



NUS *A*LUMNI
WARDS
2021

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

NUS ALUMNI AWARDS 2021

The prestigious NUS Alumni Awards was set up on the occasion of NUS Centennial Celebrations in 2005 to celebrate and honour alumni who have distinguished themselves through significant and impactful contributions to their alma mater, society and the world. The statuette design comprises a human figure and a globe. The figure forms the shape of "NUS", and reflects that the University is people-centered, while the globe signifies that NUS is a global knowledge enterprise. The steps at the base of the globe represent the awardee's ascent to success and their never-ending pursuit of excellence.



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NUS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Award Recipients, Fellow Alumni, Colleagues and Friends,

NUS Alumni Awards was established in 2005 as part of NUS' Centennial Celebrations, to celebrate and honour alumni who have distinguished themselves through significant and impactful contributions to their alma mater, society and the world.

In this 9th edition of a biennial award ceremony, NUS is delighted to honour 40 outstanding alumni and teams – the biggest cohort of recipients since the inception of the awards is testament to the high calibre of alumni who come from diverse backgrounds – from healthcare, civil service, finance, to the arts. Their life experiences, trailblazing work and achievements inspire us to continue nurturing generations of changemakers who exemplify the NUS values of innovation, resilience, excellence, respect and integrity. It is their unending spirit of determination, commitment and dedication to improving the lives of communities locally and beyond, that make us immensely proud to call them NUS alumni.

This year, we include a number of Team (Alumni) Award recipients who have collectively distinguished themselves by integrating their expertise across various fields. As NUS seeks to prepare our students for a world of disruptive changes, the good work of these award recipients serve as role models in carving out new roadmaps and endless possibilities. It gives me confidence to motivate and develop the next generation to become adept, multifaceted talents who can find creative solutions to address and resolve life's challenges.

Thank you for joining us at the NUS Alumni Awards 2021 ceremony to celebrate the achievements of our award recipients, whom I warmly congratulate on behalf of the University.

Professor Tan Eng Chye
Science '85



NUS ALUMNI RELATIONS DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Award Recipients, Fellow Alumni, Colleagues and Friends,
I am delighted to welcome you to NUS Alumni Awards 2021.

The Award recipients join an exceptional group of alumni whom the NUS community continue to draw inspiration from – individuals who have dedicated their time, talents and treasures back to NUS and society. This biennial awards ceremony is an excellent opportunity to celebrate the diverse and vibrant community that makes up NUS. We are grateful that we can count on you, as strong supporters of the University, and look forward to interacting with you in one of our many alumni engagement events – be it physically or virtually.

As the saying goes, “The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity; the optimist sees opportunity in every difficulty”. Despite a tumultuous year due to COVID-19, it is heartening to know that this has not stopped our alumni from their pursuit of excellence and passion in a myriad of fields and enterprises. They could be established titans in the industry; young entrepreneurs who raise awareness for social causes; innovative individuals who challenge existing norms; or those who are recognised internationally. The valiant achievements of our alumni shine as beacons of hope for all of us.

Thank you for joining us this evening to honour the achievements of all 40 deserving Award recipients. I would also like to extend a word of appreciation to all nominators as well as members of the Awards Selection Committee, for their thoughtful deliberations and decision to arrive at these exceptional recipients.

Mr Bernard Toh
Architecture '84



EMINENT ALUMNI AWARD

The Eminent Alumni Award recognises alumni who have distinguished themselves nationally or globally for their exceptional and sustained contributions and achievements in public or community service; in the arts, sports, culture or entrepreneurship; or in a profession or scholarly field.

AWARD RECIPIENTS

PROFESSOR CHAN HENG CHEE

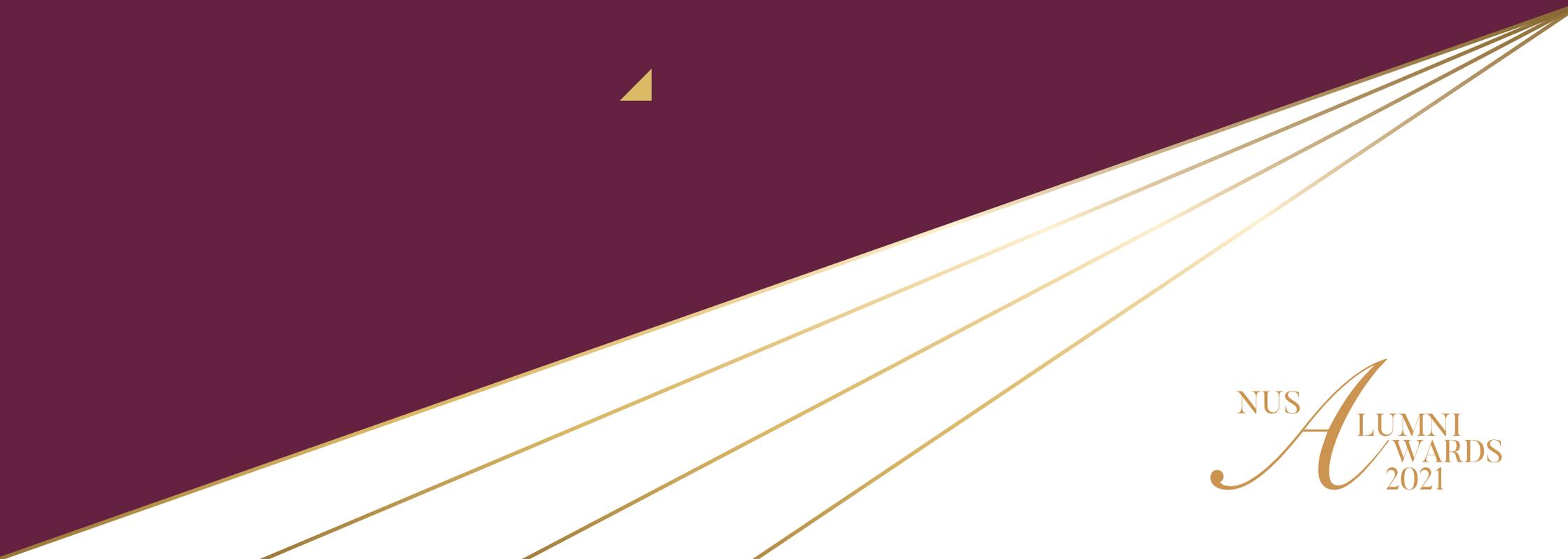
Arts '64

MR ONG PANG BOON

Arts '53

MR PHILIP YEO LIAT KOK

Engineering '74
& Doctor of Letters '11



NUS *A*LUMNI
AWARDS
2021



PROFESSOR CHAN HENG CHEE

Arts '64

One of Singapore's most successful and long-serving diplomats, Professor Chan Heng Chee has been, and continues to be, one of the stalwarts in both academia and international diplomacy.

In 1964, Prof Chan was the first woman to graduate with First Class Honours in Political Science from the then University of Singapore (US). She went on to obtain a Masters from Cornell University in the United States in 1967, and completed a doctorate at US in 1974. She lectured at NUS and was the first woman to head the Department of Political Science, and went on to serve as the Executive Director of the Singapore International Foundation and Director of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in 1991.

Prof Chan was the Founding Director of the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), which was set up in 1988. She was responsible for kick-starting various schemes and activities that enabled IPS to meet its objectives of conducting public seminars and exchanges on topical issues, as well as undertaking research that could influence the Singapore government's policy formulation.

Having left an indelible mark in academia, Prof Chan began her diplomatic career in 1989 when she became Singapore's first permanent representative to the United Nations. She also served concurrently as Singapore's High Commissioner to Canada and Ambassador to Mexico. She has received numerous awards, including Singapore's first "Woman of the Year" award in 1991.

In 1991, Prof Chan was a visiting professorial fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS; now known as the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute) before being appointed as head of the institute in 1993. As head of ISEAS, Prof Chan elevated the institute's reputation as a leading research centre in Southeast Asia and improved public access to its research.

Prof Chan was also the Founding Executive Director of the Singapore International Foundation (SIF), a non-profit organisation established in 1991 to entrench Singapore's integration in the global network. Under the foundation, Prof Chan came up with programmes to maintain Singapore's links with citizens who were based overseas.

In 1996, Prof Chan was appointed Singapore's, and East Asia's, first female ambassador to the United States. She represented Singapore in Washington between 1996 and 2012, making her one of the country's longest serving diplomats. As ambassador, Prof Chan worked to improve Singapore's standing in American eyes, utilising cultural diplomacy to enhance American understanding of Singapore and its culture.

During her watch, US-Singapore relations flourished in areas including trade, defence and security, with highlights such as the signing of the US-Singapore Free Trade Agreement



▲ Graduating from the University of Singapore in 1964, Ambassador Chan (centre) was the first woman to graduate with First Class Honours in Political Science.

(USSFTA) in 2003, the first FTA that the US entered into with a Southeast Asian country, and the Strategic Framework Agreement in 2005, deepening the two nations' defence relationship.

Prof Chan continued to receive more awards and accolades, including the Inaugural International Woman of the Year Award from the Organisation of Chinese American Women in 1998, and the Distinguished Service Order from the Government of Singapore in 2011. In that same year, she was named by the influential Washingtonian magazine as one of "100 Most Powerful Women" in the capital.

When Prof Chan left Washington in 2012 at the end of her appointment, she received the Inaugural Asia Society Outstanding Diplomatic Achievement Award, the Inaugural Foreign Policy Outstanding Diplomatic Achievement Award 2012, and the United States Navy Distinguished Public Service Award. Upon returning to Singapore, she became Ambassador-at-Large for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was appointed to a three-year term as Singapore's Representative to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR).

Not showing any signs of slowing down, Prof Chan took on a range of board and trustee positions in the academic and public sectors locally and internationally – from being appointed to the Presidential Council for Minority Rights since 2012, serving on the Board of the National Arts Council as



▲ Ambassador Chan was Singapore's first permanent representative (1989 to 1991) to the United Nations, the first woman Ambassador in that appointment.



▲ Ambassador Chan presenting credentials to President Clinton marking her time as an Ambassador to the United States (1996 to 2012).



▲ Ambassador Chan meeting Vice President Joe Biden in 2011.

Chairman from 2013 to 2019, to being a Member on the Board of the China Cultural Centre since 2015.

Prof Chan was inducted into the Singapore Women's Hall of Fame in 2014. She was among nine members appointed by the Constitutional Commission to review the system of elected presidency in Singapore, and in January 2017, she led the Singapore team of delegates to the Universal Periodic Review conducted by the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Prof Chan remains Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, the premier multidisciplinary research institute on Southeast Asia in the region, and the Deputy Chairman of the Social Science Research Council in Singapore. She is a Member of the Science of Cities Committee (National Research Foundation), and a Member of the Advisory Council on the Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence and Data at the Ministry of Communications and Information.

An inspirational woman leader, academic, diplomat, and much more, Prof Chan remains one of the most recognisable female icons with her highly decorated and illustrious career.



MR ONG PANG BOON

Arts '53

Highly regarded and respected former Minister Mr Ong Pang Boon is one of Singapore's prominent first-generation leaders who laid the groundwork for the stability and success the country enjoys today.

After attaining a geography degree at the University of Malaya, Mr Ong's political career soon took flight in 1955 as an election agent for founding Prime Minister Mr Lee Kuan Yew ('41). In the following year, Mr Ong received a personal invitation from Mr Lee to work for the People's Action Party (PAP) as its Organising Secretary. Accepting Mr Lee's job offer despite a pay cut, his decision was motivated by a firm belief in the PAP's vision of a multiracial country that awards equal opportunities to all races. Mr Lee shared in his memoirs that without Mr Ong, he would have been rendered a "deaf and dumb Secretary-General" as Mr Ong went beyond the call of duty to bridge the gap between the party and the local Chinese community.

In 1957, Mr Ong was elected City Councillor for Tanjong Pagar and became the first and only Deputy Mayor of the City Council of Singapore. Speaking fluent Mandarin, Hokkien and Cantonese, he artfully communicated with the people to align the party's vision, commitment and blueprint with community needs. At the 1959 Legislative Assembly election, Mr Ong stepped down as City Councillor to contest as PAP's candidate for Telok Ayer. He successfully won the seat and joined the nine-member PAP Cabinet. He remained as the elected representative of Telok Ayer constituency until his retirement in 1988.

During his political career of 29 years, Mr Ong served as Minister in the Home Affairs, Education, Labour and Environment ministries. At the age of 30, Mr Ong became Singapore's first Minister for Home Affairs. In a bid to demonstrate the importance of national defence, Mr Ong, along with several pioneer leaders, served as a volunteer in the People's Defence Force (PDF) which was established after the separation from Malaysia.

From 1963 to 1970, during a time when education issues were highly politicised, Mr Ong took on the challenge as Minister for Education. He set the basis for the country's bilingual policy which became a cornerstone of Singapore's world-class education system. To imbue students with national consciousness and pride for the country, Mr Ong initiated and implemented the recital of the school pledge, which was subsequently adopted as the national pledge. He was personally involved in drafting the Mandarin version of the pledge.

In 1971, Mr Ong became the Minister for Labour, a role he served in for the next decade. Subsequently, he was appointed the Minister for the Environment and first Vice-Chairman of the PAP. Mr Ong stepped down from the Cabinet in 1984 and retired from politics in 1988.



▲ Minister for Education Ong Pang Boon (left) exchanging handshakes with Vice-President of India Dr Zakir Husain at the Istana.

Despite stepping away from the political limelight, Mr Ong continued to participate in community activities. One of his first civic projects was the founding of the Centre for Activity & Recreation for the Elders (CARE) to organise useful pastimes for older Singaporeans. As Chairman of CARE, he organised music and painting classes, visits to old folks' homes and IT courses. He has served as a Governor of Hong Leong Foundation and a Council Member of the Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan. Today he continues to serve on the Boards of Hong Leong Foundation, Nanyang Girls' High School and Mee Toh Foundation.

For his sterling contributions to the government and the nation, Mr Ong was conferred the Order of Nila Utama (First Class) in 1990.

In March 2019 Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong hosted a dinner to celebrate Mr Ong's 90th birthday. Speaking at the dinner attended by current Ministers and many of the old PAP stalwarts, PM Lee thanked Mr Ong for his "lifetime of dedicated service to the PAP and many illustrious contributions.", adding that Mr Ong is "one of the Old Guard who had laid the basis for Singapore's survival, sovereignty and eventual success."



▲ Minister for Labour Ong Pang Boon speaking at the opening ceremony of a two-month-long Government-initiated shipyard safety and health campaign held at Jurong Town Hall.



▲ Minister for the Environment Ong Pang Boon and Director of Science Centre Dr Leo Tan (to the right of Minister Ong) touring the Singapore Science Centre Ecogarden at Jurong East during its official opening.



▲ Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong with guests including Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts Dr Lee Boon Yang (centre) and former Members of Parliament Ong Pang Boon (second from right) and Dr Ahmad Mattar at a cocktail reception.



MR PHILIP YEO LIAT KOK

Engineering '74 & Doctor of Letters '11

A significant contributor to Singapore's military, economic and biomedical fields, Mr Philip Yeo is a prominent figure of the civil service. As a multifaceted individual who boasts over 40 years of experience in public service, he has spearheaded diverse, unparalleled economic transformations that few can match.

After graduating from the University of Toronto under a Colombo Plan scholarship in 1970, Mr Yeo obtained a Master of Science from the then University of Singapore in 1974 and a Master of Business Administration from Harvard University under a Fulbright scholarship in 1976. A beneficiary of multiple scholarships himself, Mr Yeo later went on to pioneer many educational initiatives throughout his career.

Mr Yeo served in the Singapore Administrative Service for three decades from 1970 to 1999. He took on various appointments in the Ministry of Defence in December 1985, and served as Permanent Secretary for logistics, defence research and development, and defence industries. Mr Yeo assumed the role of Chairman at the Economic Development Board (EDB) in 1986.

He is credited for the game-changing shifts in Singapore's economic development during his chairmanship at EDB, when he successfully redirected efforts from traditional fields to new areas of business. He led promotional and developmental initiatives in key areas that include information technology, semiconductors, aerospace, chemical industries and biomedical sciences. Under his stewardship, Singapore participated in infrastructure development projects at home and abroad, with projects such as Jurong Island, Biopolis, Fusionopolis, and the industrial parks in Wuxi, Bangalore, Vietnam and Suzhou.

At the same time, from 1981 to 1987, Mr Yeo helmed the role as the first Chairman of the National Computer Board (now Infocomm Media Development Authority). He was responsible for championing Singapore's first national computerisation plan to usher the country into the information age to harness its widespread benefits.

From 2001 to 2007, Mr Yeo served as Chairman of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), successfully building A*STAR to a world-class centre with leading scientific research capabilities. Today, Singapore is at the forefront of Asia for its biomedical research and development largely due to Mr Yeo's visionary leadership.

Mr Yeo then assumed the responsibility of Chairman of the Standards, Productivity and Innovation Board (SPRING Singapore) in 2007. In the same year, he was appointed Senior Advisor for Science and Technology to the Ministry of Trade and Industry. He was also made Special Advisor for Economic Development in the Prime Minister's Office from 2007



▲ From right, Australian High Commissioner to Singapore Walter Philip John Handmer, Chairman of Economic Development Board (EDB) Mr Philip Yeo Liat Kok and Australian Minister for Industry Technology and Commerce John Button during their meeting at the World Trade Centre.



▲ Minister for Trade and Industry Yeo Cheow Tong (third from right) and Chairman of Economic Development Board (EDB) Mr Philip Yeo (left) posing for photographs with officials from the companies, which qualified for the business headquarters scheme.

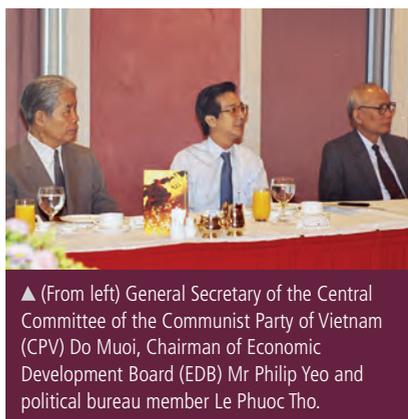
to 2011, during which he assisted with strategic government partnerships with foreign governments and established new economic links.

A man who is tireless in his endeavours, Mr Yeo proceeded to become a Member of the World Health Organisation Expert Working Group on R&D Financing in 2009. From 2010 to 2013, he was a Member of the United Nations Committee of Experts in Public Administration. Mr Yeo is also Chairman of Economic Development Innovations Singapore (EDIS) Private Limited.

His work at EDIS helps governments and government-related entities to stay ahead of industry trends and pivot necessarily to meet fast-changing business expectations and challenges.

In the private sector, Mr Yeo has also chaired numerous company boards. Some of the roles he has undertaken include serving as Board Member and Chairman of the Executive Committee of Singapore Technologies Holdings from 1987 to 1993, Chairman of Sembawang Corporation and its successor SembCorp Industries from 1994 to 1999, and the Chairman of CapitaLand from 2000 to 2005. Mr Yeo joined the Board of Kerry Logistics in Hong Kong and the Board of Sunway Berhad in 2013 and 2020 respectively. He also concurrently serves as Chairman of Accuron Technologies, Advanced MedTech Holdings and Project Fishermen, a social enterprise which funds Singaporean social news, digital-only publication, Mothership.

For his extensive and eminent contributions, Mr Yeo has a long list of awards credited to his name. He was awarded the Singapore Public Administration Medal (Silver) in 1974, the Public



▲ (From left) General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) Do Muoi, Chairman of Economic Development Board (EDB) Mr Philip Yeo and political bureau member Le Phuoc Tho.

Administration Medal (Gold) in 1982, the Meritorious Service Medal in 1991, and the Order of Nila Utama (First Class) in 2006. In recognition of his role in fostering precious bilateral ties between Singapore and the rest of the world, he has also been conferred multiple awards by countries which include Indonesia, France and Belgium.

In 2006, Mr Yeo received the Japan Nikkei Prize for Science and Technology "in honour of his strong leadership in drafting and implementing Singapore's science and technology strategy, particularly in biomedical sciences". He received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star by the Japanese Government in 2007 and in 2008, and the Distinguished Service (Star) award by the National Trades Unions Congress, for leading the transformation of Singapore's economic landscape and creating more job opportunities. In 2011, he was conferred the honorary Doctor of Letters by NUS. Mr Yeo also received honorary doctorates from Karolinska Institutet (Sweden), Imperial College London (UK), Monash University (Australia) and honorary Fellow of King's College London (UK).

For his boundless contributions at both the national and global level, Mr Yeo is truly an outstanding leader and distinguished alumnus who serves as an inspiration to all.



▲ Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah being introduced to Chairman of A*STAR Mr Philip Yeo by Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Acting Chief of Protocol Lim Cheng Hoe (left) during official dinner hosted by PM Goh Chok Tong at the Istana.



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

The Distinguished Alumni Service Award recognises alumni who have distinguished themselves and demonstrated tangible impact in their chosen fields, and rendered excellent volunteer service to NUS, its predecessor institutions and/or the community.



AWARD RECIPIENTS

MR ABDULLAH BIN TARMUGI
Arts '69

MS AW KAH PENG
Engineering '90

MS JOCELYN CHNG YEE KWANG
Arts and Social Sciences '89
& Business '12

MR S CHANDRA DAS
Arts '65

MR BARRY DESKER
Arts '70

MINISTER DESMOND LEE TI-SENG
Law '01

DR LEE TZU PHENG
Arts '68

PROFESSOR LEO YEE SIN
Medicine '83, '89
& Public Health '13

MR DILHAN PILLAY SANDRASEGARA
Law '88

MR JACK SIM JUEK WAH
Public Policy '13

DR TAN LAI YONG
Medicine '85
& Public Policy '13

MR SONNY YUEN CHEE CHOONG
Business '85



NUS *A*LUMNI
AWARDS
2021



—
*Seeing lives
 improve is the most
 rewarding aspect
 of my lifelong
 commitment to the
 people.*
 —



MR ABDULLAH BIN TARMUGI

Arts '69

Mr Abdullah Tarmugi graduated with a Bachelor of Social Sciences in Sociology from the then University of Singapore in 1969, and a Post-graduate Diploma in Urban Studies from University College, University of London in 1972 as a Commonwealth Scholar.

Mr Abdullah's role as an Urban Sociologist at the Ministry of National Development marked the beginning of his career in the Civil Service. He went on to serve as a Senior Statistician/ Planning Analyst before leaving the Service to join The Straits Times as a Leader/Feature Writer and, later, as Associate News Editor. After being inducted into politics, he was elected Member of Parliament for Siglap in 1984, a role he held until 2011.

Throughout his 27-year political career, Mr Abdullah held various offices including Minister for Community Development and Sports from 1994 to 2002 and concurrently Minister-in-Charge of Muslim Affairs. Before this, he also served as the Deputy Speaker of Parliament from 1989 to 1993. He was the Speaker of Parliament from 2002 until his retirement in 2011.

Since his retirement, Mr Abdullah has not slowed down; serving on the boards of several companies as an Independent Director. A former NUS Board of Trustees Member, he currently serves as a Member of The Courage Fund, the S R Nathan Education Upliftment Fund, the iShine Cloud Board and the Jazz Association Singapore. He was also appointed to the Presidential Council on Minority Rights by former President Tony Tan and sworn in as a permanent Council Member by President Halimah Yacob in 2018.

Notable in Mr Abdullah's long list of achievements also are his humanitarian efforts. As one of the pioneers of Mercy Relief (MR), where he served as Chairman of its Advisory Council, he has consistently poured in time and effort for the needy and distressed. MR is a home-grown independent charity organisation established in 2003, with efforts focused on disaster relief and sustainable development programmes. Now, at 77 years old, Mr Abdullah continues to support and contribute to the promotion and development of inter-faith and inter-racial harmony and issues.





Ask questions, take opportunities and maintain a sense of adventure.

MS AW KAH PENG

Engineering '90

Ms Aw Kah Peng amassed 22 years of experience serving in the Singapore public service and is currently the Chairman of Shell Companies. Over the course of her career, she has made significant contributions to both the public and private sectors of Singapore's economy. After graduating with a degree in Chemical Engineering from NUS in 1990, Ms Aw ventured into what some might consider an unconventional career path.

Ms Aw started her career at the Economic Development Board (EDB) where she focused on building competitive industries and creating meaningful jobs. She learnt about a wide spectrum of industries (such as energy, chemicals, education, professional services, consumer products) and spent several years overseas. During her time in EDB, the development of Jurong Island and the chemical industry took off. Thereafter, she took on the role as CEO of Singapore Tourism Board (STB). During her time at STB, she was involved in projects which saw significant transformation of the tourism sector, such as the development of the integrated resorts, the F1 night race, positioning of Singapore as a culinary and arts destination, and the development of the cruise industry.

After more than two decades in the public sector, Ms Aw joined Shell in 2012, in a number of global and regional roles that included strategy development and commercial responsibilities. Ms Aw's multi-faceted skillset led to her appointment as Chairman of Shell Companies in January 2019. While she has oversight for all of Shell's businesses in Singapore, her passion lies in driving energy transition and working to ensure that Shell Singapore remains a great place to work.

Ms Aw has been based overseas in London and Chicago for work but her heart has always been rooted in Singapore, an international hub that presents global opportunities. Despite her demands at work, Ms Aw has always been closely involved in voluntary networking and sharing sessions, including those organised by NUS. Adopting a learner's mindset, she is committed to nurturing future generations through regular conversations with youths.

Ms Aw sits on the boards of numerous corporate organisations and non-profit entities. As an avid supporter of local arts, she is a Board Member of the Singapore Repertory Theatre. Besides serving on the International Advisory Board of the City of Rotterdam, she is also a Steering Committee Member of the Philip Yeo Initiative for young entrepreneurs at NUS and a Fellow of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Sloan School of Management.

For her many contributions, Ms Aw has earned numerous awards that include the Public Service Administration Medal (Silver) in 2007 and the Distinguished Engineering Alumni Award in 2019. She is a frequent recipient of the Friend of the Arts Award by the National Arts Council.

MS JOCELYN CHNG YEE KWANG

Arts and Social Sciences '89 & Business '12

Award-winning businesswoman Ms Jocelyn Chng is an astute entrepreneur who has successfully led her traditional family-run business, Sin Hwa Dee, into the global scene. A household name in Singapore, Sin Hwa Dee is now one of Singapore's leading F&B players.

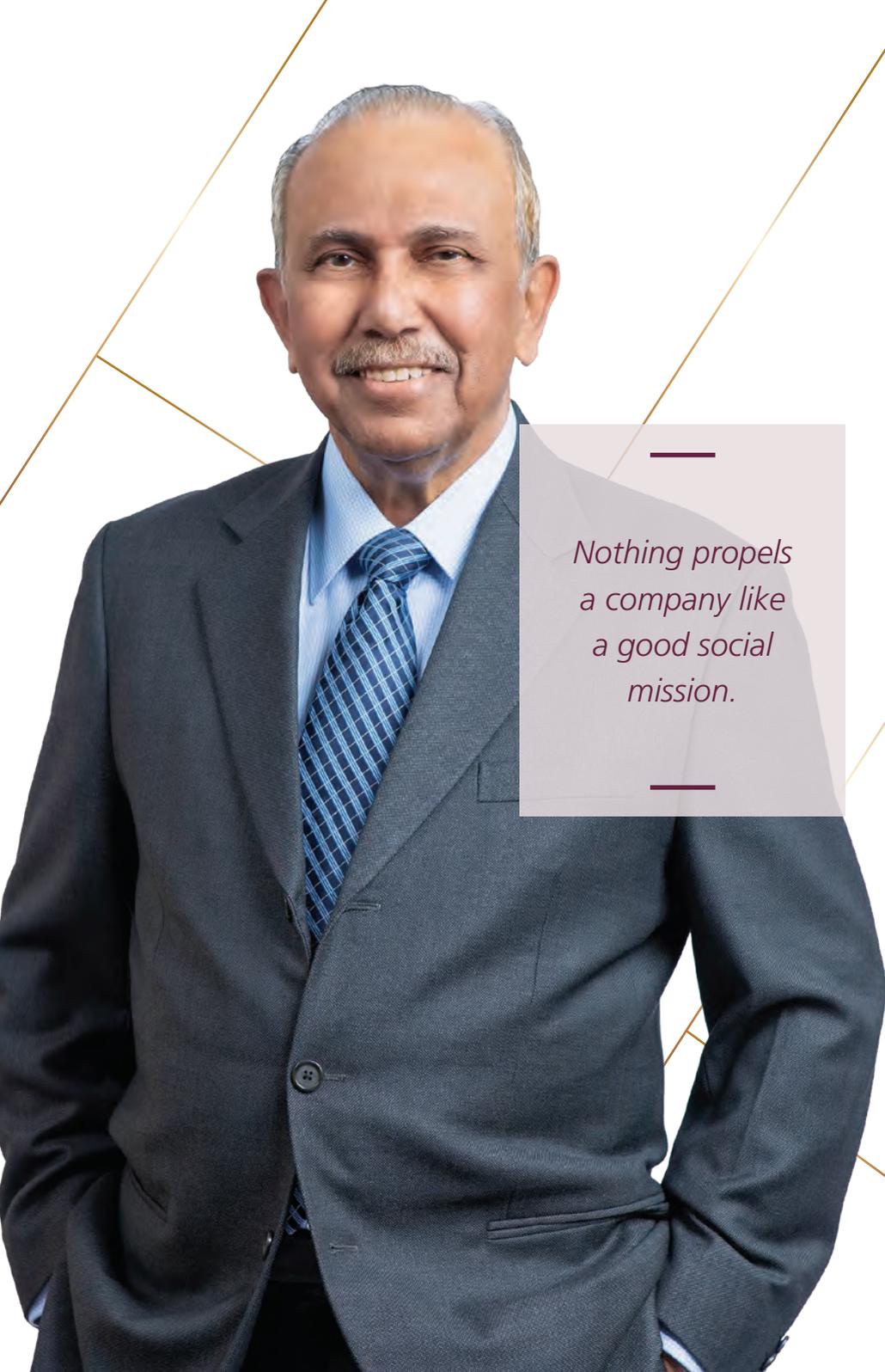
Under Ms Chng's stewardship, the company has scaled new heights and now exports to over 30 countries. She assumed the role of Managing Director from her father when she was a second-year student at NUS and breathed new life into the family business. With the support of her family, the business rapidly expanded to three factories. Despite this success, she was never complacent and continued to push for increased production while tapping into the potential of overseas markets.

With the establishment of JR Foodstuff in 2001, Ms Chng added yet another successful business venture to her resume. Chef-in-Box, an idea from her late husband, went on to become a pioneer in the food industry. Combining innovation and technology, the popular hot food vending machines offer convenient ready-to-serve meals to the public. In 2016, JR Group launched the first vending machine café in Singapore, VendCafe.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, demand for cooked and chilled meals surged, corroborating Ms Chng's foresight of supplying ready-to-eat meals. Businesses and members of the public turned to these convenient meals when operations and options were limited by lockdowns and closures. Not forgetting the less fortunate, Ms Chng also supplied free meals to the needy and offered discounts to friends who were involved in similar efforts.

A former NUS Alumni Advisory Board Member, Ms Chng co-founded Social Innovation Park Ltd, a non-profit organisation that incubates social entrepreneurs worldwide. She also drives the corporate social responsibility efforts at Sin Hwa Dee and is a Member of the UN Global Compact. She has been awarded multiple times for her enterprise and innovative achievements. These include the Women Entrepreneur of the Year by the Association of Small & Medium Enterprises in 2001, Montblanc Businesswoman of the Year in 2003, the NUS Eminent Business Alumni Award in 2016 and the EY Entrepreneurial Winning Women Asia Pacific Programme in 2018.

*Being a first mover
is never easy,
but that's what
innovation is all
about.*



*Nothing propels
a company like
a good social
mission.*

MR S CHANDRA DAS

Arts '65

With more than five decades of co-operative experience across sectors, Mr S Chandra Das has served as Chairman and Director at numerous corporates, government entities and social enterprises. His career began in 1965 when he joined the Economic Development Board, and he subsequently rose to become Director of the Export Promotion Centre. Mr Das has led with exemplary leadership throughout the course of his illustrious career.

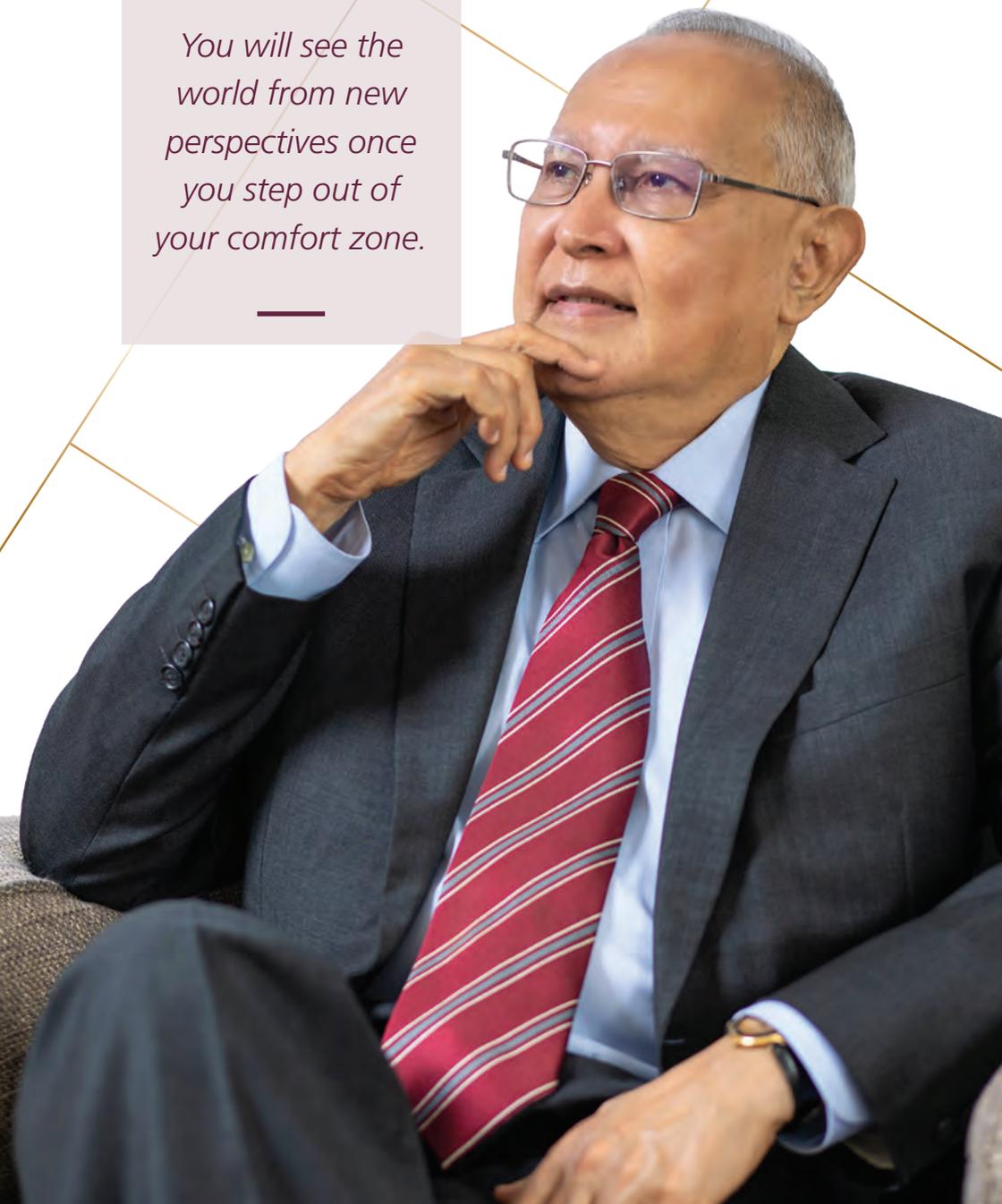
Mr Das was a teacher before graduating with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Economics from the then University of Singapore. From 1983 to 1986, he served as Chairman of the Trade Development Board. Over the next couple of decades, he continued to take on stewardship roles as Managing Director of Intraco from 1976 to 1986, Chairman of NTUC Fairprice Co-operative Ltd from 1993 to 2005, Chairman and Director of Nera Telecommunications Ltd from 1988 to 2013, Deputy Chairman of Yeo Hiap Seng Ltd from 2002, Director of Super Group Ltd from 2011 to 2017 and Chairman of Travelex Holdings (S) Pte Ltd from 2017 to 2019.

In 1980, Mr Das was elected Member of Parliament and served four terms. Thereafter, he continued to helm critical roles in public service, including Chairman of the Government Feedback Unit. Having been on the Boards of the Port of Singapore Authority and the Public Utilities Board, Mr Das was also the first Chairman of the Trade Development Board. He is currently serving as Life Trustee of the Singapore Indian Development Association (SINDA), Board Member of NUS Institute of South Asian Studies and Pro-chancellor at NTU.

Mr Das has offered his professional expertise to many listed corporations. He is Chairman of the TalkMed Group Ltd, Managing Director of NUR Investment & Trading Pte Ltd, Chairman of Goodhope Asia Holdings Ltd, and Chairman of GashubUnited Holding Pte Ltd. He chaired The Central Co-operative Fund for a decade and has been involved with NTUC co-operatives since 1972. His list of experiences and contributions also extend to his diplomatic roles as Singapore's first Trade Representative to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics from 1970 to 1971, Singapore's Non-Resident Ambassador to Turkey from 2005 to 2014 and his current appointment as Non-Resident High Commissioner to Sri Lanka.

For his commitment and contributions to the co-operative movement, public sector, and business community, Mr Das is the recipient of two Honorary Doctorates and many awards which include the Golden Cross of Merit of Poland in 1991, the President's Medal by Singapore Australian Business Council in 2000, the Distinguished Service (Star) Award by National Trades Union Congress in 2005, and the Public Service Star (BBM) in 2014.

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You will see the world from new perspectives once you step out of your comfort zone.
 —



MR BARRY DESKER

Arts '70

Mr Barry Desker served in the public service for over three decades. In 1966, he was one of nine top secondary students to be awarded the newly-renamed President's Scholarship. He is currently a Distinguished Fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) and Nanyang Professor of Practice at Nanyang Technological University (NTU). He is a Member of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights and Member of the Board of Directors of the Lee Kuan Yew Exchange Fellowship.

A President's Scholar who attended St Patrick's School, Mr Desker graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (First Class Honours) in History from the University of Singapore in 1970 and obtained a Master of Arts from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London in 1973 on a Ford Foundation Fellowship. He was a Ford Foundation Fellow at Cornell University from 1973 to 1974.

Mr Desker joined the Administrative Service in 1970 and was posted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He served as Singapore's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York from 1982 to 1984 and was the Ambassador to Indonesia from 1986 to 1993. Moving to the Ministry of Trade and Industry, he was the CEO of the Trade Development Board from 1994 to 2000. Following his retirement, he was appointed Non-Resident Ambassador to the Holy See and the Kingdom of Spain from 2007 to 2020.

Mr Desker was the inaugural Dean of the RSIS at NTU, from 2007 to 2014, Bakrie Professor of Southeast Asia Policy from 2011 to 2015 and the Director of the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies from 2000 to 2014. In these roles, he built RSIS into a leading professional school of international affairs in the region and a major think tank in the field of defence and international security.

Mr Desker has been active in the corporate world and in international public service since his retirement. He was the Vice-Chairman of the Singapore Business Federation and Chairman of its International Relations Committee from 2001 to 2010, as well as Chairman of the Singapore International Foundation from 2001 to 2008. Mr Desker served as Chairman, Singapore Technologies Marine Ltd from 2000 to 2016, Jurong Port Pte Ltd from 2001 to 2008, TDB Holdings from 1994 to 2000 and Singapore Network Services (re-branded as CrimsonLogic) from 1994 to 2002. He was previously on the Boards of the Economic Development Board, Trade Development Board, Maritime and Port Authority, and National Library Board, among many others.

Mr Desker was awarded the Public Administration Medal (Gold) in 1992, an honorary Doctor of Letters by University of Warwick in 2012 and Doctor of Laws by the University of Exeter in 2013.



*Let's build a society
where we give
more to those who
have less.*

MINISTER DESMOND LEE TI-SENG

Law '01

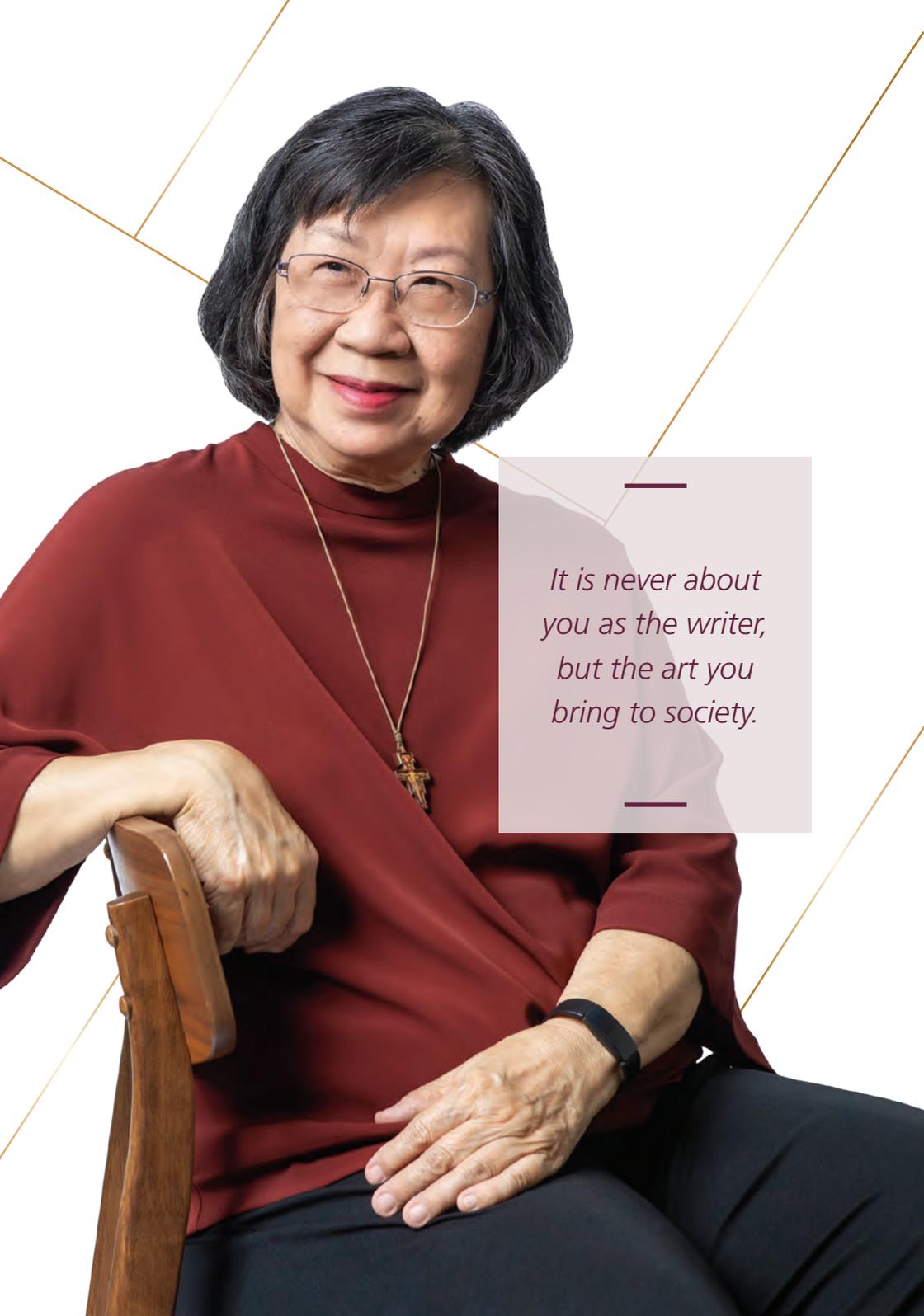
When Minister for National Development Mr Desmond Lee was first appointed to the Cabinet at age 40, he was the youngest full Minister in the Cabinet at the time, and he remains the youngest full Minister currently. He graduated in 2001 with First Class Honours in Law from NUS and holds a Master's degree in Law from the University of Oxford. Before entering politics, he began his career as a Justices' Law Clerk of the Supreme Court, and went on to serve as a Deputy Public Prosecutor and State Counsel in the Criminal Justice Division of the Attorney-General's Chambers. He then headed the legal department of the Ministry of Health, before becoming the Deputy Director of the Legal Policy Division at the Ministry of Law.

Upon joining politics, Mr Lee moved from the backbench to the frontbench, demonstrating both a good grasp of the complexities of policymaking and an unwavering commitment to improving the lives of Singaporeans. He first became a Member of Parliament (MP) after successfully contesting in Jurong GRC in 2011. He has since taken on various roles, including Deputy Leader of the House and Senior Minister of State for Home Affairs and National Development. In 2017, he was appointed Minister in the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Home Affairs and National Development. Later in the same year, he became the Minister for Social and Family Development and Second Minister for National Development.

At present, Mr Lee serves as the Minister for National Development, overseeing Singapore's urban development and nature conservation. He is concurrently the Minister-in-charge of Social Services Integration, driving the transformation of social services to become more citizen-centric and impactful in uplifting vulnerable members of society.

Mr Lee also serves on a number of other committees. As Co-Chair of the Emerging Stronger Taskforce, he worked with industry partners, the labour movement, and government agencies, to identify and respond to long-term structural shifts in the economy arising from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. As Co-Chair of the Singapore Together Movement, he is leading efforts to galvanise Singaporeans from all walks of life, to take collective action to shape the future of our nation. He also co-chairs important bilateral forums, such as the Singapore-Tianjin Economic and Trade Council and the Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city Joint Working Committee.

Outside Mr Lee's work in the public service, he has participated in various social and community endeavours. He co-founded nuSTUDIOS Film Productions in 2000 to nurture and provide support to aspiring young filmmakers on campus. nuSTUDIOS has produced over 20 short films, some of which participated in both local and international film festivals.



*It is never about
you as the writer,
but the art you
bring to society.*

DR LEE TZU PHENG

Arts '68

One of Singapore's most influential literary figures, Dr Lee Tzu Pheng is a well-respected pioneer of the local literary scene since the 1980s. As Singapore's first generation of nation-building English writers, she has nine poetry collections, a book of essays and a handbook that helps children develop reading-readiness to her name. Dr Lee's works are characterised by their meditative and lyrical nature, and often explore themes of identity and one's role in the greater context of humanity. Her poetry has been read on BBC and her first three collections, namely *Prospect of A Drowning* (1980), *Against the Next Wave* (1988) and *The Brink of an Amen* (1991), were all awarded the National Book Development Council of Singapore Award.

Giving voice to a new form of local literature, Dr Lee has received numerous accolades in her long-running career as a poet. In 1985, she was awarded the Cultural Medallion for Literature, Singapore's highest recognition for excellence in the Arts. She is also a recipient of the Southeast Asia WRITE Award and the Montblanc-NUS Centre For the Arts Literary Award for English Poetry.

Dr Lee served on several bodies such as the National Arts Council, the Drama Review Committee, the Arts Resource Panels from 1994 to 1996, and the grants' panel of the Singapore International Foundation. After retiring from her role as Associate Professor at NUS in 2001, she promoted reading and literature among the young and launched the bi-annual Lee Tzu Pheng Poetry Award in 2002 to nurture and support talent in budding young writers from secondary schools and junior colleges.

Dr Lee's long list of achievements includes being conferred the Gabriela Mistral Award from the Republic of Chile, the only Singaporean to have received this award to date. In 2014, her lifelong contribution to the arts was recognised when she was inducted into the inaugural Singapore Women's Hall of Fame for her contributions to humanity and creativity. She was also honoured as a Literary Pioneer at the Singapore Writers Festival 2017.

Dr Lee also penned the lyrics to *My People, My Home*, a National Day song, which has been sung at schools during National Day celebrations since 1998.

COVID-19 has challenged many things, but not the prominence of female leadership.

PROFESSOR LEO YEE SIN

Medicine '83, '89 & Public Health '13

As a leading infectious disease expert, Professor Leo Yee Sin has been a prominent medical figure over the past two decades, and has led her team through multiple outbreaks of emerging infectious diseases in Singapore.

Prof Leo's contributions to Singapore's battles against infectious diseases are well documented. From the Nipah outbreak in 1999, SARS in 2003, the pandemic influenza in 2009, to the Zika outbreak in 2016 and COVID-19 in 2019, Prof Leo has remained committed to keeping Singapore safe by fighting at the frontline with her team at the former Communicable Disease Centre and now National Centre for Infectious Diseases.

A key contributor to clinical development, Prof Leo actively participates in academic research and public health policies. Her research interests include emerging infectious diseases, dengue and HIV, and she led a SG\$25 million dengue study that revolutionised dengue management in Singapore. As a research contributor, Prof Leo is credited in over 300 scientific papers and is often invited to speak at conferences.

Prof Leo also remains a dedicated advocate for HIV patients. She was among the first doctors in Singapore to tackle the stigma of HIV in the early 1990s, despite challenges in clinical management then. Having spent the first ten years of her career to this endeavour, Prof Leo provided comprehensive care and support to HIV patients and made treatment more accessible for them. To engage the community, she headed an HIV programme in 1995, followed by the establishment of an HIV patient care centre two years later. As head of the programme, she raised monies for patients and worked with policy makers and volunteers to garner community support on top of providing medical care, while continuing to serve on local and international clinical committees.

As an accredited veteran respected by the community, Prof Leo has been conferred many prestigious awards that include the Public Service Star in 2003, the Excellence Star Award in 2005, the Red Ribbon Award in 2014 and the National Healthcare Group (NHG) Distinguished Senior Clinician Award in 2016. In recognition of her contributions to Singapore's battle against COVID-19, Prof Leo was recently awarded the Public Administration Medal (Silver) by the Prime Minister's Office in 2020 and the Lee Foundation-NHG Lifetime Achievement Award in 2021.

A firm believer in female leadership, Prof Leo was named one of the inspiring and influential women from around the world in the BBC 100 Women 2020 list, and was one of the winners of Her World's Women of the Year 2020.



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*Building up talent
 and capabilities is
 the key ingredient
 for long-term
 sustainable value in
 any enterprise.*
 —

MR DILHAN PILLAY SANDRASEGARA

Law '88

Mr Dilhan Pillay Sandrasegara was appointed the CEO of Temasek Holdings (Private) Limited on 1 October 2021, and is also the CEO of Temasek International, the operating arm of Temasek, a role he has held since April 2019. A firm believer in the harnessing of human potential in the advancement of enterprises, he has contributed to the transformation of organisations, both big and small, throughout his career.

After graduating from NUS Faculty of Law in 1988, Mr Sandrasegara went on to obtain a Master of Laws at the University of Cambridge. A practising lawyer for over 20 years, he specialised in corporate and securities law. He went on to become Managing Partner of WongPartnership LLP, one of Singapore's largest law firms, in 2007. In 2010, Mr Sandrasegara joined Temasek and has helmed multiple leadership roles such as the Head of the Investment, Portfolio Management, and Enterprise Development Groups. He was based in New York for two years, where he led the Americas market team as Temasek expanded its footprint in that region.

Mr Sandrasegara's instincts as a leader are evident from his record of accomplishments. He has championed innovation and change throughout the course of his career, both at WongPartnership and at Temasek. At Temasek, Mr Sandrasegara led the Enterprise Development Group to harvest early-stage opportunities and build long-term growth engines. He also played an instrumental role in the establishment of initiatives such as Heliconia Capital and Clifford Capital.

As an avid supporter of his alma mater, Mr Sandrasegara's contributions included the provision of financial resources to students, and more. Aside from providing financial assistance to students at NUS Faculty of Law, he also established the Student Exchange Programme Award for the Community Spirited to enable learning opportunities and international exposure. His contributions were created with the intent of imbuing beneficiaries with community values and a giving spirit. He encourages the youth to give back to society through active and consistent community involvements.

Mr Sandrasegara currently serves as a Member of the Future Economy Council, the National Jobs Council, the Financial Centre Advisory Panel of the Monetary Authority of Singapore, and is a Board Member of the National Research Foundation and Enterprise Singapore. He is also a Member of the Board of the Peterson Institute for International Economics. He has also previously served on multiple statutory and corporate Boards such as Jurong Town Corporation, Sentosa Development Corporation, Banyan Tree Holdings Ltd and SMRT Corporation Ltd.

MR JACK SIM JUEK WAH

Public Policy '13

Mr Jack Sim retired from active business at the age of 40 after achieving financial independence, to focus on voluntary social work. He is best recognised for his efforts as the Founder of the World Toilet Organisation (WTO) in 2001.

After facing setbacks at the GCE O-level examinations, Mr Sim graduated from vocational school before landing a short stint as a construction site supervisor. After becoming a salesperson, an investor encouraged him to start his own business. That was the start of a series of 16 businesses Mr Sim started between the ages of 24 to 40. His portfolio included founding Besco Building Supplies, Australian International School Singapore, and Maybricks Sdn. Bhd, the largest brick factory in Malaysia. Mr Sim became a self-made millionaire before he was 30. He continued to venture into property and decided to turn fully to social work in pursuit of a deeper fulfilment at 40.

Mr Sim's founding of WTO paved the way for serious discussions that address the global sanitation crisis, with unanimous support from its member countries. Its founding day, 19 November, was also declared the UN World Toilet Day unanimously by all 193 countries of the UN General Assembly. Since its inception, WTO has facilitated major sanitation efforts, including the construction of over 110 million toilets in India, driven a rapid transformation of toilets for tourists and restrooms in rural schools of China, and influenced changes in public policy to attract an estimated US\$131 billion foreign investments into Brazil's sewage treatment plants.

Another achievement by Mr Sim is the completion of the SDG Centre in 2019. The centre is dedicated to solving the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, through the marketplace, to improve the quality of life for others. It is his belief that the only way out of poverty is through "unlocking the spirit of enterprise" and good work ethics of the low-income group. At 56, Mr Sim went on to graduate from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy with a Master in Public Policy in 2013. He then took on the role of Adjunct Associate Professor at NUS Business School where he inspired students to the purpose of lifelong volunteering. In 2019, BoP Hub, founded by Mr Sim, went into a joint initiative that champions social innovation with NUS Enterprise. This initiative aims to provide mentorship, incubation support and resources via multi-disciplinary programmes.

Mr Sim's contributions to creating social good and mobilising national support garnered him the Schwab Foundation Award for Social Entrepreneur of the Year in 2001. He was also elected as an Ashoka Global Fellow in 2007, named one of the Heroes of the Environment by Time Magazine in 2008, and received the Queen Elizabeth's Commonwealth Points of Light Award in 2018.

Charity can't get people out of poverty. Unlocking their spirit of enterprise can.



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Education is a platform for learning, nurturing and growing - a privilege of transforming knowledge into kindness at the workplace and at home.
 —

DR TAN LAI YONG

Medicine '85 & Public Policy '13

As a doctor, Dr Tan Lai Yong has dedicated his time and practice to alleviate poverty through medical services and training village health workers. In 1996, Dr Tan relocated from Singapore to Yunnan, China, with his family as a medical missionary, and served among the under-privileged.

Dr Tan's 14 years in rural Yunnan saw him caring and working with the poor, the disabled and orphans. Aside from training hundreds of rural healthcare workers, he also planned surgery camps, educated minority ethnic groups on health and hygiene, and led tree planting efforts to improve village environments.

For Dr Tan's work in China, he was presented with multiple awards, including the Friendship Award for Foreign Experts by former Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao in 2004. He returned to Singapore in late 2010 and soon immersed himself in local voluntary welfare groups and migrant worker communities to address pressing needs. To upgrade his knowledge and skills, he took up a Master's Degree in Public Administration at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy.

In 2012, Dr Tan joined the College of Alice & Peter Tan (CAPT) as a pioneering Resident Fellow. He was CAPT's inaugural Director for Outreach and Community Engagement (2012 to 2020). He currently teaches at the Division of Family Medicine in Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine where he crafted and helms the "Medicine for the Marginalised" module. A three-time recipient of the Residential Colleges Teaching Excellence Award, Dr Tan is on the NUS Residential Colleges Teaching Excellence Award Honour Roll.

To date, Dr Tan has led ten NUS study trips to China, India, Myanmar and Botswana. Described as a 'wandering saint' in Parliament, Dr Tan, along with his CAPT Team, encouraged migrant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic with their support for education access. The team identified migrant workers with female university-going dependents and assisted with their bursary applications. In the past 12 months, he also led and participated in a dozen tree planting projects – in migrant workers' dorms, Pulau Ubin and at the Kent Ridge campus.

Among Dr Tan's long list of accomplishments is also his role as a published author. His latest book explores stories and personal encounters, which teach and reveal humanity during the unprecedented times of COVID-19.

MR SONNY YUEN CHEE CHOONG

Business '85

Mr Sonny Yuen has accumulated over three decades of experience in the management and supply chain sectors of Singapore. He was a veteran in the Human Resources industry before he co-founded his headhunting firm, JonDavidson.

From serving as General Manager at Sumitomo Bakelite Singapore to his current role as the Managing Director of JonDavidson Pte Ltd and Vice President of ENEX Global Executive Search Organisation, Mr Yuen has led companies at the senior management level given his vast experience and diverse skillsets. He is a multifaceted business leader whose expertise spans human resources, IT, project management, finance and supply chain management.

After graduating from NUS with a Bachelor of Business Administration, Mr Yuen remained an active member of the NUS community through his involvement in various alumni associations. He served as President of two very active alumni groups simultaneously.

Mr Yuen is the Founding President of Raffles Hall Association from 2013 to 2021. As a former Junior Common Room Committee President, he ignited a deep re-engagement with alumni across five decades to reconnect and participate in multiple activities with current residents. Under his leadership, two successful charity golf tournaments that raised a combined SG\$1.6 million with government matching provided for 241 bursaries, and many memorable social and charitable activities that enriched the Hall are now his legacy.

Additionally, Mr Yuen was also a Founding Member and former President of the NUS Business School Alumni Association (NUSBSA) where he served two terms from 2014 to 2018. In 2015, he built a team that established the NUSBSA Women's Wing, and the NUSBSA Accountancy Wing, which resulted in a 30 percent increase in female representation and Accounting alumni on the association's Board.

Mr Yuen turned around the fledgling NUS Bizad Charity Run and established it as a flagship event that is synonymous with NUS Business School, resulting in a six-fold increase in participation and donations. To him, inspiring and interacting with students is his way of giving back to the larger community. He has always maintained that NUS Business School remains an important aspect of his life even after graduation. He continues his NUS giving journey as the current Chairperson of NUS Alumni Leaders Forum under the care of NUS Office of Alumni Relations.

Mr Yuen was awarded the Eminent Business Alumni Awards by NUS Business School in 2018, which paid tribute to his distinctive leadership and business achievements. He is a champion fundraiser who embodies the spirit of giving through passion and hard work. Many have benefited from his exceptional dedication in serving NUS and the community.

When we use the talents we are given, we create opportunities for others.



OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD

The Outstanding Young Alumni Award recognises alumni aged 40 and below who have distinguished themselves in their chosen fields. They may also have rendered excellent volunteer service to NUS and/or the community while exemplifying the best attributes of youth in today's world.



AWARD RECIPIENTS

MS ANNIE AN DONGMEI

Computing '15

MR LAURENCE PUTRA FRANSLAY

Computing '13

DR SHARON HENG LING ZHI

Medicine '08

MR LIM WEI JIE

Arts and Social Sciences '17

MR DAVID LOW JIA WEI

Systems Science '16

DR MOHAMMAD HOSSEIN DAVOOD ABADI FARAHANI

Engineering '19

MR MUHAMMAD IBNUR RASHAD BIN ZAINAL ABIDIN

Engineering + USP '11

MR OW TAI ZHI

Business '11

MR RAMEEZ ANSAR

Computing + USP '05

MS CARRIE TAN HUIMIN

Arts and Social Sciences '04
& Public Policy '20

MS AUDREY JOY TAN YAN XI

Arts and Social Sciences '11

DR ANDY TAY KAH PING

Engineering '14

MR ASEEM KUMAR THAKUR

Engineering + USP '09

MS TIN PEI LING

Arts and Social Sciences + USP '07

MR WONG KAH CHUN

Music '11

MS JANICE WONG HUIXIAN

Arts and Social Sciences '06

DR ZHOU LIHAN

Science + USP '07
& Medicine '13



NUS *A*LUMNI
AWARDS
2021

MS ANNIE AN DONGMEI

Computing '15



MR LAURENCE PUTRA FRANSLAY

Computing '13



The University is pleased to confer the NUS Outstanding Young Alumni Award on Ms Annie An Dongmei, in recognition of her impactful contributions to technology.

Ms An helps enterprises in ASEAN to adopt modern technology. Her professional work at Amazon Web Services focuses on enabling digital innovation.

Ms An is a strong advocate for enabling next-gen coders and women in IT. She also serves the global community by actively participating in technology projects that dive deep into social issues.



As a solutions architect at Amazon Web Services (AWS), Ms An helps enterprises across ASEAN to adopt and innovate with modern technology powered by cloud computing, machine learning and artificial intelligence. She believes technology is a key driver of innovation, an enabler for enterprises, and the workforce of tomorrow.

Ms An is also a strong Diversity, Equity and Inclusion champion who empowers the next generation in IT. As a Women in Tech, and a part of the IT Youth Council at the Singapore Computer Society and other voluntary organisations, Ms An has taught and mentored youths, and served on the judging panels at technology hackathons. A regular at Women in Tech panels, she has given talks and conducted tech workshops in Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore and China, and also inspired youths to create their own voice applications using emerging technology.

Ms An actively participates in technology projects that dive deep into social issues and global problems. An active advocate of emerging technologies, Ms An is a trailblazer who innovates and sets new industry standards.



Mr Franslay is one of the founders of Project Stable Staples (PSS) and handles technology, marketing and communications, operations and fundraising for the project. PSS supported families who relied on part-time job income and suffered a loss in employment during the Circuit Breaker period. The project raised over S\$167,000 in 2020, which went towards providing 3,055 beneficiaries with stable staples during these trying times. Under Mr Franslay's leadership, it has since pivoted to being a quick response fund for families waiting for assistance. Mr Franslay was presented the People of Good Award by President Halimah Yacob in 2020 at the Istana for his contributions.

Since 2014, Mr Franslay has also been a core team member at IAmTalented.SG, a social empowerment initiative for youths to explore areas of interest in non-academic pathways through self-discovery and skills-based workshops. Through a targeted tech literacy workshop called IAmTechXplorer, he equipped kids living in Jalan Kukoh with the tech literacy needed for their schoolwork. He has also mentored and volunteered in multiple projects at NUS School of Computing.

The University is pleased to confer the NUS Outstanding Young Alumni Award on Mr Laurence Putra Franslay, in recognition of his outstanding contributions in fundraising and charity.

Mr Franslay is currently an engineering manager with a focus on setting up high functioning and decentralised teams. He is now leading a cross border team across Singapore and India to deliver more optimised products for PayPal.

Mr Franslay's commitment to improving the lives of others, both in his professional career as well as his social service initiatives, is a trait that many aspire to have.

DR SHARON HENG LING ZHI

Medicine '08



MR LIM WEI JIE

Arts and Social Sciences '17



The University is pleased to confer the NUS Outstanding Young Alumni Award on Dr Sharon Heng Ling Zhi, in recognition of her contributions to healthcare and the NUS alumni community.

Apart from the "Professional Forum Series", Dr Heng and her committee are an important point of contact for our alumni based in London, as they organise networking gatherings, allowing them to connect with one another, as well as their alma mater.

During the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr Heng led the Chapter to raise approximately GBP£2,100 online to support the welfare of the Kings College Hospital Frontline medical team in their fight against COVID-19.

Dr Heng is an Ophthalmic surgeon at Moorfields Eye Hospital - the oldest and largest centre for ophthalmic treatment, teaching and research in Europe. She is also a clinical lecturer (honorary) at the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology.

Dr Heng also co-founded Angel Babybox, a multifunctional baby crib that was awarded Gold in the Bizziebaby awards for nursery products and named 'Most Innovative Baby Crib in the World 2020' by LUX magazine.

11 years ago, Dr Heng moved to London to pursue her PhD under Professor John Marshall, the inventor of excimer laser. She won the prestigious Mulan Award for contributions to science and technology in 2014. She has also been serving on the NUS Alumni London Chapter since 2012, organising alumni activities and mentorship programmes to provide pupillage to NUS students in the UK. In 2017, she assumed the Chairperson role.

Dr Heng started the Professional Forum Series, where participants can network and hear from distinguished speakers on global issues. The series has hosted luminaries such as former High Court Judge, Sir William Blair and many others.

Through Foreword Coffee Roasters that Mr Lim co-founded in April 2017, he has increased the visibility of the differently-abled community and also created opportunities for the wider Singapore community to interact with them. 80% of his employees are persons with disabilities or persons in recovery from mental health conditions. He provides training, employment opportunities, career development, and mentorship to persons with disabilities, while enabling sustainable public consumption and supporting coffee growers in the Asian region. Despite some challenges, he has expanded his chain to five outlets in just four years.

A champion for the common good, Mr Lim also adopts responsible, environmentally-sustainable practices in Foreword Coffee Roasters. The eco-friendly practices include Bring Your Own Cup discount, and the Return and Reuse initiative which have been effective in reducing plastic waste. His specialty coffee beans are sourced from Asia, roasted in Singapore and he imports directly from the coffee growers with a view to channel greater profits to them.

The University is pleased to confer the NUS Outstanding Young Alumni Award on Mr Lim Wei Jie, in recognition of his socially impactful entrepreneurial spirit.

Mr Lim's social enterprise, Foreword Coffee Roasters, helps customers embark on a sustainable coffee experience that embraces coffee, environment and an inclusive vision.

Determined to do his part to alleviate hardships brought about by the pandemic, Mr Lim's Foreword Coffee Roasters pledges 5% of revenue from the sale of their coffee brew bags to community development projects in coffee growing regions in Asia.

MR DAVID LOW JIA WEI

Systems Science '16



DR MOHAMMAD HOSSEIN DAVOOD ABADI FARAHANI

Engineering '19



The University is pleased to confer the NUS Outstanding Young Alumni Award on Mr David Low Jia Wei, in recognition of his outstanding achievements in the infocommunications industry.

Shortly upon his graduation up until 2020, Mr Low had been teaching as a guest lecturer (and later as an adjunct lecturer) in NUS on applied Machine Learning and Deep Learning topics.

Mr Low is often invited to speak at international conferences and public talks due to his ten-year experience and achievements in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning.



Mr Low co-founded Pand.ai, a deep technology start-up incubated under the Facebook Start and Google Cloud startup programs. Starting from scratch as the sole technical co-founder, he developed a proprietary Natural Language Processing engine that is serving tens of thousands of users for several Fortune Global 500 companies, including UBS, AIA, Tokio Marine, Schrodgers and Allianz across Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Taiwan.

Under Mr Low's leadership, the company has expanded rapidly in a short amount of time, in terms of size, funding, as well as international recognition for its products. Growing from a two-man team to 11 full-time employees with close to SG\$1 million annual revenue in the first two years, the startup managed to raise a seed funding of US\$1 million from an angel investor and later another seven-figure investment from Bangkok Bank's venture arm. Pand.ai has produced award-winning chatbot solutions, earning it multiple international accolades.

Mr Low has recently joined CardsPal, a fintech startup backed by SC Ventures. He is also the Chief AI Officer at SmartJen, an Edutech startup.



During his time at NUS, Dr Farahani's PhD thesis received the 'Outstanding Postgraduate Research Thesis Award 2018' from the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. To commercialise his PhD research, he founded his own startup company, SEPPURE, and exclusively licensed the patent from his time in NUS to his company. He raised a substantial amount of funding, approximately SG\$3.79 million, from accredited investors from the USA, the UK, and Singapore, secured multi-million dollar projects, and grew his team to 18 people, including seven NUS alumni, over two years.

Dr Farahani received the prestigious award of 'Innovator Under 35' from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), won the 'Founder of the Year, Movers and Shakers Award', at the ORIGIN Innovation Awards 2020, and was named 'Leader of Tomorrow' by the Gen.T List, Class of 2020.

As an alumnus, Dr Farahani has readily shared his wealth of knowledge and experience with fellow alumni and students of NUS. He is currently a Startup Mentor at NUS Entrepreneurship Society, where he shares his experience with NUS students who have plans to start their own companies.



The University is pleased to confer the NUS Outstanding Young Alumni Award on Dr Mohammad Hossein Davood Abadi Farahani, in recognition of his excellent contributions in chemical engineering and entrepreneurship.

Dr Farahani has three patents and 23 peer-reviewed publications with over 1,250 citations to his name. He has also edited one book and authored two book chapters and has been invited to speak at various conferences.

Dr Farahani also served on Enterprise Singapore's flagship start-up competition, Slingshot 2020, as mentor to a number of Top 100 Global Startups.

MR MUHAMMAD IBNUR RASHAD BIN ZAINAL ABIDIN

Engineering + USP '11



MR OW TAI ZHI

Business '11



The University is pleased to confer the NUS Outstanding Young Alumni Award on Mr Muhammad Ibnur Rashad Bin Zainal Abidin, in recognition of his excellent work in sustainability.

Mr Muhammad Ibnur Rashad was recognised as a UN Sustainable Development Goals Pioneer, and won two UNESCO Mondialogo Engineering Awards.

Ever since Mr Muhammad Ibnur Rashad published his first scientific article in an international photonics journal at the age of 15 with an NUS professor, his spirit of experimentation has driven him to innovate and create many more projects.



Through his award-winning consultancy, Ground-up Innovation Labs for Development (GUILD), Mr Muhammad Ibnur Rashad unites nature, technology and community to create learning experiences. GUILD's latest projects include the Floating Gardens Initiative, transforming plastic waste into farms on water, an invention bootcamp with the Singapore Science Centre for schools to design solutions for an elderly centre and family service centre, as well as developing riverbots to help marine researchers in Southeast Asia in their conservation work.

Inspired by his NUS Overseas Colleges experience in Silicon Valley, Mr Muhammad Ibnur Rashad helped grow the garage culture and maker movement in Singapore and Asia. He co-founded the Sustainable Living Lab (SL2) in 2011, and co-invented iBam, the world's first compact bamboo speaker crafted by bamboo artisans in Indonesia, which also provides livelihood to single mothers in Singapore.

Mr Muhammad Ibnur Rashad now serves at Ground-Up Initiative (GUI), a community organisation that nurtures a unique ecosystem of grounded entrepreneurs, social innovators, makers, builders and community leaders who seek to bring sustainability back into the hearts of many.



Mr Ow is the co-founder and Chief Investment Officer of AutoWealth, an MAS-licensed fintech startup that manages more than SG\$50 million in assets and innovated the wealth management industry by lowering the barriers of entry for many Singaporeans and Singapore-based investors, allowing them to achieve their financial goals in an affordable manner.

Prior to founding AutoWealth, Mr Ow spent over ten years in investment management, research, and strategy working for Singapore's sovereign wealth fund (GIC), hedge funds and family funds, amongst many others.

As a testament to his professional abilities, Mr Ow was appointed the Vice-Chairman of SAFRA's Investment Committee since 2014, and lent his astuteness to oversee the management of more than SG\$135 million of assets to support and upgrade SAFRA clubhouses in Singapore for the benefit of more than 300,000 national servicemen and their families.

Mr Ow has served on the Board of Directors of NUS Business School Alumni Association (NUSBSA) and is a Member of NUS Alumni Advisory Board since 2016. He was also Chairman of Bizad Charity Run for two consecutive terms, in 2017 and 2018.



The University is pleased to confer the NUS Outstanding Young Alumni Award on Mr Ow Tai Zhi, in recognition of his outstanding work in financial technology and his contributions to alumni leadership.

To benefit the undergraduates in NUS Business School, through his company, Mr Ow initiated the AutoWealth Bursary Fund in 2018, on top of providing regular internship programs

Despite his professional commitments, Mr Ow holds multiple positions in NUS, which has benefited the NUS community.

MR RAMEEZ ANSAR

Computing + USP '05



MS CARRIE TAN HUIMIN

Arts and Social Sciences '04
& Public Policy '20



The University is pleased to confer the NUS Outstanding Young Alumni Award on Mr Rameez Ansar, in recognition of his excellent work in the infocommunications industry and fundraising efforts.

Before starting Circles.Life, Mr Ansar helmed various positions that contributed to his success, notably as a Founding Member of teams at Boston Consulting Group and Temasek Holdings, and as a Co-Founder of VC technology incubator, TechCube8.

In 2015, Mr Ansar mentored dozens of top students from three polytechnics and two universities in Singapore, to instil business ethics, innovation, entrepreneurial spirit and self-awareness in these students.

He has also advised numerous entrepreneurs and businesses within the NUS ecosystem.

Mr Ansar co-founded Circles.Life with two other co-founders in 2016, making it the world's first fully digital, 100% cloud-based telecom operator. Weary of the limited choices and lack of innovation in the telco space, he introduced a new service in Singapore to set the example on how to re-imagine the industry. Circles.Life grew to become the telco of choice for the digitally savvy in Singapore and lead the change in customer experiences, data usage and innovation across the industry. Since then, the home-grown start-up has expanded to Taiwan and Australia and extended its platform offerings to operators in Indonesia and Japan – continuing to lead change in the global telcom industry.

Prior to his work in startups, Mr Ansar was part of the portfolio management and investments team at Temasek Holdings. He also worked as a corporate finance and M&A consultant with the Boston Consulting Group, a role in which he notably contributed to the setting up of the regulatory framework and corporatisation of Changi Airport.

Despite his professional success, Mr Ansar has his heart anchored on the community and continues to give back to NUS through the Sajjad Foundation that assists international students who require financial aid.

Ms Tan founded Daughters Of Tomorrow (DOT), a registered charity organisation in Singapore with a mission to facilitate support and livelihoods for underprivileged women to achieve financial independence. She engages various Singapore government agencies such as Ministry of Manpower and Ministry of Social & Family Development, to shape policies and their implementation to enable social mobility for the bottom 15% of Singaporeans.

Currently, Ms Tan is Steering Advisor to RISE Community, the first non-profit organisation in Singapore to focus on men from low-income backgrounds. It seeks to improve their socio-emotional, physical and financial health through peer support communities and economic opportunities.

Ms Tan was elected into the 14th Parliament of Singapore in 2020 and serves as Member of Parliament of Nee Soon GRC for Nee Soon South. She raises awareness about urban poverty, championing caregiving and mental health support in Singapore, and forges collaboration among private, public and non-profit sectors to improve the lives of citizens. In her personal time, she is also a self-work practitioner enabling clients to achieve breakthrough transformations in their personal, professional and leadership journeys.

The University is pleased to confer the NUS Outstanding Young Alumni Award on Ms Carrie Tan Huimin, in recognition of her pioneering spirit in social change and volunteerism.

With the incorporation of Daughters of Tomorrow in August 2014, Ms Tan has impacted more than 1,100 women through its skills-training, job-bridging, and support programmes.

Ms Tan was recognised by President Obama for her work in women's empowerment and advocacy for collaboration, during Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's visit to the White House in 2016.

MS AUDREY JOY TAN YAN XI

Arts and Social Sciences '11



DR ANDY TAY KAH PING

Engineering '14



The University is pleased to confer the NUS Outstanding Young Alumni Award on Ms Audrey Joy Tan Yan Xi, in recognition of her socially impactful entrepreneurship in finance.

Persevering in her entrepreneurial journey from the 2009 recession to this pandemic, Ms Tan has shown great tenacity, courage and ingenuity, rallying multi-disciplinary teams to innovate new methodologies on topics such as money, mental health and emotional well-being.

Ms Tan has also devoted her time as a social entrepreneur to create greater awareness for women social entrepreneurs, shift conversations beyond the existing scope of gender diversity and equity, to investment and support for women entrepreneurs.

Ms Tan co-founded PlayMoolah in 2009, one of the pioneering social enterprises here in Singapore, with a mission to enable positive financial emotional resilience and empower the next generation to make smart money decisions with clarity and confidence. Since 2010, PlayMoolah has developed a mix of media, from technology tools to digital and in-person programs to benefit others. PlayMoolah's partners include education and financial institutions, corporations, and government and community organisations. To date, the company has impacted over 80,000 individuals globally.

Ms Tan also co-founded Circles of Angels in 2019 to enable social entrepreneurs to flourish and impact local communities through greater impact tracking, by leveraging frontier technologies like blockchain for greater transparency and accountability of funds raised. Circles of Angels was selected to be funded and mentored by UNICEF Innovation and its network in New York City, and has since funded and supported various companies championing good causes.

Dr Tay is one of the recipients of the NUS Presidential Young Professorship award and has received a slew of international accolades, including the Helmsley Fellowship and the Toshihiko Tokizane Award. An assistant professor of biomedical engineering, he develops new materials for engineering the immune system.

Dr Tay was the only Singaporean selected as the 2020 World Economic Forum Young Scientists. He is passionate about developing multi-scale technologies to interface with the body's immunity. In 2019, his work on developing non-viral nano-structures to deliver DNA into immune cells with high efficiency and minimal perturbation was published in *Advanced Therapeutics* and chosen as the 'Most Influential Paper published in 2019'.

Dr Tay volunteers in a mentorship programme run by the New York Academy of Sciences where he remotely mentors pre-university students from minority ethnic groups and low-income families all over the world, including in Singapore. As a mentor, he provides students with tips for their university applications and guides them through science competitions.

The University is pleased to confer the NUS Outstanding Young Alumni Award on Dr Andy Tay Kah Ping, in recognition of his excellent work in health research and mental health advocacy.

Less than a year into his appointment as an assistant professor in NUS, Dr Tay has received SG\$2 million in competitive research funding for developing new materials and technology to improve cell manufacturing for cancer immunotherapy.

Dr Tay's research has been recognised in lists such as the Forbes 30 Under 30 (Global List) in 2019 and was named one of the '30 and Under Young Singaporeans to Watch' by The Straits Times.

MR ASEEM KUMAR THAKUR

Engineering + USP '09



MS TIN PEI LING

Arts and Social Sciences + USP '07



The University is pleased to confer the NUS Outstanding Young Alumni Award on Mr Aseem Kumar Thakur, in recognition of his outstanding contributions in fundraising and charity.

Throughout his career, Mr Thakur has always been innovating products for usage for the wider community, and for creating a more inclusive society.

The heart to serve and give back to various segments of the community is evident from all of Mr Thakur's ventures.

In 2009, Mr Thakur co-founded GIVE.asia with the belief that the process of giving to a charitable cause needs to be more fun, social and simple. Since then, GIVE.asia has successfully raised over SG\$90 million for various charitable causes.

Mr Thakur is currently the Founder and CEO of Aseemai Pte Ltd which is a digital transformation company with a heart. The mission of Aseemai is to create a more conducive ecosystem for socially conscious initiatives. The company focuses on building digital products, making investments and supporting entrepreneurs with a social mission.

Most recently, Aseemai is championing the future of distributed work by providing remote work opportunities to software developers around the globe. While talent is universal, access to opportunities is not. Aseemai's newest project is changing that by giving access to software developers and high-quality work.

Mr Thakur was selected for the Gen.T List 2020 – the definitive list of young leaders shaping Asia's future, which demonstrated his strength of accomplishments and initiatives that distinguished him as someone who is shaping Asian society.

Giving back to the local and NUS community has always been at the top of Ms Tin's priorities. She hopes to inspire future graduating students to not only demonstrate academic excellence but also a strong commitment to community service. She has contributed to the Tin Chew Hong Prize at NUS and is a regular speaker at University Scholars Programme events.

Ms Tin was the People's Action Party's youngest candidate in the 2011 Singapore general election. She was elected as a Member of Parliament for Marine Parade GRC in 2011 and later stood on her own in the MacPherson SMC from September 2015. She also serves as the Chairperson of the Government Parliamentary Committee (GPC) for Communications and Information, and a Member of the GPC for Culture, Community and Youth. Previously, she served on the GPCs for Home Affairs and Law (2011 to 2015), Health (2011 to 2020), and Social and Family Development (2015 to 2018, Deputy Chairperson).

On the global stage, Ms Tin is the CEO of Business China, a non-profit organisation that harnesses the support of the public sector and private enterprises to strengthen ties between Singapore and China.

The University is pleased to confer the NUS Outstanding Young Alumni Award on Ms Tin Pei Ling, in recognition of her achievements in community leadership.

Ms Tin has a deep interest in diverse topics, particularly issues relating to segments of society, such as the youth, elderly and young families.

She is also passionate about public health, mental health, and Singapore's progress into a smart nation and digital economy.

Ms Tin's heart to serve the community has touched many Singaporeans, and is evident in the many causes she roots for. In Parliament, Ms Tin actively champions issues pertaining to public healthcare, elderly, youth, women and smart nation.

MR WONG KAH CHUN

Music '11



MS JANICE WONG HUIXIAN

Arts and Social Sciences '06



The University is pleased to confer the NUS Outstanding Young Alumni Award on Mr Wong Kah Chun, in recognition of his exceptional international achievements in music.

Mr Wong co-founded Project Infinitude with Marina Mahler, an inclusive movement to encourage children from all walks of life to enjoy music.

Mr Wong is today, an internationally acclaimed conductor who has conducted some of the most distinguished international orchestras.



In 2016, Mr Wong became the first Asian to win the prestigious Gustav Mahler Conducting Competition for young conductors, a feat that has propelled many winners to international recognition. Mr Wong was subsequently appointed Chief Conductor of the Nuremburg Symphony Orchestra in Germany.

Deeply invested in the next generation of musicians, Mr Wong was inspired by how his own music journey began by chance – he got into music after being forced to join the primary school brass band. He began composing after suffering a nerve injury to his lips during national service.

In Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's National Day Rally speech in 2018, Mr Wong was one of ten Singaporeans recognised for his outstanding international achievements and community work in Singapore. In 2019, he was awarded the Order of Merit by the Federal President of Germany for his achievements in Singaporean-German cultural relations.

With a heart to uplift the community through music, Mr Wong assembled local and overseas artists and put on a virtual performance of Beethoven's *Ode to Joy* during the COVID-19 outbreak, as a mark of global solidarity.



Ms Wong has worked with celebrated chefs from around the world, and redefined the dessert experience in 2007 with the launch of her dessert restaurant, 2am:dessert bar. She has also appeared as a guest chef on reality shows such as MasterChef Australia and MasterChef Asia.

Determined to bring Singaporean food to the rest of the world, Ms Wong promoted local cuisine in several cities as part of #SGTakeout, and published her first cookbook in 2011. She also enjoys working with youths, and has conducted a specially tailored class to impart simple culinary skills to 36 youngsters from MINDS and Lee Kong Chian Garden Schools.

In November 2014, Ms Wong launched the eponymous sweet concept brand, Janice Wong Singapore, and by 2019, the company has expanded to global collaborations. Every year, Ms Wong's edible art works have been showcased at over 40 public and private events, including those for high-end fashion brands, car brands and skincare brands.



The University is pleased to confer the NUS Outstanding Young Alumni Award on Ms Janice Wong Huixian, in recognition of her outstanding achievements in the food and beverage industry.

Ms Wong has received worldwide recognition for her cutting-edge creations and was a regular on the global pop-up circuit prior to the pandemic.

In 2020, Ms Wong pledged a donation of SG\$10 from every purchase of a limited-edition Italian-themed dessert called Dolce Vita to Community Chest.

DR ZHOU LIHAN

Science + USP '07
& Medicine '13



The University is pleased to confer the NUS Outstanding Young Alumni Award on Dr Zhou Lihan, in recognition of his outstanding innovations in biotechnology and healthcare.

As a testament to his passion in biotechnology, Dr Zhou has more than 20 peer-reviewed publications and several patent applications to his name.

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, MiRXES, co-founded by Dr Zhou, was called upon by the government to mass produce and commercialise the first COVID-19 test (Fortitude Kit 2.0) approved for use in Singapore.

Dr Zhou is the Co-founder and CEO of MiRXES, a Singapore-headquartered biotechnology company. Under his leadership, the company grew from a three-man local start-up to a global leader in RNA technology and early disease detection.

Prior to founding MiRXES, Dr Zhou led a research team at the Bioprocessing Technology Institute, A*STAR to develop a novel microRNA qPCR assay platform for biomarker and therapeutic target discovery. As a scientist-entrepreneur, he is driving groundbreaking RNA research and actively champions a global ecosystem to accelerate clinical adoption of RNA diagnostics. His area of interest began when he was a student at NUS, and MiRXES continues to collaborate closely with NUHS researchers and clinicians to date, with the bigger goal of saving and improving lives.

In 2015, Dr Zhou was recognised by the MIT Technology Review as one of its Innovators Under 35. In 2017, he received the A*STAR Scientist-Entrepreneur Award. This year, among many other accolades, MiRXES is ranked 28th among Singapore companies in The Financial Time's ranking of 500 high-growth companies from the Asia Pacific region.

Congratulations



TEAM (ALUMNI) AWARD

The Team (Alumni) Award recognises the outstanding achievements of alumni teams who have collectively distinguished themselves in their chosen fields. They should preferably have rendered good volunteer service to NUS and/or the community.

AWARD RECIPIENTS

BANTU

MR NICHOLAS OOI HSIEN LOONG
Computing '18

MS JANELLE LEE JIAXIN
Arts and Social Sciences '17

CARMINE THERAPEUTICS

DR SHI JIAHAI
Science '09

DR LE THI NGUYET MINH
Science '05

CHOW AND LIN

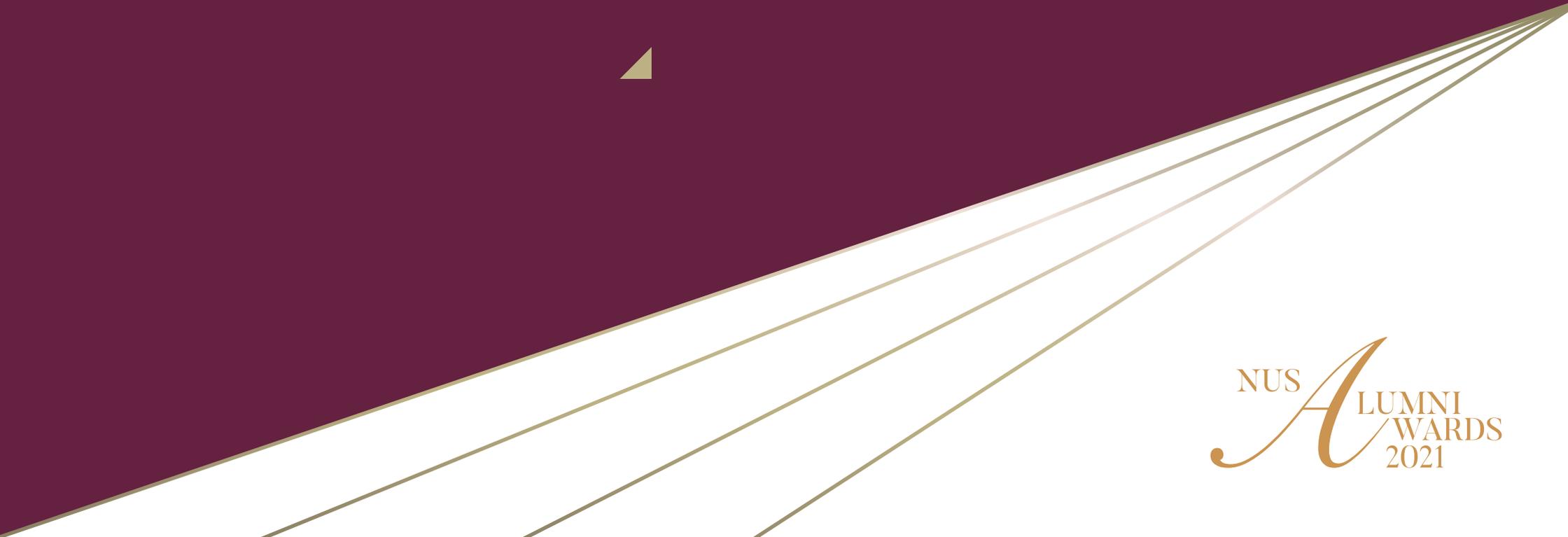
MR STEFEN CHOW
Engineering '03

MS LIN HUIYI
Arts and Social Sciences + USP '03

SHOPBACK

MR HENRY CHAN HIAN YI
Engineering '11

MR JOEL LEONG YONG SIANG
Arts and Social Sciences '12



NUS *A*LUMNI
AWARDS
2021



From left to right

1 **MR NICHOLAS
OOI HSIEN
LOONG**
Computing '18

2 **MS JANELLE
LEE JIAXIN**
Arts and Social Sciences '17

BANTU

As pioneers of the social technology scene in Singapore, bantu was founded in 2017 with the aim of digitalising non-profits to maximise efficiency. Built from scratch by founders Mr Ooi and Ms Lee, bantu Workspace has revolutionised the non-profits community to significantly improve engagement, deploy skilled volunteers swiftly, centralise volunteer databases, and streamline communications.

To date, the initiative has effected outstanding results by managing more than 30,000 volunteers, hosting more than 1,200 projects, tracking over 130,000 volunteering hours and decreasing administrative man-hours by more than 10%. For this groundbreaking achievement, bantu was awarded the President's Challenge Social Enterprise Start-up of the Year in 2019 - the highest accolade that a social enterprise can receive in Singapore.

Mr Ooi and Ms Lee innovated on digital technology to create greater social good benefitting organisations such as Samaritans of Singapore, Thye Hua Kwan Moral Charities and World Wildlife Fund Singapore.

In 2019, bantu partnered with Handup Volunteer, a Thai social enterprise, to run a 'Volunteerism Digital Transformation' workshop for non-profits that included UNICEF. As thought leaders of the community, Mr Ooi and Ms Lee were also speakers at the International Association for Volunteer Effort 16th Asia-Pacific Volunteer International Conference.

bantu championed the fundraising and volunteer recruitment efforts of Shan You and Sri Krishna Mandir through their JoyFull Meals pro-bono initiative during Singapore's 55th National Day 2020, to support small and less well-known charities amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The pair of social entrepreneurs developed specialised curriculum to teach charities new digital skills to transition their physical volunteering programmes virtually, and also kickstart their digital fundraising programmes through more tactical use of social media.

Since bantu's inception, Mr Ooi has worked on developing the volunteer management platform and driving adoption with charities and social service agencies. He was awarded the Singapore IT Youth Award by the Singapore Computer Society in 2012.

Ms Lee was named one of the '30 Young Singaporeans under 30 to Watch' by The Straits Times in 2020. She was also selected as a Professional Fellow at the US Department of State through the Young Southeast Asian Leaders' Initiative and represented Singapore at the 4th ASEAN-Japan Women Entrepreneurs Linkage Program.

Armed with technology and drive, the duo has redesigned the ways people volunteer and give back to the community. By creating a paradigm shift in the digitalisation of charities and changing perceptions of how volunteer work can be done, Mr Ooi and Ms Lee continue to inspire others and the next generation to accelerate good.



From left to right

1

DR SHI JIAHAI
Science '09

2

**DR LE THI
NGUYET MINH**
Science '05

CARMINE THERAPEUTICS

As the world's first company to harness red blood cell extracellular vesicles as vehicles for gene therapy, Carmine Therapeutics was formed in 2019 by EVX Ventures and is making a splash in the pharmaceutical scene. Carmine also pioneers as the first gene therapy company in South East Asia. Co-founders Dr Le's and Dr Shi's research, along with other co-founders, was pivotal to the founding of the company built on technologies developed by them.

Motivated by a mission to make genetic medicines widely accessible and to address the unmet medical needs of patients, the local gene-therapy start-up boosted the Singapore biotechnology and pharmaceutical start-up scene with one of the biggest deals ever received. The company inked a research alliance of over SG\$1.2 billion, including upfront and milestone payments, with global pharmaceutical giant Takeda Pharmaceuticals to develop and commercialise its treatments for rare genetic diseases. This has put Carmine on the world map and the team is currently working on pioneering powerful new genetic medicines based on red blood cell extracellular vesicles.

Based in Singapore and Boston, Massachusetts, both global hubs of biotechnology, the pioneering work at Carmine involves generating a pipeline of next-generation disease-modifying gene therapies that can target a wide spectrum of diseases. For its creation of novel technologies at the cutting-edge of advanced drug delivery platforms, Carmine was named one of the FierceBiotech's Fierce 15 Biotech companies of 2020, and was selected as one of the two top promising early-stage life sciences companies to receive the Bristol-Myers Squibb Golden Ticket for LabCentral.

Carmine's co-founder Dr Le is an outstanding young female scientist who was one of the first three recipients of the L'Oréal Singapore for Women in Science National Fellowship. She was awarded the prestigious post-doctoral Jane Coffin Childs Fellowship during her training at Harvard Medical School. Presently an Assistant Professor and the Graduate Program Director at the Department of Pharmacology at NUS, Dr Le continues to contribute to scientific research and education of the next generation of Singaporean scientists.

With over 20 years of experience in developing bio-therapeutics, co-founder Dr Shi is the recipient of a full PhD scholarship to join Dr Song Jianxing's lab at NUS. He has notably participated in the vaccine development against hepatitis E virus and has co-invented many new technologies. He is currently an Associate Professor at the City University of Hong Kong. Dr Shi was awarded the Whitehead Institute Postdoc Association Education Award in 2013.

Together, Dr Le and Dr Shi are reimagining current biotechnology procedures and pioneering new standards with Carmine.



From left to right

1 **MR STEFEN CHOW**
Engineering '03

2 **MS LIN HUIYI**
Arts and Social Sciences
+ USP '03

CHOW AND LIN

Put two talented individuals with different expertise, outlook and networks together, and a brilliant art partnership called Chow and Lin is formed. Using art and academic research to shed light on global tipping point issues, Mr Chow and Ms Lin have been serving thought-provoking art to the world since 2009.

Through an interdisciplinary approach, Mr Chow and Ms Lin drive impactful projects influenced by their collective backgrounds in economics, public policy, and media. A distinct trait of their practice lies in the implementation of statistical, mathematical and computational techniques to effectively raise awareness on real world issues that matter. Poverty, inequality and sustainability are among the thought-provoking themes that they showcase through their art to evoke conversations relevant to the modern society.

Based in Beijing, the dynamic duo have exhibited in 15 countries and earned a diverse audience that range from academics, scientists, corporates, to policy officials, NGOs and the general public. Well-received by top levels of their circle, their works have been referenced by the World Bank and showcased internationally at the Triennale di Milano, Les Nuits Photographiques in Paris, China Central Academy of Fine Arts Museum, Museum of Modern Art in Tbilisi, and NUS Museum. They have been invited twice by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to exhibit and speak to government ministers, policy makers and international organisations.

Mr Chow and Ms Lin are frequent speakers at events including the Singapore Summit, the APAC Women's Leadership Forum and multiple TEDx talks. To date, they have conducted over 50 talks and workshops at schools both locally and internationally to inspire creativity and build social awareness. They also initiated a mentorship program to guide young artists in Singapore and Malaysia. Outside of their artistic collaboration, Mr Chow and Ms Lin have also been committed to charitable efforts, which include fundraising for the Khumbu Education Fund and sponsoring education for Nepal Sherpa village children aged five to ten.

In 2019, Mr Chow and Ms Lin won the Science Breakthroughs of the Year Award at the Berlin Falling Walls Summit as the only Asian winners in the category. The duo scored another unprecedented win at the Arles Les Rencontres De La Photographie in France, when they became the first Asians to be awarded the LUMA Foundation Rencontres Dummy Book Award Arles in 2019. The award supported the English and French publications of their project, The Poverty Line, which was released in August 2021, and is now sold in over 20 countries. The book was highlighted by The New York Times as one of the top five new visual reads.

Through their work, Mr Chow and Ms Lin have shown the world that art can be an all-immersive and powerful medium to deliver important messages to a wide range of audience.



From left to right

1 **MR HENRY
CHAN HIAN YI**
Engineering '11

2 **MR JOEL LEONG
YONG SIANG**
Arts and Social Sciences '12

SHOPBACK

A project incubated by NUS Enterprise, ShopBack has scaled to nine countries to provide a more rewarding shopping experience for its 30 million users. From a small team of six in 2014, ShopBack now houses over 600 employees across the region. The platform enables users to make better purchase decisions while delivering performance-based marketing with high and measurable return on investment to merchants. Today, ShopBack is the largest rewards and discovery platform in the Asia-Pacific region.

ShopBack has been recognised on numerous occasions for its innovation and growth. Among its numerous accolades, the company was listed in the Financial Times' High-Growth Companies Asia-Pacific 2020, LinkedIn's Top Startups Singapore 2020 and 2021, The Straits Times and Statista Singapore's Fastest-Growing Companies 2020, and YouGov's BrandIndex Top Brands Recommended 2020.

Under the leadership of the two founders, Mr Chan and Mr Leong, ShopBack continues to innovate, evolve, and create value for its users and merchant partners. In 2020 alone, ShopBack powered close to US\$3 billion in sales for over 5,000 merchant partners across Asia-Pacific. To date, the company has also awarded over US\$130 million of cashback to its users.

As thought leaders who are committed to nurturing future talents, the founders play a core role in the NUS Enterprise community. Mr Chan and Mr Leong frequently return to their alma mater to offer valuable insights and share their experiences as entrepreneurs. As part of NUS Enterprise's initiative to provide assistance to new graduates during the COVID-19 pandemic, they demonstrated full support by opening up more full-time positions at their company, as well as providing more learning and growth opportunities through increasing the number of internship roles offered.

Mr Chan and Mr Leong often recruit fresh graduates, including those who did not come from an e-commerce background. They believe in nurturing new talents who can contribute to the growing industry, even after their personal journeys with ShopBack end. Ventures started by former ShopBack employees include Seedly, a fintech start-up; NodeFlair, a platform to match tech talents with companies; and Hypotenuse, an AI company that helps e-commerce sellers perform copywriting.

APPRECIATION

NUS Office of Alumni Relations would like to thank NUS President Professor Tan Eng Chye and the following Awards Selection Committee Members, award presenters, citation readers, and master of ceremonies, as well as all nominators who highlighted to us excellent alumni and their achievements for consideration.

We would also like to thank all NUS alumni, colleagues and friends who have made this year's Alumni Awards possible.



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UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR LIM PIN

PROFESSOR HO TECK HUA
Engineering '85

MS JENNY LEE

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR STELLA TAN WEI LING
Science '98

PROFESSOR CHEE YEOW MENG

MS ANGELINE ANG YIH CHING
Arts and Social Sciences '00

MS CHONG SIAK CHING
Design & Environment '81

DR INTAN AZURA MOKHTAR
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PROFESSOR AARON THEAN

MS PEARL MARIA FORSS
Arts and Social Sciences + USP '04

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR CHRIS MCMORRAN

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

MS MAY MANN OO, IVY
Arts and Social Sciences '17





Office of
Alumni Relations