

SINGAPORE

## Couples who met in NUS give back in new fund

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In conjunction with Singapore's 50th anniversary, NUS alumni aim to fund 50 bursaries for financially-disadvantaged undergraduates. The funds will be donated by couples who met while studying in NUS.

PHOTOS



File photo of the National University of Singapore campus.

CAPTION

SINGAPORE: In an effort to raise funds for financially-disadvantaged undergraduates, National University of Singapore (NUS) alumni who found love on campus have established the NUS Campus Couples Bursary Fund.

The Fund was officially launched on Friday (Feb 13) at the NUS Campus Couples Valentine's Dinner by Emeritus Senior Minister (ESM) Goh Chok Tong, who graced the occasion as the Guest-of-Honour.

To date, the Fund has raised S\$325,313, said NUS. This includes donations from 12 couples who met in NUS, who gave S\$25,000 per couple. The aim of the Fund is to attract S\$1.25 million in donations to eventually disburse to 50 bursaries annually, added NUS, saying that it is in line with Singapore's 50th year of independence.

The NUS Couples Bursary Fund is expected to disburse up to five inaugural bursary awards, valued at up to S\$2,250 each, in the 2015/2016 Academic Year which begins in August. The bursary will be open to all eligible Singaporean undergraduates in need of financial assistance in NUS.

The NUS Couples Bursary Fund was initiated by Mr Yeo Keng Joon, who met his wife Mdm Kong Yuet Peng as a university student. For Mr and Mrs Yeo, the setting up of the Bursary Fund to help financially-disadvantaged students is a way of giving back to the NUS community, having themselves received financial help with their education.

"The financial support I received changed the course of my life," said Mr Yeo. "Without it I would have struggled. I see a real need out there. Even though more people think Singapore is rich, there are still students who come from humble backgrounds who will benefit from financial support."

The Valentine's Dinner, held at the NUSS Kent Ridge Guild House in NUS, was attended by over 100 couples who met while studying in NUS, spanning decades from the 1950s to present day.

The dinner is set to be the first of many to come, as part of a new annual tradition of campus couples returning to NUS to mark the occasion of Valentine's Day, said NUS.

- CNA/rg