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for the law
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from the editor

This year marks the 45th anniversary of the Law School — how time flies, and how much we have grown!

To commemorate this occasion, we were privileged to speak to one of our most prominent alumni, Professor Tommy Koh ‘61. In accepting the NUS 2004 Outstanding Service Award, Prof Koh said that he aspired “to contribute to NUS Faculty of Law becoming the best in Asia and among the 10 best in the world”. Having seen the Law School from its inception as a matriculating student in 1957, to joining as a member of the teaching staff, then becoming Dean, and now serving as Chairman of the Law Faculty’s Steering Committee, he has a unique perspective on the development of the Law School. Read what he has to say about Law School (from all angles) on pages 17-19 of this issue.

In this issue, we also celebrate Law School’s most recent landmark achievements – the inaugural Asian Law Institute Conference, our students’ raft of Mooting accolades and our Faculty’s latest accomplishments, to name just a few.

We’ve come a long way, baby! There’s a lot for us to be proud of!

Adeline Ang ’96
Editor
Assoc Director, Alumni and Development
Dean’s Message

Dear colleagues and students, At such events, my usual practice is not to say too much lest I ruin the occasion for everybody. Tonight, unfortunately for all of you present, will be an exception. It is an exception because this is the final month of my first 3-year term as Dean and it is a good opportunity to take stock.

When I was appointed Dean on 1 May 2001, I formed the view that how the NUS law school developed had to be informed by 3 broad trends. First, the common issue facing all law schools everywhere in the world is how to respond to the challenges posed by globalisation. Every Dean that I speak to recognises that this is a major issue for law schools. Less clear is how to deal with it.

Secondly, it seemed clear to me that government funding for higher education has probably peaked and would diminish in the future. This view has been more than vindicated by recent government statements.

Thirdly, a view is increasingly taking shape that because law is not an autonomous discipline in the way physics or chemistry is for example, we should re-think how teaching and research in law takes place. Laws are informed and shaped by the society that it emanates from. Laws are influenced by social, historical, political and economic forces within a particular society. The output that we call law emerges as a result of the interplay of these forces. Yet laws, when they emerge, also exercise an influence on society. It is a dynamic relationship.

In practical terms, my perception of these 3 trends has shaped how I have tried to steer the NUS law school. Taking the second trend, that of government funding, it is clear to me that the law school needs to establish greater financial autonomy by developing alternative sources of income. We have therefore actively sought donations both from within and outside the legal community. This has brought some success as we have raised a total of $9 million over the last 3 years. We are also paying more attention to the possibilities of executive education as a means of bringing in additional revenue. In future, we are likely to receive approval for higher fees since students today only pay a fraction of the true cost of their education. As the experience in some Commonwealth countries shows, if universities are not properly funded quality will drop.

I also hope that our present and future alumni can be more supportive of the law school financially. The education that you receive here gives you a good start in life. When you do well, please consider giving generously to the law school so that we can continue to provide a quality education to future generations of students.
The first trend has meant that our courses and curriculum should have more international and comparative perspectives and this is indeed the case today. True it may be that traditionally we constantly make references to English and other Commonwealth cases. But when we do this we do it to amplify Singapore law. What I think we must do is to bring in such perspectives for their own sake as these perspectives will facilitate a more flexible mind open to different possibilities and solutions. And when our students are engaged in cross-border transactions, they will find it easier to facilitate transactions that their clients are involved in. This does not mean that our graduates must become proficient in foreign law; indeed that is impossible. But they must have a greater appreciation of other approaches and not just within the common law tradition.

A more globalised world also means that it is essential to enter into meaningful relationships with other law schools. In this respect there has been unprecedented success through the number of exchange agreements we have and the establishment of the Asian Law Institute at NUS. I am particularly happy with the success of ASLI. It has brought us many benefits and I am looking forward to the first ASLI conference at NUS in late May this year. I understand that over 100 academic papers will be presented over a wide range of topics from human rights to IT to commercial law to constitutional law, etc.

The third trend means that we should not approach the teaching and research of law from a narrow doctrinal perspective. Reading and analysing cases is useful but is incomplete. They must be firmly located within the broader setting that influences the development of case law. Virtually no area of law is not dependent to some extent on the wider forces that operate within a society. We must therefore increasingly inform our teaching and research by reference to disciplines outside the law.

When I look back at the last 3 years, there is much that my colleagues can be proud of. The number and quality of international students applying to do graduate studies at the NUS law school has grown phenomenally.

The research output too is extremely high and colleagues are publishing in the best law journals around the world as well as in local journals. I remember what a colleague once said to me: “Singapore scholars have something of interest to say to the rest of the world.” This is indeed true and I am glad that my colleagues are making an impact globally.

Our curriculum offerings have also become much more interesting and I am pleased to say that subject to university approval which is expected, the Faculties of Law and Arts will offer a double honours degree programme in Law and Economics that will take 5 years to complete. This is likely to be the first of more similar programmes which will allow students who want a broader education to pursue such options at NUS.

Therefore as I end my first term and begin my second and final term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues for their strong support, their endeavour and their dedication to academic pursuits. I am confident that with their continued support, we will continue to be the best law school in Asia and a leading global law school.

To all the students here, I sincerely hope that you have enjoyed your time with us and found it to be a fruitful experience. Tonight gives us an opportunity to get to know each other better in an informal setting. I hope that after tonight, you will have the same sentiment as a former student of mine did 2 years ago. She told me: “Gosh, its nice to know that all of you are so human!” I for one certainly hope so. Have a pleasant evening.  

*Editor’s note For photos of the Collegiate Dinner, see pages 8 & 9 of this issue
Many of you will remember Peter English, who taught Criminal Law at NUS during several periods as a visitor in the Law Faculty between the late 1970s and the mid 1990s. Peter, who also taught at Exeter University, was a much-loved teacher and colleague. He had a wonderful and idiosyncratic teaching style and an infectious interest in all areas of law, particularly Criminal Law and the Administration of Criminal Justice. He was a man who combined great erudition with remarkable kindness and a delightful sense of humour.

Sadly, Peter died suddenly in February 2000, a few months before his sixtieth birthday. Since Peter’s death, several of his friends and colleagues here have been working to establish a fund in his memory. An account in Peter’s name has now been opened at NUS, and we have already received a number of donations. For as long as there is sufficient money in the account we will use the fund to award a book prize to the student who performs best in the subject of Criminal Law each year. We hope that those of you who were taught by Peter will consider contributing to the fund. All donations receive double tax-deduction, and attract a matching government grant. Enclosed in this issue of LawLink magazine is a donation form, which should be sent in with your donation. Please remember to indicate the purpose of your donation by writing “Faculty of Law - Peter English Memorial Prize” at the back of your cheque.

In December 2003, the Lucien Wong Prize was established in the Law School. Ms Chew Gek Khim ’84 established the $15,000 Prize, which is named for Mr Lucien Wong ’78, Managing Partner of M/s Allen & Gledhill, and one of the leading corporate lawyers in Singapore.

The $500 annual Prize will be awarded to the student who has performed the best in Corporate Finance Law in the academic year. All students who are registered for Corporate Finance Law in a given academic year are eligible to receive the Prize. In assessing students for the award of the Prize, the Dean may consider not only the student’s final grade in the subject, but also his or her performance in class work, assignments and other continuous assessment exercises.
EXPLORING LEGAL ISSUES IN AN EMERGING ASIA

ASSOC PROF ALAN TAN ’93 REPORTS ON THE INAUGURAL ASIAN LAW INSTITUTE CONFERENCE, ONE OF THE LARGEST GATHERINGS OF SCHOLARS OF ASIAN LAW EVER TO BE CONVENED IN THIS REGION.

(Opposite Left) The ASLI Board of Governors
(Opposite Right) The panel on “Foundations of Commercial Law in Asia” — Bibi Sangha, Chingfa Lo, David Keith Linnan and Dean Thitiphan Chuebboonthai
The Inaugural Conference of the Asian Law Institute (ASLI) was recently held in Singapore on 27 - 28 May 2004 on the NUS campus. More than 180 leading scholars of law from around the world met to discuss legal issues of relevance to Asia. Hosted by the NUS Faculty of Law, the conference is one of the anchor activities of ASLI. Established in March 2003, ASLI is a collaboration between the NUS Faculty of Law and ten other leading law schools in Asia, aimed at promoting greater cooperation in research and teaching among its partner institutions. ASLI’s secretariat operates out of the NUS Faculty of Law, which provides financial and administrative support for its activities.

The Inaugural Conference, bearing the theme “The Role of Law in a Developing Asia”, saw nearly 100 papers being presented on topics of contemporary interest to Asia. Panel titles included Foundations of Commercial Law in Asia, The WTO and Economic Integration in Asia, China and Taiwan in the 21st Century, Criminal Law and Justice in Asia, The Role and Rule of Law in Indonesia, Asia in the Era of Rapid Technological Change, Human Rights and Women, and Corporate and Financial Law in Asia.

The conference was one of the largest gatherings of scholars of Asian law ever to be convened in the region, and featured distinguished speakers and participants from nearly 70 law schools and research institutes from Asia, Europe, North America and Australasia. Speakers from NUS faculty and alumni included Stanley Yeo ’76, Gary Bell, Wang Jiangyu, Tan Lay Hong ’85, Jothi Saunthararajah ’86, Kevin Tan ’86, Simon Tay ’86, Alan Tan ’93 and Jan Schaefer LLM ’99. A special welcome was extended to papers presented by doctoral students and junior faculty. As noted by many participants, the overwhelming response to the conference is testimony to the great and continuing need for a scholarly forum dedicated exclusively to exploring legal issues relevant to an emerging Asia. During the ASLI Board of Governors’ meeting - held a day before the conference began - the Governors agreed to convene next year’s conference in Bangkok, Thailand. To be hosted by ASLI’s Thai representative, the Faculty of Law of Chulalongkorn University, the 2005 Conference is scheduled for the 26th and 27th of May 2005, and will bear the theme “Asia and the Challenges of Law: From Globalisation to Regionalisation?”.

The chairman of the organising committee for the 2005 Conference, Prof. Vinit Muntharbhorn, believes that the theme of the conference will be wide enough to encompass not only the economic, but also the social equity aspects of globalisation. To this end, it continues the objective of the Inaugural Conference to attract a diverse group of scholars and papers. Chulalongkorn University and the ASLI institutions warmly welcome all scholars of Asian law to meet again next year in Bangkok.

The Board of Governors also expressed its appreciation to the outgoing Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board, Deans Tithiphan Chuerboonchai and Tan Cheng Han ’87 from Chulalongkorn and NUS respectively. The new Chairman of the Board is President He Qinhua of the East China University of Politics and Law, while the Vice-Chairman is Prof. Hikmahanto Juwana from Universitas Indonesia. The Governors welcomed the newest two members of the grouping, the National Law School of India University and the College of Law of the Seoul National University. At the same time, the Governors pledged to increase research collaboration among the partner institutions and to engage Asian legal scholars from both within and outside Asia. Buoyed by the tremendous response to the Inaugural Conference and the encouraging feedback received thereafter, the ASLI Governors are confident that the annual conference – which is to be rotated among the founding institutions - will emerge as the definitive annual forum for discussing legal issues and challenges facing the nations of Asia.

ASLI now comprises the law schools of the following Asian countries: Chulalongkorn University (Bangkok, Thailand); East China University of Politics and Law (Shanghai, People’s Republic of China); University of Indonesia (Jakarta, Indonesia); International Islamic University of Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia); Kyushu University (Fukuoka, Japan); National Law School of India University (Bangalore, India); National University of Singapore (Singapore); National Taiwan University (Taipei, Chinese Taipei); Peking University (Beijing, People’s Republic of China); Seoul National University (Seoul, Republic of Korea); University of the Philippines (Manila, the Philippines).

You can find out more about ASLI from their website, at: http://law.nus.edu.sg/asli
Welcome to our new alumni!

collegiate dinner
for the Graduating Class of 2004

02.04.2004
international mooting competitions

a world-class performance

our moot teams shine in this year’s events
Jessup Moots
Our Law School team emerged Runners-up at the Philip C. Jessup Moot Competition in Washington D.C. This was the 11th time that NUS has been in the finals, having won four times before (in 1982, 1985, 1994 and 2001) and the 7th time that we have been Runner-up, beating the team from Harvard Law School along the way.

A total of 94 teams from 81 countries competed in the International Rounds of the Jessup competition in Washington D.C., United States, from 29th March to 3rd April. In what was believed to be the closest and best Championship Round in several years, the NUS team emerged Runner-up to the Ateneo de Manila University team, the national champion of the Philippines. This is also the first time in the history of the Competition that two teams from Southeast Asia faced each other in the Championship Round.

Singapore oralist, fourth-year student Jaikanth Shankar ’04, was named the Best Oralist in the Championship Round.

The 2004 NUS Law School Jessup Moot Team was accompanied by their coach, Associate Professor Robert Beckman, who has coached the NUS Law School Jessup teams for the past 25 years.

Space Law Moots
The Asia-Pacific Regional Rounds of the Space Law competition were held in Sydney, Australia, from 30th March to 3rd April. The NUS team emerged Runner-up to the team from the National Law School of India University. The NUS team also won the Best Memorial prize and Woo Shu Yan ’05, was ranked third best speaker from the preliminary rounds.

Vis Moots
At the same time, a team from the Faculty has won the Best Memorandum Award (Respondent) at the Willem C. Vis Arbitration Moot Competition held in Vienna, Austria from 2nd to 8th April. The Competition attracted 136 teams from 42 countries. Apart from winning the Best Memorandum award, NUS Law School speaker, Jon-nathaniel Nair was named one of the top speakers in the competition. It was also the first time that the Competition applied the rules of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC). The Vis Moot team consists of Gail Wong Li-Jing ’04, Jon-nathaniel Nair ’04, Chui LiJun ’04, Adrian Wong Wei Ern ’04, and Gitta Satryani Juwita ’05, accompanied by their coach, Associate Professor Gary F. Bell.

IHL Moots
The Law Faculty team emerging as Champions in the 2nd International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Moot Competition, held in Hong Kong in March 2004. The IHL competition was organised by the Hong Kong Red Cross Society under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the NUS Law School team was sponsored by the Singapore Red Cross Society.

International Maritime Moots
The NUS Faculty of Law hosted the 5th International Maritime Law Arbitration Moot Competition from 2nd to 6th July 2004. Our Maritime Mooters emerged as Runners-Up in the 5th International Maritime Law Arbitration Moot Competition, in a closely-fought Final against the University of Technology Sydney.

The NUS team consisted of Colin Chow ’05, Victoria Xue ’04, Tan Mingfen ’04, Sue Ann Gan DipSing ’04 and Michelle Quah DipSing ’04. NUS won a prize for being the top-ranked team in the General Rounds; as well as the prize for the Best Claimant’s Memorandum. In addition, Michelle Quah ’04 won the prize for the Best Oralist in the Final Round.

Held for the first time in Singapore, the Final Round of the competition took place in the historic City Hall Chamber in the Supreme Court. It was judged by a panel comprising Justice Belinda Ang Saw Ean, Mr Jaya Prakash ’74, a director of Pandissea Pte Ltd (the exclusive correspondents in Singapore for the Britannia P & I Club), and Mr Alan Thambiayah ’74, a leading regional arbitrator.

At the closing dinner of the competition, on behalf of NUS Faculty of Law, Prof Robert Beckman presented the teams from India, Indonesia and Thailand with a total of 100 books on Maritime Law from the C J Koh Law Library, as a contribution to those universities’ Law School libraries.
During the NUS term break, members of the Law Faculty’s Legal Writing Team had the opportunity to share their teaching expertise with colleagues in Hong Kong University and National University of Laos.

Legal Skills in Hong Kong
Director Eleanor Wong ’85, Deputy Director Lim Lei Theng ’92 and Deputy Director Helena Whalen-Bridge LLM ’02, conducted a 2-day workshop on “Teaching Legal Skills” to more than 30 law practitioners who were being recruited to teach at Hong Kong University. The workshop was held in Hong Kong on 22 and 23 May 2004. Eleanor had earlier been invited to consult with the deanery of HKU’s law faculty on the NUS experience in launching its Legal Writing Programme. HKU was interested to learn from the NUS Legal Writing Team how HKU could revamp their legal skill courses and, in particular, the way in which legal skills were taught to ensure active learning by students. As a result of that earlier trip, the Legal Writing team was invited to conduct the June workshop.

The workshop covered topics like how to establish a discussion-conducive environment, how to use group-work to achieve different learning and behavioural objectives, how to give timely and effective feedback on written assignments and oral presentations, and how to structure learning experiences that stimulate students to form independent opinions, take positions, defend their positions and challenge each other.

Interactive Teaching in Laos
Barely a month later, Eleanor and Lei Theng were on a plane again, this time to Vientiane, where they conducted a three-day workshop for more than 40 members of the Faculty of Law and Political Science at the National University of Laos. This workshop was organised under the auspices of a technical aid programme sponsored by the Swedish International Development Agency (“SIDA”). A representatives from SIDA had visited NUS earlier in the year, had sat in on some Legal Writing classes and, liking what he saw, invited the team to Laos.

Over three days from June 23rd to June 25th, the NUS trainers shared how to use Interactive Teaching methods. Topics covered included the use of group-work and strategies to overcome systemic and cultural impediments to interactive learning. The group also considered how to do more with less in an environment where resources were limited. E.g., participants shared how there are very few textbooks and written materials in Lao, and how many teaching aids that we take for granted, such as overhead/powerpoint projectors, were in short supply.

The session was so useful that the NUS Legal Writing Team has been invited back to Hong Kong again to consult and train on others aspects of skills teaching.

One major challenge of the Laos workshop was that the majority of the participants did not speak English well. Eleanor and Lei Theng therefore had to creatively adapt their workshop exercises to include the non-English speakers without sacrificing energy, pace, depth of discussion, and opportunity for feedback. It was extremely satisfying to watch each session progress, from a relatively formal, reserved opening ceremony to the closing exercises– when the participants put their lessons into practice and conducted a series of lively and interactive “mock classes”.

Conclusion
Since its launch in AY2002-2003, the Legal Writing Programme has successfully rolled out its four basic modules designed to give all first and second year students a comprehensive grounding in the core legal skills of research, reasoning, writing and oral communication. Now going into its third year, the Legal Writing team continues to improve the core modules and hopes to introduce upper level optional courses, clinics and other innovative modules that focus on legal skills.

We are glad and excited to be able to share what we have learnt, and no doubt will continue to learn, with our colleagues in the region.
The Faculty and the East China University of Politics and Law (ECUPL), one of China’s oldest universities and most prestigious law schools, will jointly launch a specialist Masters of Law (LL.M.) degree in International Business Law in Shanghai in July 2005. Located in Shanghai, the economic centre of the People’s Republic of China, ECUPL is the first Chinese University to be accredited by the American Bar Association.

The new Master’s programme, which will be launched in July 2005, will be taught in English. Applications will be open until 31 January 2005. The Faculty plans to have around 40 students for its first intake.

The specialist degree in International Business Law is the first overseas degree programme and the fifth specialist LLM degree that will be offered by the NUS Faculty of Law. Specialist degrees currently offered by the NUS Law Faculty are in Corporate and Financial Services Law, Intellectual Property and Technology Law, International and Comparative Law, and Chinese Law.

The one-year LLM coursework degree will offer courses in the Common Law of Obligations, Comparative Corporations Law, International and Comparative Law of Sale, International Commercial Arbitration, International Banking Law, Cross-Border Transactions and Transnational Commercial Law, among others. The students will be able to study these courses under the guidance of leading faculty members from NUS and ECUPL, and from visiting professors elsewhere. Students who successfully complete the degree requirements will obtain an LLM degree conferred by NUS.

With premises in Shanghai, the NUS Faculty of Law will be able to offer other international students the option of spending a semester in Singapore and a semester in Shanghai, thereby potentially making the Faculty of Law’s existing LLM programmes even more desirable to international students. It will also make it easier for its undergraduate law students to spend a semester on exchange in Shanghai.

Associate Professor Tan Cheng Han, S.C. Dean of the NUS Faculty of Law says, “We have put together a truly innovative and exciting programme that will benefit every law student and practitioner who is interested in the growing field of international business law. At the same time, the approval from the Chinese authorities is a further validation of the high reputation the NUS law school enjoys both within and outside Asia as China regularly receives a large number of applications involving foreign educational initiatives.”

NUS and ECUPL are both founding members of the prestigious NUS-based Asian Law Institute (ASLI) which was set up in March 2003 and which brings together 11 of the leading law schools in Asia for collaborative projects on Asian law.
NUS Law Faculty staff appointed as advisors to Timor-Leste
The Government of Timor-Leste has appointed Assoc. Prof. Robert Beckman, Assoc. Prof. Eleanor Wong ’85, Assoc. Prof. Lim Chin Leng and Asst. Prof. Lim Lei Theng ’92 as advisors on maritime boundary matters. Timor-Leste, previously known as East Timor, became the world’s newest independent state in May 2002 after 450 years of continuous foreign occupation.

Prof. Jeffrey D Pinsler awarded LLD
Jeffrey Pinsler was awarded the LL.D by the University of Liverpool in 2004. Being a higher doctorate, it is very rarely awarded and signifies international recognition for Professor Pinsler’s work. Prof Pinsler specialises in Civil Justice, Civil and Criminal Evidence, Procedure and Dispute Resolution. He is an accredited arbitrator of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre and an accredited mediator of the Singapore Mediation Centre; and is also a member of numerous professional committees of legal and governmental institutions, including the Singapore Academy of Law and the Supreme Court. He has appeared as amicus curiae before the Court of Appeal, and has spoken at, and contributed to, conferences and reform programmes in various countries. He has been involved in ten major works as author and general editor. Two of his books, Singapore Court Practice and Civil Practice in Singapore and Malaysia, are considered ground-breaking and have been regularly cited by the courts.

Welcome Back
Professor Lye Lin Heng ’73 returns from her sabbatical at the Yale School of Environment; Assoc Prof Alexander Loke ’90 returns from Columbia University; and Asst Prof Tan Seow Hon ’97 returns from Harvard University (read about her controversial Law and Morality workshop at Harvard, in the January-June 2004 issue of LawLink).

Congratulations and Citations
Congratulations to Victor V Ramraj and Lim Chin Leng, both of whom have been appointed Associate Professors. Assoc Prof Thio Li-ann, received the University’s Young Researcher Award for her work in International Law. Li-ann was also appointed an Advisory Board Member of the New Zealand Yearbook of International Law and was an expert witness, together with Adjunct Assoc Prof Kevin Tan ’86, in In the Matter of Michael McCrea and In the Matter of An Application by the Republic of Singapore, in the Federal Court of Australia (Victorian District Registry) on 25-26 Nov 2003. Adjunct Assoc. Prof. Lawrence Boo ’80 was appointed a Director of the Board of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre. He took over as its Executive Deputy Chairman in April 2004.
Visiting Professors

A very warm welcome to the following Visiting Professors: Ian McEwin, will be holding a half-time visiting professor position and offering courses in Comparative Competition Law and Law & Economics. Dr McEwin has an LLB as well as a PhD in Economics from the Australian National University (ANU), and he was formerly Director of the Centre for Law and Economics at ANU. From 2001 to 2004 he was a consultant with the Competition Policy Study Unit of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore, advising on the drafting of a competition law for Singapore. Martin Davies, Professor of Maritime Law at Tulane Law School, in New Orleans, Lousiana, will offer an intensive course in Maritime Law. Professor Davies is the Co-Director of the Maritime Law Center at Tulane Law School. Professor Davies is an internationally recognised expert in maritime law. He previously taught in England and Australia. Professor Davies is the second MPA Distinguished Visitor in Maritime Law. Jacques deLisle, Professor of Law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, will offer an intensive course in China and International Law. Prof deLisle is an expert in contemporary Chinese law and China’s approach to international legal issues. John Devereux, Professor of Law at the TC Bierne School of Law, University of Queensland, will be visiting in Semester One. He will be co-teaching the Law of Torts and offering an elective course in Advanced Tort Law. Professor Devereux is an expert in the law of torts, medical law and criminal law. Wael B. Hallaq, Professor of Law at the Institute of Islamic Studies at McGill University, Montreal, Canada, will offer an intensive course in Islamic Law. Professor Hallaq has a PhD from the University of Washington, and is an internationally recognised expert on Islamic Law. Dang Xuan Hop, who is both a Vietnamese lawyer and an Australian lawyer, will be visiting for the academic year. Hop Dang has been practising as a foreign lawyer in Vietnam in the Hanoi office of Phillips Fox, an Australian law firm. After his legal training in Vietnam, he did an LLB at Bond University (First Class Honours) and an LLM at the University of Melbourne. He also served as a judicial clerk to a judge in the Court of Appeal of the Supreme Court of Victoria and taught part-time at the Faculty of Law of the University of Melbourne. Kim Joongi, Associate Professor at the Graduate School of International Studies, Yonsei University, Korea, will be visiting for the academic year. In Semester 1 he will offer a course in Comparative Corporate Governance. Prof Kim is the Executive Director of the Hills Governance Center at the Graduate School of International Studies at Yonsei University. Professor Kim received his undergraduate and legal training in the United States. Tim Lindsey, Professor of Law at the Faculty of Law of the University of Melbourne, will offer an intensive course in Topics in Financial Law which will focus on issues of commercial law in post-crisis Asia. Professor Lindsey is the Director of the Asian Law Centre at Melbourne and is an expert on Indonesian Law and on the development of commercial law in Asian countries. Richard Nolan, Fellow and Director of Studies in Law at the Faculty of Law, University of Cambridge, will be visiting for several weeks in Semester One. He will be co-teaching Company Law. Richard was also a visitor in AY 2003-4, when he offered a course in Comparative Corporate Governance and co-taught Company Law.

Zhu Lanye, is an internationally recognized Professor of Law at the East China University of Politics and Law (ECUPL) and an arbitrator with the China International Economic & Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETAC). He has previously taught at universities in the United States, Europe, and Australia. Professor Zhu will offer a course on Chinese Intellectual Property Law in Semester One. Wei (Willey) Zheng of the East China University of Politics and Law (ECUPL) is senior adviser to the People’s Procuratorate of Shanghai. He obtained his Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Passau in 1992 and was selected as a Fulbright scholar at University of Rutgers in 1997. An expert on Chinese and comparative criminal law, he will offer an intensive course on Chinese Criminal Law in Semester One.

David Marshall Professorship Lecture (April 2004)
This year’s David Marshall lecture was delivered by Professor Stanley Yeo ’76, visiting from Southern Cross University, Australia. Stanley was a former member of the NUS Law Faculty, and as a student, was Law Club President. Stanley spoke on “Reforming the Penal Code with a General Part”; and drew lively exchange from the audience, which included retired Judicial Commissioner K S Rajah ‘63, Attorney-General Chan Sek Keong ’61 and Temasek Polytechnic lecturer Sylvia Lim ’88.

Associate Professor
Victor V Ramraj
Anti-Terrorism Law and Policy Symposium (24 to 26 June 2004)
The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and subsequent attacks in Southeast Asia and around the world have resulted in the enactment of new anti-terrorism laws in many jurisdictions and an increased emphasis at the international, regional and national levels on anti-terrorism efforts. All indications are that the prevention of terrorism will be one of the major tasks of domestic governments and international and regional organizations for some time. In response to the international nature of contemporary terrorism, anti-terrorism law and policy has become a matter of global concern. Security laws developed in one jurisdiction or advanced by an international organization can quickly spread throughout the world. At the same, these ideas are received and shaped by different domestic legal, political and social contexts.

On 24-26 June 2004, the NUS Faculty of Law hosted a major international research symposium on Comparative Anti-Terrorism Law and Policy, which examined anti-terrorism law and policy in the major jurisdictions in Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe, and North America. Leading academics from the following institutions took part (including scholars from four ASLI member institutions): Kyushu University (ASLI), National Law School of India University (ASLI), National University of Singapore (ASLI), Stanford University, Singapore Management University, Syracuse University, University of Cape Town, University of Durham, University of Hong Kong, University of Indonesia (ASLI), University of Leeds, University of London (SOAS), University of New South Wales, University of Sussex, and University of Toronto.

The symposium took place over three days at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel and laid the foundation for a major collection of published essays. The symposium was organized by Associate Professors Michael Hor ’88 and Victor V. Ramraj of the NUS Faculty of Law, in collaboration with Professor Kent Roach of the University of Toronto. Building on the success of the symposium, a new seminar on Anti-Terrorism Law and Policy will be offered at the Faculty of Law in the 2004-2005 academic year.

Visitors to the Faculty
The Faculty was honoured to receive visits from the following delegations, from January to June 2004:

- The Star-Vietnam Project delegation (6 January 2004). The delegation was headed by Mr Tran Dai Hung (Head of the Delegation, Permanent Vice Chairman, Internal Affairs Commission Of The Central Executive Committee Communist Party Of Vietnam); Ambassador Kishore Mahbubani, Permanent Representative of Singapore to the UN and High Commissioner of Singapore to Canada (8 Jan 2004), and Dean-Designate, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy; Mr Vanu Gopal Menon, Singapore’s Permanent Representative in Geneva (9 January 2004); Dr Ian Holloway, Dean, Faculty of Law, The University of Western Ontario, Canada (16 January 2004); Delegation from Hanoi Law University (17 February 2004) led by Dr Le Thi Son (Vice-Recto Of Hanoi Law University); Professor Cosmo Graham, Head, Dept of Law, Leicester University (12 March 2004); Dr Francoise Thibaut, Parisan Political Institute (Sciences Po Paris) (6 April 2004); Professor J K Mittal, Director of Amity Institute of Global Education and Research and Amity Law School NOIDA; Dr Mukulita Vijayawargiya, Class 1 Officer, Central Ministry of Law and Justice (6 April 2004); Mr Daniel Woker, Swiss Ambassador to Singapore, and Dr Suzanne Hrabu-Renevey, Counsellor for Science and Technology, Swiss Embassy (16 April 2004); Delegation from Universitas Trisakti Law Department led by Ms Retna Dwi Savitri (22 April 2004); International Trade Law Curriculum Study Mission organised by the US-Vietnam Trade Council (27 April 2004) led by Dr Bui Xuan Nhu (Vice Dean Of The International Law Faculty, Hanoi Law University, Ministry Of Justice); Professor Gary Hawke, Head, School of Government Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand (28 May 2004); Professor Don Polden, Dean, Santa Clara University School of Law; with Director of International Law Programs Professor George Alexander, and Professors Richard Berg and Philip Jimenez (May and June 2004)...

In Memoriam: Alice Erh-Soon Tay, Member of the Faculty of Law, 1958-60
Professor Alice Tay, who taught at the Faculty of Law in the then-University of Malaya in Singapore, passed away earlier this year. Born in Singapore, she pursued her law degree in London and worked for the late David Marshall upon her return to Singapore before joining the Faculty of Law. She emigrated to Australia in 1961 and held numerous positions, including Challis Professor of Jurisprudence at the Faculty of Law, University of Sydney, and President of the Human Rights Commission of Australia. She was Challis Professor for 26 years, and published more than 200 scholarly works on comparative law, Russian and Chinese law, legal philosophy, the history of ideas and human rights.

in memoriam
Prof Peter Birks - A dear friend of the Faculty
Prof Peter Birks passed away peacefully at home on 6 July 2004 after a short battle with cancer. Much has been written about Prof Birks’ contribution to the law in UK and the Commonwealth. Prof Birks served as an External Examiner for the Law Faculty, and was also an International Assessor with the International Advisory Panel. His works had significant influence on the judicial development of the law of Restitution in Singapore. He had also contributed to local journals, and in particular a publication of his in the Singapore Journal of Legal Studies in 1999 sparked off academic debate between international contributors conducted within the journal itself. In August 2003, he visited Singapore for the last time, and during that time, in the seminars that he gave as the first Visiting Fellow of the Singapore Academy of Law, he gave his Singapore audience a preview of the contents of his last book, “Unjust Enrichment”, published subsequently in October 2003. This was, sadly, to be his last major contribution to the debate on the theoretical structure of the law of Restitution. But in testimony to his devotion to the subject and his intellectual discipline, he had been known to be working on a second edition of the book even while he was battling his illness.

“Its sad news indeed that a good friend of the Faculty has passed away so suddenly. He had the nicest things to say about the Faculty, the scope of its curriculum and the quality of its students. Colleagues in Examiners meetings knew how expressive he could be. He was committed to being a Faculty friend, and was ever keen to help us.”

Assoc Prof Chin Tet Yung
a
love for the law

Prof Tommy Koh ’61
Prof Tommy Koh ’61, Chairman of the NUS Law Faculty’s Steering Committee, speaks to LawLink about his love for the Law, and for NUS Law School

I had always hoped that I would return to the Law School. For this reason, I have not resigned from the University ... Being the romantic that I am, I have allowed my heart to prevail over my head.

A person who maintains a good balance between work and life, who has a happy family life and other joyful pursuits, is likely to be a more productive than another person who has no other life than work.

The late 50s was a wonderful period to be on campus. We knew all the politicians and had access to them. We were participants in the making of history as some of the most important debates of our time were held on campus.
Q. As a member of the pioneer batch of Law Students, matriculating in 1957, you have been involved with the Law School since its inception and experienced it from all angles – as a student, a lecturer, the Dean and now Chairman of the International Advisory Panel. What are your feelings towards the Law School?

A. I am a member of the pioneering class. As a group, we are probably more closely bonded than other classes. Why? Because we shared a special feeling that we were the path finders. We were going where no one else had gone before. We were also a relatively small class, with only 22 graduating in 1961. We knew one another very well. We tried to help one another in our studies. We were close to our teachers. My classmates and I have a very strong sense of commitment to the Law School.

Q. When receiving the 2004 Outstanding Service Award, you said: “Academia is the only job I applied for. The other jobs have pursued me. I am like a fish swimming down the stream of life.” When you graduated from Law School, why did you not ‘go with the flow’ and embark on legal practice? What drew you to academia?

A. I decided to pursue an academic career for several reasons. First, I believe in the high value of education. I regard teaching as a noble calling. Second, I have always been an idealistic person. I studied law not in order to make money but to fight against injustice. I felt that if I were practising law, my mission would be to pursue my client’s interests rather than those of justice. I felt that by being an academic, I could make the pursuit of justice my life-long mission. Third, I am not a typical Singaporean in that making money has never been on my agenda. My agenda is to build a better Singapore and a better world. I have been blessed with so many opportunities to serve my country and the world.

Q. You wrote in “Change and Continuity” (Editor’s Note: the book produced in 1999 by the Law Faculty, to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Law School) that when you were Dean of the Law School (from 1971 to 1974), you liked your students and knew each of your 400 Law students by name. In particular, you recounted: “My wife and I would invite the final-year students, in small groups, to dine in our house with senior lawyers. We hosted a big welcome for each freshman class. We also hosted a farewell dinner for the graduating students, who would invariably consume all the liquor in our house.” Do you miss academic life, and the ability to interact with students so freely and directly?

A. My wife and I were very happy at the University. If we had a choice, we would never have left to serve the country abroad. However, we were called to do so and, because we love our country, we were ready to accede to the request. I had always hoped that I would return to the Law School. For this reason, I have not resigned from the University and joined the Foreign Service or the Administrative Service. I would have benefitted financially if I had done so. Being the romantic that I am, I have allowed my heart to prevail over my head.

Q. You are a champion of the arts in Singapore. Many of our local arts personalities are NUS Law School alumni (Singapore Dance Theatre founder member Jamaludin Jalil ‘86, Theatrereorks Artistic Director Ong Keng Sen ‘88, founding Artistic Director of Wild Rice Ivan Heng ‘88, comedienne/singer Selena Tan ‘94, to name a few). We also count filmmakers (Sherman Ong ‘95, Kelvin Tong ‘97) among our alumni. What is the relationship between Law and the arts?

A. It is true that there are several law graduates who have distinguished themselves in the arts. I do not think the study of law has made them creative. I would argue that they are creative in spite of their legal education! I used to blame my legal education for suppressing the poetry in my soul and for preventing me from writing fiction. However, the fact that Philip Jeyaretnam, Simon Tay ‘86 and Eleanor Wong ‘85 are successful writers show that if you have the talent, you can excel with both your left and right brain. The Law School has, over the years, attracted some very talented and versatile individuals. I greatly admire people like Jamaludin Jalil, Ong Keng Sen, Ivan Heng, Selena Tan, Sherman Ong, Kelvin Tong, and others. They are making an important contribution to our new ambition to raise our arts and culture to a level commensurate with our achievements in education, economy and infrastructure.

Q. (On a possibly related note:) What are your thoughts on why so many law graduates in recent years have practiced for a few years and then left the profession, or decided not to embark on legal practice at all?

A. I have not studied the problem and do not really know what the answer is. I wish, however, to make a more general point about the fact that many law firms require their young lawyers to work late every night. This is both undesirable and unnecessary. We should try to maintain a balance between work and life. There is also a difference between putting in long hours and being productive. The simple fact is that the same job can be done by one person in two hours and by another in 10 hours. Our objective should be to work smart. When I was the head of our diplomatic missions in New York and, subsequently, Washington, I would urge my colleagues to leave the office by 7.00 pm so that they could go home to have dinner with their families. I also do this to all my officers in Singapore. A person who maintains a good balance between work and life, who has a happy family life and other joyful pursuits, is likely to be a more productive than another person who has no other life than work.

Q. You have remained good friends with many of your classmates from your Law School days – for example, Attorney-General Chan Sek Keong ‘61, Professor Koh Kheng Lian ‘61, TPB Menon ‘61, Dr Thio Su Mien ‘61 – and you are all prominent members of the legal fraternity. One might imagine that the sheer weight of your collective intellect would mean that your interactions were all of a serious and intellectual nature. While I am sure that you must certainly have had your fair share of grave discourses on the nature of law and justice (and oh, to have been a fly on the wall during those interactions!), what are your favourite memories of your days as a Law student? And what were some of the lighter moments?

A. I remember my four undergraduate years as the golden years of my life. We worked hard but we also played hard. We were campus activists and played leading roles in the Students’ Union, the Socialist Club, the Debating Union, and in running publications such as The Undergrad and Fajar. We did not spend all our time debating legal issues. We also made friends with students in other faculties and departments, such as, history, philosophy and literature. We spent long hours at the sarabat stalls, after the library had closed, debating issues about colonialism, capitalism versus socialism, the future of British Malaya and Singapore, the empowerment of workers and women, etc. The late 50s was a wonderful period to be on campus. We knew all the politicians and had access to them. We were participants in the making of history as some of the most important debates of our time were held on campus.
Guest of Honour, Justice Tan Lee Meng '72 (the Dean of the Class of '88) being greeted by organising committee members Wong Foot Hin '88 and Hamidul Haq '88.

Wilson Wong '88 and Sylvia Lim '88 in an impromptu jam session.
The Class of ’88 was so eager to meet, they couldn’t wait for a ‘landmark’ year to come round! They also could not resist showing off the musical and dramatic talents which they first displayed in Law School ... recognise some familiar faces?

The inimitable Ivan Heng ’88!

Justice Tan ’72 recounts fond memories of the Class of ’88.

Vathani Rajah ’88 accompanied by David Lim ’88 — the reason why Law School needed a piano.

Class of 1988
20th anniversary
... ... of matriculation

03 July 2004
view

from the hilltop

by Julia Lau '97 LLM '01
Since last August, I have studied at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. Over the past several months, a multitude of new experiences has assaulted my senses and sensibilities. It is now springtime, and the manicured gardens in front of the colourful rows of distinguished townhouses in Georgetown, where I live, have never looked brighter.

My university is nicknamed “the Hilltop”, because its main campus is perched atop a gently-sloped hill, rising above the banks of the Potomac River. Founded in 1789, it is the oldest Jesuit university in the United States. I am enrolled in Georgetown’s Security Studies Programme (in the school of foreign service). An explanation is probably in order, given that most people in Singapore think that means I study how to trade in securities. Security studies essentially involve the study of war and other security problems, and of how to craft policies to resolve and prevent these problems.

My major is in International Security – the bulk of my courses thus focus on problems such as terrorism and civil war in areas ranging from Central Asia to the Middle East. I’ve also had the chance to study ‘cool’ courses like US Nuclear Policy, and Outer Space & Security. To my relief, the skills I honed in Law School have stood me in good stead at Georgetown – the deadlines, mountains of reading material and demands for written assignments are familiar, while my classmates are every bit as vocal and eloquent as those whom I encountered in Singapore.

My first months here were filled with moments that made me appreciate life in Singapore – there was immense irony in the fact that the roads in the capital of the world’s most powerful country were marked with potholes, and that homeless people sat on street corners in the bitter winter cold, while diplomats and bureaucrats busied themselves in marble-lined embassies and office buildings. In September, Hurricane Isabel brought driving rains literally into my apartment, while depriving many more unfortunate people of electricity for a few weeks. Even the residence of Singapore’s Ambassador to Washington, Chan Heng Chee, was apparently hit!

It is an exciting time to be in the US. One is hardly allowed to sit by the sidelines and be apathetic, given the array of political and social issues awaiting debate. Watching the Democratic primaries on TV with my classmates, and of course, listening to Howard Dean’s primal scream being played over and over again (in raw as well as disco remix form), were some of my more entertaining memories from last winter.

Already, I know I will return to Singapore with a crazy quilt of memories and a vastly expanded mind and Rolodex. As one of six Singaporean Fulbright scholars pursuing full-time postgraduate studies in the US this year, I had the wonderful opportunity to attend a Fulbright enrichment seminar in Arizona in February. There, I met 130 people from 60 countries, and came to understand through interacting with them that it is indeed true that all human beings desire the same things – chiefly, happiness, friendship and protection from all that is bad or dark. Almost everyone I met knew Singapore to be “clean”, “efficient” and “rich” – descriptions that were conferred in the spirit of praise, but which slightly saddened me, because I would have preferred to hear words like “vibrant” and “spirited”.

Part of me is looking forward to going home. But I will dearly miss Washington for its sights, its sounds, and its people. Most of all, perhaps, I will lament the loss of the leisure time I’ve had as a carefree student, when I plunge back into work at Mindef. One of my favorite past-times is enjoying a croissant and fresh coffee in a little café on Wisconsin Avenue, a five-minute walk from my apartment, where I sit people-, car- and dog-watching and reading the paper on Sunday mornings. Come September, I’ll have to switch to kopi, kaya bread and The Straits Times at Killiney Road. What a difference a year makes.

Julia Lau ’97 LLM ’01 writes a letter from America
It is a common stereotype that law students dream of going to Harvard Law School or Stanford Law School, both of which are the pioneers in the cutting-edge areas of legal education. I myself cannot escape this cliché – but to my surprise, my dream to be a part of these two Law Schools became a reality when I was invited to visit both, as a conference speaker and program participant.

Discussing patents and HIV/AIDS at Stanford

In the middle of February 2004, I was selected as a Young Scholar to present my paper on “The Road to Doha and Beyond: Some Reflections on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health”, at the Stanford Journal of International Law Young Scholars’ Symposium. This was an academically fruitful and culturally rich trip. During the welcome dinner, Professor Adrien Wing, a renowned international law scholar, gave us an inspiring and though-provoking keynote speech. After the dinner, it was my turn, as I had been asked to present my paper as part of the first panel. This was my first time to present my own academic paper publicly, and I was nervous – not to mention jet-lagged, having just landed a few short hours ago! I presented my arguments regarding the relationship between patent protection and affordable access to HIV/AIDS-related medicines in Africa, and then fielded questions from the moderator and audience. During the next four panel discussions in the following day, I exchanged views with other Young Scholars mainly from Berkeley, Duke, Stanford, and Yale Law Schools. (I also seized the chance to have a quick touring on the dazzlingly beautiful Stanford campus with the company of the California-style warm sunshine and azure sky.)

Debating cyberlaw issues at Harvard

In May 2004, I was granted a scholarship to attend the Internet Law Program held by the Harvard Law School’s Berkman Center for Internet and Society. Berkman Center is widely known for its pioneering and groundbreaking research into the most controversial cyberlaw issues being debated by lawmakers in the U.S. and internationally. This year’s Internet Law Program brought together over a hundred people from all corners of the world to discuss some of the main controversies and current issues facing the future of the Internet, and featured a series of lectures delivered by preeminent scholars, including Professors Charles Nesson, William Fisher, Lawrence Lessig, Yochai Benkler respectively from Harvard, Stanford, and Yale Law Schools.

I had the privilege to have face-to-face discussions with these eminent professors and other participants with a variety of educational and cultural backgrounds. I was also exposed to the vibrancy and exuberance of multidisciplinary discourse. Professor Lessig guided me to realize the very importance of the preservation of the free culture tradition for the development of our society. Law Professor Benkler provided me with economic, social and cultural rationales for the peer production in the information age. In addition, I also got the chance to lead a group discussion on the topic of “Digital Divide, Human Rights, and Copyright Protection”, in the food-for-thought dinner. I was the moderator for a panel consisting of a reporter from Los Angeles Times, a fellow at the Harvard School of Government who was previously a CNN journalist, and two legal practitioners. As a student without any practice experience, I learned a lot from their interesting and lively stories.

One more dream

My days at Stanford and Harvard were short, but I really wish that I will be able to go back there very soon. I hope this is another dream that I can realise in the near future!
The Singapore Law Review certainly had a fruitful year. Events such as the Inaugural Singapore Law Review Academic Writing Workshop and the Inaugural Singapore Law Review Symposium which aimed to promote academic discourse outside the Law School curriculum, were well met with overwhelming enthusiasm from the Law School population. This groundbreaking year culminated on 19th March 2004 with the 17th Singapore Law Review Lecture, held at City Hall Chambers. The Lecture was jointly sponsored by Baker & McKenzie, Wong & Leow, Arthur Luke & Partners and Bernard Rada and Lee Law Corporation. The annual lecture series is currently the longest running lecture series in Singapore. It boasts of eminent speakers such as Prof. S Jayakumar ’63, Prof. Tommy Koh ’61, various Justices of the Supreme Court of Singapore and other prominent legal personalities. This year’s distinguished speaker was Assoc. Prof. Simon Tay ’86, who spoke on “The Singapore – Malaysia Relationship: The Future Roles of International Law.” Given Assoc. Prof. Tay’s outstanding track record and experience in international law and foreign policy, expectations were high as to the delivery of an insightful and thought-provoking lecture. Sure enough, Assoc. Prof. Tay did not disappoint the audience, which included prominent legal luminaries such as the Honourable Judge of Appeal Chao Hick Tin, the Honourable Justice MPH Rubin ’66 and the Honourable Justice Kan Ting Chui ’70.

**Using the various disputes between Singapore and Malaysia as the backdrop for this lecture, Assoc. Prof. Tay surveyed three areas. First, the rise of international law and the interest and importance that states attach to it, or should attach to it. Second, three disputes between Singapore and Malaysia over the island of Pedra Branca: reclamation works by Singapore; and the price of water. Third, the relationship between international law and politics. On the rise of international law, Assoc. Prof. Tay argued that while international law is of increasing importance to Singapore, Singapore lacks many of the processes, experiences and perspectives in dealing with international law in its emerging complexity. On the three current disputes, it was Assoc. Prof. Tay’s opinion that, given the complexities of international relations and foreign policy, no country will necessarily emerge as a “winner” from the disputes. Lastly, on the relationship between international law and politics, he argued that they should be seen as a continuum of methods and tools for dealing with a complex but essential relationship and not mutually exclusive positions. To borrow his euphemism, “law, law” and “jaw, jaw” to avoid “war, war”. The lecture ended with a stimulating question and answer session between Assoc. Prof. Tay and the audience. Assoc. Prof. Tay was challenged by questions ranging from the future of Singaporean private businesses in Malaysia, to the Malaysian elections, as well as future developments in the rise of international law as an area of academic endeavour. With all questions well answered and all minds satisfied, it was time for mouthes and bellies to be gratified at the post-lecture reception. The 2003-2004 Editorial Board of the Singapore Law Review is extremely proud of the success of the 17th Singapore Law Review Lecture. The enthusiasm from all involved was extremely apparent, and is indicative of the passion of our Law students, which we should nurture further. The Singapore Law Review will continue to bring such activities to the forefront of academic life in Law School, so as to create a more fulfilling and inspired experience for all law students.
what's new at the C J Koh law library

Mrs. Lakshmi Swaminathan '61, Vice-Chairman, Principal Bench of the Central Administrative Tribunal, India, presenting two of her books to the C J Koh Law Library.
Have you visited the Law Library lately? Did you know that the Library can be of use to you, even after you’ve left these hallowed halls? Senior Manager of the C J Koh Law Library, Mrs Thavamani P Kumar, tells us how.

One of the most common questions that visitors to Law School ask is: “Is your library named after a former Chief Justice?”

The answer is: it was named for the fortuitously-initialled Mr Koh Choon Joo, whose generous donation of $85.145 million allowed us to embark on major renovations and extension of the Library, culminating in its official opening by our actual Chief Justice, the Honourable the Chief Justice Yong Pung How, on 27 February 2002.

The Library’s collection development policy emphasizes the acquisition of the complete primary legal resources of Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei and England. Legal resources of the United States of America, India, Canada, Australia and New Zealand are also extensively acquired. As the teaching and research needs of the Faculty of Law expanded, the Library has over the years developed strong collections in Public International Law, International Business Transactions, the laws of the European Community, the laws of the ASEAN nations and the laws of the People’s Republic of China. The Library currently houses a unique title collection of approximately 45,000 titles comprising more than 151,000 volumes. It maintains more than 1,900 current subscriptions to journals and standing order titles. Its total periodical collection comprises more than 4,300 periodical titles. It subscribes to approximately 60 electronic databases, a number of which are available for access by external library members. This rich and comprehensive collection makes the C J Koh Law Library undeniably one of the best Law Libraries in Southeast Asia and Oceania.

The Library encourages Alumni to consider joining the C J Koh Law Library at the Alumni membership rate of $100 per annum. This category of personal membership will give you access to the C J Koh Law Library during our opening hours. You are also entitled to 24-hour loan of Reserved Books Readings (RBR) Collection materials. (The RBR collection houses materials that are recommended textbooks and readings.)

As a further incentive to our Alumni the Library has, from 1 July 2004, created the Alumni 5-year membership of $400 for a 5-year membership, thereby saving you $100 in membership fees. Additionally, Alumni are allowed to borrow 3 books for 14 days at any of the libraries within the NUS Libraries network.

Alumni who wish to borrow books from the C J Koh Law Library should take on Corporate membership at the rate of $700 per annum. Corporate members are entitled to borrow 10 books for a 28-day period.

Access-Only membership (available from 1 July 2004) allows members access to the Library’s collections, without borrowing privileges or access to any electronic resources. The fee for Access-Only membership is 50% of the fee charged for the category that the applicant is eligible for. This is however, not applicable to the Corporate category.

For more information, you can contact the C J Koh Library’s Loans and Membership Department at Tel : 6874-2025 or send an email to membership@nus.edu.sg

More information on Library membership is also available at: http://www.lib.nus.edu.sg/mem/general.html

WHAT DO SOME OF OUR ALUMNI HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THE C J KOH LAW LIBRARY?

G P SELVAM ’88 Ever since my firm became a corporate member of the Law Library of NUS, we have always been in a “borrowed position”. Very often we borrow the maximum number of books. This is evidence of how useful the Library is to us. About a year ago, I was working on an international law case. I was amazed at the collection that was available on the subject.

I would have been at a complete loss without it.

PROFESSOR ANDREW PHANG BOON LEONG ’82 The Law Library is, without doubt, one of the most comprehensive common law libraries in the Asia-Pacific. It is also well laid out and hence very user-friendly. Most importantly, perhaps, I have always found the Library staff to be unfailingly courteous and helpful. Given the immense pressures they face, this is particularly commendable and certainly greatly appreciated.

R. JOETHY ’66 The Law Library has, in addition to meeting the active demands of a student membership, a full complement of practitioner material for ready reference. The staff have met my numerous requests for assistance with unfailing promptitude and courtesy.

The Library has a unique combination of adequate materials, capable staff and an excellent environment for study and research. It is indeed a world-class Library accessible for continued learning.

ANJALI IYER ’85 The Law Library is so comprehensively stocked that no matter how obscure the point of law, it is certain to have almost everything that has ever been written on the subject ... the staff at the Law Library are so knowledgeable and helpful that it cuts my research time significantly.

STEPHEN LOKE CHI TSEH ’86 The NUS Law Library has always been a part of me as a law student and even more so as a practitioner. Every nook and cranny is filled with nuggets of information which can be second to none. Joining the Library is definitely one decision that I have never regretted.
The Class of ‘94 had their 10th Anniversary reunion at noon on Saturday, 19th June 2004. A sumptuous buffet lunch was laid out on tables outside “The Guild” function room of the Suntec City Guild House, in which alumni of the Class of ‘94, their spouses and their kids mingled. There was a free flow of juices and soft-drinks to match the free-flow of conversation, and the hubbub was only interrupted by the slideshow put together by co-organiser Sandra Seah, who was there with her hubby Jeff. Jeff had come early with Sandra to help set up the screen and projector, and had been very supportive of Sandra’s late nights over a couple of weeks, during which she singlehandedly scanned old photos for the slideshow.

Sandra had also dug-up her old tape of “Emerald” the Class of ‘94’s final-year musical production. She screened excerpts at the reunion, and everyone had fun trying to identify their former classmates in the video. Needless to say, nobody remembered the lines that they had memorised for the musical so many years ago!

A small lucky draw was also held, kindly sponsored by Legal Futures, and one of the two winners was Mrs Hilda Chong, who is expecting her baby Isabel in August. Hilda is married to Paul Chong ‘94, who is legal counsel for the Banyan Tree group. Coincidentally, a Banyan Tree resort is being considered as the venue for the next reunion of the Class of ‘94 (hint-hint)!

Present at the reunion was Quek Tze-Ming ‘94, with his wife Sharon and daughters Hannah and Elizabeth. Tze-Ming caught up on soccer with his old pals Tay Peng Cheng ‘94 and Desmond Ong ‘94, and they exchanged updates with each other on their kids. Tze-Ming probably also spoke about what he has been doing these past years, i.e. pursuing higher degrees in both divinity and theology. By higher degrees, this writer means “very high”, and you certainly can’t get much higher than divinity!

Also at the reunion was the Class of ‘94’s very own sports personality Susan Penu ‘94, who represented Singapore in women’s soccer. She is now Marketing Director of Premier Supporters, which markets and distributes licensed football merchandise.

Special mention must go to Shanti Abraham ‘94, who came down all the way from Kuala Lumpur directly to Suntec City for the reunion, after which she went back to Johor Baru to visit her parents. We hope it will not be another ten years before we see you again, Shanti!

Regrettfully, the reunion had to come to an end, and at 3.45 pm, after the staff of the Guild House had removed half of the tables and replaced them with rows of chairs for the next function, the last die-hards took the hint … and continued their conversation outside!
Ada Lian Davies ’74 says “G’day” from Australia, where she is General Legal Counsel for BHP Billiton. She writes: “I am head of the legal function for BHP Billiton in Western Australia. BHP Billiton is the world’s largest diversified resources company. The company’s assets in Western Australia includes iron ore, hot briquetted iron, nickel, aluminium and North West Shelf Project (petroleum/LNG).”

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan has appointed our very own Christine Lee ’83 to the UN Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team. The Team, which is based in New York, was established to help the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) collate, assess, monitor, report on and make recommendations regarding the implementation of measures to curtail the terrorist activities of the Taliban, Al Qaeda and associated organisations. The team will report to the Security Council periodically over the next 18 months on the implementation of the sanctions. Christine served as Deputy Permanent Representative in the Singapore Permanent Mission to the United Nations Security Council from 2001-2002, and served on numerous committees including the Liberia Sanctions Committee, during which key Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism were adopted.

Some of us just can’t bear to be away from NUS … Law School alumni don’t just come back to work in the Faculty, we show up throughout the whole of the University! Diane Fletcher ’88 left corporate practice to join NUS in March 2004 and is our new General Counsel. She serves in the Office of the President. Classmate Nancy Wong ’88 is a Senior Administrator with the Office of Human Resources (and of course, lends a hand to our Law Faculty staff whenever we have HR conundrums).

Kevin Lee ’89 completed a 1,000 km bicycle ride from Singapore to south Thailand in December 2003. It was a ride with zero scratches, one puncture, two wheels and many memories. Details about the longest ride of his life in his ‘bikelog’ at: http://home.pacific.net.sg/~kevkblee/home

Marcus Phuah ’92 sends his greetings to all: “I am happily married to Diana and we have two happy and wonderful children, Chloe (age 7) and Keith (age 4). I have just been appointed as Honeywell Intellectual Properties’ Asia-Pacific Director for IP & Technology Licensing. I am responsible for the commercialization and exploitation of Honeywell’s vast IP resources.”
This is truly ... awful! John Yap '95 and Lyn Lee '96 have found yet another way to make us cheat on our diets. In celebration of the opening of their new Cluny Court branch along Bukit Timah Road, Awfully Chocolate have launched their very own ice cream. Named “hei” (black, in Mandarin), for its rich dark chocolate flavour, it is ice-cream made the old-fashioned way, i.e. full fat cream, milk and bars of Belgian chocolate. Says Lyn, “As ice cream and chocolate-lovers, we wanted a chocolate ice cream that tasted more strongly of chocolate than cream or sugar. The choice was a premium ice cream made the way ice cream oughta be made.” And yes, they only have one flavour. “That’s how seriously we take our chocolate!” The cute packaging for the one-pint tubs doesn’t hurt either – at first glance you’d think they’d given you some Chinese takeout by mistake, but Lyn assures us that the container is watertight, can be deep frozen and even microwaved! Coming soon: the hei ice cream bar, opening at Katong Mall later in the year. Diabolical!

The opening of a new law firm is a pretty common thing these days, so we hardly bat an eyelid when we get yet another invitation. But one invitation in particular did capture our attention – the boys at Tan & Tan Partnership ended their office-warming invitation with a request: instead of sending congratulatory flowers, well-wishers were asked to make a donation to World Vision (http://www.worldvision.org.sg) instead. When asked, partner Bryan Tan '96 said, “We are practical (and male). Flowers that fade away never seem a good idea to spend money on, and we are only too happy to share this happy occasion with the needy and less fortunate. Just $45 buys a school kit of uniform, books and writing material to enable a child to start attending primary school. I am glad that most of our friends and clients saw it that way too.”

Naserah Tyebally Rajkotwala '96 sends greetings from Colombo in Sri Lanka, where she is now settled with husband Yunus and daughter Nazia. “I play an active part in the Singapore Sri Lanka society. I read a lot and have joined several book clubs and on a part time basis help my husband with his work. Life is very full here; and because of the slower pace of life, I really have time to smell the roses ... long weekends offer lots of options ... whether to escape to the highlands and the tea plantations or go down south to superb beaches or go to the central cultural triangle and do some trekking. This is one country that has a superbly diverse geography all within easy reach!”

Another update from our intrepid Leong-Lim household! Danny Leong '96 and Lim Bee Hong '97 are proud to announce the arrival of baby Aidan, born on the 16th of June 2004. Says Danny: “No return policy on the baby - so Thomson Medical would not take him back! He currently has 2 butlers on call round the clock. What else to say but it is a steep learning curve for both amateur parents. He is growing bigger and bigger everyday, money donations to fund his growth are most welcome!” (continued on next page)
Not content with producing a baby, Danny also produced an award-winning advertisement for the 2004 Porsche Advertising Film Awards in Stuttgart. Danny’s ad for Red Fur Dog beer was given a Special Award for Innovation in Communication. His entry has been featured in SHOTS magazine (issue 83 - along with other Cannes Lion’s award contenders), the premier magazine for television commercials, in circulation amongst creative agencies worldwide. As part of the award, Danny will be off to Spain to shoot the press film of the launch of the new 911 Cabriolet in October 2004. But what we really want to know is: Danny, are they giving you a car??

Julia Lau ’97 LLM ’01 sends an update from America: “I’m currently in Washington DC on a Fulbright scholarship, pursuing a Masters degree in Security Studies at Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service. For people who think ‘security studies’ is what bankers do - here’s a more accurate description: it’s all about looking at security problems around the world, studying the causes of war and how to potentially prevent them, as well as defence and counter-terrorism policies. Heavy stuff, but in the post-911 era, someone’s gotta do it. Besides checking out the restaurants and shops in the Georgetown area, where I live, I’ve dabbled in a couple of theatre productions with one of the university’s theatre groups, Nomadic Theatre. I arrived last fall and am due to return to Singapore this September, where I’ll resume work at the Ministry of Defence.” She could tell us more, but then she’d have to kill us! (Just kidding ...) Read more about Julia’s work on pages 22-23 of this issue.

Congratulations and best of luck to sailing ace Stanley Tan ’99 (see LawLink No. 2 cover story), who is representing Singapore at the Athens Olympics, in the laser sailing competitions! Stanley joined eight other athletes who have confirmed their places in Athens in August 2004, after surviving gruelling qualifying rounds, and meeting the qualifying standards. This is the first time a Singapore sailor has qualified for the Games since the rules were changed before the 2000 Sydney Olympics. Previously, every country’s top sailor gained automatic entry. Stanley finished 77th overall in the Laser World Championships and Olympics Qualification Regatta in Turkey. When interviewed by the Straits Times, Stanley said, “It’s a dream come true!” Stanley also successfully defended the Singapore Laser Trophy title which he won last year; winning all 9 races in the competition held from 2-6 June 2004!

Vinod Sabnani ’00 married Maritime Moot team-mate Jane Ban Li Hian ’01 last year, and promptly joined the Attorney-General’s Chambers. Jane has left the legal profession and is now teaching GP and English Literature at Catholic Junior College.