Our Man at the Region’s Helm -
ASEAN Secretary-General Ong Keng Yong ’79
Welcome to the new year, and to LAWLINK’s third instalment!

As we begin a fresh semester of teaching and research, we would like to thank our alumni for your continued support for our outreach programmes. This past year saw several initiatives being undertaken to promote stronger alumni relations, not least of which was the launch of LAWLINK itself. We have now updated our alumni database, and are confident that at least three quarters of all our alumni dating back to the Class of 1961 receive news from us. For those of you whom we have somehow lost contact with, do send your updated coordinates to lawlink@nus.edu.sg. Two classes have set up websites hosted by us, and we would like to invite other classes to consider establishing class websites.

More reunions are being planned for the various graduating classes. This past year, the Class of 1962 celebrated the 40th anniversary of their graduation, and invited the pioneer Classes of 1961, 1963 and 1964 to join them in an evening of nostalgia hosted by the Law School. In February 2003, the Class of 1993 celebrates its 10th year of graduation, and the pioneer Classes’ reunion should give some food for thought to those of us 93’ers who think that we’ve come very far!

Amidst an uncertain political, economic and security environment, Ong Keng Yong ’79 assumes the role of Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). In this issue, we bring you one of Keng Yong’s first public interviews since he commenced his tenure as Secretary-General. We also feature two alumni who went global even before this became fashionable - Tan Loke Khoon ’87 and Tan Heng Thye ’89 - as well as an alumnus who has retired from the law and has gone on to qi gong, sailing and writing - Joan Foo Mahony ’74. Back home, we talk to K Shanmugam SC ’84 about the challenges facing legal education and practice in Singapore.

The ClassAction segment at the end of each issue continues to provide short news snippets on classmates. Infinite thanks to all those who have written in, and especially to those who volunteered to be class reporters. While most alumni tell us that this is absolutely their favourite part of LAWLINK, we can’t possibly concoct stories here - we need as many of you as possible to write in with your news, and not just to hope to read about others!

Finally, our gratitude goes out to the many alumni and friends who have made gifts to the Law School and who have supported us in so many ways. We look forward to establishing closer links with you.

We are looking for an alumnus to fill a part-time alumni relations position at the Law School. Email lawlink@nus.edu.sg for details.
Message from Dean Tan Cheng Han ’87

As we begin another year, I would like, on behalf of my colleagues, to take this opportunity to wish our alumni a happy and successful year ahead. It has been a challenging time for many and as we begin another chapter in our lives, it is my sincere wish that we will all be able to surmount the challenges that may lie before us.

This is likely to be an eventful year for the Faculty. In the past year, we have been in discussions with several leading law schools in Asia to establish the Asian Law Institute (ASLI) in NUS. Much progress has been made and we hope to establish ASLI this year together with at least 6 other leading Asian law schools. The vision behind ASLI is that it will draw together legal scholars from all over Asia to collaborate in teaching and research. Thus far, there has been very little dialogue between Asian legal scholars. As legal institutions become more important in Asia, we believe that Asian legal scholars will find it highly beneficial to engage each other in mutual learning and collaborative research. At the same time, Asian legal scholars undoubtedly also have something valuable to add to the international legal discourse. ASLI hopes to facilitate such a dialogue amongst Asian legal scholars and between such scholars and the rest of the world.

There are also other international initiatives. A number of new student exchange programmes are being discussed, which we hope will be signed in time for the new academic year that begins in August 2003. The Faculty is also in discussion with a top US law school to establish a Global Partnership Programme that will involve collaboration in teaching, research and policy forums. This is potentially a very exciting venture, which we believe will be mutually beneficial to both law schools, as well as to other law schools that will be invited to join the Programme. Another very interesting development relates to the invitations that the Faculty has received separately from two top universities in China to establish a major law teaching programme within their campuses. We intend to explore very carefully the feasibility of expanding our teaching programmes to China, although we have to be very mindful of the many competing demands on our limited resources and the fact that our principal role is to train lawyers for the demands of the legal profession in Singapore. What is encouraging is that these and still other international initiatives attest to the Faculty’s high standing in the international legal community. In this, I pay tribute to my colleagues, many of whom have worked very hard with me over the one and a half years that I have been Dean.

Another major area of activity has been our graduate programmes. I am delighted that the Faculty’s Graduate Division, under Vice-Dean Dora Neo and Deputy Director Teo Keang Sood, has developed three new specialist Masters of Law (LLM) programmes. These are the LLM (Corporate and Financial Services Law), LLM (Intellectual Property and Technology Law) and LLM (International and Comparative Law). These three areas have been chosen because they correspond to areas that are important to Singapore, and where the Faculty has considerable expertise. The area of intellectual property, including the protection and exploitation of advances in knowledge, is likely to be an important growth area in Singapore and Asia. Similarly, corporate governance, financial services, corporate finance, and the regulation of securities and futures markets will be important areas of legal practice as companies and regulators in different jurisdictions seek to re-position themselves. International law will also become more important in an increasingly globalised world. We believe that lawyers with in-depth knowledge of these areas will be well positioned to take advantage of the opportunities that will be thrown up in these areas.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our many generous donors. As the global competition among the leading law schools of the world intensifies, a reasonable endowment will be crucial. In this regard, unfortunately, we are well behind many law schools, which began fundraising many years ago. Nevertheless, our donors, particularly alumni and parents, have been wonderful in responding to our call and I want to thank each and every one of them sincerely. In particular, I would like to thank The Honourable the Chief Justice Yong Pung Hoo HLL’01 and Mrs Yong for their very generous donation of $2 million to establish the Yong Shook Lin Professorship in Intellectual Property Law. I must also thank the Partners of MS Allen & Gledhill, particularly its Managing Partner, Lucien Wong ’78, for the donation of $250,000 on the occasion of the Firm’s 100th Anniversary. This donation will be crucial. In this regard, unfortunately, we have received very few donations that we have received to date are double tax-deductible and will be matched by the Government.

On this note, let me once again wish all of you a very good year ahead.

Tan Cheng Han
The Law School is pleased to establish a new Professorship in Intellectual Property Law named after the late prominent lawyer, Yong Shook Lin. The Professorship has been made possible through a generous donation of $2 million by Mr Yong Shook Lin’s son, The Honourable the Chief Justice Yong Pung How LLD ’01 and Mrs Yong Pung How. The donation attracts a matching government grant, bringing the total endowment to $4 million. The Yong Shook Lin Professorship will be used to bring in an eminent visiting academic in the field of Intellectual Property Law to NUS each year. It will be a significant boost to the Law School’s plans to help Singapore build up legal capacity in this critical area of the law.

Mr Yong Shook Lin was a prominent member of the legal profession, having been Chairman of the Federation of Malaya Bar Council and also a member of the Legislative and Executive Councils. He was also the Honorary Secretary-General of the Malayan Chinese Association from 1949 to 1952.

In expressing the Faculty’s appreciation to the Chief Justice, Dean Tan Cheng Han ’87 said: “We are absolutely delighted to have received this generous donation from the Chief Justice and Mrs Yong. The late Mr Yong Shook Lin was a very distinguished lawyer and politician. The firm that he founded, M/s Shook Lin & Bok, is one of the top law firms in Singapore and Malaysia today. This professorship in his name will enable the NUS Faculty of Law to increase the number of subjects offered in the field of Intellectual Property Law and on behalf of the Faculty, I would like to thank the Chief Justice and Mrs Yong for this very generous gesture.”
As part of its recent centennial celebrations, Allen & Gledhill donated a sum of $500,000 to various charitable organisations in Singapore. This amount included a $250,000 gift to the NUS Law School’s endowment fund.

Managing Partner, Lucien Wong ’78, said: “In celebrating the firm’s 100th anniversary, we took time to count our blessings and decided that it was timely and appropriate for us to contribute, in some way, to society. My partners and I are merely stewards of the firm and for our future generation of lawyers. In recognition of this, we decided to contribute to the NUS Faculty of Law’s Endowment Fund to help further the cause of legal education in Singapore.”

“Globalisation has increased competition. It has also opened up greater opportunities for lawyers”, Lucien added. “With the sum donated, we hope that it will help the Faculty develop new programmes and bring in top scholars from overseas to provide a truly global and wide-reaching education that will prepare the students for a challenging career in law.” Recollecting his younger days in law school at the Bukit Timah campus, Lucien mused how there were only four “L’s” in his life then - law, library, lectures and lunch. Today, it would be Law, Law, Law and client Lunches! Driven by his passion for work, Lucien’s main concern as managing partner is to set the firm up for the younger generation of partners.

Lucien, who joined Allen & Gledhill in 1987, said that he did not expect to be leading the firm on its centenary. He is grateful to the countless persons who have supported and guided him throughout the years. “There are just too many of them to name. Among them are my law lecturers who never seem to age. They still look the same today, as they did when I was in law school some 30 years ago. They are not only educators, but true role models who deserve a tribute for their patience, dedication and concern.” At the firm’s gala centennial dinner and performance on 27 September 2002, Lucien handed a cheque for $250,000 to Dean Tan Cheng Han ’87, who noted that nearly three-quarters of Allen & Gledhill’s partners are alumni of our law school. The gift is one of the largest donations to the law school to date. Also present at the dinner were Professors Tan Sook Yee, Lye Lin Heng ’73 and Robert Beckman.

NUS President and Vice-Chancellor hosts Law School Alumni

In October 2002, NUS President and Vice-Chancellor Shih Choon Fong hosted lunch for several law school alumni at University Hall. The lunch formed part of a regular series of meetings which University Hall hosts to strengthen ties with alumni from the various faculties.

(L-R): Tracey Chan ’97, Dean Tan Cheng Han ’87, Benjamin Ang ’83, Joseph Ang ’77, Fadil Abdul Hamid ’87, Gregory Vijayendran ’92, Foo Tzeet Yien ’76, Prof Shih Choon Fong, R. Palakrishnan, SC ’72, Ong Ban Chai ’68, Chandra Mohan ’76, Koh Kok Wah ’84, Gilbert Leong ’89, A/P Teo Choo Soo.
Congratulations Class of 2002

MASTER OF LAWS

ASUQUO KOFI ESSIEN ALLOTEY
CAI CHENFENG
CHIA KO WEN
DUMOTEIM OJUKA DENNIS
GOH CHIEN YEN
HELENA WHALEN-BRIDGE
MAGDALENE HSIA PH YOONG
JASWANT SINGH
KENSAKU FUKUI
DAVID KHONG SIAK MENG
EDWIN KOH BENG SIM
LAU OON HUAY
LEONG LAI FUNG
LIM LEI
LO KIM SENG
MICHAEL KLEMM
MOSES JEYANDRAN
RONALD NG
PEMA RINZIN
RATH SOPHOAN
REVATI SURESH
ROELOF CORNELIUS VAN DER MERWE
MALCOM TAN CHUN CHUEN
TAN YAH SZE
JANET TOH YOONG SAN
TRIANO ANDREAS RIDJAB
VICTOR MUTHUCAN ANTHONYSAMY
YUFENDY
CHANG LUH CHONG

BACHELOR OF LAWS

ADAM ABDUR RAHIM S/O NAINA MOHAMED
ANG WEE BENG, SAMUEL
ANITA MISRA D/O TRIJUGI NARAIN
ANITA SONIA PARKASH
ANTHONY ANDRE LINUS
BAN SHIANG MEI, JOANNE
BUAY KEE GUAN, COLIN
BUAY KEE YONG, CLARENCE
CHAN KOK WAI
CHAN TAI-HUI, JASON
CHAN TSU WAN, JOANNE
CHEAH YEW KUIN
CHEE YUEN LI, ANDREA
CHENG YEE PING, RONNIE
CHEONG SIAO HWEI, CHARMAINE
CHIA GIN GIN
CHIA HENG GUAN, AMBROSE
CHIA HOCK LEONG
CHIA HWEI SZE, TRICIA
CHIA KAH WHYE, CHRISTOPHER
CHIA KENG LENG
CHIA LYN LYNN
CHIA TIEN XIANG, JEREMY
CHIA VOON JET
CHIN LI YOON
CHOO YU JIN, JONATHAN
CHUA MEI YEN, CELINA
DAVINIA FILZA BTE ABDUL AZIZ
ELIANY BTE JAMIL
ENG ZIXUAN, EDMUND
FOO HSIANG MING
FOO YEUNG CHERN, MERYYN
GANGA D/O AVADIAR
GAW YING CHARN, BENJAMIN
GOH ENG CHER
GOH GIM YEOW
GOH GIN NEE
GOH HIEN KANG
GOH MEISHAN, GERALDINE
GOH MUK KENG, CHRISTINA
HARVEEN SINGH NARULLA
HO CHEE HON
HO CHING HUI, ELAINE
HO WEI LING, SHARON
HO YEE TIEN, DELPHINE
HO YING MING
HOWE PIN YIT
HSU LI CHUAN
KABIR SINGH S/O BALDHRAJ SINGH
KHEW MEI YUNN, BELINDA
KOH HUI LI, JORITA
KOH KANG MING, SHAUN
KOH KIA JENG
KOH SEE KHIANG
KWAN YIN LENG, CLARA
KWEE KI LYNN
LEE HUAY YEN, ADELINE
LEE YEO WEE, DAVID
LEONG LI YUEH
LEONG TSE WEY, SYLVIA
LEOW VINCENT
LIEW AI LING, LAURA ANN
LIM CHOON MUN, EUGENE
LIM HON Yi
LIM KWANG SING
LIM WEE KIAT
LIM WEE KUAN, ERNEST
LIM WEI TING
LO PETER
LOH JEN WEI
LOH KIA MENG
LOH WEI-YI, MANDY
LOOI MING MING
LOW PEI JOO
LOM ANGEL
MOEY WENG FONG, ESTHER
MOK CUI LING
NG EE WERN
NG HON-WAI, MARTIN
NG KIA WHYE, ADRIAN
NG LI-MAY, VANESSA
NG OON TIEN, JEREMY
NG WEI WEI, HENRY
ONG PEI CHIN
ONG SU AUN, JEFFREY
PAIK SU WEI, SYLVIA
PHAN SIANG LOONG, COLIN
PHUA WEI KWANG, EUGENE
PNG YIN CHIA
QUEK HWEI HIA, DAWN
SANTIAH D/O AYADORAI
SATHIASEELAN JAGATEESAN
SEAH CHING LING
SEAH YONG QUAN, TERENCE
SEET SIOK LIN, NOELLE
SIA EU, EUNICE
SIA SU MEI, CELIA
SIM SHER LING, SHAREN
SIM SU MEI, JOAN
SOH E-LING, MARIANNE
SOH HUI LING, IVY
SOO YU-HAN, JESSICA
TAN CHING-LI, JACQUELINE
TAN EK JIN, DEBORAH
TAN E-PING
TAN EU GENE
TAN JUN LIANG, ALOYSIUS
TAN LAY YING
TAN MIN-LIANG
TAN SIN CHENG
TAN SIN LEI
TAN SU PING
TAN SU-MING, JANE
TAN VIM YEW, ERIC
TAN WEN HSJEN
TAN XEAUWEI
TAN YI LIN
TAN YIN TZE
TAN YING CHE
TANG LII, SALLY
TAY CHING CHING
TAY LIAM KHENG
TAY SWEE KEONG, ALVIN
TAY XIN-YUN, ODESA
TEO BEE LOON, GRACE
TEO JIN-WL, DARYL
TEO LIN, JACQUELINE
TEO MENG CHYE, JEREMY
TEO SHIH YEE
TEO YI JING
TEOH SU HUI
THAM HSJU HSJEN
THAM WEI CHERN
TIW HWEI-YI, JASMINE
TOH EAK SIEW
TOH HAN PIN
VIGNESH VAERHN
WONG CHERN WEI, JEFFREY
WONG CHIN SOON, WILSON
WONG HUR WEN
WONG LI FERN, CHELSIA
WONG SHU LING, CHERYL CHARMAINE
WONG TSUNGWEI
WONG YEN CHIN, ANGELINE
YEH SIANG HUI
YEOL ANN-LI, MICHELLE
YEOLH YU LI, KAREN
YIP YUNG KEONG, JUSTIN
YUEN DIJA CHIANG, JONATHAN
ZOU WEN XI, DOMINIC
Deanery Visit to U.S. Law Schools

Dean Tan Cheng Han ’87 and Vice-Dean Bob Beckman visited four top law schools on the east coast of the United States in October 2002. The purpose of the visit was to broaden academic links and collaboration. The trip took them to the law schools of Yale, Columbia, Harvard and New York University (NYU). In addition, Bob continued on to Chicago to visit Northwestern University Law School. In New York, the Deans met up with alumni who are working with New York law firms, Samuel Huen ’98, his wife Elaine Chong ’98 and Nicholas Song ’95, as well as Jon-Nathaniel ‘04, currently on exchange at Columbia. Nicholas, who was the first NUS alumnus to be a Hauser Scholar at NYU, assisted in organising the NYU visit.

The visit to Yale Law School was organised by Prof Michael Reisman, a member of our Faculty’s International Advisory Panel. Prof Lance Leibman, a former dean at Columbia, assisted in organising the visits to Columbia and Harvard. Cheng Han and Bob also met up with Alexander Loke ’90 and Tan Seow Han ’97, both on leave from the Faculty and pursuing their doctorates at Columbia and Harvard respectively. As a result of the trip, in-principle agreements have been reached for student exchange programmes with both NYU and Northwestern, adding to the existing agreement with Columbia. The trip was very successful, and several joint collaborations are currently being discussed as a follow-up.

Stronger Links with Philippine Law Schools

Teo Keang Sood and Gary Bell visited the law schools of the University of the Philippines and the Ateneo de Manila University in November 2002 to strengthen relations with our Philippine counterparts. Keang Sood and Gary also took the opportunity to promote our graduate studies programmes among Philippine law students. While in Manila, they were warmly hosted by Paul Koh Kok Hong ’87, Counsellor in the Singapore Embassy in the Philippines.

Appointments and Movements

In early 2003, Leong Wai Kum, who specialises in family law, was appointed Professor in the Law School. Meanwhile, a warm welcome to Kelvin Low Fatt Kin ’99, who joins the Faculty as Assistant Professor, and best wishes to Mary Wong ’89, Helena Chan ’81, Soh Kee Bun ’83 and Dawn Tan ’97, who have left the Law School.

Dean’s Visit to Shanghai, Hangzhou and Suzhou

Dean Tan Cheng Han ’87 made a visit to several top law schools in China in November with colleagues Li Meiqin and Helena Chan ’81. The purpose of the trip was to promote the NUS Law School’s graduate law programme to the students of leading law schools in Shanghai, Hangzhou and Suzhou. The law schools visited were Shanghai Jiaotong University, Fudan University, Shanghai Foreign Trade Institute (all in Shanghai), Zhejiang University in Hangzhou and Soochow University in Suzhou. Cheng Han also attended the 50th anniversary celebrations of the East China University of Politics and Law (ECUPL), with which our Faculty has a staff exchange agreement. Follow-up action to the trip is now being pursued, and the Law School hopes to build on the valuable friendly contacts made during the trip.

Fellowships and External Appointments

Prof Leong Wai Kum visited Cornell Law School in Ithaca, New York in November 2002 as the first visiting Researcher of the Cornell Clarke Program in East Asian Law and Culture. While at Cornell, Wai Kum presented two talks on “Legal Recognition of the Assigned Sex of Post-operative Transsexuals: The View from Singapore” and “Singapore: Pedagogy and the Status of
Marriage”. Her first talk was a presentation of an unfavourable High Court of Singapore decision in 1992 relating to a transsexual’s marriage, academic critiques of the decision and a subsequent 1996 amendment to the Women’s Charter allowing for a post-operative transsexual to marry in his or her chosen sex. Wai Kum’s visit was co-sponsored by the Feminism & Legal Theory Project run by internationally renowned family lawyer Prof Martha Fineman of Cornell Law School. Perhaps a measure of the success of Wai Kum’s visit to Cornell is that her hosts have invited her to return for a longer spell to offer any course of her design under their programs.

In November, Simon Tay ’86 was appointed Chairman of the newly-formed National Environment Agency, a government statutory body under the Ministry of the Environment. Simon was also awarded an Eisenhower Fellowship for 2002, which offers a specially designed programme to visit the USA and exchange views with leading American officials, experts and academics. Meanwhile, Terry Kaan ’81 chaired the Bioethics Advisory Committee's Human Genetics Subcommittee which recently released its recommendations on human tissue research, establishing for the first time a national-level ethical framework on the matter. Thio Li-ann advised a group of visiting Japanese Members of Parliament on aspects of Singapore constitutional law. Loy Wee Loon ’87 is currently on secondment as Deputy Director of the newly-established Intellectual Property Academy. Also on secondment is Lim Chin Leng, who is at the International Affairs Department of the Attorney-General’s Chambers.

**Visiting Professors and Scholars**

The Law School welcomed Visiting Professors William Swadling from Oxford, Kent Roach from the University of Toronto and Geoffroy Morse from the University of Nottingham during the first semester of academic year 2002/03. Bill Swadling taught personal property law and delivered a seminar on “The Classification of Trusts” in the Law School. He also spoke on “Mistaken Payments: De Beers and IDA v. SingTel Re-examined” at the Singapore Academy of Law. On his part, Kent taught classes in Comparative Law School Journals


The Alumni Seminar Series

The Seminar Series continued to grow in strength, with several alumni returning to the Kent Ridge campus to speak to our students on their areas of interest. In April, volunteer worker at Karenni Refugee Camp 3 at the Thai-Burmese border, Ng Yui Na ‘92, spoke on “Living With the Karenni: A Personal Account”. The talk was preceded by a primer on the international law on refugee and minority rights by Assoc Prof Thio Li-ann. In September, a panel discussion on “Graduate Legal Studies in the United States: Programmes and Prospects” was held, with the panel comprising April Phang ’98, Christopher Koh ’99, Burton Ong ’99, Cheng Pei Feng ’98 and Alan Tan ’93.

**Student Exchange Agreement with Peking University**

The Law School recently signed a student exchange agreement with the Law School of Peking University (Beida) in Beijing, China. The agreement was inked by Dean Tan Cheng Han ’87 and Professor Zhang Shouwen, Vice Dean of Peking University Law School on 16 July 2002. Peking University is the second Asian law school (after the East China University of Politics and Law) with which the Law School has signed an exchange agreement. Peking University has one of the most prestigious law schools in China, and the first exchange of students is expected to take place in August 2003. The NUS Law School currently has student exchange programmes with 17 institutions in 8 countries, with more being negotiated with continental European schools.

**Centre for Commercial Law Studies (CCLS)**

The CCLS jointly organised a public forum on the proposed Fair Trading Act with the Consumers Association of Singapore (CASE) in September 2002. Chaired by CCLS director Stephen Phua Lye Huat ’88, the forum engaged over 150 participants on the various options available to implement a fair trading regime in Singapore. Stephen Loke Chi Teh ’86 discussed the roles of trade and business associations and codes of practice in the fair trading regime. Douglas Walter - past Executive Manager, Client Services for the Office of Fair Trading and Business Affairs in Victoria, Australia - recounted the Australian experience with the Fair Trading Act. Goh Hui Hoon ’94 then discussed how the proposed fair trading legislation would affect traders and the industry.

Upcoming CCLS events include a Banking Secrecy Seminar on 3 February 2003 and a Seminar on the Fair Trading Bill on 21 April 2003. Details are available on the CCLS website at http://law.nus.edu.sg/ccls. Arising out of the 9th Singapore Conference on International Business Law (SCIBL) held in August 2001, a book entitled “Current Developments in Financial Regulation and Capital Markets” has been launched by CCLS. Edited by Stephen Phua ’88, the 445-page publication is published by LexisNexis, and retails at S$200. Messrs. Rajah & Tann kindly sponsored the printing of the first 500 copies. As with the eight previous volumes of the SCIBL series, orders may be placed by emailing lawccls@nus.edu.sg.
From July 2003, the Law School will offer three new specialist Master of Laws (LLM) programmes. These are the LLM (Corporate & Financial Services Law), the LLM (Intellectual Property & Technology Law) and the LLM (International & Comparative Law).

The three offerings are full-time one-year degree programmes taught over two semesters, and will be in addition to the general LLM degree currently offered by the Faculty. They will complement the general LLM programme by enabling students from Singapore and overseas to enhance their expertise by focusing in-depth on the three selected areas. These will equip local lawyers for the increasing opportunities in offshore legal work in Singapore, the region and globally, as well as for the growing number of foreign law firms opening offices in the Republic. The programmes will also be beneficial for lawyers taking up in-house counsel positions in local and foreign corporations.

The specialist LLMs will facilitate the acquisition of knowledge relevant to a globalised world, particularly as many of the electives will be taught from a comparative perspective and will not focus only on Singapore law. It will also offer students the opportunity to study alongside classmates from Asia and other parts of the world. In this regard, the Law School has an extremely international student profile, with graduate students having come from more than 30 countries over the years.

Commenting on the new programmes, Dean Tan Cheng Han ’87 said: “These specialisations will take to a new level the legal expertise in vital areas in which Singapore has broad and deep traditional strengths, including financial services, corporate governance and promoting the rule of law and cooperation in the international arena. They will also support the new areas of development such as information technology, telecommunications and research in biomedical sciences. The Law School is committed to helping the legal sector upgrade itself to meet the new challenges as well as the opportunities that will arise as legal practice undergoes significant changes. Such upgrades are inevitable given the changing face of Singapore’s domestic economy as well as the challenges posed by globalisation.”

The initiative is also in line with the recommendation of the Sub-Committee on Service Industries’ Working Group on Legal Services, set up under the Singapore government’s Economic Review Committee (ERC). In its report released in September 2002, the ERC panel stated the aim of establishing Singapore as a regional hub for legal training and research. They recommended that the Bachelor of Laws (LLB Honours) course offered by the Law School be supplemented by Master of Laws programmes in different areas of specialisation.

The specialist LLMs will be taught by existing academic staff of the Law School, visiting professors who are leading international academics in the relevant fields, and Singapore-based legal practitioners. A programme director will constantly review and develop each specialisation, with input from local and international advisors to ensure that it remains relevant and attractive to potential students.

Applications to the LLM programmes received by 28 February 2003 will be considered.

More information can be found at http://grad.law.nus.edu.sg.

The LLM (Corporate & Financial Services Law) includes electives in banking (domestic and international), company law and corporate finance, financial services and securities, and taxation. This specialisation will enable students to acquire the theoretical base and practical expertise in these subjects.

The LLM (Intellectual Property & Technology Law) focuses on the issues raised by the rapid advance of science and technology. The courses offered include traditional intellectual property law courses, including those on copyright, patents, designs, trademarks and confidential information, as well as others specifically focused on the relevant technologies such as biomedical law, telecommunications law and Internet law. The issues range from protecting the products of new technologies and patenting new business methods to bioethics and preventing abuse of genetic information.

The LLM (International & Comparative Law) offers a mix of public and private international law and comparative law subjects. There are courses that lean toward trade, investment and commercial issues; as well as those covering subjects such as public international law, human rights and environmental protection which are important for diplomacy.
Career: The Road Less Trivial?

Looking back, I consider myself fortunate to have known very early on what I wanted to do, where I wanted to be and with whom I wanted to work. I probably had an overabundance of energy and a great dose of ambition, all dressed up (as it were) and looking for some place to go. I ended up in Hong Kong and China practising intellectual property law as a result of what I happily consider to be a stroke of good fortune and a blessed mix of happenstance, wanderlust and opportunity.

As a child, I recall looking at some old family photographs of my maternal great grandmother, a Dutch lady and my paternal grandfather, an archetypal Chinese businessman from Fuzhou, China, and was moved by the fact that they were far away from home and unsung pioneers in what they greatly achieved overseas. Could I live up to this pioneering tradition, I mused?

I love writing and travelling. As a student, this led me to participate in the Japan Air Lines Summer Scholarship programme in Sophia University in Tokyo. I found myself in Tokyo with undergraduates from all over the world, soaking up Japanese culture and learning and growing together. The friendships forged through such an experience were truly unique. All thirty of us were left with the desire to further explore the global village.

Why China? Those of you who enjoy ‘Gu Long’ (a famous Chinese novelist) sword fighting and classical novels, and movies like Water Margin, would appreciate the beauty of the Chinese language and the scenery of mystical China. This old world charm still rings true today if you were to trudge up the Great Wall in Beijing or stand on a precipice in Guilin. Further, as a lawyer, I have always been curious about the effect of law on the Chinese people. When I watched Gong Li in The Story of Qiu Ju, a movie about a commoner’s struggle for justice, I finally recognised how the Chinese legal system and bureaucracy could be so profound, insurmountable and challenging.

My brush with intellectual property came early. I had always enjoyed the course as it was wonderfully taught by George Wei at the NUS Law School. Although it was considered unusual to specialise early on in one’s legal career, I found myself laden with intellectual property files during my traineeship. I relished getting up to speed in this favourite subject. The choice to stick with IP was obvious after a while and I vied for a position in the Intellectual Property Department of Donaldson & Burkinhaw where I wanted to work with two of Singapore’s IP gurus Jo-Ann See ’82 and Tan Tee Jim ’79. When I was accepted, I knew that my IP career had begun.

Events came together one afternoon at work when I chanced upon a Baker & McKenzie advertisement. They were looking for an IP lawyer for their China Practice, based in Hong Kong. I had then chalked up two years of IP practice in the local firm, and the position was exactly what I wanted for the next stage of my career. Swept by the adrenaline rush, I sent in my resume. When I walked into the interview room, I was greeted by a Baker & McKenzie partner Winston Zee, one of the best China practice lawyers I have ever known and my mentor to-date. As a result of that positive interview, the window of opportunity in Hong Kong and China opened. When I became a partner in Bakers years later, I made it a point to be as nice and encouraging to my interviewees as Winston had been to me. That opportunity was given to me because someone took a gamble and believed, as I did, in me.

Tan Loke Khoon ‘87 is one of the first of our alumni to have ventured into legal practice in Hong Kong and China. An international partner with Baker & McKenzie in Hong Kong/Beijing, Loke Khoon specialises in intellectual property law. In this feature, Loke Khoon reflects on his career choices and on what makes China special for him.
The working environment: A fish out of water?

Ever since arriving in Hong Kong and China, I have learnt to do almost everything at breakneck speed. I walk, talk, read, write, jog and breathe at what seems like an unnatural pace. There always seems to be a constant frenzy at work with ringing phones, endless emails, lots of meetings and administration and the bane of all lawyers - time sheets! Crazy as it sounds, I revel in this state of activity and flux.

Being trained in Singapore gave me a certain advantage. We are bilingual, multi-cultural and success-oriented. Together with my partners, I have helped to recruit several resourceful Singapore lawyers for the firm over the years and the experience has been fruitful. Since Singapore has a fused legal profession, I felt comfortable being in a courtroom whereas this might not always be so for a Hong Kong solicitor who has to defer to a barrister for most court matters. Being trained in the common law tradition made it easy to adapt to the Hong Kong legal system, but posed a challenge when dealing across the border.

The learning curve was steep. One country, two systems? For a while, it seemed like one country, one thousand systems. Until you physically set foot in China and work for a substantial period of time within the system, it is really difficult to portray the true picture to your clients. It was no longer a case of knowing what the law says but what it meant in actual practice. I found this frustrating initially but as I lived through victories and losses, it became apparent that you cannot win all of your battles, but should certainly live to fight another day. Once I reached that point of awareness, there was less angst about the entire system and I knew that there would always be a solution for the client, in some form or other.

I love the buzz of Hong Kong and China. Pre-1997, there were the jittery bank runs and immigration blues at the Singapore consulate. This was played out against typhoon blisterly weather the night Hong Kong returned to its motherland. Looking out of my office window today, the Prince of Wales Building has been renamed as the People’s Liberation Army Building. I now witness morning military drills by Chinese soldiers where British soldiers once marched.

Intellectual Property Rights in China: A State of Play

There is only one word to describe IP infringement: endemic. Which does not mean it is uncontrollable. It is a case of setting realistic expectations, taking appropriate legal and commercial steps of action and containing the piracy problem so that brand value is not severely diluted, the relevant business operations in the mainland continue to thrive and consumers are not confused or, worse still, injured. No one disputes that China has a showcase of one of the best IPR laws in the region, if not the world. Post-WTO, these laws are also TRIPs compliant, which means that they conform to international standards.

The problem lies in the patchy enforcement of these IPR rights. The consensus is that China will have to devote considerable resources and political will to the matter before any significant improvement is seen. To a common law trained lawyer, the bifurcation of the administrative and judicial court systems in a civil law jurisdiction like China has always been interesting and challenging. I was lucky enough to have entered the arena in 1989, at a time when China IP was just taking off. While the world was still reeling from the events of June 4th in Tiananmen, it was clearly back to business in China a few months later and there was no lack of IPR work as any investor who had foresight knew that China was too big an opportunity to miss out on. Foreign IPR owners were initially cautious in their approach to litigation in the Chinese People’s Courts as they feared a backlash against their businesses in China. However, China has since negotiated several bilateral IPR agreements with the US, Europe and Japan. IPR litigation by foreigners against Chinese infringers is no longer considered taboo. The Chinese enforcement officials also appear to be less xenophobic of foreign IPR owners who wish to protect their interests legitimately.

The advice we give to clients is to recognise the nature of the problem in China, inject sufficient
safeguards by way of adequate registration and contractual protection and to actively take steps to resolve the IPR issues through a variety of creative solutions. It would be naïve to expect equivalent results to those which can be achieved in other more legally developed jurisdictions. The success of the IPR team that my partners and I have built up may be traced to our commitment to China and to our resolve to work within the flexibility and confines of the Chinese legal system.

Some of the difficulties of working in this area of Chinese law include the huge geography of the country, tricky investigations, difficult logistics and the lack of sophistication of some enforcement officials. Then there is the perennial problem of what we call protectionist behaviour. In one of my first IP cases, I was told by officials of the Wuxi Administration for Industry and Commerce that the infringer factory was a major employer of the people in that town. I would be foolish to expect that they would take any action that affected the livelihood of the local community. A decade later, the Chinese Public Security Bureau (the Chinese police) are now involved in IPR enforcement and they would have no qualms in putting a major infringer-employer behind bars if there is sufficient evidence of criminal IPR activity. There is also the guanxi factor: you scratch my back and I massage yours. There has been a quantum leap in the Chinese mindset, but the challenges persist and we have a long way to go.

All work and no play?

I have always adopted the “work hard, play hard” policy and make optimum use of my spare time. I am an avid water-skier and budding wake boarder/snowboarder and also try to schedule in as many runs as I can. If the sea is as polluted as the environmentalists say, I am in deep trouble as I have had more than my fair share of gulps of Repulse Bay seawater. If the weather is cool enough, I enjoy hiking in the mountains for charity or pure pleasure. These days, my sons Christopher and Alistair keep me fit as they love soccer and expect me to play with them every waking moment. Hong Kong is a good launch pad for many tourist destinations and we try to fit in as many holidays with the kids as we can. It is amazing how much a child learns through travel, and my wife, Shirley (Kwan ’88) and I consider our holidays a worthwhile investment.

Ever since my days with the Singapore Law Review, I have always wanted to write a play involving the law. I am inspired by what is happening in the arts scene in Singapore and may eventually find time to complete my script. Meanwhile, I have co-written a China Trademark book with a colleague, based on our experience in the firm. Another IP book is in the works.

Law School Nostalgia

My memory of Law School is a montage of Rag & Flag, Law Club and Law Review meetings, hostel pranks, the Law Library and ‘the Paper Chase’. Being around my classmates and seniors was invigorating. Every face had a story, every person had a dream and being in love with the law gave us the vision to see beyond the written page. There were many lecturers that inspired me by their devotion to the task and their gift for what appeared to be storytelling of the law. I liked the fact that I had to reason throughout the day, through every tutorial, every lecture, every conversation along the hallways.

I liked the sprawling campus grounds and the food hunt from one canteen to the next. There was an air of excitement, a celebration of youth in the liveliness of the Kent Ridge campus. The only negative memory lies with the photocopying machines in the libraries and the quest to keep within the limits of the Copyright Law!

Epilogue

Without a doubt, there are many learning opportunities and challenges for Singapore lawyers in this part of the world. The competition is keen but the career rewards make it worthwhile. Some Singapore law firms have ventured into China either alone or in association with other foreign law firms. Kudos to them for daring to be different and pursuing new dreams.

Being part of a global firm in a practice area I truly enjoy, and living in a part of the world that makes my heart beat faster every time I read the business news, could any aspiring pioneer ask for more?
Joan Foo Mahony ’74
Writer, Sailor, Qi Gong Exponent

Joan Mahony nee Foo Siew Bee ’74 recently released a book entitled “Indispensable Qi Gong for People on the Go!”. The book is a handy guide which demystifies the many movements of qi gong so that it can be used in everyday situations by the busy individual. Now living in Kuala Lumpur, Joan is “retired” from the law and is indulging in her great passion - writing. Joan reflects on her law school days and tells LAWLINK how qi gong changed her life.

This was terrible news for me. I sailed, I skied, I jogged. I danced and I worked like a maniac. I was not prepared to live the life of an invalid and at that time, I was not even 50 years old! I have always believed in the ways of the East. So, I bade farewell to the western skeptics and flew to China and Hong Kong where I found my master and practiced qi gong diligently with him every day. ‘Qi’ is the internal energy within all of us and if we know how to harness it, store it and redistribute it, we will “unblock” all the stagnant qi that causes illness. I did all this not only the traditional way but learnt (with my busy lifestyle) to adapt it to the busy person’s schedule. I went back to America and took another bone density test and surprise surprise, I had stopped the bone loss. Best of all, I had reversed the bone loss and my hormonal system was now back to “normal”.

I wrote my book to tell my story and as a debt of gratitude to my “si-fu” who showed me the way. My teacher was one of the first persons to demystify qi gong. He said it was not a big deal and that everyone can and should do it. I had to spread this liberating message. I had to tell people out there that they did not need to find an hour each day to do this. I felt I had a duty to show how qi gong can benefit the stressed-out and busy person on the go with as little effort as possible. The Indispensable Qi Gong does not aspire to be an exhaustive tome on this wonderful discipline. It does not deal with the origins of qi gong, nor does it attempt to explain the scientific theories surrounding it and how or why qi gong is a catalyst in the healing process. What it is, however, is an essential guide for novice and veteran practitioners alike.

LAWLINK: Tell us more about your career path since you graduated from the University of Singapore.
Joan: My career path has taken me around the globe and more! After graduating, I stayed on to submit my LLM thesis on Securities Law and obtained my LLM from NUS as well. I then returned to Kuala Lumpur and was admitted to the Malaysian bar. I never had the opportunity to practise in Malaysia because shortly after that, I moved to Japan with my first husband, a German who was sent to Tokyo to head up the pesticide division of Bayer AG in Japan.

Japan was a wonderful experience. I was probably the first NUS law graduate to work in a Japanese law firm! My first job there was in UNAFEI which was a United Nations organization funded by the Japanese government doing research on criminal justice systems. It was an eye-opener for me especially since criminal law was definitely not my forte and I learnt a lot about the criminal justice system in Japan and was one of the few rare women at that time to even see the inside of a Japanese prison! There were very few women lawyers in Japan at that time (let alone the Malaysian or Singapore lawyer!).

I left Japan for Hong Kong in 1984 for personal reasons (I had by then divorced my first husband as well as professional ones (I believed that China which was then opening up was the next big frontier and where better to be than in Hong Kong?) There, I remained in the area I loved - corporate financing. I helped syndicate the Zhuhai Special Economic Zone and deepwater port. In
1989, I moved to New York with my husband, Terence Mahony where Terry was then working for Paine Webber. In New York, I had the wonderful experience of being one of the founding shareholders and directors of the first Women's Asset Management Fund headed by Michaela Walsh of Women's World Banking and managed entirely by well known women fund managers!

We returned to Hong Kong in 1993, and five years later, after more than 24 years of the daily grind, I decided to do something else with my life instead of the law! I turned to writing and publishing and in the midst of all this, returned home to Malaysia in 2000. In my new incarnation, I have written the book on qi gong and am writing another. I have also purchased a publishing company which will soon be launching some exciting new books on the scene.

**LAWLINK**: Give us busy souls a few simple qi gong tips which we can practice every day.

**Joan**: Well, at the computer, for instance, stand up from your seat and clear a space. Then, imagine you’re sitting on a chair with your feet shoulder-width apart and knees bent. With hand lightly on hips and upper body straight, rotate the body from the waist clockwise in a deep circular motion. Repeat seven times and then again anti-clockwise seven times. This relaxes your neck and shoulder muscles and aids blood circulation. During meetings, sit upright with feet shoulder-width apart on the ground. Rest your arms on chair handles or place your hands on the table, fingers spread, palms downwards. This increases mental awareness and prevents fatigue - in fact, the Chinese emperors of old sat on their thrones in this position to make them more alert to their surroundings and subjects. To lose weight, one of the stances you can assume is to stand with feet apart on slight tiptoe, keeping legs straight. Lean forward slightly from the hip, with arms raised above the head at an angle, keeping them straight and fingers spread. Hold the position for as long as possible, rest and repeat. There, a few simple tips!

**LAWLINK**: Apart from qi gong, what keeps you busy nowadays?

**Joan**: I sit on the boards of some private companies and most importantly, involve myself in a number of charitable organizations such as the Wushu Federation of Malaysia, to which I am Honorary Adviser. That’s an honour I am very proud of, having been a qi gong exponent for more than 10 years now. Among my other interests, the one I reckon to be the most enjoyable is the Raja Muda International Sailing Regatta. In fact, during this year’s Regatta, I sailed my own all-ladies team for the first time in the Regatta’s 13 year history. Our ladies came from Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand, the Netherlands and the UK, and we had a 44-foot sailing boat.

Born and raised a Catholic, I am now a staunch Buddhist and in 1995, I was privileged to be invited on a memorable pilgrimage to India for 3 weeks following the footsteps of the Buddha with my Tibetan guru, Lama Zopa Rinpoche. And Richard Gere was also on the same pilgrimage! I also collect modern art and together with my husband, we have a significant collection ranging from Wu Guang Zhong to Bryan Brown and Ibrahim Hussain. Together with some friends, we have opened the first Pilates Studio in KL with all the equipment and trained instructors etc. It is wonderful to own your own studio because this means I get to do Pilates everyday!

**LAWLINK**: Do you miss legal practice?

**Joan**: It is now 5 years since I “retired”. Do I miss practice? Definitely not. However, being a lawyer during the first part of my life has made me what I am today and I would not have changed it for the world. It was the law which taught me the joy of writing, discipline, rationalization and yes, even compassion. I travelled the world while practising and enjoyed every moment of it. Now, I am in my mid-fifties and it’s time to do something less hectic and frenetic with my life.

**LAWLINK**: What are your fondest memories of law school days at the Bukit Timah campus?

**Joan**: I have so many wonderful memories - I consider myself very fortunate to have gone to the (then) University of Singapore. I have so many friends from those days and my friendship with them never flagged or wavered. I am still in contact with a lot of my SU friends. I was at the Dunearn Road Hostel and I remember dashing madly across Bukit Timah Road (defying the onslaught of cars) to get to the lecture halls - late as usual. I remember going to the sarabat stalls every night after swotting, the vociferous AGMs at Dunearn Road Hostel, the moot court preparations (I was in the first Philip Jessup team) and all the camaraderie and fun in class!
Keng Yong: Well, there’s going to be a lot to do. I’m not sure how to allocate my time and effort at this moment because I’ve not yet formally assumed my job. The general thrust will really be on economics, in three aspects. One, we need to build on this momentum that we’ve seen in these last few months on ASEAN’s FTA efforts with big countries like China, Japan, the US and possibly India. Much work has already started, and we want to bring these negotiations to a favourable conclusion because then ASEAN will enjoy all these free trade benefits.

The big countries are China, Japan, the US, and possibly India. Much work has already started, and we want to bring these negotiations to a favourable conclusion because then ASEAN will enjoy all these free trade benefits. Second, how do we bring more investments to Southeast Asia? We must try to foster a climate conducive for more foreign investments, not only from the western countries, but from emerging economies like China and India as well. The third thrust is to help generate more tourism flow between Singapore and our ASEAN neighbours and among the ten countries. ASEAN has 500 million people and is actually quite a big market. Intra-ASEAN tourism can generate a lot of business and we will not have to be too dependent on outside impetus.

In its 35 years of existence, ASEAN has been both lauded as well as maligned. How would you respond to critics who charge that ASEAN’s principles of consensus-building and non-intervention render it ineffective?

Keng Yong: There are two sides to the coin. You can say that the ten diverse economies that now comprise ASEAN can never really work together. The diversity really makes things difficult for us. On top of that, the respective histories of the ten countries are different and we all have our own cultural and social practices. But if you look at ASEAN, the ten economies, the ten countries, what is it that really unites us? It’s that very diversity, along with the willingness to accept that in spite of the differences, you don’t have to be always quarrelling.

I think the other perspective is that when you say that the countries are different and that they’re always looking for consensus, we’re actually analysing the development of ASEAN from a Western perspective. We should look at our own indigenous perspective, at how we have uniquely evolved to cope with our environmental, geographical, social, religious and political concerns. If you look at it this way, you might not be too critical of the results that we’ve achieved so far. Considering that we are ten different governments and societies, we’ve not gone to war since the Americans left Saigon in 1975. For a similar patch of geography somewhere else, in Africa, South America or Central America, the interstate relations are quite different. We’ve not done too badly. Sometimes, it’s difficult to bring other slowly-developing ASEAN partners into the way the more advanced economies think. The big countries like Indonesia, Myanmar, even the Philippines, require different ways of governance, management styles and leadership. Who are we to judge? At the end of the day, there’s no breaking up of states in Southeast Asia like in Yugoslavia, or warring conditions like in different parts of Africa. So, I think that the devotion to finding consensus has a certain merit to it.

However, if after another ten years we’re still like that and struggling with these problems, then maybe something is really wrong, because there must be progress. But as of now, I’m quite positive. I feel that some people are frustrated because of the time taken to move certain initiatives, but these are the necessary rigours, if you like, of multilateral development, of bringing
people from different backgrounds to a common platform. So, I’m not pessimistic.

**LAWLINK**: Are you saying that there may come a day when the principle of non-intervention may no longer be sacrosanct?

**Keng Yong**: Already, this principle has not been completely sacrosanct. In terms of trade, we’re already intruding into everybody’s parish, especially if you talk about FTAs. In terms of social and cultural development or in the drive to check HIV/AIDS, for instance, we’re already intruding into others’ territory and telling countries that they have to do certain things. On the political front, ASEAN has a significant influence on the foreign policies of its member states. This was demonstrated in the recent declaration made in Phnom Penh on the South China Sea issue. It’s a very significant development. If you look at it strictly from a political point of view, then yes, non-intervention is being maintained. But if you look at it from a broader all-encompassing way, we’re already witnessing a willingness to come together to solve common problems.

The most important thing I hope to convey to my ASEAN friends is, yes, there must be principles, and we cannot live without principles. But at the same time, let’s look at the desired outcome and find different palatable ways to reach the outcome. If we stick very strictly to certain established legalistic requirements, we might not be able to achieve the desired outcomes. I’m not saying that legalistic principles are not important. It is important but at this particular time, we need to get to the desired outcome and there are many ways to do that. To say “you do this or we will not talk to you” is not diplomacy. Diplomacy is finding a way around intractable problems.

**LAWLINK**: Do you think ASEAN is actually finding a way around the problem? Or is it more like ignoring the problem?

**Keng Yong**: To people outside, it is not unimaginable that there is such a perception. But to the policy makers in the ASEAN governments, we’re actually handling some of these issues. For example, how do you get consensus on a tricky issue like dealing with terrorists? By agreeing to deal with them in a certain way, as agreed to by a group of countries, is actually allowing the dilution of the principle of non-intervention. So, I don’t think ASEAN has deliberately and unconscionably ignored or neglected some of these important issues. What we’re trying to do is to make sure that no one walks away from the table, because if that happens, you can’t do anything.

There have been certain other situations, for example, where people have accused ASEAN of not doing something about a member state which has not carried out the results of an election. But so far, there’s still a certain degree of stability, there is communication and slowly we talk to each other. As I say, my objective is to make sure that no one walks away from the table. I would agree, too, that not everything we want to do in ASEAN has been done. No, we’re not there yet. But I think my predecessors and the preceding ASEAN governments have at least brought about a certain stability and climate that allow people to fly from one place to another without having to worry ... until recently, of course, when the terrorists came to town. But if we stop there and not do anything more, then we’re in trouble.

**LAWLINK**: How do you assess current efforts by ASEAN to eradicate the terrorism problem? Do you think the efforts are comprehensive enough and is ASEAN’s implementation of these declarations adequate?

**Keng Yong**: No, it’s not enough, not adequate. But in the circumstances, I think it’s the best arrangement we can come up with. As I say, if we stop there, we have no progress. We have to continue to explain that this problem is not just a question of poverty. All these chaps are not really poverty-stricken. There are other considerations like misinterpreting religion and using religion for political ends. Terrorism can’t be controlled by armies and hardware. The way to control it is to work on the minds of the ordinary people. I always believe that the reason why suicide bombers can do what they’ve done in the Middle East is because the population remains passive. It’s not that they do not know, but they feel that there’s so much oppression and they are desperate. Actually,
terrorism is not just perpetuated by the Muslims. Throughout history, terrorism has been resorted to by different groups. So why are Al-Qaeda and these Muslims terrorists capturing the imagination of people? It’s partly because of the way the media works on it. What we need to do is to explain that this is not a Muslim problem but is actually a common problem for everyone. Who are the victims? We are all the victims.

I don’t think we can change the world’s mindset about Islam but ASEAN definitely can change people’s perception about ASEAN. I think my job is to contribute to changing the perception. I don’t think I can go beyond that and say that I want to change people’s perception about Islam. That would be difficult. Perhaps at the schools and universities level, we can have more interactions and exchanges and translate this notion of ASEAN into something more concrete for undergraduates like you.

**LAWLINK**: As one of the better-endowed members of ASEAN, do you think Singapore can contribute more to regional security and prosperity?

**Keng Yong**: What we do, admittedly, is not always what people want. Singapore believes in a long-term plan for human resource development. What many people want is not what we will provide: cold, hard cash in relief, because this allows the possibility of corruption and diversion of resources, which is something we do not desire. With regard to opinions that suggest that such initiatives are self-serving, let me ask: which country is not self-serving? Of course, we’d be happy if the students we provide ASEAN scholarships to are connected with Singapore in some way, even if they’re not working here. They can go back and spread the good name of Singapore, and in some way, maintain business links with us.

**LAWLINK**: What are your fondest memories of law school?

**Keng Yong**: I really liked the fact that life as a student was very straightforward. It was one-dimensional - study and do well for the exams. When one starts working, though, life becomes multi-faceted and multi-dimensional, a lot more complex. Sometimes, I do wish my job could be as simple as my life as a student! I meet up with my professors when I go back to law school, and I remember fondly Tan Sook Yee, Chin Tet Yung, Robert Beckman, S Jayakumar ‘63, Tan Lee Meng ‘72, my Contracts tutor, and Andrew Phang ‘82, a fellow student at that juncture. The camaraderie was close, even between different graduating classes, thanks to events such as Orientation and the Inter-Class Games. I also remember the guys, being two years older due to National Service commitments, frequently teasing the girls for being “immature”. The girls, though, felt it was the other way around! Finally, I thoroughly enjoyed my time as a student librarian, earning $1.50 an hour. The good thing about that was being able to “chope” the law books I wanted before anyone else got to them!

**LAWLINK**: In 5 years time, when your term ends, what would you most like to be remembered by as Secretary-General of ASEAN?

**Keng Yong**: That’s a difficult question. From a development angle, I’d like to be known to have increased private sector involvement with ASEAN, especially with respect to financial contributions toward scholarships. I guess in concrete terms, I want more people to accept ASEAN as a credible organization and have a deep appreciation for it. After all, I believe there’s still a lack of appreciation for the fact that ASEAN has increasingly reduced tariffs for goods and we’re looking possibly at tariffs of 0-5% in the future.

Overall, the best analogy would be a statement which I had made when I was asked about my time in the People’s Association. I had felt that that my job was to “set off firecrackers to make people jump to greater heights”. I believe that the fire was already there, that I just had to stoke it. Similarly, I hope to be seen as the catalyst for lighting up the ASEAN fire, and achieving its full potential. At the end of the day, after all those experiences, I have emerged with a general principle - we must not stick to preconceived notions and push to “change the world”. We should merge and move naturally without unduly imposing our will on others. We should head slowly but consistently toward our goals.
K Shanmugam ’84

K Shanmugam SC ’84 is a senior partner at Allen & Gledhill and a Member of Parliament for Sembawang GRC. Shan recently co-chaired the Legal Services Working Group of the Economic Review Sub-Committee on Service Industries. Shan is also a member of the Steering Committee which advises the NUS Law School on strategic policy directions. LAWLINK talks to Shan about the challenges facing the legal profession, his decision to enter politics and his memories of law school days.

LAWLINK: The Legal Services Working Group which you co-chaired has come up with several prescriptions for the legal profession to help transform Singapore into a services hub. Which of these are the most important priorities for the profession?

Shan: The recommendations cover a range of areas - starting from legal education that our law students receive (including the offering of dual degree courses), and covering among other things, the infrastructure and focus of the NUS Law Faculty, how we can benefit from the growth of China, greater linkages with China as well as the region, steps to help our law firms reach out regionally, measures to encourage foreign lawyers and in-house legal counsel to locate in Singapore and to promote Singapore as an arbitration and alternate dispute resolution centre. I look at them as a whole - they will all help to transform and give a new impetus to the legal scene here.

LAWLINK: What would be the role of the NUS Law School in fulfilling the objectives identified by the Working Group?

Shan: NUS has a critical role. Ultimately, none of the measures will work if we do not have good lawyers. The quality of lawyers graduating from NUS and their world view are extremely important. Their training has to be first rate. The Working Group has put forward a number of proposals in this respect.

LAWLINK: What made you decide to enter politics, and what has been the most fulfilling aspect of being a Member of Parliament?

Shan: I entered politics, like many others, because I was asked to. Over the last 14 years, since I became an MP, I have found many aspects of my work as an MP satisfying and fulfilling. Perhaps the most fulfilling is the work on the ground. There are many people who genuinely need help. Being able to help is a very satisfying experience. One does not need to be an MP to give such help - but the position imposes the responsibility and perhaps makes available better access to find some solutions.

LAWLINK: How have you balanced legal practice, politics, community work and family?

Shan: I cannot say I have succeeded in striking a right balance. There is simply too much to do and too little time to do them in. It has not been easy to juggle the demands of an active litigation practice, family with young children, and politics. Time spent with family has long been a casualty. I have, however, over the last couple of years, been taking steps to redress that. But something else has to give. At the end of the day, it is a question of priorities. We choose our priorities and have to take responsibility for the choices we make.

LAWLINK: What would you say to an NUS law student today who is contemplating a wide range of career options?

Shan: Law students have a variety of choices. However, I would unhesitatingly recommend that they try out legal practice first, unless they are quite certain that they are not cut out for it or are not interested. Practice is challenging, exciting, each problem is new, and each day will bring fresh problems. Those who can deal with that can go very far and find it a very satisfying career. A few years in practice is valuable training and often, after that, career options get even wider. You lose little by trying out practice first. On the other hand, if you move into some other area before trying out legal practice, it is possible, but not very easy, to make a successful switch to practice.

LAWLINK: What are your fondest memories of law school days at Kent Ridge?

Shan: I have very fond memories of my law school days. Kent Ridge was then a new campus. Perhaps it is nostalgia, but I remember them as halcyon days. We had excellent lecturers. There was a good mix of foreign and local lecturers who had graduated from universities around the world. That exposed us to a wide variety of viewpoints. We had lecturers who emphasised the importance of close legal analysis and case law. We also had lecturers who took a more expansive, philosophical view, challenging us to move beyond the case law to try and understand the true rationale for any particular rule of law. We enjoyed and benefited from both these approaches. It is difficult to mention any specific persons but I would perhaps point to Tan Sook Yee, Tan Lee Meng ’72, Philip Pillai ’71, Irene Lye ’73, Val Winslow, Ralph Tyler, Bob Beckman, Christine Chinkin, Larry Taman and Bill Ricquier as being among those who typified the different approaches to learning the law.

I also remember the law school cohort (the whole cohort and not just my class) as quite a carefree and fun loving bunch. There were good people there, and it made the whole experience quite interesting and enjoyable. We had an excellent legal education. We were put on a very sound footing to embark on our careers. I will always remember NUS Law Faculty for that.
Tan Heng Thye ’89 moved to Vietnam in 1994 when he was asked by his then employer, Helen Yeo & Partners, to help establish the firm’s Hanoi office. It was what some had considered a hardship posting, but, eight years down the track, Vietnam has now become home for Heng Thye, his wife and their two young children. Heng Thye practises in partnership with fellow alumnus Shanti Abdul Ghani ’91 under the name of Chen Shan & Partners, and is the resident partner for the firm’s Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi offices. He lives in Ho Chi Minh City and specialises in foreign investment and banking.

LawLink’s guest contributor, Lim Ping Ping ’89 caught up with her classmate in November when he was in Singapore.

LawLink: Let’s first put one rumour to rest: Are you living in Vietnam because your wife is Vietnamese?

HT: As far as I am aware, she is Singaporean. But now that you mention it, I’d better check her passport!

LawLink: So why did you decide to settle in Vietnam?

HT: Perhaps “settling in Vietnam” is not the most appropriate way to put it but in any case, it was not a momentous decision but something which just happened along the way. When I first got there, I thought I would be there for two years. Two years became three ... and three became four ... and before I knew it, eight years had passed. The work was rewarding in many ways and it was interesting to work on different cases and meet people from such different nationalities and backgrounds. I think we knew we were there for the long haul when my wife stopped waiting for me to move back to Singapore and moved to Ho Chi Minh City to join me instead. So, from the Singapore context, would I be considered a “quitter” under these circumstances?

LawLink: Was Vietnam what you had envisaged when you first got there?

HT: I don’t think I had any pre-conceived notions of what it was like before I went there but of course my main impression of Vietnam was the war. Before I moved to Vietnam, I thought the Vietnamese people would be very serious because of their country’s history and what they had been through. But I found most Vietnamese really just want to get on with their lives and they do not dwell too much on their rather difficult past. They are a pragmatic people and want to live the good life just like you and me. So in terms of people, they are very much the same.

The infrastructure (which has improved tremendously over the past few years and it is certainly much more comfortable now than before) was also very basic and I was certainly unprepared for the traffic. Public transportation is very inadequate, the roads are generally very small, the city is densely built up and there are about twenty gazillion motorcycles on the road. In the beginning, I just could not cross the roads as it was just too frightening. In fact, traffic is still a problem today but I now manage to cross the roads by myself.

LawLink: Any lessons that you might not have found in Singapore?

HT: Crossing the roads (see earlier), working as a foreigner in a country where the main language is not English, coping with the frequent blackouts. The most important item on your shopping list when setting up an office is a UPS - Uninterrupted Power Supply. This is the name of a battery - actually, it is a BIG battery - that will give you maybe one to two hours of power when the power supply goes. You plug your machines into the UPS and you are still in business, at least for awhile.

The other thing I learnt quite early on was the difficulty of speaking through an interpreter. When someone speaks for ten minutes and then the interpreter turns around and intones “Mr A says that he does not agree with you”, you somehow get the feeling that a lot is lost in the translation. This drives home the importance of clear communication and ensuring that all parties understand clearly what is being said.
Tell us more about your practice in Vietnam.

HT: We are a small practice but we are fortunate to have a wide cross section of clients of many nationalities. Our clients are a wide mix with about 30% Singaporean. We have about 10 staff in Ho Chi Minh City and 4 in Hanoi. One piece of work which I am particularly proud of is that we got the first ever registration of a foreign arbitral award in Vietnam under the New York Convention when we successfully registered in Hanoi last year an arbitration award rendered in Hong Kong against a Vietnamese joint venture company. No one had been successful in registering foreign arbitral awards until then. While we handle mainly commercial work, in recent years, we have had more litigation cases (sign of the times) where we work closely with Vietnamese lawyers as we have no right of appearance in court. Lately, we have started to advise on outward investments as well - Vietnamese looking to invest outside Vietnam.

My main office is in Ho Chi Minh City. I travel to Hanoi once a month and travel to Singapore every one to two months. Due to the nature of the work, I get to travel about the region to Malaysia, Cambodia and even Hong Kong once in while.

As with all small law firms in Singapore, our main worry is always the future and how to grow the practice. We would like to employ another Singapore-qualified lawyer for the Vietnam practice but my experience is that the young lawyers who have at least 2 years of experience and who are good at what they do would rather work with a large firm in Singapore. In fact, based on my discussions with clients, this problem is across the board and other industries have the same problem - they can’t find good people who are prepared to go to Vietnam.

What would a typical day at the office be like?

HT: I start at 10.30 in the morning … No, seriously, I start at 9 (okay, I try to start at 9). It is not hard to start early (yes, 9 is early for me) because Vietnam is essentially an agricultural country - so everyone tends to start early. I make it a point to go home for lunch whenever possible (my home is 5 minutes away from the office) so I can spend time with my children. I usually leave for home at about 6.30pm and that’s not too bad. However, when I am travelling between Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, I usually take the 7 am flight which means getting up at 5 am. Still, the farmers wake up earlier so who am I to complain?

What about marketing? Do you have to do much entertaining?

HT: I am a member of some business groups in Vietnam, but most of my clients come to me through client referrals and word of mouth. I know some people think you must entertain your clients - dinners etc - in order to get work but I have not found it to be necessary for my practice. Or maybe the clients dislike me and do not want to spend more time with me than is necessary!

Have you had lucky breaks which helped you get where you are?

HT: I guess my luckiest break is in having a supportive wife and Vietnamese colleagues who are committed, capable and also nice people to work with. Also, when I first arrived in Vietnam, I had a couple of friends there - a friend from university who was posted to Vietnam by one of the Big Five - or it is the Big Three or Two - accounting firms and another friend from secondary school whom I had not seen for 15 years. They showed me the short cuts to getting started in Vietnam and helped me tremendously. I have also been fortunate to have good clients who have been supportive.

Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

HT: Ideally, retired and filthy rich. But my wife says it is more likely that in 5 years’ time, I will be at a hospital recovering from a heart attack. At least, she says “recovering”.

Is your life stressful?

HT: Some people have remarked to me that life must be less stressful, living in Vietnam. I can’t really compare because I don’t work in Singapore but I think I have the same worries and concerns that lawyers in Singapore would have. I worry about getting the work, and if I do get it, getting it done properly and on time, getting paid, and where I am or should be going with the firm. I think the stress level is probably the same although it is difficult to compare.

What attractions do you think Vietnam has?

HT: Professionally, you get a good range of interesting work and you get to work within a different system of law and in a multicultural environment. Also it is exciting to work in a country that has opened up not too long ago and is developing very rapidly and you can see the changes going on around you. At the risk of sounding clichéd, you feel like you are part of history. The lifestyle is quite relaxed and both my single friends as well as the married couples seem to enjoy themselves here although a common complaint is a lack of recreational facilities. From a family point of view and on a topic of current interest in Singapore, good domestic help is easily available and also so much more affordable than in Singapore and as I live near the office, I think I actually get to spend more time with the family than I would in Singapore.

Does Law School seem very far away now?

HT: Law School feels like a long time ago … I can remember those rugby matches I played. I played for our class in the Inter-Year games and also for Law School in the Inter-Faculty matches. We never won the championships - Engineering and Medicine were always too strong. But we beat Engineering once - when we were in the 2nd or 3rd year - and Andrew Ong ’89 scored the winning try. It was a big deal!

I also remember Law School Orientation Camp. I think we camped in some primary or secondary school. We slept in classrooms and played a lot of silly games. But it was all fun and I enjoyed it. I think the best part was that the camp allowed us to meet and get to know our classmates early (before school started). I can actually remember talking to our classmates, Wong Peck ’89, Alvin Lim ’89 and Jeya Putra Pancharatnam ’89 at the camp.

Do you keep in touch with our classmates?

HT: Unfortunately, not really so. But I read LawLink to keep track of them!
Cracked - the Law IV Concert

The Class of 2003 recently carried on the proud Law School tradition of staging a graduating class concert. The production - Cracked - was staged in aid of the Assisi Home and Hospice and was attended by the law school community and alumni, including guest-of-honour, Mrs Goh Chok Tong nee Tan Choo Leng ‘65. Melvin Lum ‘03 who played one of the lead roles, reports:

Cracked aimed to achieve the same charitable purposes as with previous Law IV productions but minus the all-too-common Disneyesque happy endings. The story - faintly reminiscent of La Boheme - explored the pains and pleasures of life, youth, friendship, love, and ultimately death. Even before commencing our final year of study, committees had been formed and auditions held to put in place the cast and crew for the musical. The production team was headed by Goh Aik Song, Navin Lobo and Susan Sim, with the directing being provided by Adrian Wee and Tan Shin Yi and sets construction by Kenneth Leong. Rehearsals for the cast took place practically 7 days a week and it was common to mistakenly address one another by their stage rather than real names. Jeremy (the stripper) even dreamt about the musical at nights. The cast and crew literally lived and breathed Cracked.

The efforts culminated finally on gala night, 24th September. The University Cultural Centre had been home to the cast and crew for the whole weekend leading up to performance night. The chill backstage did not help to ease nerves and one member made everyone's heart skip a beat when she dashed off to the toilet after the curtain was raised! Nevertheless, her experience and talent returned in time to enchant the audience with a flawless performance. Despite the heart-wrenching story-line and sombre ending, the performance received rapturous applause and was well-received by Mrs Goh Chok Tong, the guest-of-honour for the performance.

Cracked the musical represents to the Class an invaluable experience in our passage through law school. New friendships were formed and existing ties strengthened. The masses of talents, the dedication and sacrifice and the desire to contribute to the needy ensured the success of the musical. The Class of 2003 is proud to have played its role in upholding a proud tradition of the Law School.
The Christmas Charity has traditionally been spearheaded by the Law II’s, and this year was no different. Members of the Class of 2005 had begun preparations as early as September. During the Charity Drive held a few weeks before the event itself, our fund-raising target was more than exceeded due to the enthusiastic response of students, our professors and the entire Law School community.

And so it was on 5th December, when 67 children from the D’Joy Children’s Centre and the Marymount Marian Centre were invited to campus to ‘rescue’ Father Christmas from the clutches of a cartoon-villain, through an afternoon of fun, games and entertainment. At the forefront of the action were Jeremy Cheong ’05, reprising his famous role as Santa, Dominic Chan ’05 as the cartoon-villain, and Sim Wei Na ‘05, Clara Fang ’05 and Seow Ji Xian ’06 as the heroines of the day. The children’s ecstatic response said it all! None among the volunteers were left untouched - many turned true caregivers to our young guests and were drawn into the spirit of the moment, shedding inhibitions and taking to the activities with child-like delight!

Indeed it was wonderful how the initial awkwardness between the children and ourselves melted away through the dizzying afternoon. Dominic the arch-villain had ample bruises to show for his treatment from the kids and quiet admiration from the rest of us for his dedication. Jeremy was Santa in and out of his suit, making special effort to counsel with “Be good! Have a Merry Christmas!” Others among us were no less sporting, graciously obliging to be the tease of the games - from being crowned the most rotund to the most handsome by the children.

Much thought and effort had gone into the day. There were those among us who designed the event emblem, T-shirt and banners; scripted the theme, skits and programme; practised and muddled through line and action; shopped and put together the costumes; decorated with tinsel, string and ribbon; and tended to little details, unseen to the public eye. It was an experience to remember, and a Christmas meaningfully shared with our little friends.
Cheah Wui Ling '03 spent last summer in New York as a legal intern with the Coalition for an International Criminal Court (CICC), a non-governmental organisation which advocates the creation of an effective, just and independent International Criminal Court. Wui Ling shares with us her experiences at the CICC and her views on the Court’s current lack of universal acceptance.

In July 1998, after five weeks of intense negotiations, the representatives of 160 countries reached agreement on the Rome statute which forms the basis for a permanent international criminal court. A preparatory commission was set up to work towards the implementation of the Rome statute. On 20 February 2002, during the Rome statute’s 9th preparatory commission, its ratification list was brought past 70, and the world’s first permanent international criminal court was born.

During the 1998 Diplomatic Conference in Rome as well as the subsequent preparatory commissions, NGOs coming under the auspices of the Coalition for an International Criminal Court (CICC) were granted legal observer status. I was fortunate to serve as a legal intern of the CICC at the 9th preparatory commission of the ICC. The CICC sees its role as not only garnering signatures and ratifications for the ICC but shaping its actual development and ensuring its eventual implementation. This is done by bringing to the attention of diplomats certain issues which may otherwise have been neglected, for instance, children’s rights. The CICC also researches into legal technical details and provides suggestions and solutions to states in order to overcome any stumbling blocks along the way. To facilitate such exchange of ideas and cooperation, meetings between regional NGO members and diplomats were held throughout the preparatory commission.

The ICC aspires to mete out justice that is truly international. Asia is, however, far from being well represented on this map. At the time of my CICC stint, only Cambodia had ratified the Rome statute. Today, this list has expanded to include East Timor and South Korea. The list is still far from representative of the world’s largest continent. Asian countries hesitate to ratify the Rome statute for a variety of reasons. Many of the statute’s concepts seem foreign against the backdrop of Asian politico-legal culture which ranges from paternalism and socialism to regimes advocating strong state presence. The Rome statute’s complementary jurisdiction seems at first sight to erode state authority over its citizens and territory by allowing the ICC, a non-state entity, to exercise prosecutorial and judicial powers. Such a fear is uncalled for. Complementary jurisdiction only allows the ICC to assert authority in instances where national courts are unable or unwilling to do so. Properly understood, the ICC in fact gives deference to state sovereignty.

Because the Rome statute is so revolutionary in intent and effect, many governments are prone to adopt an overly cautious stance. The US, for instance, has been busy negotiating bilateral agreements with signatories to avoid surrender of her nationals to the court. Such caution springs from the fear that the ICC’s authority may be abused for political or inappropriate reasons.

During the 1998 conference, Singapore was part of the like-minded group of states, a coalition formed in favour of the ICC. In fact, the Rome statute’s eventual limitation of the Security Council’s power is encapsulated in what is now known as the “Singapore” clause. Many delegations saw Singapore as the South East Asian region’s leader. However, Singapore subsequently ceased her active participation in the preparatory commission sessions and today, having not ratified the Rome statute, is not a member of the Assembly of States.

There seems to be no hurry for Singapore’s ratification. After all, unlike countries such as Rwanda and Cambodia whose recent history of war and strife make the ICC meaningful for them, Singapore’s history has been one of exemplary harmony. The value of ratification and participation in the Rome statute does not, however, extend only to nations who have been victims of bloodshed. Engel Keane, in his book chronicling Rwanda’s genocide, argues that such harm committed anywhere harms us all as “we belong to the same brotherhood of man as the victims of seemingly remote African countries.” Thus, “genocidal killing in Africa diminishes us all.”

To dispense truly international justice, the ICC should mirror and represent diverse cultures and geographical regions. Limited state membership will result in under-representation of certain cultures and geographical areas. To ensure Asia a voice, the nations in this region must be active participants on the inside. To do so from the outside is virtually impossible. Instead of following the US lead which will result in isolationism, the nations of Asia should participate in the further development of this revolutionary instrument, if only to ensure that their interests are protected. Ultimately, the ICC’s success is largely dependent on garnering adequate geographical representation, not only in terms of state membership but also substantive representation in its various organs - the judiciary, prosecution and registry. As a fairly developed nation with a strong intellectual base, Singapore has much to contribute in terms of leadership, expertise and influence. This is a responsibility that should not be avoided, and an opportunity not to be missed.
Cary Schmelzer LLM ’94

Armed with a scholarship from the Rotary Foundation, I arrived at the NUS Law School in August 1994, arrogantly believing that my year abroad would yield, at best, a handful of entertaining anecdotes and casual acquaintances, but little in the way of real “learning” or lasting friendships. I was wrong, very very wrong, on both counts.

Paradoxically, this “Letter from Abroad” was penned in Singapore, where I have lived for eight years. Paradox, I have come to recognize, best sums up my Singapore experience.

Due to the thinning of the ozone layer, the vision of those living at the equator is thought to be at risk. Yet, paradoxically, living in Singapore has dramatically improved my own vision, prompting me to discard (in part) the myopia-tinted lenses so popular with Americans and further, to see that which is missing in Singapore and elsewhere.

I attribute such improved “vision” to my year at NUS where I interacted with the educated, accepting and bespectacled who (with sadly too few exceptions) had not been taught to think, to question and/or to see. In particular, my NUS experience was one of role reversal - with a better (more balanced) perspective of America, I found myself tempering (at times) the praise showered on the United States by my classmates (who, through no fault of their own, knew little about America), and despite a healthy cynicism for Singapore’s paternalistic approach towards policymaking, I found myself defending Singapore against the facile accusations of those who shamefully knew little about their own country.

Rather than being disheartening, though, my NUS experience was personally emboldening and transforming. My new role forced me to confront my former self, the result being the embarrassing admission that, as a consequence of my cavalier approach to my own Ivy League education, I had confused a privilege for an entitlement and had, by and large, squandered opportunities to further hone my own analytical skills. Yet, I soon discovered that I was better off than most of my peers in Singapore in that I was more accustomed to rigorous thinking, just too lazy to do it.

By comparison, my classmates were, generally speaking, the “unthinking” products of a flawed educational system that emphasized rote memorization, not critical analysis. Nevertheless, they were eager for, and receptive to new approaches to learning and community involvement. It soon became abundantly clear that I had a symbiotic relationship with them, in particular, and with Singapore, in general. I was (and remain) in a most inviting environment that encouraged me to share and develop my ideas with enthusiastic, ambitious Singaporeans.

Paradoxically, my NUS experience introduced me to the thrill of learning and inspired me to “think big”. Whether in teaching a seminar in Project Finance at the NUS Law School, introducing “Speed Dating” to the Social Development Unit or conceiving and organizing Singapore’s first two fully-underwritten charitable benefits, my Singapore experience has been exceedingly gratifying.

To my fellow expatriates who complain of, and languish under, the malaise of “island fever”, I urge you to embrace, and involve yourself in Singapore’s paradoxes: most notably, that resource poor, micromanaged Singapore is rich in opportunities and access, entrepot Singapore offers the comforts of home, kiasu Singapore promotes collaboration and cooperation, and liplocked Singapore listens to loose lips.
The Classes of 1961, 1962, 1963 and 1964 - our pioneer graduates - had a reunion on 14 December to celebrate the 40th year graduation anniversary of the Class of 1962. Thrown together by the Law School with the help of Goh Joon Seng ‘62 and S Rajendran ‘62, the nostalgic and fun-filled Saturday afternoon was spent visiting the new NUS Museums, where our pioneer alumni were pleased to be reunited with some artefacts which had been in the collection of the University of Malaya in Singapore and the University of Singapore - NUS’s predecessor institutions. A campus tour of Kent Ridge then followed, before the group arrived at the Faculty and toured the new C J Koh Library. “A far, far cry from the little room that was the Law Library in Bukit Timah”, quipped the alumni!

The highlight of the evening was a dinner at the Guild House hosted by Dean Tan Cheng Han ‘87. Amidst the laughter and reminiscences, stories were told of wild, care-free campus days in pre-independence Singapore. Plans were hatched to conduct another reunion, this time possibly in Malaysia, where scores more alumni from the halcyon days of the 1960’s now reside. In attendance at the reunion were Armarjeet Singh ‘61, Goh Joon Seng ‘62, S Rajendran ‘62, Huang Hsing Peng ‘62, Tai Kuan Teck ‘62 and Mabel Tai ‘66, Anamah Nagalingam ‘63, Joseph Hoo Chun Hee ‘63, S Jayakumar ‘63, Kasinather Saunthararajah ‘63, Lee Boon Siong ‘63, Lim Ho Inn ‘63, Lye Sou Lan ‘63, Jeanne Wu Eng Eng ‘63, Rosalind Ratnam ‘63, Simon Yuen ‘63, Ng Lian Chian ‘63, Anwarul Haque Munir Uddin ‘64, Chua Chong Hong ‘64 and Tan Lian Ker ‘64.
Class of 1972 holds 30th Year Reunion

The Class of 1972 held a grand 30th Year Reunion dinner on 23 November 2002 at the Mandarin Hotel. Nostalgically themed “Yesterday Once More”, the event saw the coming together of more than 600 alumni from the Law, Medicine, Arts, Business, Science, Engineering, Accountancy and Dentistry schools of the University of Singapore. R Palakrishnan SC ’72, Chairman of the event’s 19-strong Organising Committee, reports:

In a glittering event held at the Mandarin Hotel Ballroom, the Class of 1972 pulled out all the stops to stage a grand reunion, the biggest ever for a graduating class in Singapore’s history. The Class had last met in 1997 during its 25th year celebration. The idea had then been broached for a Class of ’72 Visiting Professorship Fund, which would be used to endow a rotating Chair across all faculties for a visiting stint by an eminent visiting academic. As a result of the push provided by this year’s reunion, the Fund was injected with more than $200,000 in pledges, bringing the current total to nearly $365,000. A remarkable achievement indeed, considering the current state of the economy! The efforts to attract more pledges for the Fund continues and the Class of 1972 appeals to all alumni to give their generous support.

As part of the fund-raising effort, a group from the class called “The Elderly Brothers” (spoofing the Everly Bros, and mischievously termed by some “The Elderly Bladders”!) released a CD compilation called “Songs Sungs Blue”, comprising old bawdy campus songs, copies of which were sold at the dinner for a minimum donation of $10. In addition, a documentary film called “Yesterday Once More”, which contained rare archival footages of the old Bukit Timah campus and an appearance by former Deputy Prime Minister and then Vice-Chancellor, Dr Toh Chin Chye, was screened. The event also marked the first time Newater had been distributed at a class reunion!

There was also an award for eight Outstanding Alumni from the Class of 1972 who had made contributions to the profession, business and or society. Four of the eight awards went to law school alumni, namely Justice Tan Lee Meng ’72, Justice Lai Siu Chiu ’72, Dato Sri Utama Dr Rais Yatim ’72 and R Palakrishnan, SC ‘72.

39 law alumni (some 60 per cent of the class) turned up at the event, including a fair number from Malaysia and abroad. They include Abdul Rashid, Ahmad Moosdeen, Chew Kar Meng, Chong Foo Seong, Gan Ee Peng, Hong Chew King, Joseph Durai, K Anantham, Manjit Singh, Bachoo Mohan Singh, Prabakaran Nair, Chua Siak Kim, James Goon, Sim Yong Chan, Tan Chin Siong, Animah Gani, Cheong Kok Fu, Ho Kian Fatt, Lee Tow Kiat, Susan Liang nee Pui Saw Kian, Ong Jin Hoe, Ruthirapathy Gunasilan, Theresa Yeoh, Lawrence Khoo, Lim Chin Joo, Lim Choo Eng, Jeanny Ng, S Thillainathan, Robert Yoong, Chin Hin Lam, Victor Anthonyamy, Fong Kwok Jen, John Lee Chuen Chong, Peter Pang Giap Oon, Tan Lee Meng, Lai Siu Chiu, Tang King Kai, Visalakshi Palaniappa, William Wan Kok Tang and David Wong.
From São Paulo comes a note from Lena Gan ’88, happily settled in Brazil with her husband, Harry, and children Harry Jr. and Christopher. Lena loved the first two issues of LawLink, and especially enjoyed reading on the progress of our moot teams, being a Jessup mooter herself. She found the ClassAction notes highly entertaining, even “more so than those in my husband’s alumni magazine from Princeton!” Lena’s been in São Paulo for 7 years now, and is happily retired from the law. Her days revolve around taking the boys to St Paul’s, the British school, and to parties and playdates. She says that a lot of her intellectual stimulation these days comes from answering the children’s questions and occasionally trying to outwit them, but Lena also finds time to give Bible class to the six- and seven-year-olds at St Paul’s school. For fun, she’s involved in various clubs, societies and charity events, and is currently President of the Asian Ladies Club (it has 3 Singaporeans, out of a grand total of 4 known Singaporeans in the city). She’s just finished organising a huge charity dinner in November with the theme of Asian Weddings, writes the newsletter for the Canadian Women’s International Society, and has just also finished a big Fashion Show for charity. Lena says there’s also always time for morning coffees, lunches and afternoon teas with friends, and invites friends passing through São Paulo to contact her - she can be reached at lgchiang@yahoo.com.

Resident in London since 1978, Francis Yeoh ’63, one of the pioneer graduates, writes to say what a boon LawLink is for graduates worldwide. Francis is involved with the performing arts and is presently General Manager of the London Studio Centre where he teaches ballet and notation. He is also lecturing on copyright and performing rights and had been involved in teaching Copyright of Dance to MA students at the University of Surrey. Francis has made many short trips home to see family and maintain contacts with colleagues at the former Public Utilities Board, where he was a senior legal officer from 1976 to 1978. He would love to hear from classmates and can be reached at francis.yeoh@london-studio-centre.co.uk or tel. 44-207520 2819.

From São Paulo comes a note from Lena Gan ’88, happily settled in Brazil with her husband, Harry, and children Harry Jr. and Christopher. Lena loved the first two issues of LawLink, and especially enjoyed reading on the progress of our moot teams, being a Jessup mooter herself. She found the ClassAction notes highly entertaining, even “more so than those in my husband’s alumni magazine from Princeton!” Lena’s been in São Paulo for 7 years now, and is happily retired from the law. Her days revolve around taking the boys to St Paul’s, the British school, and to parties and playdates. She says that a lot of her intellectual stimulation these days comes from answering the children’s questions and occasionally trying to outwit them, but Lena also finds time to give Bible class to the six- and seven-year-olds at St Paul’s school. For fun, she’s involved in various clubs, societies and charity events, and is currently President of the Asian Ladies Club (it has 3 Singaporeans, out of a grand total of 4 known Singaporeans in the city). She’s just finished organising a huge charity dinner in November with the theme of Asian Weddings, writes the newsletter for the Canadian Women’s International Society, and has just also finished a big Fashion Show for charity. Lena says there’s also always time for morning coffees, lunches and afternoon teas with friends, and invites friends passing through São Paulo to contact her - she can be reached at lgchiang@yahoo.com.

Resident in London since 1978, Francis Yeoh ’63, one of the pioneer graduates, writes to say what a boon LawLink is for graduates worldwide. Francis is involved with the performing arts and is presently General Manager of the London Studio Centre where he teaches ballet and notation. He is also lecturing on copyright and performing rights and had been involved in teaching Copyright of Dance to MA students at the University of Surrey. Francis has made many short trips home to see family and maintain contacts with colleagues at the former Public Utilities Board, where he was a senior legal officer from 1976 to 1978. He would love to hear from classmates and can be reached at francis.yeoh@london-studio-centre.co.uk or tel. 44-207520 2819.

From São Paulo comes a note from Lena Gan ’88, happily settled in Brazil with her husband, Harry, and children Harry Jr. and Christopher. Lena loved the first two issues of LawLink, and especially enjoyed reading on the progress of our moot teams, being a Jessup mooter herself. She found the ClassAction notes highly entertaining, even “more so than those in my husband’s alumni magazine from Princeton!” Lena’s been in São Paulo for 7 years now, and is happily retired from the law. Her days revolve around taking the boys to St Paul’s, the British school, and to parties and playdates. She says that a lot of her intellectual stimulation these days comes from answering the children’s questions and occasionally trying to outwit them, but Lena also finds time to give Bible class to the six- and seven-year-olds at St Paul’s school. For fun, she’s involved in various clubs, societies and charity events, and is currently President of the Asian Ladies Club (it has 3 Singaporeans, out of a grand total of 4 known Singaporeans in the city). She’s just finished organising a huge charity dinner in November with the theme of Asian Weddings, writes the newsletter for the Canadian Women’s International Society, and has just also finished a big Fashion Show for charity. Lena says there’s also always time for morning coffees, lunches and afternoon teas with friends, and invites friends passing through São Paulo to contact her - she can be reached at lgchiang@yahoo.com.

Resident in London since 1978, Francis Yeoh ’63, one of the pioneer graduates, writes to say what a boon LawLink is for graduates worldwide. Francis is involved with the performing arts and is presently General Manager of the London Studio Centre where he teaches ballet and notation. He is also lecturing on copyright and performing rights and had been involved in teaching Copyright of Dance to MA students at the University of Surrey. Francis has made many short trips home to see family and maintain contacts with colleagues at the former Public Utilities Board, where he was a senior legal officer from 1976 to 1978. He would love to hear from classmates and can be reached at francis.yeoh@london-studio-centre.co.uk or tel. 44-207520 2819.

From São Paulo comes a note from Lena Gan ’88, happily settled in Brazil with her husband, Harry, and children Harry Jr. and Christopher. Lena loved the first two issues of LawLink, and especially enjoyed reading on the progress of our moot teams, being a Jessup mooter herself. She found the ClassAction notes highly entertaining, even “more so than those in my husband’s alumni magazine from Princeton!” Lena’s been in São Paulo for 7 years now, and is happily retired from the law. Her days revolve around taking the boys to St Paul’s, the British school, and to parties and playdates. She says that a lot of her intellectual stimulation these days comes from answering the children’s questions and occasionally trying to outwit them, but Lena also finds time to give Bible class to the six- and seven-year-olds at St Paul’s school. For fun, she’s involved in various clubs, societies and charity events, and is currently President of the Asian Ladies Club (it has 3 Singaporeans, out of a grand total of 4 known Singaporeans in the city). She’s just finished organising a huge charity dinner in November with the theme of Asian Weddings, writes the newsletter for the Canadian Women’s International Society, and has just also finished a big Fashion Show for charity. Lena says there’s also always time for morning coffees, lunches and afternoon teas with friends, and invites friends passing through São Paulo to contact her - she can be reached at lgchiang@yahoo.com.

Resident in London since 1978, Francis Yeoh ’63, one of the pioneer graduates, writes to say what a boon LawLink is for graduates worldwide. Francis is involved with the performing arts and is presently General Manager of the London Studio Centre where he teaches ballet and notation. He is also lecturing on copyright and performing rights and had been involved in teaching Copyright of Dance to MA students at the University of Surrey. Francis has made many short trips home to see family and maintain contacts with colleagues at the former Public Utilities Board, where he was a senior legal officer from 1976 to 1978. He would love to hear from classmates and can be reached at francis.yeoh@london-studio-centre.co.uk or tel. 44-207520 2819.
have already acquired a presence in both China and India and hence were global from the start! Check them out at www.intelleigen.com. Some other movements - Ivan Chua '92 has moved into a new assignment as Head Contract Law at Mindef Legal Services, taking over from Kevin Ng '92 who is now a District Judge in the Subordinate Courts. Elvin Wan '92 has made the move back from Hong Kong with his wife, Mary and daughter, Megan after seven years in the city that never sleeps. He is re-adjusting to living spaces larger than his last apartment of just under 300 square feet. Elvin is now working in Equant. Classmates who have done our government proud by juggling career with recent additions to the family brood include Emily Teo '92, Koh Su Haw '92, Janette Lee '92, Monica Ho '92, Alvin Chia '92 and Chee Chi Meng '92. Emily has just had her first child, a daughter, while the others are all at number two. Anyone who has broken the number three barrier, please email the class reporter, we wish to salute you in the next issue of LawLink! Meanwhile, the class reporter has taken part in three joint art exhibitions in various art galleries this year, but is still waiting to sell her first art piece in these uncertain times. As such, she has resorted to giving away paintings to appreciative friends (i.e. those who only say nice things and promise to display the paintings in prominent spots).

Koh Su Chern '93 left practice in mid-1999 and has been a child care teacher since. She is presently looking around for premises to set up her own child care centre, so any classmates with property to sell or let, contact her! Plus, classmates with children between 18 months and 6 years are welcome to enrol! Su Chern’s also offering “consultation” for child care enquires. She has a 2-year-old son, Chiaw Soong, who has just started attending playgroup sessions. Su Chern’s been applying all her “lawyering” and “child caring” skills on the kid and he’s reported to be happy, active and talkative (and even bilingual). In this regard, Toh Wee San ‘93 says she can testify that Su Chern’s little boy is one of the most well-behaved and polite little fellows she’s ever seen. A ringing endorsement for our child care lawyer classmate! Willy Tan ‘93 is now practicing in his own firm - Ari, Goh & Partners - with three other guys. Meanwhile, we heard from Leslina Toh ‘93, who says she left Allen & Gledhill in 1997 to join ABN AMRO, and ended up in Sao Paolo, Brazil as derivatives counsel for Latin America. There, she met her husband Joe, who hail from Wisconsin, the land of cheese and badgers. They were married in March 2001 and Leslina spent a few months in Washington D.C. “smelling the roses” and studying for the New York bar exam. Home is now in Manhattan, round the corner from a bunch of Indian restaurants in an area some call “Curry Hill”. Leslina misses home terribly but after being refused boarding and going through a verbal altercation with Chicago airport police, she’s quite content being far from the unfriendly skies. Oh, and Leslina says they have “none of those pesky things” (see previous issue for what those are) though a puppy might be on the way. Michael Kraal ‘93 sent around an emergency note recently to see if anyone taped an episode of the “Gilmore Girls” (!) Seems the wifey left town and left STRICT instructions… Ho Seng Chee ‘93 and Audrey Goh ‘93 had little Gabrielle in July. Congrats! Chris Chong ‘93 notes that he’s happy to see the weekly gathering of the old soccer warriors still happening (and still resting on the laurels of being former Inter-Year champions of Law Fac… a decade ago). 5.30 gatherings and 6 pm kickoffs assured, with goal posts and drinks provided - Car Park D, West Coast Recreation Park, go all the way in near the beach. Cheng Kwong Wing ‘93 reports that he and his wife, Pam have two daughters, Laura (aged 3) and Emma (16 months). Kwong Wing’s been working at Jaya Holdings Ltd, a local shipping company, for 7 years now. He says he spends most of his time shuttling the family around to his in-laws’ for day-care and other errands. His weekends are usually spent going for church, shopping and catching up on sleep. Alex Ee ‘93 and Regina Tay ’93 were in Santa Fe, New Mexico for a while, enjoying the 2 km-above-sea-level desert. They lugged the kids across 9 states from Virginia, covering 3200 km. Apparently, Oklahoma is a wasteland and has nothing to offer but everything else was interesting. After the stint with some scientists from an institute called The Santa Fe Institute (are you sure this isn’t some X-Files thing?) and with a consulting firm called the BiosoGroup, Alex and Regina are now back in Singapore and looking forward to catching up with the good folks here. Benjamin Ang ‘93 and Jane Lau ‘93 have been doing a great job with the Class website (accessible at http://www.law.nus.edu.sg/alumni/websites.htm or http://alumni.nus.edu.sg/law93/). Ben recently “took matters into his own hands” and posted several recent photogenic pictures of classmates! Our NUSLAW93 website (http://alumni.nus.edu.sg/law93/) now features a 30 second video montage of Law IV Concert 93 Behind The Scenes! Ben says that if you want the full-screen hi-resolution version, it’s 10MB, so e-mail him your postal address, and he can send you a CD for the cost of materials and postage. A word from Ed. Alan ‘93 - our 10th Year Class Reunion is all planned for Saturday, 8th February 2003. Meet at 1.45 pm at the University Museums (across from Raffles Hall) for a tour, followed by a Moot Court cocktail session and a dinner not to be missed. Be there! Spouses and partners warmly invited!

Doris Lai ‘94, currently assistant general counsel at GIC, sends her regards and warm wishes to all friends, teaching staff and classmates. Alumni would have heard that Lyn Lee ‘95 is running her chocolate cake shop called Awfully Chocolate in Katong. She supplied some to the Faculty recently, and it was slurpingly good! Good ol’ Nicholas Song ‘95 is back in town after spending the last few prosperous years in New York City. Sherman Ong ‘95 has good news to share - his documentary “The Ground I Stand” recently won the Gold Award for Best Documentary at the 7th...
Malaysian Video Awards. The documentary (24 mins 40 sec, DV PAL, Singapore, 2002) was chosen by Sherman from among his five other works commissioned by the Singapore Art Museum this year. It features a wise and even-tempered elderly Malay-Muslim woman who lives by her tenacity and thrift and who relates her life, philosophy and inimitable anecdotes as she pours out her homespun wisdom, confirmed by her spartan, disciplined life. Critics hailed the documentary as “one of the best shorts made about an elderly Malay woman who was born in Malaysia but raised in Singapore and whose revelatory confessions give us an insight into the life of a minority in Singapore’s ‘heartland’”. Aloxy Yew Chong Huat ’96 and his wife, Ping, have returned to Singapore after a stint in London. Alex is now with the Corporate Department of Wong Partnership, while Ping has rejoined architectural firm, Arccstudio. Class reporter Lim Bee Hong ’97 reports that since leaving law school, Harvonne Yap ’97 has taken up diving and wakeboarding quite seriously while working as a corporate lawyer in Drew & Napier. As a result, she is now many, many shades browner than she used to be. Meanwhile, Serene Tan ’97 left practice in early 2001 to join Cap Gemini Ernst & Young as legal counsel for the Asia Pacific. As part of emotional therapy greatly needed from frantic business travels, she indulges in pampering massages and wild shopping sprees (personal favourite – pretty strappy shoes ... lots of them!) to soothe her soul. With busy work schedules, the thought of becoming a “tai-tai” frequently creeps into her mind, though her Canadian banker husband would probably, in his usual politically-correct manner, tell her to “dream on”! Nevertheless, Serene manages a just-as-busy-if-not-more-so social life, and is often found enjoying a glass of teasing champagne, heavenly ice-wine or rare fine wine with her close friends. Joel Wong ’97 & Wan Teng send their greetings from Texas, where Joel is pursuing a doctorate in Counseling Psychology at the University of Texas in Austin. They can be contacted at joelwong@mail.utexas.edu. Meanwhile, Jeffrey Lai ’97 has moved on from looking after the nation’s wealth (GIC) to looking after the wealth of private individuals (RGM International). Jeffrey’s free time is currently spent training his daughter to be the next Mia Hamm and indulging his expectant wife’s whimsical cravings in the middle of the night. He can also be spotted at a monthly Legal Clinic organised by the local RC. Lew Theng Huat ’97 and his wife Cheng Ping send their greetings to all alumni. Theng Huat is hitting the books again, this time as a student at Trinity Theological College pursuing a Masters of Divinity. Instead of Denning and Devlin, he now struggles with Aquinas and Augustine. He hopes to enter into full-time Christian ministry after his studies. Shamaime Lim ’97 reports that she is now an unemployed mother looking after her one-year old son, Joshua Peter Loo, in Tokyo. After about 3 years of practice, Chia Ko-Wen ’97 has settled into the life of an in-house legal counsel. He has been working in a British insurance company for the past 2 years, and has also managed to squeeze in time to complete his LLM at NUS. He is contactable at chiakw2001@yahoo.com.sg. Much thanks to Tracey Evans Chan ’97, now at the Law School, for gathering snippets on the last few individuals in the Class of 1997.

Trusty class reporter Cheng Pei Feng ’98 reports that Paul Teo ’98 and Jenny Tsin ’98 have taken up the new hobby of feeding and diapering their new born baby boy, Ryan Teo Wei An (born 7th September). Both parents are happy/ elated/thrilled/ecstatic/pleased with the latest addition to their family, although Ryan tends to keep them in a perpetual state of exhaustion! Meanwhile, Paul keeps busy in the IP Department at Drew & Napier while Jenny is with Wong Partnership’s Litigation Department. Having left legal practice in 2000, Gopi Mirchandani ’98 has been grappling with financial sector regulation issues at the General Counsel’s Office of the Monetary Authority of Singapore for the last 3 years. She likes her job and has no regrets leaving the crazy hours in practice. Gopi admits, though, that in her contentment, she has let fester and rot the dream of forays to exotic destinations on a shoestring budget. Meanwhile, Wendy Ng Chye Gek ’98, yet another casualty of legal practice, left shipping litigation in September 2001 to join Charles Taylor Mutual Management, the managers of the Standard P&I Club. Wendy says that though the work is essentially very much still the shipping industry, it comes from a different perspective. Her work scope is very wide and has taken her to London for short training stints and marketing trips. Emily Teo ’98 and Paul Yuen ’98 are now happy parents to little Christabel and are enjoying every moment of fun with her. Emily is with the Legislation Division of the Attorney-General’s Chambers while Paul is serving his bond at the Housing and Development Board. Jacqueline Chan ’98 will be moving in the new year to join the Hong Kong practice of a Wall Street firm. She is looking forward to the experience and invites anyone who may be visiting in Hong Kong to look her up. Disa Sim ’98, who is with the Law School, reports that Gary Wan ’98 is well, and that the latter’s wife has set up Little Dreamers - a store at Specialists’ Shopping Centre offering natural and organic bath and body care for women, mums and babies as well as toys, sleek stylish diaper bags and clothes made from organic cotton for infants. Their website is at www.littledreamers.com.sg. Meanwhile, Calvin Ho ’98 is a Research Associate with the Biomedical Research Council of the Agency for Science Technology and Research (A*STAR). Based in the Law School, Calvin researches on ethical, legal and social issues arising from research into human biology and behaviour and its applications. A substantial part of his research supports the work of the Bioethics Advisory Committee, of which Richard Magnus ’68, Jeffrey Chan ’73 and Terry Kaan ’81 are members.

Wedding bells have been chiming for many members of the Class of 1999. Eusoff Hall sweetheart Shem Khoo ’99 and Catherine Lee ’99 tied the knot on 30th November before spending their honeymoon in Spain. Andrew Quah ’99 and Zetian Lim were married in November as well. Joshua Wong ’99 walked down the aisle with his childhood friend Magdalene Lim, a secondary school teacher, on December 6th (they’ve known each other since they were 4 and 3 respectively). Kelvin Tang ’99, who has since joined Temasek Holdings as in-house counsel, wed Geraldine Tan, an investment consultant with DBS, on 14th December. Daniel Tan ’99 (‘scobbs’) and Louise Loh ’99 (‘the bird’) got hitched on 21st December in Pembroke College’s chapel in wintry Oxford, where Daniel studied a year ago. Daniel and Louise are planning to hold their wedding banquet in Singapore later in 2003. Other random bits of interesting news: class reporters inform us that Eleanor Ho ’99 has just returned from Bangkok, having recently completed a jewellery design course conducted by the
Gemological Institute of America (Thailand branch). Christian Chin ‘99 left for the US in September 2002 with his wife Mimi to pursue a 2-year MBA at Babson College, while Lim Xuan ‘99 and his wife Corrine have taken a year off to travel across Indochina, China and Japan. Meanwhile, Adrianna Tan ‘99 gets to rub shoulders with MTV celebrities as part of her in-house counsel job at MTV-Asia. Tan Su-Lin ‘99 is pursuing her Masters of Law at King’s College in London.

Congratulations also to former Law Club Management Committee president Sean Francois LaBrooy ‘99, of M’s Rodyk & Davidson, who takes office as a member of the 2002 Law Society Council to represent the interests of the younger members of the profession. Recent departures from the legal profession include Lauren Li Jia Tseyu ‘99, Daryl Liew ‘99 and James Huan ‘99. Lauren serves as a director of her own business consultancy firm specialising in the China market. The firm offers a variety of services to assist foreign entities that are interested in doing business in China. More information is available at http://www.1st-link.com and Lauren is contactable at lauren@1st-link.com. Having returned from his MBA studies in Manila, Daryl has joined Ascendur, a fee-based wealth consulting firm, as a wealth management consultant in the same capacity as James, who had joined the firm earlier. In carrying out their duties as financial planner and adviser, Daryl and James find satisfaction in helping clients organise their finances, manage their tax liabilities, and make informed investment decisions. For a no-obligation assessment of your financial health, contact daryliew@ascendurconsulting.com or jameshuan@ascendurconsulting.com.

A clutch of public-spirited members of the Class of 2000 have also become colleagues at the Attorney-General’s Chambers: Derek Kang ‘00, Paul Chia ‘00, Jason Tan ‘00, Jared Pereira ‘00, Terence Tay ‘00, Royston Ng ‘00, Alan Ong ‘00 and Alvin Chen ‘00 currently occupy themselves keeping the wheels of the Legal Service in motion. Derek and Alvin are also regulars at the weekly football games organised by members of the Class of 2001 on Sunday afternoons at the NUS Sports Centre. Interested players – drop Derek a line at derekkang@hotmail.com. Congrats to Royston, who got hitched to Bernette Meyer ‘00 on 7 December. On secondment at Linklaters in London are Oh Hsiu-hau ‘00 and Jean Wan ‘00.

Congratulations to Anthony Lee ‘01 and his wife, Margaret Chee, on becoming the proud parents of their newborn daughter, Danyelle. Anthony is currently a DPP with the Legal Service, along with classmates Laura Liu ‘01, Marjory Yeoh ‘01, Magdalene Koh ‘01, Cheok Yu Liang ‘01, Wong Sook Ping ‘01, Chng Hwee Chin ‘01, Aaron Lee ‘01, Tan Wee Soon ‘01 and Desmond Lee ‘01. The significant presence of this public-service-oriented Class of 2001 in the ranks of the legal service is further bolstered by Cheryl Chia ‘01 (Civil Division), Shaminah Abdil Salam ‘01 and Ranji Ramakrishnan ‘01 (Legal Aid Bureau), Ngoh Sieuw Yen ‘01 (Magistrate, Subordinate Court) and Joyce Low ‘01. Woo Ka Wai ‘01 and Amy Tung ‘01 (Justices’ Law Clerks). Adding to the band of former lawyers who have ventured outside the profession are Caroline Ng ‘01, Paul Cheong ‘01, Jane Ban ‘01 and Paerin Choa ‘01. Caroline currently teaches Speech & Drama at Crestar Pte Ltd, while Paul and Jane have joined the Ministry of Education as school teachers. Paerin’s entered the theatre world and was recently seen in the musical “Forbidden City” which played at the Esplanade’s opening festival. Mid-way through their post-graduate courses of study in the UK are Charles Lim ‘01, Ian Teo Ke-Wei ‘01, Jane Ban ‘01 and Paerin Choa ‘01. Caroline currently teaches Speech & Drama at Crestar Pte Ltd, while Paul and Jane have joined the Ministry of Education as school teachers. Paerin’s entered the theatre world and was recently seen in the musical “Forbidden City” which played at the Esplanade’s opening festival. Mid-way through their post-graduate courses of study in the UK are Charles Lim ‘01 and Ian Teo Ke-Wei ‘01.

Charles is pursuing a Bachelor of Civil Law (BCL) at Oxford University’s Worcester College, having chosen to study a complement of international law specialist courses. Ke-Wei is pursuing a Masters of Law at Cambridge University’s St. Edmund’s College with a focus on commercial law subjects. Both Charles and Ke-Wei report enjoying their respective courses (and all the social events in between) tremendously.

The Class of 2002 had its Commencement ceremony on 14 September 2002. At year-end, the majority of the Class was (reportedly) frantically preparing for the PLC exams. Pupillage for most resumed (for a gruelling 5 months) thereafter. Some managed to take time out to get married (where are the priorities?!). Jane Tan ‘02 was married on 11 May to Robert Wong, a doctor. Jane and Robert have known each other for 6 years prior to the marriage. Harvene Singh ‘02 married teacher Jasmeet Kaur on 25 December. Both Harvene’s and Jasmeet’s families have known each other for over 50 years, although it’s the first marriage between the families. Gerardine Goh ‘02 was doing her Masters of Space Studies on a scholarship in Strasbourg, France. Her programme brings her to various cities for courses and conferences. She has just completed the first stage of her Masters programme at the International Space University in California. Following that, she was in Houston, Texas for the World Space Congress in October where she presented her first legal paper at the Colloquium on the Law of Outer Space. She is now back in London where she’s pursuing her Masters of Public International Law, doing a dissertation on the militarisation of Outer Space.

Some news from our exchange alumni- Jasper Neuteboom EXC ‘01 from the Netherlands, reports that since leaving Singapore, his life has been pushed in a different direction. He has graduated from his home university and has been offered a traineeship at Oltanking, the company where he did an attachment while studying at NUS. He is currently based in Antwerp, Belgium, and is happy to have found a job which allows him to combine international, maritime, commercial and environmental law aspects, something which he has always wanted. He plans to return to Singapore next year, a place which he says, “thanks to NUS, has stolen my heart”.

From New York, our Canadian exchange alumni from McGill, Sandra Nishikawa EXC ‘96 and Vincent de Grandpre EXC ‘96 proudly announce the birth of Lucas Ichiro on 4th October 2002 at the Presbyterian Hospital in New-York. Petit Lucas weighed 7 pounds 13 ounces at birth and measured 20 inches.

Vincent de Grandpre EXC ‘95 and Sandra Nishikawa EXC ‘96, with Vincent’s mother and Petit Lucas.
In this issue: Tan Loke Khoon ‘87 on Intellectual Property Practice in Hong Kong and China