2009 was a year dominated by the global financial crisis and associated economic storm. Happily, despite the challenging conditions, NUS has continued to make excellent progress in the pursuit of our vision to be a leading global university centred in Asia. This is reflected in this State of the University Report, which highlights the significant events and achievements of our talented NUS community in the eventful year just past.

The tumultuous events in 2009 will lead to fundamental changes in the post-crisis world, opening up many exciting new opportunities for institutions ready and nimble enough to seize them. Of particular significance, the financial crisis has accelerated the rise of Asia in global prominence and influence. For NUS in the past year, even as we have focused on nurturing our faculty and staff to international prominence, we have also greatly intensified our efforts to recruit academic leaders to our ranks, with considerable success. In addition, we have launched exciting new initiatives to enhance our University’s expertise and academic programmes relating to Asia.

I hope that as you read this year’s State of the University Report, you will share some of the strong sense of passion, creativity and dynamism that characterises our University community of students, faculty, staff, alumni, well-wishers and friends – a strong sense of self-belief and forward movement.

Even as the world continues to grapple with very difficult issues on the road to financial and economic recovery, and though the journey ahead will still challenge and stretch us, NUS looks forward with optimism to a future that is filled with myriad possibilities for advancement.

Tan Chorh Chuan
President
• NUS President Prof Tan Chorh Chuan launched the University’s new Vision and Mission at a welcome lunch held in his honour. Prof Tan shared his aspirations for NUS to become a global university centred in Asia. Leveraging on its location and understanding of Asia, Prof Tan hopes that NUS will be recognised as a key authority on Asia that could influence the future of the region.

• The Right Honourable Mr Tony Blair, former British Prime Minister, delivered a lecture on Faith and Globalisation, to some 600 students and staff, alumni and invited guests at the University. Mr Blair, who is also the current Howland Distinguished Fellow at Yale University, had previously facilitated a live video seminar between NUS and Yale students, and is expected to participate in one or two sessions in a new module offered by the University Scholars Programme in the new academic year.

• NUS President Prof Tan Chorh Chuan participated in the 2009 World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos as a member of the Global University Leaders Forum. Prof Tan is also a member of the WEF’s Global Agenda Council on Pandemics.

• NUS participated in the Inaugural Universities Australia Annual Higher Education Conference which was held in Canberra. NUS President Prof Tan Chorh Chuan spoke on the theme National Innovation Systems in a Global Context from a Singapore perspective at the conference.

• The Faculty of Law is one of the founding members of a first-of-its-kind Center for Transnational Legal Studies, based in Georgetown University Law Center in London. This programme brings together faculty and students from top law schools around the world to study transnational legal issues in a multicultural and transnational setting.

• Some 250 government leaders and renowned experts from academia, business and civil society participated in the inaugural National Sustainability Conference, co-organised by NUS and Students Against Violation of the Earth, an environmental student body under NUSSU. The Singapore Youth Declaration on Sustainable Development, which identifies issues of concern on sustainable development in Singapore, was also finalised at the event.

• The inaugural Asian Law Deans’ Forum on Legal Education, jointly hosted by Faculty of Law and Temasek Foundation, saw an attendance of more than 45 top law deans and leaders from the region. The distinguished participants represented over 30 institutions from countries such as Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.
• The Centre on Asia and Globalisation, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy hosted the inaugural S T Lee Global Governance Conference themed Governance of a globalising world: whither Asia and the West?. The conference, which brought together some 70 leading scholars, public intellectuals and policy makers from around the world, raised issues on how nations can work together on global governance.

• Under the auspices of the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU), NUS hosted the second Research Symposium on the Brain and Mind in Asia Pacific. The event, with an overarching theme Brain Function and Repair, attracted over 150 participants from APRU member universities.

• The Faculty of Law hosted the third Regional Trade Policy Course in partnership with the World Trade Organisation. Twenty-five government officials from 22 countries in the Asia-Pacific region participated in the course.

• The Centre for Development of Teaching and Learning hosted the fifth International Conference on Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (TLHE 2008). The conference facilitated teaching/learning exchange for over 200 practitioners and teaching staff from other education institutions in Singapore as well as Asia Pacific countries.

• The Centre for Instructional Technology established an official NUS channel on YouTube. NUS is the first tertiary institution in Singapore to use this platform to showcase selected public events and lectures thus increasing its global exposure.

• NUS was ranked 30th in the world and 4th in Asia by the Times Higher Education Supplement-Quacquarelli Symonds (THES-QS) University Rankings 2008. The University was ranked within the top 20 in major disciplines – 11th in Technology (Engineering and IT), 17th in Life Sciences and Biomedicine and 18th for Social Sciences in the world.

• NUS President Prof Tan Chorh Chuan was named Chair of the International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU) at the annual IARU Presidents’ Meeting in April. During his term as head of the alliance, Prof Tan hopes to work synergistically with IARU member universities to contribute towards thought-leadership and development of programmes that would help address issues of global importance.

• The University was awarded the Complete Environmental Health and Safety Programme – Merit Award for its safety and health programmes by the US-based Campus Safety Health and Environmental Management Association, a professional organisation for campus safety specialists. This is the second highest award, following the top Award of Honour.

• NUS chalked another Platinum award in the Reader’s Digest Trusted Brands Awards 2009, for the 3rd year running.

• The NUS Business School is the only school in Asia to be ratified as a full academic member of CEMS, a strategic alliance of leading business schools and multinational companies. It was also admitted as a member of the Executive MBA Council (US), having fulfilled the membership requirements for the School’s Executive MBA programmes.

• The NUS Business School’s MBA programme was ranked 35th in the Financial Times Global MBA Rankings Survey 2009, jumping 46 spots from its previous position at 81. It was ranked 5th amongst its Asian peers. The School’s Asia-Pacific Executive Master of Business Administration (APEX EMBA) programme was ranked 20th in the world in the Financial Times EMBA 2008 Rankings.
## Enrolment for Academic Year 2008/2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty/School/Institute</th>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Graduate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Social Sciences</td>
<td>5,478</td>
<td>716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>1,966</td>
<td>565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computing</td>
<td>1,443</td>
<td>381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dentistry</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design &amp; Environment</td>
<td>1,622</td>
<td>348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School Singapore</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>6,250</td>
<td>2,051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrative Sciences &amp; Engineering</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>892</td>
<td>293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>1,396</td>
<td>683</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Policy</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>4,444</td>
<td>1,137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institute of Systems Science</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore-MIT Alliance</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Logistics Institute - Asia Pacific</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>23,822</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,670</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Graduation Statistics: Class of 2009

- **Bachelor degrees**: 5,850
- **Total higher degrees**: 2,397
  - **Graduate Diplomas**: 312
  - **Master degrees**: 1,786
  - **PhD degrees**: 299

## Examples of Student Achievements and Service

- **Winston Yien Kiat**, **Choo Zheng Xi**, **Lan Huishan** and **Dennis Tan Chuin Wei** *(Law)* won The Copenhagen Climate Change Competition in Denmark.

- **Li Xiang** *(Business, Engineering, USP)* emerged winner of the US Grand Champion in J.P. Morgan Trade Up, an online trading game and winner of the Mastercard, John Wiley Competition 2008, in the female consumer market category.

- PhD student, **Hafizur Rahaman** *(Design and Environment)* won the Young CAADRIA Award 2009 at the CAADRIA (Computer Aided Architectural Design and Research in Asia) Conference held in Taiwan.

- **Danny Tan Wei Xiang** *(Design and Environment)* founded the winning team **NeuroMOD Technologies** which won the 4th Annual Intel + UC Berkeley Technology Entrepreneurship Challenge in the US.

- A team **Sublight** comprising **Agnes Chua Yi Na**, **Joshua Koh Zhizhong**, **Phoebe Tan Si Hui** and **Tan Ying Qi** *(Arts and Social Sciences)* and **Ng Yeow Chuan** *(Computing)* won first prize in the Student Design Competition, Usability Professionals’ Association, US.

- **Anderson Quah** and **Elaine Hee** *(Business)* and **Wong Wei Ming** *(Computing)*, topped CaseIT 2009, an annual international undergraduate business case competition with a strong Management Information Systems focus, organised by Simon Fraser University in Canada.

- **Chua Wen Hau**, **Ho Hyan Hui**, **Cai Yixiang**, **R Lakshmi Narayanan**, **Robson Ng Yang Siong** and **Quek Bingyuan** *(Engineering)* won a tie for first place in the annual International Student Offshore Design Competition 2008 for their work on “Conceptual Design of a Compliant Tower Oil and Gas Production System in Makassar Straits”.
A team comprising Tony Loo Dong Li, David Cheong Wai Keong, Kwa Chin Soon and Harrif Santo (Engineering) topped the foreign teams participating in IDEERS (Introducing and Demonstrating Earthquake Engineering Research in Schools) Earthquake Challenge in Taiwan.

A team of six students Jalleh Shaun Ming Yi, Tang Yong Ching and Yvonne Tan Yi Wen (Design and Environment) and Chong Kang Wei, Visayong Viravong and Wu Junhan (Business) emerged as champions at the 4th USC Marshall International Real Estate Case Competition in the US. This is the second championship victory in a row.

Azariah Tan (Music) was awarded the 2009 VSA arts International Young Soloists Award at the Kennedy Center, Washington DC, US.

Ang Wee Jian (Law) won the Best Speaker title at the 5th Asian University Debating Championships 2009 in Bangladesh.

Marcus Lim Tao Shien, Jeanne Gwendoline Duclos, Lim Yuhui and Jennifer Gankee Ong (Law) won the 4th International Chamber of Commerce International Commercial Mediation Competition in France.

Jiang Hansong (Music) won the Robertson Award at the Primrose International Viola Competition in the US. He was one of the five recipients honoured, outperforming 70 competitors from 18 countries.

The NUS Choir participated in the Grand Prix St. Petersburg, Russia (2008) and obtained perfect scores for both the “Mixed Adult Choirs” and “Sacred and Church Music for Youth and Adult Choirs” categories. It was also awarded the Golden Cup of Peter the Great at this festival, the first Singaporean choir to receive this honour.

Eusoff Hall Band Sixology, comprising Andrew Sophian Putra, Michael Wan Chang Chin, Sarah Yap Yun Ying, Kim Euntaek, Tan Kim Ong and Udesha Shamintha, won the Yamaha Asia Beat 2008 Band Championships Singapore. The band also clinched the top three awards – Best Keyboardist Award, Best Song Composition Award and Yamaha Asia Beat 2008 Grand Prix Champion.

Abdul Hakeem Abdul Halim (Business) won the silver medal for the men’s 110m hurdles at the 14th ASEAN University Games, breaking the oldest Singapore athletics record set in 1966. Seventeen NUS students contributed to Singapore’s overall gold medal haul at the event, which was held in Malaysia.

Chan Hian Yi and Chen Pengfei (Engineering), and Crispina Tay Yan Bing and Tan Choon Han (Science) won second place at Peak Time 2009, Europe’s biggest international business competition, which was organised by the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga, Latvia.

A team comprising Neha Gupta and Richard Rubnan Que (Business), and Sujit Mathew (Computing) won second prize at the CA International Case Competition in Las Vegas for their proposal of a strategic solution to address issues faced by an integrated online portal which aims to help poor working households in New York.

NUS team Solaire Voyager comprising Louis Lee Wee Boon, Muhammad Adil and Vignesh Subramaniam (Engineering) emerged second in the Airbus’ Fly Your Ideas international competition held in France.
• The NUS Formula Society of Automotive Engineers (FSAE) team (Engineering) was the only Asian contestant to be placed among the top 20 at the international inter-varsity FSAE race in Michigan, US. The team also bagged the 6th prize in the presentation event and was placed 16th in the 22-km endurance race.

• A student team from the Faculty of Engineering created KRUCE, Singapore’s first eco-car that runs on hydrogen fuel cell with zero carbon emission. The car was ranked 5th in the Urban Concept and 4th in the Fuel Cell Vehicle categories at the Shell Eco-marathon Europe competition in Germany.

• National triathlete Mok Ying Ren (Medicine) finished second place in the Singapore International Triathlon (Under-23 category) and Port Dickson International Triathlon (Open category) competitions.

• Team Gelomatrix, comprising Eric Cher Wei Liang, Chua Zi Yong, Goh Qing Zhuang and Darren Luo Xueli (Engineering) won the Lee Kuan Yew Global Business Plan Competition.

• Ho Kim Cheong, Khaw Kaimin, Lim Po Ben and Melvyn Yan Jinglin (Arts and Social Sciences) won first prize in Singapore’s inaugural Public Policy Challenge, a contest which aims to introduce students to the workings and intricacies of policymaking.

• Victor Goh, Neo Shi Yong and Li Haojie (Computing) clinched the top prize of US$100,000 in a global competition, The Star Challenge, for developing a highly efficient and intuitive system which can be used in a search engine.

• The NUS Soccer Team (Men) emerged as champions amongst the 10 local tertiary institutions in the annual S R Nathan Soccer Tournament.

• NUS was the overall champion at the Singapore Universities Games 2008 bagging 12 gold, 16 silver and 8 bronze medals.

• Chen Zhirong (Science), Vice-President of the NUSSU Students Against Violation of the Earth (S.A.V.E.) won the HSBC/NYAA Youth Environmental Award 2009 for his outstanding leadership and contribution to the environment.

• The NUSSU Volunteer Action Committee was presented the prestigious Commonwealth Youth Silver Award 2007/08 by the Commonwealth Youth Programme Centre for excelling in community work and promoting the spirit of volunteerism among undergraduates.

• Flag Day 2008, the University’s annual charity drive held in conjunction with Rag Day, saw over 3,000 freshmen raise a grand total of $505,536 for 20 beneficiaries under the umbrella of the Community Chest. This amount surpassed 2007’s record-breaking collection of $502,924.

• NUSSU won its second Special Events Platinum Award for raising $444,000 within a single day – the highest amount a student body has ever collected for the Community Chest.

• NUSSU’s NUS Breakers 2008 set national records for the folding of 11,553 paper pinwheels in an hour as well as having the most number of people eating ice kachang. The event raised a sum of $4,565 for the Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore (MINDS).
University Awards 2009

Outstanding Researcher Award

- Prof Wong Tien Yin (Medicine)
- Assoc Prof Goh Say Song (Mathematics)
- Assoc Prof Kenneth Paul Tan (Public Policy)
- Assoc Prof Mansoor Bin Jalil (Engineering)
- Assoc Prof Ng How Yong (Engineering)
- Assoc Prof Markus Wenk (Medicine/Science)
- Assoc Prof Melvyn Sim (Business)
- Emeritus Professor Prof Hew Choy Leong (Science)

Outstanding Educator Award

- Prof Liu Thai Ker (Public Policy)

Outstanding Partner in Research Award

- Prof William Chia (Biological Sciences)

Outstanding Service Award

- Prof Liu Thai Ker (Public Policy)
Examples of Faculty and Staff Achievements

- **NUS President Prof Tan Chorh Chuan** was elected Chair of the International Alliance of Research Universities for 2009-2011. He received the National Science and Technology Medal 2008, the highest science and technology honour in Singapore, and also the Campus Leader Who Cares Award by the Campus Safety Health and Environmental Management Association, US.

- **Prof Barry Halliwell**, NUS Deputy President (Research & Technology) and Tan Chin Tuan Centennial Professor received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society for Free Radical Biology and Medicine (SFRBM) in the US for his overall contributions to the field of free radical biology and medicine.

- **Vice President (University and Global Relations) Prof Lily Kong** was appointed to serve on the Board of the Public Service Commission (PSC) for five years starting from January 2009. She also received the Robert Stoddard Award from the Association of American Geographers’ Specialty Group of Geography of Religions and Belief Systems (GORABS), the third recipient and first Asian to win this award.

- Vice President (Research Strategy) Prof Seeram Ramakrishna was elected Fellow, American Society for Mechanical Engineers (ASME) 2008.

- **Prof Prasenjit Duara**, Raffles Professor of Humanities (Office of Deputy President [Research & Technology]) was appointed to the External Review Panel of the Institute for Advanced Studies, School of Historical Studies at Princeton University as well as Council Member of the American Historical Association from 2008-2011.

- **The Chairman of East Asian Institute Prof Wang Gungwu** was conferred an Honorary Doctorate of Letters by the University of Cambridge.

- Emeritus Prof **Edwin Thumboo (Arts and Social Sciences)** received The Distinguished Award from the International Association for World Englishes, Hong Kong for exceptional scholarly contributions and insightful leadership in the study of World Englishes. He is the second recipient to win this award.

- Dr **Leigh Jenco (Arts and Social Sciences)** received the Leo Strauss Award from the American Political Science Association for the best doctoral dissertation in the field of political theory during the past two years.

- Assoc Prof **Roxana Waterson’s (Arts and Social Sciences)** first documentary film, *When the Sun Rises: A Toraja Priest of the Ancestral Way* was screened at two international ethnographic film festivals in Germany and Italy in 2008.

- **Prof Bernard Yeung**, Stephen Riady Distinguished Professor of Finance (Business) was appointed Member of the Economic Strategies Committee, an initiative by the Singapore Government.

- Assoc Prof **Ho Yew Kee** and Assoc Prof **Lam Swee Sum (Business)** took home the Vernon Zimmerman Best Paper Award at the 20th Asian Pacific Conference on International Accounting Issues held in Paris.

- **Prof Duan Jin-Chuan**, Cycle and Carriage Professor of Finance (Business/Risk Management Institute) was elected Academician, Academia Sinica.

- Assoc Prof **Anand Srinivasan (Business)** was recognised in the *Journal of Financial Economics* for his outstanding paper titled “Does industry-wide distress affect defaulted firms? Evidence from creditor recoveries”.

- Prof **Allaudeen Hameed** and Dr **Kang Wenjin (Business)** won the CICF Best Paper Award at the China International Conference in Finance.

- Assoc Prof **Chung Chi-Nien (Business)** won the Best Conference Marco Paper Award at the 2008 International Association for Chinese Management Research’s Annual Conference in Guangzhou, China.
• Assoc Prof Ishtiaq Mahmood and PhD student Zhu Hongjin (Business) won the Temple/AIB Best Paper Award at the Academy of International Business 2008 Annual Conference in Italy.

• Assoc Prof Nitin Pangarkar and PhD student Wu Jie (Business) won the Best Paper Award for Doctoral Student at the 6th Asia Academy of Management Conference in Taiwan.

• Assoc Prof Jane Lu (Business) won the ANZAM Strategic Management Stream Award at the Australian and New Zealand Academy of Management (ANZAM) Conference 2008.

• Dr Wu Pei Chuan (Business) won the Best Paper Award for her co-authored paper at the 6th Asia Academy of Management Conference in Taiwan.

• Dr Vincent Chen (Business) won the AFAANZ Best Paper Award at the 2008 Accounting and Finance Association of Australia and New Zealand/International Association for Accounting, Education and Research (AFAANZ/IAAER) Conference.

• Prof Ooi Beng Chin (Computing) was elected Fellow of the IEEE. He was also conferred the ACM SIGMOD Contributions Award for his sustained and significant contributions to the field of database systems.

• Dr Chen Yu (Design and Environment) won the JAABE (Journal of Asian Architecture and Building Engineering) Best Paper Award 2008 (Architecture and Theory Field).

• Dr Henry Cahyadi Willem (Design and Environment) received the Yaglou Award from the International Society of Indoor Air Quality and Climate in Copenhagen, Denmark.

• Dr Erwin Viray (Design and Environment) was appointed Member of the Advisory Council of the Barcelona Institute of Architecture.

• The International Network for Engineering Education (iNEER) presented Assoc Prof Tan Kay Chen (Engineering) with the Recognition Award for his outstanding contribution to engineering education and research at the annual international Conference on Engineering Education in Hungary.

• Prof Choo Yoo Sang (Engineering) was appointed the Lloyd’s Register Educational Trust Professor from April 2009. He was also conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award 2009 for Maritime Academics from ClassNK (Nippon Kaiji Kyokai).

• Assoc Prof Lim Kah Bin (Engineering) was decorated with the l’Officier dans l’ordre des Palmes Académiques by the French Republic for his contributions in promoting French culture and education.

• Prof Arun Mujumdar (Engineering), was honoured with a Platinum Award by his alma mater, the Institute of Chemical Technology (ICT). He was also selected as one of the international Biographic Centre’s Top 100 Engineers for 2009.

• Prof Charanjit Singh Bhatia (Engineering) received the Distinguished Contribution Award 2008 from the Information Storage Industry Consortium (INSIC) at its 13th annual Leadership Achievement and Technical Achievement Awards in the US.

• Assoc Prof Lim Chwee Teck (Engineering) was listed as the most cited author from 2005 to 2008 for a paper published in Acta Biomaterialia.

• Prof Wang Chien Ming (Engineering) was conferred the Lewis Kent Award 2009 by the Institution of Structural Engineers, UK. He also received the Institute of Engineers Singapore (IES) Outstanding Volunteer Award for his leadership in the IES/IstructE Joint Committee and his service as the Chief Editor of the IES Journal Part A: Civil and Structural Engineering.

• The Institution of Engineers Singapore (IES) presented Dr Chew Soon Hoe and Assoc Prof Foo Swee Cheng (Engineering) with the IES Excellent Service Awards – Bronze for their significant contributions to the IES Council.

• Dr Lee Poh Seng (Engineering) received the Silver Award in the Defence Science section while PhD student Mr Tan Swee Jin (NUS Graduate School for Integrative Sciences and Engineering) received the Merit Award in the Open Section at the Tan Kah Kee Young Inventors’ Award 2009.

• Prof Sam Ge (Engineering/Interactive Digital Media Institute) won the Infocomm Singapore Award 2008 in the e-Education category for his work on KooBits, an award-winning software enabling children to create interactive e-books.
• Dr Lee Taeyong (Engineering) received the GlaxoSmithKline Research Award from The Korean Society of Osteoporosis.

• Prof Jeffrey Pinsler and Prof Tan Yock Lin (Law) received the inaugural Singapore Academy of Law Award (Singapore Law Merit Award).

• Prof Lee Chuen Neng (Medicine) was elected President of the Asian Society for Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery for 2009 - 2011.

• Assoc Prof Saw Seang Mei (Medicine) received the 2009 Achievement Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

• Prof Sir Richard Friend, Tan Chin Tuan Centennial Professor (Science) was awarded the King Faisal International Prize for Science (Physics) for his pioneering work in physics and engineering of semi-conductor devices made of plastic materials.

• Prof Louis Chen, Tan Chin Tuan Centennial Professor (Science/Institute of Mathematical Studies) was elected Vice-President of the International Statistical Institute for 2009 - 2011.

• Prof Chowdari BVR (Science) was elected the First Vice-President and President-Elect of the International Union of Materials Research Societies in 2009, and will begin his two-year term as President from 2011.

• Prof Kuok Meng Hau (Science) was awarded the Omicron Nanotechnology Medal and Prize (Nanotechnology Physics Research) from the Institute of Physics Singapore.

• Prof Andrew Wee Thye Shen (Science/NUS Nanoscience and Nanotechnology Initiative) was awarded the Institute of Physics Singapore President’s Medal 2008.

• Dr Chen Ping (Science) won the World Scientific (Physics Research) Medal and Prize from the Institute of Physics Singapore.

• Prof Shen Weixiao (Science) received the Chern Shing-Shen Mathematical Award from the Chinese Mathematical Society.

• The National Science Award was awarded to Prof Mohan Balasubramanian (Science/Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory) for his outstanding contributions towards unraveling mechanisms that control cell division in eukaryotic cells; and to Assoc Prof Christian Kurtsiefer, Assoc Prof Valerio Scarani and Dr Antia Lamas-Linares (Science/Centre for Quantum Technologies) for their outstanding theoretical and experimental studies on quantum entanglement at the National Science and Technology Awards 2008.

• Assoc Prof Albert Teo (University Scholars Programme) received the National Healthcare Group Distinguished Contributor Award 2008.

• Prof Ranga Krishnan (Duke-NUS) won the C Charles Burlingame Award in recognition of outstanding leadership and lifetime achievement in psychiatric research and education.

• The Young Scientist Award 2009 was presented to Dr Wang Hongyan (Duke-NUS) for her research on neural stem cells self-renewal and differentiation and study on brain tumours; and Dr Liu Bin (Engineering) for her research on polymer chemistry and the application of polymers in biosensors and solar cells.

• Assoc Prof Tan Tin Wee (Life Sciences Institute) was presented with the ASEAN Science and Technology Meritorious Service Award 2008.
In the Academic Year 2008/2009, the University received a total of 10,059 gifts amounting to $90,200,305.44 from 6,075 donors, including 3,929 alumni.

Some of the major gifts and pledges are as follows:

- The Goh Foundation made a gift of $12 million to support efforts to advance knowledge in the treatment of childhood cancer under the Viva Children's Cancer Programme established by Viva Foundation at the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine. The gift helped set up the Viva-Goh Foundation Professorship in Paediatric Oncology as well as fund four cancer research programmes.

- Singapore businessman Mr Oei Hong Leong made a gift of $7 million to the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy to provide scholarships to students from China.

- The Yong Shook Lin Trust made a $3 million gift to the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy to support the School in its bid to attract the world's best academic talent in public policy.

- Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong pledged $2 million to the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine which will help set up the Isabel Chan Professorship and advance the School's efforts to recruit top faculty.

- The Estate of Foo Hee Lim made a gift of $1.77 million to provide financial assistance for NUS students pursuing the Bachelor of Business Administration (Accountancy) programme at the NUS Business School.

- An anonymous donor made a gift of $1 million to the Faculty of Law to establish the M. Amaladass Fellowship, in honour of the donor's late friend Mr M. Amaladass. The Fellowship will support the appointment of an academic who preferably specialises in criminal law.

- The Lee Foundation continued their support of the NUS-UBC Lee Foundation Student Exchange Award by making a pledge of $750,000. The Award provides financial assistance to selected NUS students who have successfully applied to participate in an exchange programme with the University of British Columbia, Canada.

- The Singapore Totalisator Board made two gifts amounting to $600,000 to the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music to support the Conservatory's community outreach programmes, which include public concerts and masterclasses.

- HSBC Singapore made a gift of $600,000 in support of Project Semakau, a three-year undertaking by the Faculty of Science’s Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research to promote and conserve the intertidal shores of Pulau Semakau, an island south of mainland Singapore.

- The Temasek Foundation pledged $500,000 to the Faculty of Law for the inaugural Asian Law Deans Forum on Legal Education. The gift will also support the Faculty in conducting further collaborations with regional law schools that are committed to upgrading their institutional capacity in teaching policy and pedagogy.

- The Wildlife Reserves Singapore pledged $500,000 to the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research at the Faculty of Science to advance research in conservation. The Ah Meng Memorial Conservation Fund was named in honour of the orang utan Ah Meng, former icon of the Singapore Zoological Gardens.

- The Fok Chu On Family Charitable Foundation made a gift of $450,000 to the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine to continue with the Fok Chu On Family Bursary which will help medical and nursing students in financial difficulties. The Bursary will cover study and living expenses throughout the duration of their studies.

- The Viva Foundation for Children with Cancer made a gift of $250,000 to the Viva Education and Research Fund at the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine to enable internationally renowned experts to share their latest research in paediatric oncology with the Viva-University Children's Cancer Centre.

- The Mizuho Corporate Bank made a pledge of $250,000 for scholarships and bursaries to be awarded to NUS Business School’s talented and deserving undergraduates who are in need of financial aid. Mizuho’s staff based in Singapore also made gifts totalling $63,000 to NUS Business School in support of the same initiative.
• The Alumni Complex, which comprises the Shaw Foundation Alumni House and the National University of Singapore Society’s Kent Ridge Guild House, was officially opened by NUS Eminent Alumnus Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew in March 2009. The Alumni Complex aims to be a special “Home on Campus” for all NUS alumni and also serve as a focal point for the NUS community to strengthen ties with one another.

• The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Faculty of Dentistry and Faculty of Science commemorated their 80th anniversary with the launch of the Faculty Square located at the Alumni Terrace, Shaw Foundation Alumni House. Deans from the respective faculties also unveiled 11 Faculty Sculptures, a collaborative project by staff, students and alumni.

• The NUS Homecoming 2009 was held at the Shaw Foundation Alumni House over two days as part of the official opening celebrations of the Alumni Complex. Launched at the Homecoming event was the Alumni Service Centre, which will cater to the social and business networking needs of alumni and provide a one-stop service centre for alumni.

• The Class Ambassador Initiative was launched at the New Alumni Welcome Lunch where selected graduating students from each faculty and school will serve as alumni leaders who help their cohort foster closer ties with their alma mater. These alumni leaders will work closely with the NUS Alumni Office and their respective faculties and schools through regular dialogue sessions and communications.

• The date 8 July has been dedicated to commemorate the reunion of graduates from Bukit Timah Campus. Called the Bukit Timah Campus Alumni Reunion, the annual event will be held concurrently with other celebratory activities of the resident faculty, school and research institutes.

• Eusoff College, the predecessor of Eusoff Hall, an NUS Hall of Residence, celebrated its golden jubilee with the launch of a commemorative book titled 50 years of Eusoffians at a gala dinner attended by Dr Tony Tan and Mrs Mary Tan, a former Eusoffian. A reunion lunch was also held at Evans Lodge, the former location of Eusoff College and a sum of $27,000 was raised for the Eusoff Hall Bursary Fund.
The NUS Teaching Academy was established, with 18 Fellows inducted for the first year. As a ‘think-tank’ in education matters, the Teaching Academy will drive various projects which includes developing new educational thinking and initiatives that are aligned with the University’s Vision and Mission. It aims to contribute towards key educational processes within the University and help shape the development of NUS education.

The 2009 NUS Undergraduate Admissions Exercise saw the first batch of graduates from the NUS High School of Mathematics and Science applying for admission to NUS.

The Faculty of Law’s inaugural cohort of students from the Double Degree in Economics and Law Programme graduated in July 2009. The first double degree of its kind in Singapore, it is also the first undergraduate double degree programme established between two faculties within NUS.

The Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine launched Phase I of its revised undergraduate medical curriculum, aimed at equipping students with a firm foundation of the normal function and structure of the body with clinical relevance and application. It also includes four longitudinal tracks such as Health Ethics, Law and Professionalism, and Patient-Based Programme, where content is integrated seamlessly with the core bio-medical sciences.

The Faculty of Engineering introduced a Design-Centric Engineering Curriculum in Academic Year 2009/2010. Preparing students to handle complex and multi-disciplinary problems through fundamental principles relevant to an engineering discipline, the new curriculum will be taught and reinforced through design-focused projects and modules. Another new initiative is the Global Engineering Programme, an exclusive programme for top students which leads to an NUS Bachelor’s degree after three years, followed by a postgraduate programme at a top partner university in the fourth year.

To improve the educational experience of its students, the School of Computing developed a series of new programmes and specialisations with external partners at home and abroad in both academia and industry. These programmes include the Specialisation in Services Science, Management and Engineering jointly developed with IBM, and the Specialisation in Information Security, which was set up to meet the growing need for expertise against cyber threats.

The Bachelor of Music degree programme at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music was restructured to introduce a Professional Development element. This new component ensures that students acquire communication and education skills, in addition to instrumental development, to enable them to interact both as performers and leaders.

The pioneer batch of Bachelor of Science (Nursing) students graduated in July 2009. The Bachelor of Science (Nursing) course is the first nursing degree programme offered in Singapore.

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences’ Department of Psychology set up a Clinical and Health Psychology Centre to offer professional training to students in the Master of Psychology (Clinical) Programme. It will also serve as a regional hub for postgraduate training and research in clinical psychology and clinical health psychology.

Nine new Joint, Concurrent and Double Degree programmes were launched with top university partners in Academic Year 2008/2009:
- Joint Doctor of Philosophy between NUS and Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur
- Joint Doctor of Philosophy between NUS and Indian Institute of Technology, Madras
- Joint Master of Psychology (Clinical) between NUS and University of Melbourne
- Joint Master of Science in Science Communication between NUS and Australian National University
- Bachelor of Laws, NUS and Master of Laws, New York University
- Professional Degree in Financial Engineering between NUS and Columbia University
- Master in Public Policy, NUS and Master of International Affairs, Columbia University
- Asia Master of Business Administration between NUS, Fudan University and Korea University
- Bachelor of Laws, NUS and Juris Doctor, New York University
Eight new Double Degree Programmes were launched within NUS in Academic Year 2008/2009:
- Bachelor of Business Administration (Hons)/Bachelor of Business Administration and Bachelor of Computing (Computer Science) (Hons)
- Bachelor of Business Administration (Accountancy) (Hons)/Bachelor of Business Administration (Accountancy) and Bachelor of Computing (Computer Science) (Hons)
- Bachelor of Business Administration (Hons)/Bachelor of Business Administration and Bachelor of Computing (Information Systems) (Hons)
- Bachelor of Business Administration (Accountancy) (Hons)/Bachelor of Business Administration (Accountancy) and Bachelor of Computing (Information Systems) (Hons)
- Master of Business Administration and Master of Public Administration
- Master of Business Administration and Master in Public Policy
- Master of Laws and Master of Public Administration
- Master of Laws and Master in Public Policy

Five new Graduate Degree Programmes were launched in Academic Year 2008/2009:
- Doctor of Philosophy by Centre for Quantum Technologies
- Doctor of Philosophy in Cultural Studies in Asia
- Doctor of Pharmacy
- Master of Psychology (Clinical)
- Master of Clinical Investigation

Commencement 2009 saw the pioneer graduates for:
- Master of Arts (NUS-Peking University Double Degree Programme)
- Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Law (FASS-LAW Double Degree Programme)
- Bachelor of Business Administration (Accountancy)
- Bachelor of Science (Project and Facilities Management)
- Bachelor of Engineering (Civil Engineering) (NUS-The University of Melbourne Joint Degree Programme)
- Bachelor of Engineering (Materials Science and Engineering)
- Bachelor of Laws/Master of Laws (NUS-New York University Concurrent Degree Programme)
- Bachelor of Science (Nursing)
- Master of Science (Speech and Language Pathology)

New Programmes Offering Global Exposure
- As part of the University’s aim to promote entrepreneurship, NUS inked an agreement with Tsinghua University to set up NUS College in Beijing (NCBJ), its second college in China and sixth in the world. A total of 10 students have been selected as the pioneer batch of students on the NCBJ programme.
- The University Scholars Programme (USP) participated via videoconferencing in the “Faith and Globalisation” seminar through a joint session with Yale University, which was facilitated by Mr Tony Blair, former British Prime Minister and current Howland Distinguished Fellow at Yale University. Following this, USP will offer a new module “Religions in the Contemporary World”, which gives an insight into religions and globalisation, in Academic Year 2009/2010.
- The NUS Business School and HEC Paris School of Management signed an MOU to launch a leading Double Degree MBA programme which will equip students with the sought-after expertise of European and Asian markets. The areas of strategic cooperation include student and faculty exchange as well as development of joint research projects and joint executive education programmes.
- NUS and Delft University of Technology signed an MOU under the Singapore-Delft Water Alliance for a new double MSc degree programme in Hydraulic Engineering and Water Resources Management. The programme is based on an institutionally innovative concept where students will spend one year of study in both Singapore and The Netherlands and receive separate MSc degrees from the respective universities.
The School of Design and Environment signed an MOU with Duke University’s Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences on areas of collaboration which include student and faculty exchange, internships and joint student projects. This is Nicholas School’s first MOU with an Asian university.

The International Business Fellowship programme, which aims to develop a pool of Singaporean talents with in-depth knowledge of the business environment in the global emerging markets of Central Asia, Middle East, Vietnam, China, India and Latin America, funded 56 students for student exchange and internship programmes in Academic Year 2008/2009.

An inaugural batch of student interns were sent to New York on the Cross Cultural Internship Programme where they worked in a cross-cultural communications company and an award-winning engineering consultancy firm. The eight-week stint provided students with an insight into business practices in the US whilst gaining invaluable work experience and networking skills.

Three students from the NUS Business School were selected to attend the Total Summer School Programme in France. Each year, this programme is offered to 140 international students by Total Oil Asia-Pacific Pte Ltd, a multi-national company with a speciality in the global petroleum and chemical industry. Selected students will have the opportunity to gain knowledge on key energy issues and interact with managers from Total Oil and experts from the industry. This is the second year NUS has participated in the programme.

A total of 16 students were accepted into a summer school programme entitled “Approaching the European Union” which was organised by the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich. The programme enabled the students to learn more about European history, the political and economic aspects of European integration, the cross-cutting issues affecting the European Union, and the interactions between the European Union and the US, China, Southeast Asia, Russia and the Middle East.

Eleven USP students participated in a new summer programme on the study of Buddhism in the Asian context which involves exchanges on religious studies with Thailand and Taiwan.

Under a new USP module “Transportation Systems of Tomorrow”, a group of 26 USP students went on a study field trip to Japan to conduct a case study of the Singapore and Japan transportation systems and learn about the various technologies used to address transport needs in different cultural and development settings.

The Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music (YSTCM) collaborated with IMG Artists in the Singapore Sun Festival 2008, where YSTCM students joined forces with students from the Peabody Institute, Baltimore and the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, London to form the Academies Festival Orchestra.
- NUS competed successfully for its third Research Centre of Excellence (RCE), the Mechanobiology RCE. With a funding of $150 million over 10 years from the National Research Foundation and the Ministry of Education, the new RCE aims to work on new ways of studying diseases through the mechanisms of cell and tissue mechanics.

- The Cancer Science Institute of Singapore (CSI Singapore), the University’s second RCE, was officially opened by Mrs Tan Ching Yee, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Education. Headed by Prof Daniel Tenen, Saw Swee Hock Centennial Professor in Medical Sciences, CSI Singapore will build new capacity for interdisciplinary, collaborative approaches to address the most challenging and significant research problems in cancer, with a focus on cancers that afflict Asian populations.

- The NUS-GE Singapore Water Technology Centre, a collaboration between GE Water and NUS, was officially opened at NUS by Dr Tony Tan, Chairman of the National Research Foundation. The $150 million centre, which aims to support Singapore’s aspiration as a global water technology hub, will develop new solutions for low-energy seawater desalination, water reclamation and more efficient water reuse.

- The Khoo Teck Puat Advanced Surgery Training Centre (ASTC) at the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine was officially opened by President S R Nathan. The ASTC offers the latest surgical equipment and provides trainee surgeons with hands-on experience amidst realistic operating theatre conditions and situations, under the guidance of experienced surgeon trainers.

- The Keio-NUS CUTE Centre, a joint collaboration between NUS and Keio University, was established. This is Keio University’s first full-scale international research centre located outside of Japan. The Connective Ubiquitous Technology for Embodiments (CUTE), which focuses on connected lifestyle media and embodied interactive technologies, will have a presence in both Singapore and Japan.

- The Lien Centre for Palliative Care, Asia’s first palliative care centre for research and training, was officially launched. A collaboration between the Lien Foundation and Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School Singapore, the Centre will introduce a two-year diploma course in 2010 to equip doctors and nurses with the skills needed for the care of terminally-ill patients.

- The NUS Virtual Institute for the Study of Ageing (VISA) was launched to further develop research on the ageing process and research applications, to improve the social and individual consequences of ageing in Singapore. A centre without any physical building, VISA comprises a multi-disciplinary group of researchers who will assist organisations in exploring issues and technologies related to the elderly.

- The School of Design and Environment established a Centre for Sustainable Asia Cities which aims to develop cutting-edge urban planning and design solutions as well as building technological innovations for high density environments. The Centre plans to draw on the complementary strengths of researchers within NUS to collaborate on inter-disciplinary solutions for sustainable cities.

- The Diagnostic Molecular Oncology Centre, a combined effort by the Department of Pathology and CSI Singapore, is a key development of the National University Healthcare System. Apart from collaborating with the local and international biomedical industry and supporting the transfer of technology and validation of novel biomarkers into the clinical setting, it hopes to provide first-quality affordable molecular testing to Singaporeans and foreign patients.

- The Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School Singapore established a Centre of Quantitative Biology and Medicine with the aim of applying sophisticated quantitative techniques and methodology to improve biomedical research practice in Singapore. The Centre will carry out relevant applied research in both methodology and discovery as well as provide quantitative analytical support for research work conducted by biomedical and medical investigators from Singapore’s public sector.
The Singapore-Delft Water Alliance partnered NUS, Public Utilities Board and Delft Hydraulics to launch the Aquatic Science Centre, an outdoor facility located at Ulu Pandan Canal. The Centre will conduct studies on how to improve water quality and supply in a cost-effective manner, and ways to minimise flooding risks.

The Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy officially launched the Institute of Water Policy, to address policy and governance issues related to Asia’s critical water challenges. The Institute was launched during the inaugural International Water Week, an international event hosted by Singapore to showcase new technologies and solutions in the area of water management, use and conservation.

The Information and Innovation Policy Research Centre was established at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy to explore and understand the role of information and its capacity to innovate in markets, organisations and society.

A number of major research grants were received in the medical field:
- A $25 million grant for the Translational and Clinical Research Programme in Metabolic Medicine, led by Assoc Prof Chong Yap Seng, which will focus on how intrauterine and early childhood conditions influence the onset and development of metabolic diseases such as diabetes and obesity at a later stage in life.
- A $25 million grant for Translational Research Innovations in Ocular Surgery, led by Prof Donald Tan, which aims to tackle the two major causes of blindness, glaucoma and corneal disorders, on a global scale.
- A $10 million grant for the Neurobiology and Ageing programme, led by Prof Peter Wong, which will conduct studies on ischemic stroke with a focus on intracranial stenosis or intracranial large artery disease, the predominant stroke sub-type among Asians.

The School of Design and Environment signed an agreement with City Developments Limited to develop viable solutions to meet pressing environmental challenges, through its Master of Science (Environmental Management) programme. This agreement marks the first partnership between NUS and a property developer in the area of environmental management.

The Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research and HSBC are involved in a community initiative to protect the biodiversity at Pulau Semakau, an island south of mainland Singapore, and enhance its value as a nature education and conservation site. The conservation of the intertidal shores of Pulau Semakau will be carried out through a dedicated programme of outreach and research activities involving volunteers.

The Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine signed an agreement with Bayer Schering Pharma Asia Pacific to develop novel drugs for the treatment of cancer. With a $3.5 million investment from the German pharmaceutical company, the joint research collaboration will focus on three translational research projects to profile oncology drugs in an Asian context; identify novel biomarkers and investigate tumour models with high relevance to the clinical situation.

NUS and DSO National Laboratories signed a new MOU to offer new PhD awards promoting defence research. These research awards will allow students to be co-supervised by both industry practitioners and NUS academics in their groundbreaking research.

NUS and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) signed an MOU to embark on a research partnership to provide long-term solutions to food crises. The institutions will jointly conduct research on the biology of rice crops and design of new rice strains to further improve their productivity and nutritional value as well as resistance to hotter climate and harsh environment. This is IRRI’s first research collaboration with a Singapore research institution.

The Faculty of Engineering’s Minerals, Metals and Materials Technology Centre established a year-long partnership with K S Natural Resources (KSNR), a fully-owned Singapore-based subsidiary of India’s K S Oils Ltd and one of India’s leading agri-based public listed companies. The Centre will serve as the technological solutions and research and development arm of KSNR.
Examples of significant research findings and projects

- Dr Tong Yen Wah (Engineering) developed a novel synthetic antibody that can trap and inactivate viruses which cause diseases such as influenza, hepatitis, AIDS or Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). He is the first Singaporean researcher to receive a US$100,000 grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

- A team led by Assoc Prof Adrian David Cheok (Mixed Reality Lab/Engineering) invented a system which can capture information from the outside world and link it to living media such as cabbages, which would then reflect the data they receive through a change in colour. Dubbed the world’s “first living plant media”, the “Babbage Cabbage” can be used to monitor soil conditions.

- Prof Andrew Wee and Dr Chen Wei (Science) fabricated tunable well-ordered molecular nanostructure arrays for potential use in molecular nano-devices, which will have applications in the fields of organic and molecular electronics, and organic photovoltaics.

- A team of researchers from NUS and A*STAR, led by Assoc Prof Lim Sai Kiang and Assoc Prof Li Guodong, (Medicine) developed pure insulin-producing cells from mouse embryonic stem cells (ESCs) which have the ability to restore blood glucose to its original level. This discovery could be applied to human ESCs with the potential to treat diabetes.

- Dr Kevin Tan Shyong Wei (Medicine) discovered that Blastocystis, a parasite which thrives in non-oxygenated conditions, may be responsible for causing common bowel disorders, such as diarrhoea and irritable bowel syndrome and a form of skin allergy known as urticaria.

- Dr Tan Meng Chwan’s (Science) publication on Two-Dimensional Twisted Sigma-Model and the Theory of Chiral Differential Operators was a world’s first, published in the exclusive theoretical and mathematical physics journal, Advances in Theoretical and Mathematical Physics. His work has received recognition and has been cited by Edward Witten, Fields Medalist and the world-class string theorist who is widely regarded as the “modern day Einstein”.

- Prof Barbaros Özyilmaz (Science) and Dr Yao Kui (Institute of Materials Research and Engineering) created the first prototype of graphene memory devices which could prove to be faster, cheaper and more energy efficient than magnetic memory devices. A provisional patent has been received for this novel concept.

- Assoc Prof Suresh Valiyaveettil (Science) and his team discovered a new protein ansocalcium, which is a crucial adhesive in egg shells. This research could pave the way for treating osteoporosis (accelerated bone loss).

- A research team, led by Prof Yoshiaki Ito, NUS Yong Loo Lin Professor in Medical Oncology (Cancer Science Institute of Singapore), discovered the key role played by the RUNX3 gene in colon cancer development.

- A study conducted by Assoc Prof Koh Woon Puay (Medicine) found that long-term exposure of smoke from burning incense could increase one’s risk of respiratory tract cancers. In another study, Assoc Prof Koh found that smokers with higher levels of 4-(methylnitrosamo)1-(3-pyridyl)-1-butanol (NNAL) and cotinine metabolites in the urine are more likely to develop lung cancer.

- Assoc Prof Sim Meng Kwoon (Medicine) developed a new drug that has the potential to treat Type 2 diabetes by mimicking the function of insulin. The drug has a chemical des-aspartate-angiotensin I (DAA-1), which occurs naturally in the body.
Dr Murray Barrett and Mr Kyle Arnold (Centre for Quantum Technologies) achieved the Bose-Einstein condensation, in which a collection of atoms reach a state of matter that is as cold as the fundamental laws of physics will allow. This accomplishment is testament to Singapore being in the premier league of experimental atomic physics as only a select number of countries have been able to achieve this complex experiment.

Dr Mouhacine Benosman and Dr Lum Kai Yew from the Control Science Group (Temasek Laboratories) developed a fault tolerant control scheme which has proven to be applicable to nonlinear flight dynamics such as helicopter and hovercraft. This scheme can help alleviate various fault modes for nonlinear control systems, which can cause many flight control problems.

Assoc Prof Suresh Valiyaveetil and his research team (NUS Nanoscience and Nanotechnology Initiative) found that silver nanoparticles, which are used in commercial products such as detergents, air conditioners and wound dressings due to their anti-microbial activity, can sometimes cause toxicity in living tissues.

A team comprising Assoc Prof Davide Lomanto, Assoc Prof Jimmy So and Dr Stephen Chang (Medicine) pioneered a new generation of keyhole surgery for the abdomen, involving a 2-cm single incision around the navel which would allow the insertion of a telescope and other surgical tools through a port to perform surgical procedure. The surgery would leave virtually no scar and cause less post-surgical pain for patients.

A team led by Assoc Prof Adrian Cheok from the Keio-NUS CUTE Centre recently invented the world’s first interactive virtual and real world robot called Petimo which allows children to experience a safe and fun online social environment.

The University received a $9 million innovation grant from the National Research Foundation (NRF) which will help support its academic entrepreneurship endeavours. The new grant will enhance the NUS Overseas Colleges and iLEAD (innovative Local Enterprise Achiever Development) programmes as well as launch other major initiatives such as an award for entrepreneurship and innovation.

NUS Enterprise, selected by the Kauffman Foundation as the country host for Singapore, partnered with Action Community for Entrepreneurship (ACE), to jointly host Singapore’s inaugural Global Entrepreneurship Week (“The Week”). The Week is an event aimed at promoting entrepreneurship globally and inspiring a new generation of entrepreneurs. It was co-founded by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and UK’s “Make Your Mark” national campaign, which encourages an entrepreneurial culture among its youth. Organised for the very first time on a global scale, the event attracted about five million participants from 100 countries.

A total of 147 students embarked on the NUS Overseas Colleges programme while 48 participated in the iLEAD (innovative Local Enterprise Achiever Development) programme in Academic Year 2008/2009. These programmes are part of the University’s educational drive to provide students with a well-rounded entrepreneurship experience.

The Technology Commercialisation Forum (TCF2008), organised by the Industry Liaison Office, drew a record 307 participants from 109 organisations in 13 countries. NRF Chairman Dr Tony Tan launched the NUS Research to Market platform which aims to bring together stakeholders comprising inventors, collaborators, venture capitalists, technology managers and other individuals who are involved in technology commercialisation.
• The University signed a master research agreement with all the five polytechnics in Singapore to bring the symbiotic partnership in technology commercialisation to another level where innovative technologies are translated into new, useful and commercially-viable products and services.

• The Industry Liaison Office established a research framework agreement with Vestas, one of the world’s leading suppliers of wind power solutions, to boost ongoing efforts to enhance wind-energy research and training in NUS, and to bring scientific breakthroughs to market.

• Brunei’s first iCentre, established by NUS Enterprise, launched the country’s first ICT-focused business plan competition and hosted its first national technology conference. Two incubatees from the iCentre also launched products which were marketed locally.

• NUS Extension launched the Libya-Singapore SME Training Programme where participants from Libya experienced first-hand aspects of SME work which encompasses the eco-system, connections and links with Singapore Government agencies and SMEs.

• NUS Enterprise Incubator (NEI), which provides both the hard and soft infrastructure to nurture start-ups into viable companies, reviewed more than 200 business proposals and added 12 new companies into its incubation ecosystem. There are now more than 80 NUS Enterprise portfolio companies. One company which benefitted from NEI’s support is gothere.sg, a web portal that provides the fastest, most convenient and cheapest route between two destinations. Lauded as “the best Singapore website ever” by many of its users, gothere.sg draws some 45,000 navigation searches daily.

• The national-level Start-Up@Singapore Business Plan Competition has reached its 10th year. In Start-Up@Singapore 2009, Zimplistic Inventions, founded by engineering graduate Pranoti Nagarka, emerged the winner in the open category and was awarded a sum of $50,000 for her invention of an automated chapati (flat Indian bread) maker for home use.

• NUS Enterprise Incubator and Global Brand Forum co-organised a high profile business networking event titled “Up, Close and Personal with Jimmy Wales, founder of Wikipedia”. Supported by the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore in partnership with The Digital Movement and Singapore Entrepreneur27, the event attracted 200 participants from various institutions.

• The NUS Entrepreneurship Society initiated the Harvard-NUS Entrepreneurial Exchange Programme, an exchange programme in collaboration with the Harvard College Entrepreneurship Forum to expose students in NUS and Harvard University to the diverse business cultures and start-up ecosystems in Singapore and Boston. A total of 15 NUS students and 13 students from Harvard University participated in this programme. The annual BizAsia exchange programme with Peking University was also expanded to cover other universities like Fudan University, Zhejiang University, the University of Hong Kong and the University of Taiwan.

• NUS Extension and Strategic Moves, a training and consultancy firm, jointly conducted the inaugural IV-Sigma programme which attracted 120 participants. Also supported by the NUS Alumni Office, the programme aims to train and equip NUS students and alumni with essential skills in crisis management, negotiation techniques and project and financial management that would provide them with a competitive edge in the job market.
• The **NUS T-Lab** building, a joint development project between NUS and the Defence Science and Technology Agency was completed in February 2009. Designed to facilitate a vibrant environment conducive to innovative research and development, the T-Lab building houses the NUS-GE Singapore Water Technology Centre, Temasek Laboratories as well as the Mechanobiology Research Centre of Excellence.

• A three-storey **S2S (Sea-to-Space)** building along Kent Ridge Road was built to house the Tropical Marine Science Institute and the Centre for Remote Imaging, Sensing and Processing. Officially opened by Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, Dr Yaacob Ibrahim in June 2009, the new building addresses the immediate and future needs of both research institutes and will help them embark on further cross-disciplinary research.

• The previous MD2 building has been reconstructed to a new four-storey state-of-the-art facility to facilitate advanced biomedical research programmes at NUS. It houses laboratories, procedure and autoclave rooms, meeting and office spaces as well as other ancillary facilities.

• To provide better medical facilities and to meet the medical and staff welfare needs of the growing NUS community, the University Health Centre (UHC) was relocated to the spacious premises of the former alumni house along Lower Kent Ridge Road. The newly expanded area comfortably accommodates UHC’s services which currently comprises the health, wellness, counselling and psychological services units.