

Mr Johnny Tan Khoon Hui

Science '82

Sowing Futures

As they heaved garden hoes and nestled young saplings into the soil at Kranji Coastal Nature Park, Mr Johnny Tan and his colleagues had a brainwave. Could NUS combat climate change while helping students in need of financial assistance?

In September 2022, the concept for the Plant-It-Forward Challenge was conceived — a fundraising initiative that helps students, regardless of their financial circumstances, have access to education. For every S\$1,000 donated to the Enhanced Financial Aid Scheme, NUS will plant one tree on campus.

Co-led by Mr Tan, then Co-Chairperson of the NUS Alumni Advisory Board (AAB), the initiative has planted more than 1,000 trees since its launch in 2023.

Mr Tan, an NUS Science graduate, has given back to the University and its alumni community for more than two decades. Since 2003, he has been a member of the National University of Singapore Society (NUSS) Management Committee, holding positions as Vice President from 2005 to 2008 and President from 2008 to 2012. He played a pivotal role in the establishment of guild houses at Suntec City, Bukit Timah, and Mandalay, as well as the Alumni Complex, which comprises the Shaw Foundation Alumni House and the revamped Kent Ridge Guild House. For his efforts, he was awarded the NUS Distinguished Alumni Service Award in 2009.

He also helped create the Alumni Bursary Fund Campaign and championed the NUSS-NUS Student Mentorship Programme.

In 2009, he joined the NUS AAB, where he served for 15 years, and was Co-Chairperson from 2018 to 2024. He was instrumental in developing alumni engagement strategies for the University and redesigning the Board's renewal process to attract younger alumni and ensure balanced representation.

During his tenure, he also took on the role of founding Chairman of the Alumni Student Advancement Committee from 2013 to 2019, cultivating the spirit of giving within the alumni community to support the social mobility of underprivileged NUS students.

From 2012 to 2017, he was a co-opted member of the NUS Board of Trustees, where he served on the Development Committee.

Mr Tan has been no less successful in his career, with 25 years of experience in the business consulting and enterprise solutions sector, where he held senior management positions in various multinational corporations. He has also served on healthcare boards and committees, working to enhance community healthcare.



Mr Yeo Keng Joon

MBA '85

Business Meets Purpose: A Catalyst for Good

For four decades, Mr Yeo Keng Joon has given back to the NUS community, living by the mantra "be good, do good".

His journey with NUS began in 1982 when he enrolled in the Master of Business Administration (MBA) programme. Though already successful, having risen through the ranks of the Adhesives Far East Group after graduating from the University of Malaya in 1973, he believed that effective leadership required expertise in marketing, finance, and human resources.

The move paid off. Graduating from NUS in 1985 with a well-rounded understanding of business management, Mr Yeo successfully set up the aquaculture arm of Gold Coin — a poultry feed company — in 1988. Starting with a simple plant in Johor Bahru, Malaysia, business flourished, and he set up several factories across Southeast Asia. With his entrepreneurial talent, he branched out on his own, establishing Global Aquaculture Indonesia in 1997 and Bharat Luxindo Agrifeeds in India in 2006.

Throughout this time, Mr Yeo also dedicated himself to actively supporting and strengthening his alma mater and its alumni. Mr Yeo's service to NUS began in 1985 when he was on the pro-tem committee for MBA Alumni, culminating in him taking over as President in 1997. In 2000, he was persuaded to help set up the NUS Business School Alumni Association (NUSBSA) and was the founding President.

In 2006, he rallied other like-minded alumni to give back and spearheaded the NUSBSA bursary fund, personally donating S\$25,000 to kickstart the fund. He also became an inaugural member of the NUS Alumni Advisory Board the same year. He was invited to join the Alumni Student Advancement Committee in 2014, raising funds for needy students in NUS through charity initiatives. One of his initiatives, the NUS Campus Couples Bursary, even attracted support from former Prime Minister Mr Goh Chok Tong (Arts '64, HonLLD '15).

For his contributions, Mr Yeo was awarded the NUS Distinguished Alumni Service Award in 2007; the NUS Business School Eminent Alumni Special Service Award in 2008; the Outstanding Member of NUS Society Award in 2023; and most recently, the Faculty of Science Outstanding Alumni Award in 2024.

Beyond philanthropy, Mr Yeo spent time mentoring the next generation of entrepreneurs in Singapore as Co-Chairman of Startup@Singapore business plan competitions from 2000 to 2012 and the DBS-NUS Social Venture Challenge Asia from 2013 to 2016. He also regularly speaks at NUS Business School and NUS Entrepreneurship Society events.



Ms Chung Wing Lam

Science '09

Service and Mentorship: A Prescription for a Fulfilling Career

When a COVID-19-stricken world was forced to shift operations online in 2020, Ms Chung Wing Lam was stunned. How would she — as a pharmacist — continue dispensing medications and providing health advice to her patients?

The Senior Principal Clinical Pharmacist at health and beauty chain Watsons quickly adapted — collaborating with pharmacy and marketing teams to produce live and recorded videos for the company's social media platforms.

Each time, she would don her white coat and dispense health advice on topics such as sinus conditions and digestive health. When antigen rapid test kits were rolled out in June 2021, she demonstrated the use of these kits to educate both the public and her co-workers. She was named "COVID-19 Superhero" by Watsons in 2022.

The NUS Pharmacy graduate has given back to NUS as a mentor, teacher, and advisor since 2013. She began mentoring pharmacy students in the InSPIRXE Mentorship Programme in 2020 and has spoken at faculty workshops and events.

She is a member of the Singapore Pharmacy Council Pre-Registration Training Development Committee, reviewing the pre-registration training for pharmacy interns and graduates. In 2024, she joined the NUS Faculty of Science Alumni-Student Mentorship Programme.

In 2021, she was an invited contributor to the FIP-WiSE toolkit by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) to help shape positive practice environments for women in science and education (WiSE). She is also a pharmacist vaccinator in the Community Pharmacist Influenza Vaccination Sandbox initiative by the Ministry of Health (MOH).

A strong advocate of lifelong learning, she has obtained Board Certification in Pharmacotherapy and Geriatric Pharmacy, a master's in Clinical Pharmacy Practice, a Graduate Certificate in Advanced Pharmacy Practice, and an Executive Certificate in Healthcare Law and Ethics.

Ms Chung has been consistently recognised by the Singapore Retailers Association (SRA) with the Excellent Service Award, receiving the Star Award seven times from 2017 to 2024, and the SRA Service SuperStar Award in 2018. She also received the SkillsFuture Study Award for Healthcare Sector by the MOH in 2022; the Singapore Pharmacy Council Excellent Preceptor Award 2019; and was named the Pharmaceutical Society of Singapore-LF Asia Community Pharmacist of the Year in 2015.



Dr Sui Xiaonan

Science PhD '16

Creating a Legacy in Food Science

After completing his PhD in Food Science and Technology at NUS, Dr Sui Xiaonan could have stayed within his comfort zone of academic research. But his exceptional innovation and leadership potential led him to receive a grant from the National Science Fund for Distinguished Young Scholars, making him the youngest recipient in the food science field.

He returned to Northeast Agricultural University in China after graduation to conduct research on soy proteins, but fate would lead him back to Singapore just a year later to finalise a media feature on collaborative research with his mentor, Professor Zhou Weibiao.

This resulted in a diabetic-friendly bread using anthocyanin-rich black rice, which captured global attention and marked his foray beyond academic research.

Today, he is not only a prolific researcher but a serial innovator, developing meat alternatives for the food industry.

In 2023, Dr Sui co-founded Zhiran Food Science and Technology in Shanghai, establishing China's first high-moisture plant meat production line with independent intellectual property rights. His technologies have been implemented by major food companies, developing novel plant-based alternatives that promote both health and environmental sustainability.

His academic output has kept pace, with 185 peer-reviewed articles published in leading journals. Nine of his papers rank among the top 1 per cent of highly cited research, with his work garnering over 9,000 citations. Stanford University has consistently recognised him among the world's Top 2% Scientists from 2022 to 2025.

Dr Sui continues to foster connections with both NUS and the NUS (Suzhou) Research Institute, sending PhD students for joint doctoral training and serving as an external mentor. He has also supervised 60 undergraduates, 111 master's students, and 25 PhD students.

His contributions have earned him global recognition. He received the International Union of Food Science and Technology Young Scientist Award in 2022, and became the first Chinese recipient of the American Oil Chemists' Society Young Scientist Research Award. He was also awarded the highly selective Young Scientist Award by the American Chemical Society's Division of Agricultural and Food Chemistry in 2023.

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Dr Jackie Tan

Science + USP '12

Turning Personal Tragedy into Systems Change

When Dr Jackie Tan's father contracted lung cancer, he discovered that the insurance policy he had bought was unsuitable. With his insurance agent uncontactable and the medical costs prohibitively high, he declined all treatment. He never recovered.

That loss became a defining moment. Dr Tan began his journey at NUS as a Life Sciences and University Scholars Programme major, dedicating his early years to cancer research and drug discovery. In his pursuit of multidisciplinary excellence, a stint in the lab opened unexpected doors — watching colleagues wrangle massive genomic datasets with Python inspired him to pick up coding. That hobby quickly became a passion after he graduated.

While pursuing a PhD at Nanyang Technological University in 2015, where he combined machine learning with biology, Dr Tan participated in a hackathon where he co-founded his first start-up, fundMyLife, to bridge the gap between consumers and financial advisors — ensuring others would not be left in the dark like his family was. That company was later acquired.

Following that, he joined the founding team of InfoCorp, a blockchain-based fintech company focused on financial inclusion for farmers in developing countries. He then served as Chief Academic Officer at UpCode Academy, where he shaped technical education initiatives. Building on that foundation, he founded UpLevel, which upskilled thousands in artificial intelligence and data science through apprenticeship programmes and job placements.

Dr Tan later served as Head of Product and Head of Academy at Tribe, where he built Web3 developer ecosystems and led Tribe Academy to become a government-recognised training provider. His most recent venture, BorderDollar, is a cross-border payments platform helping businesses move money faster and more efficiently, reflecting his continued commitment to solving systemic problems through technology.

Dr Tan gives back regularly to the student community through talks and mentorship sessions, including speaking engagements at NUS College. He also organises alumni engagement initiatives such as PowerPoint parties, creating informal spaces for alumni to connect meaningfully. Having once been a recipient of financial aid himself, he now contributes to the NUS College Alumni–Albert Teo Bursary as a way of paying it forward to support financially disadvantaged students.

In recognition of his impact in tech, Dr Tan was named to the Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia list in 2018 and selected as one of *Tatler Asia*'s Gen. T Leaders of Tomorrow in 2023.

Congratulations to our alumni!