In appreciation of
His Excellency S R Nathan
J Y Pillay helms University Town’s third residential college

NUS has appointed renowned policy maker J Y Pillay, Chairman of the Council of Presidential Advisers and Adjunct Professor at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, as the Rector of its third residential college at University Town. The College also has a newly appointed Master, Assoc Prof Adeline Seow from NUS’ Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health. Both appointments, effective 1 July 2011, are for a three-year term.

As a non-residential, non-executive head of the College, the Rector together with the Master, will chart the strategic direction and help shape the academic tone of the residential college. The Rector will also facilitate programmes and host distinguished visitors for the College, and work with the Master to build a sense of community and belonging among residents and Fellows.

Prof Pillay said that his vision for the College is to provide a supportive and enriching learning environment for the students, one that will not only allow them to stretch intellectually, but also acquire relevant skills that will give them a competitive advantage in the working world.

On Prof Pillay’s appointment, NUS Deputy President (Academic Affairs) and Provost Prof Tan Eng Chye said: “With his illustrious career in both the civil service and corporate world, our students would greatly benefit from his rich industry experience and acquire practical life skills that will serve them well when they enter the workforce.”

Opening in August 2012, this third College seeks to promote active citizenship and community engagement through a well-designed curriculum.

Simon Chesterman to be the next Dean of Law

The NUS Law School has found its next Dean following an extensive international search by a Committee led by the University’s Provost. Prof Simon Chesterman, the School’s Vice Dean of Graduate Studies, will take over from Prof Tan Cheng Han as NUS Law’s 14th Dean from January 2012.

Said NUS President Prof Tan Chorh Chuan of the new Dean-designate: “In Prof Simon Chesterman, an outstanding international scholar and passionate educator, we have a new Dean with the vision and leadership to bring NUS Law to even greater heights of excellence.”

Prof Chesterman has extensive international experience and is widely regarded as one of the world’s leading experts on the United Nations (UN), particularly its Security Council. He has been called upon to assist in evaluating UN agencies and the international policies of governments in Europe and North America. He has also taught at various renowned universities, including the University of Oxford and Columbia University.

Prof Chesterman will succeed Prof Tan Cheng Han who has held the position since May 2001 and is the longest-serving Dean in the School’s history. Expressing the University’s deep appreciation to the outgoing Law Dean for his transformative leadership of the School, Prof Tan said: “He has raised NUS Law to new heights with a global and Asian outlook, and established groundbreaking partnerships with leading overseas partners such as New York University.”
In appreciation of NUS’ 8th Chancellor S R Nathan

Students, staff, senior administrators and alumni gathered for an appreciation dinner hosted by NUS on 28 October 2011 in honour of His Excellency Mr S R Nathan, Singapore’s 6th President and former NUS Chancellor.

Reminiscing about his varsity days at the University of Malaya which later became NUS, Mr Nathan shared that university education had taught him many lessons. “The university gave me an entrée to knowledge. Over time the experience taught me how to use this knowledge and apply myself to the many tasks that were given to me, all without a brief…. The university enabled me to face circumstances in each of my careers because I was fortified by the knowledge I had acquired in the university,” Mr Nathan told the guests.

He added: “Mr Nathan really cares about people. At NUS, we feel very privileged that as our Chancellor, Mr Nathan also cared deeply about our community and our institution. He was truly generous with his time, wise counsel and energy. Through his many initiatives and actions, he touched the lives of countless students, faculty, staff and alumni and was a source of inspiration for many. For this, we are indeed very grateful.”

In a jovial mood at the dinner, Mr Nathan not only gave an impromptu speech on the important role of the university in his life, he also responded candidly to questions posed by the audience during a dialogue session moderated by NUS Vice Provost (Student Life) Prof Tan Tai Yong. He was asked questions such as what were his most memorable moments as NUS Chancellor, whether he felt that students today were less engaged with what was happening in society than students of his generation, if he ever thought as a student that he would be the President of Singapore one day and other aspirations he had harboured, as well as the kind of President Singapore needs.

Representing the students, Honorary General Secretary of NUS Students’ Union Mr Lee Wei Liang also spoke at the event, thanking Mr Nathan for his unstinting efforts in engaging students of the University, such as taking time to grace activities and helping to raise funds for student bursaries.

A tribute video, where various representatives from the NUS community expressed their well wishes and appreciation for Mr Nathan’s many contributions, was also screened at the close of the dinner.

Mr Nathan was Singapore’s President from 1999 to 2011. As State President, Mr Nathan was concurrently the Chancellor of NUS, a position he relinquished in September 2011. NUS’ new Chancellor is Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, the 7th President of Singapore.

NUS President Prof Tan Chorh Chuan, who first met Mr Nathan at an Academy of Medicine event in 2003, said that Mr Nathan’s most notable and appreciated quality is his genuine warmth and ability to put others at ease, which spring from his sincere interest in people and deep sense of humanism.
NIHA Forum discusses issues in fighting chronic disease in Asia

To focus on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) for the second NUS Initiative to Improve Health in Asia (NIHA) Forum was an apt and timely choice, considering the severe challenge posed by NCDs to societies, said Singapore Minister for Health Mr Gan Kim Yong at the NIHA Forum themed “Combating Chronic Disease in Asia – Gaps and Innovations”, organised by NUS on 1 November 2011.

Advocating a preventive approach and multi-sectoral collaboration in the fight against NCDs, Mr Gan also emphasised the need for governments to work closely with prominent academic institutions that can provide reliable data and a strong evidence base for policy and action. He noted that NIHA reflects the direction that health policies are heading in the future by integrating leadership and research to aid in the formulation of sound health policies.

The two-day forum was attended by some 80 high-level participants, including directors of health in the region and healthcare policy academics and experts. President of the Institute of Medicine in the United States Prof Harvey Fineberg gave the keynote lecture where he outlined six criteria for intervention choices and 10 strategies to address chronic disease in Asia.

NIHA is coordinated by the NUS Global Asia Institute, in collaboration with the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine and NUS Business School. Supported by the GSK-EDB Trust Fund, NIHA is an integrative initiative set up in July 2010 to improve public health and healthcare delivery in Asia.

Education leaders share insights at Second China-India-Singapore Dialogue

The Second China-India-Singapore Dialogue on Higher Education was held on 21 October 2011 at the NUS University Hall. The event was organised by NUS’ Office of the Vice President (University and Global Relations), East Asian Institute and Institute of South Asian Studies, in collaboration with the Asia Research Institute and International Relations Office.

Focusing on the topic “Models of Public and Private Higher Education”, this year’s Dialogue featured six distinguished education leaders from China, India and Singapore. They were Prof Han Min, Deputy Director-General, National Centre for Education Development Research, China Ministry of Education; Prof Zhu Qingshi, President, South University of Science & Technology, China; Dr Pawan Agarwal, Adviser (Education), Planning Commission, India; Prof Pankaj Chandra, Director, Indian Institute of Management in Bangalore; Mrs Tan Ching Yee, Permanent Secretary, Singapore Ministry of Education; and Prof Tan Chorh Chuan, NUS President.

The speakers shared insights on higher education reform, opportunities and challenges; and the governance of public and non-governmental institutions in their respective countries. Prof Tan spoke on the corporatisation of NUS and its impact and challenges. Commenting on the governance of universities, he identified the central challenge as that of balancing between the need for more autonomy so as to respond appropriately and competitively to changes in the higher education landscape and the importance of strong alignment of the activities of publicly funded organisations to national goals and imperatives.

Other than academic autonomy, other issues on how to promote multidisciplinarity, bring poorly performing institutions up to acceptable standards, and compare and benchmark institutions, were also discussed during the question and answer sessions.

(From left) Vice President (University and Global Relations) Prof Lily Kong, Prof Han, Dr Agarwal and Mrs Tan during one of the dialogue sessions

(From left) Prof Fineberg engaging the audience in a session chaired by NUS-GAI Director Prof Seetharam Kallidaikurichi E
The World Trade Organisation (WTO), together with the NUS Law School and Centre for International Law (CIL), launched the WTO Chairs Programme (WCP) in Singapore on 4 October 2011. The Programme supports and promotes trade-related academic activities by universities and research institutions in various countries.

NUS emerged as the latest Chair of the Programme among 15 others after a competitive round of proposals. Assoc Prof Michael Ewing-Chow from the University’s Law School, who is also Head of Trade/Investment Law & Policy at CIL, was appointed the first WTO Chair for Singapore.

Said CIL’s Chairman and Ambassador-at-Large at Singapore’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs Prof Tommy Koh: “The launch of the Singapore Chair marks another milestone in Singapore’s partnership with the WTO.” He added that the establishment of the WTO Chair at NUS plugged its Law School into a strong network of 15 distinguished universities around the world who put their thought leadership towards supporting the WTO and its activities, and enabled CIL to gain access to the growing discourse of international trade law and the norm-setting functions of the WTO.

Inaugural WTO Policy Dialogue for senior government officials from Asian economies

Some 50 senior trade officials and experts from 24 countries convened in Singapore for the inaugural WTO Policy Dialogue jointly organised by WTO, the NUS Law School and CIL from 5 to 7 October 2011.

Guest-of-Honour Mr Lee Yi Shyan, Singapore Minister of State for Trade and Industry, said: “The Policy Dialogue is relevant and timely in its agenda, allowing for substantive discussions about the continued importance of a multilateral trade agenda, the relevance of the Doha Development Agenda goals, and the future challenges which we will face together.”

Partnering one of the world’s leading institutions in public health

The NUS Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health (SSHSPH) and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) entered into a partnership which will strengthen research and education in infectious disease control, health systems and chronic diseases with an Asian focus.

Vice-Director of LSHTM Prof Anne Mills and SSHSPH Dean Prof Chia Kee Seng signed an agreement on 31 October 2011, formalising this collaboration.

Sharing the two institutions’ collaborative plans in the next few years, Prof Chia said that they will embark on two key projects, namely, the Population Health Metrics and Analytics (PHMA) project and the Master of Public Health (MPH) course.

He explained: “The first collaboration, the PHMA, leverages cutting-edge technology to bring together researchers and practitioners from both schools and multiple disciplines to integrate the disparate areas of public health research and make it relevant and accessible to practitioners like policy makers by generating usable real-world projections. In our MPH collaboration, we will draw upon each other’s experience and expertise in developing our graduates to work towards improving the health of populations.”

First Singapore Chair of WTO programme established at NUS

The signing was witnessed by the United Kingdom Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills Dr Vince Cable, Singapore Minister of State for Health Dr Amy Khor, and Chief Executive of the National University Health System Assoc Prof Benjamin Ong.

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NUS needs to focus, differentiate and synergise to meet new challenges in the changing global higher education landscape, said NUS President Prof Tan Chorh Chuan at his annual State of the University Address held on 14 October 2011 at the University Cultural Centre.

Addressing some 330 guests, including NUS Pro-Chancellors, Board of Trustees, senior management, staff and students, Prof Tan used the analogy of marine iguanas to stress the importance of reading changes and making timely and appropriate responses. Spotted along the beaches of the Galapagos Islands, marine iguanas have the habit of “sky-pointing”, that is, shifting their positions whenever they feel too hot. In 1995, when a volcano erupted on one of the islands, the sea iguanas, not knowing what had caused the heat, pointed to the sky as usual. Many perished as a result. The story highlighted the risks of continuing to do what one was used to doing, even though changing circumstances demanded different types of action, said Prof Tan.

In the context of NUS, it is critical to understand the changing global higher education landscape and position ourselves strategically. Prof Tan shared three key trends observed: the globalisation of universities around the world, the dramatic birth and growth of new peaks in higher education in Asia, and the intensifying competition for top talent among the world’s universities. To face these challenges, Prof Tan proposed three strategies: focus, differentiate and synergise.

On “focus”, Prof Tan highlighted that in the area of research, the University had to sharpen its focus to gain maximum leverage from its finite resources, existing strengths and comparative advantages. And he cited the example of NUS’ core focus areas in health research and some of its strategic initiatives and partnerships.

In pursuit of differentiation that created distinctive new value, Prof Tan shared that in infrastructure, NUS had undergone much physical transformation, to provide a richer campus experience and enhanced learning opportunities. In terms of academic programmes, Prof Tan said that over the past years, NUS had differentiated itself in offering different academic pathways and would continue to build on these programmes.

On synergy, Prof Tan emphasised the importance of maximising synergy between key programmes within the University as well as between NUS and its global partners.

He concluded with confidence that NUS would continue to do well. He said: “Through our individual and collective efforts, we have the will and the ability to succeed, to position our university strategically in the changing higher education landscape, by making NUS a leading global university centred in Asia.”
Initiatives that exemplify the three strategies

**Focus**
“Our main goal is to be better and faster at bringing basic research discoveries to clinical application; that is from ‘bench-to-bedside’, and then from ‘bedside-to-community’, “ said Prof Tan. He cited the formation of the National University Health System in 2008 which had strongly facilitated “bench-to-bedside” research. To go beyond this to enhance the health of the community, the recent establishment of the NUS Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health will help pave the way. The School will strengthen NUS’ ability to analyse key trends in population health, pilot and evaluate healthcare delivery models and help prevent and respond to new infectious disease epidemics.

**Differentiate**
Besides the newly opened University Town (UTown) which offers a new model of residential college learning, Prof Tan shared that the plan forward is to develop a complementary Campus Core. “Part of this new core will be formed by the University Cultural Centre, Conservatory of Music and the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum that will be built next to them. This cluster will create unique opportunities to mount joint exhibitions and programmes which explore the art, dance, music, culture and natural history of a period or theme,” he said.

In the academic aspect, he said that the Office of the Provost will also formulate new programmes and approaches to strengthen students’ abilities in three core areas – clarity of thinking and communications, cross-cultural effectiveness and cultivation of wider personal and professional networks.

**Synergise**
On maximising synergy between key programmes, Prof Tan shared how NUS Enterprise accelerated the University’s efforts at commercialisation and start-up formation through setting up an Enterprise House which serves as a powerful bridge between the NUS Overseas Colleges programme and their incubator programme. To help NUS start-ups gain access to larger markets, NUS Enterprise had also set up overseas launch pads.

Prof Tan also emphasised the importance of strategic global partnerships and cited the Yale-NUS College as a notable example. He shared that work had begun on the faculty recruitment drive, curriculum development and outreach to prospective students. “The vision of creating a new model of liberal arts education for the future and for Asia, has found resonance with many prospective faculty, students and supporters,” he said.
Paul Volcker on the financial crisis

Former Chairman of the United States Federal Reserve Dr Paul Volcker shared his perspectives on the current financial crisis at a dialogue on 9 November 2011, which was organised by the NUS Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKY School) and moderated by its Dean, Prof Kishore Mahbubani.

Dr Volcker, who was also the Chairman of the US President Barack Obama’s Economic Recovery Advisory Board, fielded questions from the audience, which included academics and private sector leaders.

Commenting on the European debt crisis, Dr Volcker outlined three solutions: bank recapitalisation, the need to provide loans to European nations which are debt-ridden such as Spain and Italy, as well as absolve some banks from having to repay the debt.

“They have the resources in Europe to get it done; or they go to the rest of the world for funds. The rest of the world has a big stake in this. Europe as a whole can manage it, but can it manage it? They all have their own political problems,” said Dr Volcker.

He also discussed the Volcker rule which he had proposed for restricting American banks from proprietary trading, whereby deposits are used to trade on the bank’s personal accounts. The rule is expected to be implemented in July 2012 as part of the Dodd-Frank financial reform bill. Dr Volcker said that lobbying by the financial industry made the proposed regulation much more complex than it needed to be.

Dr Volcker last spoke at NUS in November 2010, also on the invitation of the LKY School, where he addressed the topic of progress in financial sector reform.

NUS hosts MTI Economic Dialogue 2011

The annual MTI Economic Dialogue was held at NUS for the second time on 20 October 2011. Co-organised by the Singapore Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) and the NUS Economics Society, the dialogue saw a lively discussion on economic issues facing Singapore and inclusive growth for the nation across all segments of society.

“Inclusiveness cannot be reduced to a statistic or specific measurable outcome. It is an economic strategy in which every stakeholder – the Government, workers and businesses – has a key role to play; it is a mindset we must all embrace,” said Mr S Iswaran, Minister in the Prime Minister’s Office and Second Minister for Home Affairs and Trade and Industry, on Singapore’s approach to inclusive growth at the session.

Besides the topic of inclusiveness, Mr Iswaran also answered questions on developing a Gross National Happiness Index for Singapore, the establishment of a minimum wage system and how multinational corporations and small and medium enterprises could help economic growth, raised by the audience comprising students from three local universities.

The dialogue closed with a prize presentation ceremony to recognise outstanding Economics students from the participating universities. Mr Desmond Zheng Zhaoqin, who majors in Economics at the NUS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, clinched the MTI (Economist Service) Book Prize for Best Third-Year Student, while recent NUS graduate Miss Ong Eng Hui won the Best Thesis Prize.
Research innovations by spin-off companies set to impact industries

Two NUS spin-off companies, BioLynx Technologies and Nephron Dx, are developing cutting-edge technologies that boost research in malaria and diabetic chronic kidney disease respectively.

Co-founded by two NUS faculty members Dr Martin Lear from the Department of Chemistry and Dr Kevin Tan from the Department of Microbiology, BioLynx is working on the development and commercialisation of its flagship product, LynxTag-CQ™, a useful tool for malaria research.

Currently the only chloroquine-based fluorescent probe in the market, LynxTag-CQ™ allows researchers to visualise intracellular drug-cell interactions in an easy and cost-effective manner. It is also useful for studying topics such as chloroquine resistance, drug uptake, mechanism of drug action, or chemo-sensitisation.

In addition, Dr Tan shared that LynxTag-CQ™ can be used to study mechanisms of other diseases at a cellular level too. “For example, chloroquine is also used in treating immune diseases, cancer and some viral infections. Moving forward, we plan to go beyond just chloroquine, to have a pipeline of products, synthesising chemical tags for other high value drugs,” he said. The use of LynxTag-CQ™ has been featured twice in the prestigious journal Cell Death & Disease.

In the area of diabetic chronic kidney disease, new NUS spin-off company Nephron Dx is developing a diagnostic kit that allows earlier and more accurate detection of the disease. Its diagnostic platform works by detecting nephrin in the patient’s urine sample. Nephrin is a critical protein found on specialised cells, known as podocytes, in the kidney and is necessary for the kidney’s filtration barrier to function properly. The presence of nephrin in the urine means that the kidneys have sustained some damage, and their blood filtering process may have already been compromised.

Said Dr Daniel Ng from the NUS Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, Principal Investigator for this research and Nephron Dx Co-Founder and Scientific Director: “We believe that our platform will be particularly useful for detecting early stage kidney disease, as nephrin is intimately involved in normal kidney function. Nephron Dx plans to develop both disposable dipsticks for patients, as well as quantitative equipment for nephrologists.”

The company has executed an option to license this technology exclusively from NUS and it plans to commercialise the technology into a rapid and sensitive diagnostic kit for the early detection of kidney disease, as well as to predict renal disease progression.

The NUS Industry Liaison Office has filed PCT (Patent Cooperation Treaty) patent applications for both research breakthroughs.

Bi-axial bioreactor to make waves in tissue regeneration market

NUS and Singapore Polytechnic co-developed a bi-axial bioreactor that was exclusively licensed by start-up company, QuinXell Technologies, which is marketing it under the name TisXell. Offering a controlled environment with the optimal combination of nutrients and gases for growing cells, the TisXell bioreactor is ideal for slow-growing cells.

CEO of QuinXell Technologies Dr P T Lau said: “The tissue regeneration market is growing rapidly. The US bone graft and substitutes market alone is expected to grow to US$3.3 billion by 2013. The TisXell bioreactor will allow QuinXell to stake a claim in this emerging market. More importantly, it will revolutionise the way that pre-clinical studies are done in the field of regenerative medicine.”
NUS MBA and EMBA programmes ranked among the world’s best

NUS Business School received double honours for its MBA and EMBA programmes which were ranked among the world’s best by The Princeton Review and Financial Times respectively.

The Princeton Review’s The Best 294 Business Schools: 2012 Edition placed the School’s MBA programme among the top 10 in its ranking of non-US business schools, making it the only business school in Singapore in its list of Best Business Schools (International).

The Princeton Review, an education services company, obtained information through a survey of more than 19,000 students at 294 business schools and data gathered from school administrators. The firm has 11 lists of the top 10 business schools covering aspects such as Best Classroom Experience and Best Career Prospects.

In addition, Financial Times’ Executive MBA Rankings 2011 had ranked two of NUS Business School’s Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA) programmes – the Asia Pacific Executive (APEX) MBA and the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)-NUS Executive MBA – among the world’s top 20.

The APEX MBA moved up eight notches from last year’s 27th position to the current 19th spot, placing it among the top five in Asia. The UCLA-NUS Executive MBA, which was included in the list for the first time, clinched the 9th spot in the world.

Said Dean and Stephen Riady Distinguished Professor of NUS Business School Bernard Yeung following the news release of Financial Times’ rankings: “We are greatly encouraged by the rankings. They are a form of high-level, global recognition that our efforts to attract the very best students from around the world are working, and demonstrate that we are progressing well towards providing the very best education in Asia.”

Top student athletes honoured at NUS Sports Awards 2011

The annual NUS Sports Awards held on 28 October 2011 brought student achievers in tertiary sports and competitions in Academic Year 2010/2011 once again into the limelight.

• NUS Sportswoman of the Year Jasmine Ser clinched a silver medal together with Li Yafei and Cheng Jian Huan in the 10-metre women’s air rifle team event at the Asian Airgun Championships in Kuwait in October 2011. This was the best Singapore team record in four runs of the event to date.

• Among the NUS paddlers selected to represent Singapore in the Asian Canoe Marathon Championships, engineering students Tan Wee Jin and Samuel Wong finished the 30.1km, 7-lap, 7-portage K2 Men Seniors race in first place, clocking 2:29:51; while Lam Weng Ngai from the Faculty of Science and Shawn Lim from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences came in second in 2:31:14.

The President Sports Team Award, the highest accolade among the Awards’ 14 categories, went to the NUS Ladies Dragon Boat Team. The Sportsman of the Year award went to final year medical student Mok Ying Ren; and the Sportswoman of the Year was business student Jasmine Ser Xiang Wei.

This year’s Sports Awards also saw NUS President Prof Tan Chorh Chuan being presented with the teamNUS Captain title, for his strong support and encouragement to NUS athletes and exemplary leadership.

Other award categories this year included the men and ladies Sports Teams of the Year in event, individual sports and team sports; Team Player of the Year; Team Rookie of the Year and Honorary Award. Also given out at the ceremony were the inaugural Sports Scholarships and NUS Sports Grants.
Six NUS scientists receive Singapore’s top honours in science and technology

The President’s Science and Technology Awards (PSTA) 2011 recognised eight outstanding research scientists and engineers and three promising young scientists in Singapore, six of whom were from NUS. Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School’s Vice Dean of Clinical and Faculty Affairs Prof Soo Khee Chee received the most prestigious President’s Science and Technology Medal (PSTM) 2011, becoming the first ever clinician-scientist to achieve this. Past winners included Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine (2002) Dr Sydney Brenner, former Chief Defence Scientist Prof Lui Pao Chuen, and NUS President Prof Tan Chorh Chuan.

Singapore President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam conferred the awards on the eight PSTA winners at a ceremony held on 8 November 2011 organised by Singapore’s Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR).

The event also saw the presentation of the Young Scientist Award (YSA) to three promising research scientists and engineers aged 35 years and below, two of whom were from NUS. The YSA was administered by the Singapore National Academy of Science, with the support of A*STAR, and was presented by Singapore Minister for Trade and Industry Mr Lim Hng Kiang.

President’s Science and Technology Medal
Prof Soo Khee Chee
National Cancer Centre Singapore and Duke-NUS
“For his distinguished, strategic and far-sighted contributions to Singapore’s clinical services and healthcare landscape, particularly in spearheading research led improvements in clinical care, and catalysing research in the public healthcare environment.”

“I am honoured to receive the award. It is a recognition of the importance of both multidisciplinary team effort in science and also the role of clinician scientists in our biomedical sciences initiatives.” – Prof Soo

President’s Science Award
Prof Ooi Beng Chin and Prof Tan Kian Lee
NUS School of Computing
“For their outstanding contributions to database systems research for managing ‘big data’ in large-scale parallel and distributed systems.”

“We were fortunate to have very talented PhD students involved at different stages of the research. This award is also very much a recognition of their accomplishments.” – Prof Tan

President’s Technology Award
Prof Lim Chwee Teck
NUS Departments of Bioengineering and Mechanical Engineering
“For the development and use of novel micro biochips in the detection and diagnosis of human diseases.”

“I am especially proud of the fact that our technology is wholly developed here at NUS. It is truly a Singaporean developed technology and commercialised by a local start-up. We are starting to see it being globally tested and used.” – Prof Lim

Young Scientist Award
Dr Uttamchandani Mahesh
DSO National Laboratories and NUS Department of Chemistry
“For significant interdisciplinary research that bridges chemistry, biology and medicine.”

Dr Yan Shuicheng
NUS Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
“For his research on computer vision, multimedia and machine learning.”

Barry Halliwell receives Ken Bowman Research Award

NUS Deputy President (Research and Technology) Prof Barry Halliwell received the Ken Bowman Research Award at the 13th Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences (ICS) Awards held on 15 October 2011 in Winnipeg, Canada. He was recognised for his significant contributions to the understanding of the role of free radicals and antioxidants in cardiovascular disease.

Said Prof Halliwell: “I am delighted by this international recognition, but also humbled when I think of the many others who have contributed to the work, including my outstanding research collaborators at NUS. The credit really goes to the many innovative and hardworking members of my lab, current and former.” The annual award event recognises leadership and success in promoting cardiovascular research and education as well as lifetime research achievements.
Launch of Chua Thian Poh Community Leadership Programme

NUS has developed a new programme to groom Singapore’s next generation of community leaders. Announced at a launch event on 2 November 2011 graced by Singapore Deputy Prime Minister Mr Teo Chee Hean, who is also the Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Home Affairs, the Chua Thian Poh Community Leadership Programme will be conducted at the NUS University Town (UTown) from January 2012.

Established with a generous gift of S$5 million from Mr Chua Thian Poh, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of real estate development and investment company Ho Bee Investment Ltd, the programme will be supported with a total fund of S$12.25 million with the government’s matching grant. In recognition of Mr Chua’s gift, the University has named a multipurpose hall within UTown the “Chua Thian Poh Hall”.

Said NUS President Prof Tan Chorh Chuan: “NUS is deeply appreciative of Mr Chua’s support and generous gift. This new programme will encourage NUS students to be more deeply engaged with key social issues in Singapore, to have an opportunity to study them and be inspired to initiate community involvement projects.” He added that UTown, which combines the vibrancy of residential living with an exciting multidisciplinary academic programme, is an ideal platform to launch this innovative programme.

Mr Chua said: “I am pleased to be able to provide this gift to establish this new programme at UTown. I believe it is important to expose students to critical social and community issues so that they will be able to learn the best practices in community development.”

Headed by Assoc Prof Albert Teo, the two-year programme aims to groom community leaders who will not only be intellectually engaged with social and community issues, but will also be passionate about addressing social and community challenges in Singapore. Open to all NUS undergraduates, the programme will welcome its first class of about 20 students in January 2012 and take in 30 students a year eventually at steady state. Students will participate in learning modules, research projects, attachments with social service organisations, talks and workshops relating to social issues and the topic of Community Leadership.

NUS-Chua Thian Poh Community Leadership Symposium

Held in conjunction with the Chua Thian Poh Community Leadership Programme’s launch was the inaugural NUS-Chua Thian Poh Community Leadership Symposium. Dr Mohamad Malik Bin Osman, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Singapore Ministry of Defence and National Development delivered the keynote speech at the Symposium, sharing his thoughts on how community leadership could make a difference.

Other experts in community building and leadership featured at the event included Prof Maureen Pagaduan, Chairperson of the Department of Community Development at the University of the Philippines, Diliman; and Mr Mark Hecker, Executive Director of Reach Incorporated in the United States. This annual symposium serves as a platform for students in the programme to showcase their research on community issues and challenges in Singapore.