

# PURSUIT

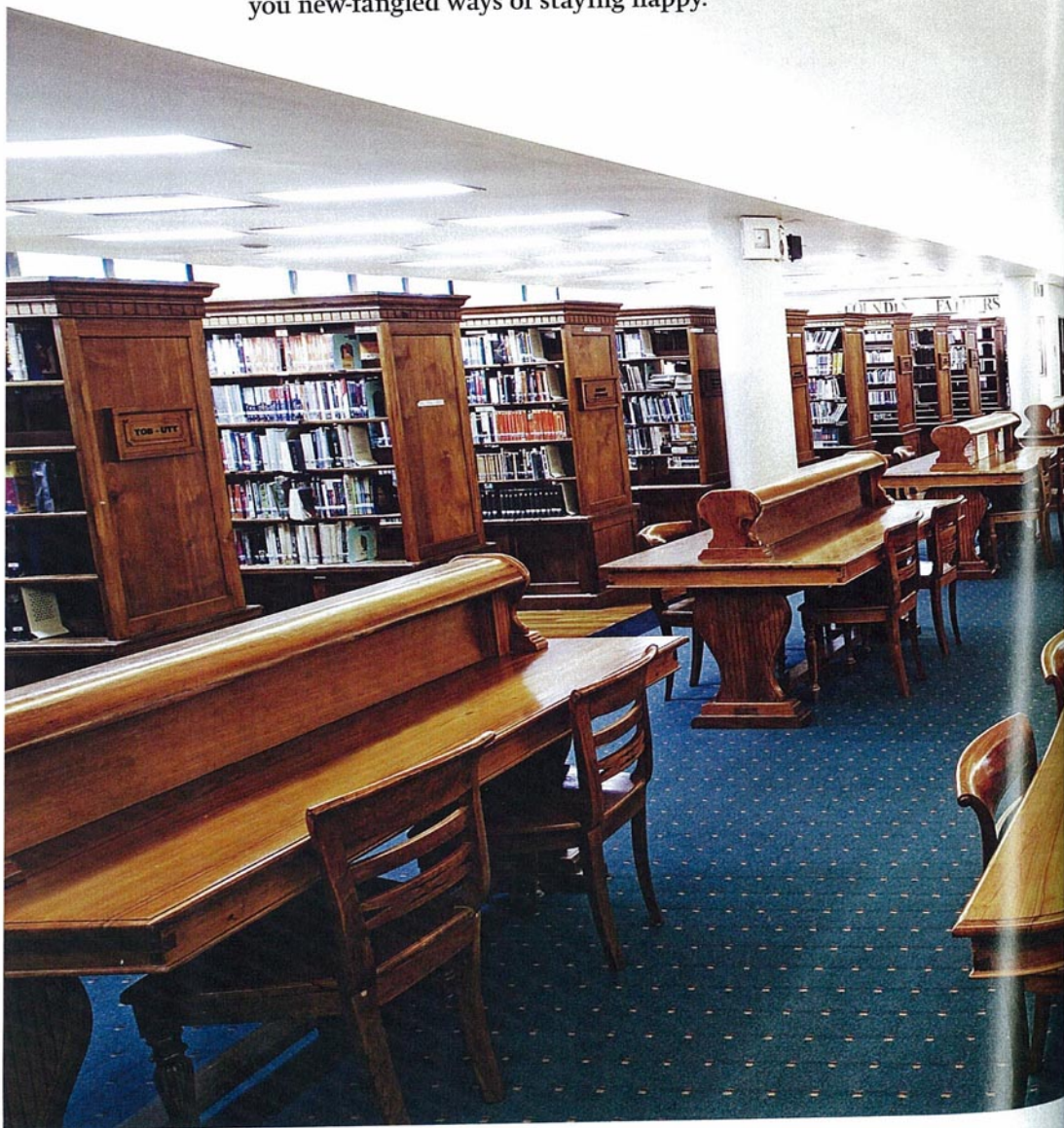
STAY AHEAD OF THE CURVE





# School's out

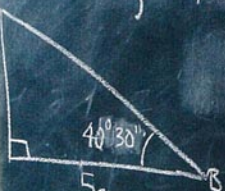
We catch up with the old boys of Singapore's top schools to see what they get up to behind closed doors. And if the crisis is stressing you out, we bring you new-fangled ways of staying happy.





(from left)  
 ORA council: Cheng Soon  
 Keong, president of ORA  
 & managing director  
 of Resources Global  
 Professionals; Leslie Yeo,  
 director of Sterling Law &  
 Dr Jean Ong Choo Kim, CEO  
 of Bright Vision Hospital.

ometry  
 the length of AB.



$$\cos 40^{\circ} 30' = \frac{5}{AB}$$

$$AB = \frac{5}{\cos 40^{\circ} 30'}$$

Use of tables to find  
 $\cos 40^{\circ} 30' = 0.76$

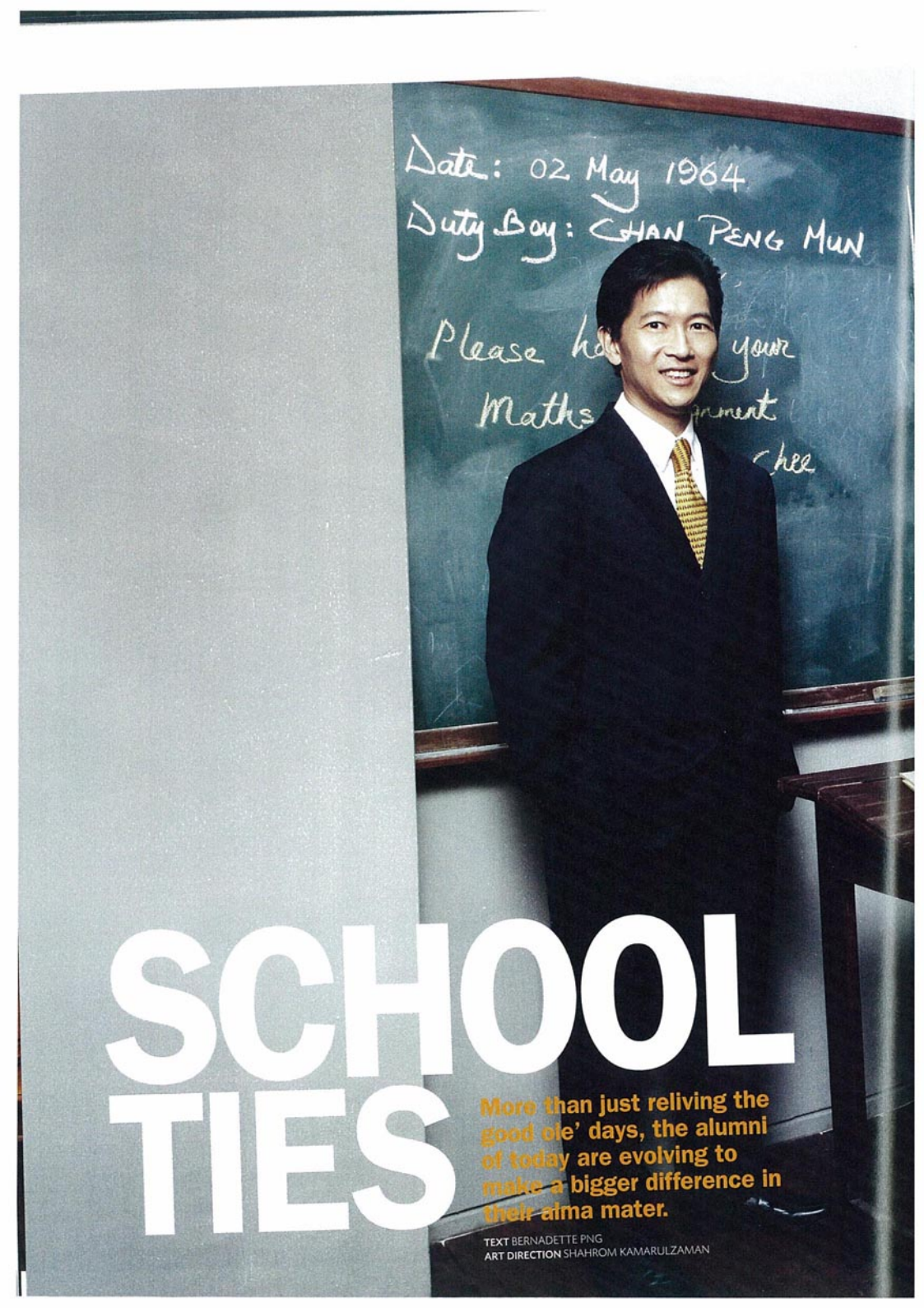
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## OLD RAFFLESIAN'S ASSOCIATION

Established 1923

**Present head count** About 4,000 members from Raffles Institution, Raffles Girls' School and Raffles Junior College; the oldest is 92 years old.

**Prominent alumni** Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew, Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong, Professor Tommy Koh, Ambassador-At-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

A man in a dark suit, white shirt, and patterned tie stands smiling in front of a chalkboard. The chalkboard has handwritten text in white chalk. The background is a grey wall on the left and a dark wooden desk on the right.

Date: 02 May 1964  
Duty Boy: CHAN PENG MUN

Please hand in your  
Maths assignment  
chee

# SCHOOL TIES

More than just reliving the good ole' days, the alumni of today are evolving to make a bigger difference in their alma mater.

TEXT BERNADETTE PNG  
ART DIRECTION SHAHROM KAMARULZAMAN



(from left)

ACS OBA committee:  
Benson Puah,  
president of ACS OBA  
& CEO of Esplanade;  
Rayson Seow, financial  
services manager  
of Prudential  
Assurance Company  
& Cheo Chai Hong,  
executive vice  
president, group  
credit of United  
Overseas Bank.

**Back in 2005 when Singapore's two** biggest universities fought over the historic Bukit Timah campus, it was a group of former students from the then University of Singapore's class of '72 that won the plot for the National University of Singapore (NUS), the present day incarnation of their alma mater.

The group, which counts such luminaries as top criminal lawyer Subhas Anandan and former newspaper editor Mano Sabnani among its members, gathered old articles to prove that the university's 100-year heritage was strongly tied to the 11ha site. Their case helped NUS beat Nanyang Technological University's claim over the building, once home to the University of Malaya and University of Singapore. And it was the vibrant bunch that organised 'The Bash', a homecoming at the campus that attracted nearly 800 alumni and students.

The class of '72 is an organised group which elects a chairman and committee for all their major events. Sabnani says that they were motivated by their strong sense of belonging to a well-loved campus. Stories of ragging of juniors, or "illegal" gatherings to discuss politics on the campus ground are commonly brought up when the former classmates congregate.

While the war stories of younger alumni are probably less dramatic, they evoke no less emotion for those who lived them.

"Students were more vociferous then," says Sabnani, who is now the executive director of Novena Holdings.

Rugby tends to dominate the conversation when the old boys from Raffles Institution





## ACS OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION (OBA)

**Established** 1914

**Present head count** Approximately 4,800 members from the family of six schools.

**Prominent alumni** Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Community, Development, Youth & Sports; Richard Seow Yung Liang, chairman of Parkway Holdings & Ang Peng Siong, former national swimmer.



**BERKELEY CLUB  
OF SINGAPORE**

**Estb** 1991

**Present head count** About 100 active members; oldest is Jamshed Fozdar, authority on religious studies who graduated in 1948.

**Prominent alumni**

Kwee Liong Tek and Kwee Liong Seen of Pontiac Land, Wong Ngit Liong, chairman and CEO of Venture Group



(from left)  
Berkeley Club of Singapore  
committee: Matthias Goertz,  
management consultant of The  
Monitor Group; Tok XinYing,  
AVP, structured finance of  
DBS Bank & Getty Goh, vice-  
president of the Berkeley Club of  
Singapore & entrepreneur.

## “AN IMPORTANT REASON IS THE CHANCE TO MEET AND NETWORK WITH OTHER FORMER STUDENTS ACROSS DIFFERENT GENERATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUNDS.”

get together. In particular, the top school's intense rivalry with opposing teams from Anglo-Chinese School (ACS) in the 1990s or “the Saints” of St Andrews School in the 1980s.

“We'd talk about our winning streaks or how the present team is faring”, says Cheng Soon Keong, president of the Old Rafflesians' Association (ORA) and a former rugby himself.

### NEW GENERATION

Yet, beyond reliving fond school memories, the current generation of school alumni groups have updated themselves with activities more relevant to a younger set.

This has resulted in groups here attracting greater numbers, even those whose alma mater are thousands of miles away.

“Our mix of alumni has gotten younger over the years. We now see between five to seven Harvard Business School MBA students joining as compared to two to three joining us annually,” says president of the Harvard Club of Singapore, Chew Seow Chien. And even when the Berkeley Club of Singapore, which was started by a group of senior alumni from the University of California, Berkeley in 1991, became inactive, it was a younger 30-something group that revived it in 2006.

The scope of alumni activities has also expanded beyond the traditional ‘wine and cheese’ social events to more business and professional events.

For instance, Berkeley Club's key event last year was the launch of the UC Berkeley Haas School of Business' Asia Business Centre here to develop the varsity's leadership training for top executives. The club also organised an event on managing family-run businesses in the global marketplace that attracted some 300 attendees.

Traditional alumni activities like fundraising has benefited as a result, with a spike in the amounts raised and the number of charities benefiting. ORA's Cheng notes that the alumni have been able to raise up to \$100,000 in recent years, compared to around \$10,000 a decade ago.

### ROLE CALL

The chance to network is another key attraction for former students of top schools here and abroad.

“An important reason is the chance to meet with other former students across different generations and a huge variety of professional backgrounds,” says Getty Goh, vice-president of the Berkeley Club here.

The Harvard Club here organises a series known as Judgement Calls, where senior members are invited to speak about their professional experiences.

“A memorable Judgement Calls event last year was with Koh Boon Hwee, chairman of DBS. He talked to us about how he made





**HARVARD CLUB  
OF SINGAPORE**

**Established** 1970

**Present head count** More than 300 members

**Prominent alumni** Prime

Minister Lee Hsien Loong graduated from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University with a Masters in Public Administration; Koh Boon Hwee, chairman of DBS; Former Chief Justice Yong Pung How; Choo Chiau Beng, chairman and CEO of Keppel Offshore and Marine