Letter from the President

29 June 2016

Faculty, Staff, Students, Alumni and Friends of NUS

Dear Colleagues, Students, Fellow Alumni and Friends

Commencement 2016

As we begin this year’s Commencement celebrations, please join me in congratulating the graduating Class of 2016 and to wish them every success as they embark upon the next chapter of their lives. Some 10,395 graduands (6,491 undergraduates and 3,904 graduate students) will be receiving their degrees at this year’s Commencement. This year is also the very first Commencement for the pioneer class from two programmes. They are:

- Master of Music – Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music; and
- Master of Science (Nursing) – Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine.

Bukit Timah Homecoming and Kent Ridge Alumni Family Day

Bukit Timah Homecoming is an annual reunion that alumni who studied at the Bukit Timah Campus look forward to every year. Co-hosted by the Faculty of Law and Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, this year’s reunion, themed Jazz It Up @ Bukit Timah, will be held on Saturday, 2 July 2016. Alumni can catch up with one another and reminisce about the good old days as they enjoy stage performances by local jazz maestro, Mr Jeremy Monterio and alumnus, Ms Dawn Yip.

It will be followed by the Kent Ridge Alumni Family Day which will be held at University Town on Saturday, 13 August 2016. On this day, NUS will welcome staff, students, alumni and their families to campus. Participants will get to enjoy carnival activities, savour canteen favourites and be entertained by stage performances, sports challenges between alumni and students, and a fashion show by student models curated by alumnus, Mr Daniel Boey. The festivities will culminate in the biggest outdoor movie screening on campus of a popular animated film, Kung Fu Panda 3.

NUS Day of Service

The inaugural NUS Day of Service will be held on Saturday, 3 September 2016. An initiative of the NUS Alumni Advisory Board, the event reinforces NUS’ strong tradition of serving and contributing to our country and society. Beyond the pursuit of excellence and academic achievement, I urge the NUS community to come together for one common cause: to give back to the community through action and service. Please lend your support to this meaningful event and more information can be found at: www.alumnet.nus.edu.sg/event/DOS16 .
Management Announcements

I would like to invite you to join me in welcoming four colleagues taking up Senior Leadership positions in our University.

Professor Mohan S. Kankanhalli has been appointed Dean, School of Computing from 1 July 2016. With this new position, he will relinquish his current appointment as Vice Provost (Graduate Education). An experienced administrator, Professor Kankanhalli has held prior leadership roles including Associate Provost (Graduate Education) and Vice-Dean of the School of Computing with portfolios in Academic Affairs, Graduate Studies and Research.

A highly respected and prolific scholar in Computer Science, Professor Kankanhalli’s research interests are in Multimedia Systems, Digital Video Processing and Multimedia Surveillance, Security and Privacy. He has made many contributions in the area of multimedia content processing as well as in multimedia security. He is actively involved in the Multimedia Systems research community and was formerly the Director of Conferences for ACM SIG Multimedia. He is on the editorial boards of several journals including ACM Transactions on Multimedia Computing, Communications and Applications Multimedia Systems, Pattern Recognition, and Journal on Big Data. Professor Kankanhalli co-directs SeSaMe (Sensor-enhanced Social Media) Centre, a centre set up with a five-year S$10-million research grant awarded to him by Singapore’s National Research Foundation to do fundamental exploration of the integration of social networks with cyber-physical systems. He is also a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

Professor Bernard Tan, Vice Provost (Undergraduate Education & Student Life) will be covering the portfolio of Vice Provost (Graduate Education) from 1 July 2016 until the appointment of a new Vice Provost (Graduate Education).

Professor Lam Khee Poh will be assuming Deanship of the School of Design and Environment from 18 July 2016. Formerly a faculty member of the NUS Departments of Architecture and Building, Professor Lam is no stranger to NUS. He held various leadership positions including Headship of Department of Building as well as Acting Deanship and Vice-Deanship of the former Faculty of Architecture, Building and Real Estate prior to leaving NUS for a Professorship at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU). In the last thirteen years that he has been with CMU, Professor Lam has chaired several graduate programmes and sat in various committees such as CMU’s University Research Review Committee, University Committee on Tenure Appointments, and Carnegie Mellon University Presidential Review Committee.

Professor Lam is an educator, researcher, architect and consultant who specialises in life-cycle building information modeling and computational design support systems for total building performance analysis and building diagnostics. He enjoys international reputation for his expertise in building performance simulation – energy, thermal, lighting, acoustics and air flow – as well as building controls and diagnostics, and his work has been widely published. He has contributed actively to both academic community and the industry through serving on editorial and advisory boards of various journals and committees, such as a Member of the Board of Directors of The Energy Foundation and Global Buildings Performance Network (GBP). Professor Lam is also a building performance consultant for several major award winning projects in the private and public sectors in Singapore, China and the USA. His recent awards include the 2014 Innovative Star Award from the Alliance to Save Energy, 2014 Engineering News-Record’s Best Global Green Project Award, 2013 Alexander Schwarzkopf...
Professor Robert K Kamei, presently the Vice-Dean of Education at the Duke-NUS Medical School will be assuming the appointment of Associate Provost (Education) from 1 July 2016. Professor Kamei earned his undergraduate degree in Human Biology from Stanford University and a medical degree from the University of California, San Francisco. He subsequently pursued internship and residency training in paediatrics at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. After a short time as paediatric faculty member at Stanford University, he returned to the University of California, San Francisco where he served on the faculty for almost two decades. Prior to his position in Singapore, he served as the Director of Paediatric residency training at University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), between 1990 and 2006. Under his leadership, the UCSF programme grew to one of the largest and most innovative residencies in the country.

As the Vice-Dean of Education at Duke-NUS Medical School, he directed the start-up of the new school. Under his leadership, the education team not only successfully implemented Duke University School of Medicine’s curriculum, but devised a new pedagogical approach called TeamLEAD. This instructional strategy called for a “flipped classroom” (where students are required to come into the classroom already prepared) and paired it with problem sets that student teams solved in teams. This approach was very novel at the time and subsequently has received increasing acceptance, including at Duke University and other educational institutions in Singapore. Professor Kamei holds membership in the Alpha Omega Alpha medical society. In 2014 he was recipient of the Outstanding Educator in Residence Award by the Singapore Ministry of Education.

Professor Ho Eng Seng from Duke University has assumed Directorship of the Middle East Institute (MEI) on 1 June 2016. A renowned anthropologist, Professor Ho Eng Seng is a Professor of History and Anthropology at Duke University since 2008. Concurrently, he holds the Muhammad Alagil Distinguished Visiting Professorship of Arabia Asia Studies at the NUS Asia Research Institute (ARI). Prior to academia, Professor Ho worked as an International Economist with the Monetary Authority of Singapore and Government of Singapore Investment Corporation and later as a Country Report and Profile Writer with The Economist Group. Upon obtaining his PhD in Anthropology from University of Chicago, he began his academic career as an Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Social Studies at Harvard University and rose through the ranks to a full Professorship at Harvard, before joining Duke University. As a prolific scholar sitting on numerous editorial and advisory boards, Professor Ho specialises in Global Transnational History, Race and Ethnicity, and Comparative Colonial Studies. He is also best known as an expert on Arab/Muslim diasporas across the Indian Ocean, and their relations with western empires, past and present. We welcome Professor Ho Eng Seng as the new Director of MEI, and look forward to his bringing MEI to greater heights in the coming years.

On behalf of the University, I would like to place on record our deep appreciation and thanks to:

Professor David S. Rosenblum for his leadership and invaluable contributions during his term of office as Dean, School of Computing. Since assuming Deanship, David has revitalised the outreach and recruitment activities for students. He has also leveraged on his extensive
prior industry experience to rejuvenate and expand the School’s entrepreneurship activities. As a leading expert in software systems engineering, we wish him all the best as he returns to his outstanding academic pursuits in the Department of Computer Science.

**Professor Heng Chye Kiang** who has served with dedication and distinction as Dean, School of Design and Environment. Chye Kiang has brought the School from strength to strength in his past 9 years as Dean. Under his able leadership, the School’s international standing has risen very significantly. As an established scholar with a solid international stature, we wish him all the best as he returns to his outstanding academic pursuits in the Department of Architecture.

We have been very fortunate to have **Professor Peter Sluglett** serve as Director of MEI since July 2014. On behalf of the University, I would like to thank Professor Sluglett for his leadership and contributions to MEI in the past two years. Professor Sluglett remains as a Visiting Professor in MEI upon relinquishing MEI Directorship.

With best wishes

Tan Chorh Chuan
President