

## Distinguished Science Alumni Awards 2014

**Lawrence H.L. CHIA**

**PhD 1969**

**Former Professor, Special Advisor (Alumni Relations), Faculty of Science, NUS**

Dr Lawrence Chia's association with this University started with an Entrance Scholarship in 1955. He joined the Chemistry Department in 1964 following his Colombo Plan Scholarship, Demonstratorship and Teaching Fellowship in the University of Sydney.

His teaching/research was encouraged/recognised by awards like the FRSC, FRACI, FSNIC, FRACI, FCMI and FSHRI. The Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Singapore National Institute of Chemistry gave him their respective Education Awards in 1993 and 2014. His university service included the Senate, Board of Student Welfare, the Staff Association and the Faculty (Staff) Club. He served Dunearn Rd Hostels (DRH)/ Sheares Hall 2 years as Fellow and 33 years as Master.

He also served as a volunteer in the Special Constabulary and the first chairman of the National Police Cadet Corps Council. Other areas included the inaugural Science Centre Board and Inter-Racial Community Council, PSC Selection Committees, IAEA Radiation Processing Committee, Science Council's S&I TV Quiz, Industrial Orientation, Youth Science Fortnight, SNIC Chemical Education Projects and the Educational Research Association.

He was seconded as the Inaugural Principal of ACS (Independent) and later as NUS Director, Alumni Affairs and Development Office. With others especially those from FoS, he helped establish exemplary and needy FUNDS/SCHOLARSHIPS in honour/memory of Science's, Kiang Ai Kim, Ang Kok Peng, Lucy & Alfred Wan and Tan Sau Fun.

He also contributed in cash, blood and pledged organ donation and to community and church and in encouraging others to also do so. With his daughters and their spouses (all 5 are NUS alumni), a Bursary was given to Sheares Hall in memory of his mum who had also studied at our Raffles College. He has also received the PPA, BBM, Police Commissioner's High Commendation Certificate and an award from our NUS (Medical/Dental/Pharm) Alumni Association. Comparable if not more than these Fellowships and Awards have been the joy and satisfaction associated with the gratitude and relationships with former students who are now life-long friends and fellow alumni. In providing the quote below, he has adopted/adapted the words associated with the Cavendish Laboratories in the University of Cambridge.

**"I have sought and hoped that our endeavours and contributions will be for the Glory of God and the benefit of mankind."**

In recognition of his accomplishments and contributions, we honour Dr Lawrence Chia with the 2014 Distinguished Science Alumnus Award.

## Distinguished Science Alumni Awards 2014

### LAM Pin Woon

**BSc Pharm (Hons) 1983**

**Director, Allswell Trading Pte Ltd**

Mr Lam Pin Woon is the Director of Allswell Group of Companies, a leading food and beverage enterprise in the region. He was previously the President of public listed Healthway Medical Corporation Ltd. Prior to that, he spent 5 years as the Chief Executive Officer of the Health Promotion Board, 7 years as the Chief Executive Officer (Group Health Supplements Division) of Cerebos Pacific Ltd and 4 years as the Managing Director of Quaker Oats Asia Inc. Mr Lam has more than 20 years of experience in regional business development and management across the Asia Pacific markets.

Mr Lam was a member of the Board of Advisors (2003 - 2005) of Kemin Industries (Asia) Pte Ltd, a bio-technology company with headquarters in the United States. He is also an Adjunct Associate Professor at the NUS Department of Pharmacy. He was bestowed the Outstanding Science Alumni Award by Faculty of Science in 2005 and the Leading CEO Award by the Singapore HR Institute in 2010.

Mr Lam graduated with a B.Sc Pharm (Hons) from the National University of Singapore and holds a Masters' degree in Business Administration from Georgia State University, USA. He obtained his certificate in Production and Inventory Management (CPIM) by American Production and Inventory Control Society in 1984.

**“It is an honour to give back in my small ways to NUS, which has given me a well-rounded education, nurtured my sense of curiosity and spirit of enterprise, and shaped my principles and values in life.”**

In recognition of his accomplishments and contributions, we honour Mr Lam Pin Woon with the 2014 Distinguished Science Alumnus Award.

## Distinguished Science Alumni Awards 2014

**NG Kee Choe**

**BSc (Hons) 1966**

**Non-executive Chairman, CapitaLand Ltd and AusNet Services**

Mr Ng Kee Choe has fond memories of his active student days in the Science Faculty and the Bukit Timah campus. Graduating with an Honours degree in chemistry in 1966, he devoted his entire career in the public sector and government-linked corporations where he served with dedication and distinction. His first 3 years were in the public sector before moving to DBS where he remained for the next 33 years. His commitment and capabilities could be seen in his appointments as Executive Vice-President in 1988, Deputy President in 1994, President and CEO in 1997 and Vice-Chairman of DBS Group Holdings in 2001. He was a key member of DBS that led its growth and transformation into a leading regional institution. He retired from DBS in 2003, after a 33-year career.

Following his retirement from DBS, Mr Ng devoted considerable time to Singapore Power and to NTUC Income Insurance Co-Operative. As the Chairman of Singapore Power (2000-2012), Mr Ng contributed to structural changes during the liberalization of Singapore's energy market ensuring continued provision of competitive and reliable electricity to consumers. Under his stewardship, Singapore Power grew substantially, with a significant presence in Australia.

At NTUC Income (2004-2013), Mr Ng steered the Group through leadership transition, guided its transformation while focusing on sustainability through a volatile macro-environment. For his contribution to NTUC Income, Mr Ng was awarded the top May Day Honour in 2013: the Distinguished Service Award.

Mr Ng has also served on other Boards. More recently, he served on the Board of Singapore Exchange and SATS.

Currently, he is Chairman of CapitaLand, President Commissioner of Bank Danamon, Chairman of Ausnet Services and Director of Fullerton Financial Holdings. In addition, he is Chairman of Tanah Merah Country Club and a member of the International Advisory Council of China Development Bank. For his contributions to Singapore's progress, Mr Ng was awarded The Meritorious Service Medal in 2012.

He is married with three children and continues with his friendships from his student days. Many are able to identify and even resonate with the quote he has left us with.

**“A University education helps to sharpen and discipline the mind. I am blessed by my stint at the Science Faculty at the then University of Singapore.”**

In recognition of his accomplishments and contributions, we honour Mr Ng Kee Choe with the 2014 Distinguished Science Alumnus Award.

## Distinguished Science Alumni Awards 2014

**Bernard TAN Tiong Gie**

**BSc (Hons) 1965**

**Professor, Department of Physics, NUS**

Professor Bernard Tan Tiong Gie was educated at the Anglo-Chinese School, Singapore, the University of Singapore and Oxford University where he obtained his DPhil degree in 1968. He is a Member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers (U.K.), Fellow of the Institute of Physics (U.K) and Fellow of the Institute of Physics, Singapore, as well as a Fellow of Trinity College of Music, London.

He joined the University of Singapore in 1968, where he has served as Acting Head of Music, Dean of Science, Head of Physics and Dean of Students. He is currently a Professor of Physics, as well as Director of the Centre for Maritime Studies, Managing Director of NUS Technology Holdings, and Chairman of the Centre for Remote Imaging, Sensing and Processing and the Singapore Synchrotron Light Source.

He is Chairman of Keppel Credit Union, Cadi Scientific, the Orchestra of the Music Makers, the National Advisory Committee on Laboratory Animal Research and the Advisory Committee on Radiation Protection and Nuclear Science of the NEA. He also sits on the boards of Keppel Telecommunications and Transportation, NUS Technology Holdings, SIM University and the School of the Arts, and on the Singapore Institute of Management General Council.

He has been Chairman of Keppel Hitachi Zosen, IMCB Holdings, the National Internet Advisory Committee, the Singapore Youth Orchestra and the Singapore Arts Festival Steering Committee. He has served on the National Science and Technology Board, the National Computer Board, the National Parks Board, the National Library Board and the National Arts Council, and the boards of Keppel Corporation Ltd, CSA Holdings, the Singapore Symphonia Company, Esplanade - Theatres on the Bay and the Singapore Dance Theatre.

He has been awarded the Public Administration Medal (Silver), the Public Service Medal, the Public Service Star and the Public Service Star (Bar), the President's Medal of the Institute of Physics Singapore and the COMPASS Meritorious Award of the Composers and Authors Society of Singapore. He has also been made a Fellow of the Singapore National Academy of Science.

**“The unwavering pursuit of scientific truth is the fundamental duty of all scientists.”**

In recognition of his accomplishments and contributions, we honour Professor Bernard Tan with the 2014 Distinguished Science Alumnus Award.

## Distinguished Science Alumni Awards 2014

**Joanna WONG Quee Heng**

**BSc (Hons) (1963)**

**Former Registrar, NUS**

Mrs Joanna Wong Quee Heng is chemistry and culture personified. Following her outstanding stint as Head Prefect, in her studies and the performing arts she read chemistry at our University on a Penang State Scholarship. She won a University of Singapore Students' Union Gold Medal for the Most Outstanding All-Round Student in 1962. She had also gained and given much to Eusoff College where she was Junior Common Room Committee (JCRC) President and later Senior Common Room Committee (SCRC) member. Her career, commitment and contributions benefitted University administration for 38 years. Her roles range from Administrative Assistant and Assistant Registrar to Deputy, Acting and then Registrar. She served seven Vice-Chancellors and a student body that grew from 2,400 to over 26,000. She had also helped Nanyang University (NU) as Registrar on secondment (1977–1980). This undoubtedly was a vital factor in the historic and smooth merger of NU and University of Singapore (SU) to establish National University of Singapore (NUS).

Besides the University, Singapore and many beyond our shores benefitted from her time and talents, inputs and contributions. Whether as performer or promoter, actress or advocate, she brought the riches of Chinese culture and heritage especially its opera to countless countries and cultures, homes and hearts. Together with husband Leslie (also a committed hall resident and SCRC of DRH-Sheares Hall), they recently produced and performed a historic and memorable Chinese Opera in English, premiered in NUS itself.

Her many other contributions in community service and leadership have been not only appreciated by the local and global community but also recognised through prestigious awards like the Public Service Award (BBM) in 1974, the Cultural Medallion in 1981, the highest national award for excellence in the Arts and her appointment as Justice of the Peace (JP) in 1998.

In Singapore where excellence and service are hallmarks of our great citizens and where family values are also promoted and treasured, Mrs Wong has also been exemplary as devoted wife and mother and where her two daughters as NUS alumni have also done their parents and their common alma mater proud.

**“Be steadfast in your service and persistent in your passion and pursuits.”**

In recognition of her accomplishments and contributions, we honour Mrs Joanna Wong with the 2014 Distinguished Science Alumnus Award.

## Outstanding Science Alumni Awards 2014

### GOH Suat Hong

**BSc 1964, DSc 1993**

**Emeritus Professor, Faculty of Science, NUS**

Emeritus Professor Goh Suat Hong received his MSc and PhD in polymer science from the University of Akron, USA. He started his academic career as a lecturer at Nanyang University in 1966, and retired as a professor in 2008. Following his retirement, he was conferred an emeritus professorship. His dedication and excellence in teaching has won him many teaching awards. He was placed on both the Faculty Teaching Excellence Award Honour Roll and the Annual Teaching Excellence Award Honour Roll in 2007.

Emeritus Professor Goh's research on polymer blends, polymer nanocomposites and biomaterials has led to the publication of 310 papers and 8 book chapters. He is a co-inventor of four patents. His research achievements have been recognized by a number of awards including National Science Award in 1997, ASEAN Committee of Science and Technology Achievement Award in 1998, NUS Staff Achievement Award in 1998, Federation of Asian Chemical Societies Citation Award in 2003, Outstanding Alumni Award (from the Department of Polymer Science, University of Akron, USA) in 2007, and Nanyang Alumni Achievement Award (from Nanyang Technological University) in 2009.

Emeritus Professor Goh served the Singapore National Institute of Chemistry as council member (1977-1979, 1986-1988) and honorary secretary (1982-1986), and the Singapore National Academy of Sciences as council member (1982-1986). He received the Singapore National Institute of Chemistry Service Award in 1994.

**“Learn extensively, inquire thoroughly, think carefully, discern clearly, and implement wholeheartedly.”** ~ From Doctrine of the Mean

In recognition of his accomplishments and contributions, we honour Emeritus Professor Goh Suat Hong with the 2014 Outstanding Science Alumnus Award.

## Outstanding Science Alumni Award 2014

### HANG Kim Hoo

**BSc (Hons) 1983, MSc 1999, PhD 2007**

**Principal, NUS High School of Mathematics and Science**

Dr Hang Kim Hoo graduated from the National University of Singapore with a Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree majoring in Mathematics in 1983, a Master of Science (Statistics) degree in 1999 and a PhD degree in Pure Mathematics in 2007. He also holds a Master of Education degree in Mathematics Education from Nanyang Technological University.

Dr Hang is currently the Principal of NUS High School of Mathematics and Science. Having served in the education service for more than 30 years, he was among the pioneering group of teachers who taught the Gifted Programme for students in 1985 at the Raffles Institution. His professional career includes spending 9 years teaching Mathematics & Physics in New Town Secondary before taking up the appointments of Specialist Inspector (Mathematics) and Senior Curriculum Specialist (Mathematics) at the Ministry of Education. Before his current appointment, he was Principal of Clementi Town Secondary School, a Senior Quality Assessor at the Ministry of Education, as well as overseeing the development of the School Cockpit System, a nation-wide integrated data and information management system for all schools in Singapore.

As an active life member of the Singapore Mathematical Society and its Vice- President since 1994, Dr Hang has been promoting the learning of Mathematics and the development of mathematical talents in Singapore. Among his various contributions to the community, he has been actively serving with the Chinese Development Assistance Council (CDAC) Student Development and Education Committee since 2002.

**“In the world of learning, doing and using mathematics and science, there is always a place for everyone.”**

In recognition of his accomplishments and contributions, we honour Dr Hang Kim Hoo with the 2014 Outstanding Science Alumnus Award.

## Outstanding Science Alumni Award 2014

**HON Chiew Weng**

**BSc 1981, MEd 1991**

**Principal, Hwa Chong Institution**

Dr Hon Chiew Weng is the Principal of Hwa Chong Institution, a premier school in Singapore. He started his teaching career as a Physics teacher in 1982 and became the Principal of The Chinese High School in 2003. As a principal, he had broad responsibilities for technology and innovation, global initiatives, and the professional and leadership development of teachers. He also launched school-wide research initiatives in curriculum design, classroom strategies, and implemented the ground-breaking Integrated Programme in 2004. He also established the Hwa Chong-Beijing Satellite Campus – a first for a Singapore School, and spearheaded the FutureSchools@Singapore initiative in 2008.

Throughout his career, he has been deeply committed to the role of schools in promoting creativity, inter-school collaborations and student leadership. He is also a vigorous advocate of education research, independent learning, community service and entrepreneurship. Under his leadership, Hwa Chong Institution won the Singapore Quality Award (SQA) in 2010. SQA is the pinnacle award for business excellence which is accorded to only organizations that have achieved world-class excellence.

Dr Hon earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the National University of Singapore (NUS) in 1981, Master of Education from the NUS in 1991 and a Doctor of Education in 2008 from the University of Western Australia. His doctoral research focused on the leadership qualities of secondary schools students in Singapore. He is the author or co-author of numerous research papers and conference articles. For his outstanding contributions to public service, Dr Hon has been awarded three National Day medals by the President of the Republic of Singapore from 1999 to 2007.

**“However brilliant our students may be, the final measure of their real worth will be the contributions they can make to society.”**

In recognition of his accomplishments and contributions, we honour Dr Hon Chiew Weng with the 2014 Outstanding Science Alumnus Award.



## Outstanding Science Alumni Award 2014

### Intan Azura Binte MOKHTAR

**BSc 1998, MPA 2008**

**Assistant Professor, Policy and Leadership Studies, NIE**

**Member of Parliament for Ang Mo Kio GRC**

Dr Intan Azura Mokhtar is currently a Member of Parliament for Ang Mo Kio GRC (Jalan Kayu), and is also a member of the Government Parliamentary Committees for Education, as well as Defence and Foreign Affairs. She also serves as a member of the Institute of Technical Education Board of Governors, member of the Health Promotion Board – Board of Directors, member of Yayasan Mendaki Board of Directors, and member of the Malay Language Council, Singapore.

Dr Intan is an Assistant Professor in Policy and Leadership Studies in the National Institute of Education (NIE), Nanyang Technological University (NTU) from 2009-2014. She taught both pre-service and in-service courses such as *Using ICT to Enhance Teaching and Learning*, and *The Social Context of Teaching and Learning*.

Prior to joining the NIE, she was an Assistant Professor in Educational Technology in Abu Dhabi University, United Arab Emirates. Before embarking on the teaching stint abroad, she taught in a polytechnic and secondary school in Singapore.

Dr Intan obtained her BSc degree in Physics from the National University of Singapore in 1998, followed by a Postgraduate Diploma in Education (Secondary) from NIE in 1999, and an MSc. degree from the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information, NTU in 2003. In 2004, she pursued her doctorate on a full scholarship in the same school in NTU, and was conferred her Ph.D degree in Information Studies in 2008. Dr Intan also received her Master in Public Administration degree from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore in 2008. In providing the quote below, she has shared something that she constantly reminds herself of.

**“While not losing sight of where you are headed, do not forget where you came from and the values that you hold; do not forget those who have helped you get to where you are; and do not forget those whom you can help along the way.”**

In recognition of her accomplishments and contributions, we honour Dr Intan Azura with the 2014 Outstanding Science Alumnus Award.

## Outstanding Science Alumni Award 2014

**KOH Khee Meng**

**BSc 1968**

**Former Professor, Department of Mathematics, NUS**

Dr Koh Khee Meng has had an illustrious teaching career spanning more than 40 years in Nanyang University and NUS. Ask any Singapore mathematics graduate or teacher and he more than likely recall Dr Koh with a fond smile and a proud acknowledgement that he was taught by him. His lessons are always very lively, engaging and stimulating. For his fine teaching, Dr Koh won many teaching awards, culminating in the NUS Outstanding Educator Award in 2011.

A well sought after supervisor, Dr Koh also excels in research supervision with his graduate and Honours students. He, with a total of 21 students, has published more than 160 papers and 8 books. His main research works span substantial areas in Discrete Mathematics and Graph Theory, and he is widely regarded as one of the few foremost Graph Theorists in Singapore and the ASEAN region. He is an editor of the following two journals: Graphs and Combinatorics, Springer-Verlag and AKCE, International Journal of Graphs and Combinatorics; and a council member of the Institute of Combinatorics and Its Applications (International), 1995-1997.

Teaching and research aside, Dr Koh has led in various capacities in the university and in the promotion of mathematics in Singapore. He served as President of the Singapore Mathematical Society, 1996 - 1998, and Chairman of the Singapore Mathematical Olympiad, 1991-1993. He was also a member of the Science Faculty Teaching Excellence Committee, 2004-2009 and Chair of the Departmental Teaching Excellence Committee, 1996-2006.

Dr Koh sums up his life's work in mathematics teaching and research in his guiding philosophy as reflected in the quote given below.

**“Good research enlivens teaching, good teaching encourages research.”**

In recognition of his accomplishments and contributions, we honour Dr Koh Khee Meng with the 2014 Outstanding Science Alumnus Award.

## **Outstanding Science Alumni Award 2014**

**Audrey LIOW @ TAN Seok Hoong**

**BSc (Hons) 1981**

**Regional Business Head, Pacific Rim and South East Asia, Nestlé Nutrition**

Mrs Audrey Liow assumed the position of Regional Business Head of Nestlé Nutrition in Jan 2005, with the focus in Infant Nutrition. Nestlé Nutrition strives for leadership in innovation and aims to help nurture a healthier generation through science proven nutrition for mothers and infants in the first 1000 days of life.

In her capacity as Regional Business Head, Nestlé Nutrition, Mrs Liow is responsible for growing the Infant Nutrition business within the Pacific Rim and South East Asia Region. She manages about 600 people in the Region. She is based in Singapore with a Regional team supporting the markets. Her role includes providing guidance and direction, with special focus to support her team to win in the markets. She has full profit and loss responsibility for the Infant Nutrition business in South East Asia and Pacific Rim. She reports directly to the Global Head of Infant Nutrition, who is based in Nestlé HQ, Vevey, Switzerland.

Prior to her role as Regional Business Head, Mrs Liow was the Managing Director of Nestlé Singapore (Pte) Ltd from 2001 to 2004. Starting in Singapore with Nestlé as Brand Executive in 1988, Mrs Liow's first overseas appointment, with Nestlé's head office in Switzerland as Marketing Advisor in the Nutrition Strategic Business Division for the Asia Oceania region in 1996, saw her implementing nutrition strategies and developing new markets in Asia. Subsequently, she became Head of the Nutrition Unit in Nestlé China in 1998. Preceding her appointment as Managing Director of Nestlé Singapore (Pte) Ltd, Mrs Liow was Regional Marketing Manager, Nutrition Business division for the Malaysia / Singapore region in mid-2000.

Mrs Liow graduated from the National University of Singapore with a Bachelor of Science degree majoring in Chemistry. She also holds a Diploma in Management Studies from the Singapore Institute of Management.

She started her career as a Ladies' Merchandise Buyer at Isetan Singapore, followed by another 5 years as Quality Control Officer at Premier Milk Singapore, part of F&N group. She has completed 26 years of service with Nestlé in 2014.

**“Nurturing a Healthier Generation through Science Proven Nutrition.”**

In recognition of her accomplishments and contributions, we honour Mrs Audrey Liow with the 2014 Outstanding Science Alumnus Award.

## **Outstanding Science Alumni Award 2014**

**John K.-H. QUAH**

**BSc (Hons) 1986**

**Professor, Economic Theory, Oxford University**

Professor John Quah completed his undergraduate studies in Mathematics at NUS (1983 – 1986), where he graduated with a first class honours degree. After a short stint at the Monetary Authority of Singapore, he decided on an academic career and continued his studies at the University of California at Berkeley (1989 – 1994), where he obtained his doctorate.

Professor Quah is currently Professor of Economic Theory at the Department of Economics, Oxford University. He is also affiliated to St Hugh's College, Oxford, where he is an Official Fellow and a member of its Governing Body. For three years between 2001 and 2004, he held a Research Fellowship awarded by the United Kingdom's Economic and Social Research Council. Professor Quah is currently co-editor of the *Journal of Mathematical Economics* and an associate editor of *Economic Theory*.

In research with different co-authors, Professor Quah has made important contributions to several areas of economic theory and his work has appeared in the top-ranked journals of the discipline. In the theory of monotone comparative statics, Professor Quah developed new mathematical concepts and tools that have expanded the scope of application of those techniques for the study of economic models. His exploration of the testable implications of game-theoretic interaction has extended the reach of revealed preference analysis beyond models of individual decision-making. Professor Quah's earliest research work was in consumer theory, where he explored the mathematical properties of market demand. He also has more applied research interests and has worked on issues in environmental economics and industrial organization.

In addition to his regular appointment, Professor Quah holds a recurring Visiting Professorship at the NUS Economics Department. In that capacity, he has contributed to the doctoral training programme in Economics at this university.

In recognition of his accomplishments and contributions, we honour Professor John Quah with the 2014 Outstanding Science Alumnus Award.

## Outstanding Science Alumni Award 2014

**James TOI Huat Chye**

**BSc 1985**

**Chief Operating Officer (Ambulatory), Singapore General Hospital**

Mr James Toi Huat Chye pursued his undergraduate studies at the Faculty of Science, NUS. He graduated in 1985 with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and Biology.

Upon graduation, he started his working career in sales and marketing with the private sector. In his 10 years with the private sector, he worked for companies ranging from multi-national company to small medium sized company. In 1989, he continued to further his studies part-time and graduated with a Masters' degree in Business Administration (USA) in 1991.

After a successful career in the private sector, Mr Toi did a mid-career switch and joined the public healthcare. He started as a Manager with the Singapore General Hospital (SGH) in 1995. In 1996, he was seconded to the Singapore Gamma Knife Centre (SGKC) as its first General Manager. In 1997, he joined the National Heart Centre Singapore (NHCS) and became its first Chief Operating Officer (COO). Mr Toi was seconded to the Intermediate and Long Term Care Sector in August 2008 and was the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Ren Ci Community Hospital, Nursing Home and Long Term Care until March 2011. Then he returned to SGH where he first started his healthcare career.

Mr Toi had successfully established himself in the healthcare industry for the past 19 years and continues to make significant contributions to the industry in Singapore.

**“Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.”**

In recognition of his accomplishments and contributions, we honour Mr James Toi with the 2014 Outstanding Science Alumnus Award.

## Outstanding Science Alumni Award 2014

### VEERASEKARAN

BSc 1987

Managing Director/Principal Consultant, Greenology Pte Ltd

Mr Veerasekaran graduated from NUS in 1987 with a BSc Degree in Botany. Since his graduation, his green career route has taken him to many parts of the world including Pakistan, Morocco, Seychelles, Africa, Vietnam, China, India, Malaysia, Indonesia and Cambodia.

Immediately after graduation, Mr Veera worked at the oldest orchid garden, Mandai Orchid Garden, Singapore, before moving to Republic of Seychelles to work there. He came back to Singapore to landscape most of the ZOO and Night Safari as the Assistant Curator of Horticulture. A stint in two of the largest private sector landscape companies followed, for a period of 7 years. He then created the landscapes at Changi Airport as the Curator of Horticulture. He then joined the National Parks Board (NParks) as an Assistant Director.

He founded Greenology 6 years ago and has pursued his passion in Urban Greening. Greenology specializes in design and build Vertical Greening, Roof Greening, Rain Gardens and Bioswales. He has developed the Greenology Vertical Greenery (GVG), a Made in Singapore brand, sustainable vertical urban greening solution, that is extensively used in Singapore and is exported to other countries, including Australia, Indonesia, Europe, Japan, India and Malaysia. The GVG system is also the only Greenwall system in Singapore and probably the only fire-rated system in the world. He is currently developing Vertical Aquaponics and Vertical Urban Farming systems in small spaces to address food security issues in cities. Greenology has also developed its proprietary LED Plant Grow Lights for this purpose.

Greenology has been involved with the Yellow Ribbon project for a number of years, helping more than 15 inmates reintegrate into society. They also work with mental health institutions and dementia patients, helping them through horticulture therapy.

Mr Veera has also lectured for 4 terms in NUS at the Master's degree course in Landscape Architecture Programme and lectures at the Institute of Engineers (IES) in PUB's ABC Waterways Certification programme. He also does various consultancies for ZOOs, Eco parks, Night Safaris, Botanic Gardens and in Urban Agriculture.

**“Difficulties and challenges in life don't come to destroy you but to help you realise your hidden talents and potentials.”**

In recognition of his accomplishments and contributions, we honour Mr Veerasekaran with the 2014 Outstanding Science Alumnus Award.

## Outstanding Science Alumni Award 2014

### WEE Yeow Chin

**BSc (Hons) 1961, MSc 1964, PhD 1976**

**Former Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, NUS**

Dr Wee Yeow Chin was thrust into the role of green advocate through his involvement with the Malayan Nature Society (Singapore Branch) as Secretary and Chairman, and with the Nature Society (Singapore) as founding President during 1978 to 1995.

This was a period when people were more concerned with putting food on the table than going around enjoying nature. In his zeal to popularise nature, Dr Wee gave talks freely and led nature rambles frequently. Popular writings on nature were non-existent and Dr Wee filled the gap with his numerous articles and books on the local flora and fauna. In the 1980s, he campaigned against the misguided clearing of ferns and orchids from branches of wayside trees. This ended when park authorities began reattaching pigeon orchids and staghorn ferns back to trees in the early 1990s. Dr Wee also led a successful campaign persuading government not to clear a patch of biodiversity rich forest at Lower Peirce for a golf course.

In 1991, Dr Wee received the Green Leaf Award on behalf of the Nature Society for the latter's role in the establishment of what is now known as the Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve and the drawing up of the Master Plan for the Conservation of Nature in Singapore.

Dr Wee served in the Nature Reserve Board (1987-1989), Nature Reserves Committee (1990-1996), National Council on the Environment/Singapore Environment Council (1992-1996), Work-Group on Nature Conservation (1992) and Inter-Varsity Council on the Environment (1995-1997). He is Patron of the Singapore Gardening Society and was appointed Honorary Museum Associate of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum in 2012.

Since 2005, Dr Wee has been running the Bird Ecology Study Group's website (<http://www.besgroup.org>) that encourages nature enthusiasts to document and post items of bird behaviour that most birdwatchers ignore. With more than 3,200 items, the website has become a valuable resource consulted by students, birdwatchers and researchers.

Dr Wee joined NUS as a Lecturer in 1977 and spent 20 years in the Faculty of Science before retiring in 1997 as an Associate Professor.

**“Nature conservation needs to coexist with development – you cannot have one without the other.”**

In recognition of his accomplishments and contributions, we honour Dr Wee Yeow Chin with the 2014 Outstanding Science Alumnus Award.

## **Outstanding Science Alumni Award 2014**

**WONG Yiam Moi**

**BSc Pharm 1982**

**Senior Director, Retail Development & Special Projects, NTUC Health Co-operative Ltd**

Graduating in 1982, Ms Wong Yiam Moi started in Guardian Pharmacy as the pioneer batch of retail pupil pharmacists.

She served actively in the National University of Singapore Pharmaceutical Society (NUSPS) during her university days and also in the Pharmaceutical Society of Singapore (PSS) in the 80's and 90's in the Community Pharmacy Chapter.

In 1992, together with Mrs Tan Cheng Bock, she set up NTUC Unity Pharmacy from scratch, under the mandate of the then Secretary-General of NTUC, the late Mr Ong Teng Cheong.

Today, she looks after the NTUC Unity retail pharmacy chain with 55 stores in Singapore with the social mission to address the rising costs of healthcare. Being a leader in a social enterprise, it is constantly a challenge to “do well” as a business in order to “do good” for the benefit of the community at large.

Ms Wong was involved in the pilot project for Tele-Pharmacy Service, championed by the NTUC Unity Healthcare. The project made use of video-conferencing technology to serve customers remotely and it made a breakthrough in getting the Health Sciences Authority to change the law and allowed the sales of pharmacy- only-medicines in the absence of a pharmacist in a remote store.

In 2008, Ms Wong was appointed to the Singapore Pharmacy Council (SPC) as a member and she is currently still serving on the Council.

As a Senior Director of NTUC Health Co-operative and with 32 years of retail pharmacy experience behind her, she shares “With the NUS Pharmacy education, being a Pharmacist puts me in a very important position – I can help and influence people to take charge of their own health so that they can stay healthy and can do what their hearts desire.”

**“In life, we have 3 choices - Give UP, Give IN or Give IT All You Have Got and Never Say Die!”**

In recognition of her accomplishments and contributions, we honour Ms Wong Yiam Moi with the 2014 Outstanding Science Alumnus Award.

## **Outstanding Science Alumni Award 2014**



**Sylvia YAP Swee Beng**  
**BSc (Hons) 1973**  
**Library Advisor & Consultant, NUS Libraries**

Ms Sylvia Yap Swee Beng, a student from the pioneer biological sciences batch, graduated in 1973 from the University of Singapore with Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Zoology. In 1975, she obtained her postgraduate diploma in Library and Information Science from the University of London.

She is an alumna who served her alma mater upon graduation for 41 years until today. She was the University Librarian from 2003 until she retired in February 2014. She views NUS Libraries as a place where the NUS community could go to for quality information, interact with other intellectuals, discover innovative leads and incubate ideas. Over the years, she engineered the transformation of the Library into a 21st century information hub bringing full-text content and online services to users' desktops, 24X7. One of her proud achievement was the setting up of the Science Library in 1986. Besides the Science Library she was also involved in the upgrading of the Central, the Chinese and CJ Koh Law Libraries as well as the supervision of the building of the Central Library Annexe.

Ms Yap is an ardent and dedicated advocate of the library profession. She was the President of Library Association of Singapore (LAS) from 2005-2007, a member of the National Library Board (2005-09) and National Archives of Singapore Board (2009 - 2011) and is the Chairperson, LAS Professional Development Scheme (PDS) Board (2009).

In recognition of her dedicated services and many contributions, Ms Yap was awarded the Efficiency Medal in the National Day Awards in 1988, Long Service Medal, National Day Awards, 2006 and the Public Administration Medal (Silver), National Day Awards 2010. For her many contributions to the profession, she received the Library Association Singapore Professional Service Award in 2009.

**“You don’t think your way into a new kind of living. You live your way into a new kind of thinking.” ~ Henri J.M. Nouwen**

In recognition of her accomplishments and contributions, we honour Ms Sylvia Yap with the 2014 Outstanding Science Alumnus Award.