Letter from the President

4 December 2015

Faculty, Staff, Alumni and Friends of NUS

Dear Colleagues, Students, Alumni and Friends

A Special Year

2015 has been a doubly special year – a year when we celebrated our University’s 110th Anniversary as well as Singapore’s Golden Jubilee. We kicked off the year with a community event at Taman Jurong with the theme “Because We Care” on 1 February 2015. In April, the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum was officially opened by NUS Chancellor, President Tony Tan Keng Yam, and the public got to see the three sets of diplodocid sauropod fossils for the first time. In the same month, the NUS Science and Technology Exhibition was launched showcasing the many contributions that NUS makes to nation building through the ground breaking research that goes on within the university. In July, the Institute of Policy Studies and the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy put together a highly successful two-day conference that looked at Singapore’s progress since independence and what the next 50 years portend for Singapore. More than 1000 NUS alumni and friends gathered at Bukit Timah Campus for the annual homecoming in early July.

On 7 August, two days before our nation’s 50th birthday, our students, led by NUSSU, staged a most spectacular Rag Day at The Float@Marina Bay as part of Singapore’s Golden Jubilee Weekend and National Day Parade celebrations. They surpassed their target and raised $451,000 for charity. Later in the same month, we celebrated with the NUS Community with a Family Day on Kent Ridge which enjoyed a record attendance of more than 5000. On 12 October, Singapore’s first liberal arts residential college, Yale-NUS College was officially opened by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. Last weekend, we brought our year-long 110th Anniversary Celebrations to a close with a magnificent “Concert in the Park” at the Singapore Botanic Gardens by the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory Orchestra.

This has been another excellent and exhilarating year. We continued to create distinctive value for our students, our community and the broader society, and our achievements have, once again, been many, diverse and significant. Our standing among the leading universities in the world has further strengthened and we are now widely regarded as the top university in Asia. This is certainly a reflection and result of your talent, hard work and commitment, for which I would like to express my deep appreciation.
Management Announcements

As part of our University’s continuing efforts to nurture and attract top talent, I am delighted to announce the appointment of two new members of our Management Team:

Professor Luke Pyungse Lee will be joining NUS in January 2016 as Director of the Biomedical Institute of Global Healthcare Research and Technology (BIGHEART) and appointed as Associate President (International Research and Innovation) in the Office of Deputy President (Research and Technology). He will also be appointed a Tan Chin Tuan Centennial Professor and hold joint appointments in the Department of Biomedical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering and Departments of Medicine and Surgery, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine.

Professor Lee received both his BA and PhD from UC Berkeley. He joined the faculty at UC Berkeley in 1999 after more than a decade of industry experience. He became the Lester John and Lynne Dewar Lloyd Distinguished Professor of Bioengineering in 2005. He also served as the Chair Professor in Systems Nanobiology at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH, Zürich) from 2006 to 2007. He became Arnold and Barbara Silverman Distinguished Professor in 2010 and was reappointed again in 2015. His work at the interface of biological, physical, and engineering sciences for medicine has been recognized by many honours that include the IEEE William J. Morlock Award, NSF Career Award, Fulbright Scholar Award, and the HoAm Prize. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry and the American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE).

His current research interests include quantum electron transfers in living organisms, molecular diagnostics of infectious and neurodegenerative diseases, and in vitro neurogenesis, with a focus both on studying fundamental quantum nanobiology and on solving ill-defined problems of global healthcare.

Mr Simon Mark Neale will join NUS as Associate Vice President (Campus Infrastructure) on 18 January 2016. In this position, he will play a key role in the management and coordination of multi-disciplinary campus infrastructure teams to deliver excellent property, asset, facilities and project management across the NUS Campuses.

Mr. Neale has previously held leadership roles in various organisations in the United Kingdom including the University of Essex, Queen Mary University of London, Westminster City Council, The British Museum, The National Trust, as well as Port Regis. Mr. Neale brings with him extensive experience in leading the management and development of multi-site property portfolios and high profile buildings, with a proven track record of successful delivery of projects, large capital programmes, and property services for a range of high profile organisations within higher education, local government, education and the culture and heritage sector. Mr Neale holds a Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Building Surveying from the University of Reading, UK as well as an MBA awarded by the Henley Business School, UK. Mr Neale will report to Professor Yong Kwet Yew, Vice President (Campus Infrastructure).

Please join me in welcoming Professor Luke Lee and Mr Simon Mark Neale into the NUS Community.
University Holiday and Season’s Greetings

For the faculty, staff and students of NUS, I am pleased to announce that Thursday, 31 December 2015 will be a University holiday.

As the year draws to a close, I would like to take the opportunity to extend my warmest best wishes to you and your family for the coming festive season and for 2016. May the New Year be an enriching and fulfilling one, filled with abundant and exciting opportunities for everyone – students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends!

With best wishes

Tan Chorh Chuan
President

For your information:
- Speeches of the President are located at [http://president.nus.edu.sg/speech.html](http://president.nus.edu.sg/speech.html)