NUS GIVING

SEE THE DOSSIBILITY

NUS GIVING REPORT 2023 / 2024

To All Our Generous Donors,



Thank You

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1610

EVERYTHING STARTS WITH A SEED.

A single seed holds the promise of growth and boundless potential.

Since 1905, the University has been fuelled by our collective belief in nurturing potential, fostering an environment where seeds of knowledge, innovation and progress can take root and flourish.

Our donors, through their generous support, continue to **SEE THE POSSIBILITY**, enabling us to cultivate every seed and shape a brighter future for all.

CONTENTS

- 04 President's Message
- 08 Shaping Future Talent
- 24 Shaping Future Solutions
- 32 Shaping Future Society
- 44 Shaping Legacies
- 46 Giving by Numbers
- 48 Shaping the NUS Community



Scan to view the Honour Roll 2023/2024 "Philanthropic support amplifies the impact that we work on, whether it is shaping future generations of talented foxes and hedgehogs, shaping future solutions or shaping future society.



President's Message

^{of} Foxes Hedgehogs

In interviews, I have shared how more graduates should combine the traits of foxes and hedgehogs.

Gleaning wisdom from the Greek poet Archilochus: "The fox knows many things, but the hedgehog knows one big thing". While the hedgehog is known for depth – intently focused on a single area – the fox excels in its wide breadth of skills. Today, students must learn both breadth and depth, combining the traits of both foxes and hedgehogs – mastering profound fundamentals, yet agile and versatile in navigating a rapidly changing landscape.

Education, once restricted to a stage of life, has now become a lifelong journey, characterised by continual growth and adaptation. The old belief that four years of tertiary education guaranteed a lifelong career is outdated. In the span of a 50-year career, an individual is likely to switch jobs several times, necessitating the acquisition of new skills, knowledge and competencies. This shift represents a primary transformation in our approach, focusing on equipping graduates for a lifetime of learning.

Complex challenges defy single-discipline solutions. Mental health and wellbeing are multi-faceted subjects that can benefit greatly from interdisciplinary synergies. Alongside existing medical interventions, music is an alternative holistic approach to supporting health and wellbeing. The NUS Centre for Music and Health is the first dedicated research centre in Southeast Asia to spearhead cutting-edge, evidence-based practices that leverage the efficacy of music for health and wellbeing, to improve lives in Singapore and the region.

In the face of an intensifying Artificial Intelligence (AI) era, a new AI Institute at NUS will effectively harness real-world impact for public good. By focusing on foundational AI research, policy and societal implications, and facilitating real-world applications, the Institute aims to amplify the positive impact of AI across diverse domains, collaborating closely with government agencies and industry partners to drive innovation and entrepreneurship towards societal progress.

Philanthropic support amplifies the impact that we work on, whether it is shaping future generations of talented foxes and hedgehogs, shaping future solutions or shaping future society. This Giving Report 2023/2024 presents your stories of inspiration, our shared goals and gratitude from your beneficiaries.

To you, our steadfast donors, we are thankful.

Professor Tan Eng Chye (Science '85) President

Living Legacies of Mr Lee Kuan Yew

In the dynamic narrative of Singapore's evolution, Mr Lee Kuan Yew stands as a visionary force, dedicating his life to building our nation. Despite his monumental contributions, his humility shines through as he steadfastly rejected notions of immortalising his legacy in lasting monuments.

TO honour his wish, NUS and the Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge University, established the Lee Kuan Yew Fitzwilliam-NUS PhD Scholarship instead. The Scholarship supports bright young academics with intellectual exchange opportunities between Singapore and the University of Cambridge. "My brilliant eldest brother studied at Raffles College, which eventually became the National University of Singapore. Later, he was a student at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge University, which contributed to his formative vears as a barrister. The Lee Kuan Yew Fitzwilliam-NUS PhD Scholarship is fittingly named and is a welcome way of honouring him," said Dr Lee Suan Yew, who championed the Lee Kuan Yew Fitzwilliam Fund

To date, the Scholarship has supported six PhD students from NUS and the University of Cambridge.

"The Scholarship has enabled me to focus on my research instead of worrying about the tuition fees. It reaffirmed my choice of quitting my industrial job to pursue research which I am passionate about," shared PhD student Mr Teo Wee Joon from the NUS College of Design and Engineering. Mr Teo is currently researching on a green solution



Mr Teo Wee Joon



that can improve the efficiency of water treatment while reducing its energy expenditure.

The Scholarship not only provides financial support for tuition fees and overseas conferences, but also gives its recipients opportunities to leverage academic and research resources at NUS and the University of Cambridge, fostering a growing collaborative environment between the two institutions. Ms Emma Leong

"This Scholarship has empowered me to develop professionally as a scholar while allowing me to fulfil my personal aspirations such as becoming a mother," said PhD student Ms Emma Leong, who welcomed her first child while pursuing her studies at the NUS Faculty of Law.

Ms Leong recently presented her research on consumer autonomy and the regulation of consumer data at a conference hosted by the UC Berkeley School of Law – an opportunity made possible by the Scholarship.

"I would like to express a most heartfelt 'THANK YOU' for enabling and nurturing the next generation of academics in Singapore. Supporting education is truly a future-proof investment which reaps dividends beyond one's generation," Ms Leong elaborated.

The Scholarship is supported by generous gifts from multiple donors.



Scan here to support more students!



SHAPING FUTURE TALENT



The future of our community lies in our youth, and educating our next generation is the core of what we do at NUS. Through philanthropic funding, financial aid allows more students access to a transformative education. This enables them to achieve their full potential regardless of their backgrounds, which in turn enhances social mobility in Singapore.

Beyond developing a skilled future workforce, we foster a mindset that embraces possibilities for a brighter future.

Empowering Tomorrow's Heroes

Mr Victor Lim and his wife, Ms Angeline Ooi, both alumni of the NUS Accountancy Class of '85, fondly recall their university days and the profound impact of their education. Recognising its value, they decided to support education causes, a commitment that gained new significance during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"THE pandemic revealed the indispensable contribution of nurses. This inspired us to support the next wave of nurses," Mr Lim elaborated.

The pandemic underscored the essential role of healthcare workers, especially nurses, who emerged as unsung heroes. Inspired by this realisation, the couple chose to support the Alice Lee Centre for Nursing Studies by funding bursaries and academic awards for aspiring nurses.

Supporting nursing students has been immensely gratifying for the couple. Witnessing the dedication, passion and growth of these aspiring nurses has



Mr Lim and Ms Ooi, together with recipients of their Bursary.

inspired them, and the couple feels privileged to contribute to their education journeys.

"Being there for nursing students brings us immense joy. We love connecting with them, hearing their stories, offering encouragement and witnessing their growth each year!" shared Ms Ooi.







SEE THE POSSIBILITY





The Power of Healing



At Duke-NUS Medical School, the act of healing, integral to medical practitioners, extends far beyond the confines of textbooks and hospital wards. Here, the generous gifts from donors are more than financial support; they are a profound form of healing, uplifting the lives of aspiring clinicians.

DENNIS Ooi Jun Wei

(MD, Class of 2027) left his corporate role at a shipyard to pursue a medical education, finding renewed purpose in healing others. The inaugural recipient of the TL Whang Foundation Bursary is thankful that the Bursary has lessened the financial burden on his semi-retired parents. "The Bursary has definitely helped me because now I do not need to seek any financial assistance from my parents and cause any delays in their retirement plans," he elaborated.

For Tang Si Ik, Beatrix (MD, Class of 2027), the motivation to pursue medicine is even more personal. Growing up, Beatrix grappled with the challenges of being born with both a cleft lip and palate, and had to undergo numerous surgeries. She was inspired by how her doctors went beyond healing her physical wounds to take care of her emotional wellbeing. This propelled Beatrix to pursue medicine at Duke-NUS so that she can spread that ripple of warmth and love that



Tang Si Ik, Beatrix

she had received as a patient, to others who need it too.

"The Bursary has definitely alleviated the financial burden of my family and allowed me to fully focus on the clinical experiences and my studies here in Duke-NUS, with determination and gratitude," shared Beatrix, who is also the inaugural recipient of the Chua Hock Tat & Lee Pui King Bursary.



Watch Dennis' video here!



Watch Beatrix's video here!



Keeping Hearts Beating

Emeritus Professor Chia Boon Lock, Singapore's "Father of Cardiology", was a pioneer, mentor and visionary who revolutionised cardiac care. His legacy at the National University Hospital (NUH) and the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (NUS Medicine) is marked by excellence and innovation; he was the first cardiologist in Singapore to introduce 24-hour ambulatory blood pressure monitoring as a diagnostic test for heart patients. He was also one of the first in Singapore to introduce echocardiography, one of the most versatile and commonly used imaging tests today.

IN 2018, peers, colleagues, and former students established the Chia Boon Lock Memorial Bursary to honour his inspiring legacy. The fund supports full-time undergraduates at NUS Medicine, ensuring access to a quality medical education regardless of financial background. Additionally, the fund supports medical research to enhance care and health outcomes, shaping the doctors of tomorrow.

Despite the passing of years, the late Emeritus Prof Chia's students continue to remember him fondly. In 2024, as they commemorated their 25th anniversary, the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) Class of 1999 decided to honour him in a meaningful and memorable way by contributing towards the Bursary.

"The idea took shape at our 25th reunion dinner in April 2024," remarked Professor Mark Chan who led the initiative. "Prof Chia was a beloved teacher to medical students and also a mentor to almost every cardiologist in Singapore. All of us in the medical fraternity have benefitted from his teaching and mentorship."



A dedicated educator, the late Emeritus Prof Chia Boon Lock taught at NUS from 1972 to 2017.





Scan here to empower future medical leaders!



Ms Chua Pei Xuan at a dementia and cognitive impairment screening for Project iRemember.



Coming from a family of four, Bursary recipient Chua Pei Xuan (Class of 2026) has always dreamed of becoming a doctor. Her resolve only grew stronger after her mother was diagnosed with a medical condition in 2020. Now, the third-year medical student is well on her way to fulfilling her dream of providing care and comfort to others. Drawing on her gratitude as a recipient, Pei Xuan hopes to pay it forward in the future. "Being awarded this Bursary means a lot to me as it allows me to focus on my education, empowering me to push myself to do my best in school without worrying about finances," she elaborated.

Pei Xuan's dedication shines through in her leadership of Project iRemember, an initiative focused on dementia and cognitive impairment screening during her second year. Her work with the elderly has given her a unique perspective on the challenges facing the healthcare system in Singapore. As Singapore's population ages, the need for medical professionals like Pei Xuan is greater than ever. Pei Xuan's commitment to her patients and her drive to positively impact their lives embody the essence of compassionate healthcare service.



Read more here!















Mr Nisar Keshvani (front row, fifth from left) and his family together with students from Temasek Hall who participated in the NUS Southeast Asia Friendship Initiative to Chiangmai, Thailand.

The greatest learning comes from venturing into the unknown. This philosophy is one that Mr Nisar Keshvani and his wife, Ms Malathi Keshvani, hold close to their hearts. The couple are global citizens who have lived and worked across five continents before returning home to Singapore for six years.

FOR half a decade, Mr Keshvani helmed strategic communications at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) and served as a Resident Fellow with Temasek Hall. In 2023, he led students from the Hall on a study exposure trip to Chiangmai, Thailand.

In the moonlit mountains of Chiangmai, Mr Keshvani rediscovered his passion for empowering students through experiential learning. This inspired him and his wife to establish a travel support fund at FASS, enabling more students to broaden their horizons and engage in educational opportunities and cross-cultural experiences across Southeast Asia.

"This opportunity to bring NUS students to Chiangmai deeply moved me," shared Mr Keshvani. "My wife and I sincerely hope our gift can support their adventures, especially in this region dear to us. Often, many outstanding students just need this small springboard to begin their lifelong journey of discovery."

Mr Keshvani recently relocated to Northwestern University in Qatar as Assistant Dean of Communications and Public Affairs, and continues the journey of venturing with his family.

14



Mr Tang Cheng Ying and Ms Poh Chwee Hoon

In Mr Tang Poh Kheng's quiet childhood neighbourhood, he once witnessed his neighbours' frustrated tears as they struggled to afford higher education for their children. The moving scene left a lasting mark on his young heart and stirred a sense of empathy and strong determination to make a difference.

Creating Opportunities for Deserving Individuals

INSPIRED by his neighbours' struggles and his parents' unwavering support, Mr Tang set out to give back to the next generation. Despite not being an alumnus, he has generously established two bursaries at NUS. His latest gift, the Tang Cheng Ying & Poh Chwee Hoon Bursary, was made in loving memory of his late parents. "I wish for all Singaporeans to have the chance to pursue higher education if their academic achievements allow them to do so," Mr Tang said.

Reflecting on his journey, Mr Tang emphasises humility and perseverance as keys to success. For him, investing in education is essential for both individual futures and a more equitable society.

Gratitude in Action

In a tale of gratitude and generosity, NUS alumnus Mr Lam Kun Kin (Accountancy '86) has established four bursaries at his alma mater throughout the years. Mr Lam believes in the transformative power of education and hopes that these bursaries will provide opportunities for future generations of students to achieve their full potential.

LAST year, Mr Lam set up the KK & YL Lam Bursary, named after himself and his wife. The Bursary embodies their shared commitment to empowering future generations through education, ensuring that their legacy continues to inspire and uplift.

As Mr Lam eloquently stated, "Education is the greatest gift one can receive and gratitude is the finest virtue one can possess." Mr Lam's philanthropic legacy also includes bursaries that he established in honour of his mentor and loved ones.

The Rebecca Sam Kwai Him Memorial Bursary honours Mr Lam's cherished mentor – "a very dear auntie" who guided and mentored him throughout his formative years.

Through the Lam Peng Hong Memorial Bursary and the Sam Kwai Cheng Bursary,



Mr Lam Kun Kin celebrating his birthday with the recipients of his bursaries.

Mr Lam pays tribute to his late father and resilient mother respectively. These Bursaries ease the burdens of financially needy students and celebrate the invaluable life lessons imparted by his parents.



Preserving An Artistic Legacy



The late Liu Shiming diligently sculpting the fine facial features of his art piece.

IN the heart of every sculpture lies a story of humanity, for the human spirit is the very essence and soul of art. Renowned Chinese sculptor Mr Liu Shiming, who passed away in 2010, strongly believed that sculpture should be focused on the depiction of people, as humans are inherently social beings and creators of art.





(From left) Ms Rachel Phoon, Head of Development, NUS College; Professor Simon Chesterman, Dean, NUS College; Mr Andy Serwer, Co-chair of the Advisory Board, Liu Shiming Art Foundation; Ms Hui Puiking, Executive Director, Liu Shiming Art Foundation; and Mr Victor Koh, friend of NUS College and the Liu Shiming Art Foundation.

"You could say that art made my father's life fulfilling and perfect," said Mr Liu Wei, the son of the late sculptor, as he shared about his father's artistic pursuit and inspiring life journey. Although the living and working conditions were difficult, his father gained a deep appreciation for Chinese history and the simple mundane lifestyle of the working class. Mr Liu Wei added: "He developed a profound understanding of folk and traditional art. leaving behind a collection of art pieces that vividly captured the unique cultural characteristics and charm of different regions."

Established in 2021, the Liu Shiming Art Foundation aims to keep Mr Liu's legacy alive by fostering young artists and nurturing their creativity, as well as contributing to the evolving landscape of art. The Liu Shiming Art Scholarship supports students at NUS College (NUSC) who are pursuing Asian Studies as a major or minor, as well as those minoring in Art History or Chinese Studies.

Mr Yang Zhiyong, the Director of the Foundation, cites the alignment between the organisation's goal of enhancing cross-cultural experiences through art and NUSC's interdisciplinary education curriculum as the driver behind this collaboration. "We firmly believe that comprehensive interdisciplinary learning lays the groundwork for the younger generation to grasp the complexities of the world they inhabit and to equip themselves for the future," he elaborated.





Read more here!

Shaping a More Sustainable Future

With a firm belief in the virtuous cycle of "doing well by doing good", Keppel Care Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Keppel Corporation Limited (Keppel), is committed to empowering communities and building a sustainable future for one and all.



TO that end, Keppel has established the Keppel Professorship in Sustainability Solutions and enhanced the Keppel Bursary for Engineering at the College of Design and Engineering (CDE), deepening Keppel's longstanding partnership with NUS in the areas of sustainability research and education. "The new Keppel Professorship in Sustainability Solutions reflects Keppel's purpose and focus on sustainability, while the top-up to the Keppel Bursary for Engineering will enhance accessibility to education for engineering students amidst rising costs of living," shared Mr Loh Chin Hua, Chief Executive Officer of Keppel.









Dean of the College of Design and Engineering (CDE) Professor Teo Kie Leong (second from left) and Keppel Care Foundation CEO Mr Ho Tong Yen (third from left) renewed NUS and Keppel's partnership to advance sustainability research and education at a signing ceremony. The ceremony was witnessed by NUS President Professor Tan Eng Chye (far left) and Keppel CEO Mr Loh Chin Hua (far right).

Professor Rajasekhar Balasubramanian, Provost's Chair Professor and Deputy Head (Communication & Engagement) at CDE, has been appointed as the inaugural Keppel Professor in Sustainability Solutions. Prof Balasubramanian is known for his research in environmental sustainability, climate change and urban air quality. His work provides policy-relevant scientific inputs and drives the development of cost-effective technologies to mitigate the impacts of air pollution.

Additionally, Keppel also generously enhanced the Keppel Bursary for Engineering, reaffirming their commitment to enhance accessibility to education. Established in 2014, the Bursary supports financially needy engineering students at NUS. The additional funding from Keppel will expand the University's capacity to support more students each year, and increase the quantum of each award, rendering more substantive financial assistance to the recipients.

"This renewed partnership between NUS and Keppel is a testament to our strong commitment towards shaping a more sustainable future by advancing sustainability education and research, as well as ensuring that undergraduates from all financial backgrounds can fully participate and benefit from the transformative education that NUS offers," shared NUS President Professor Tan Eng Chye (Science '85).



Read more here!



Making Waves in Mathematics



Dr Eric Chen

Assoc Prof Yao Yao

Since childhood, Associate Professor Yao Yao has always been fascinated by mathematics puzzles.

"MANY seemingly difficult puzzles have a surprisingly simple and elegant solution. Some of the solutions are so clever and unexpected, and they give me as much joy as reading a good detective novel with a plot twist at the end," she enthused.

Her love for mathematics followed her throughout her education and career, leading to her acceptance into the 2023 Asian Young Scientist Fellowship (AYSF) while serving as an Associate Professor (Dean's Chair) at the Department of Mathematics. Her research on partial differential equations, which seeks to shed light on the behaviour of fluids and turbulence mechanisms, caught the Fellowship Selection Committee's attention.

The Fellowship empowers and supports young scientists in Asia to pursue transformative research. In Assoc Prof Yao's case, her work has potential to enhance real-world fluid simulations.

Selected as one of 12 recipients from over 200 applicants, Assoc Prof Yao was pleasantly surprised to receive the award and celebrated with her family. The Fellowship gave her opportunities to attend conferences globally and invite other researchers to NUS. But to her, the most rewarding part of the Fellowship is being able to exchange ideas and be inspired by other young, leading researchers from different fields at the AYSF conference.

ASIAN YOUNG SCIENTIST Fellowship

> "By empowering young scientists in Asia, we hope to ignite a wave of innovation that transcends borders and disciplines," said Dr Eric Chen, the founding donor and representative of the AYSF.

> "We anticipate breakthroughs that address both present and future global challenges, spanning from healthcare to sustainability and everything in between," he concluded.



Driving Sustainable Impact



Headquartered in Singapore, Wilmar International is an agribusiness group engaging in a diverse array of business activities spanning oil palm cultivation, oilseed crushing, edible oils refining, sugar milling and refining, and the production of consumer goods. As a global company with operations in rural landscapes around the world, Wilmar is committed to driving positive impact for a brighter tomorrow and helping to build a sustainable society.

IN the same spirit, Wilmar has partnered NUS to empower students with academic potential, enabling them to fulfil their dreams through bursaries and scholarships.

Last year, Wilmar established the Wilmar International Scholarship at the University, as well as an award for PhD students at the NUS Graduate School. Both the Scholarship and the award are an extension of Wilmar's longstanding relationship with NUS and serve as a testament to the organisation's continued support for the University.

These programmes play a critical role in developing future-ready graduates and leaders who will go on to make a positive impact on their own communities in the future.

The Scholarship will provide much-needed support for international undergraduates from China and Myanmar pursuing Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Computer Science, and courses related to Artificial Intelligence at NUS. The award supports PhD students at the University.

"The purpose of our gifts is to help undergraduates from China and Myanmar, as well as PhD students, pursue further studies at NUS," shared Mr Kuok Khoon Hong, Wilmar Chairman and Chief Executive.

Preserving Heritage, Shaping Futures



Mrs Lee Li-ming

As an architect and professor at NUS, Associate Professor Lee Kip Lin devoted his career to designing buildings suited to the local climate and preserving Singapore's architectural heritage. While Assoc Prof Lee catalogued historical landmarks and their unique features across Singapore, his formidable wife, Mrs Lee Li-ming, provided steadfast support.

"ON weekends, he would drive all over Singapore and take photos of every building he saw. He systematically documented houses of certain eras, particularly those with unique designs and interiors. He also liked buildings adapted to the natural climate and designed our house to remain cool without air conditioning," recalled Mrs Lee, reflecting on her husband's dedication.

After her husband's passing in 2011, Mrs Lee took up the mantle of preserving his

legacy, albeit with a different approach. Forging her own path in philanthropy, she established the Centre for Environment and Ageing Well (ENgAGE) at the College of Design and Engineering. The Centre is designed to address the challenges of an ageing population and Singapore's unique climate, echoing Assoc Prof Lee's belief in community and environmentally responsive design while fostering resilience and inclusivity in the nation's built environment for future generations.



"Singapore is facing an ageing population and climate change. Thus, it is imperative that we promote the adaptation of our buildings and landscape to address healthy longevity and ecological design," Mrs Lee elaborated.

"My gift to establish the Centre was inspired by my husband's passion for designing buildings for the Singaporean climate, as well as his condition. Before his passing, he had suffered from dementia for 15 years, with episodes of lucidity that lasted for only a few days."

In addition, Mrs Lee also established the Lee Li-ming Scholarship for Ecological Design and the Lee Kip Lin Bursary. The Scholarship, which supports students entering the Master of Landscape Architecture programme, aims to promote the inclusion of ecological processes in landscape design, ensuring that the built environment is adapted to the climate and environment. Meanwhile, the Bursary provides monetary assistance to financially needy architecture undergraduates.

Dinner 2024.

Given that Assoc Prof Lee devoted over two decades to teaching at the Singapore Polytechnic, which later became part of the Department of Architecture at NUS, Mrs Lee hopes to perpetuate his impact on future students. She hopes that NUS students may continue to benefit from their gifts, just as Assoc Prof Lee's former students benefitted from his instruction and mentorship.

Through these multiple gifts that advocate for sustainable architecture and environmental stewardship, Mrs Lee exemplifies the power of passion and dedication to preserving her late husband's legacy, our architectural heritage and safeguarding our planet for future generations.

23





SHAPING FUTURE SOLUTIONS

Faced with complex problems in society today, our search for the right solutions requires a multifaceted approach that integrates diverse perspectives, rigorous research, innovative thinking and collaborative action.

Through philanthropic funding that provides resources for innovation, we can empower researchers who are dedicated to addressing these challenges, driving positive change.





Prof Hsu Li Yang speaking at the inaugural dinner and launch of the Asia Centre for Health Security held in April 2024.

Fortifying Our Health Systems



In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, global health security has gained paramount importance around the world. There is an urgent need to thoroughly assess and reform the architecture for global health emergency preparedness, response and resilience.

As an international travel hub with a high population density, Singapore is particularly vulnerable and has taken necessary steps to fortify the nation's readiness against future infectious disease outbreaks.

The newly launched Asia Centre for Health Security (ACHS) aims to prepare Asia for current and emerging biological threats and improve health security. The Centre will complement Singapore's evolving public health ecosystem and add extra capacity and dimension to Singapore's response to future pandemics. "The focus includes all manner of catastrophic biological threats, rather than just zoonoses. So. deliberately released or man-made biological agents are also a part of our work," said ACHS Director, Professor Hsu Li Yang, who is also Vice Dean (Global Health) at the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health. where the new centre is primarily based. "Rather than hardcore biomedical science and technology, we work on health systems, global health law and regulations, and global relations pertaining to health security issues."



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ACHS Senior Leadership (from left) Assoc Prof Ayelet Berman, Prof Mely Caballero-Anthony, Assoc Prof Lim Poh Lian, Prof Hsu Li Yang, Prof Helena Legido-Quigley, Assoc Prof Michael Friedman, Dr Marc Ho, and Ms Astrid Khoo.





ACHS is funded by philanthropic contributions from individuals such as philanthropist Luke Ding, and organisations including foundations and family offices such as Metta Holdings and Affinity Wealth Management Singapore.

ACHS is steered by a multidisciplinary team with expertise in areas from public health and clinical practice, to global health law and policymaking. The multidisciplinary team at ACHS will also work closely with the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies at Nanyang Technological University in areas such as research and training.

"We need to work together to safeguard against unpredictable biological threats and protect the wellbeing of future generations. Only by doing so can we create a more resilient and united Singapore, Asia and world," shared Adjunct Professor Derrick Heng, Deputy Director-General of Health (Public Health) at the Ministry of Health, Singapore, at the inaugural dinner and launch of the Centre.



Scan here to empower future public health leaders!







Building the Data Centre of the Future.

Investing in A Green Future

Operating more than 260 data centres globally, tech titan Equinix supports the digital infrastructure needs of some of the biggest companies in the world, from Netflix to Nestlé.

THE scale of their enterprise is mirrored by their commitment to shape a greener, more resilient future. Equinix collaborates with peers and academia to develop new ways to reduce their carbon footprint, aspiring to be the 'Data Centre of the Future'.

In line with that, they established the Equinix Fellowship in Sustainable Digital Infrastructure at the College of Design and Engineering to discover innovative solutions that minimise the ecological footprint of data centres. The Fellowship is an extension of Equinix's partnership with NUS which began with their first gift to the University in 2021.

Equinix fellows in the engineering, environmental science and renewable energy fields will explore various green energy options, including the potential of emerging technologies like hydrogen fuel cells and Al-driven energy management tools.

EQUINIX

"Equinix's partnership with NUS not only fosters significant academic research, but also cultivates a new generation of engineers and scientists. This will contribute greatly to the Singapore Green Plan 2030, and we look forward to collectively creating a more sustainable world for generations to come," said Ms Yee May Leong, Managing Director of Equinix Singapore.







Driving Engineering Excellence

The presentation of the generous gift from Er. Wong Yui Cheong (pictured in front), part of which was used to establish the YC Wong-IES Research in Construction Project Management at NUS.

At the heart of the University is a shared mission to inspire the next generation of changemakers and equip them with the tools to tackle real-world challenges. This commitment has been bolstered by a visionary partnership with the Institution of Engineers, Singapore (IES), made possible through a generous S\$1 million gift to IES from Engineer Wong Yui Cheong, also known as Er. YC Wong.

THROUGH this contribution, IES gifted S\$300,000 to establish the YC Wong-IES Research in Construction Project Management Fund at the College of Design and Engineering.

"With its well-established, reputable project management programmes, NUS is an exceptional partner for IES to advance towards Er. YC Wong's vision. This collaboration will boost standards of project management to accelerate the transformation of our built environment towards greater safety, quality and sustainability," shared Er. Chong Kee Sen, IES Emeritus President and Chairman of the Fund.

The Fund supports NUS students and faculty in addressing practical challenges, fostering a dynamic environment for innovative problem-solving and hands-on exploration of industry best practices. Through this transformative partnership, IES and NUS are shaping a future where construction projects exemplify engineering excellence and responsible stewardship.







Read more here!



Driving the Future of Smart Technology

As our world becomes increasingly interconnected, the significance of smart technology and connectivity continues to grow. At the heart of this technological evolution are semiconductors, the building blocks of modern electronics. Applied Materials, a global leader in materials engineering solutions, is at the forefront of this revolution, particularly through its partnership with NUS to cultivate the next generation of tech innovators. **THE** partnership between Applied Materials and NUS began in 2018 with the establishment of the Applied Materials-NUS Advanced Materials Corporate Lab. This lab combines Applied Material's cutting-edge expertise in materials engineering and semiconductor technologies with NUS' multidisciplinary research capabilities. The goal is to accelerate the discovery and commercialisation of new materials crucial for nextgeneration semiconductors. The societal impact of these innovations cannot be overstated, with the potential to influence everything from healthcare to transportation.



Mr Brian Tan, Regional President (Southeast Asia) of Applied Materials.

Building upon this partnership, Applied Materials established the Applied Materials Chair Professorship at NUS to recognise the achievements of NUS professors who have worked hard and contributed greatly to the development and research of semiconductor innovations that can be rapidly commercialised.

By supporting leading researchers in semiconductor science, the Professorship aims to foster innovation and inspire the next generation of engineers and scientists to take bold steps in the development of new processes and technologies related to semiconductor manufacturing. It highlights the critical role that education and research play in advancing technology and addressing real-world challenges, as well as the importance of paying tribute to these efforts.

Reflecting on his own experience at NUS, Mr Brian Tan (Engineering '00), Regional President (Southeast Asia) of Applied Materials, shared, "I was fortunate to receive an incredible education at NUS, where I pursued a degree in Mechanical Engineering. The emphasis on engineering's potential to contribute positively to the world particularly resonated with me." "NUS has significantly shaped my personal and professional development, and giving back to the University and community is extremely fulfilling," he added. "I know a lot of alumni feel the same way, and I encourage them to give back – whether through financial contributions, mentorship or volunteering – because their support will empower the next generation to thrive."

SHAPING FUTURE SOCIETY

Impact permeates every aspect of our efforts, whether it is shaping young minds or innovating solutions. Concurrently, numerous NUS students engage in community initiatives, enriching both their personal and academic journeys while fostering positive societal change.

Philanthropic support can enhance these experiences, amplify the impact of our discoveries and catalyse even greater transformation.









The YST Orchestral Institute performed Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue, featuring Associate Professor in Piano, Ning An, at the YST 20th Anniversary Gala Dinner.

Orchestrating A New Era

Since it opened its doors 20 years ago, the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music (YST) has flourished as a vibrant centre of musical excellence. World-class instructors, talented young musicians and rigorous, multidisciplinary programmes are key notes in YST's repertoire.

IN celebration of its 20th anniversary in 2023, YST raised over S\$1.3 million through its 20th Anniversary Fundraising Campaign, with proceeds channelled towards initiatives that will enhance student support and expand its influence as Asia's leading conservatory. The announcement came during the YST 20th Anniversary Fundraising Gala Dinner held on 22 September 2023, attended by over 300 donors, friends and guests. The Gala Dinner, part of a yearlong string of celebratory events to mark the milestone, reflected on YST's journey thus far, looking towards its next chapter as it continues to chart innovative paths in higher music education.



Ensemble-in-Residence and alumni of YST, The Lorong Boys joined forces with Marques Young, YST Artist Faculty trombonist, to get guests jiving with their performance of original arrangements.





Scan here to support YST!


SEE THE POSSIBILITY



Charity Kiew (second from right), harpist and President of the YST Alumni Association Executive Committee, shared that being together with old friends at the Gala Dinner felt just like 'coming home'.





Addressing guests at the dinner, Chair of the YST Governing Board, Ms Chong Siak Ching, shared, "Over the past 20 years, YST has grown not only as a school but also as an artistic hub, community connector and the international face of Singapore's higher music education. We are deeply grateful to our benefactors who have supported us through the years."

The funds raised will support bursaries for YST students, expand the triennial Singapore International Violin Competition, and enhance the Conservatory's artistic, educational and community initiatives. This includes research and programmes by the newly launched YST Centre for Music and Health (CMH).

Led by Dr Kat Agres, Assistant Professor in Music Cognition at YST, CMH is the first dedicated centre in Southeast Asia to spearhead evidence-based practices that leverage music for health and wellbeing. Positioned at the nexus of music, research and community engagement, the Centre unites NUS' diverse expertise and research capabilities to create transformative solutions, enriching lives through music.

Professor Peter Tornquist, Dean of YST, said, "These initiatives are part of our larger mission to reimagine what a 21st-century conservatory can contribute to the world. As we move boldly forward, we will continue to create musical resonances, nurture artistic excellence, engage the community, spearhead innovation and continually rise to the challenge of educating the musical leaders of tomorrow."









Students explaining to Lions Befriender staff how to use the volunteer manager system that they built.

Harnessing Technology For Good

Technology, when harnessed for good, can transform our society in profound ways. Recognising the potential of technology to uplift lives, Singapore's sovereign wealth fund, GIC, supports the Centre for Computing Social Good and Philanthropy (CCSGP) at the School of Computing. Established in 2021, CCSGP cultivates tech leaders with a strong spirit of giving back. Through programmes like the Computing for Voluntary Welfare Organisations (CVWO) initiative, the Centre provides students with opportunities to serve the community.

GIC has been a long-time supporter of the CVWO initiative, where NUS students develop IT systems that enable social service agencies to run more effectively. This tech enablement reduces administrative burden, empowering social workers to deliver greater impact to the communities they serve. "Through the GIC Computing for the Community Fellowship Award, we support the CVWO initiative, which seeks to develop students holistically to be confident community leaders. We believe that these students can make a meaningful difference in the communities they serve through the optimisation of work processes and customised IT systems," shared Ms Deanna Ong, Chief People Officer of GIC.



Pushing AI Frontiers

From fortifying supply chain resilience against global disruptions and enhancing safety and resilience of energy systems to developing intelligent urban transport systems, personalised services and healthcare revolution – Artificial Intelligence (AI) is emerging as a force with the capacity to transform our lives.



Recognising the importance of growing a pipeline of AI talents, the NUS AI Institute will provide exciting hands-on opportunities for NUS students who are keen to pursue a career in AI or explore entrepreneurial pursuits in this fastgrowing field.



ACCORDING to Professor Liu Bin, NUS Deputy President (Research and Technology), the impact of Al on our lives, society, and economy will depend on how we develop, deploy and govern these technologies to maximise their benefits while addressing the challenges and the risks.

A new NUS AI Institute (NAII) will harness advancements in AI for the betterment of society in areas such as education, healthcare, finance, sustainability, logistics and manufacturing. "NAII aspires to become a global node of AI thought leadership, bringing together domain experts from within and beyond NUS to collaborate on impactful research problems to address societal issues. Recognising the importance of growing a pipeline of AI talent, the Institute will also provide exciting handson opportunities for NUS students who are keen to pursue a career in AI or explore entrepreneurial pursuits in this fast-growing field," said Professor Mohan Kankanhalli. Provost's Chair Professor of Computer Science and the Director of the NUS Al Institute







Giving to Groom Young Leaders

Ms Koh Lin-Net, Chairman of the Philip Yeo Initiative Steering Committee.

For years, Ms Koh Lin-Net has been part of the Philip Yeo Initiative (PYI), including taking on the Chairmanship of its Steering Committee in 2022. She has seen young people blossom through the PYI programmes, such as the Philip Yeo Innovation Fellows Programme, which supports students with an impactful project idea with funding and mentorship; the Discoverer programme, an experiential-learning initiative that nurtures young, impact-driven leaders through internships at impact-driven enterprises; and the Philip Yeo Grant, which gives entrepreneurial students with financial needs a chance to join the NUS Overseas Colleges programme, where they can experience the start-up culture at partner universities overseas.

"**OUR** goal is to give young leaders from all walks of life the tools, resources and environment to reach their full potential," shared Ms Koh, lead of institutional relations at Temasek Trust and Director at the Centre for Impact Investing and Practices. To achieve that, she made a gift to the PYI. "We want to groom more young leaders with our values: dare to dream, dare to do, be hungry, be curious and pay it forward. That is our small contribution to Singapore," she elaborated.

"I hope the recipients of this gift have the courage to make the right choices as they journey in life, the confidence in themselves that they can do it, and the will to carry on even when the going gets tough," she emphasised, urging others to give to advance education and seed change for the future. "Everyone has a role to play, and every contribution, big or small, matters."







Mr Wong Kee Joo, Chief Executive Officer of HSBC Singapore.

Be a Green Champion

The world is warming faster than at any point in recorded history, bringing along devastating effects to natural habitats and posing significant risks to human beings and all other forms of life on earth.

IN efforts to build a more sustainable future, HSBC, in partnership with the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, launched its second run of the HSBC Climate Change and Biodiversity Programme.



This public initiative, supported by dedicated HSBC staff volunteers, features interactive workshops, a gallery tour and even a 'Green Champion Card Game' developed by the Museum. Through these sessions, participants learn about key topics associated with climate change such as ocean acidification. deforestation and carbon storage, empowering them to make informed decisions and take action against climate change.

"We hope to increase public awareness on the role and importance of biodiversity and how climate change is impacting it, and to encourage public reflection on the need to address climate change," said Mr Wong Kee Joo, an NUS Business Administration alumnus, and Chief Executive Officer of HSBC Singapore.





Uplifting The Next Generation of Medical Professionals

In a night brimming with nostalgia and high spirits, more than 700 guests and alumni from the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (NUS Medicine) gathered to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Medical Alumni Association. The momentous occasion was made even more meaningful by the Association's heartfelt gesture of presenting a generous gift of S\$1 million to their alma mater. The meaningful contribution established the Alumni Association Centennial Celebration Bursary Fund, aimed at supporting financially needy undergraduates pursuing medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and nursing at the University.



Members of the Medical Alumni Association gathered to celebrate the momentous occasion of the Association's 100th anniversary.

AMONG the attendees were childhood friends Dr Low Boon Yong (Medicine '76), Dr Lee Keen Whye (Medicine '77) and Dr Lee Soon Tai (Medicine '77). The trio strongly believed in the transformative power of education and credited an enriching university education at NUS as one of the main catalysts for their success as healthcare and hospitality stalwarts. Turning gratitude into action, the three friends are determined to extend the same opportunity to others by setting up the Alumni Association Centennial Celebration - Medical Class of '76 Bursary at their alma mater.





(From left) Professor Aaron Thean, NUS Deputy President (Academic Affairs) and Provost, Minister Ong Ye Kung, Professor Tay Boon Keng, President of the Medical Alumni Association, and Professor Low Boon Yong, Chairman of the Medical Alumni Association (Southern Branch).

"We are thankful for the medical education 50 years ago, which allowed us to grow from strength to strength. As an expression of gratitude for the benefits we received, this gift is a gesture to demonstrate our sincere appreciation and thanks to the University," shared Dr Low, who had championed the Bursary's establishment and rallied his batchmates to give towards the noble cause.

The importance of a good education was instilled in them at a young age. Despite grappling with financial challenges, their parents insisted on sending them to school. The three young boys ended up studying in the same schools for 11 years, including five years at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Singapore, the predecessor of NUS.

Following their graduation, Dr Low and Dr Lee Soon Tai became orthopaedic surgeons, while Dr Lee Keen Whye pursued a career as an Obstetrician and Gynaecologist. The trio eventually became business partners, venturing into the hospitality industry and establishing the Clover Hotel Group in 2012.



Their philanthropic efforts extend beyond the Bursary, including volunteering at welfare organisations and supporting elderly individuals who live alone in old folks' homes.

Expressing his hopes for the Bursary, Dr Lee Soon Tai remarked: "We hope that our contributions will be able to help some medical students to fulfil their aspirations too and inspire them to achieve greater heights in their studies and careers in the future. This will perhaps create a chain reaction for them to do the same."







Planting the Seeds of Change



NUS President Professor Tan Eng Chye (second row, seventh from the right) planting trees together with members of the NUS community on PIF Day.



With a shovel in hand, NUS President Professor Tan Eng Chye (Science '85) launched the Plant-It-Forward (PIF) Challenge on 4 November 2023. Over 80 alumni, students, staff, friends, and families from the NUS community joined him on the inaugural PIF Day to plant 50 trees at NUS' University Town, as a symbol of their hopes for a greener future.

THIS initiative extends beyond climate action. The funds raised through the PIF Challenge support the Enhanced Financial Aid Scheme (EFAS), ensuring that full-time Singaporean undergraduates can access a transformative education at NUS regardless of their financial circumstances. Every S\$1,000 raised as part of the PIF Challenge will be recognised by a tree planted on the NUS campus, intertwining the future of our environment with the dreams of NUS students in financial need.

42

SEE THE POSSIBILITY





Miss Winnie Cheah

Ms Regini Lee

Drawing from her experience as a bursary recipient, Ms Regini Lee (Computing '22), made a gift towards the PIF Challenge to give back to her alma mater. As an international student. Ms Lee faced financial strain when the COVID-19 pandemic struck and affected her father's business. Her lifeline came in the form of an NUS bursary, enabling her to graduate with honours. Now an Enterprise Architect and Engineer in the banking industry, Ms Lee's journey from bursary recipient to proud donor highlights the transformative impact of giving and her commitment to nurturing future changemakers.

Self-made entrepreneur Miss Winnie Cheah (Business '92) also embodies the role of a nurturing gardener of budding talents. With a heart deeply rooted in philanthropy, Miss Cheah contributed S\$10,000 to the PIF Challenge. Her strong belief in the ripple effect of today's generosity on tomorrow's world captures the essence of Plant-It-Forward nurturing a legacy of kindness and sustainability for future generations. Miss Cheah shared: "Giving has been an annual affair since I started my first bursary with the Bizad Charity Run in 2015. The Chinese proverb, 'Predecessors plant the trees while the next generation enjoys the shade' (前人种树,后人乘凉), resonates deeply with me."

As the trees planted on PIF Day grow, so does the legacy of the NUS community – a testament to the indomitable spirit of human kindness intertwined with a commitment to our environment. Through the PIF Challenge, we plant our dreams and hopes for a world where education and environmental care walk hand in hand, creating a greener, more compassionate future.



Scan here to support the PIF Challenge!

Shaping Legacies



Legacy Giving is a profound way for individuals to leave a planned gift which aligns with their values and empowers future generations with long-lasting impact. **AT** NUS, many donors have stepped forward to make bequests in support of various causes at the University, opening doors for our students in financial need and boosting translational research that can positively impact society.

Scan here to find out more about leaving your legacy!

Continuing a Giving Legacy

MS Koh's charitable vision began in a hospital ward in 2019, when she was given just months to live after being diagnosed with cancer. She shared her final wish with her cousin, Ms Janet Lim, who has taken on the responsibility of fulfilling her request as the executor of the Estate of Diana Koh.

Ms Lim engaged the Community Foundation of Singapore and Asia Community Foundation, both philanthropic advisories, to help her administer the Estate. With their support, the Estate began empowering many worthy "Let's give it to charity". These five words from the late Ms Diana Koh launched an enduring legacy of giving and helping those in need.

causes, including education, nursing, programmes supporting children, marginalised groups, women's advocacy, the arts and aged care.

One cause particularly dear to Ms Lim's heart is the potential of medical research to bring about transformative change. In 2023, she visited Duke-NUS Medical School to learn more about the School's Cancer and Stem Cell Biology Programme. Following the visit, the Estate of Diana Koh, through Ms Lim, made a gift of \$\$1 million, evenly distributed between the Yong Loo Lin School of



(From left) Ms Janet Lim, Executor, Estate of Diana Koh; Prof Thomas Coffman, Dean, Duke-NUS; and Prof David Virshup, Director, Cancer and Stem Cell Biology, Duke-NUS.



Medicine (NUS Medicine) and Duke-NUS Medical School (Duke-NUS). The gift empowers young cancer researchers at both schools, enabling them to draw on the funding support for their work.

"In Diana's memory and in alignment with her wishes, we are embarking on a journey to fund more innovative approaches for cancer treatment, especially targeting the next generation of scientists and clinicians. The establishment of the Diana Koh Innovative Cancer Research Fund at Duke-NUS and the Diana Koh Young Innovator Grant and Prize at NUS Medicine represent our collective pursuit of groundbreaking discoveries in cancer treatment," Ms Lim shared.



Members of Duke-NUS Medical School with Ms Lim (third from left) and her Community Foundation of Singapore partners at the appreciation gathering.

Celebrating Harmony and a Long-lasting Legacy

Leaving behind the vibrant streets of Bangalore, India, Mr Gnanapragasam Louis sought to build a better life for his family in Singapore. As a self-taught builder, he left a lasting mark on the landscape of cities in the region, constructing several iconic buildings such as the Novena Church in Singapore and the Assunta Hospital in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia. Through hard work and strategic investments, he made his fortune and supported his children's local and overseas education, as well as the education of his relatives in India.

"MY father held a firm belief that education is critical in enabling one to find his or her place in the world. He taught us and our relatives to embrace the gift of education to reach our full potential," shared his daughter, Ms Wendy Marilyn Louis.

Today, Mr Louis' legacy lives on in the GL Louis Programme in Religious Studies at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. The Programme was established in his memory by his beloved wife, the late Mrs Ellen G Louis, who passed away in 2023, and Ms Wendy Marilyn Louis. Both Mrs Louis and Ms Louis dedicated legacy gifts towards the Programme, which aims to explore the phenomenon of religions through various activities. This may include, but are not limited to, a professorship, PhD scholarships, and academic events such as lectures, conferences and seminars.

"My husband always felt that it is impossible to understand our neighbours without fully understanding the religions that inform their world views. I hope this gift can be a step forward in fostering a greater understanding and harmony of the different religions between people," said Mrs Ellen G Louis, when she first made the bequest.



Mr G Louis and Mrs Ellen Louis on her 70th birthday.





Giving by Numbers

We would like to thank you, our 9,312 donors, for your generosity in giving to NUS. You gave a total of S\$212.4M in gifts in FY2023, from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

Gift Receipts



(S\$ Million)





At the time of publication, gift receipts for FY2023 are unaudited.



In Academic Year 2023,

6,204 undergraduates received financial support:

3,157 Bursaries 3,047 Scholarships In Financial Year 2023,

We established **5** new named professorships

We now have **144** named professorships made possible by benefactors



SHAPING THE NUS COMMUNITY

Nurturing a vibrant ecosystem of education, knowledge and enterprise hinges upon the steadfast support of our students, faculty and researchers. By empowering them to excel in their respective roles, we lay the groundwork for innovation and progress.

Together, we unite in our shared commitment to champion causes close to our hearts, contributing to the betterment of our broader community and beyond.

Turning Up the Tempo

Since taking up the role of Dean of the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music (YST), Professor Peter Tornquist has led YST full steam ahead in moving from excellent to exceptional.

A man constantly seeking a lyrical adventure, Prof Tornguist decided to leave Norway — where he was Principal of the Norwegian Academy of Music from 2013 to 2021 — for Singapore when the opportunity at YST arose. "The centre of the world used to be somewhere between the United States and Europe. But that has slowly changed, and the world is now moving eastward," noted Prof Tornguist, himself a composer whose works have been performed by the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra, Tokyo Symphony Orchestra and London Sinfonietta.

Just as the world is evolving, Prof Tornquist believes it is vital for YST – fresh off its 20th anniversary in 2023 – to leverage its strong faculty and be responsive to the changes in the global music scene. "My vision is for us to move from being excellent to exceptional," he said. "To shape the future, we need to educate musicians that bring multiple skill sets to the mix other than simply being very good at playing an instrument. We also need to cast a wider net in our recruitment drive, regardless of their cultural or stylistic background."

Prof Tornquist also wants the arts to be more present in the academic lives of NUS students – a key motivation for the NUS Arts for All framework launched in March 2024, under which non-music majors can earn academic credit and even a Second Major or Minor for performing arts involvement. After all, the performing arts



Professor Peter Tornquist

help make us more fulfilled individuals and better professionals, contributing to a more vibrant NUS and Singapore community.

Ultimately, he hopes musicians can be empowered to take full ownership in realising their artistic voices — a philosophy he also applies to his teaching and leadership roles. "It's not about what I know as a teacher, professor or dean," he said." It's to what degree I can help my students, staff and faculty own their ideas, so they realise their visions more wholeheartedly."

To that end, Prof Tornquist donates in support of YST's initiatives, joining other generous benefactors in advancing the Conservatory's musical and educational mission.







Paying It Forward

Having once benefitted from financial aid, Ms Maryate Muhamad, Senior Manager at Singapore Synchrotron Light Source (SSLS), intimately understands the transformative power of philanthropy. Her deep conviction in equal educational opportunities stems from this firsthand experience.

MS Maryate firmly believes that financial constraints should never hinder students' chances to excel. It is her sincere desire that students feel supported by the community. "Today's youth are tomorrow's leaders," she expressed, seeing education as a crucial pathway to empower future generations and foster societal progress.

While acknowledging that her contribution may seem modest, Ms Maryate hopes that it will alleviate students' financial burdens and enable them to fully focus on their studies. She also hopes that recipients will pay it forward, fostering a cycle of community support.

"As long as I know that I have done my part for the community, in any way that I can, that will be gratifying enough for me," she shared.



Ms Maryate Muhamad



Building a Culture of Giving

NUS College (NUSC) clinched the Top Achievement Award for Commencement Class Giving 2023 across NUS' Halls and Residences. Spearheaded by Ms Erika Medina (Industrial and Systems Engineering + NUSC '23) and Mr Ng Jia Yeong (Economics + NUSC '23), the graduating students supported the Enhanced Financial Aid Scheme, which covers tuition fees for NUS undergraduates in financial need.

MR Ng credited his positive University Scholars Programme (USP) and NUSC experience for fostering his desire to contribute back meaningfully as a Class Champion.

Ms Medina shared, "Giving to education is a cause I resonate with because it benefits many students by availing to them previously inaccessible opportunities." Dispelling the misconception that financial support should solely come from the University, she emphasised the collective responsibility shared by the government, community and graduates.

In response to the achievement, Associate Professor Quek Su Ying, Vice Dean (Outreach), expressed confidence that NUSC's alumni will continue to demonstrate compassion and humility beyond the gates of the College.



Mr Ng (left) and Ms Medina encouraging their batchmates to make a class gift at the lobby of Cinnamon College.













Yasmeen (far left) with Peirce Secondary School students who took part in Teach SG's Math enrichment classes.

A Journey of Growth Together

A second-year student at NUS, Yasmeen Tan Bte Omar (Class of 2026) initially set modest aspirations when she joined the University's Teach Singapore (Teach SG) programme. "If I could connect personally with and inspire just one student to pursue their passions, I would be very happy," she shared. However, her involvement proved to be more impactful than expected.

YASMEEN recounts a transformative experience at Peirce Secondary School, where she encouraged an introverted mentee to engage with his peers by designating him as the timekeeper during class activities. Witnessing his newfound confidence as he interacted with classmates was truly enlightening for her.

Beyond simply guiding her mentees towards academic growth, Yasmeen finds enriched fulfilment in shaping their personal developments. She has also honed her communication skills and gained valuable programme planning experience. Teach SG not only offers NUS students the chance to mentor children from disadvantaged backgrounds but also promotes social mobility and inclusiveness.



Read more here!



A special luncheon hosted by NUS President Professor Tan Eng Chye was a hubbub of lively networking as benefactors got to connect and exchange ideas amongst themselves.

Benefactor Campus Experience 2023

At the 8th annual Benefactor Campus Experience (BCE), guests immersed themselves in groundbreaking research presented by our distinguished professors and local entrepreneurs. The Masterclasses covered compelling subjects such as designing impactful sustainability policies and novel strategies for addressing dementia.

"IT was a joy to hear from Professor Benjamin Cashore on his work within the sustainability policy sciences and how many experts are working hard to heal the earth," shared donor Mr Tan Boon Chin (Science '81). Following a luncheon hosted by NUS President Professor Tan Eng Chye (Science '85), guests enjoyed cultural experiences like a Musical Showcase by our Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music (YST) students and a sketch session with accomplished artist Mr Yeo Tze Yang (Arts and Social Sciences '19).



The Masterclass Experiences gave guests the chance to delve into groundbreaking research by distinguished NUS professors and local entrepreneurs.

Attendees also got to take home a tumbler of their choice that featured illustrations of iconic NUS locations – University Town, the Education Resource Centre, or YST – created by the talented Ms Anna Zhou Yue (Architecture '20).









Donor Appreciation Event 2023

Professor Aaron Thean, NUS Deputy President (Academic Affairs) and Provost, sharing about the University's efforts and initiatives to uplift financially needy students and their families.

The Donor Appreciation Event was a memorable evening of gratitude and friendships. The Event celebrated the incredible generosity of donors who fuel the University's mission to impact society through education, research and innovation.

"THANKS to our donors' support, NUS is able to make big strides in tackling complex issues to make a transformational impact for a brighter future for our students, communities and the world," said Professor Aaron Thean, NUS Deputy President (Academic Affairs) and Provost. The Event also featured NUS Giving's Future Makers video, where student beneficiaries shared their experiences on dealing with life's curveballs and how financial aid had improved not only their lives but the lives of their families too. "My journey is a testament to the power of compassion and giving. Your contributions have touched my life and countless others who have been given a chance to pursue their dreams without compromise," shared one of the beneficiaries, Aisyah Lyana (Arts and Social Sciences '22).





Racing For A Worthy Cause: NUS Giving Run BIG 2023



NUS staff at the physical flag-off for NUS Giving Run BIG 2023 at Marina Barrage.

The fourth edition of Run BIG went virtual, but the enthusiasm of the 2,430 participants was still unmistakably evident over the 10-day race duration in September 2023. Participants could choose to run, or for the first time ever, cycle, from anywhere and at any time.

> IT was even more meaningful as all proceeds from the event went towards supporting the University's Enhanced Financial Aid Scheme that enables students to have access to a transformative education regardless of their financial backgrounds.

More than 100 NUS Information and Technology colleagues and their families also participated as part of their department's corporate social responsibility activity.

"We saw it as an opportunity to keep fit together as a team, and most importantly, to contribute towards a worthy cause," shared Ms Tan Shui-Min (Computing '91), NUS Chief Information Technology Officer.



Watch a video here!





2023 Named Professorship Event

Professor Aaron Thean, NUS Deputy President (Academic Affairs) and Provost, delivering his welcome address at the event.

The inaugural Named Professorship Event, held in November 2023, was an evening illuminated by the spirit of philanthropy and academic excellence. The University's brightest minds came together to celebrate the Named Professorships that they had received, made possible by generous benefactors who strongly believe in raising the bar in education and research. The Event underscored NUS' commitment to fostering groundbreaking research, nurturing academic excellence and inspiring future generations of scholars.

"NAMED Professorships are important to attract and recognise top academic and research talents," said Professor Aaron Thean, NUS Deputy President (Academic Affairs) and Provost.

Guests were also treated to a specially curated dinner by Johnathan Chew (Class of 2024), a final-year student at the Faculty of Dentistry, and a past winner of MasterChef Singapore. A student beneficiary himself, he expressed gratitude to donors for their generosity.

"With the bursaries that I received, I was able to focus on my studies and participate in extracurricular activities. Without the donors' generosity, I would not be here to share my passion for food," shared Johnathan.



Named Professors networking and enjoying dinner at the event.







TMSI's innovative approach to promoting coral growth and colonisation using Lego structures and a lazy Susan mechanism.

Helping Nature, Helping Ourselves

As part of the University's See The Possibility Campaign, the Tropical Marine Science Institute hosted the NUS Giving community at the St John's Island National Marine Laboratory for the 'Helping Nature Help Us' event. Participants went on an immersive island tour and had a hands-on experience at the Laboratory, learning about the importance of nature and the crucial role of research in preserving the environment.

PROFESSOR Koh Lian Pin (Science '01), Associate Vice President and Chief Sustainability Scientist, as well as Director of the NUS Centre for Nature-based Climate Solutions, shared that Singapore serves as a microcosm of the region with its diverse forests, coastlines and urban pressures. This region faces numerous challenges, including the need to explore new species, discover novel uses and understand the ecosystem services provided by nature.

"These challenges highlight the importance of continued research into the environmental sciences. Research empowers society to make informed decisions on managing the natural environment," he elaborated.

Beyond research, Prof Koh stressed the need for cultivating partnerships, promoting collaboration and striving towards a shared vision of sustainability.



Group of guests captured via drone at Eagle Bay.





Drivers for Change, Tech for Good

Behind every scientific breakthrough lies an essential element — visionary benefactors. These individuals and organisations provide the fuel propelling groundbreaking discoveries that benefit our health, security and quality of life.

NUS President Professor Tan Eng Chye (Science '85) shared, "The impact of philanthropy cannot be understated. It enables our researchers and scientists to explore uncharted territories."

At the 'Harnessing Technology For A Better Tomorrow' event – part of the University's See The Possibility Campaign – NUS researchers passionately showed how their inventions go beyond the lab to solve real-world problems. These include solutions to ageing and living well, digital therapies that leverage AI technologies, and AI tools to safeguard against the negative impacts of technology. Solving the complex problems we face today calls for diverse multidisciplinary teams and strong support that enables these teams to continue innovating and shaping future solutions.

"We need bold world-class interdisciplinary research infrastructures that define thought leadership, and support our researchers, especially funding for talents looking into new disruptive research," shared Professor Aaron Thean, NUS Deputy President (Academic Affairs) and Provost. "A community of partners can solve the world's biggest problems."



Exhibitors showcase the latest innovations at the event.





Read more here!



Dear Kind Donors,

My name is Jun Heng, and I am currently the Manager of Policy and Planning in the Strategic Planning Division at SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG). I graduated from NUS with a Bachelor of Social Sciences in 2023, where I majored in Political Science and minored in China Studies. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, I was also a resident of Tembusu College, where I completed the University Town College Programme (UTCP).

Over the six years I spent completing my studies at the University, I was the fortunate recipient of multiple NUS bursaries, including the OK Foundation Bursary and the Derek Hewett Bursary. I would like to thank all donors for your generosity and financial support during a particularly challenging candidature.

As I was approaching the end of my first year in NUS in 2017, I met with a serious road traffic accident which left me with a traumatic brain injury (TBI). I was in a coma for three months with a one percent chance of recovery. To make matters worse, the proceedings for my lawsuit were just commencing, and I was only slated to receive the full compensation four years later. This posed a significant financial hurdle for my family as my father is selfemployed while my mother is a homemaker. My younger sister was also still studying in NUS then. At that point, any incoming financial support was very much appreciated.

When I returned to NUS in 2019, I was grateful for the bursaries that I had received. The financial support covered my university expenses and relieved my family of financial worries, allowing me to focus on my already strenuous academic workload. Despite my physical and emotional struggles, I persevered and worked hard. I am proud that my efforts paid off as I successfully graduated with an Honours degree with the highest distinction.

While navigating the different physical and emotional struggles in my first semester back in NUS after the accident, I came across a very helpful quote from a book on the teachings of Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama called 'The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a



Changing World'. The teachings in the book fundamentally changed my life and helped me through that challenging time.

The quote is: "The way we heal our own pain is actually by turning to the pain of others". Facing much pain then, I was inspired to turn my pain into purpose and give back, helping to heal the pain of others.

That was when I joined NUS Enablers, a student interest group and the student arm of the NUS Student Accessibility Unit. Our mission was to advocate for accessibility and inclusivity for all students with accessibility needs on campus. Through NUS Enablers, I met other students with disabilities and like-minded peers. All of us were champions for change, striving to create an environment where everyone can thrive by erasing stigma, fostering awareness, and alleviating challenges faced by individuals with accessibility

60

SEE THE POSSIBILITY

My deepest gratitude to my family, the NUS community and all donors for your generous support. In my most challenging moments, your collective generosity and kindness has helped me persevere and move forward.



Jun Heng and his younger sister, proud alumni of NUS, with their beloved parents.

needs. I was a member of NUS Enablers for three years and it was a source of much joy and purpose for me during my trying university journey post-accident.

After graduation, and before joining SSG, I interned at Bizlink Centre for four months. Bizlink Centre is a non-profit organisation that supports underprivileged groups such as persons with disabilities (PWDs), and helps them find meaningful employment. My main job scope was writing policies for the **Employment Support Team** in the Enabling Business Hub, which Bizlink Centre was part of. This experience, as well as my recuperation journey, unearthed my inner drive to help other marginalised groups in Singapore. I was determined to continue finding my purpose in healing the pain of others.

Once again, I extend my deepest gratitude to my family, the NUS community



Jun Heng on the last day of his internship at Bizlink Centre.

and all donors for your generous support. In my most challenging moments, your collective generosity and kindness has helped me persevere and move forward. Having achieved the 'impossible' and graduated with the highest distinction despite my brain injury, I aspire to be a beacon of hope to fellow survivors of TBI. I want to show them that with unwavering belief and tenacity, they can also achieve what seems impossible.

Regards,

Ting Jun Heng

(Arts and Social Sciences '23) Recipient of the OK Foundation Bursary, Derek Hewett Bursary, and other NUS bursaries



Watch Jun Heng's journey here!

NUS GIVING REPORT 2023 / 2024



Chew Yew Keng (Class of 2025) School of Computing

To all Joners,

You have contributed greatly towards providing Equal opportunity for all NUS students. Your donation has allowed me to pursue my passion in Computer Science and Frisbee outside of class. I am immensely grateful for your kindness and thank you for giving.

Dear Donors,

Thank you now the bottom of my heart. Your generous donation has given me support during my student exchange program and has opened doors to invaluable experiences and learning opportunities. I am deeply thankful for this incredible opportunity. Your kindness truly wakes a difference in my life.



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