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“All my relations”

– a Native American expression that speaks of the interconnectedness of all people and all things.
The NUS family comprises some 37,000 students, 10,000 faculty and staff, and 229,000 alumni in Singapore and around the world. With alumni from over 100 countries, this is a global relations community to which you, our alumni have familial kinship.

Family is about relationships. In this context, the word “alumni” itself has special significance as it derives from the Latin verb alere, which means “to develop” or “to nourish”. It captures well the bi-directional relationship between our University and our students and alumni – one in which NUS nurtures the development of our students and alumni both intellectually and as well-rounded persons, while at the same time being nourished and energised by their work and activities.

Our alumni are therefore an integral part of the NUS family and that means that the keeping of social, emotional and intellectual ties is paramount. In this life-long alumni-alma mater relationship, I see two key components. First, the Hardware – the Alumni Complex comprising the Shaw Foundation Alumni House and our partnership with the NUS Society’s Kent Ridge Guild House stands as the most visible sign of the University’s strong commitment to ever stronger ties with our alumni. Today, it is bustling with activities that bring together NUS alumni, students, faculty and staff, and add to the vibrancy of the campus environment. It offers a Home on Campus for friendship and networking, for learning and sharing, and for dining and recreation.

Second, the Software – enriching events and initiatives that facilitate lifelong learning as well as networking with fellow alumni, both senior and junior. The NUS Office of Alumni Relations (OAR) facilitates many types of interaction with alma mater which are relevant for our alumni at different stages of the alumni lifecycle. For example, OAR has several professional and social networking programmes that appeal to the younger generation, while working with older, more-established alumni on developing various channels to co-organise activities or contribute to issues that they are passionate about. Beyond the Alumni Complex, OAR is also leveraging on information technology, forming a virtual community in tandem with the physical one.

Pride in being part of the NUS family has been the inspiring and prevailing spirit in all the alumni events that I attended. In 2012, alumni volunteers and groups have, once again, vividly demonstrated their passion for NUS by actively collaborating with OAR in varied activities and projects. Indeed, this strong and enduring spirit has resulted in many alumni contributing their time, expertise and support so generously to our alma mater.

On the global front, alumni were also enthusiastic in strengthening their links with NUS through formal alumni groups. Hence, I was very delighted to launch our Jakarta Alumni Chapter in February 2012. We are also in the final stages of establishing new chapters in several strategic cities in 2013. At the same time, many alumni have expressed keen interest in taking up leadership positions in the existing chapters and this renewal augurs well for the future.

The strong and growing support of our alumni in Singapore and across the world has been a great source of encouragement for the entire NUS community. I look forward to working with our alumni and the wider NUS family of students, faculty, staff, benefactors and friends, to further strengthen NUS as a leading global university centred in Asia.

Professor Tan Chorh Chuan (Medicine 83)
NUS President
I am very excited about reaching out to fellow alumni in my new appointment as Director of the Office of Alumni Relations (OAR). Coming from the Class of 1972 – a boisterous group of graduates from the then University of Singapore – we have varied interests but all share fond memories of the time we were on campus. Therefore, I find great satisfaction in helping alumni connect or reconnect with NUS.

My team and I are here to represent the interests of all NUS alumni and to let you know that you are an important part of the University community. I believe that many alumni are seeking opportunities to be interested and involved with happenings on campus. Hence, I believe that the role of alumni relations is to engage our alumni in the life of the University.

In this OAR Annual Report, you have a conspectus of the extensive variety of initiatives that NUS have in engaging our alumni. Let me succinctly share several major developments and achievements in 2012. These OAR activities in essence are the legacy of the former Director Associate Professor Lim Meng Kin, who unfortunately passed away on 31 January 2013. Spearheaded by the NUS Alumni Advisory Board, it was another successful year for the U@live series, a monthly live audience/real-time webcast forum showcasing members of the NUS community whose lives and/or achievements have positively impact society; and the Alumni Leaders Forum which brought together alumni and student leaders to network, share experiences and strengthen volunteerism within the NUS community.

Alumni Day at two different campuses saw unprecedented numbers of alumni turn up. At the Bukit Timah Campus, the event attracted a record 900 alumni and guests. At the Kent Ridge Campus, the event was held for the first time at University Town where 1,700 alumni and their families participated in myriad activities including a “concert under the stars”, featuring several top local rock bands. Given the challenge of engaging 229,000 alumni across more than 100 countries, it is of critical importance to leverage on information technology as a key enabler. Hence, we have developed the leading-edge NUS Integrated Alumni Database System (IADS) which will facilitate our relations building endeavours.

Do check out the AlumNET, our alumni website which was relaunched with a fresh new look and greater functionality. The redesign of The AlumnUS, our quarterly magazine, was also completed last year. These two important communications platforms including our monthly e-newsletter were revamped with a contemporary feel and new contents so as to enhance connectivity with our alumni.

Through mass activities, niche events, IT innovations and a whole range of diverse programmes, we, at OAR, will continue to provide alumni in Singapore and across the globe with ample opportunities to stay connected with NUS.

Associate Professor Victor R. Savage (Arts and Social Sciences ’72) Director Office of Alumni Relations
The Office of Alumni Relations seeks to engage over 229,000 alumni from more than 100 countries across the globe.

Five divisions work hand-in-hand to realise this. The Directorate provides strategic direction for the office in its engagement endeavours. The Alumni Cultivation and Engagement division strengthens bonds with alumni and involves them through programmes and activities. The Marketing and Communications division develops branding, marketing and communication strategies to better reach out to alumni. The Information Management division provides strategic roadmap and implementations of information technologies. The Shaw Foundation Alumni House (SFAH) Operations division manages operations for SFAH.

The Office of Alumni Relations’ Mission
To nurture mutually beneficial and lifelong relationships with alumni and engage them along NUS’ aspirations.

The Office of Alumni Relations’ Core Values
EXCITE: Excellence, commitment, integrity and teamwork.

NUS’ Vision
A leading global university centred in Asia, influencing the future.

Information Management

Shaw Foundation Alumni House Operations
Associate Director
Ms Irene See
Executive, Venue Services
Ms Carrie Chong
Alumni Relations Officer, Venue Services
Ms Jennifer See
Service Ambassador, Alumni Service Centre
Ms Hamidah Binte lthnin
Management Assistant, Venue Services
Ms Rosalila Binte Ahmat

* Associate Professor Lim Meng Kin was Director of the Office of Alumni Relations right up to the time of his demise in January 2013.
The joys of intellectual discovery, midnight suppers, studying together in the library and enjoying conversations with hallmates – these experiences are part of the mosaic of university life, and one that is central to building the bond between alumni and NUS.

The Office of Alumni Relations is committed to nurturing the sense of connection that alumni share with the University. This process of engagement begins even before Commencement through a range of student-focused initiatives and programmes. Our goal is to share the life journeys of our alumni.
The Office of Alumni Relations offers three bursary awards to qualified students: The NUS Alumni Bursary Award, the NUS Alumni Student Exchange Award, and the NUS Alumni Overseas Colleges Award. Administered by the NUS Office of Financial Aid, the NUS International Relations Office, and the NUS Overseas College, these bursaries demonstrate the spirit of giving shared from our alumni across generations. In 2012, we awarded a total of 53 bursaries to students – 25 NUS Alumni Bursary Awards at S$2,000 each, 18 NUS Alumni Student Exchange Awards at S$2,500 each, and 10 NUS Alumni Overseas Colleges Awards at S$1,000 each.

Educational Gift

Bursary Awards

As a hub for alumni activities at the University, the Shaw Foundation Alumni House hosts a range of exciting alumni-focused events throughout the year. The Student Service Ambassador Programme enlists students to manage a range of administrative duties required for these events.

Hands-on Learning

Student Service Ambassador Programme

Organised in collaboration with our faculty partners and NUS Career Centre, networking sessions serve as an invaluable platform for alumni to share their experiences and offer advice on the professional challenges and opportunities that await students after Commencement.

Our popular series of networking events continues to grow; in 2012, the Office of Alumni Relations hosted five sessions. Having made their mark in the world, many alumni recognise not only the depth of their ties to the University, but also the importance of nurturing these bonds. Among those who have returned to speak to students are many leading lights in their respective fields.

Paying It Forward

Alumni-Students Career Networking Session

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...our alumni know that NUS is committed to serving them at every stage of their life journey. (and) OAR has played a critical role in fostering this greater sense of belonging.

Professor Tan Chorh Chuan
NUS President
The NUS alumni family is a microcosm of the world; drawn from different eras in the University’s history, our alumni have embraced its guiding spirit by making numerous contributions to Singapore and the world.
Leading Lights

NUS Alumni Advisory Board, 2012

Comprising leading members of the community, the NUS Alumni Advisory Board provides critical advice and insight into all alumni-related matters at NUS. In July 2012, the University welcomed three new members to the board:

Ms Janet Ang
(Business ‘82)
Managing Director,
IBM Singapore;

Ms Jocelyn Chng
(Arts and Social Sciences ‘89)
Managing Director,
Sin Hwa Dee Foodstuff Industries;

Mr David Ho
(Arts and Social Sciences ‘72)
Managing Director,
Windmill International,
and President, NUS Society.

Many Points

Associate Directors for Alumni Relations

One of the unique qualities of the ties between our alumni and the University is that these attachments are often multifarious and intertwined. In recognition of this fact, the Office of Alumni Relations offers numerous points by which alumni can connect back to NUS. Each Faculty, School and Hall has an Associate Director for Alumni Relations, a critical role that allows for a more personal form of engagement with our alumni. As advocates for alumni matters within the University, they are critical to ensuring that alumni know about the latest NUS initiatives in education and research. There are currently 23* Associate Directors for Alumni Relations.

Friends for Life

Local Alumni Groups

Crave those special moments you shared with your university friends and hallmates? Look no further than NUS’ 52* Local Alumni Groups. Representing a variety of faculty-, hall- and interest-based alumni groups, this thriving network of alumni leaders and volunteers organises a regular series of reunions, events and activities throughout the year.

* Figures as of December 2012
The Alumni Association
The Alumni Association’s Young Alumni Chapter organised a Charity Golf game on 18 August 2012, to raise funds for the ‘Dr Chee Phui Hung bursary’. Mr Gan Kim Yong, Minister for Health was the Guest of Honour, teeing-off with 34 members and friends. A total of S$13,400 (inclusive of pledges) was raised from the event.

The 89th Alumni Reunion at Port Dickson held from 16 to 18 November 2012, was attended by 62 alumni and their families. Joining them were eight undergraduates from the faculties of Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmacy.

The Alumni Photographic Society
The NUS Alumni Photographic Society supported the NUS Photographic Society (NUSPS) in Montage 2012, a nation-wide seminar, workshop and competition in June. It conducted an induction and team-building workshop for NUSPS 44th management committee in September.

NUS Business School Alumni Association
A new Board in the NUS Business School Alumni Association (BSA) was elected in May 2012. This new board intends to take BSA’s involvement with alumni, students, Schools and Society to another level. A new initiative in which BSA attempts to inculcate a culture of ‘Paying Forward’ amongst a core group of business school students has been launched. Selected students will benefit from collaborative support from alumni.

Computing Alumni Association
The Computer and Information Systems Alumni Association has been renamed Computing Alumni Association (CAA) since July 2012. CAA has continued to hold its mid-month Alumni Networking sessions on Wednesdays. Well attended by alumni, staff and students, the sessions serve as a platform for the sharing of new ideas and effective networking.

Engineering Alumni Association
To celebrate their ranking as the World’s 10th Best Electrical Engineering College (QS World University Rankings 2011), the NUS Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) Alumni group organised a cocktail on 24 February 2012. The ECE department organised its annual Alumni and Family Day on 25 August of the same year. Highlights included lab tours, project displays, a fair and a buffet lunch.
Law Faculty Alumni

On 14 March 2012, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Law, Mr K Shanmugam spoke to NUS law alumni at the Distinguished Speaker Series organised by the Law Faculty Alumni. On 8 November 2012 that year, the group launched the Law Alumni Mentorship Programme (LAMP), providing NUS law undergraduates with the opportunity for greater engagement with the faculty’s alumni. A collaboration between the Career Centre@Law and the Law Alumni Office, LAMP links first and second year law students with recent alumni who are willing to pledge their time to provide mentorship and share their experience on the practice of law. The year ended with a one-day Career Development Seminar on 27 October 2012. Alumni were treated to a comprehensive range of talks on post-graduate programmes from Alice Lee Centre for Nursing Studies and the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, as well as financial planning advice from HSBC and a CV writing workshop.

NUS Economics Alumni

Some key events organised by the NUS Economics Alumni group for 2012 included a one-day tour of Singapore on 22 September 2012 for 17 alumni and an orientation event on 2 November 2012 for new alumni mentors and mentees. The blockbuster event for the year was the group’s first-ever fund raising event which involved a one hour trishaw ride around the Bugis area. 30 trishaws were sponsored for S$500 each and a total of 56 participants attended the event.

NUS Alumni Dragonboat Team

2012 was a year filled with exciting activities for the NUS Alumni Dragonboat Team as they participated in a number of races including the People’s Association Race, the Singapore Dragon Boat Festival and the Singapore River Regatta under the Maulemhi Constituency Sports Club (CSC). The team took home the second prize in the CSC Finals.

NUS Nursing Alumni

The NUS Nursing Alumni alumni group co-facilitated the Simulated Inter-Professional Learning Environment (SIMPLE) Programme, a final-year module in the undergraduate programme during January and February 2012. Alumni role-played with the graduating students, to better prepare them for the working environment. The year ended with a one-day Career Development Seminar on 27 October 2012. Alumni were treated to a comprehensive range of talks on post-graduate programmes from Alice Lee Centre for Nursing Studies and the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, as well as financial planning advice from HSBC and a CV writing workshop.

NUS Senior Alumni

The NUS Senior Alumni organised 11 Tea and Chat sessions in 2012. One of the key highlights for the group was the staging of a Chinese Opera sung in English. “Intrigues in the Qing Imperial Court” opened to packed audiences on the two nights that it was played.

NUS Volunteer Network Alumni

Following two very fulfilling trips to Cambodia and Vietnam, the team set off for the Vientiane Province in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic from 14 to 23 December this year. During the trip, members of the team gained first-hand experiences of Laotian village life.

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Master of Science (Environmental Management) Alumni

As part of the Master of Science (Environmental Management) Alumni (MEM) tradition, a group of MEM alumni welcomed a new cohort of students at the School of Design and Environment. The afternoon session of the welcome event held on 7 August 2012 saw alumni conducting an Environmental Management Simulation Game, where students role-played in addressing environmental scenario. On 15 to 16 September 2012, 20 MEM alumni and students from the Bachelor of Environmental Studies programme went on a nature discovery initiative at the Mawai Eco Camp, Johor, Malaysia.

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Global Embrace

Overseas Alumni Chapters

In 16* major cities around the world, NUS alumni can reach out and reconnect with the University via our Overseas Alumni Chapters. The latest addition to our global alumni family was Jakarta; established in February 2012, the chapter demonstrates the longstanding ties between NUS and alumni in Indonesia.

Renewal was another theme in 2012 as chapters continued to boost their mandate and operational strengths via institutional changes. We also welcomed three new Chairpersons into the fold; handling over their duties in December 2012 were Mr Brahm Majithia (Business ’00), Mr David Lim Chow Thong (Arts and Social Sciences ’87) and Ms Cheung Wai San (Engineering ’05), the Chairpersons of our New Delhi, Beijing and Hong Kong Overseas Alumni Chapters respectively. Their roles were assumed by Mr Prashant Pundrik (Business ’08), Mr Lyon Sun Liyong (Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy ’11) and Mr Tang Kin Ching (Computing ’07).

One of Us

Class Ambassadors

To plant the seed for deeper engagement within final-year students, NUS’ faculties have appointed Class Ambassadors in each graduating cohort, since 2008, to serve as a node for future alumni networks. In 2012, 119 Class Ambassadors were appointed, bringing the total number to 703 since the launch of the initiative.

We would like to thank Mr Majithia, Mr Lim and Ms Cheung for their dedicated support and service.

All of you are a vital part of NUS and you truly exemplify the spirit of giving back to our community. Your work and actions will inspire our students and also encourage all of us at the University to work even harder.

Professor Tan Chorh Chuan
NUS President

* Figures as of December 2012
It was a year filled with milestones for our global alumni family, with a range of activities that demonstrated the continuing vitality and depth of alumni relations at NUS. Among the pioneering events for 2012 were the two largest homecoming events ever held on the Bukit Timah and Kent Ridge campuses.

While events and programmes initiated by the Office of Alumni Relations formed the key part of the alumni relations calendar at NUS, 2012 was also a stellar year for the University’s many dedicated alumni leaders and volunteers. Demonstrating the deep sense of connection that many alumni continue to maintain with their faculties, schools and halls, alumni came together for numerous celebrations and reunions to reaffirm the ties that bind.
The occasion also saw the launch of the AlumNET website, NUS’ revamped one-stop alumni support platform. With numerous new services and features, it marked another step forward in NUS’ mission to better engage alumni – and a great beginning to the Year of the Dragon.

Standing Firm

U@live with Mr Philip Yeo (Engineering ’74)

Our popular monthly U@live forum got off to a flying start in January 2012 with Chairman of SPRING Singapore and veteran civil servant Mr Philip Yeo sharing about the challenges of forging an economic niche for Singapore. Hosted by Mr Viswa Sadasivan (Arts and Social Sciences ’83), NUS Alumni Advisory Board member and Chairman of the U@live organising committee, the engaging session drew a solid response from both audience members at the Shaw Foundation Alumni House and online viewers.

Our University’s continued rapid progress can only be sustained if we have the support and encouragement of the entire NUS community of faculty, staff, students, alumni and supporters. I deeply appreciate our many alumni and friends for giving generously of your time and talent, as well as providing financial support, for numerous important causes throughout our University.

Professor Tan Chorh Chuan
NUS President

Service Before Self

U@live with Mr S R Nathan (Arts and Social Sciences ’54)

Social worker, labour relations representative, diplomat, President of Singapore – these are just some of the roles that Mr S R Nathan has played over the course of his life, one that is all the more remarkable for its humble beginnings. With characteristic modesty and frankness, Mr Nathan spoke for close to one-and-a-half hours at yet another riveting session of U@live. Held in February, the session had already drawn a record crowd with an audience distinguished by its mix of faculty, students, staff, alumni and members of the general public.

The University taught me to continue learning. In the world ahead of us, the NUS mission towards that end has to be pursued with even greater passion.

Mr S R Nathan
Former President of Singapore and Chancellor of NUS

Indonesian Presence

Launch of NUS’ 16th Overseas Alumni Chapter in Jakarta, Indonesia

Underlining the global presence of NUS, in February 2012, the University’s 16th Overseas Alumni Chapter was officially launched in Jakarta, Indonesia, by NUS President Professor Tan Chorh Chuan. Amid melodious strains of keroncong music, 150 alumni and friends took part in this special occasion, which was also graced by the Ambassador of Singapore to Indonesia, His Excellency Mr Ashok Kumar Mirpuri.

Mr S R Nathan
Former President of Singapore and Chancellor of NUS

Chinese New Year Appreciation Lunch

A celebration of the ties that bind – that was the theme of the Office of Alumni Relations’ annual tradition. Held at the Shaw Foundation Alumni House, the high-spirited affair saw NUS’ extended alumni family come together to reaffirm their bonds to the University. As always, it was our alumni – representing many different schools and eras in NUS’ history – who took the spotlight. Also gracing the event were members of the NUS Alumni Advisory Board as well as senior representatives of the various colleges, faculties and administrative offices.

Mr S R Nathan
Former President of Singapore and Chancellor of NUS

Dragon Rising

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Renewal of Friendships

Hong Kong Alumni Networking Reception

NUS alumni in Hong Kong came together in March for a festive gathering that reaffirmed their ties to the University. The lively reception also included about 30 staff members and Associate Directors of the NUS Office of Alumni Relations; having arrived in Hong Kong for the CASE (Council for the Advancement and Support of Education) Asia-Pacific Advancement Conference, they took the opportunity to learn more about the resident alumni community.

Among the 150 guests at the reception were Singapore’s Consul-General to Hong Kong, Dr Ker Sin Tze (Business ’66); his wife, Ms Lee Lok Peng (Pharmacy ’77); and Prof Lee Shiu Hung (Medicine ’63), now with the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Also in attendance were Mr Paul Sheff, Chairman of the CASE Board of Trustees, and Mr John Lippincott, President of CASE. Together, the many different generations and cohorts made for lively conversation.

Screen Time

2nd Canadian Film Forum

Following a fantastic launch in 2011, The Canadian Film Forum returned in March 2012 to sold-out audiences. Co-organised by the High Commission of Canada to Singapore and NUS’ Office of Alumni Relations (with the support of BlackBerry), this year’s line-up featured six works that showcased the quality and diversity of Canadian cinema (with two making their Singaporean debut).

Held at the Shaw Foundation Alumni House, the gala opening night saw an international gathering of guests. Among those hosted by Mr Joseph Mullinix, Deputy President (Administration) of NUS, were diplomatic representatives of New Zealand, the Philippines, Poland, South Korea and the United States of America.

Eco Champion

U@live with Professor Leo Tan (Science ’69, ’74)

Passion and modesty – these were the hallmarks of our U@live session in April with the renowned environmentalist Professor Leo Tan; passion for the green cause, and modesty in his own achievements. Over the course of his distinguished career, Prof Leo Tan has sought to conserve Singapore’s natural environment through his work in public policy, education and research. Having held senior appointments at the National Science Centre, the National Institute of Education and the National University of Singapore, he is the recipient of numerous accolades such as the Public Administration Medal (Gold), the Public Service Medal and the Public Service Star.

Roundtable

President’s Dialogue Lunches

Co-organised with faculties and schools at NUS, this monthly tradition lets alumni learn about the latest developments in education and research from Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, President of NUS. In 2012, the Shaw Foundation Alumni House played host to alumni from the following faculties and schools: the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, the Faculty of Law, the Faculty of Engineering, the Faculty of Science and the School of Computing.
A Storied Tournament Cup Returns

UM-NUS Inter-University Tunku Chancellor Golf Tournament

Golfers from NUS and the University of Malaya (UM) came together in June to celebrate their ties at the UM-NUS Inter-University Tunku Chancellor Golf Tournament. An annual tradition for over four decades, this year’s contest was further distinguished by the fact that it was the first time that Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam (Arts and Social Sciences ’62), Singapore President and NUS Chancellor, was taking part. Representing UM was His Royal Highness Sultan Azlan Shah, Chancellor of UM.

The inaugural UM-NUS tournament was held in 1968 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, as an expression of the ties between senior leaders of both universities. Hosted alternately by UM and NUS, this year’s edition saw over 130 faculty members, staff and alumni taking part. Golfers took to the fairways of the Tanah Merah Country Club and the Sentosa Golf Club for over two days of friendly competition and an affirmation of long standing bonds. At day’s end, it was the NUS contingent that won the Cup for 2012.

A Mosaic of Memories and Milestones

Alumni Day @ Bukit Timah Campus

On an evening filled with warmth, fellowship and high spirits, alumni of NUS’ Bukit Timah Campus came together to affirm bonds and friendships that had been forged decades before.

Once home to Raffles College (1928–1949), the University of Malaya (1949–1961) and the University of Singapore (1962–1980), the Bukit Timah Campus now houses NUS’ Faculty of Law and the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. Since 2007, it has also played host to the popular Alumni Day homecoming event.

The evening programme included performances by alumni talents Ms Zaibun Siraj (Arts and Social Sciences ’68), Ms Noor Quek (Business ’72) and the Silverstones, as well as an exhibition featuring photographs of the campus that had been submitted by alumni.

Held in July, this year’s edition saw a record 900 alumni and guests gathering to celebrate their school ties. Several had returned to Singapore especially for the reunion and many arrived early to catch up with old schoolmates. Among the many leading lights present were Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong (Law ’61); NUS Board of Trustees members Mr Edward D’Silva (Architecture, Building and Real Estate ’75), Ms Chong Siak Ching (Architecture, Building and Real Estate ’81) and Mr Abdullah Tarmugi (Arts and Social Sciences ’69); Professor Wang Gungwu (Arts and Social Sciences ’82), Chairman of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy Governing Board, and former ministers Dr Ahmad Mattar (Science ’62) and Dr Seet Ai Mee (Speciality Research Institutes/Centres, PhD Bioengineering, ’69).

Alumni and guests were warmly received by Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, President of NUS, and co-hosts Professor Kishore Mahbubani (Arts and Social Sciences ’71), Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, and Professor Simon Chesterman, Dean of the Faculty of Law.

Another highlight was the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Class of 1962, the ranks of which include Singapore President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam and former Supreme Court Justice Mr Goh Joon Seng, now a member of the Council of Presidential Advisers. The evening closed with alumni raising their voices together in song, demonstrating again the spirit that distinguishes alumni of the Bukit Timah Campus, one that Prof Tan had also noted in his opening remarks. “This campus is a mosaic of memories and milestones, successes and joys,” he said, “and I know it will have a special place in our hearts.”

Our Growing Family

Commencement 2012

In July, NUS celebrated the graduation of its Class of 2012, with close to 9,900 new alumni welcomed into the University’s global alumni family.

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Alumni and guests were warmly received by Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, President of NUS, and co-hosts Professor Kishore Mahbubani (Arts and Social Sciences ’71), Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, and Professor Simon Chesterman, Dean of the Faculty of Law.

Another highlight was the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Class of 1962, the ranks of which include Singapore President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam and former Supreme Court Justice Mr Goh Joon Seng, now a member of the Council of Presidential Advisers. The evening closed with alumni raising their voices together in song, demonstrating again the spirit that distinguishes alumni of the Bukit Timah Campus, one that Prof Tan had also noted in his opening remarks. “This campus is a mosaic of memories and milestones, successes and joys,” he said, “and I know it will have a special place in our hearts.”

The inaugural UM-NUS tournament was held in 1968 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, as an expression of the ties between senior leaders of both universities. Hosted alternately by UM and NUS, this year’s edition saw over 130 faculty members, staff and alumni taking part. Golfers took to the fairways of the Tanah Merah Country Club and the Sentosa Golf Club for over two days of friendly competition and an affirmation of long standing bonds. At day’s end, it was the NUS contingent that won the Cup for 2012.

In July, NUS celebrated the graduation of its Class of 2012, with close to 9,900 new alumni welcomed into the University’s global alumni family.

The evening programme included performances by alumni talents Ms Zaibun Siraj (Arts and Social Sciences ’68), Ms Noor Quek (Business ’72) and the Silverstones, as well as an exhibition featuring photographs of the campus that had been submitted by alumni.
On the Green

Alumni Day @ Kent Ridge

NUS’ annual Alumni Day @ Kent Ridge is one of the most popular alumni events on the University calendar. Held in July, the 2012 edition was special for many reasons – not only was it the first time it had been held at University Town, it was also the largest ever, attracting 1,700 alumni and guests for a Concert Under the Stars.

Among the other attractions of the day were a host of family activities and musical performances. Starting things off on an appropriately cheery note was the Dunman High Symphonic Band, which was followed by KR Rockers, Baracuda Batucada, Raw Earth and the Popbottles. In keeping with the theme of the homecoming, many of the performers were themselves alumni or students. Guests also took advantage of the cool weather to relax on the Town Green, putting their complimentary picnic mats to good use. Also popular were the pavilions on the Town Green hosted by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences; the Faculty of Engineering; the Faculty of Science; the School of Design and Environment; and Raffles Hall.

The Guest-of-Honour was Mr Wong Ngii Liong (Engineering ’65), Chairman of the NUS Board of Trustees. He was accompanied on a tour of the attractions by Mr Edward D’Silva, member, NUS Board of Trustees; Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, President of NUS; Professor Tan Eng Chye (Science ’84), NUS Deputy President (Academic Affairs) and Provost; Professor Yong Kwee Yew, NUS Vice President (Campus Infrastructure); and Professor Tan Tai Yong (Arts and Social Sciences ’85), NUS Vice Provost (Student Life), among others. Also in attendance were many senior alumni champions and stalwarts, as well as senior NUS administrators and faculty members.

Rag and Flag Day 2012

August saw the NUS student community drawing together. No other campus event captures the spirit of innovation and youthful exuberance the way that the annual NUS Students’ Union (NUSSU) Rag Day does. On this day of pomp and glory, halls of residence, schools and faculties compete for honours in a contest of eye-catching floats and performances. Held in August, Rag and Flag is a time-honoured tradition at NUS, one that began with the cohort of 1958 at the then University of Malaya as an essential part of the annual Freshmen Orientation programme.

Flag Day is all about giving back to the community, with freshmen seeking donations for charity through car washes, record-breaking events and bazaars. By working together for others (even before their academic year has properly begun), students learn how they can contribute to society, a role they will continue to play as alumni.

High Spirits

Doctor’s Orders

U@live with Professor John Wong (Medicine ’81)

In a compelling U@live session that touched on issues ranging from global medical research to the most personal (and difficult) of moments between doctors and patients, Professor John Wong shared with audiences his journey as a researcher, administrator and physician.

Professor Wong obtained his MBBS from NUS before completing his residency and fellowship at the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center and the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Now the Isabel Chan Professor in Medical Sciences at NUS, he also serves as the University’s Vice Provost (Academic Medicine), the Deputy Chief Executive of the National University Health System and the Director of the National University Cancer Institute, Singapore.
Making Sure U Matter

NUS Alumni Leaders Forum 2012

With 23 Associate Directors for Alumni Relations, over 50 Local Alumni Groups and 16 Overseas Alumni Chapters*, alumni engagement at NUS is a multidimensional effort across many fronts. Focused on forging a personal connection to alumni and placing them at the heart of all engagement efforts, the second NUS Alumni Leaders Forum once again turned the spotlight on one of the critical pillars of the university’s success and growth – its global alumni family.

Future Views

U@live with Mr Ngiam Tong Dow (Arts and Social Sciences ‘59)

Bringing decades of experience and insight at the highest levels of the Civil Service, NUS Pro-Chancellor Mr Ngiam Tong Dow led a compelling U@live session in August that ranged from current developments on the national stage to what Singapore can do to safeguard its future.

Held at the Shaw Foundation Alumni House, the session attracted a lively mix of 200 alumni, students, faculty members and members of the public. In a heartfelt opening address, Mr Ngiam shared his conviction that Singapore’s universities and polytechnics were crucial strategic assets, as well as about the need to encourage greater entrepreneurship and wealth creation among the young. His proposal? Government-financed equity investments in knowledge-based startups that originate in our universities and polytechnics.

“This, to me, is a viable strategy to compete with the giant BRIC economies, with their abundance of natural resources and manpower,” explained Mr Ngiam. “In a highly competitive knowledge-based global world economy, our universities are the only strategic assets we have. If we fail to mobilise our universities, Singapore will quickly revert back to the stagnant trade-burdened economy of the 1950s.”

Mr Peter Tay (Business ’75), Chairman, Organising Committee for the NUS Alumni Leaders Forum 2012

and Associate Director for Alumni Relations at NUS’ Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

A panel discussion allowed eight alumni champions to share their experiences and views: Mr David Ho (Arts ’72), Member of the NUS Alumni Advisory Board and President of the NUS Society; Dr Lee Soo Ann (Arts ’60), President of NUS Economics Alumni; Mr Oliver Tian (Computing ’88), President of the Computing Alumni Association; Dr Vivian Balakrishnan (Medicine ’85), Minister for the Environment and Water Resources and former two-term President of the NUS Students’ Union (NUSSU); Associate Professor Chin Wee Shong (Science ’86), Vice-Dean (Outreach and Student Life) and Associate Director for Alumni Relations at NUS’ Faculty of Science; Associate Professor David Chua (Engineering ’86), Associate Director for Alumni Relations at NUS’ Faculty of Engineering; and Mr Clovis Tan, Director for Alumni Relations and Internal Relations with NUSSU. Moderating was Associate Professor TC Chang (Arts ’90), Vice-Dean (External Relations and Student Life).

“We want to share and learn about the challenges of alumni leadership in changing times.

Singaporeans have to drive the car ourselves, we have to raise our own competence, and be in the driving seat,” he said. “If we just outsource or subcontract – if we don’t know how to order good food but don’t know how to cook an egg – I think we are dead. If we are heading that way, I think there is no future for Singapore.”

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Mr Edward D’Silva, Member of the NUS Board of Trustees.

** Figures as of December 2012

Moderated by Mr Viswa Sadasivan, veteran interviewer and Chairman of the U@live Organising Committee, the Q&A session was characterised by Mr Ngiam’s signature candour, independence of thought and knowledge of the workings of government. Answering questions from audience as well as online viewers of the forum, he often drew on his years as a senior civil servant in explaining his ideas.
Green Ties

21st NUS Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament

Friendly competition and a common varsity spirit forged over many years—these were the presiding themes of our 21st NUS Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament.

Held at the Raffles Country Club on 24 October 2012, the occasion saw about 140 golfers taking part. Among the many alumni stalwarts in attendance were Mr David Ho, NUS Alumni Advisory Board member and President of the NUS Society (NUSS); Mr Simon Phua, President of the NUS Business School Alumni Association; and Mr Lim Kin Choo, Director of the NUS Office of Financial Services. The alumni golfers were in high spirits as they teed off under sunny skies. Taking the honours at the Inter-Faculty Chancellor Challenge Trophy was the Faculty of Engineering, with the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences close behind. The Business School Tournament Challenge Trophy was won by the BBA golfers.

High Drama

Intrigues in the Qing Imperial Court

Audiences were captivated by a unique theatrical offering, one that brought a fresh twist to a classical art form, over two evenings at the Shaw Foundation Alumni House.

Gracing the performance on opening night on 13 October was Guest-of-Honour Ms Priscylla Shaw, member of the Shaw Foundation. Other guests in attendance were NUS Pro-Chancellors Mr Po’ad Mattar and Mr Ngiam Tong Dow; Mr Edward D’Silva, member of the NUS Board of Trustees; Professor Lim Pin, former Vice-Chancellor of NUS; Professor Tan Eng Chye, NUS Deputy President (Academic Affairs) and Provost; and Professor Wang Gungwu, Chairman of the Shaw Foundation. The opera proved as intriguing as its title. Set in the tumultuous final decades of the Qing empire, the opera had one remarkable twist: while its stylised movements and splendid costumes were very much a part of traditional Chinese opera, all of the roles were performed in English. Another highlight of the night was the performance of Mrs Joanna Wong (Science ’63), Cultural Medallion recipient for Theatre (1981). A doyenne of Chinese opera, Mrs Wong brought a sense of authority, fire and cunning to the role of the Empress Dowager Cixi. She was also wonderfully complemented by her fellow performers from the Chinese Theatre Circle as well as the Kreta Ayer Community Club Chinese Opera Troupe.

A wonderful performance and production by Mr Leslie Wong and Mrs Joanna Wong — our very own alumni. The unwavering passion, professionalism and enthusiasm displayed by the cast as well as Leslie and Joanna was heartening and overwhelming, and I hope that they can be recognised at a national level and perform to a wider audience! I also hope that this event will inspire our younger alumni to come forth and display their cultural talents.

Mr Edward D’Silva
Member, NUS Board of Trustees
Only Connect

U@live with Mr Tan Chuan-Jin (Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy ‘08)

Our final U@live session for 2012 was all about engagement – the tricky, often challenging and ultimately essential process of connecting with others in order to achieve a common goal. Sharing his thoughts on the subject was Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, Acting Minister for Manpower and Minister of State for National Development. In a thought-provoking session at the Shaw Foundation Alumni House on 15 November 2012, Mr Tan talked openly with audience members about the finer points of engagement, trust and leadership.

“Engagement is the process where we try to connect with people on an intellectual level, on an emotive level, on a social level; in whatever shape or form,” he said. “It is how we eventually engage and connect with people, and in the process, [how] we earn the trust of people we work with... Engagement is the process by which we engender trust.”

Passion, Action, Inspiration

U@live in Review

U@live is a unique monthly forum that showcases outstanding members of the NUS community – students, faculty and alumni – who have championed causes that have made this a better world. The Office of Alumni Relations would like to thank all our other U@live speakers of 2012 for sharing their fantastic experiences and ideas with us.
Year-round Celebrations

Anniversary reunions and gatherings

Coming together to celebrate the best of years past – 2012 proved to be another banner year for alumni reunions at NUS. Here are just some of the wonderful and heartfelt gatherings across faculties, schools and halls.

January
- Chengdu Overseas Alumni Chapter Chinese New Year Dinner
- Engineering Class of ‘82 30th Anniversary Celebration
- Engineering and Economics Alumni Reunion
- Kuching Overseas Alumni Chapter Chinese New Year Dinner
- Nursing Alumni Reunion
- School of Computing Reunion
- Tokyo Overseas Alumni Chapter Chinese New Year Dinner
- Union House Kakis Class of ‘72 40th Anniversary Celebration
- University Scholars Programme Reunion

February
- Electrical and Computer Engineering Alumni Reunion
- Launch of Jakarta Alumni Chapter cum Reunion Dinner

March
- Auckland Overseas Alumni Chapter Gathering
- Department of Political Science 50th Anniversary Celebration
- Department of Psychology 25th Anniversary Celebration
- Hong Kong Alumni Reception
- NUS Business School Mandarin Alumni 20th Anniversary Celebration
- Perth Overseas Alumni Chapter Gathering

April
- Dentistry, Class of ’72 40th Anniversary Celebration
- Tokyo Overseas Alumni Chapter Gathering

May
- Department of Chemical Engineering Class of ’87 25th Anniversary Celebration
- Shanghai Alumni Outing

July
- Department of Communications and New Media Homecoming Celebration
- Department of Geography Gathering
- Dunearn Road Hostels/Sheares Hall Charity Golf Event
- NUS Economics Alumni 5th Annual Dinner
- Tokyo Overseas Alumni Chapter Gathering
- Vancouver Overseas Alumni Chapter Gathering

August
- Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
- 5th Alumni Family Day
- Kuching Overseas Alumni Chapter 12th Anniversary Celebration
- Melbourne and Perth Overseas Alumni Chapters Gathering
- Auckland Overseas Alumni Chapter investment talk
- Business, Class of ’87 25th Anniversary Celebration
- Business, Class of ’92 20th Anniversary Celebration
- Engineering, Class of ’77 25th Anniversary Celebration
- Law, Classes of ’74 to ’77 Homecoming Dinner
- NUS Business School Eminent Business Alumni Awards 2012
- NUS Economics Alumni Trishaw Fundraising Event

September
- Dentistry 3rd Alumni Reunion Dinner
- Department of Social Work 60th Anniversary Celebration
- Engineering Class of ’92 20th Anniversary Celebration
- Jakarta Overseas Alumni Chapter Gathering
- Launch of NUS Engineering Alumni Chapters in Beijing and Shanghai
- London Overseas Alumni Chapter 12th Annual Dinner
- Pharmacy Class of ’82 30th Anniversary Celebration

October
- Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Alumni Dinner
- NUS Engineering Alumni Gala Dinner

November
- Beijing Alumni Reunion
- Shanghai Overseas Alumni Chapter Gathering for the diversity and creative spirit of modern Chinese cinema

December
- Beijing Alumni Reunion
- NUS Business School Mandarin Alumni 20th Anniversary Celebration
- NUS Business School Mandarin Alumni 20th Anniversary Celebration
- Pharmacy Class of ’82 30th Anniversary Celebration
- NUS Economics Alumni Trishaw Fundraising Event
Season’s Greetings

Year-end Alumni Complex Light-up

December 2012 saw this corner of the Kent Ridge Campus aglow with the traditional Year-end Alumni Complex Light-up, organised by the Office of Alumni Relations in collaboration with the National University of Singapore Society. As always, the occasion drew a fantastic response from alumni and their families, friends and guests.
2012 Year In Review

January
- U@live with Mr Philip Yeo (Engineering '74) (18 January)
- President's Dialogue Lunch with alumni of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (29 January)

February
- Chinese New Year Appreciation Lunch (6 February)
- U@live with Mr S R Nathan (Arts and Social Sciences '54) (8 February)
- Launch of NUS' 16th Overseas Alumni Chapter in Jakarta, Indonesia (23 February)

March
- Hong Kong Alumni Networking Reception (16 March)
- U@live with Mr Jolovan Wham (Arts and Social Sciences '04) (21 March)
- The Canadian Film Forum (24 to 29 March)

April
- U@live with Prof Leo Tan (Science ’69, ’74) (25 April)

May
- President's Dialogue Lunch with alumni of the Faculty of Law (21 May)
- U@live with Mr Louis Ng (Science ’02) (23 May)

June
- UM-NUS Inter-University Tunku Chancellor Golf Tournament (5 to 7 June)
- President's Dialogue Lunch with alumni of the Faculty of Engineering (11 June)
- U@live with Mr Alvan Yap (Arts and Social Sciences ’01) (13 June)
- Commencement 2012 (5 to 13 July)
- Alumni Day @ Bukit Timah Campus (8 July)
- U@live with Prof John Wong (Medicine ’81) (25 July)
- Alumni Day @ Kent Ridge (28 July)

August
- Rag and Flag Day 2012 (10 August)
- NUS Alumni Leaders Forum 2012 (11 August)
- U@live with Mr Ngiam Tong Dow (Arts and Social Sciences ’59) (29 August)

September
- U@live with Dr Kumaran Rasappan (Medicine ’10) (10 August)
- Alumni Day @ Bukit Timah Campus (11 September)
- U@live with Mr Dinesh Mohan (Arts and Social Sciences ’04) (24 September)

October
- President's Dialogue Lunch with alumni of the Faculty of Science (4 October)
- Intrigues in the Qing Imperial Court (13 and 14 October)

November
- U@live with Mr Tan Chuan-Jin (Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy ’08) (15 November)
- Inaugural China Film Festival (17 to 22 November)
- President's Dialogue Lunch with alumni of the School of Computing (26 November)

December
- Year-end Alumni Complex Light-up (2 December)
OAR
In Focus

What does it take to deliver a better engagement experience for our alumni? Here’s a peek at some of the facilities, platforms and services that have allowed the Office of Alumni Relations to better reach out to and serve our global alumni family.

Your Home on Campus

Shaw Foundation Alumni House

As the focal point for alumni activities at NUS, the Shaw Foundation Alumni House plays host to a variety of exciting events, activities and programmes throughout the year. Opened in March 2009 and named after the leading philanthropic organisation the Shaw Foundation, the building brings a welcome buzz to the campus scene.

2012 proved to be another banner year for the Shaw Foundation Alumni House. Among the events that were held at the building were reunions, seminars, conferences, workshops, concerts, performances – and many more!
Engagement 2.0
AlumNET, IADS and New Mobile Apps

Behind the scenes at the Office of Alumni Relations, operational advances have been the order of the day. Among the technological improvements are:
Relaunch of the AlumNET website (January): Not only does the new site offer better consolidation in terms of areas of alumni interest, it also boasts improved navigation features and customisable pages for Local Alumni Groups and Overseas Alumni Chapters.

Alumni database transition (September): As NUS’ alumni community grows, it becomes ever more critical that information related to it – names, contact details and other key data – be well-secured, easily updated and open to different forms of analysis. With the transition from the longstanding Alumni Management System to the Integrated Alumni Database System (IADS), the Office of Alumni Relations has taken another step forward in safeguarding this vital resource. Another boon? IADS can be accessed by key university stakeholders, making it an indispensable tool in the alumni engagement process.

AlumNET iPhone app (September): Developed to allow alumni easier access to their favourite alumni services, this app adds another dimension to the NUS alumni experience.

Print in Demand
AlumNUS magazine

One of our most recognisable and cherished media platforms received a fresh new look in 2012. Published on a quarterly basis, The AlumNUS magazine seeks to profile other members of the alumni community and share the latest news on education, research and student life at NUS. There is no better way to learn about our dynamic alumni scene.

“ We have a diverse and talented alumni community (with) a wide-ranging spectrum of interests, expertise, skills and strengths. With their strong support, I am confident that NUS will continue to strive and to grow as a leading global university centred in Asia. ”

Professor Tan Chorh Chuan
NUS President

Membership Privileges
AlumNUS Card and AlumMAIL

Two of our most popular offerings continue to be the AlumNUS Card (entitling holders to a range of exclusive offers) and AlumMAIL, a complimentary lifetime email account with the domain name: @alumni.nus.edu.sg.
Staying Connected

The faculties, schools and halls of residence each have an Associate Director appointed to cultivate meaningful and long-lasting relationships between alumni and the University.

**FACULTIES/SCHOOLS**

Alice Lee Centre for Nursing Studies  
Dr Tiew Lay Hwa  
nurth@nus.edu.sg

Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School  
Ms Corinna Cox  
gmsccsh@nus.edu.sg

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
Associate Professor Chang Tou Chuang  
fasctc@nus.edu.sg

Faculty of Dentistry  
Dr Betty Mok  
denmokyy@nus.edu.sg

Faculty of Engineering  
Associate Professor David Chua  
ceedavid@nus.edu.sg

Faculty of Law  
Ms Trina Gan  
lawgylt@nus.edu.sg

Faculty of Science  
Associate Professor Chin Wee Shong  
scicws@nus.edu.sg

Institute of Systems Science  
Ms Dolly Cheng  
dollychng@nus.edu.sg

Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy  
Ms Eleline Lew  
sppelel@nus.edu.sg

NUS Business School  
Ms Ng Phek Choo  
blizpo@nus.edu.sg

NUS Graduate School for Integrative Sciences and Engineering  
Ms Gloria Chen  
ngschen@nus.edu.sg

Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health  
Ms Wendy Tan  
wendy_tan@nus.edu.sg

School of Computing  
Associate Professor Anthony Tung  
dictung@nus.edu.sg

School of Design and Environment  
Associate Professor Florence Ling  
bddlgy@nus.edu.sg

University Scholars Programme  
Associate Professor Albert Teo  
uspteocy@nus.edu.sg

Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine  
Professor Wong Peng Cheang  
obpcwpc@nus.edu.sg

With over 50 Local Alumni Groups and over 15 Overseas Alumni Chapters, it's easy to stay connected to your alma mater!

**Local Alumni Groups**

**FACULTY-BASED ALUMNI GROUPS**

Chinese Studies Alumni Association  
Mr Lim Sin Tat  
sintat@fa.com.sg

Faculty of Dentistry  
NUS Graduate Dental Implantology Alumni  
Dr Alphonosus Tay  
apolloni@starhub.net.sg

Guild of Dental Graduates  
Singapore Alumni Group  
Mr Wong Kar Hong  
karhong.wong@alumni.nus.edu.sg

Pharmacy Alumni  
Dr Celina Liew  
celinieliew@nus.edu.sg

Physics Alumni  
Dr Phua Kok Khoon  
kkpahua@wsic.com.sg

NUS Science Youth Alumni  
Mr Quek Wei Tong  
weitong@alumni.nus.edu.sg

Science CBLC Alumni Association  
Mr Chua Yunjia  
chuayunjia@hotmail.com

NUS Business School  
Diploma in Business Administration Alumni  
Mr Tan Tat Thye  
tt_tan_sg@yahoo.com.sg

MBA Alumni  
Mr Michael Teng Yew Heng  
drmiketeng@gmail.com

NUS Business School Alumni Association  
Mr Simon Phua  
sphua51@yahoo.co.uk

Faculty of Science  
Master of Science in Management of Technology Alumni  
Mr Wong Kar Hong  
karhong.wong@alumni.nus.edu.sg

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
NUS Economics Alumni  
Mr Daniel Lo  
ccdaniello@gmail.com

Chinese Studies Alumni Association  
Ms Sia Sheau Chwen  
chewnissa@gmail.com

NUS Engineering Alumni  
Mr Melvin Low Poh-Chye  
mevin pclov@gmail.com

Japanese Studies Alumni Association  
Ms Sia Sheau Chwen  
chewnissa@gmail.com

NUS Chemistry Engineering Alumni  
Mr Dennis Koh  
dennis.koh@stahl.com

NUS French Double Degree Programme Alumni  
Ms Eng Se-Hieng  
gs2020512@gmail.com

NUS History Alumni Association  
Ms Yeap Mei Yi  
meiyiyeap@gmail.com

Political Science Alumni Association  
Mr Joshua Thomas  
bohamas@gmail.com

Faculty of Dentistry  
NUS Graduate Dental Implantology Alumni  
Dr Alphonosus Tay  
apolloni@starhub.net.sg

Law Faculty Alumni  
Ms Goh Mia Yang  
lawlink@nus.edu.sg

Institute of Systems Science  
Ms Dolly Cheng  
dollychng@nus.edu.sg

Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy  
Ms Eleline Lew  
sppelel@nus.edu.sg

NUS Business School  
Ms Ng Phek Choo  
blizpo@nus.edu.sg

NUS Graduate School for Integrative Sciences and Engineering  
Ms Gloria Chen  
ngschen@nus.edu.sg

Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health  
Ms Wendy Tan  
wendy_tan@nus.edu.sg

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dictung@nus.edu.sg

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Mr Wong Kar Hong  
karhong.wong@alumni.nus.edu.sg

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Dr Celina Liew  
celinieliew@nus.edu.sg

Physics Alumni  
Dr Phua Kok Khoon  
kkpahua@wsic.com.sg

NUS Science Youth Alumni  
Mr Quek Wei Tong  
weitong@alumni.nus.edu.sg

Science CBLC Alumni Association  
Mr Chua Yunjia  
chuayunjia@hotmail.com

NUS Business School  
Diploma in Business Administration Alumni  
Mr Tan Tat Thye  
tt_tan_sg@yahoo.com.sg

MBA Alumni  
Mr Michael Teng Yew Heng  
drmiketeng@gmail.com

NUS Business School Alumni Association  
Mr Simon Phua  
sphua51@yahoo.co.uk
NUS Business School Mandarin Alumni
Ms Yiru Thomassen
yiruzhang2006@hotmail.com

NUS Graduate Schools
Institute of System Science Alumni
Ms Lim Chi Ching
joanlimchiching@gmail.com

NGS Alumni Club - NUS Graduate School for Integrative Sciences and Engineering Alumni
Dr Teo Pelli
pellite@nus.edu.sg

NUS Postgraduate Alumni
Mr Deepak Pitta
pitta.deepak@gmail.com

NUS Overseas Colleges
NUS Overseas Colleges Alumni
Dr Rosemary Khoo
rmkhoo@gmail.com

School of Computing
Computing Alumni Association
Mr Oliver Tian Sau Meng
cael@learningsexpresshome.com

School of Design and Environment
Architecture Alumni Association
Mr Neo Sei Hwa
seihwa@tenarchitects.com.sg

Building and Estate Management Alumni
Dr Teo Ho Pin
teo_ho_pin@pa.gov.sg

Master of Science (Environmental Management) Alumni
Mr Albert Sin
siny@singnet.com.sg

School of Medicine
NUS Nursing Alumni (NUSNA)
Ms Lim Chi Ching
joanlimchiching@gmail.com

NUS Alumni Photographic Society
Mr Yang Jiaxian
jjxy@yahoo.com

NUS Alumni Toastmasters Club
Ms Emily Heng
blyl3@yahoo.ca

NUS Alumni Volleyball Club
Mr Joel Leong
joelcheongbg@gmail.com

NUS Climbing Alumni
Mr Ben Toh
de_philosopher@hotmail.com

The Alumni Association
School of Computing Alumni Association
Mr Oliver Tian Sau Meng
caa@learningexpresshome.com

University Scholars Programme
Scholars Programme Alumni Network (SPAN)
Ms Tan Sii Yee
uspusty@nus.edu.sg

INTEREST-BASED ALUMNI GROUPS
AIESEC Alumni Singapore
Mr Ng Vern Shion
aalumnisg@yahoo.com

NUS Pioneers Association
Mr Teo Cheng Keng
chengkeng@gmail.com

Nanyang University Graduates Christian Fellowship
Associate Professor Lai Yee Hing
chmyl@nus.edu.sg

NUS Alumni Dragonboat Team
Mr Koe Wejie
imzbest_88@hotmail.com

Singapore-MIT Alliance Alumni Club
Mr Zhang Endong
malcolmzhz@hotmail.com

The Association of Nanyang University Graduates
Dr Yap Kim Yew
primechance@hotmail.com

The Nanyang University Alumni Academy Society
Dr Chong Chow Siong
cchoongsr@gmail.com

HALL-BASED ALUMNI GROUPS
Eusoff Hall Alumni
Mr Loh Joon Kit
lohhjoonkit@gmail.com

Kent Ridge Hall Alumni
Mr Kelyn Choo
kr.alumni@gmail.com

NUS Senior Alumni
Dr Rosemary Khoo
rmkhoo@gmail.com

NUS Society
Mr David Ho
dho@windmill.com.sg

NUS Volunteer Network Alumni
Mr Timothy Lin
timothytm@hotmail.com

NUSU Alumni
Mr Charles Oh Chin Hin
ohchinhin@gmail.com

Overseas Alumni Chapters
Melbourne, Australia
Dr Soh Leng Lu
nusalumnimelbourne@live.com.au

Perth, Australia
Mr Thomas Goh
gohtlh@yahoo.com

Sydney, Australia
Mr Jack Tan
jtan@eoinvestments.com.au

Vancouver, Canada
Mr Arthur Yap
ayap@shaw.ca

Beijing, China
Mr Lyon Sun Liyong
nusbeijing@alumni.nus.edu.sg

Chengdu, China
Mr William Gan
williamganK9@gmail.com

Hong Kong, China
Mr Tong Kin Ching
kinching@etcv.edu.hk

Shanghai, China
Dr Cheah Kim Fee
sgdental@hotmail.com

New Delhi, India
Mr Prashant Pandikir
pandikir@gmail.com

Jakarta, Indonesia
Mr Perry Irwan
sheffier@yahoo.com

Tokyo, Japan
Mr Tetsuya Fujimoto
tetsuya.fujimoto@alumni.nus.edu.sg

Kuching, Malaysia
Mr Paul Kho
kohhk@streamyx.com

Auckland, New Zealand
Mr Ee Chiong Boon
nzalumnNUS@gmail.com

London, United Kingdom
Dr Tan Peng Guan
london@alumni.nus.edu.sg

Boston, USA
Mr Robin Low
robinlow@yahoo.com

San Francisco, USA
Mr Chong Fu Ching
fuchiung@hotmail.com

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