and international colleagues, as a trusted and respected partner.

The National University of Singapore is privileged to be able to recognise the many achievements and contributions of His Majesty. It is an honour for us to confer an Honorary Doctorate on His Majesty and to welcome His Majesty as a distinguished member of our Honorary List of Graduands.

The conferment of NUS’ highly prestigious honorary degrees are approved by the University’s Senate and conferred on persons who have rendered distinguished service to the University or the community, in the advancement of learning or knowledge. The degree may also be conferred on persons who are worthy of such a degree or academic award for outstanding human endeavour or devotion to the greater good of mankind. The two main Honorary Degrees conferred by NUS are the Doctor of Laws and Doctor of Letters. The Doctor of Laws degree is conferred on persons with great political achievements, and the Doctor of Letters is conferred on persons with social and community achievements.
Returning to the Bukit Timah Campus

NUS Law School and key institutes on Asian studies to take over historic Bukit Timah Campus

On 28th May 2005, at the ‘Back to Bukit Timah’ NUS reunion organised by the NUS Class of ’72, Deputy Prime Minister Tony Tan announced that the Bukit Timah Campus will be returned to NUS. The Law School will soon return to the historically and architecturally rich campus (known affectionately as the Upper and Lower Quadrangles to Bukit Timah alumni).

Dr Tan said: “NUS has strong heritage links with the Bukit Timah Campus, which began way back in 1928 during the days of Raffles College. Bukit Timah Campus holds a strong sentimental value for NUS and its alumni ... I urge the alumni to come forward to take greater ownership of your University by your commitment and contribution to NUS in the years ahead.” He also said the allocation in NUS’ centennial year this year was also timely and meaningful. Judging from the 5-minute standing ovation which the announcement received, it would seem that our alumni agreed!

NUS Law School’s student population has increased over the years, to slightly more than 1000 today. This population is expected to rise over the next 3-5 years, before stabilising at about 1,200 to 1,300. However, the Law School’s premises at the Kent Ridge campus are already fully maximised. The Bukit Timah Campus offers the opportunity to have more teaching space available for Law School. Plans are also in the works for more space to be allocated for student activities, including a larger student lounge.

Having the Faculty of Law at the Bukit Timah Campus together with the key institutes on Asian studies will assist the Faculty of Law in its efforts to become a global law school and a leading centre for the study of Asian law.

The location of the interdisciplinary Asian think tanks at the Bukit Timah Campus is expected to create a synergy between academics in the Faculty of Law and scholars at the research institutes.

NUS will ensure that the two campuses (Kent Ridge and Bukit Timah) will remain well-connected through various transport and communication systems like videoconferencing and other remote-learning technologies, to maintain ease of movement and communication for students in our double-degree programs, those taking cross-faculty modules, those involved in NUS clubs and societies, as well as hostels staying on the Kent Ridge Campus.

NUS President Shin Choon Fong says, “The allocation of the Bukit Timah Campus to NUS recognises that (it) is an intrinsic and significant part of our heritage and holds a special place in our alumni’s lives and hearts ... My hope is that our alumni’s strong sense of identification with the Bukit Timah Campus will touch and move them to support their alma mater.”
A celebratory dinner for our soon-to-be alumni - an evening to let down their hair, just before their final exams!
International Competitions

NUS team wins Asia Pacific Regional Round of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition 2005.

The NUS Space Law Moot Team, Rakesh Kirpalani '06, Joan Lim '06 and Sheik Umar '06 beat the University of New South Wales (UNSW) at the Asia Pacific Regional Round of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition held in Sydney in April 2005.

Coached by Assoc Prof Lim Lei Theng '92, they beat the top-ranked University of Auckland in the Semi-Finals before meeting UNSW in the Finals.

The NUS team won sponsorship for 2 members to attend the World Finals in Fukuoka Japan in October 2005. They will meet the winner of the European Regional Round, the University of Cambridge and the winner of the North American Regional Round, George Washington University.

The Asia Pacific Regional is the largest regional in the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition, comprising a total of 33 teams, of which 20 made it to the Asia Pacific Regionals this year.

Online Negotiation, Mediation and Arbitration Competition

Under the guidance of Visiting Professor Ian Macduff from the Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand who taught a course on Mediation and Negotiation, our students Daniel Chia '05 and Joseph Wong Kok Sen '06 did well in the International Competition for Online Dispute Resolution (ICODR).

The ICODR is the first of its kind international competition for online dispute resolution. Competitors are law school students from all over the globe who come together virtually to test their skills in negotiation, mediation, arbitration and soon litigation. Competitors role-play as advocates or neutrals in hypothetical cases facilitated by state of the art online dispute resolution platforms.

The Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot

The 12th Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot was held in Vienna in March 2005 and saw 151 teams competing in both the written and oral competitions.

Despite the stiff competition, the NUS team comprising of final year students Chan Lai Hing '05, Katherine Chew Mei-Lin '05, Fadzli Hussen '05 and Darrell Lew Kim Boon '05 was awarded Second place for the Werner Melis Award for Best Respondent Memorandum. The team also clinched a place among the finalists for the Frédéric Eisenmann Award, which is given to the prevailing team in the oral competition. The most pivotal issue the team faced involved the sale of goods under the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods and the Swiss Rules of International Arbitration.

The team would like to thank their Coach, Assoc Prof Gary Bell and Assistant Coach, Ms Gitta Satryani Juwita as well as all others who generously showed their support and encouragement as friends and alumni of the moot.
meeting the challenges of law in Asia

A year after the hugely successful inaugural Conference of the Asian Law Institute (ASLI) at NUS last year, the 2nd ASLI Conference, hosted by Chulalongkorn University Faculty of Law, in Bangkok on 26th & 27th May 2005, again attracted many scholars who explored this year’s theme “The Challenge of Law in Asia: from Globalization to Regionalization?” The conference provided a platform for scholars to discuss legal developments of specific relevance to Asia.

This year saw a total of 185 participants from 24 countries and close to 70 law schools and research institutes from Asia, Europe, North America and Australasia. Over 100 papers were presented covering various themes including Environmental Protection, Human Rights and Social Impact, Operationalizing WTO System in the Region, International Business Law and Practice, Competition and Consumer Protection, Corporate Governance, Intellectual Property IT/E Commerce and the Law.

Deputy Prime Minister of the Royal Thai Government, H.E. Dr. Wissanu Kreaangam, delivered the keynote speech at the opening of the two day conference. Thereafter, representatives from each of the 12 ASLI founding law schools provided important insights into their countries’ key legal developments in 2004. To round off the conference and promote ASLI’s aim of further collaboration among Asian law schools, a well-received networking forum was held, providing even more opportunities for discussions.

The 2nd Asian Law Institute (ASLI) Conference at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand

The Board of Governors expressed its appreciation to the outgoing Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board, President He Qinhua from the East China University of Politics and Law and Professor Hikmahanto Juwana from Universitas Indonesia. The new Chairman is Professor Hikmahanto Juwana from Universitas Indonesia and the Vice-Chairman is Professor Nik Ahmad Kamal Nik Mahmood from the International Islamic University of Malaysia. The Governors welcomed the newest members of the group from the University of Hong Kong.

For more information on ASLI, visit http://law.nus.edu.sg/asli/

The 3rd ASLI conference will be convened in Shanghai and hosted by the East China University of Politics and Law on 25th & 26th May 2006. For more information on the 3rd ASLI conference, do visit http://weicupl.edu.cn/asli/
The Asia Excise Taxation Conference was co-organised by the NUS Law Faculty’s Centre for Commercial Law Studies, Maastricht University of The Netherlands and the International Tax and Investment Center (ITIC) of Washington, DC in Singapore from 2-4 March 2005. The aim of the conference was to engage scholars, policy makers and other stakeholders in an open debate on excise tax policy and administration in Asia. The Honorable Mr Teo Eng Cheong, Director-General of Singapore Customs addressed the conference as the Guest of Honour.

It attracted over 100 delegates and speakers from 17 different countries. The Conference brought together leading public finance scholars from Asia, Europe, North America and Australia to discuss these timely issues with senior Government officials charged with the responsibility for excise tax policy and administration in their countries. Representatives from Asia-based academic institutes, experts from the IMF and World Bank and the various industries also participated at the Conference.

Speakers and commentators included Prof Joosang Jun, Mr. Adrian Cooper, Prof Somchale Richusan, Dr. Milhida Guevara, Prof Seong-Lin Ha, Dr Audrey Tan, Dr. Suthad Setboonsang, Dr. Sutapa Amemivat, Dr Munidasa Winslow, Mr. Warwick Ryan, Dr. Somchale Sujapongse, Mr Yatin Premchand and Assoe Prof Matthias Reth. The Chairpersons were Assoe Prof Stephen Phua, Mr Daniel Witt, Prof Siibren Ceesen and Dr. Emil Sunley.

The Conference included the presentation of the just published Oxford University Press book, “Theory and Practice of Excise Taxation: Smoking, Drinking, Gambling, Polluting and Driving”, edited by Professor Siibren Ceesen, who also served as the Conference Co-Chairman. Specifically commissioned papers on excise taxes affecting alcohol, tobacco, and petroleum products were presented and these issues were discussed from an Asian perspective.

The proceedings of this conference, the third in the series, will be published as a book by end 2005. The conference co-chairman, Associate Prof Stephen Phua ’88 will serve as the editor.

To participate in the ongoing Conference Forum and to download presentation papers, please refer to http://law.nus.edu.sg/cotts/conference/aetc/
NUS Law Students Visit Vietnamese Law Makers

“You’d better see, rather than just hear”

Senior Fellow Dang Xuan Hop, the instructor of NUS Law School’s Commercial Law in Vietnam course, reports on bringing NUS Law students to see for themselves the country, the people and the system they had been learning about.

“You’d better see, rather than just hear”: five of our Law students, followed this Vietnamese proverb when they visited Vietnam in the week of 21 February 2005.

The students met with prominent foreign and local law firms, lawyers from the National Assembly, the Ministry of Planning and Investment and the Central Institute for Economic Management. They also chatted with the chief foreign legal advisor to the Government, incidentally a former NUS academic Mr. John Bartley.

The students listened to the presentations by the Vietnamese lawyers on the actual efforts Vietnam are making to improve its legal system. They met with key members of the drafting committees of the upcoming Common Investment Law and the Unified Company Law. These are the two most essential laws that Vietnam will pass in the course of next year as part of its attempt to join the WTO.

The students also managed to visit the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum in between the various meetings and spent the last two days of the trip visiting Ha Long Bay, a famous World Heritage Site.

The trip was a good opportunity for the students to talk to real people about live issues of Vietnamese law. This makes the course they study a lot more meaningful and boosts their interest considerably. Overall, it was an excellent addition to students’ NUS educational experience.
CENTENNIAL LAW SYMPOSIA
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE - UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA
COMMEMORATING THE CENTENNIAL TOGETHER ON BOTH SIDES OF THE CAUSEWAY

In conjunction with the centennial celebrations of the National University of Singapore and the University of Malaya, the law faculties of NUS and UM came together in April 2005 to present two public symposia on Developments in Singapore and Malaysian Law. The symposia were hosted by NUS in Singapore and UM in Kuala Lumpur over two consecutive weekends. As Singapore and Malaysia share a common legal tradition, the symposia aimed to highlight legislative and judicial developments in areas of mutual interest and applicability such as commercial, criminal, international and family law. At the same time, the symposia aimed to strengthen ties between the two law faculties which share a common root in the Faculty of Law of the (then) University of Malaya in Singapore.

The symposia organisers, Associate Professors Alan Tan ’93 (NUS) and Azmi Sharom (UM) brought together a total of 20 colleagues from both faculties for the event. The occasion was also a great opportunity for colleagues to socialise and get to know each other better. At the close of the symposia, colleagues were treated to dinner by Dean Tan Cheng Han ’87 at Mathur’s Curry in Singapore and Dean Khaw Lake Tee at Seri Melayu in KL. The event was a warm homecoming for Cheong May Fong of UM, who had obtained an LLM master’s degree from NUS in 1989, and Leong Wei Kum, Teo Keang Sook and Maisie Ooi, all UM graduates now teaching at the NUS Faculty of Law. The papers presented at the symposia will be published in a book to commemorate the event as part of the two universities’ centennial celebrations.

In explaining how the idea for the symposia first emerged, Azmi and Alan explained: “It was first hatched when Azmi attended the inaugural Asian Law Institute (ALI) Conference hosted by NUS in 2004. We got talking about how we could foster closer relations between the two law faculties, given our shared history and the close personal ties between colleagues from both faculties.” Azmi and Alan also revealed their own personal links to illustrate the point – the duo have known each other since they were 7! They had been schoolmates at Francis Light Primary in Penang and had ended up in the same professions, even specialising in the same subject areas, albeit on different sides of the causeway. With the success of the event, the two law faculties are now looking forward to closer ties and more collaborations in the future.

For the full list of papers presented at the symposia, please refer to http://law.nus.edu.sg/news/latest/newsNUS-UM.htm

The National University of Singapore and the University of Malaya celebrate the centennial of their establishment this year. Both universities trace their common founding to 1905 when the Straits Settlements Government Medical School (later renamed the King Edward VII College of Medicine) was established in Singapore. In 1949, the medical college merged with Raffles College (itself set up in 1929) to form the University of Malaya. In the late 1950s, a division of the University of Malaya was set up in Kuala Lumpur. The governments of Singapore and Malaya then decided that the Singapore and Kuala Lumpur divisions of the University of Malaya should become autonomous national universities. Thus, on 1st January 1962, the University of Singapore and the University of Malaya was born.

The roots of the Faculty of Law lie in the establishment of the Department of Law in the University of Malaya in 1956. The Faculty flourished as part of the University of Singapore, and later the National University of Singapore, formed by a merger of the University of Singapore and Nanyang University. Meanwhile, the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur set up its own law faculty in the early 1970’s, becoming the first law school to be established in independent Malaysia.
This class could not wait for a 'landmark' year - when you are looking forward to a reunion with your classmates, the 23rd anniversary of your graduation is good enough!
The legendary A.D. Team: Tommy Yuen '82, Wai Siak Poh '82, Steven Chong '92 and Dennis See '82 with Prof Dish Deonarine.

Reunions
17
CLASS OF 1985
20TH ANNIVERSARY
REUNION

20.05.2005

now that's what we call class spirit - amidst the crazy competitions and nostalgic videos, the class of '85 raised a whopping $30,500 to create the class of 1985 bursary for needy law students!
THIS CLASS, THOUGH RELATIVELY "YOUNG", RAISED ALMOST $3,000 IN DONATIONS FOR LAW SCHOOL. THIS MONEY WILL BE USED TO FUND OUR LAW STUDENTS' ATTENDANCE AT LEGAL CONFERENCES AND COMPETITIONS.
PIONEERING IN AUSTRALIA

In 1976, Prof Bartholomew discovered that a new faculty of law was being established at the New South Wales Institute of Technology (NSWIT). He decided to apply and found himself the Faculty’s Foundation Dean. The Faculty grew quickly and soon had more than a thousand students. In 1988, the NSWIT attained full university status and was renamed the University of Technology Sydney (UTS).

SINGAPORE: ONCE MORE

In 1983–1984, Prof Bartholomew obtained a long-overdue sabatical. For the first part of his leave, he proceeded to Cambridge University where he researched Singapore’s legal history. He then returned to the Law Faculty of the National University of Singapore in 1984 as Visiting Professor of Law. He taught Jurisprudence and treated students to the smorgasbord of legal theories emanating from the historical and sociological schools, including the works of the German sociologist Ferdinand Tonnies as well as those of the historical school. He even found time to contribute an article on English law in the Orient in Andrew J Harding, The Common Law in Singapore and Malaysia, a collection of essays commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Malaya Law Review. He also delivered a stimulating public lecture on the ‘Singapore Statute Book’ when he called for a truly independent and autochthonous system of law.

A NOT-SO-QUIET RETIREMENT

In 1993, Prof Bartholomew retired from full-time teaching at UTS and became the UTS’s first Emeritus Professor of Law. He continued to be active in research and carried on a lively correspondence with friends, ex-colleagues and former students at home and abroad.

Even in retirement, Prof Bartholomew had a few writing projects up his sleeve, and Singapore was never far from his mind. One was a pre-Raffles legal history of Singapore which he could not complete as he had no access to Singaporean material in Sydney. This also prevented his Selected Documents of the Legal History of the Straits Settlements which he worked on between 1983 and 1984 from being published. His last published article was a joint work on the history of law reporting in Singapore with Kevin Y.L. Tan, Essays in Singapore Legal History (2005), which was launched by Chief Justice Yong Pung How just a few weeks before Prof Bartholomew’s death.

STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF A GIANT

Prof Bartholomew’s influence went way beyond his numerous articles. His teaching was inspirational and his conversations scintillating. He had the rare ability to engage students intellectually beyond the material they were studying and he left behind a glittering galaxy of distinguished students. In Singapore and Malaysia, he taught no less than 10 Supreme Court judges, two Police Commissioners, numerous academics, professors, ambassadors and politicians. He never took himself or the law too seriously and his humility prevented him from co-operating with at least two scholars to prepare a study of his contributions as he felt that the exercise smacked ‘too much of hubris.’ Perhaps his own words best describes the man Prof Bartholomew was. Writing in 2000, he said, ‘Looking back over the years I recall a busy life and who knows perchance we managed to do some good.’ What a lot of good indeed.

In Memoriam
I have had the privilege of being a student, colleague as well as co-teacher of Professor Phiroze K Irani.

As a student, many of my classmates and I were perpetually amazed at what we considered to be the rather bizarre teaching methods of his. In his classes on International Business Transactions, Professor Irani had a certain modus operandi: he would begin with a bad joke (sometimes one which he had already told us), followed by posing a significant question to get the discussion going. When faced with the occasional typical classroom silence, he displayed mock-irritation, which was more hilarious than intimidating. Along the way, he would tell us interesting anecdotes and humorous encounters in his illustrious career. This went on for the semester.

Compared with other lecturers at the time, he spent relatively little time on discussing deep case law or doctrine. While this initially disconcerted us (as students who were used to being led in a different sort of discussion), the concern gave way for some to sheer panic. We wondered if we in fact had enough knowledge to proceed with the final examination. For me, I was driven to work twice as hard in his subject, searching for relevant cases, articles and books on my own to supplement what I thought at the time were very general discussions. In the end, the efforts paid off and I found I had done much more self-learning in the subject than I had anticipated! In his own inimitable way, Professor Irani had given me enough to work on my own, while forcing me to teach myself a great deal about a fascinating area where there was no single comprehensive textbook - much more than if he had spent hours trying to feed me with the information itself.

As a colleague of Professor Irani, I recall how he would be very generous with information. Many colleagues, like me, will remember seeing him at the photocopying machine making copies of materials for himself, as well as for the information of others. He knew our areas of interest, and would often pass on information of relevant new cases and articles to us. Every other day or so, I would find, in my mailbox, some photocopied news clipping or article relevant to some area I was working on in an era when email, electronic databases, PDF and Word documents were not yet common, he provided a valuable information delivery service to colleagues in the “old-fashioned” way, i.e., via the photocopier. This spirit of sharing was very encouraging to me as a young colleague. As a co-teacher, I remember Professor Irani as being equally generous with his time and knowledge, taking the trouble to chat with me as a junior teacher in his course.

For all who have been students and colleagues of Professor Irani, I am sure we remember him with great fondness, and it is with profound sadness that we note his passing.
There are two things that anybody who worked with Phiroze Irani in the Faculty of Law in the 1980s will remember about him: his passion for acquiring and disseminating legal knowledge and his generosity of spirit. Even back then he appeared to be considerably older than any of his colleagues, but Phiroze's enthusiasm for the law was limitless. His tall, slightly stooped figure was a regular presence in the staff room and, with a ready smile and a twinkling eye he was eager to engage in conversation on almost any legal topic. Vastly experienced and immensely knowledgeable, he took great pleasure in helping younger and greener colleagues. The photocopying room became almost a second home as articles on a range of legal topics were handed out to interested parties. His own office, to which, by the end of his time in the Faculty, it was almost impossible for an intrepid visitor to gain access, should probably have been preserved as a monument to clutter. He was a man not only of great learning but of considerable charm, a quality shared by his wife, Khorshed and their three children.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM JM RICQUER, ADJUNCT ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, NUS FACULTY OF LAW

Phiroze had what I call the two marks of a born academic: an untidy room and an extraordinarily tidy mind. He had this inimical, almost uncanny, way of being able to negotiate through wads of paper, and landing upon just the very thing he wanted; and, perhaps the smoke in his room dimmed my senses making me more impressionable, it seemed to me as a young academic that he was prodigiously experienced in just about every kind of dispute entertained by law. Now that he has passed beyond the shadows of learning, I remember him as a kind man, a gentle kind of man.

PROFESSOR TAN YOCK LIM, NUS FACULTY OF LAW

I had the privilege of welcoming Prof Irani when he arrived at the Faculty of Law, NUS, as a Visiting Professor in 1981. His warmth, kindness, humour and humility were matched only by his erudition – and all of these were, of course, unmatched. Rubbing shoulders with the greatest legal minds of his generation in India, he was able to stand shoulder to shoulder to them, and to rise above them. This was no small achievement - but Phiroze was no small man. He will be sorely missed in Singapore and in India.”

PROF. G. MOHAN GOPAL (LECTURER, NUS FACULTY OF LAW, 1980-83) FORMER CHIEF COUNSEL, WORLD BANK, WASHINGTON, DC DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR LEGAL CHANGE, INDIA.

One of the enduring influences of my career was shaped as an academic in University of Singapore Law Faculty. As a young academic, the Law Faculty I joined reflected a broad range of intellectual and academic excellence and international experience. Professor Phiroze Irani’s broad and established international network of academic and professional relationships and experience brought several extra legal dimensions and market relevance to his course in international business transactions. As a friend and colleague, Phiroze was always available, avuncular and generous. A gentleman Professor and a kind human being; who will be missed.

DR PHILIP PILCA ‘71, MANAGING PARTNER, SHOOK LIN & BOK, SINGAPORE (LECTURER, NUS FACULTY OF LAW, 1972-1986)

Phiroze Irani was a man of broad experience and great learning, with a boundless enthusiasm for analysis and discussion of legal issues of all sorts. ‘Prof,’ as we always called him, was generous to a fault with advice and help for students and colleagues alike. A skilled raconteur, he had a story or anecdote for nearly every occasion. Nearly always cheery in mood and demeanor, he was a delight to be with. A rare human being; he will be sorely missed.

DAVID PIERCE, FORMER LECTURER AT THE LAW FACULTY. CURRENTLY SENIOR MANAGING DIRECTOR OF SEARCH INVESTMENT GROUP. BASED IN HONG KONG
CONGRATULATIONS AND CITATIONS

Our Dean, Prof Tan Cheng Han SC ’87 has been promoted to full Professor. He has also been appointed as a Board Member of NTUC Income and Singapore Computer Services Limited. Dean Tan is one of 3 Singaporeans selected to be among the first 238 to join The Forum of Young Global Leaders, which will work in close cooperation with the World Economic Forum to address the challenges of today. The Inaugural Summit was held in Zermatt, Switzerland on 24-26 June 2005 with Young Global Leaders from 68 countries.

Vice Dean, Assoc Prof Robert C Beckman was awarded the 2005 Pamela M Young Award at the Jessup Competition Awards in Washington DC in early April in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the Philip C Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition.

He was cited for the success of the Singapore teams in the Jessup Competition, for his efforts to promote the Jessup Competition in the Asian region by organising mooting clinics and regional friendly rounds, and for the suggestions that he has made to Jessup Administrators over the years to improve the standard and administration of the Competition.

Prof Beckman has been coaching Singapore teams in the Jessup Competition since 1978. NUS teams have the best record of any law school in the Competition. They have won the competition four times, been runners-up seven times, and semi-finalists six times. NUS teams have also won numerous awards for Best Oralist and Best Memorial.

Assoc Prof Chan Wing Cheong has been re-appointed to the MCYS Elder Protection Team (EPT) for a two-year term. The EPT is a multi-agency elder abuse case discussion forum piloted by MCYS in September 2003, and spearheaded by TRANS Centre, a family violence intervention agency.


Assoc Prof Chan Wing Cheong, together with Assoc Prof Michael Hor ’84 and Assoc Prof Victor Ramaj have published a criminal law casebook titled Fundamental Principles of Criminal Law (LexisNexis, 2005).

Hui Lecknie ’85 visited Tilburg University, Netherlands from March to April to help teach their World Trade Organisation (WTO) law course.

Assoc Prof Lim Chin Leng was appointed to represent Singapore in the Asian WTO Research Network.

Assoc Prof Dora Neo has been appointed as a member of the Injunction Proposals Review Panel under the Consumer Protection (Fair Trading) Act (Cap 52A).

Assoc Prof Stephen Phua ’88 is the Editor of a book “Asia Excise Taxation” by International Tax and Investment Centre, Washington, USA. He has been appointed as a member of the Tax Advisory Group at the Ministry of Finance and also the Steering Group of the International Network for Tax Research, Centre for Tax Policy and Administration, OECD. The Steering Group aims to formulate strategies and initiatives to develop research on taxation that would assist countries in framing fiscal policies and the administration of taxes.

FACULTY LEGAL WRITING TEAM
APPOINTED INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANTS TO THE LAOS GOVERNMENT

Our Legal Writing Team has been appointed International Consultants for the translation of Lao laws into English. This United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) project is co-funded by the Singapore Government. The core project team will be led by Assoc Prof Eleanor Wong ’65 and includes Asst Prof Helena Whalen Bridge LLM ’02 (Director and Deputy Director of the Legal Writing Programme respectively) and instructors Alex Ooi, Jothie Sasthmarajah and Lisa Maureen Watkins-Bruegmann. The project team will work closely with Lao legal experts who are in charge of the initial translations. International firm Latham Watkins will also provide several lawyers to assist the core project team on a pro bono basis.

The Legal Writing Programme seeks to equip law students with comprehensive written/oral communication skills, research skills and analytical skills and competencies required for effective service delivery in an increasingly competitive legal environment.

Assistant Prof Tang Hang Wco ’95 was named the Best Presenter at the 3rd Annual Malaysian Research Group Conference in the UK and Eire held at the Manchester Conference Centre, University of Manchester on 4 June 2005. He presented a paper entitled ‘Let a Hundred Flowers Bloom: A Malaysian Case Study on Blogging Towards a Democratic Culture’ which explores how blogs are opening up the social space for free(ary) speech in Malaysia and considers whether it is possible to replicate the Malaysian experience in other authoritarian countries like the Middle East. He will be working on a Singapore version with a former student later this year.

Assoc Prof Thio Li Ann’s dissertation “Managing Babel: The International Legal Protection of Minorities in the Twentieth Century” has been published in a series titled ‘International Studies in Human Rights’.

Assoc Prof Victor Ramraj is now the proud father of two, his second son, Satheel Ramraj was born on 15 February 2005. (Below Left)

First-time father, Assoc Prof Amirthalingam Kumaraalingam’s handsome son Krishiv Jetty Amirthalingam was born on 18 March 2005. (Above Right)

FACULTY ALUMNI

Assoc Prof Stephen Girvin will be taking on a Chair at the University of Birmingham next year. He has taught Shipping Law at the Faculty for almost 3 years and is likely to return to teach as a Visiting Professor.

Professor George Wel leaves the Faculty this July after many years at the Faculty. He currently teaches Intellectual and Industrial Property rights. In previous years he has also taught Insurance Law, shipping law, torts and family law. Over the years George has played an important role in building up the Faculty’s IP programmes so that we now have a specialist LLM in Intellectual Property and Technology Law. His warmth and likeable personality will be missed at the Faculty. Assoc Prof Ng Loy Wee Leon ’87 is the new Director of the LLM (Intellectual Property and Technology) programme.

VISITING PROFESSORS

A very warm welcome to the following Visiting Professors:

Michael Blakeney, Director of the Queen Mary Intellectual Property Research Institute, is the Yong Shook Lin Visiting Professor in Intellectual Property Law. He will be teaching an intensive course on Topics in Intellectual Property Law.

Geoffrey Keystone Morse, Professor of Corporate and Tax Law, School of Law, University of Birmingham will be teaching an intensive course on Takeovers in Company Law.

Mahendra Pai Singh, will be offering courses in Law & Development in India and Comparative Public Law.

Wael Hallaq, Professor of Islamic Law at the Islamic Studies Department, McGill University is an internationally recognised expert on Islamic Law. He is Distinguished Visitor at the Faculty and will be teaching an intensive course in Islamic Law.

Howard Neil Bennett, Hind Professor of Commercial Law, School of Law, University of Nottingham, will be an MPA Distinguished Visitor in Maritime Law. He will be teaching an intensive course in Marine Insurance Law.

Zhu Lanye, Professor of Law, East China University of Politics and Law, will offer an intensive course in Chinese Intellectual Property Law.

Andrew Perry Simister, Professor of Legal Philosophy, University of Nottingham, and an Affiliated Lecturer at the Faculty of Law, University of Cambridge, will be teaching a course on the Theoretical Foundations of Criminal Law.

Zhang Qianfan, Professor at the School of Law, Peking University will be teaching an intensive course on Chinese Public Law.

Arun K Thiruvengadam, a doctoral candidate at NYU School of Law is a Visiting Fellow at the Faculty. He will be co-teaching Public Law and offering a course on the Development of the Indian Legal System.
In April 2005, Law School students Wong Kee Wen '05, Sim Wei Na '05, Sarala Subramanian '05 and Paul Ong '05 became the pioneer NUS team in the Jean Pictet International Humanitarian Law Competition.

The rights of detainees in Guantanamo Bay, the recruitment of child soldiers in Sierra Leone, the use of nuclear weapons, all these were the International Humanitarian Law (IHL). For five days we assumed various roles ranging from representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to Egyptian government officials lobbying for the restriction of the use of acoustic weapons, and were even handcuffed as Prisoners of War while arguing for our rights under the Geneva Conventions!

Kee Won came across the Jean Pictet competition's website and thought it would be a brilliant idea to join the competition. We pitched together and submitted an application consisting of 3 essay questions within a day. Despite ongoing semester examinations. A month later, we were announced as one of the 48 teams around the world selected to participate!

Before we knew it, we were settling into the beautiful village of Collonges-la-Rouge, meeting other teams consisting of mainly Masters and even PhD students.

Every day of the competition brought fresh surprises and panic attacks; sometimes we would only have 15 minutes to prepare arguments based on a new problem scenario. The sheer variety of simulations added to the stress and rather sad-masochistic brand of fun. The panel of 26 judges played various roles just like us and sometimes even acted as observers judging, for example, a plenary discussion between 5 competing teams in uninviting silence.

If you know the French, it is never all work and no play. Meal times were our favorite parts of the day, especially for resident wine and cheese addict. Wei Na's evenings were also reserved for patisserie, fete gras and savoury huts, long walks in the countryside and deep conversations on the criteria of the competition. Kee Won even found himself a female South American jogging partner. All too soon, it was almost time to say adieu. The finale was a blast: bright, yet significant words of wisdom being shared; a judge demonstrating via a funky hip hop dance that IHL is not all an IHL expert thinks about; music and merriment till dawn...

Among the last words by the competition organisers were this: “This experience might have changed your life. Do not forget it. Welcome to the Pictet family!”

Our team did well in the competition, considering the difficulties and setbacks faced. Wei Na was nominated amongst the top 3 best orators and Sarala won the prize for Best Oralist. One judge even commented on Sarala’s melodious voice being “like a song”.

Through the brilliant and holistic organisation of the competition, the sincere passion for IHL that was clearly evident amongst the organisers and judges, the laughter and friendships shared between and within teams, and the overall camaraderie in the Pictet family, this IHL competition has been an unmistakable highlight in our law school journey and has certainly changed our lives. We will never forget this Pictet experience.

The NUS Jean Pictet Team 2005 would like to express their deepest appreciation to our coaches Prof. Beckman and Jason Chan '02, Mr. Jeffery Chan '93 and Miss Iris Gotts of the Singapore Red Cross, Dr. Unmesh Reddy and the ICRC Kuala Lumpur; Mr. Philip Tay '92 and our kind sponsors Rajm & Tanm, family and staff of NUS Law School; the Jean Pictet Committee, jury members and le petit brass of 2005; our tutor Mr Chad Austin; all Jean Pictet teams of 2005, especially the Argentinians, Belgium and Philippines teams and our beloved IHL moot teammate Paul Ong. Thank you for making our dreams come true and being a part of this amazing journey!
have you heard your conscience today?

Foo Yuet Min '06 shares her thoughts about the true nature of 'volunteerism' and social work.

Johnny (not his real name) has been in and out of prison for the past 20 years of his life. He has never held a permanent job and his only regular activity was taking drugs. His father abandoned him a long time ago, his mother is arthritic and his brother has just been diagnosed with tuberculosis. He is currently facing charges for drug trafficking. He now calls the Queenstown Remand Prison home. This is a true account of an accused person I interviewed recently, when interning with the Law Society's Criminal Legal Aid Scheme (CLAS).

How many of us encounter such real-life cases on a daily basis? Even if we do, how many of us actually give their plight a deeper thought? Have we ever questioned the cause of his predicament? Or are we more comfortable in dismissing Johnny as just another hard-core and unrepentant “druggie”? Have we given people like Johnny a real chance? We are afraid of accepting ex-convicts no matter what we say at campaigns, at charity shows and in the media. As lawyers and lawyers-to-be, I wish we knew better.

Many accused persons are unrepresented by lawyers at trial, mainly because they come from the underprivileged strata of society and can't afford to hire their own lawyer. Many apply for legal assistance from organisations like CLAS, but the capability of such an institution is severely limited by the lack of volunteer lawyers. An obvious result, a majority of applicants have to be rejected. And what do they know about the law and criminal procedure, to be able to defend themselves effectively in court?

Maybe our materialistic world has made many of us oblivious to the true virtue of compassion and the need, as the luckier fraction of mankind, to “return something to society.” For some, promoting a cause is just a job – you can work in a volunteer organisation and yet, not care about the cause. For others, it is something that makes you look good / compassionate / benevolent. Just think of the many people who go on overseas volunteer projects instead of lending a helping hand to the needy in their own country. Why? Well, it certainly looks good on your curriculum vitae; it is glamorous and prestigious. But what is the rationale behind sending a Singaporean team to build a school in a village in India? I am pretty sure India has no lack of construction workers who are more skilled than our volunteers (many of whom would be holding a hammer for the first time). What that village needs is financial resources, and yet we would rather spend that money on airfare and lodging for volunteers from Singapore. Why do we not just donate this money for the building of the school, and then send only the necessary number of volunteers over to follow-up by “teaching English in the school”? Do we have a self-servicing purpose of wanting our own volunteers to “learn new skills and gain exposure”? Maybe it does not really matter to us whether the children in that village get educated.

We simply do not have enough people who have the passion to serve worthy causes in society. How many would volunteer if there were no “tangible benefits” in store for them? Even when publicising the newly-founded NUS Law School Pro Bono Society, we had to attract prospective volunteers by telling them they would get to hone their legal skills. What if the only thing they could get out of volunteering was simply to help? Would Law students still volunteer? Is our focus on ‘them’ or selfishly, on “us”?

I am sure most of us started our journey in Law with a vision of righting wrongs and helping people. You may not be the most brilliant or the most eloquent lawyer around, but you may very well be among the few who truly care. Your capability can take you places, but coupled with compassion, your capability can enable you to touch hearts and change lives.
Office of alumni relations
Your Home on Campus

The Office of Alumni Relations (OAR) invites all alumni to the alumni house – Your Home on Campus, a place that connects you to your alma mater and the wider alumni network.

Situated away from the usual hustle and bustle of city area, the alumni house is a nice alternative place for alumni to conduct seminars, meetings and gatherings. We have an array of facilities available for alumni. Seminars can be organised at Saffron Hall and annual general meetings can be conducted at the Cinnamon room for a nominal rate.

The Fenugreek Centre, a business centre is available to alumni for internet surfing and use of IT facilities. Alumni can also choose to relax in Ginger Cove, use the karaoke facilities or pit their skills against each other at the pool table.

Our Opening hours: Mon - Thurs 8.30am to 6pm  
                  Fri       8.30am to 5.30pm

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Tel: 6874 5775  
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Francis Yeh ’83 sends warm greetings from London, and a photo of himself in his convocational splendor on the occasion of receiving his MA from Roehampton University! (See the Jan-June 2005 issue of LawLink for more details.) Francis reports: “My paper, Putting dance in a tangible form: Identity or uses of proof, has been accepted for the conference on ‘Reading Dance’ organised by the European Association of Dance Historians.” That’s not all: on 2nd July 2005, Francis will be judging 83 Japanese Chins at the Windsor Championship Dog Show at Windsor Castle – a 4-day show attended by 12,000 dogs!

Our condolences to the family and friends of Datuk Salmah Abdul Rahman ’73, who passed away on 1 June 2005. Datuk Salmah, who was formerly the Commissioner of Law Revision and Reform at the Attorney-General’s Chambers, was sworn in as a judicial commissioner on 27 July 2004, serving at the Civil High Court of Kuala Lumpur for three months before moving to the Criminal High Court in November 2004. After graduating from the then-University of Singapore in 1973, Datuk Salmah became a magistrate in Johor Baru. She then served as Sessions Court Judge in Johor Baru, Kuala Lumpur and Petaling Jaya, and legal adviser and senior federal counsel in several ministries. She also served as deputy director of the Legal Aid Bureau. Datuk Salmah was the advisory board chairman in the Prime Minister’s Department in Malaysia, before becoming Commissioner for Law Revision in 2000. When the division was expanded to include Law Reform in 2002, she became its first head. She was responsible for the first official Bahasa Malaysia version of the Federal Constitution. She leaves husband Dr Mohd Yusof Mohd Said, and three sons, Shahril, 23, Azlan, 24 and Iskandar, 23.

Date Vijay Kumar Natarajan ’79 writes “I am residing in Melbourne but come back to KL and Singapore often for work, play and makan. Lousy at Golf but love it. Call me for a game anytime... I don’t have much to do. Email contact is best at datevijay@hotmail.com”

Hearty congratulations to Dr Andrew Phang Beon Leong SC ’82, who was appointed a Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court in a ceremony on 3 January 2005. Law School alumni remember his inspiring and challenging lectures and tutorials, especially in the areas of Contract Law and Jurisprudence, during his time there as a lecturer at the Law Faculty. Judicial Commissioner Phang graduated with First Class Honours from NUS Law School, and was also awarded the Adrian Clark Memorial Medal. In 1999 he was made a full Professor of Law at NUS, and was also the recipient of an Outstanding University Researcher Award. He was appointed Senior Counsel in 2004. Judicial Commissioner Phang has published extensively in Singapore and overseas. He is the author of several books and over 100 articles in legal journals worldwide; and is probably best-known as the author of the Singapore and Malaysia edition of Cheshire F tint and Furmston's Law of Contract – the ‘bible’ of many a first-year Contract student.

Reunions!
Are you celebrating a landmark year in 2005/2006? If you are from the following classes:
Class of ’66 – 40th Anniversary
Class of ’76 – 30th Anniversary
Class of ’81 – 25th Anniversary
Class of ’86 – 20th Anniversary
Class of ’90 – 10th Anniversary
we would like to help organise (and subsidise) your reunion! If you would like to find out more, drop us an email at lawlink@nus.edu.sg or give us a call at 6774-1305.
Congratulations to Prof Kevin Tan ’86, on the launch of his new book, An Introduction To Singapore’s Constitution, on 5 May 2006! According to the synopsis of the book: Law is one of the most jargon-filled and least-understood of disciplines, and among its sub-branches, constitutional law is considered one of the most difficult and arcane. Yet, the Constitution affects every one of us in ways we seldom contemplate. In this volume, the reader is quickly introduced to the basic concepts of constitutionalism, such as the separation of powers, the rule of law and the principle of judicial review ... Written with a minimum of fuss and jargon, this book provides the high-school student and interested layperson with a compact and accessible guide to Singapore’s Constitution. Says Kevin, “I was convinced that unless we get our younger generation to know their Constitution, we will never create a legal tradition and culture that respects rights and liberties. Hitherto, all books written about the Constitution, with the exception of a book penned by Prof Jayakumar ’63 for the Singapore Law Series over twenty years ago, has been written with the law student or law professor in mind. The Constitution is for everyone, not just lawyers. I have also tried to remove all the jargon and technical language that often accompanies such works so that it can be more accessible to those without a legal background.”

Audrey Yoshie Yoshimura (Wee Liang Tee Audrey) ’86 sends warm greetings from Japan — “I practiced law in Singapore for a while upon graduation. Before I got married and moved to Japan more than 3 years ago, I was the in-house legal counsel of a Japanese multinational company. I am now settled in Hiroshima with my husband, Noriyuki Yoshimura, and son, Isaac Akita Yoshimura. As Isaac is still very little, most of my time is spent caring for him; I do however assist my husband in his business, wherever possible. Life is busy but very interesting here. We often make short day trips out into the country, to nearby places of interest. For instance, the 3 of us travelled quite a distance to a place where more than 8,000 cherry blossom trees were in bloom, and had a picnic there (all homecooked, of course). It was marvellous! Next, I am planning for us to visit a tulip farm - tulips are now in season here. I have lost touch with many of my friends and former classmates and would be very happy to make contact again. I welcome all e-mail messages - please drop me a line at : c_horbphi@yahoo.co.jp.”

Sonia Moss (Quintal Sonia Mary) ’68 says hello from Australia! “Ronald and I have migrated to Australia and I am currently a case officer with the Migration Review Tribunal’s Melbourne Registry. The public service perspective and the admin law work that I am now engaged in is a welcome change from the corporate work I have done previously. We have a 4 year old daughter who brings a special joy to our lives.”

As the sequel to his 1,000 km bicycle ride in 2003 (featured in the July-December 2004 issue of LawLink), Kevin Lee ’86 completed a 1,500 km ride in December 2004 from Singapore to south Thailand, via Penang and Langkawi. He could have been hit by a big wave (tsunami) or a big truck but none of these came too close for comfort, thanks to his guardian angel(s) working overtime. Details of his adventure in his "bikelog" at http://home.pacific.net.sg/~kevklaks/home. Kevin is wondering where to go for his next big ride, as great adventures come in trilogy.
If you were around Law School between 1990 and 1994, you would definitely remember the dulcet tones of Rani Singam '94, as she serenaded the Law School community at various Law Day concerts. And for all of you who sat there listening and thought, “That girl could go far with a voice like that” – you were right! Legendary jazz maestro Jeremy Monteiro mistook Rani for a young Sarah Vaughan when he first heard her demo CD. The rest, as they say, is history! Her debut album, *With A Song In My Heart*, released on Singapore’s Jazz Note label in December 2004, sold 2,000 copies in Singapore alone in its first 6 months, and has gone into a second print. Following from the success of the album, Rani was booked for her first solo concert at the Esplanade Recital Studio on 24 June 2005. Find out more about what Rani has been up to, as well as details of her upcoming performances, on her website: www.ranisingam.com.

Lynne Tan '94 writes to say, “I missed the class reunion last year and would like to say hello to all my classmates/friends. My life has come full circle in that after practice, working in private wealth/trusts, and LTA, I’m now back at NUS to take care of research contracts! Apart from work, Serge and I have our hands full with Bianca (7 yrs) and Louis (3 yrs). Also calling former Law Faculty Core Group (FCG) members to let them know about the Catholic Lawyers’ Guild and invite them to join. I may be contacted by e-mail at inttshi@nus.edu.sg.”

Sherman Ong ‘95’s directorial skills were once again on display earlier this year, in a TV series called ‘Destination: Dance’, aired on 6 March 2005 on Arts Central. According to the promotional materials: “This series takes a page from musical films such as *Dancer In The Dark* and *Singin’ In The Rain*, to lift dance off the stage and into everyday life in Singapore ... From the mosaics madness of Mustafah Center to the haunting romance of the old Capitol Theatre, watch familiar places come alive with a flurry of kicks and twirls! Salsa/salsa sizzle on screen, B-Boys breakdance in a hospital and Kuda Kepang housemen chomp glass while in a trance - just to name a few!”

Congratulations to April Leong '96 and husband Richard Stock, on the birth of Cameron Stock on 28 January 2005. Send us a photo, April!
Eugene Qaah ’96’s life is now preoccupied with cats and coal mines! He and his lovely wife Aoy now live in Bangkok, Thailand. Eugene is in the energy and infrastructure industry and travels around the region, negotiating for the construction of power plants and the sale of electricity to Thailand. He also travels to China a lot, as his major client is buying coal mines and power plants there. He obligingly sent us an “after” shot of his recent visit to a coal mine – yes, it really is Eugene under all that soot! While Eugene is away, their 2 adorable kittens Harry and Naughty keep Aoy company.

Sangeeta Thaker ’96 sends greetings from Down Under: “Having moved to Australia in 1998, I currently practice as a Commercial Lawyer in Mildura, which is in Victoria, Australia. The wine lovers among you might be interested to know that Southcorp Wines, Mildara Blass and BRL Hardy are all within the Mildura district. I am married and have a five year old girl, Reisha.”

Our very own Lillian Wang ’96 was a Finalist at the Singapore Shorts 18th Singapore International Film Festival this year. The Silver Screen Awards were introduced in 1991 with the aim of creating awareness of the rich filmmaking talents throughout Asia, as well as paving the way for a viable Singapore film industry. This year, over 70 entries were submitted for the Best Singapore Short Film category, and Lillian’s made it all the way to the finals. Lillian’s short film, Shot!, is about an 18-year old girl named Sadie, who lives an idyllic suburban life. Everything changes when her dying grandfather comes to live with her, and her best friend Henry announces he is going away to college. With grandpa’s eventual death and her impending separation from Henry, Sadie sets out on her first act of independence ... When are you coming back to give us a screening, Lillian?

Alex Yew ’96 sent us a photo of his daughter, Jodie – he confesses that he never did get round to sending pictures of her to some of his Law School mates, so we volunteered to do it for him! Alex reports: ‘Jodie is giving me hours of fun. She is starting to crawl now and they crawl pretty fast so it’s quite an effort chasing her around.’ And yes ... she does get her cheeks pinched by people, quite a bit!

Cheryl Ng Hsui Oey ’97 sends us this update: “After almost 6 years in litigation practice, I’ve moved in-house and I am currently legal counsel with Intacte Limited. I’m enjoying the work, which is different from litigation practice but no less challenging.”

Chen Chin Chuan ’98 has moved to sunny Australia and joined Corrs Chambers Westgarth in Sydney. He finds the sunshine and nature most agreeable though the cool winter takes a little getting used to.


Congratulations to Stanley Tan ’99, who has the distinction of being the very first Singapore sailor to qualify for the Olympic Games. Stanley finished 37th at the Athens Olympics. He sent us a beautiful photograph, taken by a Greek friend Costas Tsantilis, during one of the races in Athens, which frames Stanley sailing hard, with downtown Athens in the background. Not content to rest on his laurels (pun intended), Stanley reports: “I recently competed in the Laser Asia Pacific Championships in Wellington, where I finished 10th overall. This boosted my International Sailing Federation (ISAF) World ranking to 44th, a career high, and I am now ranked number 2 in Asia. Although he lost the selection trials for this November’s SEA (South East Asian) Games, his good performance in overseas regattas have moved his International Sailing Federation ranking to a new career high of 38th, making him the top-ranked Asian.
Our best wishes to our DipSing alumni who tied the knot recently, Michelle Phang Sei Cheon '00 was married in August 2004 while Edwin Mah '99 and Jaslyn Peh '99 were married in September 2004.

Jacintha Thannimalai '00 has been selected to participate in the 6th Clipper Round the World Yacht Race (the Clipper Race), the world’s longest circumnavigation which begins in September 2005 from Liverpool, England. It is a gruelling team adventure challenge with ten yachts (representing ten cities) covering 35,000 nautical miles over ten months. Singapore participates for the first time this year and Jacintha and 17 others will be participating in the last leg (in May next year) - spending 6 weeks sailing from the Caribbean up the Eastern Seaboard and then across the Atlantic back to Liverpool. "If the training that I have attended in the UK so far are anything to go by, this adventure is going to be a challenge on various levels, and both physically and mentally - sailing in the open seas with very basic living conditions within the confines of a 68’ yacht and with 17 other individuals, and the unimaginable possibilities of encountering Mother Nature’s wrath (if whatever degree its going to be unforgettable experience)!" We look forward to more updates from Jacintha when she returns from her ocean sailing adventure...

Congratulations to Cindy Ng '00 and Goh Peng Fong '00 who were married on 7 May 2005! The wine aficionados celebrated their wedding with family at the Rasa Sentosa and at brunch with friends the next day at the Wine Company.

Congratulations also to Cheng Shing Chow '01 and Magdalene Ho '01, who tied the knot on 14 May 2005!

Ng Yuh Ein '01 was married on 3 January 2005 and is now expecting a baby. Looks like she is having a very eventful year! Yuh Ein works at the Monetary Authority of Singapore with several other alumni, Chio Yeen-Lyn '96, Dawn Chew '99, Ow Kim Kit '00, Roy Neo '00 and Valerie Oh '03.

Harveen Singh '02 writes to tell us that he got married to Jasm of Dec 2002. Their baby daughter, Teena recently turned 1 year old, and Harveen has kindly sent us a photo!

Congratulations to Boey Shao Qiang '04, who has been granted a full scholarship from the Government of Japan, for 2 and a half years of studies in Japan. He will be pursuing his LLM at Kyushu University, which is NUS Law School’s fellow ASIJ partner in Japan. We wish him all the best, and hope he is an inspiration to others to take the road less-travelled, and pursue graduate studies in Asia.

Yin Jianan (Exchange)'04 writes on his return to Shanghai: “I’m grateful beyond words to NUS for giving me the chance to join the exchange program, from which I have benefitted a lot. I will come back for my Masters degree. I will definitely miss NUS, Singapore and my friends here ...” We’re looking forward to having you back with us, Jianan!

Some of the newest members of our alumni send their greetings. Joel Teo '05 is doing his pupillage at Wong Tan & Molly Lim while Sim Wei Na '05 is a pupi at Raja & Tann’s Commercial Litigation department. Loke Pei-shan '05 writes “I have just graduated and am now doing my pupillage at Allison and Gledhill. Kind of miss NUS now...”