Working out the effectiveness of carrying out free health checks for the elderly; re-engineering wheelchairs to make them better and cheaper; and exploring why some patients return to hospital several times in a year are some of the issues National University of Singapore (NUS) academics and students will be researching through a new initiative called NUS CARES - or NUS Community Advancement with Research and Education Synergies.

Launched as part of NUS’ celebrations to mark Singapore’s 50th birthday and NUS’ 110th anniversary, NUS CARES complements existing and new community service initiatives in NUS and Singapore.

“We will work with partners to identify persistent and important problems that they face in their community engagement programmes. We will then tap on NUS’ huge pool of student talent and academic expertise to study the selected problems, devise and pilot practical solutions, and if successful, disseminate the key learnings points that would allow scaling up of effective practices.

“Corporations can also participate in giving back to the community by leveraging on this platform through sponsorships,” explained Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, President, NUS.
Our Champions, Our Ambassadors

We would like to thank the following volunteers who are involved in supporting and advising on giving to the University (as of 31 March 2015).

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Mr Lee, at his graduation, with his late father.

FROM RECIPIENT TO PHILANTHROPIST

A recipient of financial aid 50 years ago, Mr Lee became part of Singapore’s pioneer generation and today is shaping the future by giving to education.

He was one of nine children and his parents could not afford to pay for his school books, nor could they provide him with tiffin money. So, Mr Lee Kok Wah ’69 would borrow his classmates’ books and his father would laboriously copy them out by candlelight on a type writer. If he was lucky, his grandmother would give him a potato to take to school for his lunch and his friends would share their food with him.

His life changed dramatically 50 years ago when a teacher put him forward for a scholarship to pay for his ‘A’ level studies. The scholarship was provided by banker and philanthropist Tan Sri Dr Tan Chin Tuan, who gave both his money and his time generously to young people in financial need.

“I was touched and inspired by his generosity. He taught me the value of hard work. His philosophy was if I could do one dollar to someone who does not need it, it is not as impactful as giving to someone who is in desperate need. I told myself that one day I would reciprocate and help low income families whose children qualify for university,” shares Mr Lee, who met Tan Sri Dr Tan on a number of occasions.

The scholarship was followed by a bursary, also provided by Tan Sri Dr Tan, to pay for his studies in social sciences at the University of Singapore, the predecessor institution of the National University of Singapore (NUS).

Today, Mr Lee is a businessman with over 40 years’ experience in the corporate, finance and capital markets and is renowned for his ability to turn around flagging companies, particularly in the marine and shipping sectors. He is one of Singapore’s pioneer generation who helped lay the foundations for modern day Singapore’s success. “Those were fantastic days, the 60s, 70s and 80s. We were part of the pioneers. We were building up Singapore. We were tiny in Asia and no one knew where Singapore was,” he recalls fondly.

Mr Lee has made a gift to NUS to set up the Mr and Mrs Lee Wai Kin Bursary at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences in memory of his parents. “My father truly believed that education was the key to our future. He was very enterprising and showed me that from failure you get success. This bursary also serves to remind future generations of the tremendous sacrifices of our parents for a better future,” he says.

What is his hope for the recipients of his bursary? “They should use the money wisely and hopefully one day they will help the poorer sections of society. Money should be used wisely. Instead of accumulating money, they should put their dollars where they can do more in terms of being of real benefit to society,” shares Mr Lee.

Mr Lee, at his graduation, with his late father.

To find out about creating a named bursary or scholarship, please contact askdvo@nus.edu.sg or call 1-800-DEVELOP (1-800-338-3567).
GIFT TO PROFESSORSHIP IN HEALTHY AGEING

Parkway Pantai sets up Professorship at the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine to support the physical, mental and social well-being of the elderly.

In a society where life expectancy is among the highest in the world - over 20 percent of Singapore’s population will comprise people aged 65 and above by 2030 - medical issues such as loss of vision and hearing, osteoporosis, recurrent falls, dementia, depression and cancer are prevalent.

With keen awareness of these changing demographic needs, private healthcare provider Parkway Pantai made a gift to establish a Professorship in Medicine and Healthy Ageing at the National University of Singapore (NUS) Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine.

“Our contribution to this Professorship will enable the University to access eminent academics and clinicians to help advance geriatric medicine in Singapore,” says Dr Tan See Leng, the Group CEO and Managing Director of Parkway Pantai, and the Managing Director and CEO, IHH Healthcare.

By facilitating teaching and research, as well as the development of clinical and community care in geriatrics, the new Professorship will deepen knowledge, improve practices and enhance interdisciplinary approaches to support the physical, mental and social well-being of the elderly.

Over the years, Parkway Pantai has supported NUS in many ways. A Parkway Professorship in Geriatrics was established in 2000 from an earlier endowed gift while a Mount Elizabeth-Gleneagles Scholarship Fund was set up in 2012 to provide bond-free financial assistance to undergraduate medical students.

“Parkway Pantai has always believed in making a difference in the world. We do that daily through our medical expertise, saving lives and healing our patients, and we have done well over the years,” Dr Tan affirms.

“We recognise the value of enhancing education and research in areas of healthcare that would not only benefit our patients today, but also the generations to come,” he adds.

Partner with NUS to push the frontiers of knowledge and transform communities. To find out how you can support research initiatives or named professorships, contact askdvo@nus.edu.sg or call 1-800-DEVELOP (1-800-338-3567).

GIFT IGNITES PASSION FOR RESEARCH

“I am highly inspired by stories of scientists who have made a difference in people’s lives through research and discoveries in the medical field. The experiences and knowledge that I have gained while working in NUS further strengthened my passion for medical research and deepened my dream and aspiration to be able to make a difference through medical research that would positively impact the lives of people and society in the future.”

Lim Jia Pei, an Ong Hin Tiang PhD Scholarship in Cancer Research recipient at the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine. The Ong Hin Tiang & Ong Sek Pek Foundation, based in Malaysia, made a gift to support Malaysian postgraduate students working in the field of cancer research.
The Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum (LKCNHM) opened its doors as part of the celebrations for NUS’ 110th year and Singapore’s 50th year. Supported by private gifts, the Museum will make Singapore and Southeast Asia’s rich natural history accessible to the general public and play a critical role in facilitating transformative research.

Built with philanthropic support from donors including Lee Foundation, Tote Board, Far East Organization, Dr Lee Seng Gee, Dr Delia Lee and a special group of donors who prefer to be anonymous, LKCNHM stores and showcases one of Southeast Asia’s largest and oldest natural history collections. These priceless treasures had been packed away for many years and only a small selection used to be accessible to the public at the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity and Research in the Faculty of Science. With the new museum, a much larger part of this grand collection of important plant and animal species, some dating back to 1862, can be exhibited in an ultra-modern 2,000 square metres public gallery, with three gigantic original dinosaur skeletons as its centrepiece. This gallery will be a valuable teaching and learning resource for National University of Singapore (NUS) researchers and students; as well as the general public. In addition, the over half a million plant and animal specimens are now stored in perpetuity in a state-of-the-art facility with full temperature and humidity control; with modern research facilities to allow scientists from all over the world to examine and study them.

Professor Peter Ng, Head of LKCNHM at NUS, shares, “The Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum is as much about preserving our collective memory of Singapore’s natural history as contributing to the biodiversity knowledge of Southeast Asia. The new Museum will not only share with the public the natural treasures that existed at the time of Sir Stamford Raffles, it will also tell the story of our planet’s evolutionary past and present, using the magnificent family of dinosaurs as a focal point.”
BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MUSEUM: RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Making new discoveries under the sea
Researchers from LKCNHM were part of the first Comprehensive Marine Biodiversity Survey, a study of Singapore’s marine ecosystems conducted by the National Parks Board and the Tropical Marine Science Institute. Apart from the discovery of several dozen new species, more than 100 kinds of sea creatures have been found for the first time in local waters, including the zebra crab and lampshell.

Lending environmental expertise
LKCNHM is working with Temasek to help implement a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), as part of the government’s plans to build a mega nature attraction in the Mandai precinct. The Museum will harness its biodiversity expertise to ensure that the plans are environmentally sensitive and the integrity of the natural environment is maintained.

Preventing extinction
A modern cryofacility storing thousands of important tissue samples from the region has put the Museum at the forefront of conservation research. State-of-the-art genetic sequencing has allowed researchers at NUS to find out more about the critically endangered banded leaf monkey and aid the country’s efforts to save the species from extinction. The Museum will be doing more genetic work on other endangered species to help conserve them.

PRESERVING OUR NATURAL HERITAGE

The new Museum was made possible thanks to philanthropic support and a donor wall hangs at the entrance to thank the founding benefactors of the building. The Museum is seeking further philanthropic support to build an endowment to provide sustainable funding for expanding its education, research and outreach programmes. Those benefactors will be recognised on forthcoming donor walls. To find out more about supporting the Museum, please contact nhmlearning@nus.edu.sg.
Continued from page 1

Founded as a medical school to support the community, and thanks to the strong support of the community, NUS has remained true to its roots. Every year, students from the Neighbourhood Health Service (NHS) provide free health screening to residents in rental flats and follow up those with chronic diseases. Last year, students screened close to 800 residents.

Through NUS CARES, students trained in social impact measurement in the Chua Thian Poh Community Leadership Programme (CTPCLP) will work with medical students to conduct a social return on investment analysis of the NHS programme. The findings will provide feedback on the impact and effectiveness of NHS, and identify areas for improvement. CTPCLP was set up with a gift from Mr Chua Thian Poh, Chairman and CEO of real estate development and investment company Ho Bee Investment Ltd.

NUS CARES is also partnering Central Singapore Community Development Council (CDC) to address the problems faced by elderly residents who use wheelchairs. Engineering students from NUS’ Design-Centric Programme (DCP) will formulate solutions such as designing a wheelchair that is affordable and easy to use and maintain.

The National University Health System (NUHS) will be collaborating with NUS CARES on the issue of patients who are admitted to NUH three or more times within a year. These frequent admitters make up about eight percent of the total number of patients, yet account for about 25 percent of all inpatient admissions and nearly 100,000 bed-days.

NUS CARES will help NUHS identify the behavioural, social and environmental factors driving these admissions and devise strategies to provide assistance and support to these patients at home.

GIFT GROOMS COMMUNITY LEADERS

“I have learnt so much from three groups of people. Firstly, individuals in impossible situations who persevere nonetheless, manage a great sense of humour, and even manage to invest in their low-income communities. Secondly, frontline community workers who give so much to their jobs and advocate for the well-being of their service-users. Lastly, mentors and friends who experiment with new approaches to familiar issues.”

Charmian Goh
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University Scholars Programme

Charmian, who is studying sociology and psychology, shares her experience of being a fellow on the Chua Thian Poh Community Leadership Programme (CTPCLP). Her research projects included investigating the aspirations of youths and the wives of ex-offenders. She also worked on a community trails project to encourage civil servants, the business community and students to rethink urban planning and community development issues.

CTPCLP, made possible with a gift from Mr Chua Thian Poh, aims to groom Singapore’s next generation of community leaders. Students from different Faculties are engaged in social and community issues, work with non-profit organisations and become involved in research.

Make an impact on the community by partnering with NUS to establish research, academic or student programmes. To learn more about named programmes, please contact askdvo@nus.edu.sg or call 1-800-DEVELOP (1-800-338-3567).
"More than ever, the world demands managers and leaders who can steer Asian businesses to the forefront of the world economy. With top research faculty known for thought leadership and deep Asian insights into global management, and building on our alumni’s contributions to industry and societies, we can become a school of significance and influence to future generations," affirms Professor Bernard Yeung, Dean and Stephen Riady Distinguished Professor, NUS Business School.

NUS Business School marked its 50th anniversary with the NUS BizAd Charitable Run 2015 in January. The event raised S$140,000 for students of Assumption Pathway School and financially-challenged NUS business undergraduates.

With 50 years of history on its side, and the future in its sights, NUS Business School continues to be a leader in business education and transformative research, with the help of private gifts.

**GIFTS SPUR BUSINESS RESEARCH**

**Advising families in business**

Managing and financing family-controlled firms entail specific challenges. These issues are amplified in Asia where other factors such as cultural differences can either make or break a company. This is just one of the many topics, Professor David Mitchell Reeb, the Mr and Mrs Lin Jo Yan Professor of Banking and Finance has been exploring.

An internationally-renowned scholar in the areas of family-controlled, publicly-traded firms, Professor Reeb has been working on multiple research papers on the impact of fraud, effective directors and family ownership on firm performance.

**Addressing Singapore’s challenges**

Besides being hotly-debated topics in Singapore, issues such as the Central Provident Fund (CPF), public transportation, housing and utilities are also among Professor Sumit Agarwal’s research passions. The Low Tuck Kwong Professor and the Vice-Dean of Research at NUS Business School is a financial economist who has combined research with his strong interests in energy resources and sustainability, and how they apply to urban planning.

His ongoing studies conducted with Singapore’s National Environment Agency and Public Utilities Board are further examples of research that Professor Agarwal is undertaking to address some of Singapore’s challenges.

Partner with NUS to push the frontiers of knowledge and learning. To find out how you can support research initiatives or named professorships, please contact askdvo@nus.edu.sg or call 1-800-DEVELOP (1-800-338-3567).
GIFTS TO MEDICAL RESEARCH TRANSFORM LIVES

Philanthropy, as well as leadership in transformative research, have played an instrumental role in the success story of the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine. Today, as it celebrates its 110th anniversary, the School is one of Asia’s leading medical schools.

The National University of Singapore (NUS) started out as a tiny medical school in 1905 thanks to the support of Chinese Legislative Councillor Mr Tan Jiak Kim and the local community. Today, the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (NUS Medicine) is among Asia’s top three medical schools.

With the help of gifts from major benefactors such as the Yong Loo Lin Trust, the late banking and hotel tycoon Mr Khoo Teck Puat, Indonesian philanthropist Dato Sri Dr Tahir and the Viva Foundation, the School has grown into a medical education and research powerhouse. Transformational gifts have enabled the School to strengthen its clinical research work to enhance the education of medical students and facilitate new areas of exploration.

“The School is what it is today thanks to the generosity of many individuals and organisations that believed in us and played pivotal roles in shaping the future of education and research in medicine. Our School has made very significant contributions to Singapore in the last 110 years and I am confident we will continue to do so over the next 50,” says Associate Professor Yeoh Khay Guan, Dean of NUS Medicine.

NUS and PDPA

In Singapore, the Personal Data Protection Act 2012 (“PDPA”) establishes a data protection law that governs the collection, use and disclosure of your personal data. In line with this, the University has updated the Standard Terms & Conditions for Gifts to comply with the PDPA.

You can find the latest version of the document on our website: www.giving.nus.edu.sg. Should you have any questions about giving to NUS, please email askdvo@nus.edu.sg or call us at 1-800-DEVELOP (1-800-338-3567).

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Curing childhood cancer

The National University Hospital (NUH) has an 85 percent cure rate for childhood leukaemia, rivalling the best hospitals worldwide.

This success has depended to a great extent on the support of organisations such as the Lee Foundation, the Children’s Cancer Foundation and the Viva Foundation. Their funding has allowed Viva-Goh Foundation Professor, NUS Medicine Associate Professor Allen Yeoh (’90) and his team to further biomedical research in Singapore, build infrastructure and manpower and share best practices through the training of nurses and doctors and running forums on paediatric oncology.

Diet and diseases

Internationally-acclaimed biochemist Professor Barry Halliwell is recognised for his exceptional contributions to the field of free radical chemistry, redox biology and antioxidants. His research focuses on the role of free radicals and antioxidants in human disease, particularly Alzheimer’s disease and other brain disorders.

As the former Deputy President of Research and Technology, and Tan Chin Tuan Centennial Professor of Biochemistry, Professor Halliwell is also credited with raising the standards of research excellence at NUS today. As of June 2015, Professor Halliwell is the new Senior Advisor to the NUS President.

Gastric and colon cancer breakthroughs

The Yong Loo Lin Professor in Medical Oncology, Professor Yoshiaki Ito, whose work in cancer research has put Singapore on the world map, was brought in for his breakthrough discovery of tumour suppressors for gastric and colon cancers.

His work as the founding director of the Oncology Research Institute at NUS Medicine helped to lay a solid foundation for the establishment of the Cancer Science Institute of Singapore (CSI), a Research Centre of Excellence.

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