

Trio honoured with the Outstanding Young Alumni Award as a team

Carousell founders feted at NUS Alumni Awards



(Clockwise from above) Dr Wong Ngit Liong, Dr Sin Yong, Mr Marcus Tan, Mr Lucas Ngoo and Mr Quek Siu Rui. PHOTOS: LIANHE ZAOBAO



✓ CALVIN YANG

For the first time, a team accolade has been presented to three former National University of Singapore (NUS) students at the university's biennial alumni awards.

E-commerce platform Carousell's co-founders Quek Siu Rui, Lucas Ngoo and Marcus Tan, received the Outstanding Young Alumni Award as a team at the NUS Alumni Awards ceremony yesterday, where a total of 15 alumni were honoured for their outstanding contributions to their alma mater and society.

The award recognises the trio's stellar achievements and entrepreneurial spirit.

The entrepreneurs stumbled on the business idea to create an application for people to sell their used goods in a simple way after a stint in Silicon Valley under the NUS Overseas Colleges programme.

Carousell, launched five years ago, is now one of the world's fastest growing marketplaces.

Mr Tan, 34, who graduated in 2011 with a business administration degree, said the accolade is "a vali-

dation that the problem we are solving is a meaningful one that impacts many people, not just in Singapore, but around the world".

Mr Quek, 29, graduated with a business administration degree in 2012, while Mr Ngoo, 29, received his engineering degree in 2013.

Six other alumni aged 40 and below also received the Outstanding Young Alumni Award at the ceremony, held at the NUS Ridge View Residential College.

They include Dr Neo Mei Lin, a prominent marine biologist, and Dr Sin Yong, a doctor who uses magic as a tool to spread the message of hope to patients.

Five individuals, including veteran theatre practitioner Lim Hai Yen and DBS Bank chairman Peter Seah, were presented with the Distinguished Alumni Service Award, which recognises alumni who have distinguished themselves in rendering excellent service to NUS.

Mr Seah encouraged NUS graduates to share their experience with students "to help mould them to make impactful contributions to their chosen industry".

This year, the highest honour for NUS alumni – the Eminent Alumni Award – went to Venture Corporation chief executive Wong Ngit Liong, who was the chairman of the NUS Board of Trustees from 2004 to 2016. Past recipients of the award, given to alumni who have distinguished themselves nationally or globally for their exceptional contributions and achievements, include Ambassador-at-Large Tommy Koh.

Under Mr Wong's leadership, NUS was transformed from a respected local teaching institution into a leading global university.

The 76-year-old said it was a privilege to "answer the call to serve NUS and Singapore at the time when the Singapore Government was making the bold and wise move to corporatise NUS and operate as an autonomous university".

"Looking back, the last 12 to 13 years of my life at NUS have been uniquely precious, richly blessed and wonderfully memorable," he said.

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