



A Message

FROM THE PRESIDENT

11 August 2020

Dear alumnus,

As a new academic year begins, I would like to share with you news about some of our recent achievements and upcoming events.

National Day Awards

We offer our heartiest congratulations to Professor S Jayakumar, NUS Pro-Chancellor; Professor Wang Gungwu, University Professor; Associate Professor Benjamin Ong, Senior Vice President (Health Education & Resources); and members of the NUS community who were among the 5,472 recipients of the 2020 National Day Awards.

Prof Jayakumar received the *Order of Temasek (With High Distinction)* – the country's highest civilian award – for his "sustained and invaluable contributions to the nation". Prof Wang received the *Distinguished Service Order*, while Assoc Prof Ong received the *Meritorious Service Medal*.

We are sorry to hear about the passing of Mrs Margaret Wang on 7 August 2020, who was a great supporter of the University, and a frequent visitor at our events. We extend our deepest condolences to Prof Wang and his family.

Other members of the NUS community were also recognised for their public service contributions with National Day Awards. Colleagues who received the *Public Administration Medal (Silver)* include Associate Professor Lakshminarayanan Samavedham (Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering), Director, Institute for Application of Learning Science and Education Technology; Professor Xu Guo-Qin (Chemistry), Director, NUS (Chongqing) Research Institute, Office of the Senior Deputy President and Provost; Professor Patrick J Casey, Senior Vice Dean (Research), Duke-NUS Medical School; Associate Professor Wu Siew Mei, Director of the Centre for English Language Communication; Professor Chng Wee Joo (Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine), who serves at the National University Health System as Group Director of the Research Office and Director of the National University Cancer Institute Singapore; Associate Professor Tan Say Beng, Senior Associate Dean at Duke-NUS Medical School, who is also the Group Chief Research Officer at SingHealth, and Executive Director for the National Medical Research Council; and Clinical Professor Chan Choong Meng, Senior Associate Dean and Co-Director, Academic Medicine Education Institute, Duke-NUS Medical School, and Group Chief Education Officer, Singapore Health Services.

The *Public Administration Medal (Bronze)* was awarded to Professor Lionel Wee Hock Ann (English Language & Literature), Vice Dean (Research), Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences; Associate Professor Chng Chee Kiong (Accounting), Vice Dean (Undergraduate Studies), NUS Business School; Dr Chan Mun Kitt, Senior Director (Lifelong Education), Office of the Senior Deputy President & Provost and Vice-Dean (Executive & Professional Development), School of Continuing and Lifelong Education; Professor Tan Kian Lee (Computer Science), Executive Director, Singapore Data Science Consortium and Tan Sri Runme Shaw Senior Professor; Professor Wong Hee Kit (Orthopaedic Surgery), Senior Consultant, University Spine Centre, National University Hospital; Assistant Professor Kurugulasigamoney Gunasegaran, Duke-NUS Medical School; Professor Kanaga Sabapathy, Deputy Director, Programme in Cancer & Stem Cell Biology, Duke-NUS Medical School, among others.

Among the recipients of the *Long Service Medal* were Professor Chan Hock Peng, Head, Department of Statistics & Applied Probability; Associate Professor Chew Fook Tim (Biological Sciences), Vice-Dean, Faculty of Science; Associate Professor Mahesh A Choolani, Head, Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology; Associate Professor Narayanan Ganapathy (Sociology), Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences; Professor Wynne Hsu (Computer Science), Director, Institute of Data Science; Prof Ling Yean Yng (Building), Vice Provost (Student Life), Office of the Senior Deputy President and Provost; Mr Ong Chin Hwa, Head (Faculty & Research Systems), NUS Information Technology and Deputy Director, Centre for Instructional Technology.

The list of the 2020 National Day Awards recipients from the NUS community can be seen [here](#). You can also read the full story on [NUS News](#).

NUSSU Rag and Flag

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the NUS Students' Union (NUSSU) Rag & Flag 2020, themed "Bring Me Along", had to be scaled down and brought online this year. I am heartened to see that despite these difficulties, our students have persisted in giving back to the Singapore community in a distinctive NUS tradition that dates back to the 1950s. Through their valiant efforts, about \$104,083 has been raised thus far. The proceeds will be disbursed by ComChest to 22 charity programmes under various Social Service Agencies. You can still make an online donation through [NUSSU's Rag & Flag fundraising platform](#) throughout August. You can also read more about our students' spirited efforts for NUSSU Rag and Flag 2020 on [NUS News](#).

Upcoming events

I am pleased to share that, in keeping with the NUS spirit, several of our regular events will continue to take place, while adhering to safety measures:

(1) Kent Ridge Alumni Family Day

I look forward to welcoming our alumni, students, fellow colleagues and their families online at the virtual Kent Ridge Alumni Family Day, themed A Twist in Tradition, on Saturday, 15 August 2020. Throughout the day, there will be sports and wellness workouts, lifelong learning workshops, career sharing and networking, a Student Life fair, performances by alumni and students, as well as opportunities to catch up with friends at Faculty and Hall reunions. One highlight is a talk on Sustainable Urban Farming, which will kick off Singapore's Climate Action Week. I will also be participating in an "Ask Us Anything" panel discussion at 5.00 pm via Zoom together with some colleagues and hope you will be able to join us. Registration is still open at www.alumnet.events/KR20.

(2) Day of Service

This year, our aim for the NUS Day of Service is to encourage everyone to actively look for opportunities to uplift fellow Singaporeans and make a difference to the lives of those in need. Those keen to support this meaningful initiative can click [here](#) for more details.

(3) RunNUS

RunNUS 2020 has transitioned into a virtual run to promote a healthy lifestyle and bring sports to everyone in a safe manner. This annual event, organised by the NUS Students' Sports Club, seeks to raise awareness and promote inclusivity of Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs. Net proceeds of the run will be channeled to the Singapore Disability Sports Council and Disabled People's Association. Please visit [RunNUS2020](#) for more details.

These events underscore the strong sense of community that bonds us as one NUS. Let us continue to strengthen these ties and stand resilient as one united community. I wish you a fulfilling semester ahead.

With best wishes,
Professor Tan Eng Chye (Science '85)
NUS President