

## **FACT SHEET 2: NANYANG ALUMNI AWARDS**

**Total: 17 pages including this page**

Note to Editor: This fact sheet provides additional information about the Nanyang Alumni Awards 2009 and the 26 recipients. Read the news release on the NTU Alumni Homecoming, issued on 24 October 2009, with this fact sheet.

### **NANYANG ALUMNI AWARDS**

The Alumni Service Award was first set up in 1996 to recognise alumni, who have rendered outstanding service and contributed in furthering the interests of the University, and its alumni. Most of the previous winners played pivotal roles in their alumni community.

The Nanyang Alumni Awards were launched in 2005 when NTU celebrated her 50th anniversary. Nominations are accepted for four award categories – the Nanyang Distinguished Alumni Award, the Nanyang Alumni Achievement Award, the Nanyang Outstanding Young Alumni Award and the Nanyang Alumni Service Award.

These Awards are presented to alumni, who have attained exemplary achievements in their field of specialisation nationally, regionally or internationally, or have contributed significantly to the betterment of the University, the community or the society.

The citations of this year's 26 award recipients are given below.

#### **关于南洋校友奖**

校友服务奖首创于 1996 年，以表扬为南洋理工大学的发展和校友活动做出杰出贡献的校友。过去荣膺此奖项的校友，大多是南大各校友会的中流砥柱。

2005 年，南大庆祝创校 50 周年，首次创立南洋校友奖，全面表扬在各领域为南大带来荣誉的校友。首届南洋校友奖共有四个奖项类别，即：南洋卓越校友奖、南洋校友成就奖、南洋杰出青年校友奖，以及南洋校友服务奖，获奖者包括在各专业领域取得顶尖成就、享誉本国、本区域或国际社会的校友，或是曾对促进大学、社区或社会发展作出重大贡献的校友。

荣获本年度南洋校友奖的 26 位得奖人，其相关资料和赞词如下。

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## **Nanyang Distinguished Alumni Award (南洋卓越校友奖)**

1. Mr Chia Ban Seng 谢万森 (B.Sc/1961, Chemistry)
2. Dato' Er Kok Leong 余国隆 (B.Sc/1966, Chemistry)
3. Dr Tan Kian Meng, William 陈建民 (B.Sc/1980, Science)

### **1. Mr Chia Ban Seng Science graduate of Nanyang University (Class of 1961)**

A proponent of education with a heart for public service and social causes, **Mr Chia Ban Seng**, 70, is one of three Nanyang Distinguished Alumni Award recipients this year. The Science graduate of Nanyang University (Class of 1961) led the setting up of NTU's Tan Lark Sye Professorship in Chinese Language and Culture and raised funds for the cause. He serves as a member on the NTU Board of Trustees, and has helmed the school management committees of Nanyang Junior College and Chung Cheng High School. He was Chairman of the Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall, and painstakingly oversaw the refurbishment of the 120 year-old bungalow where Dr Sun Yet Sen resided for a brief period of time. Mr Chia has businesses, ranging from trading in primary produce such as rubber, coffee and pepper, to cement manufacturing, and currently holds directorship at Indocement Singapore Pte Ltd, Marina Centre Holdings Pte Ltd and Finnegan Investments Ltd.

### **2. Dato' Er Kok Leong Science graduate of Nanyang University (Class of 1966)**

For being an industrialist and an innovator in palm oil, the Nanyang Distinguished Alumni Award is conferred on **Dato' Er Kok Leong**, 67, by NTU. The Science graduate of Nanyang University (Class of 1966) is honoured for achieving pioneering breakthroughs in palm oil refining and fractionation. He was instrumental in introducing a special solvent fractionation process in 1979 ahead of his time. He also earned a 'first' in specialty fats manufacturing in Malaysia, for having developed quality specialty food oils and fats that met the requirements of the international market through the use of palm oil derivative, 1,3 Dipalmitoyl-2-Oleoyl-Glycerine (POP fat), in the Cocoa Butter Equivalents production, for chocolate-making. Dato' Er retired as CEO of Intercontinental Specialty Fats Sdn Bhd (ISF) last year, but continues to serve as its Corporate Advisor. Under his leadership, ISF broke new grounds in the specialty fats market in Russia, leading to a decade of business ties being forged between the country and Malaysia.

### **3. Dr William Tan Kian Meng Science graduate of Nanyang University (Class of 1980)**

For his indomitable human spirit, athletic prowess and stellar contributions to humanitarian causes, **Dr William Tan Kian Meng**, 52, is NTU's third Nanyang Distinguished Alumni Award recipient. The Science graduate of Nanyang University (Class of 1980) has raised more than S\$18 million over the past 22 years by setting world records through his endurance in sports for the physically challenged. Local beneficiaries include the Universities Endowment Fund, Nanyang Technological University Students' Union Students' Fund, National University of Singapore, and ITE Needy Students' Fund. Even when he was diagnosed with cancer in mid-2009, Dr Tan put others before self. Having experienced first-hand the astronomical costs of cancer treatment, he was even more determined to go ahead with Ride for Hope, a fundraising

event he had committed to before learning of his condition. Despite being weakened by chemotherapy, he led 40 students across the finish line of the 80km race held in August and raised S\$100,000 to help needy patients across six hospitals and National Cancer Centre. Undeterred, he followed up with a fundraising event for The Straits Times School Pocket Money Fund in September, with the target of raising S\$70,000 by towing children around a running track for 12 hours.

### **Nanyang Alumni Achievement Award (南洋校友成就奖)**

- |                                     |                                   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Mr Ang Mong Seng 洪茂诚             | (B.A/1973, Geography)             |
| 2. Emeritus Prof Goh Suat Hong 吴雪鸿  | (B.Sc/1964, Chemistry)            |
| 3. Mr Heng Guan Teck 王元德            | (B.Eng/1985, EEE)                 |
| 4. Dr Khoo Seow Hwa 邱少华             | (B.Sc./1970, Biology)             |
| 5. Tan Sri Datuk Dr Ng Lay Swee 黄丽绥 | (B.Sc/1963, Chemistry)            |
| 6. Prof Yeo Kiat Seng 杨杰圣           | (B.Eng/1993, EEE & PhD/1997, EEE) |

#### **1. Mr Ang Mong Seng, PBM, BBM (Arts/Class of 1973)**

##### ***A consummate politician with the people's welfare at heart***

For being a champion of the people and for fulfilling his duties as a Member of Parliament (MP), Mr Ang Mong Seng's dedication to public service is recognised with the Nanyang Alumni Achievement Award.

In 1997, the People's Action Party selected Mr Ang to lead the political battle against the incumbent opposition MP in Bukit Gombak. He emerged the victor of the Single Member Constituency and later in 2001, joined the Hong Kah Group Representative Constituency.

More popularly known by the people as 'Grassroots MP', the 59-year-old is actively involved in community affairs and feedback. Of his involvement, he said: "When the residents elect me as their MP, it is their vote of confidence in my ability to look after their interest. It is my personal conviction to do everything in my power to fulfil the responsibility they have chosen for me to undertake."

Indeed, after he was elected MP, he championed the appeal to install new lifts which stop at every floor in older Housing Development Block (HDB) apartments. The new lifts would afford residents greater convenience and benefit the elderly. The lift upgrading project is estimated to benefit some 3,000 HDB blocks upon its targeted completion date in 2014.

In view of Singapore's ageing population, he proposed in Parliament for senior citizens to undergo annual community health screening. Again, his idea was adopted and more than 500,000 senior citizens will participate in the health screening programme each year.

The long-standing member of the PAP was accorded the PAP Commendation Medal in 1991 for his sterling track record. He was presented with the National Day Award of The Public Service Star in 1995 and The Public Service Medal in 1986.

Mr Ang carved out a niche for himself at HDB, which he joined in 1976. Rising through the ranks, he was appointed the General Manager of Bukit Panjang and Sembawang

Town Council by 1988. Currently, Mr Ang is the Chairman of Hong Kah Town Council and the Vice-Chairman of the South West Community Development Council. He is also the President of the Singapore Wushu & Lion Dance Federation.

Mr Ang who graduated from Nanyang University hopes that the Nanyang Spirit will continue to inspire the younger generation to take pride in their achievements and contribute to the country.

## **2. Prof Goh Suat Hong (Science/1964)**

### ***An avid researcher committed to a long-term 'chemical romance'***

For lending credibility to chemical research here in Singapore and for making an international impact, Emeritus Professor Goh Suat Hong is presented the Nanyang Alumni Achievement Award.

The affable professor has a special interest in polymer chemistry and has contributed greatly to research on polymer, in particular on polymer blends and composites. The co-inventor of three patents on bio-degradable, thermogelling polymer and heat and hot water resistant polyurethane sealant, he injected the notion of 'science with a purpose' into his research. He collaborates frequently with fellow researchers from the United States, Italy and Hong Kong, so as to consistently achieve breakthroughs in his field.

Prof Goh shares his research work with the international fraternity. Thus far, he has published over 310 research papers and made over 110 presentations at local, regional and international conferences. His work has also been crystallised in textbook chapters, which future generations can rely on for reference. He has just published a chapter on fullerene-end-capped polymers for a book entitled Fullerene Polymers: Synthesis and properties. The book is published by Wiley-VCH.

Prof Goh has won a number of awards, including in recent years, the Outstanding Alumni Award (from the Department of Polymer Science, University of Akron, USA) in 2007 and the Federation of Asian Chemical Societies Citation Award in 2003. In 1998, he won the ASEAN Achievement Award and in 1997, the National Science Award.

A regular reviewer of manuscripts, the 67-year-old has reviewed contributions to over 35 international journals related to the fields of chemistry and polymers. Some of these journals are: Journal of the American Chemical Society, Journal of Applied Polymer Science and Journal of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology. In addition, he is a regular reviewer for research proposals submitted to the Hong Kong Grant Council.

Not only has he made an impact in the world of chemical research, but also on the minds of his young charges. As a testament to the quality of his teaching skills, he was awarded the Annual Teaching and Faculty Teaching Excellence Award for three consecutive years at the National University of Singapore, where he lectures. He was also on both the Annual Teaching and Faculty Teaching Excellence Award Honour Roll in 2007.

"Knowledge is meant to be passed on. I hope that by sharing what I know, my students will be able to take their research to the next level," he said.

Prof Goh donates generously to his alma mater. He has given to Mr & Mrs Goh Teng Loon Book Prize, the Kiang Ai Kim Endowment Fund and the NTU Bursary Endowment

Fund. In homage to his favourite fruit, Prof Goh has adopted a durian tree on the NTU campus.

### **3. Mr Heng Guan Teck (School of Electrical & Electronic Engineering/Class of 1985)**

#### ***Professional engineer turned educator extraordinaire***

For enhancing the appeal and relevance of technical education to Singapore's post-secondary students, as well as providing them with an alternative pathway to career and higher education, Mr Heng Guan Teck is honoured with the Nanyang Alumni Achievement Award.

Mr Heng, 48, has been playing a key role in shaping Singapore's technical education since he joined the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) nine years ago.

"My task (at ITE) is to ensure that we produce graduates who are equipped with relevant, marketable knowledge and skills. Through constant academic review and refinement, I'd like to think that we have fulfilled the national mission to provide this 'less academically-inclined' cohort of our post-secondary students with fresh opportunities for gainful employment and further progression," shared the Deputy CEO (Academic).

Last year, Mr Heng received the Public Administration Medal (Silver), which recognises the level of excellence he has attained in the field of technical education in Singapore. His responsibilities at ITE include Curriculum Development, Educational Technology, Student Affairs and the Registrar's Office.

As passionate as he is about his profession, Mr Heng also has passion for his alma mater. He committed himself to speaking at the Freshman Welcome Ceremony in August, and kept his word despite his mother's passing on the same day. In 2006 and 2005, he sat on the interview panel during the admissions exercise for NTU's Discretionary Intake applicants.

Mr Heng, who graduated with a first-class honours degree in Engineering, was instrumental in setting up NTU's School of Electrical & Electronics Engineering (EEE) Alumni Association in 1996. He drafted the Constitution, being Chairman of the Protem Committee, and got it registered with the Registrar of Societies.

He spent three years as a lecturer at the School of EEE from 1994, after being talent scouted by Professor Brian Lee, who had known him since he was an NTU undergraduate.

A registered professional engineer with the Professional Engineers Board of Singapore, Mr Heng began his career as a project and software engineer. He went on to become the General Manager of an engineering company and manned its Singapore operations. Though an engineer by profession, it was his career at ITE that has given Mr Heng the greatest gratification.

**4. Dr Khoo Seow Hwa  
(Science/Class of 1970)**

***A Chinese calligrapher with a legacy that will benefit present and future generations***

For his milestone achievements in Chinese calligraphy and the proliferation of a rich culture, Dr Khoo Seow Hwa is presented the Nanyang Alumni Achievement Award.

At 63, the alumnus who graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from Nanyang University is a master of Chinese calligraphy. Through practising the craft, Dr Khoo has found that there is more to it than meets the eye. Chinese history, philosophy, culture and values, not to mention art, are intrinsic to the craft.

The calligrapher leverages on his fluency in Mandarin and English to impart knowledge on Chinese calligraphy to as many people as possible. To-date, the bilingual master calligrapher is the only teacher in Singapore to conduct calligraphy courses in both languages.

He has also given talks on the subject over local television and radio stations; his estimate reach, a few millions. Further ashore, the Discovery Channel has even produced a short documentary on Dr Khoo and his calligraphy, with a far reaching audience, worldwide.

He too has given numerous keynote lectures on Chinese art over a span of 20 years.

Dr Khoo became the first Singaporean to hold a solo Chinese calligraphy exhibition in Washington, D.C. His exhibition was followed by a series of lectures. Besides the United States, his calligraphic works has also toured Canada, China, Hong Kong SAR, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and nearby Malaysia. From 1992, when he held his solo exhibition across China, he was lauded as a 'Tri-Specialist' by his Chinese counterparts. Dr Khoo, the calligrapher, educator and theorist, all rolled into one.

To share his passion for Chinese calligraphy and culture, he authored 'Behind the Brushstrokes', a first-of-its-kind book which introduces the history of Chinese calligraphy through storytelling – in English. The book has since been used as a source of reference at several universities in Europe and the United States. Dr Khoo is also the author of 28 books on Chinese literature, culture, philosophy and the theories of Chinese calligraphy.

He has donated his work to charity auctions and through his numerous solo exhibitions, has had a hand in raising nearly S\$8 million. Dr Khoo has lent support to the fundraising efforts of the National Kidney Foundation, Yayasan Mendaki and many other charitable organisations.

**5. Tan Sri Datuk Dr Ng Lay Swee, PSM, DMSM, KMN  
(Science/Class of 1963)**

***An inimitable trailblazer of great accomplishment in education***

In honour of the breakthroughs and great strides she has made in developing higher education in Malaysia, Tan Sri Datuk Dr Ng Lay Swee is presented the Nanyang Alumni Achievement Award.

The first woman in Malaysia to head a university, Tan Sri Ng was the founding President of Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR). It was she who pioneered the country's private university and developed it into a full-fledged higher education institution of excellent repute within a short span of six years. During her presidency, the University produced 9,151 graduates and the student enrolment at UTAR rose to 16,572, with 60 undergraduate and postgraduate degrees programmes being introduced.

"Education has always been my passion and I've devoted my career to enhancing education pathways both in Malaysia and abroad. I believe that everyone should be equipped with a sound education foundation to act as a springboard to bigger things in life," said Tan Sri Datuk Dr Ng.

UTAR has laid a strong financial as well as academic foundation to develop into a world-class university, offering quality tertiary education that is affordable to young Malaysians. That it is today a popular choice among young Malaysians in pursuit of higher education is testament to Tan Sri Datuk Dr Ng's success.

In recognition of UTAR's contributions to Malaysia's Wawasan 2020 nation-building blueprint, in particular her outstanding services and leadership, the *Panglima Setia Mahkota* award was conferred on her by the *Yang Dipertuan Agung*. The award carries the title of Tan Sri. She holds the honour of being the first Chinese woman in Malaysia to bear this title. She also bears the title of Datuk, which was conferred on her five years earlier in 1998.

Other accolades Tan Sri Datuk Dr Ng has received for excellence in education include the Centennial Presidential Award given by Campbell University in the United States in 1989. The following year, she received a Doctor of Science from the same institution. In 2004, she was made Doctor of the University by the Queensland University of Technology, Australia and Doctor of Education in 2008 by University of Tunku Abdul Rahman.

The alumna of NTU's predecessor institution, Nanyang University, Tan Sri Datuk Dr Ng read PhD in McGill University, Canada, where she graduated in 1968. From 1969 to 1971, she was privileged to have the late Nobel Laureate Prof R.G.W.Norrish take her under his wing, while a post doctoral research associate at Cambridge University.

Tan Sri Datuk Dr Ng retired from UTAR last year at the age of 70.

**6. Prof Yeo Kiat Seng, PPA(P)  
(School of Electrical & Electronic Engineering/Class of 1993)**

***Technologist, researcher and lecturer all rolled into one***

For enhancing the stature of NTU as a research-intensive university through innovative technologies, Prof Yeo Kiat Seng is presented the Nanyang Alumni Achievement Award.

Thanks to Prof Yeo's research innovation and leadership, NTU was ranked 16<sup>th</sup> worldwide and among the top three universities in Asia in the 2008 edition of 'Integrated Circuit Design Research Ranking for Worldwide Universities'. He also pioneered the first facility in South-east Asia to perform research and development in Radio Frequency (RF) Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor (CMOS) device modelling and characterisation.

Since joining NTU 13 years ago as a lecturer at the School of Electrical & Electronic Engineering (EEE), he has been establishing himself as an authority in the field of low-power Integrated Circuit (IC) design, and an expert in CMOS technology RF IC design. Over the recent five years, he has amassed over S\$20 million dollars worth of external research funding due to his contributions in IC design.

The 45-year-old professor has had 17 patents filed or granted and about 300 journal articles and conference papers and six books published. It is no wonder he was honoured with the Public Administration Medal (Bronze) on National Day 2009 and earned accolades from peers in academia and industry.

Prof Yeo's sterling performance is not merely restricted to research. Going by feedback from the students he has taught in the past five years, he is a well-respected lecturer who has consistently obtained outstanding scores. He has supervised more than 100 Final Year Project student, 40 researchers as well as over 50 PhD and Master's students, many of whom went on to emulate his spirit of innovation in academia and industry.

A man of multi-talent, he holds several public appointments. He is the Interim Director for the new IC Design Centre of Excellence; board member of the Microelectronics IC Design and Systems Association of Singapore (MIDAS); Head of Division of Circuits and Systems; and General Chair of the 2009 International Symposium of Integrated Circuits.

Besides researching and lecturing, Prof Yeo has contributed to the University in other capacities as well. He was Sub-Dean of Student Affairs, Programme Manager, Co-ordinator and Principal Investigator of various research groups and projects. He received both his bachelor and doctorate qualifications from NTU

Of his myriad achievements, the modest professor attributes them to his alma mater. He said: "In my varsity days, NTU provided support for me to master the fundamentals of Electrical and Electronic Engineering. Now, I am grateful to NTU for giving me the opportunity and room to further my research."

## **Nanyang Outstanding Young Alumni Award (南洋杰出青年校友奖)**

1. Mr Chia Yeow Kheng, Roderick 谢耀庆 (B.Eng/1998, EEE; G.Dip/2002, NTC & M.Sc/2006, NTC)
2. Mr Chua Chin Hon 蔡振峰 (B.Comm.Studies/1998, SCI)
3. Mr Eng Aik Meng 邢益民 (B. Acc/1993, NBS)
4. Ms Goh Hui Cheng 吴慧菁 (Postgraduate Dip in Education/ 1999, NIE)
5. Dr Hery Susanto Djie 徐坚钉 (PhD/2005, EEE)
6. Assoc Prof Lam Yeng Ming 蓝燕明 (B.A.Sc/1996, MSE)
7. Ms Lee Peh Gee 李珮琪 (B.Bus/1998, NBS)
8. Ms Ng Gek Yi, Serena 黄玉燕 (B.Comm.Studies/2000, WKWSCI)
9. Ms Tan Yinxuan, Esther 陈音璇 (B.Comm.Studies/2005, WKWSCI)

### **1. Mr Chia Yeow Kheng, Roderick (School of Electrical & Electronics Engineering/Class of 1998) Managing Director**

For fostering entrepreneurship and innovation as a professional and volunteer, Mr Chia Yeow Kheng, Roderick, is presented the Nanyang Young Outstanding Alumni Award.

Entrepreneurship and innovation run thick in the veins of the 39-year-old. Shortly after graduating from NTU, Mr Chia, together with his team, founded Postkid.com Pte Ltd, the largest online and offline education solution provider for schools in Singapore. In less than two years, they built a company with a market capitalisation of S\$18 million. In 2001, the company was acquired by a Singapore Exchange listed company, Horizon.com Ltd.

Mr Chia has since founded two other companies in information communication. He has also obtained a Master of Science in Technopreneurship and Innovation Program (TIP) from the Nanyang Technopreneurship Center.

Mr Chia sits in the Ministry of Education's Steering Committee for Innovation Programme on a voluntary basis and has been at it for a decade, value adding to Gifted Education. Fuelled by energy and passion, he makes innovation in education his life mission. He gives back to his alma mater, too, by way of his involvement in the Executive Committee of TIP Alumni Association from 2002. The active volunteer received the Nanyang Alumni Service Award four years ago.

### **2. Mr Chua Chin Hon (Wee Kim Wee School of Communication & Information/Class of 1998) United States Bureau Chief**

In recognition of professionalism in his coverage of world news such as the Sichuan earthquake, the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics and the Asian *tsunami*, the Nanyang Young Outstanding Alumni Award is conferred on Mr Chua Chin Hon.

The 36-year-old counts the six years he spent at The Straits Times' China Bureau as the highlight of his career. He began his China stint in December 2002 and was appointed the Bureau Chief in 2005, a position he held until 2008. He won numerous monthly in-house awards for his stories, including annual prizes for excellence in his coverage of the 2008 Sichuan earthquake and the 2004 Asian *tsunami*.

The man with a nose for news also has a knack for photography. His photos have gained the nod of the international community. The flooding of the Three Gorges Dam and Indonesia's first direct Presidential Elections in 2004 were captured through his lens, for which he bagged two awards from the Foreign Correspondents Club (Hong Kong SAR). He was accorded the judges' special recognition for the Global Vision Award in the 66th Pictures of the Year International Contest.

Currently, Mr Chua heads The Straits Times' United States Bureau, covering politics and the recent economic meltdown.

### **3. Mr Eng Aik Meng (Nanyang Business School/Class of 1993) President**

Thirty-nine year-old Mr Eng Aik Meng is honoured with a Nanyang Young Outstanding Alumni Award for the waves he has made in the shipping industry.

Mr Eng was appointed as the President of APL, the container shipping arm of Neptune Orient Lines (NOL) in 2008. He is responsible for the commercial, financial and global operations of APL, which boasts revenues of US\$7.9 billion. Under Mr Eng's leadership, APL has strengthened its position in key markets such as North America and Asia. Expansion plans into new geographies and customer segments are also in the pipeline. Indeed, he is confident of steering Singapore's shipping giant further afield to explore uncharted waters and making an impact on the industry.

Prior to re-joining the NOL Group, Mr Eng was with Singapore-headquartered shipping and industrial supply chain group, IMC Corp. He served as Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of IMC's Aurora Tankers business. There, he significantly enhanced IMC's opportunities in developing countries such as Vietnam and Indonesia.

Mr Eng obtained a Master of Business Administration from Harvard University, where he currently serves as an Alumni Advisor. He also sits on the Advisory Board of Nanyang Business School.

### **4. Mrs Goh Hui Cheng (National Institute of Education/Class of 1999) Chinese Language Level Head**

For employing refreshing, out-of-the-box methods to teach the Chinese language, Mrs Goh Hui Cheng, 34, is a worthy recipient of this year's Nanyang Young Outstanding Alumni Award.

As Chinese Language Level Head at Paya Lebar Methodist Girls' School, Mrs Goh injects fun and creativity in her teaching so as to impart the love and enthusiasm she has for the Chinese language to her students. In recognition of her contribution to furthering the Chinese language, she was conferred the President's Award for Teachers in 2006.

"I believe that the Chinese language has a rich culture and if the subject is taught effectively with passion, sound values can be caught on by students," she said, sharing an insight into her passion for the language.

Indeed, Mrs Goh's fervour and enthusiasm has had a positive effect on those around her. Her approach to conducting Chinese lesson with a certain *joie de vivre* helps her to engage her students in learning the language. It also inspires many of her fellow teachers and she shares with them her teaching methods.

**5. Dr Hery Susanto Djie**  
**(School of Electrical & Electronics Engineering /Class of 2005)**  
**Engineer**

For developing ground-breaking optoelectronics/photronics/optical devices, earning several US patents and garnering international acclaim in engineering and scientific research, Dr Hery Susanto Djie is presented the Nanyang Young Outstanding Alumni.

Despite his young age, 32-year-old Dr Djie was recently elected as a senior member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). His biography was featured in the sixty-second edition 'Who's Who in America' in 2008; the ninth edition 'Who's Who in Science and Engineering' in 2006; and the twenty-second edition 'Who's Who in the World' in 2005. Dr Djie said: "A mind of inquiry is the necessary tool that one needs to improve oneself. I am always asking myself how I can do things better, and this allows me to better the last improvement I've made in the course of my work."

Currently a Process Development and Metrology Engineer with JDS Uniphase Corporation in the heart of Silicon Valley, California (USA), Dr Djie has played an instrumental role in spearheading various improvement programmes in new chip introduction, new process developments, process streamlining, touch time reduction, and yield and throughput improvement. The engineer gives his all in pursuit of breakthroughs in his field.

Dr Djie contributes actively to scientific publications. He has amassed more than 200 scientific articles in the past eight years of academic and industrial research. His ground-breaking research and inventions have also been transferred to industry for further development and commercialisation. They have also been covered in trade magazines.

**6. Assoc Prof Lam Yeng Ming**  
**(School of Materials Science & Engineering/Class of 1996)**  
**Associate Professor**

For being an accomplished researcher in the field of self-assembly, with a string of achievements to her name, Dr Lam Yeng Ming is honoured with the Nanyang Outstanding Alumni Award.

The 36-year-old recently bagged the L'Oreal Singapore for Women in Science National Fellowships, which is part of a larger international award programme widely regarded as the Nobel Prize for women. She has also amassed over S\$1 million worth of research funding from various organisations, including the National Research Foundation, in the capacity of the Principal Investigator since 2002. Her most recent funding will be used to develop a project in Integrated Energy Harvesting.

An outstanding researcher and lecturer, Dr Lam has uncovered a simple approach to the design of molecules for self-assembly and to understand the conditions necessary for it to take place. As a result of her breakthrough work, she has published numerous papers and contributed to two chapters in a book.

Her lecturing career is just as illustrious. Dr Lam was awarded the Nanyang Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2006. This year, two students under her supervision will be graduating with PhD qualifications, while another will be taking home a Master's degree.

**7. Ms Lee Peh Gee**  
**(Nanyang Business School/Class of 1998)**  
**Deputy Head of Logistics**

For scaling the world's tallest peak despite a fear of heights, and being among Singapore's first all-woman Everest team to do so, Ms Lee Peh Gee is presented the Nanyang Young Outstanding Alumni Award.

The 32-year-old recollected the challenges she faced upon committing to the NATAS Singapore Women's Everest Team. Hardly a mountaineer, Ms Lee had to be trained before taking on Everest. She shared: "Since 2004, we got involved in various training courses and embarked on several overseas expedition trips to chalk up on experience. As much as we could prepare ourselves for Everest, we found out that there were many more external and internal 'mountains' we had to overcome in order to reach our goal."

"I believe that it is possible to achieve our dreams as long as we are willing to try, focus on each smaller step and to rise up again and again every time we fall. It is my hope that our achievement has demonstrated that it is possible to fulfil a seemingly impossible dream, so long as we stay focused and persevere," she observed with a steely glint of determination in her eyes.

Ms Lee is currently the Deputy Head of Logistics (Readiness, HQ Signals and Command System) at the Ministry of Defence. Her job requires her to be steadfast and steady – qualities that had undoubtedly lent her the fortitude of strength to complete her daunting mission.

**8. Ms Ng Gek Yi, Serena**  
**(Wee Kim Wee School of Communication & Information /Class of 2000)**  
**Reporter**

Ms Ng Gek Yi, Serena, an international business and financial reporter, who has bagged awards for her coverage of the financial crisis, is presented the Nanyang Young Outstanding Alumni Award.

At 32, Ms Ng is a reporter for the Wall Street Journal (WSJ), where she writes about the credit markets. Based in New York, she was part of a team of WSJ reporters who received the Gerald Loeb Award, which recognises excellence in journalism in business, finance and the economy, in 2009 and 2008. Ms Ng and her colleagues won awards for their coverage of troubles at investment bank Bear Stearns and the collapse of Lehman Brothers. This year, she was in a team whose stories about the recent financial crisis were named a Pulitzer finalist in the National Reporting category.

Ms Ng moved to America five years ago when she decided to broaden her horizons overseas. She earned a Master's degree in journalism at New York University in 2005 and joined the WSJ the following year.

She became interested in journalism while at NTU, where she wrote for and edited the campus newspaper, The Nanyang Chronicle. An internship at Reuters during her final

undergraduate year introduced her to financial news and helped her land a job with The Business Times (Singapore) upon graduation. Early in her career, Ms Ng's articles won accolades in the form of 'Story of the Month' awards from Singapore Press Holdings in June and March 2002.

**9. Ms Tan Yinxuan, Esther**  
**(Wee Kim Wee School of Communication & Information /Class of 2005)**  
**Copywriter**

The Nanyang Young Outstanding Alumni Award is conferred on Ms Tan Yinxuan, Esther, for bringing honour to Singapore and NTU from being part of the country's first all-woman Everest team to summit the world's highest peak.

Of her many harrowing experiences on the shoulders of Everest, the 27-year-old narrowly escaped an avalanche on her ascent! Ms Tan has made a quantum leap in mountaineering considering she was more involved in water sports during her University days. When asked what spurred her to join the NATAS Singapore Women's Everest Team, she said: "I did it out of curiosity, and climbing Everest with a group of like-minded women was too rare a chance to pass up."

"Moreover, Singaporean men have already scaled Mount Everest, so what's there to stop our women from blazing that path?" Ms Tan posited.

Now safely back at sea level and behind her desk full-time at her copywriting job with Ogilvy & Mather (S) Pte Ltd, she is working with other members of the team to document their five-year Everest journey. The book will reveal how they overcame all odds to scale the world's highest peak and the postponement of their dream due to sponsorship woes. Targeted for launch next year, the book is set to inspire the young to climb their own 'Everests'.

## **Nanyang Alumni Service Award (南洋校友服务奖)**

- |                                     |                                     |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Mr Chong Peng Jek 郑澎湃            | (B.A/1970, Geography)               |
| 2. Mr Chua Leong Chuan, Jeffrey 蔡隆川 | (B.Eng/1986, CEE)                   |
| 3. Mr See Yong Leng 施涌龙             | (B.Comm/1966, Accountancy)          |
| 4. Ms Shi Yuehan 史月寒                | (MBA/2003, NBS)                     |
| 5. Mr Shu Dajun 舒大军                 | (MEA/2007, NIE)                     |
| 6. Mr Sim Kuang Meng 沈观铭            | (B.Comm./1967, Economics)           |
| 7. Mr Wang Hairong 王海荣              | (EMBA/2007, NBS)                    |
| 8. Mr Wee Keat Kheng 黄吉庆            | (B.A.Sc/2001, SCE & M.Sc/2005, SCE) |

### **1. Mr Chong Peng Jek (Arts/Class of 1970) Youth Olympics Games 2010 Consultant**

For enriching students' campus lifestyle in service of the NTU community, as well as the community at large, Mr Chong Peng Jek is presented the Nanyang Alumni Service Award.

Mr Chong has devoted his entire working life to the welfare of students, often preferring to toil behind the scenes, for over three decades. The sprightly 62-year-old oversaw the University's Student Affairs Office, a department with one of the largest staff strength, serving as its Vice-President. He provided administrative support to students; guided Students' Unions, clubs and societies; promoted healthy lifestyle on campus; and enriched student counselling with wellness education. Mr Chong was also supportive of most of the alumni activities organised by the NTU Alumni Affairs Office.

In serving the community, Mr Chong is a Council Member of Sembawang-Hong Kah Community Development Council (CDC) and in-charge of resources at South West CDC. He was Honorary Assistant Secretary to the Singapore Olympic Council for more than 10 years.

Though retired, Mr Chong still holds the University community close to his heart. He is lending support as Consultant to get NTU through the coming Youth Olympics Games (YOG). NTU is the Youth Olympic Village for YOG.

### **2. Mr Chua Leong Chuan, Jeffrey (School of Civil & Environmental Engineering/Class of 1986) Managing Director**

For putting to good use his working experience to serve the NTU Alumni Club, Mr Chua Leong Chuan, Jeffrey, is presented the Nanyang Alumni Service Award.

A Management Committee member of the NTU Alumni Club since 2002, Mr Chua, 47, facilitated the relocation of the club to its spanking new premises at One-North, off North Buona Vista Road. He was actively involved in the move, tapping his working knowledge to make the process hassle-free. Having harnessed over 20 years of experience in property and facilities management, his work expertise came in handy.

Ever ready to serve his alma mater, Mr Chua was elected the Vice-President of the Management Committee of the club three years ago. He helps the club to raise funds for needy NTU students and is the force behind its Fundraising Golf Tournament.

Mr Chua derives satisfaction from seeing students benefiting from his fundraising effort.

**3. Mr See Yong Leng  
(Commerce/Class of 1966)  
Ship Chandler cum Entrepreneur**

For contributing to the setting up of the Nanyang Chinese Literature Award to boost the study of Chinese literary works, Mr See Yong Leng is honoured with the Nanyang Alumni Service Award.

Mr See, 73, responded to the clarion call of his alma mater, courtesy of fellow Nanyang University alumnus Mr Liew Sing Hun, whom he has known for over 50 years. The generosity of the magnate is undoubtedly matched only by his achievements in the shipping industry.

Two years ago, when fellow alumnus Mr Liew proposed to set up the Nanyang Chinese Literature Award at an opening forum at the NTU Confucius Institute, Mr See immediately saw its value in furthering Chinese literature at NTU. He donated S\$100,000 and by the end of the fundraising efforts, donations amounting to S\$1 million were collected. With the Government's dollar-for-dollar match, S\$2 million went to the award. The award was given out, for the first time last year, to a pioneer of Singapore art and literature.

Mr See's philanthropic act extends beyond his alma mater to his hometown in China, where he has donated to schools over the past 30 years. And each donation comes with his sincere wish for life of the villagers to get better day by day.

**4. Ms Shi Yuehan  
(Nanyang Business School/Class of 2003)  
Senior Vice-President**

For actively volunteering time and effort to the NTU Alumni Association (Shanghai), Ms Shi Yuehan is presented the Nanyang Alumni Service Award.

Ms Shi, 39, has played an important role in assisting NTU alumni based in Shanghai to network and keep in touch with one another, as well as with their alma mater. She was the Deputy Secretary-General of the first NTU Alumni Association (Shanghai) Committee and went on to be the Secretary-General (English language) of the second NTU Alumni Association (Shanghai) Committee.

"Having studied in a foreign land myself, I know how daunting the experience can seem. Hence, I am glad that I am able to show some support to fellow alumni who are now based in Shanghai," she shared.

Well versed in the China investment market and established in her career abroad, Ms Shi remains steadfast in her ties with her alma mater.

**5. Mr Shu Dajun  
(National Institute of Education/Class of 2007)  
School Principal**

For contributing to the NTU Alumni Association (Beijing) and expanding the alumni network across China, Mr Shu Dajun is presented the Nanyang Alumni Service Award.

On top of his responsibility as Principal at RDFZ Xishan School, the 39-year-old is Secretary-General of the NTU Alumni Association (Beijing). Last May, when Sichuan was struck by earthquake, he galvanised into action and rallied NTU alumni to raise funds for the victims.

Mr Shu was instrumental in developing the NTU Alumni Association (Beijing) website ([www.ntubjaa.org](http://www.ntubjaa.org)) and establishing an SMS platform so as to enhance communication between alumni of the association. He continues to see to the maintenance of the website. He has also organised public benefit programmes, and sporting and leisure activities to boost interaction among the alumni in Beijing.

Mr Shu has even expanded the alumni network beyond Beijing. In the process, he has strengthened the communication and cooperation among association members based in different Chinese cities. Tapping his network, the earnest educator assists NTU on its student recruitment drive in China.

**6. Mr Sim Kuang Meng  
(Commerce/ Class of 1967)  
Board Chairman**

For his long-standing contributions to the Nanyang University Alumni Association in Johor Bahru [Nantah AA (JB)], Mr Sim Kuang Meng is presented the Nanyang Alumni Service Award.

The 66-year-old has served Nantah AA (JB) for more than two decades and was its President for two terms. During his heydays, Mr Sim succeeded in rallying the support of fellow alumni from Malaysia and Singapore, and raised funds to repay the bank loan taken out for the purchase of the Nantah AA (JB)'s current premises in Johor Bahru.

Mr Sim also led his association in garnering funds to help schools in his hometown. He initiated a combined choir performance by members from the Association of Nanyang University Graduates of Singapore, Nanyang University Alumni Association of Malaya (Kuala Lumpur) and Nantah AA (JB). The funds they raised – RM\$120,000 – went to building a new campus for Foon Yew High School. Another school, Southern College, had a hostel built with the association's donation of RM\$76,000.

In between his active contribution to Nantah AA (JB), Mr Sim sits on the board of Sichuan Malaya Glass Co. Ltd., as Chairman.

**7. Mr Wang Hairong  
(Nanyang Business School/Class of 2007)  
Group Founder**

Generous in his support of and contribution to NTU, the Nanyang Alumni Service Award was bestowed on businessman Mr Wang Hairong.

The 40-year-old graduated from the Nanyang Business School's prestigious Executive MBA programme in 2007. In the same year, Mr Wang donated S\$55,000 to his alma mater to set up a life-long scholarship. When he learnt of the 2008 Sichuan earthquake, he lost no time in galvanising the EMBA students to donate funds, in the name of NTU, to children in affected zones. He further donated funds to set up a school in Wulan, China, this March.

Last December, he led the establishing of the Destination Outdoor Club in Beijing, to promote outdoor bodybuilding among the NTU alumni based there.

Mr Wang also has a penchant for employing graduates of NTU to work in his company. "Having had an NTU education, I know the University offers top grade programmes and its graduates are well versed in their specialties. Hence, it is natural that I'd look out for NTU graduates I can hire," he said.

He is the founder of RH Group, a leading specialist engineering and technical service provider, in the oil, gas and petrochemical industry.

**8. Mr Wee Keat Kheng  
(School of Computer Engineering/Class of 2001)  
Section Head/Info-Communications Technology**

For his dedication and service to NTU from undergraduate and beyond, as well as to fellow alumni, Mr Wee Keat Kheng's efforts are recognised with the Nanyang Alumni Service Award.

Whilst an undergraduate, he served as President of the Applied Science Club (ASC) from 1999 to 2000 and led a 17 member strong Management Committee that served over 2000 ASC students. He planned and executed projects such as the Inter-School Games, Freshman Orientation Camp and academic conferences during his term. Mr Wee also facilitated the smooth transition of ASC to the Computer Engineering Club and Materials Engineering Club as part of a re-organisation exercise.

Upon graduation, he aided the transition of the School of Applied Science Alumni Association to the School of Computer Engineering Alumni Association (SCEAA). He was the Founding President of SCEAA.

The 33-year-old is a Class Agent and helps NTU to connect with its alumni by updating the profile of his former classmates. Two years ago, he contributed inputs to the feedback session held on the proposed NTU Campus Centre. He also helped organise a reunion for his Class of 2001.

\*\*\* END \*\*\*

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