

80TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL ISSUE

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It almost feels like yesterday when we launched our 80th Anniversary celebrations jointly with the Faculties of Dentistry and Arts & Social Sciences, at the newly opened Shaw Foundation Alumni House. That Anniversary Bash was immediately followed by an exhibition and several lectures, workshops and performances, all held in conjunction with the NUS Arts Festival. In a blink of an eye, 8 months have passed, and we have accomplished what we set out to do – celebrating our anniversary with a continuous stream of signature and bridging events that brought together staff, students, alumni and in several instances, the public. Through these, we have raised the profile of the Faculty as a forward looking institution

at the forefront of global scientific teaching and discoveries, as well as a fun place for work and studies.

I am pleased to note that starting with this issue, Omniscience has gone the e-way. Yes, you will receive future issues of the Faculty's newsletter via email. Aside from environmental considerations, we hope to bring news from your alma mater when they are still news. And of course, you should be able to obtain articles from past issues stored in our archives.

A special issue should be launched with a special focus. And what more appropriate content than to bring you highlights of our anniversary events? So within these pages, we report on highlights of the events that brought so many of us – past and present – together to celebrate, reminisce and reflect on the achievements and successes of the Faculty.

We will have one more signature event before our celebrations come to a close – our Dinner with a Difference to be held on 24 Oct.

As the name suggests, this is not just a dinner. We hope to use the

dinner as a vehicle to boost our two student funds – the Science Student Overseas Exposure Fund and the Science Student Fund. Make a Difference and join us for dinner.

May you recall happy memories as you browse through these pages.

Professor Andrew Wee
Dean, Faculty of Science

e-OmniSci

News from the Faculty of Science, National University of Singapore

e-OmniScience is an electronic publication produced four times a year by the Science Dean's Office about current programmes and activities in the Faculty for alumni and friends.

Dean

Andrew Wee

Advisors

Chin Wee Shong | Sow Chong Haur

Perry Hee | Lawrence Chia

Editor

Karen Ho Wong

Design

Kenneth Chin | James Wee

Administrators

Manjeet Kaur | Corrine Lim

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Honours and Leadership

Important appointment for Statistician

May 09 – **Louis CHEN**, Professor in the Departments of Mathematics and Statistics & Applied Probability, and Director of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, was elected as Vice-President of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) for the term 2009 – 2011. The ISI is composed of over 2,000 individual elected members and eight international learned and professional statistical societies called Sections. The Bernoulli Society for Mathematical Statistics and Probability, of which Professor Chen was President in 1997 – 1999, is one of the Sections.

Dedicated to Education

Jul 09 – Associate Professor in Biological Sciences, **LIM Tit Meng** was awarded the Ministry of Education's Service to Education Award on 25 Jul for his many years of dedication to teaching and mentoring young minds. He has lead many Singapore teams to the International Biology Olympiad through the years.

Faculty of Science Provost's Chair and Dean's Chair Professorships

Jul 09 – NUS Faculty of Science is proud to announce our inaugural Provost's Chairs and Dean's Chairs to four faculty members. These Chairs are for a three year term, and are bestowed in recognition of their excellent academic contributions to the Faculty and international recognition in their field of research. Our Provost's Chair recipients (for the term 1 Jul 10 to 30 Jun 13) are Physics **Professor BG Englert** and Biological Sciences **Professor DING Jeak Ling**. Our Dean's Chair recipients (for the term 1 Jul 10 to 30 Jun 13) are Associate Professor in Chemistry **YAO Shao Qin** and Associate Professor in Physics **Christian KURTSIEFER**.

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Honours and Leadership

National Day Awards

Aug 09 – We are pleased to announce the National Day Award 2009 recipients from the Faculty of Science:

Public Administration Medal (Bronze)

Tan Choon Ee, Roger

Vice-Dean, Faculty of Science
Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics

Efficiency Medal

Foo Eng Tin

Laboratory Technologist, Department of Physics

Long Service Medal

Berrick, A J,

Professor, Department of Mathematics

Long Service Medal

Leung Pui Fai, Fred

Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics

Congratulations to all!

We also congratulate the Dean on his National Day Award

The Commendation Medal (Military)

LTC (NS) Wee Thye Shen Andrew

Fire Support Coordinator, Singapore Infantry Brigade

Long Service Medal

Tay Tiong Seng

Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics

Long Service Medal

Lua Hui Kheng

Laboratory Technologist, Department of Biological Sciences

Long Service Medal

Ng Kok Chay

Operations Associate, Department of Biological Sciences

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New Faculty

Department of Biological Sciences

XU Jian, Assistant Professor

Joined 2 Jan 09. Dr Xu received his PhD in 2005 from Universiteit Utrecht in The Netherlands. His research interests include plant developmental cell biology using Arabidopsis, polar auxin transport and pattern formation in plants.

Department of Chemistry

CHEN Wei, Assistant Professor (joint with Physics)

Joined 1 Jan 09. Dr Chen received his PhD in 2004 from NUS. His research interests include Molecular and organic electronics, Organic photovoltaic, Molecular nanostructures, Molecule-substrate interfaces, Graphene, Scanning Probe Microscopy, Synchrotron Radiation.

Department of Mathematics

SHEN Weixiao, Professor

Joined 17 Mar 09. Professor Shen received his PhD in 2001 from the University of Tokyo in Japan. His research interests include Dynamical Systems.



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New Faculty

Department of Pharmacy

KO Yu Nancy, Assistant Professor

Joined 1 Feb 09. Dr Ko received her PhD in 2007 from the University of Arizona, Tucson in USA. Her research interests include Pharmacoeconomics, Drug utilization review, and Health services research.

KANG Li Feng

Joined 11 Feb 09. Dr Kang received his PhD in 2006 from NUS. His research interests include Formulation Science and Biopharmaceutics, and Tissue Engineering.

HOW Priscilla

Joined 13 Apr 09. Dr How received her PharmD in 2004 from the University of Illinois, Chicago in USA, and is a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist (BCPS). Her research interests include Anemia and Mineral and Bone Disorder in Chronic Kidney Disease, and Clinical Pharmacy & Pharmacy Practice.

Department of Physics

LI Wenhui, Assistant Professor (joint with CQT)

Joined 20 Jan 09. Dr Li received her PhD in 2005 from the University of Virginia in USA. Her research interests include Cold Rydberg gases, quantum degenerate gases, atom-atom interactions, and quantum information processing with neutral atoms.

HESSMO Björn

Joined 1 Apr 09. Dr Hessmo received his PhD in 2000 from Uppsala University in Sweden. His research interests include Experimental quantum optics and atomic physics, and Miniaturization of quantum optical experiments.

Department of Statistics & Applied Probability

CHEW David

Joined 23 Mar 09. Dr Chew received his PhD in 2007 from NUS. His research interests include Computational Biology.

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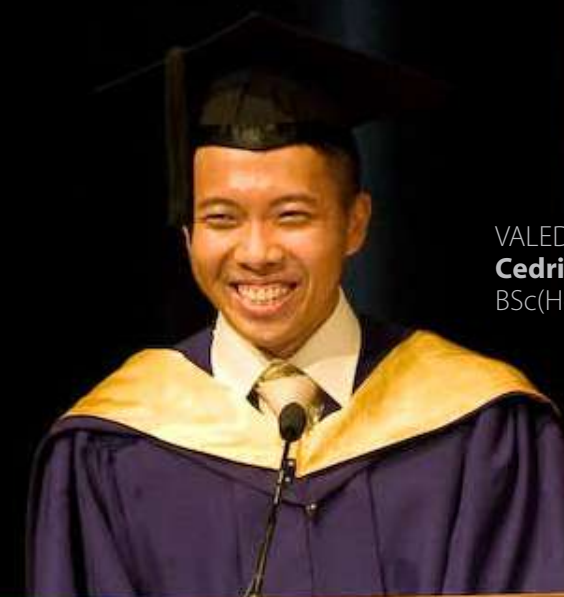
Commencement 2009

for Science students were held on 8 and 9 Jul. During the academic year, Faculty of Science conferred degrees on 1,217 undergraduates, 173 master's degrees and 115 doctors of philosophy.

Over the last few years, we have invited prominent alumni or distinguished members of the business community and industry to address students and impart a few words of inspiration. Top students have been invited to represent their class. This year, two valedictorians were invited for each ceremony.

Picture gallery and full transcripts of the speeches can be found at:

www.science.nus.edu.sg/alumni/getinvolved/commencement2009.html



VALEDICTORIAN:
Cedric TAI Kai Wei
BSc(Hons) 2009



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Commencement 2009

Commencement Speakers and Valedictorians for the four ceremonies were:

8 July at 3:00pm

SPEAKER:

Ms SAW Phaik Hwa, BSc 1977, BSc(Hons) 1978
President and CEO, SMRT Corporation Ltd

VALEDICTORIAN:

KEE Choon Wee, BSc(Hons) 2009

VALEDICTORIAN:

Paulina Elena SALIM, BSc(Hons) 2009

8 July at 8:00pm

SPEAKER:

Dr Steve LAI, Chief Executive Officer,
PSB Academy Pte Ltd

VALEDICTORIAN:

Lena LUI Wai Yi, PhD 2009

VALEDICTORIAN:

Cedric TAI Kai Wei, BSc(Hons) 2009

9 July at 10:00am

SPEAKER:

Professor Leo TAN Wee Hin, BSc 1968,
BSc(Hons) 1969, PhD 1974
Director (Special Projects), NUS Faculty of Science

VALEDICTORIAN:

Dilys GOH Pei Qi, BSc(Hons)(Pharmacy) 2009

9 July at 3:00pm

Shared with NUS Graduate School Integrative
Sciences & Engineering (NGS)

SPEAKER:

Dr HANG Kim Hoo, BSc 1982, BSc(Hons) 1983,
MSc 1999, PhD 2008
Principal, NUS High School of Mathematics
and Science

VALEDICTORIAN:

Dr Lina LIM Shushan (NGS)

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From the Class of

1990

FOO Hee Jug, BSc(Hons) in Mathematics, has been appointed chief executive officer of the new Jurong General Hospital, to be completed in 2014. Hee Jug, who began his hospital career as operations executive at Changi General Hospital in 1993, leaves Singapore General Hospital as chief operations officer and group chief procurement officer of the SingHealth Group. He holds an MBA and a MPH from the Anderson School, University of California, Los Angeles, USA. He is also a recipient of the Outstanding Science Alumni Award in 2007.

2002

Sirichai CHONGCHITNAN, BSc(Hons) in Pure and Applied Mathematics, is now a Darby Fellow in Applied Mathematics, Lincoln College, and a Postdoctoral Researcher in Astrophysics at University of Oxford.

2003

CHEUNG Yin Bun, MSc in Statistics, has returned to Singapore to be principal biostatistician at the Singapore Clinical Research Institute,

and to take up a full professorship at the Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School. Previously he was a senior lecturer, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Yin Bun holds a PhD from the University of London, UK.

TAN Meng Chwan, MSc, PhD 2007 in Physics, was an NUS Overseas Postdoctoral Fellowship with Anton Kapustin in California Institute of Technology (Caltech). He has returned to take up the position of Assistant Professor in the Department of Physics.

2004

KUAN Pei-Fen, BSc(Hons) in Statistics, Saw Swee Hock Medal winner, has obtained a PhD from University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is now a research assistant professor at University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

2006

KONG Efang PhD in Statistics is now a lecturer at the University of Kent in the Institute of Mathematics, Statistics and Actuarial Sciences.



Keep in touch

with the Faculty of Science. Tell us what you have been doing since graduation.

Write to the editor,
karenwong@nus.edu.sg.

www.science.nus.edu.sg/alumni/alumninews.html

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In Memoriam

We mourn the passing of **Emeritus Professor KIANG Ai Kim**, DipSc 1938, on 18 Jul 09. He was an eminent scientist, dear friend and colleague, and beloved professor of Chemistry. During his years at, first Raffles College, University of Malaya, University of Singapore and then National University of Singapore, E/Prof Kiang held many positions, including Head of Chemistry, Dean of Science, Master of Raffles Hall, and member of both the University Senate and Council. E/Prof Kiang was a recipient of the Faculty's Distinguished Science Alumni Award in 2004.

The Kiang Ai Kim Scholarship Fund was setup to commemorate E/Prof Kiang's 85th birthday. To find out more, please visit: www.chemistry.nus.edu.sg/kak/kak_scholars.htm



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Freshman Orientation Projects 2009
Brenda Chai

2009 Freshmen Orientation Projects

(FOP) was led by **Jasmine Tay**, comprised five projects, namely Science Camp (SCAMP), Science Orientation Week (SOW), Flag, Rag and Dinner & Dance. This year's theme was a continuation of the past four years' – 'US! Never-ending passion, concerted efforts'. We chose to continue this theme as we wanted to establish a sense of identity between the seniors and freshmen to link the FOPs annually. 'US' or 'United Science', created platforms to unite the entire faculty through activities. 'Never-ending passion, concerted efforts', highlights the importance of having passion in the projects and combining everybody's effort for a successful orientation. The five FOPs worked together to help raise awareness of the Faculty's 80th Anniversary celebrations.



SCAMP, led by project director **Joyce Tay**, was held between 22 and 26 Jun 09; **SOW**, held between 29 Jul and 8 Aug 09, was directed by Lee Yuan Chun. Participants from SCAMP and SOW were actively recruited for Rag and Flag. They were involved in float-building, dancing and flagging.

Rag, held on 8 Aug, was spearheaded **Wang Wei Yang** and, this year, we presented our very own story of "Jill and the Beanstalk", a story of a little girl, Jill, who sets off on an uncertain journey to discover a wondrous land of exploding colours. Like Jill, Science Rag set foot on a similar journey, threading onto new



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Freshman Orientation Projects 2009 (Cont'd)

grounds as we learned new skills and techniques, and finally producing a fine piece of work we could proudly call our own. The process of creating the float was made as environmentally friendly as possible. For example, The Faculty's 80th Anniversary disposable plastic mineral water bottles issued to campers in SCAMP and SOW were distributed in a bid to let our freshmen know about the faculty's anniversary while they quenched their thirst. Rag then recycled these bottles as parts of the Science Rag float.



Flag, on 4 Aug, was led by project director **Lee Pei Ying**. This year's theme was "Hands-on Love, Touching Lives". By encouraging everyone to get actively involved in helping the less fortunate, we aimed to make a difference in their lives. This year, SOW freshmen and seniors alike were out in full

force on NUS Flag Day. Science managed to clinch the Gold Award again, a validation of all the support and effort put in by freshmen, seniors, alumni and staff alike!



The aim of **D & D** was to acknowledge everyone – the freshmen, the seniors in the camps, the committees behind FOP, our sponsors, the Dean's Office, and not forgetting those behind the scenes. Everyone made a difference by helping in each FOP event, no matter how large or small their contribution. "Le Gala Mascarada – The Façade of Dreams", was headed by **Jane Chan**.

All in all, the 5 FOPs worked hard to share with freshmen the Faculty's 80th Anniversary celebrations while we welcomed them to the Science family and exposed them to the Science spirit.

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80th Anniversary Bash and NUS Arts Festival 2009

On 27 Feb 09, the Faculty of Science joined the Faculties of Arts & Social Sciences and Dentistry to celebrate 80 years of educating young men and women in Singapore. The 80th Anniversary Bash was held at the new Shaw Foundation Alumni House. Students, faculty, staff and alumni came to witness the unveiling of sculptures carved by members of the NUS community, under the guidance of renowned sculptor CHONG Fah Cheong, an alumnus of the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences. These sculptures are located at the Alumni Terrace. They symbolise a confluence of global partnerships and vibrant networking.



On the same evening, the Faculty of Science continued our celebrations at the University Cultural Centre with the launch of our 'Discoveries in Science' exhibition to showcase the diversity of research within the Faculty. In addition to the exhibition, and in partnership with Centre For the Arts, the anniversary launch events included lectures, movies, dance performances and workshops that joined science with the arts. The theme for NUS Arts Festival 2009 was Art + Environment.



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Anniversary Lectures

For this anniversary year, the Faculty of Science specially invited four eminent scientists to introduce their science to the public.



1 April

Professor Serge Haroche

"Power and the strangeness of the quantum"



2 July

Professor Sir Richard Friend,

FRS, FEng
Tan Chin Tuan Centennial Professor,
National University of Singapore
Cavendish Professor, University of
Cambridge

"Plastic electronics for large area display and solar cells – challenges and prospects"



23 April

Professor Jeremy Bloxham

Dean of Science, Faculty Arts &
Sciences
Harvard University

"Solar System Planetary Magnetic Fields"



3 June

Professor Andre Geim

Langworthy Research Professor
Chair of Condense Matter Physics
Director of Manchester Centre for
Mesoscience and Nanotechnology
University of Manchester

"Graphene: Magic of Flat Carbon"

The Faculty is also proud to co-host Lee Kuan Yew Distinguished Visitor and former UK Astronomer Royal **Lord Martin Rees** during his visit to Singapore 24-29 Aug 09. During his visit to NUS, Lord Rees presented a lecture *"Our Universe, and the Role of Life in It"* to more than 400 faculty, students and members of the public.

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Out Of The Blue - A Party For Graduating Students



On the evening of 16 May, more than 200 students and staff of the Faculty of Science attended Out of the Blue. It was the first post-exam event specially organised as an 80th Anniversary treat for graduating students, and hosted by the Dean's Office. Several alumni joined in as well. They had a rousing time as everyone enjoyed the live performances by students and professionals, participating in games and networking.

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80th Anniversary Photography Competition



One of the 80th anniversary celebration events was a photography competition that was open to students and staff. The competition started accepting submissions at the beginning of August and, by the end of the month, had received 165 entries.

The competition was in two categories.

“Art in Science” is described as moments when Science meets Art. Images should show the wonders of science and the beauty of scientific phenomena. They can be natural or created in research activities to show the connection that is Art in Science.

“Life in Science” depicts the lives of people in science – in labs, in classrooms, on field trips, in student clubs enjoying camps, orientation activities and events. They show the human side of stories in Science.

A total of 49 staff and students sent in entries for Art in Science and 28 sent in their pictures for Life in Science.

Members of the Faculty – students and staff – were encouraged to rate their favourite pictures by giving each 1 to 5 stars. Voting ended on 30 Sep.

Good pictures will be displayed around the Faculty; - the best pictures receiving up to \$2,000 worth of prizes. Judges were drawn from the media, academia and students. Winning pictures will be printed on the Faculty’s 2010 calendar.

All pictures may be viewed by clicking on a link from the website.

www.science.nus.edu.sg/80/photocomp/



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Dinner With A Difference

Mark our 80th Anniversary by **MAKING A DIFFERENCE** – a difference in the lives of our needy and deserving students.

Today, with such uncertainties and complexities, our students need to be well-prepared and equipped for their future. Helping these students by ensuring that they are not disadvantaged because of financial circumstances is important to establish a holistic education that is not compromised.

Thus, we wish to boost our two student funds – **Science Student Fund** (SSF) and **Science Student Overseas Exposure Fund** (SSOEF) – with our 80th anniversary efforts and gifts.

For more information, please visit:
www.science.nus.edu.sg/aboutfos/giving

Here is how you can Make A Difference!

Make a gift of \$200.00 (or more) and join us for *Dinner with a Difference*.

Please direct enquiries to Manjeet 6516 7641 or Karen 6516 8198 or email giving@science.nus.edu.sg.



80th Anniversary Dinner With A Difference!

TIME:
6:30 PM

DATE:
24 OCTOBER 2009, SATURDAY

PLACE:
THE GRAND BALLROOM
SHERATON TOWERS
SINGAPORE

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80th Anniversary Events

The Faculty of Science 80th Anniversary Celebrations began on 27 February and will end on 24 October with a Reunion. Visit our website: www.science.nus.edu.sg

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 27 FEB | 80th Anniversary Bash
Science Celebrates | 22 JUN | Darwin, Wallace, and Evolution –
Celebrating a Major Paradigm Shift in Science
Biological Sciences 60th Anniversary Celebrations |
| 27 - 15 FEB | NUS Arts Festival – Arts + Environment
In partnership with NUS Centre For the Arts | 22 JUN | Birthday of the Faculty |
| 28 - 15 MAR | “Discoveries of Science” exhibition
Faculty of Science 80th Anniversary Exhibition | 1 - 28 JUN | Statistical Genomics
Jointly organised by Institute for Mathematical Sciences,
Departments of Mathematics and Statistics & Applied Probability |
| 21 MAR - 30 APR | “Discoveries of Science” exhibition
At the Science Centre Singapore | 22 - 27 JUN | Eleventh Asian Logic Conference
Jointly organised by Institute for Mathematical Sciences,
Department of Mathematics and the Faculty of Science |
| APR - AUG | IMS Public Lecture series | JUL - SEPT | 80th Anniversary Photography Competition |
| 1 APR | Centre for Quantum Technologies Public Lecture:
Power and Strangeness of the Quantum
Professor Serge HAROCHE | 1 JUL - 30 AUG | Mathematical Theory and Numerical Methods
for Computational Materials Simulation and Design
Jointly organised by Institute for Mathematical Sciences
and Department of Mathematics |
| 23 APR | Science Public Lecture: Solar System Planetary
Magnetic Fields
Professor Jeremy BLOXHAM, Harvard University | 2 JUL | Science Public Lecture:
Plastic Electronics for Large Area Displays and Solar Cells
Tan Chin Tuan Centennial Professor Sir Michael Friend |
| MAY - SEPT | Amazing Science X-Challenge | 6, 8 & 9 JUL | Commencement Ceremonies for Science |
| 11 - 16 MAY | Food Science and Technology
10th Anniversary Celebration | 25 JUL | Department of Biological Sciences 60th Anniversary High Tea |
| 16 MAY | Out of the Blue | 18 AUG - 19 SEPT | Department of Biological Sciences Lecture Series |
| 23 MAY | Faculty of Science Open House | 6 AUG | Dean’s Welcome Tea |
| 30 MAY | National Chemistry Week
Chemistry 80th Anniversary Celebration | 12 - 16 OCT | Science & Medical Library:
Celebrating a Legacy of Knowledge Creation |
| 3 JUN | Science Public Lecture: Graphene
– Magic of Flat Carbon
Professor Andrew GEIM | 16 OCT | First Singapore Conference on Statistical Finance |
| | | 24 OCT | Faculty of Science 80th Anniversary Dinner
with a Difference and Alumni Awards |