Power of Sail
Alumnus Stanley Tan ’99
A Word from the Editor

It has been six months since the launch of the inaugural issue of LAWLINK®. In that time, numerous alumni have written in to express their support for the magazine, and for stronger alumni relations in general. We are extremely heartened by your encouragement, and look forward to presenting even more interesting issues of LAWLINK® in the future.

Vast changes are afoot at the Law School. In this issue, alumni will have an idea of how the Law School is striving to keep abreast of developments around us. The introduction of a new curriculum, with emphasis on legal skills and transnational perspectives, is explained by Robert Beckman and Eleanor Wong ’85. The opening of the new C J Koh Law Library marks a tremendous improvement to our library facilities, thanks to the philanthropy of our benefactor, the estate of the late Mr Koh Choon Joo. More student exchange agreements have been signed, and new collaborations with law schools in the United States and China have been forged. Our law students continue to excel in international mooting competitions - the latest victory was at the Vis Moots in Vienna, where we emerged champions in our very first attempt. The Singapore Law Review continues to grow in strength and our student editors recently hosted a lecture by the Chief Justice of Malaysia. To foster greater student - alumni links, the Law School has introduced a seminar series which aims to bring distinguished alumni back to campus to speak to students on their work and interests.

Now that the Law School is in its fifth decade, it is perhaps opportune to reflect on our history and heritage. In this issue, we bring you an interview with our Founding Dean, Lee Sheridan, who pioneered the establishment of the Law School in the 1950’s. We also feature several of our alumni who have excelled in various endeavours - national sailor and Olympian Stanley Tan ’99 is pursuing his dreams, Nuraliza Osman ‘00 fulfilled hers by becoming Miss Singapore 2002, while Ng Yuina ‘92 and Arul Ramiah ‘95 are actively engaged in overseas aid work and traditional Indian dance respectively. Meanwhile, scores of alumni have shown great support for the ClassAction segment dedicated to keeping classmates updated on one another’s developments. The Classes of 1992 and 1993 have started Class Websites hosted on the Law School server (http://law.nus.edu.sg/alumni). We are also helping several classes plan their reunions in the next few months. Do get in touch with us to see how we can facilitate class websites and reunions.

LAWLINK® has now grown substantively in its content even though this is only our second issue. In that regard, LAWLINK® is testimony to the strengthening relations between the Law School and her alumni. We hope that this publication will continue to steer us in that direction.
The NUS Law School will soon start its new 2002/03 academic year in late July. This new year will be an important one for us as the Law School is implementing a new curriculum. In this curriculum, we will continue to focus on core subjects such as Contract, Tort, Criminal Law and Property Law, just to name a few. These core subjects constitute the basic building blocks of legal knowledge and are arguably the most important components of legal education.

In addition to these ‘traditional’ subjects that are found in the curricula of many other law schools, we will also be introducing a number of ‘perspective’ law courses into our list of compulsory subjects, as well as a Legal Analysis, Writing and Research programme. The ‘perspective’ subjects are ‘Introduction to Legal Theory’, ‘Singapore Legal System’, and ‘Comparative Legal Traditions’. These subjects are intended to give our students a broader understanding of the law that goes beyond subject-specific legal rules and principles.

The Legal Analysis, Writing and Research programme will require law students to write a great deal more than they currently do. They will be required to write across different legal subjects, thereby reducing (hopefully) the tendency for students to ‘segmentalize’ the law rather than taking a more holistic approach that sees the various subjects as parts of an overall framework. Students will also be taught how to engage in legal research, including the many electronic research tools that are currently available. Mooting and trial advocacy will continue to be a part of the curriculum to ensure that oral communication skills are not neglected.

Finally, the Law School must continue to keep up with developments and offer new electives where these become necessary. To this end, a number of new electives will be offered in the new academic year including Corporate Restructuring, Infocommunications Law, International Tax Law, Marine Insurance, Personal Property Law, Restitution, and Trade Dispute Mechanisms.

In most Australian, Canadian and US law schools, fund raising is a major priority. It is often said that the principal role of a Dean of a US law school is fund raising. This is increasingly becoming a priority for us too. If we are to continue to remain competitive vis-à-vis other leading law schools in the world, we will need to build up our endowment. I am therefore pleased to announce that my colleagues have resolved to establish the Lee Sheridan Legal Education Fund. This Fund, named in honour of the first Dean of the Law School, hopes to raise at least $2 million. The funds raised will be principally used to fund scholarships and visiting appointments. The establishment of this Fund also allows us, happily, to honour Professor Sheridan, who did so much to establish the Law School and to place it on a firm footing.

It is my hope, therefore, that you will donate generously to this Fund, or to the Law School for any other specified purpose. Many have already done so and the Law School thanks you for your generosity. We will be establishing a Donors’ Board to recognize all donations of $10,000.00 and above, whether made in a single donation or through a number of donations made over a period of time.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of LAWLINK and I congratulate the editorial board on producing another very interesting issue.

Tan Cheng Han
Faculty Update

LAWLINK launched!

LAWLINK was officially launched at the Moot Court on 30 January 2002 by NUS Provost, Prof. Chong Chi Tat. Two paintings by Namiko Chan '97 were also unveiled - Uma, donated by Namiko in honour of her professors, and Untitled - acquired by the Law School in honour of our departed colleagues, Ricardo Almeida and Peter English. The event was attended by various alumni who had contributed to the inaugural issue, including Gregory Vijayendran '92, Rupert Ong '86, Judy Chang '92 and Sherman Ong '95. Namiko graced the front cover of the inaugural issue and was represented at the launch by her parents.

Appointments and Movements

In early 2002, George Wei Sze Shun was appointed Professor in the Law School. George specialises in Intellectual Property Law and has written extensively on the subject. Warm wishes to Valentine Selvam Winslow, who recently retired from full-time teaching. Val has assumed a part-time position as Associate Professorial Fellow and will continue to grace the hallways of the Law School. Val is also devoting more time to Rotary Club and volunteer activities. The Faculty welcomes back Eleanor Wong '85, who returns to the Law School to head a new Legal Writing Programme. A warm welcome back as well to Ho Hock Lai '89, Tracey Evans Chan Weng '97, Dawn Tan '97 and Burton Ong '99, who have all recently completed their post-graduate studies abroad. Meanwhile, Alexander Loke '90 and Tang Hang Wu '95 are leaving for Columbia and Cambridge Universities respectively to pursue their doctoral degrees.

Publications and External Appointments

The Halsbury’s Laws of Singapore on Civil Procedure - edited by Jeffrey Pinsler - was published in 2002. The authors included Jeff and seven District Judges and Registrars. Two of Jeff’s works were recently cited by the High Court of Singapore in Foo Ko Hing v Foo Chee Heng. Meanwhile, Teo Keang Sood’s book, Strata Title in Singapore and Malaysia (2nd Ed, 2001), was cited by the Singapore Court of Appeal in Management Corporation Strata Title No 473 v De Beers Jewellery Pte Ltd. Victor Ramraj’s book, The Criminal Lawyer’s Guide to Extraordinary Remedies (with Brian J. Gover) was cited by the Ontario Court of Appeal and the Ontario Superior Court of Justice in R. v. Sheppard and Ontario (Ministry of Labour) v. Intracorp Developments (Lombard) Inc. The Australian Companies and Securities Advisory Committee recently cited an article by Tan Cheng Han ‘87 entitled “Protecting the Integrity of the Securities Market: Recent Amendments to the Law Relating to Insider Trading” in the 2000 issue of the Singapore Journal of Legal Studies. An article by Alan Tan ‘93 - “Adverse Inferences and the Right to Silence: Re-examining the Singapore Experience”, Crim. Law Rev. (07/97), was cited by the Northern Territory Law Reform Committee in Australia in its recommendations on the right to silence. Adjunct Fellow, Tanja Masson-Zwaan, who teaches Aviation Law and Space Law, was elected to the Space Law Committee of the International Law Association (ILA) at its meeting in New Delhi in April 2002.

International Advisory Panel

The Law School’s International Advisory Panel visited Kent Ridge and met up with the Faculty, the University administration, students, alumni and the legal fraternity. One of the IAP’s objectives is to assist the Law School in charting out strategies to meet the contemporary challenges of legal education. The members of the IAP are Professors Michael Reisman of Yale Law School, Michael Crommelin of Melbourne University, Stephen Toope of McGill University, James Fawcett of Nottingham University and John Dwyer of the Boalt Hall Law School, University of California at Berkeley. The NUS Law School also has a Steering Committee made up of distinguished alumni Tommy Koh ’61, Chan Sek Keong ’61, Philip Pillai ’71, Andrew Ang ’71, VK Rajah ’82, Davinder Singh ’82 and K Shanmugam ’84.

Collaboration with the East China University of Politics and Law, Shanghai

The Law School recently signed a comprehensive agreement to collaborate on academic matters with the East China University of Politics and Law (ECUPL) in Shanghai, China. The agreement was signed by Dean Tan Cheng Han ’87 and Professor He Qinhu, President of ECUPL, on 16 April 2002 during Dean Tan’s visit to ECUPL. The NUS delegation also included Associate Professors Li Meiqin, Alexander Loke ’90 and Daniel Seng ’92. The agreement with ECUPL provides for student and staff exchange programmes, joint participation in research activities, joint academic conferences and the exchange of institutional publications. The ECUPL is the first Asian law school with which the Faculty has signed an exchange agreement.

The first exchange of students is expected to take place in August 2002. In connection with the staff exchange agreement, three academics from the ECUPL are expected to take up visiting appointments at NUS in August 2002. From the NUS end, Alexander Loke ’90 and Daniel Seng ’92 will visit ECUPL and teach Securities Regulation and Information Technology Law respectively. The ECUPL was founded in 1952 as a result of a merger between the departments of law, politics and sociology of Saint Johns, Fudan, Nanjing, Dongwu, Huijiang and Anhui Universities.

“We are delighted to enter into this agreement with the East China University of Politics and Law. It has one of the best law schools in China and signals the NUS Faculty of Law’s desire to give our students the opportunity to spend a significant amount of time in China to familiarise themselves with the people, culture and laws of a country that is already a major economic force in the world today”, said Dean Tan Cheng Han.

A toast to the NUS – ECUPL collaboration

Two-Year J.D. Degree for NUS Law Graduates at George Washington University Law School

NUS law graduates who wish to work in the United States can now obtain a Juris Doctor degree (JD) within two years instead of the usual three. Under a joint agreement between NUS and the George Washington University Law School (GW) in
Washington D.C., NUS law graduates attaining a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.0 during their first-year JD programme at GW will be allowed to transfer 28 credits from their NUS law degree. This will enable them to complete the JD within 2 years of full-time study. Dean Michael K. Young of the GW Law School stated: “No relationship is more important than America’s relationship with Asia. We are delighted to be able to work with NUS, one of the best universities in Asia, indeed, in the world, to help strengthen the US-Asia relationship.”

Besides NUS law graduates, law graduates from only two other universities, namely, Oxford and Cambridge, have been allowed by GW to transfer their credits in a similar manner. “GW is an excellent law school and NUS law graduates will benefit from pursuing graduate studies there”, said Dean Tan Cheng Han ’87. “At the same time, this is one of the NUS Law Faculty’s initiatives to build a global law school to meet the challenges posed by the increasingly cross-border nature of legal practice. As such, we are currently negotiating similar programmes with a very select group of overseas law schools.”

The Alumni Seminar Series
The Alumni Relations Committee kicked off the Alumni Seminar Series in April 2002 with a talk by Ho Seng Chee ’93, Legal Counsel at the International Monetary Fund in Washington D.C. Seng Chee spoke on the “The Work of the IMF and its Legal and Institutional Aspects.” The second seminar in the series was delivered by Tan Siew Huay ’80, Head (Legal), Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore. Siew Huay spoke on “Recent Developments in Aviation Law & Policy: Aircraft War Risk Insurance Post - 9/11 & The New Unidroit Convention On Interests In Mobile Equipment”. The Alumni Seminar Series aims to bring distinguished alumni back to the Law School to speak to students on their areas of interest and expertise. More such seminars are being planned for the 2002/03 academic year.

Visitors to the Law School
The Law School received visits from numerous foreign delegations in the last few months, including from the Law Faculty of the University of Malaya (UM) in Kuala Lumpur. The visit by our UM colleagues, headed by Dean Badariah Sahamid, was especially significant as it reflected the warm ties between two law schools with common historical roots. Dean Badariah’s visit was to reciprocate the visit made by Dean Tan Cheng Han ’87 to UM in November 2001. The Law School also received a delegation from the Ministry of Justice of Vietnam. Several Vietnamese alumni are currently with the Ministry of Justice, including Ms Duong Thi Thanh Mai MCL ’95.

Asia Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL)
APCEL recently launched a seminal book on environmental law in the Asia Pacific region, entitled Capacity Building for Environmental Law in the Asian and Pacific Region: Approaches and Resources (Donna G. Craig, Nicholas A. Robinson & Koh Kheng Lian ’61, eds.) The book is published by the Asian Development Bank, and draws upon the course materials developed by various global experts for an environmental teachers’ training course hosted by APCEL in Singapore in 1997 and 1998. Dr Balaji Sadasivan, Minister of State for Health and the Environment, was Guest-of-Honour at the book launch. APCEL has also launched a new website at http://law.nus.edu.sg/apcel.

Centre for Commercial Law Studies (CCLS)
The CCLS recently organised a seminar on “Recent Developments in Banking Law”, featuring speakers Emeritus Prof Peter Ellinger, Assoc Prof Daniel Seng ’92 and Mr Eric Chan ’92. The Centre also hosted Mr. Steven T. Kargman from the Export-Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im), who spoke on “Major Challenges in Emerging Market Debt Restructurings”.

World Trade Law Conference
The Law School hosted its first World Trade Law Conference, “A Primer on the WTO, Developing Countries and Corporate Strategies”, on 1 July 2002. More than 50 participants heard presentations on issues ranging from special and differential treatment for developing countries to antidumping law and the WTO dispute settlement process. Professor Raj Bhala of the George Washington University was the main speaker at the conference. Raj Bhala is the author of one of the leading textbooks on trade law - International Trade Law: Theory and Practice - and has served as a consultant to the World Bank and the IMF. In the panel discussions that followed, the main issue of interest was how the inequalities created by globalisation and world trade could be alleviated within the framework of the existing WTO rules.

The conference ended with a discussion of how international trade law is beginning to play an important role in advising corporate clients on how best to structure their businesses to take advantage of WTO rules and Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). Many of the practicing lawyers attending the conference were intrigued at the possibilities that World Trade Law provided in addition to the normal domestic remedies that they were already acquainted with. The conclusion of the conference was that World Trade Law will become increasingly more important and lawyers should play a role in highlighting this importance to their clients.

Obituary
Richard Townshend-Smith, who taught at the Law School in 1990/1991, passed away recently in Swansea, Wales at the age of 52.
The new C J Koh Law Library was officially opened by the Honourable the Chief Justice Yong Pung How in February 2002. Law Librarian, Thavamani Prem Kumar, explains how the generous donation from the estate of the late Koh Choon Joo has transformed our law library.

The **C J Koh Law Library** celebrated its official opening on 27 February 2002 with much fanfare. The momentous occasion saw the Honourable the Chief Justice Dr Yong Pung How LLD ‘01 officiating at the opening. The event was attended by many illustrious members of the legal fraternity, including our Law School alumni. It was heart-warming to see the alumni pleasantly surprised and thrilled at the transformation of the Law Library, a place familiar to any law student. Guests included the Attorney-General, Mr Chan Sek Keong ’61 and members of the Judiciary, including our former Dean, Justice Tan Lee Meng ’72.

At the opening, Mr Ong Tiong Tat, the trustee of the estate of the late C J Koh, spoke of the new library facilities being provided for law students who had chosen a noble profession, one which “calls for honour, respect, dignity and justice.” Mr Ong also urged all students to “uphold the reputation and honour of the profession as their first priority.” After the unveiling of the plaque by the Chief Justice, guests were given a tour of the new and refurbished library premises. The generous donation of $5.145 million by the late C J Koh has allowed the library to upgrade and expand on existing facilities, a project which entailed two years of massive renovation and building works. The Library now has a distinctive main entrance. It also now features ample Plug-n-Play facilities and wireless connection to the campus network, allowing access to the Digital Library from anywhere in the library premises and by remote means and dialup. With the provision of a lift, the library is also accessible to the physically-disadvantaged.
Mr Koh was a thrifty person. He has entrusted all his savings to me. Both of us believe in the importance of education. To me, the most honourable thing to do with his estate and to honour him is to invest in education. As Mr Koh had been a lawyer and a magistrate, it is most appropriate to contribute to the law library.

Mr C J Koh’s donation has allowed the C J Koh Law Library to take its place among the premier law libraries in the world, with its collection of over 54,000 unique titles and more than 173,000 volumes in various formats, both print and electronic. Its 4,475 periodical titles and 2,019 current subscriptions further enhance this valuable and growing collection. The C J Koh Law Library is now in an excellent position to enable NUS Law School staff, students and alumni to keep abreast of legal developments locally and globally.

Mr Ong Tiong Tat, trustee of the estate of the late Koh Choon Joo.

The late C J Koh was born in Indonesia on 1 January 1901. He left home for England at the young age of six and spent his early years in North Wales. He later studied law at the Middle Temple in London and become a barrister. When he came to Singapore, he joined his mentor, Sir Ong Siang Song, in the latter’s law firm. Mr Koh was a gentleman lawyer who inspired great loyalty among his clients, so much so that they would refuse to see any other lawyer when they needed legal advice. He was also an avid self-taught artist who painted as many as 400 oil paintings. The opening of the C J Koh Law Library also saw the launch of the C J Koh Online Gallery (http://www.lib.nus.edu.sg/cjkoh/intro.html) which displays the late Mr Koh’s paintings online. The Library also houses a gallery where visitors can view selected paintings which are rotated periodically.

In addition, the Faculty Resource Room has been upgraded to provide research and computer facilities for faculty. Student computer facilities have also been expanded at the Basement level. Other features include purpose - built study carrels for research students, a specially - designed Audio - Visual Viewing Room and the 3M RFID (Radio - Frequency - Identification) book check-out system. NUS is to date the largest academic institution in the world to have installed the 3M RFID system.

During the tour, the Chief Justice was impressed with the Library’s new facilities and wealth of information resources, both in printed and electronic formats. Later, the Chief Justice signed the Library Visitors’ Book to commemorate this important occasion in the annals of the library's history. Miss Jill Quah, Director, Library and Information Resources, then presented the Chief Justice with an honorary library membership card. The evening’s programme ended with a dinner at the NUSS Guild House, generously hosted by Mr and Mrs Ong Tiong Tat.

“Mr Koh was a thrifty person. He has entrusted all his savings to me. Both of us believe in the importance of education. To me, the most honourable thing to do with his estate and to honour him is to invest in education. As Mr Koh had been a lawyer and a magistrate, it is most appropriate to contribute to the law library.”

Mr Ong Tiong Tat, trustee of the estate of the late Koh Choon Joo.
Chief Justice of Malaysia Delivers 15th Singapore Law Review Lecture

The 15th Singapore Law Review Lecture was delivered by the Right Honourable Tan Sri Dato’ Seri Mohamed Dzaiddin Bin Haji Abdullah, Chief Justice of Malaysia, on 1 March 2002 at the City Hall Chambers. His Honour spoke on “Trial and Appellate Courts - A Malaysian Perspective”.

The Singapore Law Review’s editors, Sonita Jeyapathy ’03 and Dean Cher ’03, report:

The Singapore Law Review (SLR) is a law journal managed exclusively by the students of the NUS Law School. In 1984, the SLR Editorial Board launched the Singapore Law Review Lecture Series. In so doing, the SLR hoped to develop the tradition of public lecturing by luminaries in the legal field. The SLR Lecture Series is the longest-running public lecture series in Singapore. Previous speakers have included Prof S Jayakumar ’63, former Attorney-General Tan Boon Teik, former Solicitor-General Koh Eng Tian ’61, Prof Tommy Koh ’61, Prof Gerald Dworkin and Prof Lee Hoong Phun ’72. This year, the SLR was honoured to have the Chief Justice of Malaysia deliver the 15th Lecture in the Series.

The lecture was attended by Singapore and Malaysian Judges as well as legal practitioners from both sides of the Causeway. Present were Chief Justice Yong Pung How, Attorney-General Chan Sek Keong ’61 and Justice of Appeal Chao Hick Tin. Members of the Singapore judiciary who were present included Justices Lai Kew Chai ’66, S. Rajendran ’62, MPH Rubin ’66, Kan Ting Chiu ’70, Lai Siu Chiu ’72, Judith Prakash ’74, Tan Lee Meng ’72 and Judicial Commissioners Choo Han Teck ’79, Lee Seiu Kin ‘86, Tay Yong Kwang ’81, Woo Bih Li ’77 and Belinda Ang.

The Malaysian guests included the Chief Judge of the High Court in Malaya, Dato’ Ahmad Fairuz bin Dato’ Sheikh Abdul Halim ’67, the Chief Judge of the High Court in Sabah and Sarawak, Tan Sri Datuk Steve Shim Lip Kiong, Malaysian Attorney-General Dato’ Abdul Gani Patali, Federal Court Judge Dato’ Siti Norma...
The SLR wishes to express its gratitude to Baker & McKenzie, Wong & Leow as well as the Deanery and administrative staff of the NUS Law School for their unwavering support of this event. Tan Sri Dzaiddin’s lecture will be reproduced in Volume 22 of the Singapore Law Review, appearing in November 2002. For further details, contact the SLR Editorial Board at singaporelawreview@post1.com
New LL.B. Curriculum Takes Effect

The Law School is introducing a new LL.B. curriculum with effect from July 2002. The curricular changes will be the most radical in 20 years. Vice-Dean Robert Beckman explains:

NUS recently approved a new LL.B. curriculum, following consultations with students, the profession, the Minister of Law, the Attorney-General and the Chief Justice. The Law School’s Steering Committee and International Advisory Panel were also consulted. Pursuant to the revamp, the Law School will implement several changes which will bring it in line with reforms at other NUS Faculties.

First, we are moving to a semester system. All subjects except the Law of Contract will be taught and examined in one semester rather than over two as in the past. Second, for most subjects, the final examination will no longer be the sole mode of assessment. Writing assignments will carry a weight of 20 to 40 per cent in determining the grade. Some subjects will use alternative modes of assessment such as oral presentations and class performance. In addition, the final examination in almost all subjects will employ an “open book” form, allowing students to bring any materials they wish into the examination hall. Third, the Law School has adopted a new method of calculating the weight given to subjects offered. It is switching from a system based on “units” to one based on “credits”. Under the new system, students will be required to complete a total of 160 credits, and students in the 4-year LL.B. (Honours) programme will be required to complete 120 credits. Subjects that were previously “3 units” and “6 units” in weight will now carry “4 credits” and “8 credits” respectively.

Compulsory Core Law Curriculum

The first two years of law school are critically important. It is during these years that much of the compulsory core curriculum will be implemented. The objectives of the Compulsory Core Law Curriculum (“CCLC”) are: (a) to give students an understanding of the basic law subjects and general principles that are essential for every graduate and lawyer; (b) to provide students with training in the basic skills essential for every lawyer, including analysis, research, writing, advocacy and problem-solving; and (c) to give students an appreciation of the role of law and lawyers in their own society and in the global community that will better equip them to deal with the challenges of globalization.

To achieve these objectives, the CCLC is designed to expose students to three categories of Courses: (a) Substantive Law Courses designed to provide a solid background to the fundamental principles in core law topics; (b) Legal Skills Courses designed to provide essential skills in analysis, research, writing, advocacy and problem-solving and to help students tackle more advanced law courses in their third and fourth years; and (c) Perspective Courses designed to provide theoretical and transnational perspectives on the study of law.

There will be a total of eight substantive law subjects in the CCLC - three in Year One (Law of Contract, Law of Torts and Criminal Law), four in Year Two (Public Law, Company Law, Property Law I and Property Law II) and one in Year Three (Evidence and Procedure). In addition, there will be two perspective subjects in Year One (Singapore Legal System and Introduction to Legal Theory) and one in Year Two (Comparative Legal Traditions).

There will also be four legal skills subjects. Legal Writing I and Legal Writing II will be taught in Year One and will focus on oral presentation, research and writing skills. The legal skills subjects in Year Two will build on those introduced in Year One and will be taught mainly by part-time practising lawyers in order to expose students to practical problems and skills. To this end, students will be introduced to Trial Advocacy skills. Another course, Legal Case Studies, will expose students to practical problems that cross traditional subject boundaries.

The Compulsory Core Law Curriculum

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year One (with effect from 2002-03)</th>
<th>Sem.</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Law of Contract</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Writing I</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law of Torts</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore Legal System</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Writing II</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Law</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Legal Theory</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<th>Year Two (with effect from 2003-04)</th>
<th>Sem.</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Law</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Law I</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Law II</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Company Law</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparative Legal Traditions</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Case Studies</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Trial Advocacy (Pass/Fail)</td>
<td>1 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<th>Year Three (with effect from 2003-04)</th>
<th>Sem.</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evidence &amp; Procedure</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
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In response to feedback from the profession and judiciary, the Law School will launch a comprehensive Legal Analysis, Writing and Research Programme aimed at equipping law students with fundamental skills and competencies required for effective service delivery in an increasingly competitive legal environment. Eleanor Wong ’85, Director of the Legal Writing Programme, explains:

Focusing on developing core legal skills of analysis, research, and written and oral communication, the Legal Analysis, Writing and Research programme will complement and complete the Law School’s already formidable offering of doctrinal subjects. Practitioners who are alumni of NUS will be familiar with many elements of the skills curriculum, such as legal method and moots, which have traditionally been part of the core syllabus. They will also be familiar with other components, such as drafting, negotiation, problem-solving and transaction-structuring, some of which have, from time to time, been offered as upper-level optional courses. The new programme will draw these elements together and will also bolster them with an emphasis on progressively improving the writing, research and analytical skills of our students.
The Law School’s programme will be based on the American model where clinical teaching of core legal skills occurs early on in law school, in a foundational course typically (though somewhat narrowly) called “Legal Writing”. Of course, the programme will be customized to take account of the Singapore legal environment and regional legal and business cultures.

Taught over two years as compulsory modules for first and second year law students, the programme will utilize hands-on practice and realistic scenario-based learning as principal teaching methodologies. Students will be expected to learn by doing, rather than by simply receiving knowledge, and to “do” regularly. Teaching methods will also encourage a sense of ownership and professionalism.

Assignments will have to be re-written, initial research inadequacies supplemented by additional research and, generally, mistakes (whether of substance or format) corrected. After all, a student may be satisfied with receiving a mediocre grade for a poor paper, but no practitioner can afford to present her client with tepid work product. The challenges of real-world advocacy and transactional legal issues will introduce students to the complexities of real-world advocacy and transaction structuring. Students will be challenged to exercise creativity, to take initiative, to think across subjects, and generally to focus on problem-solving.

Over time, the Legal Analysis, Writing and Research Programme also intends to develop and expand the Law School’s suite of optional advanced clinical courses in areas such as negotiation skills, drafting of complex legal documents and trial practice. Nothing can substitute for experience and the careful mentoring of seniors once our graduates enter practice. However, the Programme hopes to lay a strong foundation of skills on which practitioner colleagues can build. The challenges of legal practice demand no less.
Feature Interview

Lee Sheridan
Founding Dean of the Law School

Singapore, 1956. Lionel Astor (‘Lee’) Sheridan arrives, 29 years of age, to become the first Professor of Law and Head of the Law Department of the University of Malaya in Singapore. 46 years on, Assoc Prof Gary Bell speaks to the Law School’s Founding Dean, now retired in Wales, on the occasion of the establishment of the Lee Sheridan Legal Education Fund.

**LAWLINK**: As a young legal academic you came to Singapore to found the Law Department and then the Law Faculty of what was later to become the NUS. Were the challenges you faced the ones you had expected?

Lee Sheridan: Some were expected and some were unexpected. Challenges which had been anticipated included acquiring a law library quickly, recruiting lecturers and devising suitable courses for subjects in which the law differed from state to state in Singapore, the Federation of Malaya and the Borneo territories. The unexpected challenges included: (1) the university not having set aside any money to buy books for the library; (2) the size of the demand to read law, particularly from people already in employment who wanted to study part-time; (3) the process of securing recognition for the LL.B from numerous professional bodies and legislatures; and (4) the special needs of students who had been at schools in which English was not the language of instruction.

**LAWLINK**: What is your best memory of these years?

Lee Sheridan: The intellectual quality of the students and their charm and the high classes of honours attained by the best of them in their degree examinations.

**LAWLINK**: Were the floods at the Bukit Timah campus as bad as our first graduates would like us to believe?

Lee Sheridan: Probably. I do not know what they have told you, but there certainly were occasions when I could not get home without wading waist-deep.

**LAWLINK**: What would you say was the main strength of the law school and what were you most proud of when you left?

Lee Sheridan: If I have to pick one: the law library.

**LAWLINK**: How were the students in those days?

Lee Sheridan: Very exciting and co-operative. I have had excellent students in all the universities in which I have taught but none better than the best in Singapore. The students in the early graduating classes in Singapore shared with their teachers the pioneering enterprise, without the help of a body of textbooks, of systematic, analytical and critical study of Malayan and Singapore law. I think everybody found that demanding and sometimes frightening.
In many ways, the reforms the faculty is now undertaking seem to be reforms in the original sense of the word - we seem to be going back to the original model you had in mind for the faculty. We want to become more international while keeping our local scholarship strong, we want to teach broadly and comparatively, including systems other than the common law (you introduced the teaching of Malay customary law), we want to improve our students’ drafting abilities (you were concerned with linguistic abilities), we have re-introduced open-book exams and are looking at ways to promote interactive teaching (you used the Socratic method). Isn’t it the best of tributes that we are going back to the fundamentals you promoted more than 40 years ago?

Lee Sheridan: Certainly. I cannot take it in any other way. I do enjoy being patted on the back.

What would you recommend to our young graduates that have their career ahead of them?

Lee Sheridan: With the caveat that the careers of law graduates may be infinitely varied (as strikingly evidenced by Namiko Chan ’97 and Tommy Koh ’61, for example), I take this question to be directed to a career in law. While correctly wanting to make a decent living from a career, the professional lawyer should never lose sight of the main object of the legal system, namely to secure justice for its customers.

The faculty has announced the creation of an endowment fund for legal education named in your honour. What do you think would be a good use for this money?

Lee Sheridan: There could be many. Without up-to-date knowledge of circumstances in Singapore, if I have to select one use I should choose scholarships for students at undergraduate and postgraduate levels who would be deprived of the opportunity to study if they did not receive that kind of financial support. However, with a permanent endowment, it is desirable to forestall the necessity for cy-près applications by giving the trustees adequate powers to adapt the use of the fund to changing circumstances.

For an account of the Founding Dean and his career, see the article by Andrew Phang Boon Leong ‘82, *Founding Father and Legal Scholar – The Life and Work of Professor L A Sheridan* [1999] Singapore Journal of Legal Studies 335 and Lee Sheridan’s own reflections on page 62 in the Faculty’s 40th Anniversary commemorative publication, *Change and Continuity – 40 Years of the Law Faculty.*
How did you get involved with the Karenni people?

Yuina: I first got to know about the Karenni from a previous volunteer. I had quit my job as a producer director in a video production house as I wanted to do volunteer work overseas. A group of us made a one-week trip to Karenni Camp 3 in February 2001 and I decided to return to teach in September 2001. I returned to Singapore in April this year and am now back in camp for another year. I’m no masochist, so obviously my eight months in camp were entirely rewarding.

The Karenni are a warm, friendly people who are only too aware that they have nothing and are reliant on volunteers like myself. Their situation makes them far more complex than the average Singaporean. For example, the students I teach are in their late teens or early-20s. Compared to Singaporeans of that age, they have an innocence and simplicity about them that reminds me of young teenagers. Yet, some of the questions they ask and the way they tell their life stories suggest a much older sensibility. These aren’t your normal young people. They have gone through a lot. What struck me most about them was how, despite all their suffering and loss, they have managed to maintain hope. That hope is very important as it is the one thing that gives real meaning to their lives. I certainly hope that they learn to manage that hope and not to let it become too unrealistic or to allow age and disappointment turn it into cynicism.

What are conditions like in the camp?

Yuina: Camp life is basic. In general, there is no electricity nor running water - utilities we tend to take for granted. In my school and places like the clinic, there are diesel-run generators. At the school, the generator goes on for about 4 hours every night, powering the fluorescent lights which enable the students to study. The school has a generous benefactor who donated a TV, a VCR and loads of movie videos. Every Friday night, the generator works harder to power Movie Night, which is very well attended by the other people in the camp. Water is drawn from wells with hand pumps. During the rainy season from May to October, the water supply is fine. But in the dry season, the water table gets so low that it takes a long time to fill up even one average bucket. Often, the water comes out a shade of undesirable brown. But black buckets help to disguise the colour of the water!

Everyone stays in bamboo houses. These have woven walls, split bamboo floors and leaf-roofs. The architecture is quite an ‘open-concept’ one, which doesn’t help when it dips below 10 degrees Celsius at nights during the dry season. The openness also allows an amazing amount of dust to find its way inside. This is especially so during the dry season. During the wet season, it rains constantly and the dust turns into mud. Mud-skating or sliding is a favoured game among the camp’s children. It is not a skill which I have picked up with much elegance.

How are you involved with the Karenni children?

Yuina: I teach at the highest level of schooling in the camps. Students from all three camps attend this school and accommodation is provided for those from the other two camps. I teach English-language subjects like Writing, Listening, Conversation and Drama to a total of 48 students divided over two classes in two standards. I can’t
really call them “children” as they are all in their late-teens and early-20s. They have at least some command of the English language, which helps me greatly. I communicate in simple English and when necessary, ask the better students to translate. I have been learning Burmese as well from one of my students. This is not the politically correct choice but it is practical as that is their common language, something they had to learn in school inside Karenni state. Otherwise, the different ethnic groups have their own mother tongues which are quite distinct.

Apart from my students, I support one of the orphanages in the camp. Perhaps "support" is not the right word, but I visit the children there regularly and try to buy them useful things like multi-vitamins, milk powder and even children’s medicine. Sometimes I give them less useful things like sweets and toys. It really doesn’t take a lot to make them happy. I’m now thinking of sponsoring one of the orphans. It doesn’t cost that much, only a few hundred baht a month.

A mother and child at the camp

**LAWLINK**: Can you describe a typical day at the camp?

**Yuina**: A typical day for the students starts at 8:15 am with school assembly. School goes on till 3:45 pm, with lunch and a couple of breaks in between. Classes cover the English-language subjects, Maths, Computing (two computer sets were donated), Science and Social Studies. For students who stay in the camp, the students’ abilities within one class can vary from very poor to quite amazingly good. It does make it a challenge to teach. In the end, I pitch my lessons mid-level and seek out the poorer students for further explanations and the better ones for more mind-stretching.

For not a few of them, their education has been so disrupted that it is hard for them to have a proper grounding in anything. Inside Karenni state, schools are often closed down with standards sometimes dropping at just upper primary level. The Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) have it even worse. Classes are conducted under trees by whoever is able. The approach of Burmese soldiers makes it a challenge to teach. In the end, I pitch my lessons mid-level and seek out the poorer students for further explanations and the better ones for more mind-stretching.

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Still, the situation has been improving. Over the years, I think there has been greater standardisation in teachers’ training and also classroom resources and materials. The youths do recognise the importance of an education and in fact, families in Karenni are known to send their children across the border, just so that they can get a decent shot at education. Youths themselves have also taken the decision to leave their families behind in their search for greater stability and a better environment in which to learn.

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LAWLINK: How long have you been sailing and what is your specialty?

Stanley: I started sailing in 1991 during my first year at Raffles Junior College. I had been swimming competitively at Raffles Institution but decided to switch as I wasn’t enjoying it anymore. Sailing was the natural choice - it involved a similar medium and I’ve always loved the sea, growing up (and still living) in Marine Parade. I’m thankful for switching as sailing has changed my life in so many positive ways.

I started sailing on a Laser, a simple, 4.2 metre long fibre-glass dinghy with one sail. After 11 years, I’m still with it and discovering something new or different with each sail. This is the beauty of sailing - each experience is unique.

LAWLINK: What are your competitive plans for the next few months and years?

Stanley: I’ve been a full-time athlete since graduating from the Law School in 1999, with minor disruptions due to pupillage and the Practice Law Course. I’m presently preparing for the upcoming Asian Games in Busan, South Korea, where my goal is to win a gold medal. I’m really fired up about getting selected and winning as I was unable to compete in the last Asiad as it clashed with my third-year finals in Law School. After that, I’ll focus on the 2003 SEA Games in Vietnam (if the lobbying for sailing to be included is successful) and the 2004 Athens Olympics, where my goal is to finish in the top 10.

With the recent introduction of the Singapore Sports Council’s Athletes Career and Training Programme (ACT), I intend to continue with full-time sailing up to the 2008 Beijing Olympics. If I’m able to get into the ACT and receive the necessary multi-dimensional support, I would definitely take it all the way to 2008, where I’m confident of winning a medal with the benefit of almost 9 solid years of full-time training and competition at the highest levels. The satisfaction would be greater as I would also have played my role in realizing Challenge 2008, which was thrown up by Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong to the sailing fraternity to win a medal at the 2008 Olympiad.

LAWLINk: What was it like participating in the 2000 Sydney Olympics?

Stanley: It was bitter-sweet. Scandals aside, the Olympic Games is truly the greatest sporting event in the universe - nothing else compares to it in terms of magnitude and significance. The defining moment was the Opening Ceremony, specifically the moment when the Singapore contingent marched out onto the track of Stadium Australia to the roar of 110,000 spectators (and probably that many camera flashes going off). The visual spectacle was amazing. Other highlights included meeting sports stars like Ian Thorpe (believe everything you’ve read about his feet) and staying in the Athlete’s Village.

However, disappointment and reality set in after the euphoria of competing wore off. I was unhappy with my performance, even though I could honestly say that I had sailed my heart out and gave every single race my utmost. I realized that much more had to be done if I wanted to achieve success at the world level. Sydney, really, was only the start of my quest for sailing excellence.

In hindsight, it was the lead-up to the Games that really encapsulates my Olympic experience. The memories I have of the Olympics exist only in my mind and will eventually fade away; but the lessons learned and personal breakthroughs made in the lead-up to the Games have been permanently burned into the core of my being.

LAWLINK: What have you been doing since Sydney?


Initially, I did consider deferring pupillage and the PLC till after the Athens Olympics. I’m glad I didn’t do that as I now have the ‘safety net’ of my

Alumnus Stanley Tan Kheng Siong ’99 is currently training full-time for the Asian Games in Busan, South Korea. Stanley holds the distinction of being the Law School’s first and only Olympian and is pursuing his dream of a medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. LAWLINK speaks to Stanley about laser sailing, the law and his dream.
practising certificate should my sailing career not work out (I was admitted to the Bar on 18 May). Psychologically, it’s a great motivator as the path is now truly cleared for me to give sailing all the attention and effort it deserves.

**LAWLINK**: How do you feel about full-time training and putting your legal career on-hold in order to pursue your dreams? Can one balance competitive sports and a career at the same time?

**Stanley**: I love being a full-time athlete as sailing is something I enjoy and have the ability to excel in. Full-time training is also the only way to realize my goals - it has to be a full-on campaign for sailing excellence and perfection, and nothing short of that would suffice.

I’ve never regarded deferring legal practice as a loss - it’s all relative. In life, you’ll always win some and lose some. Ultimately, I don’t want to short-change myself especially when I know that I’ve got what it takes to realize my sailing dreams. I don’t believe in reincarnation and I’d like to live without regrets. More importantly, being a full-time athlete has taken me out of my comfort zone and enabled me to grow and mature as a human being. This, to me, is the greatest gift of all and nothing would be lost even if I don’t achieve all my sailing goals.

My reason for putting my legal career on-hold is simple - I can practice law at any age. But because of the physical nature of top-level competitive Laser sailing, I have to pursue and realize my goals while youth and physical vitality are still working for and not against me.

Is it possible to balance competitive sports and a career at the same time? I wish it were so but unfortunately, I don’t believe I can truly be Number 1 in either if I don’t give it everything I’ve got. It’s a zero-sum game and I’ve got to be very clear about my priorities. There’s a time and place for everything in life and my sailing is all that matters to me now.

**LAWLINK**: In your opinion, how can we foster sporting excellence in Singapore?

**Stanley**: Personally, I define ‘sporting excellence’ as the achievement of the best possible result by an athlete who gives everything to his or her performance. So if he finishes dead last despite his best effort, then so be it.

The key to excellence, however defined, is to have athlete-friendly policies and practices in the education system, in National Service (both full-time and operationally ready NS) and in employment. Make it easy for the athlete to train and compete - this would enable him to improve and achieve his goals. It does help that the government has started giving sports more emphasis and support.

However, the real hurdle lies in changing our attitudes toward the role and relevance of sports. We cannot have true sporting excellence without first having a sports culture - and for this to happen, we must get rid of the mentality that academic or financial/material success supersedes everything else. Instead, we should recognize that it is more commendable for a person to be talented or successful in more ways than one. That said, I’m convinced that sporting excellence ultimately lies with the athlete. Singapore can have the world’s most athlete-friendly systems and a ‘blank cheque’ financial support infrastructure, but if our athletes just don’t have the hunger and will to win, then we’ll never be a great sporting nation.
Personally, I’ve been so blessed to have received much support and understanding throughout my sailing career. For example, I wouldn’t have won 2 silver medals at the 1995 and 1997 SEA Games if the Deanery had not allowed me leave of absence to train and compete. Lawrence Quahe ’89 and Chris Woo at M/s Harry Elias Partnership and Patrick Nathan at the Board of Legal Education made it possible for me to train for the 2001 SEA Games during pupilage and the PLC, thus enabling me to defend my silver medal. Lawrence Quahe ’89 and Chris Woo at M/s Harry Elias Partnership and Patrick Nathan at the Board of Legal Education made it possible for me to train for the 2001 SEA Games during pupilage and the PLC, thus enabling me to defend my silver medal. Initially, I was skeptical about private sector assistance, but Zen Vision Pte Ltd (sole distributor for Oakley products) and Sports Unlimited Pte Ltd (sole distributor for PowerBar energy bars in Singapore) proved otherwise. Ultimately though, it’s really the Singapore Sports Council, the Singapore Sailing Federation and the Singapore tax-payer that have provided the lion’s share of support.

LAWLINK: What are your fondest memories of Law School?

Stanley: Looking back, I remember all my teachers and the friendships that I reinforced and made. My teachers were diverse, interesting and inspiring in their own special way. I doubt I would have graduated if not for the support and encouragement of my professors and classmates and their help in getting me up to speed on missed classes. I also remember the stimulating intellectual discourse and exchange of ideas - this is something which I sorely miss as a full-time athlete. What also made my Law School years particularly memorable was winning silver medals at the 1995 and 1997 SEA Games, and making it to Cleo magazine’s “50 Most Eligible Bachelors” list in 1998!

LAWLINK: Has a Law School education helped you in any way in your sailing endeavours?

Stanley: Most certainly, yes! Just as one has to think through legal issues in a clear and methodological manner, the same applies when analyzing my race performance or when trying to come up with solutions to problem areas. And those lessons on trial processes like cross-examination sure help in the protest room, where sailors have their on-water disputes resolved - I must have been taught well as I’ve not lost a single protest in the last 5 years!!

LAWLINK: How does a sporting background help in legal practice?

Stanley: The great thing about having a sporting background, which I believe would help in legal practice, would be possessing qualities like sportsmanship, humility, respect, physical and mental fitness and a high threshold for pain; these can only be learned on the playing field. Legal practice, or life in general for that matter, is really no different from competitive sports. It is a long journey of struggle, toil, disappointment and jubilation. The key to success and happiness is to always persevere, be positive and keep it fun!

LAWLINK: What have your career highlights been?


LAWLINK: Where do you see yourself in twenty years’ time?

Stanley: Happily married for 14 years, with 12-year old twin girls, a 9-year old boy and a brown mongrel named Lucky; living in a penthouse with a sea view, taking the family (Lucky included) out sailing on my 40-foot yacht on weekends, contributing to Singapore sport by mentoring promising athletes, and still feeling very excited about and enjoying legal practice.

In June 2002, Stanley finished a magnificent first out of a field of more than 50 sailors in the Laser Radial Class at the Kieler Woche Regatta held in Kiel, Germany. The 120-year old Kieler Woche is the world’s biggest sailing regatta, drawing the global elite of sailors to Kiel each year. This was the first time the Laser Radial event was contested, and Stanley thus became the inaugural champion for this class. LAWLINK wishes Stanley the very best for Busan and beyond.
Law School alumnus Nuraliza Osman was crowned Miss Singapore in April and went on to represent the country at the Miss Universe 2002 pageant in Puerto Rico. Nura shares with LAWLINK her experiences of the past few months.

LAWLINK: What prompted you to join the Miss Singapore Universe pageant?

Nura: A childhood dream. I was inspired after watching the Miss Universe pageant which was held in Singapore in 1987 when I was a tot. Some dreams you grow out of and some dreams you continue to hold on to. I suppose this was one of those which stayed in the recesses of my mind all this while.

LAWLINK: What do you think gave you an edge over the other competitors?

Nura: I think all the ladies at the pageant were well qualified and intelligent. What distinguished us were our personal and professional choices. I was secure that my choices were sufficient to take me through the pageant. As such, I was not afraid to be myself - which is difficult when you are constantly surrounded by the press and image consultants who may make you want to change into a different person to suit what you believe they are looking for in a winner.

LAWLINK: Has your education at Law School contributed to your winning of the Miss Singapore title in any way?

Nura: My law school education provided me with the ability to be calm and to remain focused on the interview segment questions asked of me before an audience of several hundred. It also allowed me to anticipate the questions. Basically, I treated the whole interview segment as a case and I had my strategy of how to tackle the questions before I stepped on stage.

LAWLINK: How did your Law School classmates and law firm colleagues react when they learnt that you had been crowned Miss Singapore Universe?

Nura: My classmates, colleagues and friends have been nothing less than fully supportive - something I really appreciate and value. It shows that the members of the profession are objective and respect the fact that a person can take a different route in her personal life. On this note, I really have my bosses at the firm to be grateful for because without their objectivity, I would never have participated in the first place.

LAWLINK: How was the experience of participating in the Miss Universe pageant in Puerto Rico? What are your fondest memories of that pageant?

Nura: Being in the international finals in Puerto Rico left a rich and lasting impression on me. It truly is the stuff which memories are made of. I met and made friends with women from 75 other countries, many of whom I email on a regular basis. Apart from improving my knowledge of geography and building my contacts internationally, I grew as a person by gathering strength and focus from the women around me who were strong, determined and ambitious, all of them knowing what they wanted to do with their lives.

LAWLINK: Has life changed much after winning the pageant - in terms of your social life and your life as a lawyer?

Nura: Yes, life has changed - I have NO social life now. I work during office hours as a lawyer and after office hours, I put on my Miss Singapore hat and discharge my role and duties as an ambassador for Singapore.
Arul Selvi Ramiah ‘95 recently staged a Bharata Natyam dance recital which raised funds for the Rainbow Centre, a charity for children with special needs. Performed in conjunction with a photo exhibition, the recital was conceived with the collaboration of several friends, including Law School alumni.

Arul Ramiah ‘95
Abhinaya - My Journey of Return

Abhinaya - My Journey of Return was staged at the Asian Civilisations Museum at Empress Place in April 2002. The charity event raised more than $26,000 for the Rainbow Centre. Arul explained that after working as a lawyer for 5 years, she had become bored and was raring for something different. The idea of a charity recital was conceived after Arul and her friends realised that few platforms existed for urban professionals to explore creative and meaningful endeavour outside their corporate existence.

Arul thus quit her corporate job in November 2001 to spend three months in Chennai, India to research for Abhinaya and to undergo intensive training under one of India’s most eminent Bharata Natyam gurus, KJ Sarasa. As explained by Arul, “Abhinaya started out as an interesting diversion from work for a good cause. It proceeded to grow slowly but surely into a creature with a life of its own. This creature devoured our time, energy and for those who were less careful, our souls. I am fortunate not just to have survived but to have experienced the whole wealth of emotions Bharata Natyam tries to convey - frustration, fear, anger and fatigue, but at the same time wonder, joy, gratitude and immense satisfaction. That, and the friendships which have begun or were renewed in the process, have made Abhinaya an unforgettable experience.”

Arul received the tremendous support of several Class of 1995 Law School classmates, including Eileen Khoo, Ameera Ashraf, Ang I-Ming, Tan Li Yen and Low Sze Wee. Eileen, co-chairperson of the project, felt that Abhinaya was an amazing experience to be involved in “because of the cause, the opportunity to do and think about something outside of work, and because it made me believe that sometimes, if one wished hard enough for things to miraculously fall into place, they will.”

Ameera, the Logistics Head, concurs: “After graduation, it has become increasingly difficult to keep in touch with one another, even in a small place like Singapore. We promise to meet up for lunch or dinner but things happen and more often than not, we let other matters take priority. And sometimes, we leave things till it is too late. It takes a project like this to once again pull people together, to work for a cause larger than ourselves, in this case, the Rainbow Centre.”

The response of guests and the media was ecstatic. Guest of Honour at the performance, Professor Tommy Koh ’61 was very inspired and described Arul as an exceptionally talented young woman, “happily typical of the new generation of women in Singapore.” The Business Times felt that Arul’s artful collaboration with photographer Ken Seet and videographer Tan Siok Siok resulted in a well-conceptualised concert that turned out to be an enjoyable and illuminating evening of dance for the audience, most of whom were probably not hardcore Indian traditional dance fans.

Due to popular demand, Abhinaya - My Journey of Return will be restaged for the public in September as part of the Substation’s September Festival 2002. Arul hopes that Abhinaya will ultimately generate sufficient momentum to inspire an annual event - be it dance, fashion show, gala dinner or art exhibition - that empowers urban professionals to explore creative ways to contribute to society. Arul is keen to explore future creative projects and can be contacted at arulramiah@hotmail.com
“Abhinaya also gave me a good excuse to reconnect and revive ties with all my buddies - both from law school and from my artistic and dance circles. Although the process of organising and putting the show together was exhausting especially given that we were full time professionals with demanding careers, we were very touched by the generosity of many of our friends who helped tremendously with the publicity, production, ticketing and fundraising. On the whole, it was a wonderful experience and I am really happy that I took time out from the practice of law to do this.”

Arul Selvi Ramiah ’95

The Rainbow Centre is a local charity dedicated to providing early intervention, special education and professional therapy to children with special needs in Singapore. If you would like to help, cheques made payable to “Rainbow Centre” may be sent to:

Rainbow Centre, Margaret Drive Special School,
501 Margaret Drive, Singapore 149306.
Foreign Encounters

The Law School presently has student exchange programmes with 17 institutions in 8 countries. Three of our students, Mohamed Amrin Mohamed Amin ‘03, Sandra Lee ‘03 and Cheah Wui Ling ‘03 share with us the experiences of their year abroad.

A Momentous Time in New York City
Amrin at Columbia Law School, USA

The start of the 2001 fall term at Columbia was unforgettable – it literally started with a bang! Almost a week into term, the World Trade Centre Twin Towers in downtown Manhattan were hit by two hijacked airplanes. It was a Tuesday. The infamous date - September 11th. You know you’ve lived through a defining moment in history when an event becomes a global reference point for time. Pre- and post- September 11th became buzzwords. Being Muslim and alone in America at a time when there were floods of media reports of angry backlashes against Arab-Muslims and turban-wearing Sikhs was a source of concern to many people back home. I was fortunate as not only was I spared from any display of hostility but was treated most kindly and sensitively by those who knew of my Muslim background.

It was truly an experience to be in New York City when the tragedy struck. A few days after the attacks, I was in downtown Manhattan when there was a bomb threat at the very building I was standing in front of - the Empire State. It was funny that I managed to find time to steal a snapshot of the Empire State before retreating to a safe distance. The threat turned out to be a hoax. But the sense of crisis was real and very keenly felt. No one knew what to expect after the unexpected happened on September 11th. In the weeks after the tragedy struck, it was impossible not to be reminded of terrorist threats with military airplanes and helicopters constantly flying overhead. Armed military personnel were stationed at train stations and security checks at buildings and airports became very stringent. I had never lived through a period marked by an overwhelming sense of national crisis. Being in New York the past year has changed all that.

At such a trying moment, it is difficult not to feel for America. The terrorist attacks drew the people closer. What touched me most was the instinctive spirit of generosity of many Americans. It was heart-rendering to see blood donors forming long queues, people volunteering their time in the form of services or simply cheering on rescue workers as their vehicles passed by. At Ground Zero itself, I was told, rescue workers and volunteers ate good food donated by restaurants. A surge of patriotism and outpouring of grief followed soon after the tragedy. American flags were flown on the antennae of vehicles and crowds gathered at Union Square to mourn for the victims of the attacks.

As I am writing this, the spring semester is almost drawing to an end. Over 6 months have passed since the attacks and attention has shifted to the defeat of the Al-Qaeda and more recently, the detainees at Guantanamo Bay and Bush’s “axis of evil”. Till today, talks are still being held at Columbia and elsewhere on 911-related issues. It has become fashionable to link almost every subject to the event.

While at Columbia, I was most impressed by the many distinguished speakers which the Law School hosted. Of particular mention was the Public International Law Speaker Series which featured luminaries such as Judge Koroma of the International Court of Justice and Professor Michael Doyle, Special Assistant to the UN Secretary-General. Activists at the law school ranged from anti-domestic violence groups and environmentalists to anti-death penalty lobbies and advocates of the Israeli and Palestinian causes. Outside the law school, there were more talks delivered by speakers ranging from ambassadors and Nobel Laureates to political dissidents. It was an inexhaustible intellectual buffet.

Another interesting experience I had was my internship at the United Nations. The internship was truly an enriching experience which gave me closer insight on the workings of an international organisation. Needless to say, if I could apply for an exchange programme at Columbia for yet another year, I would! I am indebted to the NUS Law School and my teachers, in particular Professors Robert Beckman and Joel Lee, for providing me with this unique opportunity.

What more can an undergraduate instantly elevated to the status of a graduate student ask for?

The NUS Law School currently has exchange agreements with numerous law schools, namely Columbia, Duke and Washington St Louis in the U.S.A.; McGill, Victoria, Osgoode Hall (York) and Dalhousie in Canada; Nottingham, Bristol and Leicester in the U.K.; Melbourne and Sydney in Australia; Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand; Bucerius Law School in Hamburg, Germany and Stockholm University, Sweden. New agreements were recently signed with the East China University of Law and Politics in Shanghai and Peking University (Beida).
A Winter of Discontent
Sandra at Dalhousie University, Canada

How exciting. The words flew over my head. You mean people actually come together to agree to strike? It is not spontaneous? I’m learning more about this country as the day passes. It’s probably safe to say that anyone who had been through more than 10 years of Canadian education, or life for that matter, would have been through a strike, so this was just another piece of “sliced bread” for them. This time, the profs were striking over what they saw as an unfavourable teacher-student ratio.

The thing about strikes is that they put your entire life on hold. All classes are cancelled and no one is allowed to talk to the profs about any work-related matters until the strike’s been called off. Well, the smarter students counted their odds and went off for their holidays in Florida and New York. The less informed ones simply stayed put and wondered everyday whether there was going to be school the following day.

It lasted almost forever. We were out of school for 4 whole weeks. After the strike was called off, it was almost time for exams. As a result, many exam timetables were condensed, and the remaining classes were conducted in a fairly superficial manner. Despite the inconvenience, at the end of it all, I can say that I’ve gained great insight into how issues are handled through a strike.

Of Reservations and Misperceptions
Wui Ling at Washington University in St Louis, USA

It was the first day at school after Christmas break. Difficult as it was to get up for a 9 am Business Associations lecture in the middle of the infamous, freezing Canadian winter, I did anyway. After introducing himself and the course (and oh, how hard he tried to make an insanely boring subject sound like the best thing that happened after “sliced bread!”), the professor promptly declared to all who bothered to turn up:

“Talks between the Faculty Council and the Union are on the verge of breaking down and the Council has voted in favour of a strike should talks break down.”

Wui Ling (standing, 4th from right), with students at the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota

“Will you be living in a tepee??!”

My little brother had yelled excitedly over the phone after I called about my getting a winter internship at the South Dakota Legal Aid Services, located on the Sioux Rosebud Reservation. My mother worried her eyes out, obsessed with images of tomahawks and cannibalistic feasts. My American friends, most of whom had never been to a reservation, warned me of the alcoholism, crime and general lack of civilization that I would encounter.

“So you know martial arts like Jackie Chan?”

In St Louis, while volunteering at the juvenile detention centre, the kids used to bombard me with similar questions, grown from the seeds of misperception. And when they did, I forgave them. For I remembered the first time I stepped into the centre with the sinking feeling of insecurity at the sight of two hulking boys yelling aggressively on the basketball court. In reality, they were like any other kids. Almost like me when I was their age. They demanded to know why I was there, why I was “hanging out with the criminals” as one of them put it almost fiercely.

“I don’t think you are criminals”, I answered, trying hard to sound calm as my heart raced a thousand miles a second. I grinned as hard as I could. “I’m on your side man.” The kids grinned and slid down the bench as I sat with them. I have learnt so much through working with people from different walks of life. I had always wanted to do legal aid because I wanted to give to others in some small way. Yet, for most of us, it is often the other way around. We’re always grumbling about the least significant things in life - how hard the exams were, how late the bus was, how we need to get our second- uppers, etc. Even in their poverty and hardship, there are those who celebrate life, infecting and inspiring others with their energy and exuberance. Lisa Langdeau, my best friend on the reservation, is a single mother who works three jobs, one for each of her kids. I helped her deliver newspapers on two nights when I was her guest and nearly died from the wind and cold!

There were so many other individuals I met who have personally touched me and changed my life. Farah Hasani, my Azeri room mate, with her passion for international law and her patriotism and amazing ability never to let things get her down, and Jeremy Caddel, one of our mentors, who wanted to do humanitarian law and who has achieved so much which I hope to achieve in the future. The list goes on. Though I am looking forward to going home, there is a part of me that has been shaped by all of them. A part of me that I will always treasure.
Future Alumni

A dynamic, thriving, and, most importantly, welcoming place. This is what I, together with a few dozens of other exchange and graduate students from around the globe, discovered upon stepping into NUS. Although each of us, as diverse as we were, arrived with different goals and expectations, NUS has touched us all in very special ways. For that, we wish to say thank you.

From the very first day, when the Law Club Orientation Committee made us discover the wonders of Singapore’s shopping palaces and introduced us to challenging classes and countless opportunities to meet local friends, till the last of a long series of welcome receptions, we were treated by all with the utmost concern and courtesy. In this brief note, we want to leave NUS bits of ourselves and our thoughts. Let me, therefore, introduce you to several of my colleagues and share with you some of their memories of Singapore and their plans for the future.

The graduate students came from countries as diverse as South Africa, Malaysia, Cambodia, Nigeria, Bhutan and Indonesia. They included

- **Kua Lay Theng**, who hails from Kuala Lumpur and who had studied at Leicester in England. Lay Theng loves dancing (salsa in particular), and has tried out lots of yummy food places in Singapore. From Jambi, Indonesia comes **Yufendy**, who attended law school at Gadjah Mada University in Jogjakarta. Nigerian student **Dumoteim Ojuka Dennis**, who hails from Harcourt City in Rivers State, tell us that she has interests such as singing and acting. Dumoteim graduated from the University of Uyo in Akwa-Ibom state and hopes to enter legal practice and help save the world through NGO work.

The exchange crowd from Canada was undoubtedly the most prominent this year. Among them is **Marcel Eamonn LeHouiller** from the University of Toronto. After a whirlwind tour of Southeast Asia, Marcel now intends to settle in Vancouver and work for the Canadian Department of Justice. In his words, “this exchange programme gave me the opportunity to meet great new people and escape the bleak winter back home, and for that, I’m grateful.” **Mike Ross** was also a proud representative of the University of Toronto.

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Our Friends from Around the World

François Tanguay-Renaud EXC ’02 from Montreal reflects upon the experiences of our exchange and graduate students.
Although reputed to be the oldest exchange student at the NUS Law School, he was, nonetheless, the only one to appear on the Law School softball, badminton and drinking teams (though, as he emphasizes, not all at once!). Hailing from Montreal, this self-defined “Canadian Ang Mo” is on his way to Boston next year to work in a corporate law firm.

The Canadian cohort also included Marcia Taggart from Dalhousie University who, despite being originally from Ottawa, will be working with McCarthy Tétrault, Canada’s largest law firm, in Toronto next year. During her stay in Singapore, she continued her “lifelong quest for the perfect beach.” After several days at Sentosa, she declares that she has still not quite found it. Others included Rafael “Rafy” Pacquing, from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. Rafael is a serious amateur chef who made good use of his time in Singapore to expand his cooking repertoire and to visit several diving locations in Malaysia and Thailand. After completing the New York bar this summer, Rafael will embark on an International Relations degree and ultimately hopes to come back to Southeast Asia to work.

I could have chosen to add myself to the list of Canadians, as Quebec, the land of my birth, is still part of Canada. My friends would, however, be upset if I asked for how long! Sole representative from McGill University, I seized the day at NUS and published with the Singapore Journal of International and Comparative Law, obtained my Open Water diving license, and immersed myself in Singapore’s cultural life (from Chinese opera to a few by working as a human rights lawyer. Arwyn, on the other hand, leans towards the corporate world. While in Asia, he became known as one of the most enthusiastic exchange travellers, visiting vast portions of Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. In an undeniably British tone, he told me that he had “very fond memories indeed to take back” with him.

Although studying law at the University of Bristol, Caroline McCann hails from the Cayman Islands: “In her own words, she is “an international student on international exchange.” Tax law practice might well be where the future takes her. Nottingham University sent Arwyn Jones and Catherine “Kate” Jane Preece. A performing arts and tap-dancing aficionado, Kate utterly enjoyed NUS, but especially appreciated studying space law as she found it both intriguing and different. Her “real” lifetime ambition is to “save the world,” but her “realistic” lifetime ambition is to make a difference to a few by working as a human rights lawyer. Arwyn, on the other hand, leans towards the corporate world. While in Asia, he became known as one of the most enthusiastic exchange travellers, visiting vast portions of Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. In an undeniably British tone, he told me that he had “very fond memories indeed to take back” with him.

American students came to NUS from Washington, Duke and Columbia Universities. Terry Eton, from Duke, became known at NUS as a fierce defender of the “American Way.” After having participated in criminal trials in the U.S., he will now take his career to Washington D.C. to work as a lobbyist. Carrie Johnson, from Washington University in St Louis, Missouri, is a veteran of international exchanges, having studied in Spain, at sea (10 countries, 100 days!) and Edinburgh. Last summer, she worked for the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, but has now decided to go into Corporate Litigation. Gregory Crovo, also on exchange from Washington University, is working towards a joint degree in law and East Asian studies. A sports enthusiast, he enjoyed scuba diving, hiking and travelling while in Singapore. His next stop will be Japan where he hopes to strengthen his knowledge of Japanese.

Australian students also made their presence felt. Among them, Anita Roberts of the Australian National University in Canberra, has a self-defined ambition - “to keep smiling, live somewhere in this beautiful region, consume as many mangoes as humanly possible, go on crazy bus excursions to far-flung places and basically recoup the losses suffered as a result of 6 years at law school.” John Eaton, from the University of New South Wales in Sydney, has his eyes set on more concrete goals - international or corporate law practice. Having particularly enjoyed his time in Singapore, he is now planning trips to Mongolia and Bhutan … and a few cricket matches!

To the Deanery, the academic and administrative staff and all NUS students who contributed to make our stay so wonderful, do accept a word of thanks from us. We look forward to seeing you in our respective countries!
Letter from Abroad

Oliver Siebert EXC ‘96

Our German exchange alumnus, Oliver, spent 6 months at NUS in 1996. His first encounter with mooting at the NUS Law School led to his starting a moot programme in his university in Mainz, Germany. Oliver recounts some of his memories of Singapore:

“… Southeastern Asia, islands between Malaysia and Indonesia … one of the world’s most prosperous countries, with strong international trading links …” – this was the CIA World Factbook information on Singapore which I looked up when preparing for a 6-month study stay at NUS. I was expecting skyscrapers and a financial metropolis with “Don’t Litter” posters all over the place. And indeed – one of my first trips was to SIMEX, just to see the place where Nick Leeson “worked”. Yet, I soon discovered that there’s more to the place than those typical stereotypes which a European might have of Singapore. This other side struck me during the NUS Orientation’s “Rag and Flag” contest (Law School did not win, though!). I took part in the initiation activities at Sheares Hall, and found many open, interesting and interested people in the form of Block C hostmates, fellow students and teachers. Within a short time, I felt very much at home in Singapore.

An exchange program organised by Prof Rauschnüing of the University of Goettingen afforded me the opportunity to encounter such experiences. Every year, a handful of German law students are selected to study at the NUS Law School and to stay at the Halls of Residence, hence living the life of a Singaporean student. Compared to German student life, I particularly enjoyed the small number of participants in most NUS courses and the personal atmosphere, both during and outside class. I’ll never forget the conversations I had with Prof Peter Ellinger (we never talked about law!) or the vivid Negotiation Workshops. Back in Germany, I certainly miss Singapore food. Unfortunately, the usual German “Mensa” (refectory) cannot compete with the NUS canteens!

I completed my law degree in Mainz and again headed for a Common Law jurisdiction - this time, to pursue an LL.M at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. I studied mainly Islamic and Comparative Law, and continued to stay in touch with Singapore when researching the investment laws of the ASEAN countries. I am currently working as a “wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter” (research associate) at the Johannes Gutenberg-University in Mainz and am completing my Ph.D thesis comparing specific problems of English and German Company Law.

My interest in the Common Law is one of the many legacies I owe to my stay at the NUS Law School. Another legacy is mooting. I first encountered the concept of a “moot court” in Singapore; at that time, this type of contest was more or less unknown in Germany. I established the first moot court team at my University and in 1997, we participated in the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot in Vienna. I have been coaching the Mainz team ever since. This year, we even won first place for our Memorandum for the Respondent. In the orals, we were beaten by the NUS team, which went on to win the overall orals competition.

This was just one encounter of many with NUS students and graduates. I hope to stay in touch with NUS and the Law School. In the meantime, best wishes to all of you and do email me at osiebert@hotmail.com.
Vienna was where the NUS Law School made its mark yet again in the international mooting scene. Our students beat law school teams from around the world to win the Willem C Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot in their debut appearance. Held yearly since 1993, the competition simulates an arbitral proceeding in the field of the international sale of goods. Samuel Ang Wee Beng ’02, Jason Chan Tai Hui ’02, Chia Voon Jiet ’02, Jean Ho Qing Ying ’03 and Eugene Phua Weh Kwang ’02 were up against teams from 107 universities from 35 countries, including top schools like Columbia and Harvard.

“It was wonderful to see the team work together”, says team coach, Assoc Prof Gary F Bell. “After a round of pleadings, the team would send the oral pleaders, Jean and Jason, to rest and would get the pleadings of the next opposing team. After reading them, they would tell me how good the other teams’ arguments were and would look slightly worried, but as soon as Jean and Jason came back into the room, they would confidently say: ‘… we’ve read this, nothing new, nothing to worry about!’ They would then brief the two pleaders on how to address the arguments. It was a pleasure to watch them prepare.”

In the finals, the NUS team put up a brilliant fight against the University of Queensland, a strong contender and two-time winner of the competition. We emerged victorious, and both Jason and Jean received honourable mentions for their pleadings in the preliminary rounds. This latest victory adds to the NUS Law School’s illustrious record at international moot competitions. We currently hold the world record for having won the prestigious Philip C Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition four times. Hopefully, this latest victory will also serve to promote Singapore within the international arbitration community.

At the Schönbrunn in Vienna, a day after their victory - Chia Voon Jiet ’02, Jason Chan Tai Hui ’02, Jean Ho Qing Ying ’03, team coach Gary Bell, Samuel Ang Wee Beng ’02 and Eugene Phua Weh Kwang ’02.
Class of 1961
Tommy Koh is now back as Director of the Institute of Policy Studies. Tommy will be awarded an honorary doctorate by Monash University in October. Koh Kheng Lian is still with the Faculty of Law and is actively heading its Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL).

Class of 1962
Hendon Mohamed recently travelled down from Kuala Lumpur to attend the Singapore Law Review Lecture delivered by the Chief Justice of Malaysia. She had a great time reliving old memories at the Law School days with classmates, S Rajendran and Goh Joon Seng. Supreme Court Judge and Chairman of the Singapore Mediation Centre respectively. Hendon also visited the Kent Ridge campus, met with Dean Tan Cheng Han ’87 and even took in the newly-opened University Museums.

Class of 1963
Beatrix Chew and her husband KC Vohrah ’64 also attended the Malaysian Chief Justice’s lecture at City Hall Chambers, Singapore.

Classes of 1964 to 1985
We’re still working to fill this gap! Alumni from these years, do send us your news! The address to send it to is lawlink@nus.edu.sg.

Class of 1986
Kevin Tan Yee Lee and his wife Meng are busy these days with bringing up two home-school children, Krystal and Kimberley. Formerly with the Law School, Kevin continues to write and has just finished a book on the history of the scouting movement entitled “Scouting in Singapore: 1910 to 2000”. He is currently working on a dictionary of businessmen in Singapore and recently delivered a lecture on “Presidentialism in the Former British Colonies: Trends And Prospects”.

Class of 1987
Lilian Tsi reports that she got married in 1990 to a firefighter, moved to San Francisco and is now mother to 2 beautiful children, Audrey, aged 7 and Peter, 2. Lilian is currently a Certified Financial Manager with Merrill Lynch Private Client Group. Her primary focus is on working with Asian families and business owners for financial planning and investment needs. Active in community service, Lilian will be on the Board of Directors of the second oldest Rotary Club in the world beginning July 2002. Jack Teo Cheng Chuah reports that he is an Associate Professor at the Nanyang Business School, NTU. He is currently a Resident Counsellor at NTU Hall 14 and is actively involved in student matters.

Class of 1988
Ong Chee Kwan writes from Kuala Lumpur to report that he returned to KL in 1992 and is a partner with Lee Ong & Kandiah. His principal areas of practice are commercial litigation and admiralty law. Chee Kwan is married with two children (a daughter aged 3 and a son who’s 13 months old). Incidentally, Chee Kwan’s partner is Lee Hock Chye ’84. Chee Kwan’s practice is primarily based in KL but he travels occasionally to the courts in Penang and Johor Bahru. He recently acted for Tan Sri Tajudin Ramli (of Malaysia Airlines fame) against Danaharta, the Malaysian national asset management company. From beautiful San Francisco, Eda Tan Su Ling writes to say that she’s been living in the Bay Area for the past 7 years now, although she’s spent half her time in New York this year as her husband is working there. Eda and husband are still dinkies (double income, no kids). Eda is a partner in the Corporate Finance group of Morrison & Foerster LLP, an international law firm with approximately 1,000 lawyers worldwide. Most recent foreign travels have brought her to Lake Como in Northern Italy (she highly recommends Villa d’Este ... and the food and wine, of course). Other favourite places are Alaska and St. John’s Virgin Islands where she was scuba certified. From Melbourne, Tham Min Wei writes to say that receiving LAWLINKs in the mail brings back mixed feelings for her as well as fond memories of hostel life and tutorials with friends. Min Wei and her husband, Peter, have two sons aged 6 and 5. Min Wei works part time with Koorong, a Christian wholesale and retail book company, and also looks after the Victoria Christian Schools network. Min Wei says she works with 2 ex-lawyers and they rib each other about their “past”. She says she loves living in Melbourne and cannot imagine being anywhere else. A lot of it has had to do with wonderful in-laws, family and friends who have stuck with them through thick and thin. Meanwhile, Pauline Gan Lay Hong reports that after several years in legal practice, she joined NTU’s Business Law division in 1994. Other classmates at NTU include Steven Ang, Valerie Low and Loo Wee Ling. Pauline and her oral surgeon husband, Winston, have a son, Nicholas, who just turned one. Pauline would love to hear from old friends and can be emailed at alhgan@ntu.edu.sg.

Class of 1989
Glen Goh reports from Vancouver, Canada that he and Sharon Teo ’90 celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary in 2001 on a family trip to Singapore. They have three wonderful children who entertain and enthral them endlessly - Colette (8), Evan (7) and Ethan (4). Apart from enjoying family camping, coaching kids soccer, skiing, golf and the outdoors, Glen is keeping busy in the world of asset protection and offshore trusts. He reports that he is still in regular contact with “The Boys” - Wong Kok Hoe, Sushil Nair, Lawrence Quah, Andrew Ong and even the elusive Patrick Wee. Speaking of Patrick, Debbie Ong reports that the jet-setter left legal practice in 1999 for a position in Hong Kong as Vice President in a Pan Asian Fitness Company. He’s since moved on to Seoul, Korea, and is now President of his own Fitness Company under the brand name of ClassAction.

The pioneer Class of 1961 during their reunion at the Bukit Timah campus.
California Fitness Centers as a Franchisee. His classmates fear that by the time Peter Pan Patrick is ready to settle down, he’ll be courting their daughters. Other jet-setters include Lan Luh Luh, who’s been teaching law at the NUS Business School for 9 years now. Besides teaching undergrads and executives, Luh Luh travels to faraway places like Salzburg, Austin, Atlanta and Orlando for conferences and seminars. The academic indeed does not lock herself in any tower, ivory or otherwise. Chuan Wee Meng, who’s been based in Hong Kong for the past few years (he’s with Nortel), experienced his longest day on 6 June 2002. He and Jennifer Chan (working at Think Masters) returned to Singapore to receive their bundle of joy on that day. As for Debbie Ong herself, she’s the opposite of a job-hopper and has been at the NUS Law School since graduation. Specializing in Family Law, she also does volunteer Mediation work at the Family Court, after which she returns home to continue mediating the disputes of her perky children. For now, Ruby, a little Yorkshire terrier, serves as Swee Leen’s and Mark’s surrogate child. By day, Judy Chang is a Regional Compliance Officer in a financial institution, making sure that its products are not used by terrorists to fund their activities. By night, she’s an arts enthusiast who visits art galleries, paints, sells handmade stuff at the Substation night market and guides at the National Museums. Judy looks forward to the day when her finances and artistic talent have grown exponentially such that she can give up her day job and pursue a bourgeois-bohemian existence. Judy reports that Ho Soo Lih has finally tied the knot after years of playing the field. Congratulations! This has put to rest all queries from concerned classmates and their attempts at matchmaking. Hitting the (non-legal) books again: Zahiriah Ibrahim is working towards a Postgraduate Diploma in Early Childhood Education; she aims to be an advocate for the little people. Patricia Ong is currently taking a break from her management studies and will go on a glorious Alaskan cruise in late June before putting her nose to the grindstone again for the last leg of the course. Several people are eagerly awaiting the stork’s arrival later in the year - these include Chee Chi Meng, Elvin Wan and Emily Teo. Recent movements include Doreen Tan, who’s moved to a legal counsel position at FedEx covering the South Pacific. Bali Hai, come to me! Agnes Tan, Kow Keng Siong ’93 and family have returned to Singapore from New York. Agnes will resume life here as a tai-tai and adjunct lecturer at Temasek Polytechnic. Raja Bose writes to tell us that he’s returned from a 2-year stint in London and is now based in Watson Farley & Williams’ Singapore office. He continues to specialise in commercial and shipping litigation and travels each month to Asia’s worst holiday destinations. Raja is married to ex-lawyer and present freelance writer Carolyn Oei and they’ve thus far denied themselves the joys of parenthood in favour of their golden cocker spaniel, Charlie Brown. Slim Tan is with Ng Chong & Hue LLC, though she’s more often enjoying bringing up her 3 boys (aged 4, 5 and 6) while they still let her. Slim says her research nowadays is directed toward answering the kids’ questions. When the kids are off in school, Slim enjoys catching up with friends for lunch, shopping, gym, swimming, reading, tinkling the ivories, etc. Once a week, she reads to the kids in the kindergarten and catches up with the juvenile literature she missed as a child. Slim and her architect husband, Hon Kit, hope to do more adventurous travelling with the kids as they grow older.

**Class of 1992**

Andy Sim reports that he is with the Legal Service and is currently serving a stint as Senior Assistant Director in the Legal Policy Division of the Ministry of Law. He left in June 2002 with his wife, Cornie Ng ’91 to pursue an LLM at Santa Clara University in California. Andy says he and Cornie are currently Dinkies (Double-Income-No-Kids) and life after work revolves around their two miniature schnauzers and catching up with friends and movies. The two beloved schnauzers were left behind to spare them the trauma of the long flight and the quarantine. Contact them at polozoe@yahoo.com.sg. Dylan Lee, previously with the Legal Service, is currently at Shook Lin & Bok. Dylan took the New York bar following an LLM at Columbia Law School and is currently doing civil and commercial litigation. Meanwhile, Chua Swee Leen reports from Boston that the 10 years since leaving Law School have been quite an adventure. After a few fun years of legal practice in Singapore, Swee Leen took up an LLM in Boston and has been an analyst in a financial services company since. In between, she met her wonderful husband, Mark, went back to graduate school part-time, and has been enjoying a life of travel and new experiences. For now, Ruby, a little Yorkshire terrier, serves as Swee Leen’s and Mark’s
of Companies and Businesses. She's living life quietly and striving for contentment and gratitude with what she has. **Daniel See Han Chiang** is with Tellabs, Inc., a US telecom equipment company. He says we can all bet he'll try his darnest to be at any class reunion. From Melbourne, **Thomas Ho** reports that he is with Corrs Chambers Westgarth, mostly focusing on front-end construction work. In his spare time, he sings as he enjoys teaching at the Nanyang Business School, NTU. **Josephine Cheong May Ling** is currently a stay-at-home mum, and says she only meant to take a year off work but found, to her surprise, that she actually enjoyed not working and being able to “smell the roses” a little (though she misses the money). **Rofina Tham** had a case of a misbehaving runaway auto-reply during the Lunar New Year break. From London, **Penny Lo** reports that she did an MBA in France in 1999 and is now a brand consultant (what's that, asks Penny) and is in touch with **Terence Lim**. Meanwhile, **Cheryl Tan** is still at Drew & Napier, where she says benefits include free corporate gym membership and the occasional free lunch. She's otherwise living life outside of work and enjoying every minute of it. **Brenda D'Cruz** is a mother of two boys, aged 3 and 5. Brenda's in-house counsel for a US sports broadcaster (the kind of job "men would kill for"). Brenda and her husband hope to stay on in Singapore, though “horror stories about primary school and suicidal 12-year-olds” are forcing them to keep options open. From London, **Ho Kah Hui** reports that she's mother to a gorgeous baby boy named Zachary. After spending three years fighting a losing war trying to recuperate from the state the taxes that she's paid, Kah Hui says the hope is to return to Singapore soon or to go to a tax haven like Bermuda like what **Peter Ch'ng Huck Yong** has done. **Simon Seow** wrote a while back to report that he married **Faith Tan '94** and was with BOS Venture Management, the equity/venture capital arm of OCBC. Meanwhile, **Stefanie Yuen Thio** reports that she's into corporate practice, with a special affinity for corporate finance and mergers and acquisitions work. As a founding director of TSMP Law Corporation, though, Stef finds that she has to do a bit of everything - from writing legal opinions to serving drinks and answering phones. Her greatest achievement to date has nothing to do with the law, though; it is her 3-year-old son Jonathan who is the brightest light in her life. Stef feels that “she has been given a tiny glimpse into how much her Father in Heaven loves His children, to the point of death on the cross.” **Chris Chong** and **Ho Chee Tong** are running their own firm, rather imaginatively called Chris Chong and CT Ho Partnership. Chris says he and CT have grown sideways, “though not as bad as Khaleel Namazie”. **Eugene Lee Yee Leng** (alumnus of CC & CT Ho) reports that he has a son who's already in Primary 1. Eugene says he's now back at the Legal Service with classmates including **Winston Cheng**, **Kan Shuk Weng**, **Low Cheong Yeow** and **David Lim Jit Hee**. Also with the Legal Service is **Tan Kiat Pheng**, who has 2 daughters aged 5 and 2. **Paul Lai Siang Tung** is general counsel at electronics group Flextech. He and **Beatrice Tang** have no kids yet. Siang Tung’s waiting for his stock options to balloon before moving on to his long-term career goal as a Beach Burn. **Ng Hwee Lon** got married in December 2001 and says of his wife: “Her name's Honey and she's real sweet.” **Jasmine Lee Siew Ping** reports that she and Keng Chiaik have two “pests” whom they cannot imagine life without, plus 2 birds and 2 brown and black puppies. A different view of those pests came from **Steven Liew** and wife **Devlin**, who have been married for 8 years now, no kids, and no plans in any case to have “any of those pesky things.” This view received the staunch concurrence of **Karen Looi**, happily married to Whye Kei with two cats and last heard starting a biomedical device startup in Charlottesville, Virginia. By the way, those anti-kid warriors set off howls of indignation from kid-friendly classmates. **Ed ATKJ**: Way to go, class!

**Class of 1994**

**Loo Tatt King** reports that he and his wife, **Sharon Wong '96** liked Clementi so much from their law school days that they have bought an apartment there. Tatt King says “it’s a great place - on the top floor, at dead-end road and near the Ulu Pandan canal.” From Kuala Lumpur, **Shanti Abraham** reports that she has been back in Malaysia for nearly four years now, and is married to a maritime lawyer in KL. Shanti has her own corporate and litigation practice with four others in Kenny Hills, a gorgeous part of KL. **Wileeza Abdul Gapa** is currently lecturing law to business students at Nanyang Polytechnic. Wileeza and her husband, Farouq, have a 6-year old daughter, Umaira, who thinks her golf swings are better than her mother’s.

**Class of 1995**

**Patrick Tay Teck Guan** reports that he is happily married and has just finished his bond with the Republic of Singapore Police Force. He has now joined the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) and is currently overseeing a programme helping workers, the unemployed and the retrenched undergo skills redevelopment. Since attending an orientation programme on community work in his first year of Law School, Patrick has been involved with various community work programmes, including the Residents’ Committee and the Citizens’ Consultative Committee. He has recently been involved with Inter-Racial Confidence Circle and the Remaking Singapore Sub-Committee. Patrick says community work has been especially gratifying and hopes that Lawlink can be a platform to attract alumni to contribute to the community through grassroots work and to enjoy the satisfaction of giving back to the community. Meanwhile, **Lim Gek Choo** reports that she is currently with Drew & Napier and will be on secondment to the corporate department of the London office of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer from June to November. While in Europe, Gek Choo hopes to travel and see, among others, Budapest and Windsor Castle (which was closed the last time she was in London as the Queen was busy raising money for repairs after the fire). Apart from work and traveling, Gek Choo intends to train for the Singapore Marathon in December 2002 (this will be her first full marathon). All this information was emailed by Gek Choo in 3 minutes - that's a typing marathon record. After doing the litigation circuit in Singapore for almost 5 years, **Bhaskaran Sivasamy** left for Sydney, Australia in early 2001 to pursue a Masters in Environmental Management at the University of New South Wales. Bhaskaran expects to complete this in August 2002 and is currently relishing the break from work and the opportunity to broaden his horizons. From Hong Kong, **Grace Guang** reports that after graduating from Columbia University and being admitted to the New York Bar in 1999, she worked as a corporate finance attorney at the New York office of Skadden, Arps. When Grace is not working (which is rare), she’d be out

![Slim Tan '92 with her three boys, Kay Han, Kay Hove and Kay Jin](image-url)
Music Records from the 1960s, from the “60s Now!” exhibition jointly curated by Low Sze Wee ’95, photo by Sherman Ong ’95.

and about in Soho checking out a new restaurant or lounge or taking the long weekend off to Paris or London. She’s recently transferred to the Hong Kong office of Skadden, Arps. On her part, Chan Jen Yee is now in London after a fun-filled year at Cambridge. When not eating out, travelling or trawling the shops, she can be found at SJ Berwin doing banking and finance work. From Singapore, Max Ng Chee Weng reports that he married Daphne Lim in October 2001 and is with Rodyk & Davidson practising Intellectual Property and Telecommunications and Media Law. Daphne’s enjoying her practice with Lee & Lee and for both of them, work, keeping up with their golden retriever and making jankos keep them gainfully employed. Jack Lee Tsen-Ta reports that after litigating at Chor Pee & Partners since being called to the Bar, he will leave to pursue an LL.M at University College London on a British Chevening Scholarship commencing September 2002. After working for 2 years as a litigation lawyer at Messrs. Tan Rajah and Cheah, Low Sze Wee decided to pursue his first love - art. In 1999, Sze Wee graduated with a Masters’ degree in History of Art from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London and worked subsequently with the NUS Museums. He recently joined the Singapore Art Museum as an assistant curator and has jointly curated two exhibitions, “A Picture Paints a Thousand Words” and “60s Now! You Me Here Now” Sze Wee says he is enjoying himself tremendously. Sherman Ong exhibited a video at the “60s Now!” exhibition curated by Sze Wee – the video had 6 sequences featuring the recollections of flat dwellers in Toa Payoh in the 60’s. Meanwhile, Alvin Chang reports that he’s getting married at the end of October and moving from Jurong East to Katong. Kenny Kwan and Jennifer Chih are happy to announce their recent engagement. Kenny’s a busy bee with White & Case while Jennifer’s practising corporate law at Drew & Napier LLC. Both have grand plans to get married, renovate the house, have children and live happily ever after, but all that will have to wait ‘cos there’s this agreement to draft, that advice to research, this transaction to complete …

Class of 1996
Alex Yew Cheong Huat reports that he and his architect wife, Tye Ping Ping, are currently in London. After several years of practice and in-house work, Alex decided to take the road less travelled and go to business school instead of pursuing an LLM. He is currently completing a Masters of Finance at London Business School. Alex says that it’s been “an exhilarating experience” so far - the new things he’s been learning, the rigorous pace of life and the exceptional people he’s been meeting from all over the world. Ping, meanwhile, is having a great time taking art classes. Lee Sock Sim is a Legal Officer with the Central Provident Fund (CPF) Board and has a little toddler daughter with “one more in the oven.”

Class of 1997
Lim Bee Hong, our trusty class reporter, brings us these blurbs: Julia Lau Min Li is a research analyst at the Ministry of Defence and has not practiced law a single day since graduation. While she used to dabble in theatre after office hours, life is now a grueling chain of work and the occasional overseas trip. Julia dreams of traveling the world and teaching English to remote tribes in remote regions. Meanwhile, Basil Wong recently left Clifford Chance Hong Kong to become an SGX legal officer-cum-diving instructor (call 93862080 for a friendly, no-obligations discussion about starting your adventures in diving). Having travelled avidly, Basil has these words of wisdom to offer: “If you visit Mongkok in Hong Kong, don’t wear a tie or you’re likely to get stared at and possibly beaten up, but it’s a great place to find electronic goods and exotic pets” and “Offer no more than half the asking price of all fake designer items on sale in Shenzhen.” Basil dreams of being asked to seek investment opportunities in exotic locations and being wined and dined by native chieftains and their willing daughters. Meanwhile, he plans to commence a postgraduate degree in an esoteric area of finance. Tan Ai Leen is getting hitched later this year to another lawyer, Raphael Lee, and will probably be spotted traipsing around Singapore with make-up melting in the June heat. Congrats! Meanwhile, Chin Hooi Yen writes to say that after spending several years in corporate practice, she’s joined online travel company ZUJI as in-house legal adviser. She spends her time sourcing for travel deals for herself, playing ultimate frisbee (haven’t heard of it? You’re missing out!) and learning about the travel business. She’s having the time of her life! Israel Louis Ismail, too, has decided to go in-house and is now Counsel for flowerbed with classmate Jacintha Pillay. They are currently working full-time from home, with no store front as yet. Eleanor is also in the process of starting up a nursing-wear venture. The home-business website is at www.flowerbed.com.sg, where there are samples of Eleanor’s and Jacintha’s work. Eleanor is looking forward to visiting Daniel Tan and Louise Loh in London at the end of the year. She further reports that Jacintha is now the mother of a 2-month old baby girl, Shayna Ning Tan.

Class of 1998
Wilson Ang reports that he married Esther Yen in January 2001 and packed his bags for Hong Kong, where he is now with the litigation practice of Herbert Smith. He was admitted to the Hong Kong Courts as a Solicitor in April 2002. Wilson says life in HK is interesting and varied, with the weather going through four seasons without the extremities and society being very diverse with different sub-cultures. He loves the cool cafes, the dim sum restaurants and the sight of “expat gweilos rushing past local Canto-sprouting auntsies going to the market.” Housing is “famously expensive”, of course, and Wilson and Esther live in a shoebox of 530 square feet. Esther’s dabbling in the management of hospitality in the food and beverage industry and doubles up as Wilson’s personal assistant and financial manager. They have no kids yet and are not planning for any in the near future. Meanwhile, Adrian Oh reports that he’s yet another one to have left the profession. Adrian is currently a consultant at Bain & Co. and observes that strategy consulting has hours and stress as pronounced as in practice, if not more. The work, though, is definitely interesting, and Adrian’s worked on retail strategy for a Fortune 100 consumer goods company and is integrating two Singapore businesses at present. One thing he definitely misses is not having to sugar-coat everything he says. Gilbert Koh Ching Wang married Poon Ee Loo in December 2000 and both have just recently become the proud parents of a newborn boy, Bryan.

Class of 1999
Eleanor Ho recently told LawLink that she has left practice and started a flower business called Flowerbed with classmate Jacintha Pillay. They are currently working full-time from home, with no store front as yet. Eleanor is also in the process of starting up a nursing-wear venture. The home-business website is at www.flowerbed.com.sg, where there are samples of Eleanor’s and Jacintha’s work. Eleanor is looking forward to visiting Daniel Tan and Louise Loh in London at the end of the year. She further reports that Jacintha is now the mother of a 2-month old baby girl, Shayna Ning Tan.

Class of 2001
Woo Pei Yee is currently working at the Singapore office of Baker & McKenzie. She is also happily engaged to the greatest guy she’s ever known, Kenneth Wee. As Kenneth is now studying at Stanford, Pei Yee will be relocating to the U.S. soon.