

NUS *A* LUMNI
WARDS
2023

NUS ALUMNI AWARDS 2023

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,

Welcome to the NUS Alumni Awards 2023!

This biennial event was first held in 2005 to honour NUS alumni who have made significant contributions to the University, society and the world.

In this 10th edition of the Awards, we are delighted to recognise 35 outstanding individuals who have distinguished themselves in their passions and their pursuits across various fields. This year's honourees are a reflection of the University's diverse community and the wide-reaching impact of our alumni's work. The recipients include public servants and diplomats, business leaders, sustainability pioneers, mental health champions, social entrepreneurs, and more.

To the award winners, NUS is immensely proud of your achievements. You have made your mark in industry, community and in your professions. You are held in respect and are an inspiration to the NUS community.

This event is also particularly meaningful for us as we come together to celebrate Madam Halimah Jacob (Law '78). In 2016, Mdm Halimah was conferred the honorary Doctor of Laws degree in recognition of her outstanding contributions to Singapore and the community. This year, we are delighted to present Mdm Halimah with the NUS Eminent Alumni Award. As the immediate past President of Singapore, as well as former Chancellor of the University, Mdm Halimah has left an indelible impact on NUS and Singapore. She is a trailblazer, having served as Singapore's first female head of state. She has also been a tireless advocate for the underprivileged and vulnerable. Her legacy has shaped Singapore to become a more inclusive and united country. NUS is deeply privileged to call Mdm Halimah Jacob our alumna.

Once again, on behalf of the National University of Singapore, I convey our heartiest congratulations to the honourees of NUS Alumni Awards 2023.

Professor Tan Eng Chye

Science '85



NUS CHIEF ALUMNI OFFICER'S MESSAGE



Award recipients, fellow alumni, colleagues and friends,

I am delighted to welcome you to the NUS Alumni Awards 2023.

We speak of NUS as being a place where our students can help #ShapeTheFuture. The alumni we celebrate this year are doing just that. Our recipients include the first female President of Singapore, a former Deputy Prime Minister, as well as a former President of the UN Security Council. They range from educators and entrepreneurs to authors and advocates. Our 2023 honourees have carved out exceptional and diverse paths for themselves, serving as examples of excellence for us all.

These award recipients join an elite group of alumni who have been recognised for their service, dedication and commitment to the betterment of society. In the pages that follow, you will meet an exceptional slate of alumni whose achievements resonate within and beyond NUS. These awardees demonstrate the enduring legacy of our University and the impact its graduates have upon the world. We invite you to explore their stories and be inspired by their journeys.

We are also particularly grateful that our 2023 recipients have demonstrated their pride and passion for the University, from mentoring fellow alumni to establishing alumni groups. I encourage you all to remain involved in your alma mater, and I warmly welcome you to join our many alumni engagement events at the Shaw Foundation Alumni House.

Thank you for joining us to honour the achievements of our 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 deliberation and decision.

Ms Ovidia Lim-Rajaram

Arts and Social Sciences '89

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 RECIPIENT

Madam Halimah Yacob
Law '78

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MADAM HALIMAH YACOB

Law '78



The eighth President of the Republic of Singapore (14 September 2017 to 13 September 2023), Madam Halimah Yacob has served Singapore with distinction in many national and international roles. A trailblazing alumna, she has been our Chancellor, as well as a Member of Parliament, Speaker of Parliament, Minister of State, Deputy Secretary-General of National Trade Union Congress (NTUC), Vice-Chair and Spokesperson of the Workers' Groups in various International Labour Conference Committees, and much more. Underpinning these multiple titles and roles is her unwavering dedication to advancing the lives of individuals and communities, particularly the underprivileged. Recognising Mdm Halimah as an inspiring leader with outstanding contributions to Singapore and the wider community, the National University of Singapore (NUS) conferred on her the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws in 2016.

A leader who rose from modest beginnings, Mdm Halimah spent much of her childhood helping her widowed mother to run a food stall, which often left her too exhausted to properly attend school. The deprivation and hardship she experienced led to her decision to study law, which would enable her to help the vulnerable gain access to fair treatment and justice. After obtaining a Bachelor of Laws as well as a Master of Laws at NUS, Mdm Halimah joined NTUC, where she advised unions and workers on industrial relations and their employment rights. She spent 33 years with the labour movement, holding various positions and rising to the position of Deputy Secretary-General of NTUC. Mdm Halimah became the first Singaporean trade unionist to be elected to the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), where she served for 12 years, representing workers globally.

Making her political debut in the 2001 General Election, Mdm Halimah served as Member of Parliament from 2001 to 2017. She was appointed Minister of State for Community Development and Sports where she introduced programmes for seniors and enhanced services for the disabled. She also mooted the idea of an inclusive community space which embraces diverse abilities, an idea that was realised in 2015 when the Enabling Village was opened.



In 2016, Mdm Halimah Yacob was conferred an honorary Doctor of Laws degree by the University, presented by then-NUS Chancellor Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam (Science '62).

In 2013, Mdm Halimah became the first woman in Singapore to be appointed Speaker of Parliament. This was followed by another first in 2017 when she was sworn in as the country's first female President. Wielding the second key to the country's reserves, Mdm Halimah - along with the Council of Presidential Advisors - rigorously reviewed, and approved, the Government's proposals to tap on the nation's reserves during the COVID-19 pandemic to help stem the spread of the virus and cushion its impact on the economy.

Mdm Halimah continued to give a strong voice to the disadvantaged as the country's President. She initiated the Empowering for Life Fund to help disadvantaged groups improve their circumstances through measures such as upskilling. She also launched the Enabling Employment Pledge which saw more than 280 employers signing on to train and place people with disabilities.

As a President who had pledged to serve all, regardless of race, language or religion, social cohesion was important to her. She initiated a platform for conversations on forging stronger interfaith understanding and ideas to foster greater harmony in society. This resulted in the first International Conference on Cohesive Societies held in Singapore in 2019 which brought people, local and international, together to discuss topics such as faith, culture and identity.

As a member of the NUS Council from 2004, and later the NUS Board of Trustees from 2006 to 2011, Mdm Halimah often stressed the importance of helping students in need of financial aid to access a wide range of programmes. Later, in 2017, we had the



In 2017, Mdm Halimah Yacob launched the *Papilionanda* National University of Singapore, the University's official flower. She was joined at the event by (from left) then-NUS President Prof Tan Chorh Chuan (Medicine '83), Chairman of the NUS Board of Trustees Mr Hsieh Fu Hua (Business '74), and then-NUS Provost Prof Tan Eng Chye (Science '85).

privilege of welcoming her as our 10th Chancellor, where she launched the University's official flower, the *Papilionanda* National University of Singapore. As NUS Chancellor, Mdm Halimah conferred close to 76,000 undergraduate, master's, doctorate, and honorary degrees over six years and presided over the Main Commencement ceremonies for graduates and honorary graduates. During the online Main Commencement Ceremony of 2021, which took place during the COVID-19 pandemic, Mdm Halimah encouraged the Class of 2021 to take the challenges in their stride and hold fast to the University's values of innovation, resilience, excellence, respect and integrity.

Mdm Halimah was closely involved in many other aspects of life at NUS. As concerned as ever about problems faced by women and workers, she shared her thoughts at forums organised by NUS, such as the Institute of Policy Studies' Women's Conference in 2021, and at its 35th Anniversary Gala dinner in June this year, where she talked about the importance of integrating new migrants. Her warm support for our students and alumni shone through in the events she graced, including the NUSSU Rag & Flag Day 2018, NUS Bizad Charity Run 2020, and NUS Bukit Timah Homecomings of 2018 and 2022.



As NUS Chancellor, Mdm Halimah Yacob served as the Guest-of-Honour at numerous University events, including NUS Bukit Timah Homecoming 2022. Pictured with NUS President Prof Tan Eng Chye.

In June this year, Mdm Halimah travelled to Kuala Lumpur (KL), Malaysia, to lend her support to NUS for the 52nd UM-NUS Inter-University Tunku Chancellor Golf Tournament. Her presence meant a lot to the NUS alumni and student golfers who travelled to KL for the tournament, and affirmed the deep ties between NUS and the University of Malaya.

Mdm Halimah's outstanding leadership and contributions have been recognised through the years with many accolades and awards, including the *Berita Harian* Achiever of the Year Award 2001, *Her World* Woman of the Year Award 2003, and AWARE Heroine Award 2011. She was also inducted into the Singapore Women's Hall of Fame in 2014.

We are pleased to add to this plethora of awards and honours. In recognition of her outstanding contributions to NUS, Singapore and the international community, the University is pleased to confer the NUS Eminent Alumni Award for 2023 on Mdm Halimah Yacob.

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.

A W A R D R E C I P I E N T S

Professor Kishore Mahbubani

Arts and Social Sciences '71

Mr Ravi Menon

Arts and Social Sciences '87

Mr Kok Heng Leun

Science '90

Mr Brian Tan Kai Piang

Engineering '00

Ms Janet Lim Yuen Kheng

Arts and Social Sciences '75

Mr Wong Kan Seng

Arts and Social Sciences '70

Justice Andrew Phang Boon Leong

Law '82

Mr Yatiman Bin Yusof

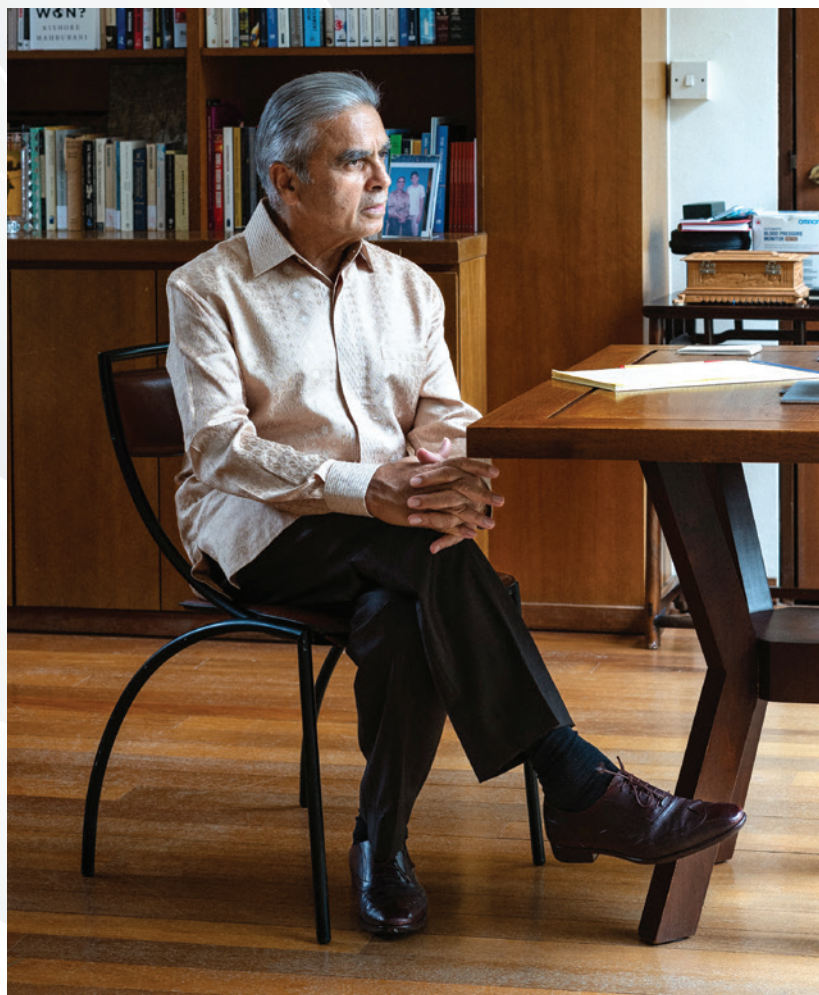
Arts and Social Sciences '72

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PROFESSOR KISHORE MAHBUBANI

Arts and Social Sciences '71



A veteran diplomat and distinguished academic, Professor Kishore Mahbubani is a globally recognised intellectual. He is a prolific writer and speaker who was listed among the top 100 public intellectuals by *Foreign Policy* and *Prospect* magazines in 2005; included in the *Financial Times* list of Top 50 individuals who would shape the debate on the future of capitalism in 2009; selected as one of *Foreign Policy*'s Top Global Thinkers in 2010 and 2011; and selected by *Prospect* magazine as one of the world's leading thinkers in 2014.

As a diplomat with the Singapore Foreign Service from 1971 to 2004, Prof Mahbubani took on many challenging assignments. He served in Cambodia in the 1970s when Phnom Penh was shelled, and his home was penetrated with shrapnel. He was also posted to Malaysia and Washington, D.C., and served two stints as Ambassador to the United Nations (UN). He was President of the UN Security Council in January 2001 and May 2002. In Singapore, he was Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1994 to 1998. In recognition of his service, he received the Public Administration Medal (Gold) in 1998.

Prof Mahbubani joined academia in 2004 as the founding Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at NUS, guiding it to become Asia's leading public policy school over his 13-year tenure. Within five years under his leadership, the school was admitted to the Global Public Policy Network, an elite group of top public policy schools. Since 2019, he has been a Distinguished Fellow at NUS Asia Research Institute, where he launched the Asian Peace Programme and an edX course on US-China relations. He was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2019.

His articles have been published in *The New York Times*, *Newsweek*, *Time*, *Financial Times*, *Foreign Affairs*, and *Foreign Policy*. To date, he has authored and co-authored several books on global geo-politics and governance, including *Beyond the Age of Innocence*, *The New Asian Hemisphere*, *The ASEAN Miracle*, and *Has China Won?* In 2013, *The Great Convergence* was selected by the *Financial Times* as one of the best books of the year. His latest book, *The Asian 21st Century*, has received over 3.27 million downloads since its 2021 release.

Prof Mahbubani has received significant plaudits internationally and been repeatedly named in lists of top thinkers alongside former US President Barack Obama, the late Chairman of the Federal Reserve Paul Volcker, and former Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan. His sterling accomplishments are well summed up in the citation for his Foreign Policy Association Medal, which referred to him as "a gifted diplomat, a student of history and philosophy, a provocative writer and an intuitive thinker".



MR KOK HENG LEUN

Science '90



From the time he ventured into the world of theatre in the early 90s, Mr Kok Heng Leun has spent over three decades breaking boundaries – bringing theatre to spaces like HDB void decks and offshore islands, producing cross-cultural works in different languages, and working with unusual collaborators to explore taboo topics.

For his work in using theatre to foster engagement, the veteran theatre practitioner, playwright and dramaturg was awarded Singapore's highest cultural accolade, the Cultural Medallion, last year.

While Mr Kok majored in mathematics at NUS and secured a job post-graduation as a public servant, the death of a close friend drove him to seek greater meaning in life and fully explore his love of the stage.

He founded the Drama Box theatre group in 1990 with a group of friends from NUS' Chinese Society. He still maintains his connection with NUS, returning most recently in 2019 to deliver a keynote address at the NUS Arts Festival.

Over the years, Mr Kok has directed over 90 plays. His works, which aim to inspire dialogue, reflection and change, include "Drift" (2007), "Trick or Threat" (2007), "Manifesto" (2016) and "Underclass" (2018).

Beyond the stage, Drama Box has brought theatre to unusual spaces. In Telok Blangah, the company befriended underprivileged families living in the area. Through this interaction, they co-designed a void deck mural with residents. In "ubin" (2022), the audience go on a walking tour of Pulau Ubin and are directed to reimagine its future.

Mr Kok, who stepped down as the co-artistic director of Drama Box last year, has gone beyond Mandarin and English plays. An example is "Tanah•Air 水•土: A Play In Two Parts" (2019), a play in Malay which explores the dispossession and loss of the indigenous Malays and Orang Seletar of Singapore.

In terms of exploring taboo topics, "Both Sides, Now" is an immersive experience centred on death and palliative care, with inputs from community partners like Yishun Health (Wellness Kampung) and Montfort Care GoodLife!

With his body of work, Mr Kok – who was a Nominated Member of Parliament between 2016 and 2018 representing the voice of the arts community – is a decorated arts practitioner. Besides the Cultural Medallion, he has received the Young Artist Award from the National Arts Council in 2002, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry Culture Award in 2003, the Outstanding Young Person (Culture) award in 2006 and the Cultural Fellowship from the National Arts Council in 2014. His applied theatre practice was also featured in *Changing Places: Drama Box and the Politics of Space*, published by the Centre for Performance Research in 2022.



MS JANET LIM YUEN KHENG

Arts and Social Sciences '75



As the former Assistant High Commissioner (Operations) at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Ms Janet Lim has spent her career at the frontline of the world's largest humanitarian crises, from the Rwandan genocide to the Boxing Day tsunami.

While setting up border camps and negotiating safe passage for refugees may seem a world away from Singapore, Ms Lim's early childhood growing up in Chinatown gave her, as she told *The Straits Times* in 2014, exposure to "that range of society where life is difficult".

She studied sociology at the University of Singapore, graduated with a Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) in 1975, and was recruited into the Singapore Administrative Service. She completed her master's degree in sociology and development studies at the University of Bielefeld in Germany and was pursuing her PhD when she applied for a short-term job at UNHCR in 1980.

What was meant to be three months turned into more than three decades. Her work with refugees has taken her to Thailand, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Western Sahara, Syria, Turkey and Afghanistan, making for a multifaceted career. She has been lost in the Saharan desert, caught in the crossfire of the Sri Lankan civil war, transported by military helicopter, and equipped with gas masks in the anticipation of chemical warfare.

At UNHCR headquarters in Geneva, she served in several senior management positions, including Director of the Emergency and Security Services and Director of the Bureau for Asia and the Pacific. In 2009, she became the Assistant High Commissioner (Operations), where she supported 10,000 staff across five regional bureaus and two functional divisions. With expertise in complex emergency operations, Ms Lim notably helped in the establishment of UNHCR's Emergency Response system following the first Gulf War.

During her tenure with UNHCR, she was seconded to UNAIDS, to help establish the AIDS Programme, as well as UNAMA, the peacekeeping operation in Afghanistan.

Since retiring in 2015, Ms Lim has been a UN Board of Inquiry member, Executive-in-Residence with the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), and a Board Member of RET Americas. She is currently a Fellow at the School of Social Sciences at the Singapore Management University (SMU). Since 2019, she has been deeply involved in philanthropic projects in Singapore and the region as the Executor of an Estate dedicated to charities.

In recognition of her achievements, she was honoured with a Distinguished Arts and Social Sciences Alumni Award by the NUS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences in 2019 and inducted into the Singapore Women's Hall of Fame, an initiative of the Singapore Council of Women's Organisations, in 2023.



JUSTICE ANDREW PHANG BOON LEONG

Law '82



Justice Andrew Phang has had a significant impact in both legal academia and the courts.

Graduating with first class honours from the NUS Law Faculty in 1982, he obtained his master's and doctorate degrees from Harvard Law School. He taught for 18 years at the NUS Law Faculty and was appointed Professor of Law in 1999. He was also the recipient of an NUS Outstanding University Researcher Award.

In 2004, he became the first legal academic to be appointed as Senior Counsel despite not making any application for the title. He was appointed Judicial Commissioner on 3 January 2005, appointed High Court Judge on 8 December 2005, appointed Judge of Appeal (since re-designated Justice of the Court of Appeal) on 28 February 2006 and was appointed Vice-President of the Court of Appeal on 28 September 2017. He retired on 15 December 2022 and is currently a Senior Judge.

He chaired the NUS Law Advisory Council between 2019 and 2022, during which time he and the Council proposed as well as advised the NUS Law Faculty in relation to the setting up of a compulsory law and technology course.

Justice Phang has published in the leading Commonwealth journals and has contributed to over forty local as well as international journals in the UK, the USA, Canada, Australia, South Africa, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore. In addition to over 260 publications, many of which have been cited in articles and books published both locally and overseas, he has also authored close to 400 judgments. His judgments have been published not only in the local law reports but also in many international law reports as well. Many of his judgments have also been the subject of academic commentary in local and international journals, as well as cited and/or discussed in many books and articles as well as leading textbooks both locally and internationally.

His judgments have also been referred to in both local courts as well as in courts internationally, including the highest appellate courts in the UK, Australia, Malaysia and Hong Kong.

In recognition of his contributions to legal scholarship both as a legal academic as well as a Judge over a period of four decades, the President of the Republic of Singapore awarded him the Meritorious Service Medal (Pingat Jasa Gemilang) in August 2022. He also became only the third member of the Singapore Judiciary in modern times to have had a Valedictory Reference (a formal sitting of the full Bench to honour a retiring Judge) held for him.



MR RAVI MENON

Arts and Social Sciences '87



Recognised as a central banker of global stature, Mr Ravi Menon is the Monetary Authority of Singapore's (MAS) longest-serving chief - having been at its helm since 2011. His career in the public service began at MAS in 1987. He served as Deputy Secretary at the Ministry of Finance from 2003 to 2007 and thereafter as Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, before returning to MAS as Managing Director in 2011.

As chief of MAS, Singapore's central bank and financial regulator, Mr Menon shouldered the responsibility of developing the country as a financial hub, managing its foreign reserves, enforcing monetary policy, and supervising the financial sector. One of his first tasks was to reform Singapore's financial regulatory framework and steer MAS through the aftermath of the Global Financial Crisis. In more recent years, MAS played a crucial role during the COVID-19 pandemic with a slew of measures including credit reliefs for businesses, cash transfers for households, training to support workers, as well as the easing of monetary policy to ensure the smooth functioning of funding markets and facilitation of credit flow during the economic slowdown.

Mr Menon played a critical role in positioning Singapore as a fintech hub in an era of digital disruption. He led the growth of the electronic payment ecosystem, introduced digital banking licences and promoted the innovative and responsible use of digital assets. In 2018, British magazine *The Banker* named him Central Bank Governor of the Year for Asia Pacific, noting that MAS stood out "for its cutting-edge regulatory approach to fintech while maintaining macroeconomic stability." In 2019, MAS was named Central Bank of the Year by UK-based publication *Central Banking*, which lauded MAS as a "pioneer in creating a framework to facilitate next-generation technological and financial innovation" and noted its enviable track record for monetary and financial stability.

On the international front, Mr Menon serves as Chair of the Network for Greening the Financial System and Chair of the GFANZ APAC Network Advisory Board. He is also a member of the Financial Stability Board (FSB) Steering Committee and chaired the FSB Standing Committee on Standards Implementation, the International Monetary and Financial Committee Deputies Meetings, and the APEC Senior Officials Meetings.

Mr Menon has also served on the boards of the Central Provident Fund Board (CPFB); the Housing and Development Board (HDB); the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR); the Civil Service College (CSC); the National Research Foundation (NRF); the Tote Board (formerly known as the Singapore Totalisator Board); the Singapore Indian Development Association (SINDA); and the Development Bank of Singapore (DBS). He was awarded the Public Service Administration Medal (Gold) in 2007 and the Meritorious Service Medal in 2017 for his contributions to the public service.



MR BRIAN TAN KAI PIANG

Engineering '00



Mr Brian Tan rose through the ranks at Applied Materials – one of the world's leading semiconductor equipment and services suppliers – and was appointed Regional President for Southeast Asia in 2018. Mr Tan has been instrumental in fostering partnerships with the private and public sectors, as well as with academia, to position Singapore as a critical R&D and manufacturing hub for semiconductors.

Mr Tan fostered a high level of trust in Singapore as a regional hub, which was crucial for the close collaboration with Singapore's national research agencies. The Applied Materials' Advanced Packaging Development Centre has been collaborating with A*STAR's Institute of Microelectronics to develop hybrid bonding and other emerging chip packaging and integration technologies, driving innovation in the global semiconductor industry and contributing to Singapore's research, innovation and enterprise goals.

In 2018, he was amongst the leaders who spearheaded the establishment of the Applied Materials-NUS Advanced Materials Corporate Lab with support from the National Research Foundation. This \$70 million collaboration brought together NUS' world-class multidisciplinary research capabilities with Applied Materials' expertise to develop and commercialise innovation materials for manufacturing next-generation semiconductors. As part of the partnership, Applied Materials sponsored \$1.5 million in PhD scholarships. To date, the Applied Materials-NUS Advanced Materials Corporate Lab has filed more than 40 patents and trained more than 60 researchers and engineers.

The Singapore government conferred Applied Materials the Distinguished Partner in Progress Award in 2019, recognising the company's significant contribution to Singapore's economy and community. In December 2022, Applied Materials announced its "Singapore 2030 Plan" to further expand its operations in Singapore, broaden its ecosystem partnerships and promote local workforce development.

Mr Tan also contributes to driving innovation and research through his active involvement with NUS. He was a member of the task force that conceptualised the formation of the NUS College of Design and Engineering, creating a future-focused learning and research institution for engineering, architecture, and design. As a member of the NUS School of Continuing and Lifelong Education Industry Advisory Board, he has provided valuable insights to help lifelong learners stay competitive and relevant.



MR WONG KAN SENG

Arts and Social Sciences '70



Mr Wong Kan Seng has been Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and helm of three ministries: Home Affairs, Foreign Affairs and Community Development. He was a Member of Parliament (MP) from 1984 to 2015, Leader of the House from 1987 to 2007 and chaired the Ministerial Committee on SARS in 2003.

After graduating from the University of Singapore with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours), he joined the Singapore Administrative Service. He was deployed to the Ministry of Labour, then the Ministry of Defence, where he became Director of Manpower and later Deputy Secretary. In 1976, he received the Public Administration Medal (Silver).

In 1984, he entered politics as the MP for the Kuo Chuan Single Member Constituency. He would later serve as MP for Toa Payoh Group Representation Constituency (GRC), Thomson GRC, and Bishan-Toa Payoh GRC. Identified in 1984 by then-Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew as one of six PAP candidates who would be "more than MPs", Mr Wong became Minister for Community Development in 1987, serving concurrently as Second Minister, and later Minister of Foreign Affairs. During his tenure, Singapore hosted the 1992 ASEAN summit, leading to the establishment of the ASEAN Free Trade Area. Closer economic relations were also developed with Malaysia and Indonesia, and diplomatic ties were established with China and re-established with Vietnam.

He was appointed Minister for Home Affairs in 1994, where he is credited with the development of the unifying "Home Team" concept that promotes synergies and joint operations among the Singapore Police Force, the Civil Defence Force, the Central Narcotics Bureau, the Prisons Service, the Immigration and Checkpoint Authority and the Internal Security Department.

He served concurrently as DPM and Minister in-charge of the Population and Talent Division, Prime Minister's Office, from 2005. As DPM, he co-chaired the China-Singapore Joint Council for Bilateral Cooperation, the Suzhou Industrial Park Joint Steering Committee, the Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city Joint Steering Council, and the Qatar-Singapore High Level Joint Committee.

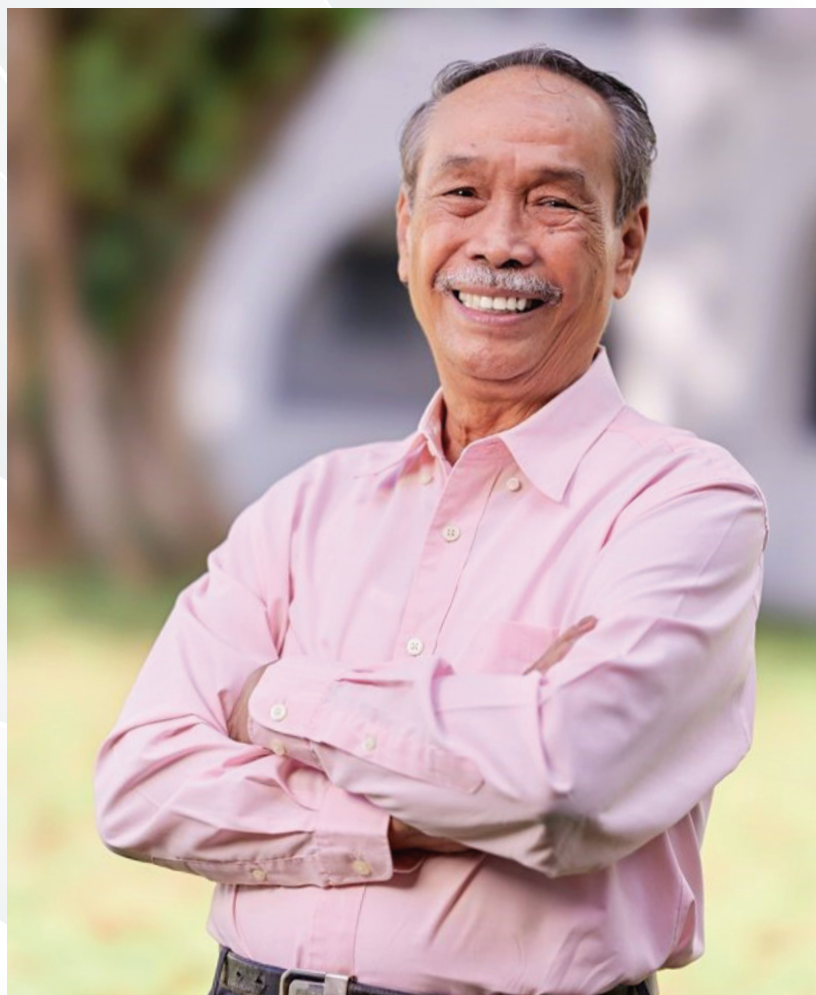
While in government, Mr Wong was Chairman of the Chinese Development Assistance Council, Deputy Chairman of the People's Association, Chairman of the Council of Advisors of the National Transport Workers' Union, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of NTUC Healthcare Co-operative. In 1998 he received NTUC's Medal of Honour.

After retiring from politics in 2015, Mr Wong served as Special Advisor to the Prime Minister on economic affairs. Currently Chairman of the UOB Group Board of Directors, CLA Real Estate Holdings, and Capitaland Group, he is also a Board Director of the Bo'ao Forum for Asia and the Patron of Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital.



MR YATIMAN BIN YUSOF

Arts and Social Sciences '72



A Member of Parliament from 1984 to 2006, Mr Yatiman Bin Yusof is a well-known stalwart politician and public servant. He is also a poet and a writer with a strong background in journalism and a champion of the Malay language and culture.

Mr Yatiman started his career as a teacher while simultaneously pursuing a degree at the University of Singapore. In 1978, he left the teaching profession for journalism and joined *Berita Harian* and *Berita Minggu*, where he rose to become editor. He gave up the role in 1984 to contest in the General Election. He worked hard on the ground, attending meet-the-people sessions late into the night. His efforts paid off and he was elected as the Member of Parliament (MP) for the Kampong Kembangan Single Member Constituency. In 1988, he was elected as an MP for the Tampines Group Representation Constituency (GRC), for which he would continue to serve until 2006.

In 1986, two years after being elected as MP, he was appointed as Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 1993, he was appointed Senior Parliamentary Secretary of the same ministry. After the 1997 General Election, he served as Senior Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts till 2006. He is currently Singapore's High Commissioner to the Republic of Kenya.

Mr Yatiman is Chairman of the Board of Advisors of the Malay Language Council. His concern for the Malay language has deep roots. In secondary school, he and his classmates found themselves without textbooks, as they were among the first to sit for their Cambridge 'O' level examinations in Malay. Undaunted, they set up a team to translate English textbooks into Malay. Later, he was part of the Singapore Malay Teachers' Union, and the president of the Malay Language Society at the University of Singapore. He has also served on the organising committee of the Malay Language Month and the Malay Language Council's Literary Award Committee. He received the Meritorious Service Medal National Day Award in 2019, with the citation recognising that he had "worked tirelessly with multiple public agencies and partners to not only preserve, but also elevate the awareness and practice of the language and culture in Singapore." A literary talent, he has published books and poems in Malay with the most recent being his 406-page memoir, *Perjalananku: Dari Desa Ke Likuan Kota (My Journey from Village to the Meandering City)*, which was published in 2021.

Coming full circle, Mr Yatiman is now serving out his calling as an educator again. He is an adjunct faculty and programme advisor at the Singapore University of Social Sciences' School of Humanities and Behavioural Sciences.

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

Dr Aishwarya Bandla
Engineering '17

Mr Kwok Ka Ming Andre
Public Policy '21

Ms Akanksha Batura Pai
Business '14

Mr Samson Leo
Law '11

Dr Rena Dharmawan
Duke-NUS '11

Mr Raghuram Natarajan
Science '07

Mr Faris Bin Ridzuan
Arts and Social Sciences '15

Mr Seah Li Song Shawn
Arts and Social Sciences '10

Dr Izzuddin Bin Mohd Aris
Science '10

Dr Shravan Verma
Duke-NUS '14

Mr Khoo Yi Feng
Arts and Social Sciences '17

Ms Frances Tho Siao Ting
Science '07

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DR AISHWARYA BANDLA

Engineering '17



Dr Aishwarya Bandla is a biomedical scientist in the field of digital health and supportive oncology. Trained in electrical engineering and biomedical engineering, her passion lies at the intersection of technology and medicine where patient-centric technological solutions are developed.

Dr Bandla drives research, development and commercial translation of products at Paxman Coolers Ltd and holds adjunct roles at NUS N.1 Institute for Health, Institute for Digital Medicine (WisDM), and the National University Cancer Institute, Singapore. As Co-Principal Investigator of many national grants, her expertise bridges collaborative work between clinicians and technologists to translate solutions from the laboratory to the clinic and on to the market.

One of the projects that Dr Bandla plays an integral part in is the research and development of a wearable device to prevent or reduce a debilitating side effect of chemotherapy that causes pain and sensitivity in the hands and feet of patients. Currently, there are no well-developed treatments for this side effect which can be severe enough to affect the patient's mobility and lead to delays or even discontinuation of the cancer treatment.

Grateful of the support that she has received and keen to pay it forward, Dr Bandla demonstrates professional leadership and mentorship at NUS and volunteers at Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the world's largest technical professional organisation dedicated to advancing technology for the benefit of humanity. She has mentored several students from local institutions such as the NUS biomedical and electrical engineering departments and the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine.

Several of them have won student research awards and gone on to pursue MD and PhD degrees. She is currently the Secretary at the Singapore Section of the IEEE and immediate-past Chairperson of the IEEE's Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society Singapore chapter. She is also a member of the IEEE Women in Engineering Asia Pacific executive committee.

Dr Bandla was named to the Singapore 100 Women in Tech list in 2020, in recognition of her significant contributions and ability to inspire and create impact. She was also profiled in *GovInsider's* global Women in GovTech 2020 list.



MS AKANKSHA BATURA PAI

Business '14



Ms Akanksha Batura Pai graduated from NUS in 2014 with a Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours), Master of Science (Management) and CEMS Master in International Management (MIM) degrees. She is an alumna of the University Scholars Programme (USP). She recently also received an Honorary Professional Doctorate from the European International University. She is Head of Strategy and Growth at Sinoda Shipping Agency, Vice-Chairperson of the Singapore Shipping Association (SSA) International Committee, and Liaison Officer at the Consulate of Malta in Singapore.

In 2021, Ms Batura Pai was nominated by the government as one of two Goodwill Maritime Ambassadors representing Singapore at the International Maritime Organisation. In this role, she works with SSA, Singapore Maritime Port Authority, Singapore Maritime Foundation, Ministry of Transport, and institutions of higher learning to educate young people about the maritime and seafaring professions and encourage them to join the industry.

Ms Batura Pai is also the Strategy Head at RAKS International and TransAsia Marine Services. She helped to develop and implement digital transformation at each of these companies to improve their operating efficiencies.

As previous Chairperson of the SSA Young Executives Group, she implemented meaningful networking and educational sessions and rallied members to organise fundraising events for vulnerable groups during the COVID-19 pandemic. In her personal capacity, she crocheted products to sell, donating the proceeds to migrant groups such as TWC2 and Its Raining Raincoats.

As an active alumna of NUS, Ms Batura Pai was co-opted as Director of Membership to the Board of the NUS Business School Alumni Association and became NUS Campus Couples Alumni Group Chairperson in 2021. She is also the Vice Chair of the BizAd Charity Run 2024. She is the President of the CEMS Local Chapter in Singapore and maintains close communication with NUS Business School and CEMS to plan initiatives for alumni and engage with current CEMS students at NUS. Her career achievements and contributions were recognised when she was named CEMS Alumni of the Year 2021 (Mid-Career Category), becoming the first NUS graduate to receive this accolade.



DR RENA DHARMAWAN

Duke-NUS '11



As one amongst the inaugural batch of Duke-NUS medical graduates, Dr Rena Dharmawan is not only a surgeon specialising in cancers of the head, neck and thyroid; the consultant surgeon at the National Cancer Centre has blazed a trail of innovation in clinical healthcare as well as medical education.

Calling herself a “surgeon-innovator” on her LinkedIn profile, Dr Rena – who was the first Duke-NUS graduate to enrol in the prestigious year-long Singapore-Stanford Biodesign Fellowship programme for medical device innovation – was involved in launching three medical start-ups. One of these is Jaga-Me, a tech solution platform matching freelance nurses and caregivers with home-bound patients which was awarded the President's Challenge Social Enterprise Award in 2017.

She also has two patents under her belt - for SwabBot, an automated nasopharyngeal swab for the diagnoses of the COVID-19 virus, and Instalief, which allows patients to manage haemorrhoids safely and effectively at home.

Besides clinical innovation, Dr Rena, who had obtained an undergraduate degree in bioengineering before enrolling in medical school, is actively working to imbue that same spirit of innovation in future generations of doctors. As an Assistant Dean and Assistant Professor at Duke-NUS, she founded and ran the Duke-NUS Health Innovator Programme (D-HIP) – where multidisciplinary teams comprising medical, business and engineering students from NUS faculties compete in a “Shark Tank”-style pitch event for funding to advance their inventions. Launched in September 2022, the inaugural pitch was held in April this year. Dr Rena's aim is for the programme to become a venture-building incubator.

With all that she has achieved, the mother of two, who was recognised as one of the “Leaders of Tomorrow” for healthcare in the *Tatler Asia* Gen.T 2022 list, is devoting time to supporting other women. As far back as 2011, she had already started as an alumna mentor at Duke-NUS, advising students on how to manage work and life, while pursuing their dreams in innovation. She is also launching a College of Healthcare Engineering to bring together all healthcare engineers in the SingHealth Duke-NUS Academic Medical Centre.



MR FARIS BIN RIDZUAN

Arts and Social Sciences '15



Mr Faris Bin Ridzuan is an academic tutor at NUS and recent recipient of the Graduate Students' Teaching Award. However, he is more than a recognised university tutor. As head tutor at self-help group Yayasan MENDAKI from 2022 to 2023, he managed a tuition centre at a primary school and taught secondary and primary school students.

Mr Faris has made significant contributions to religious harmony as an academic tutor at Muis Academy – the research and education arm of the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore – where he delivered a compulsory module on historical and sociological perspectives of Southeast Asian Islam for Islamic leaders in Singapore. He also volunteers as a docent at the Harmony Centre at An-Nahdhah Mosque, promoting greater interfaith understanding and harmony. In 2023, he represented Singapore in the Global Peace Summit in Dubai and was voted Best Male Peace Delegate by summit delegates.

In addition to his acumen for teaching, Mr Faris is a self-taught musician who has received five international music awards. He volunteers with Variasi Performing Arts, helming roles such as Content Lead and Lead Moderator for Akar Symposium. He also volunteered with the Institute of Mental Health as a member of the Music Engagement team in 2018, performing and interacting with patients to help them in their recovery.

He currently volunteers as a researcher, trainer and consultant with AMKFSC Community Services Ltd., contributing to programmes that uplift individuals and families in need. Since 2011, he has volunteered with the Bishan North Community Club (CC) and the Bishan-Toa Payoh Group Representation Constituency, and was appointed as a Grassroots Leader in 2015 for Bishan North CC and, subsequently, Marymount CC.

On the international stage, Mr Faris was appointed Co-Lead, Asia Region of the Global Indigenous Youth Summit on Climate Change by the United Nations Institute of Training and Research. As part of this appointment, he co-authored a related article in top science and technology journal *Nature*. He is also a volunteer advisor for Connecting Climate Minds, a global project that aligns research and action at the intersection of climate change and mental health.



DR IZZUDDIN BIN MOHD ARIS

Science '10



After graduating from NUS with a biomedical sciences degree in 2010 and a PhD in epidemiology in 2015, Dr Izzuddin Bin Mohd Aris scored a faculty position at one of the top medical universities in the world.

Today, Dr Izzuddin is not only an Assistant Professor at the Harvard Medical School and Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute; he has developed a reputation as an award-winning, global expert in obesity – he is ranked among the top 0.1% of over 300,000 published authors in the field worldwide.

As a researcher, Dr Izzuddin's expertise is in childhood obesity and the early-life antecedents of chronic disease, also termed as the "Developmental Origins of Health and Disease" or DOHaD. His career is notable for its high productivity and academic rigour, with over 140 peer-reviewed publications in high-impact journals and several funded grants from the US National Institutes of Health and American Heart Association. He has received multiple local and global awards, including the inaugural Young Investigator Award by the Nestlé Nutrition Institute, the Outstanding Manuscript Award by the Nutrition Obesity Research Center at Harvard, the US DOHaD Scientific Award by the US DOHaD Society, and Rising Star Awards by the Australian and New Zealand Obesity Society and the Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research. He is also a regular speaker at national and international conferences.

As an educator, Dr Izzuddin – who is a faculty instructor and Co-Director of the Clinical Epidemiology and Population Health course at Harvard Medical School – actively works with other course instructors to lead and prepare the course syllabus and assignments. He is well-loved by his students, and is an active mentor to PhD students, post-doctoral and clinical fellows. In 2022, he was bestowed the Young Mentor Award by Harvard Medical School.

Despite his work at Harvard, he maintains his connection with NUS. He is an affiliated investigator for Growing Up in Singapore Towards Health Outcomes (GUSTO), a programme to determine how pregnancy is connected to a child's health in later life that involves researchers from several agencies, including NUS. He also mentors NUS post-doctoral fellows who are posted to Harvard Medical School.



MR KHOO YI FENG

Arts and Social Sciences '17



Dubbed the "Mental Health Guy" by friends, Mr Khoo Yi Feng is passionate about building hope and helping others find their self-worth. His professional background encompasses clinical practice, community outreach, as well as national service planning efforts. Known for his engaging delivery, he has been a conference speaker and panel moderator at various local and international events, given media interviews, and authored op-eds on mental health.

His mental health advocacy began as an undergraduate. While a fellow of the NUS Chua Thian Poh Community Leadership Programme, he founded the NUS Mental Health Wing to promote mental wellness and reduce stigma. In 2016, the group ran a year-long campaign, partnering 20 agencies and reaching over 200 undergraduates. Believing in "Better Understanding for Better Wellness", he created platforms for his peers to engage with each other, caregivers, professionals and individuals recovering from mental health conditions. These platforms included dialogues, field visits and skills-based workshops to enhance empathy, self-care and peer support skills.

After graduating from NUS in 2017 with a degree in Southeast Asian studies and a minor in psychology, he continued his advocacy efforts in both community and corporate settings, working with two social service agencies and a mental health hospital. As a young professional, he also designed and ran group work interventions to address transitional challenges faced by young adults, and facilitated conversations to support youths undergoing transitions.

With a keen interest to grow his empathy for persons with mental health conditions and enhance his effectiveness in helping them, he moved into direct clinical practice and obtained a Graduate Diploma in Social Work at NUS in 2020. For his academic excellence, he received the Alice Goh Scholarship.

For the past six years, Mr Khoo has actively volunteered with the National Youth Council's Young Change Makers Grant as a Curator to empower budding community leaders with resources, networks and mentoring, and was most recently appointed as Advisor (Mental Wellness) to further support grant applicants.

He regularly returns to NUS to deliver guest lectures and training on mental health literacy, suicide prevention, trauma-informed care, peer support, adolescent development, and community development.



MR KWOK KA MING ANDRE

Public Policy '21



Mr Andre Kwok is a social entrepreneur and founder of Good City Foundation, a non-governmental non-profit organisation with offices in Hong Kong and Indonesia. The organisation deploys private resources to meet city development challenges. It focuses on facilitating and growing local projects, start-ups, and businesses by connecting resources and talents, thus building a global network of emerging cities with resources for mutual growth.

Besides organising development programmes and policy working groups with city governments to refine and implement urban sustainability or transformation projects in Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Sri Lanka, the Foundation also curates the annual Future City Summit, which brings together city leaders, entrepreneurs, and investors from around the world for constructive dialogues about smart cities, data governance and climate change.

Mr Kwok was a Fellow at the World Economic Forum for global urban transformation and is currently the Director of the HK Social Entrepreneurship Forum. He is also the Executive Director of the Hong Kong Ambassadors Club, an organisation that seeks to build stronger economic and investment partnerships for the business community in Hong Kong. In 2023, Andre was appointed by the HKSAR Government to the District Youth Development and Civic Education Committee and invited by the Chief Executive's Policy Unit as Co-Investigator in the Public Policy Research Scheme.

He has also volunteered in many organisations. In 2017, he assisted the United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh to finance digitisation projects, and in the Mekong Business Initiative, which aimed to promote private sector development in Cambodia, Myanmar and Vietnam. A 2021 graduate of the Master in Public Policy programme at NUS, he was involved in setting up the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy Alumni Hong Kong Chapter, of which he is currently Vice President.

Mr Kwok's leadership was acknowledged twice in 2022 when he was selected by *Forbes China* as one of its 30 Under 30 young leaders to watch, and by *Tatler Asia*, which placed him in the Gen.T list, which recognises trailblazing entrepreneurs, creatives and young leaders who are making a positive impact in Asia.



MR SAMSON LEO

Law '11



If you previously frequented the Starbucks at Yusof Ishak House (before its move to NUS University Town), you would have felt the impact of Mr Samson Leo on NUS firsthand: as an undergraduate on the Executive Committee of the National University of Singapore Students' Union, he helped negotiate with the coffee chain for extended opening hours, ensured the hiring of NUS students and use of coffee grounds as fertiliser on campus soil, and secured discounts for students and staff.

Today, Mr Leo is putting his Bachelor of Laws degree and negotiation skills to use as the Chief Legal Officer of Fazz, a digital financial services start-up that promotes financial inclusion within Southeast Asia. Fazz was formed in 2020 from the merger between Payfazz and Xfers, the latter of which had been co-founded by Mr Leo and three fellow NUS alumni six years prior.

Mr Leo was instrumental not only in leading Xfers' merger, but in negotiating and closing fundraising for the combined Fazz group, securing more than US\$150 million between 2020 and 2022. With more than 600 personnel across Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan, and Vietnam, the start-up is now within striking distance of unicorn status.

As a fintech co-founder, Mr Leo has been at the forefront of emerging trends in digital payments, blockchain and cryptocurrency. In 2019, he led Xfers to become the first digital wallet to obtain Widely Accepted Stored Value Facility approval from the Monetary Authority of Singapore, and in 2020, the company launched stablecoin XSGD, backed by the Singapore dollar. Fazz (Xfers) has also continuously demonstrated how payment start-ups can fight cyberscams, helping numerous victims recover their funds, and receiving recognition from the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Singapore Police Force for their efforts.

Mr Leo is actively involved in his community, currently serving on the Executive Committee of the Jalan Besar Community Centre Management Committee to increase social and community cohesion. He frequently participates in mentorship events, talks, and panel discussions organised by universities and the Singapore Corporate Counsel Association, helping to guide and mentor undergraduates in their career development. He is also a mentor with the NUS Law Alumni Mentor Programme.



MR RAGHURAM NATARAJAN

Science '07



As one of the defining issues of our generation, climate change mitigation requires innovative and multidisciplinary solutions.

With an SIA-NOL scholarship, a bachelor's degree in life sciences and a minor in technological entrepreneurship from NUS, as well as an executive MBA jointly conferred by London Business School and Columbia Business School, Mr Raghuram Natarajan brings a diverse perspective to the sustainability field.

A sustainability enthusiast with more than 17 years of experience, Mr Natarajan is not only helping to advance regional Net Zero targets by investing in renewable energy, energy efficiency and infrastructure projects, but also nurturing a new generation of sustainability-focused talents and entrepreneurs. In the span of his career, he has developed renewable energy projects totalling more than 15 gigawatts (GW) and delivered 4 GW projects into commercial operations across Asia, Australia, and the Middle East.

Since 2021, he has served as the Chief Executive Officer of Blueleaf Energy, a portfolio company of Macquarie's Green Investment Group that leads the acceleration of energy transition in Asia Pacific through the development, financing and operation of innovative renewable energy generation and storage assets. The company has a development pipeline of solar, wind, hydro and storage projects in excess of 7 gigawatts (GW), as well as a historical track record of developing and building 2 GW of solar capacity.

Prior to his role in Blueleaf, Mr Natarajan was the Chief Executive Officer for Mainstream Renewable Power's Asia Pacific business, where he led market entry into Vietnam, Australia, Korea, Japan and Indonesia while overseeing a pipeline of renewable energy projects. He also spent nine years at renewable energy pioneer juwi as their Chief Executive Officer, Asia & Pacific.

As an enthusiastic NUS alumnus, he has actively mentored graduates; served as a participant on various NUS and Solar Energy Research Institute of Singapore (SERIS) forums; and provided advisory services and early-stage angel investments to multiple climate tech and NUS-incubated start-ups. He has also actively recruited NUS graduates and interns to his multiple ventures, helping to nurture a strong network of sustainability-related talent within the University's alumni community.



MR SEAH LI SONG SHAWN

Arts and Social Sciences '10



A direct descendant of one of Singapore's most prominent pioneers, Seah Eu Chin, Mr Shawn Seah used to pass by streets named after members of his family, like Seah Street, Eu Chin Street, Liang Seah Street and Peck Seah Street.

His wonder at who they were turned into passion. Mr Seah has channelled his curiosity into becoming an active storyteller of Singapore's history. He is an author on local history and heritage. Over weekends and public holidays, he has conducted research and interviews, completed manuscripts, applied for grants, and published many books.

These are *Seah Eu Chin: His Life & Times*, *Leader and Legislator: Seah Liang Seah*, and *My Father's Kampung: A History of Aukang and Punggol*, which was a finalist for Best Non-Fiction Title and Top 10 Readers' Choice at the Singapore Book Awards 2021. He also wrote a series titled *Our Amazing Pioneers*, which comprises 10 fully-illustrated, easy-to-read books for young children.

Mr Seah regularly gives historical talks at organisations and schools, including NUS, from which he graduated with an arts and social sciences degree in 2010. Since 2019, he has been a guest lecturer for a module on Singapore Studies offered by the Department of Chinese Studies. His engaging lecture is titled "Power, Pepper, Pineapples and Parties: The Story of Two Prominent Pioneers – Seah Eu Chin and Seah Liang Seah".

His commitment to historical storytelling is remarkable given that Mr Seah – who participated in the University Scholars Programme and was on the President's Honour Roll when he graduated from NUS – is a Deputy Director of Planning, Strategy and Data Analysis at NTUC's Employment and Employability Institute by day. Having served in the ministries of education, defence, and manpower, he most recently received awards from the Ministry of Manpower (MOM), including the Commendation Medal (COVID-19) and COVID-19 Resilience Medal. Beyond leading a team to manage two migrant worker dormitories with over 8,000 migrant workers during the pandemic, he subsequently assisted in starting up and leading a strategic planning team in organisation and resource planning, strategy, and operations-technology roadmapping for MOM's Assurance, Care and Engagement Group.



DR SHRAVAN VERMA

Duke-NUS '14



In a country known for its excellent healthcare system, Dr Shravan Verma is helping to make the future of medicine in Singapore even more affordable, accessible, and comfortable to patients.

Following his 2014 graduation from Duke-NUS, Dr Shravan practiced as a physician in a number of public hospitals, where he frequently noticed patients waiting hours for treatment to minor conditions. Believing there was a way to bring hospital-level care into the home, he co-founded Speedoc in 2017, a virtual clinic and on-demand medical services provider.

As a pioneer for telemedicine and home-based healthcare in Singapore, the tech start-up is challenging the traditional centralised and facility-based healthcare model, helping to revolutionise the delivery of care. Their services span house call doctors and nurses, medications delivery, as well as remote diagnostics and health monitoring—bringing greater comfort and convenience to patients while alleviating strain and cost to the system.

The health-tech start-up has also partnered the Ministry of Health on the Mobile Inpatient Care@Home programme, through which it launched H-Ward®, a virtual hospital programme that helps patients recover at home. To date, H-Ward® has discharged close to 5,000 patients and saved more than 25,000 bed days for Singapore's public healthcare system.

As a clinician-entrepreneur, Dr Shravan has received numerous accolades, including recognition on the *Prestige* 40 Under 40, *EDGE* 35 Under 35, and *Forbes* 30 Under 30 Asia lists. Speedoc has been likewise honoured by the *Forbes Asia* 100 to Watch list; the Emerging Enterprise Awards 2022; the President's National Awards (COVID-19) Investiture 2023; the ACE Startup Award 2023; and the Spirit of Enterprise 2023, among other awards.

In addition to his professional achievements, Dr Shravan has made newspaper headlines twice for his work as a Good Samaritan, rendering medical care to two separate road accident victims. He is a current volunteer with Lion Befrienders, a district programme helping seniors age actively in place, as well as a mentor for Young Social Enterprises. An active alumnus, Dr Shravan also gives back to his alma mater by aiding in recruitment, regularly returning to campus to share his experiences with prospective and current students.



MS FRANCES THO SIAO TING

Science '07



Ms Frances Tho graduated from the NUS Faculty of Science in 2007, and bravely stepped out of her comfort zone into the world of sales as a business development associate in the energy trading and risk management solution industry. She went on to build a successful career working for top multinational companies during which she pivoted to sales leadership roles in fintech. Today, she is the Vice President of Sales at Numerix – a leading independent analytics technology provider for financial institutions and corporates – where she is responsible for its sales and commercial engagements in ASEAN.

In the early years of her career in sales and business development, she noticed that many organisations were streamlining processes and embracing technology to increase efficiency while mitigating risks. As she continued to advance her career in sales of professional services at multinational companies like Bloomberg and S&P Global, she saw the need to leverage her experiences and continue learning and growing while adapting to market changes and customer demands. The development of fintech excited her and led her to anticipate a technology breakthrough in the financial industry.

In 2020, she joined Contour – a fintech start-up led by a consortium of leading trade banks and industry partners. Contour aimed to create a decentralised global trade finance network where banks and corporates would revolutionise and digitise end-to-end trade finance processes by leveraging blockchain technology. As Vice President for international business development, she was responsible for the commercialisation and digitisation efforts of trade finance with local and international banks and corporates.

Successful and accomplished in her career, Ms Tho actively contributes her talents to her alma mater. She served as a volunteer panel judge at the NUS Business Case Competition from 2011 to 2018. More recently, she mentored NUS students through the NUS Women in Business group and the Science Faculty's Alumni-Student Mentorship Programme.

In 2019, Ms Tho also started a social enterprise that seeks to promote sustainable workplace culture via better snacking solutions. This endeavour was hamstrung by the COVID-19 pandemic, but she did not give up and continues to apply herself to innovating solutions for positive workplace outcomes.



TEAM (ALUMNI) AWARD

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

AWARD RECIPIENTS

Growthbeans

Ms Shamantha Yan Shiya
Arts and Social Sciences '09

Ms Shane Yan Shiyan
Arts and Social Sciences '09

Janio Asia

Mr Ng Jun Kai
Business '17

Mr Nathaniel Asher Yim
Business '18

REACH Team, Institute of Mental Health

Ms Esther Chew Yuki
Arts and Social Sciences '14

Ms Ong Tze-I Cheryl
Arts and Social Sciences '08

Dr Daniel Fung Shuen Sheng
Medicine '90

Ms Sim Si Lin
Arts and Social Sciences '12

Mr Ho Weng Siong
Arts and Social Sciences '16

Ms Tan Ke Jia
Arts and Social Sciences '03

Ms Li Jiaying Grace
Science '07

Mr Tan Zheng Xin, Jason
Arts and Social Sciences '08

Mr Ong Guo Xiong Jeffrey
Arts and Social Sciences '09

Ms Kelly Yeo
Arts and Social Sciences '07

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GROWTHBEANS

1 MS SHAMANTHA YAN SHIYA
Arts and Social Sciences '09

2 MS SHANE YAN SHIYAN
Arts and Social Sciences '09



Founded by twin sisters who graduated from the NUS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Growthbeans is a social enterprise that creates opportunities for people to deepen self-awareness, develop meaningful relationships and enhance social skills to grow into purposeful, resilient, and compassionate individuals. Through coaching-enhanced training, products and services, Growthbeans promotes inclusivity, wellbeing and employability so that everyone can grow meaningfully in a connected world.

Ms Shane Yan and Ms Shantha Yan started Growthbeans in 2016 by organising sessions in organisations including Red Box and Young NTUC, providing a safe space for youths to connect and gain self-awareness.

Since then, Growthbeans has reached over 7,000 people. Find Your Ikigai Singapore, a 4-week online programme to develop personal awareness, has benefitted 400 youths. Within the past year, GRO! Resilience has helped more than 500 individuals develop resilience strategies, with the programme also supporting youths with ADHD. Their Career Support Group, which is geared toward career seekers and mid-career switchers, has been attended by more than 100 participants.

In 2021, Growthbeans obtained funding from the J&J Foundation to spearhead Growth Collective SG – a collaboration with seven organisations, including social services and a tertiary institution, to “Build a world where everyone grows and feels supported” via Growth Circles and Growth Facilitators training. The “Together, We Grow” movement was officially launched this past April.

Currently, Growth Circles are organised online and onsite at locations including Nee Soon South, Yuhua CC, and the Red Box. During these sessions, participants might talk about mental health and wellbeing issues. In another instance, youths and seniors get together to discuss the misconceptions and stereotypes different generations have of each other, and how to bridge the generation gap. Since June 2022, more than 600 participants have experienced a Growth Circle and over 200 have trained as Growth Facilitators.

The sisters are still actively contributing to NUS. They were mentors for the University Scholars Programme (USP) and were involved in the interview selection process. They also participated in focus group discussions, gave talks and ran teambuilding, career and self-awareness workshops for USP, NUS College and NUS Enterprise. In 2021, they collaborated with Associate Professor Ben Leong (Affiliate Alumnus '19) from the NUS School of Computing on a leadership course, which is today an IT2900 leadership module under the NUS Centre for Computing for Social Good & Philanthropy. In 2023, they developed the ETP2271 Discover Your Purpose and Resilience workshop for NUS Enterprise. They also worked with Dr Reuben Ng from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy on employability research, and co-published “Retirement Intentions and Attitudes Promote Post-Retirement Employment” in the *Singapore Labour Journal* in 2022.



JANIO ASIA

1 MR NATHANIEL ASHER YIM

Business '18

2 MR NG JUN KAI

Business '17



Janio Asia is simplifying cross-border logistics in Asia for e-commerce companies.

Co-founded by Mr Ng Jun Kai and Mr Nathaniel Asher Yim, both of whom hold Bachelor of Business Administration degrees from NUS, the company is a fourth-party logistics provider that takes a digital-first approach. Leveraging supply chain expertise, analytics, and automation, Janio integrates logistics solutions providers across the supply chain, developing an end-to-end delivery network that is efficient and cost-effective.

Growth has been quick for Janio over the past five years. From its initial four-man team, the company now employs close to 200 employees across Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, Hong Kong, China, and India. It works with over 300 logistics partners, providing shipping for global brands such as Shopee, Zalora and Disney.

Janio also works closely with Enterprise Singapore to create impact for the local economy, helping Singaporean brands and SMEs scale within the region through their platform. Indeed, the name Janio stands for 'Joint ASEAN Network 10', reflective of its mission to use technology to improve cross-border trade within the fragmented geography of ASEAN.

The start-up has been widely commended for its innovative application of technology to a legacy industry, receiving a publicised visit to their Tampines warehouse from then-President of Singapore Mdm Halimah Yacob in 2021. Other accolades include winning Best Newcomer at the Singapore Ricebowl Startup Awards in 2019 and Country Star of Alibaba and KrASIA's Demo Day in 2021. In addition, both Mr Ng and Mr Yim have been named to the *Forbes* 30 Under 30 Asia list, with Mr Ng further named to the EDGE 35 Under 35 list in 2021.

The company has also received financial backing from notable investors such as Sequoia Capital, Vertex Ventures, and Insignia Ventures.

Dedicated alumni of NUS, Mr Ng and Mr Yim regularly return to campus to guest lecture or speak on such topics as entrepreneurship and growth hacking, inspiring the next generation of NUS entrepreneurs. Mr Yim also volunteers as a Youth Panel Member of the National Heritage Board, providing marketing and research advisory to the board.



REACH TEAM, INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 MS ESTHER CHEW YUKI
Arts and Social Sciences '14 | 6 MS ONG TZE-I CHERYL
Arts and Social Sciences '08 |
| 2 DR DANIEL FUNG SHUEN SHENG
Medicine '90 | 7 MS SIM SI LIN
Arts and Social Sciences '12 |
| 3 MR HO WENG SIONG
Arts and Social Sciences '16 | 8 MS TAN KE JIA
Arts and Social Sciences '03 |
| 4 MS LI JIAYING GRACE
Science '07 | 9 MR TAN ZHENG XIN, JASON
Arts and Social Sciences '08 |
| 5 MR ONG GUO XIONG JEFFREY
Arts and Social Sciences '09 | 10 MS KELLY YEO
Arts and Social Sciences '07 |



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REACH (Response, Early Intervention and Assessment in Community mental Health) works closely with schools, social service agencies and general practitioners to provide early mental health assessment and intervention to children and youths with emotional, social, and behavioural issues and disorders. The programme comprises multidisciplinary teams of psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, medical social workers, occupational therapists, and nurses.

Piloted in 2007, REACH has increased its community partnerships so that more children and youths can get timely help. The involvement of general practitioners has also reduced the stigma that some caregivers fear in bringing their child to a psychiatrist.

Besides sending mobile teams to provide consultation, assessment and interventions to students in schools, REACH imparts mental health knowledge and equips school counsellors and community partners with skills to provide better support. In 2016, REACH started a triage service where assessment referrals made by polyclinics to the Child Guidance Clinic at the Institute of Mental Health (IMH) could instead be conducted within schools. This has reduced waiting times at IMH while providing students with quicker access to assessment and intervention.

In 2018, REACH received the National Clinical Excellence Award in recognition of its contribution to advancing medical excellence and supporting community healthcare. To date, the team has helped more than 5,000 children and trained over 2,000 school counsellors and special educational needs officers to identify mental health issues.

The NUS alumni within the REACH team graduated between 1990 and 2017 from the NUS Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and the Faculty of Science. The Chief Executive Officer of IMH, Dr Daniel Fung, was part of the group that proposed this community-based mental health service approach and is now the programme director of REACH. He received National Day Awards in 2017 and 2018 and was most recently honoured with the National Award (Silver) (COVID-19). Principal Occupational Therapist Ms Grace Li is the leader for the REACH South Team. Senior Clinical Psychologists Mr Jeffrey Ong, Ms Tan Ke Jia and Principal Clinical Psychologist Ms Kelly Yeo are pioneers who established and developed the programme. As team members, Senior Clinical Psychologists Mr Ho Weng Siong, Ms Esther Chew, Mr Jason Tan, Ms Sim Si Lin and Associate Psychologist Ms Cheryl Ong have conducted numerous training sessions for school counsellors and given mental health talks to students and the public.

APPRECIATION

The NUS Office of Alumni Relations would like to thank the Awards Selection Committee members, award presenters, the citation reader, as well as 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 NUS Alumni Awards possible.

AWARDS SELECTION COMMITTEE

PROFESSOR TAN ENG CHYE

NUS President | Chairperson
Science '85

MS OVIDIA LIM-RAJARAM

NUS Chief Alumni Officer | Deputy Chairperson
Arts and Social Sciences '89

AMBASSADOR CHAN HENG CHEE

Member, NUS Board of Trustees
Eminent Alumni Award Recipient 2021
Arts '64

PROFESSOR TAN CHORH CHUAN

NUS University Professor
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