PROFESSOR TAN ENG CHYE, Deputy President (Academic Affairs) and Provost for the National University of Singapore (NUS), talks about the doors a bursary can open for a needy student and the impact a bursary can have on a student’s life, both within and beyond the walls of the University.

Bursary support goes a long way to making a difference to the lives and the futures of many young students, especially those from the lowest per capita income families, who are finding it a struggle to finance their education.

Fundraising for bursaries is a priority for NUS. Why? An NUS degree is an aspiration of many Singaporean families. NUS counts many first generation graduates in each cohort. As a public university, we want to make sure that ability, not financial circumstances, determines access to the life-changing opportunities within the NUS campus.

Bursary support goes a long way to making a difference to the lives and the futures of many young students, especially those from the lowest per capita income families, who are finding it a struggle to finance their education. For these students and their families, a university education is often a social leveller, a dream, a means to a better life ahead.

But, to make this possible, we need philanthropic support for bursaries to ensure that NUS is within reach of financially disadvantaged students.

How many bursaries does NUS award every year? Do we need more? The number of bursaries awarded on a university-wide level has grown by more than 50 percent over the last five years. This year, we awarded over 2,400 university-wide bursaries. About 75 percent of the eligible applicants are from families whose per capita income falls below S$720. We can do more to help these students.

“Bursary support goes a long way to making a difference to the lives and the futures of many young students, especially those from the lowest per capita income families, who are finding it a struggle to finance their education.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6
THE WAN BOO SOW FAMILY EXTENDS HELPING HAND TO STUDENTS

The late Mr Wan Boo Sow once said, “If you always think only of yourself, you will always be unhappy.” It is by these words that the children of the late Mr Wan Boo Sow – Mr Wan Boo Sow Charitable Fund Limited in honour and in memory of their parents’ devotion to charity in their father’s name. The Wan family has established the Wan Boo Sow and Annie Tan Bursary at the National University of Singapore (NUS) to help financially disadvantaged students. Despite his humble beginnings, the late Mr Wan Boo Sow always understood the importance of education. He saved whatever little income he earned and eventually saw himself through university with a degree in pharmacy. Along the way, he was also fortunate to have met generous strangers who were kind to him because they saw that he needed their help. Understanding first-hand what it was like to struggle and never forgetting the kindness he received, Mr Wan never failed to extend a helping hand to those who needed it when he became successful. The Wan Boo Sow and Annie Tan Bursary is awarded to financially disadvantaged students at the Department of Pharmacy at the Faculty of Department of Social Work at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Law. Recipients of this Bursary are also encouraged to contribute to community service.

FIVE RECIPIENTS SHARE HOW THE BURSARY HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR LIVES.

#1With the help from The Wan Boo Sow Charity Fund, I can channel more of my time into planning community projects. The generosity of the donors who also made me restore faith in humankind = that there are people who are willing to selflessly help others who don't even know i will definitely learn from them and contributed back to society in ways that I can. For now, I sincerely hope to have more opportunities to pursue meaningful work in NUS. Emmeline Chua Xin Yan Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

#2I feel really touched by the donors’ generosity and I am really thankful for this Bursary, which has helped to ease my parents’ financial burden. I can now focus on my studies without having to take up multiple part-time jobs to save up for my tuition fees. In the near future, I hope to become a successful social worker and make a positive impact on the community. Ng Yu Qing Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

#3The Bursary has lessenened the burden of the school fees and allowed me to concentrate solely on my studies. I am greatly inspired by this act of generosity and I wish to do the same in the future. Chelsea Cheng Jia Yun Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

#4Receiving this Bursary has really opened my eyes to how there are really people out there willing to help us. It gives me the feeling that we can keep moving forward and share this generosity extended to me with other people who will meet along my journey. I want to do my best to contribute to society, in particular to the community. Hanna asian really have so many life experiences and so many things to offer. Fiona Ong Wei Ling Faculty of arts and Social Sciences

#5The generosity of the donors has made it possible for those from less fortunate backgrounds to obtain a university education, and in so doing, a fair chance at climbing higher on the ladder of success. Their giving without seeking compensation for their help has made me to understand the importance of gratitude, and it has made me as a person, a better person and a better employee. Chelsea Cheng Jia Yun Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

GOH ZE XUN, RECIPIENT OF THE KEPPLE BURSARY, SHARES HIS STORY

How did you feel when you received the Bursary?
No words can describe how I felt when I was notified of the success of my application for the Bursary. Prior to applying to a residential college, I already knew that my family would not be able to support my accommodation expenses without substantial financial aid. What are your hopes for the future?
I think I have a great understanding of the issues that are faced by the elderly, whom I saw that he needed their help. Understanding first-hand what it was like to struggle and never forgetting the kindness he received, Mr Wan never failed to extend a helping hand to those who needed it when he became successful. I am an avid reader and love to travel. Thank you very much!从此，我们是今天的知音。

PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR DESERVING STUDENTS

Keppel Corporation has provided unwavering support to the National University of Singapore (NUS) over the years and has given generously to various initiatives including the Keppel Bursary at NUS, the Keppel Bursary for Engineering, the Keppel-NUS Vietnam Programme in Medicine, the Keppel Chair Professorship, the Toh Chye Chye Visiting Professorship Unit for Development, Monitoring and Oversight, Republic of Indonesia and Malaysia. The generosity of the donors has also made me restore faith in humankind = that there are people who are willing to selflessly help others who don't even know i will definitely learn from them and contributed back to society in ways that I can. For now, I sincerely hope to have more opportunities to pursue meaningful work in NUS. Emmeline Chua Xin Yan Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

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Mr Loi Chiu Hua, CEO, Keppel Corporation
HELPING STUDENTS ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL

Gifts to the National University of Singapore (NUS) have enabled bursaries for financially disadvantaged students. For many of these bright and talented students, a university education is a significant opportunity and a means to a better life ahead. Bursaries allow students to focus on their studies, instead of taking on part-time work, and enjoy the enriching and holistic education NUS offers.

Seow Chze Kian
Young Life In School of Medicine
Syene Goh Medical Bursary recipient

"This Bursary has helped me in a few ways. Firstly, my parents do not earn a high income and supporting my medical education is a real burden for them. I try my best to save on expenses and give priority to my studies. However, my curriculum intensifies. I am finding it hard to cope. With this Bursary, I have reduced my tuition commitments and now, I can cope better with my studies. Secondly, I do not have to give up on the wonderful learning opportunity of going on international programs to a rural hospital in a developing country. This Bursary has also inspired me to follow the spirit of selfless giving to society."

Chua Wan Ping
Yale-NUS College
Toh Chin Chye Study Award recipient

"My parents work as clerks in a construction company and I have an older brother and two younger brothers, all of whom are still schooling. When I received the Toh Chin Chye Study Award, I was working long hours as a waitress having just completed a teaching internship. My parents had very little saved up for college and I knew that I had to depend largely on myself to finance my university education. Receiving the Award was a tremendous relief. It means being able to fully experience college life, from concentrating on my studies to starting a cross-country running team and a food recycling project. More than anything, it has made me a more optimistic person and taught me to cherish every opportunity I receive."

Poh Song Yu
NUS Business School
Mizuno Bursary recipient

"Life has not been easy with my ailing father being the sole breadwinner in the family. When I received news that I was awarded the Mizuno Bursary, it was like a breath of fresh air for me. I felt rejuvenated and recharged. The Bursary will cover part of my school fees and thus reduce my tuition loans. The financial burden has been lifted to an extent. I am now even more motivated to work harder in my academic pursuits with the hope not to disappoint my esteemed donors."

Nuramira Ahmad
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
University Scholars Programme
SR Nathan Bursary recipient

"The SR Nathan Bursary has helped me finance part of my expenses in university, enabling me to focus on my studies and participate in overseas study trips. The Bursary means a lot to me because it motivates me to do my best, knowing that someone who does not even know me has lent their help and sees the potential in me. This has strengthened my resolve to serve my community and help those in need."

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 askdv@nus.edu.sg or call us at 1-800-DEVELOP (1-800-338-3567).

ALUMNUS GIVES TO BURSARIES TO PROMOTE SOCIAL MOBILITY

When he was young, Second Year National University of Singapore (NUS) student Gavin Lu had his left eye removed due to a tumour growth in the optic nerve. As a result, he experiences fatigue in the eyes and brain whenever he studies or reads. His disability affects his self-esteem. Despite this, Gavin was determined to pursue a university education and took on a study loan.

"I had to allay my parents’ fears regarding being the guarantors for my study loan. I had to convince them that I would be able to pay off the loan upon graduation," Gavin says. Gavin is currently studying Communications and New Media under the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) programme at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Thankfully, the Yoshua Bursary has helped to alleviate some of Gavin’s worries. Set up by an NUS alumnus who also gave towards the establishment of three other bursaries in the memory of his grandfather, the Yoshua Bursary is awarded once a year to financially needy undergraduate students with disabilities. The name Yoshua is Hebrew and corresponds to the English name Jesus.

Gavin says, “The Yoshua Bursary has given me more time to focus on schoolwork rather than on travelling around to give tuition. I am also freed from having to worry about burdening my dad, who is the sole breadwinner in my family."

Grateful for the generosity he received, Gavin hopes to pass it on.

Bursary Sparks Student’s Belief in the Giving Spirit

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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 askdv@nus.edu.sg or call us at 1-800-DEVELOP (1-800-338-3567).
What is the size of a typical bursary and what does it fund?

Although not all students are able to turn to their families for financial support, a bursary can turn to their families, take out loans and work to cover their tuition fees. Admission to NUS is competitive: We receive over 30,000 applications annually, but we only have places for about 6,700 freshmen. Each application is assessed solely on merit. After receiving their offers of admission, students requiring financial assistance can apply for financial aid, which includes government and NUS study plan and bursaries. Not all students are able to turn to their families for financial support. A bursary can enable students to take on a smaller student load and thereby decrease their debt burden upon graduation. With smaller loans to pay off, loan and thereby decrease their debt burden upon graduation. I often meet students who are the recipients of bursaries and I am always moved by the stories they tell of how these bursaries have given them opportunities to grow, to learn and to reach goals they never believed possible. We want to make this a reality for many more students.

What inspired Mapletree to make a gift to NUS?

Educational philanthropy promotes societal improvement and positive change. As Singapore’s largest university, NUS provides an excellent platform for Mapletree to support this vision for education.

Why did Mapletree choose to establish a bursary, specifically?

There are many capable students for whom tertiary education would be unattainable if not for financial aid in the form of bursaries and scholarships. It is simply unconscionable to let the potential inherent in these students go to waste. From the beginning of our corporate social responsibility (CSR) programme, we decided to devote our resources to where we felt the greatest impact could be made – supporting students with great potential from humble backgrounds.

Why is CSR important to Mapletree?

CSR is about creating shared value between the giver, the recipient and the community in general. CSR recognises that individuals or corporate entities cannot exist, let alone thrive, in isolation. The sustained success of any company depends critically on the positive impact that its activities can create for those within its sphere of influence. A robust and well-thought-out CSR programme sends an important signal for the company – that it is a vested stakeholder in the communities in which it operates, and that it is committed to delivering long-term value for all concerned.

What advice do you have for the recipients of the Mapletree Bursary?

The university years are ideal for testing boundaries and exploration. I would encourage students to pursue interests that extend beyond their primary academic requirements. Although excelling in regular coursework is important, I trust most students would agree that life is more than just lectures, tutorials and the library. I say this from personal knowledge – my most useful and memorable experiences from NUS were gained through activities outside of my regular curriculum.

“Mapletree Bursaries have really made a difference to my life at university. With the financial help, I am able to study not just my studies and research but academically while also being able to make the most of living in a residential hall at NUS. Hall life is so important because it is where you learn leadership skills, meet a diverse group of people, learn how to juggle various commitments and get involved in helping others in society. I am so grateful for all the opportunities the Bursary has afforded me and Mapletree’s generosity has left a deep impression on me. I hope to have a career in real estate business development or fund management and, at the same time, be actively involved in educational causes in other aspects as well. I will be able to establish a scholarship or bursary as well.”

Lim Boon Kai
School of Design and Environment

Mr Ho Seng Chee
Group Chief, Corporate Services
Mapletree Investments Pte Ltd

PLANTING THE SEEDS OF POTENTIAL

Mapletree Investments Pte Ltd, an Asia-focused real estate development, investment and capital management company, made a gift to NUS to establish the Mapletree Bursary. Here, Mr Ho Seng Chee (‘93), Group Chief of Corporate Services, explains why they chose to support students at the University.

“The Mapletree Bursary has really made a difference to my life at university. With the financial help, I am able to study not just my studies and research but academically while also being able to make the most of living in a residential hall at NUS. Hall life is so important because it is where you learn leadership skills, meet a diverse group of people, learn how to juggle various commitments and get involved in helping others in society. I am so grateful for all the opportunities the Bursary has afforded me and Mapletree’s generosity has left a deep impression on me. I hope to have a career in real estate business development or fund management and, at the same time, be actively involved in educational causes in other aspects as well. I will be able to establish a scholarship or bursary as well.”

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School of Design and Environment

HONOURING FATHER’S SPIRIT OF GIVING

With a gift to the National University of Singapore Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, alumnus and Adjunct Associate Professor Ngoi Sing Shang (‘81) established the Ngoi King Chik Bursary in memory of his late father.

The general surgeon tells us how he is ‘instilling the spirit of giving’ and helping others achieve success.

What made you decide to set up the Ngoi King Chik Bursary at the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine in the memory of your late father?

We decided to do this because our father had always indicated an interest in helping more students in pursuing medicine, especially students from poorer families.

Could you share a bit more about your late father?

My father was a kind man with many friends. He was always willing to go out of his way to help someone in need. That could be in the form of financial help to his friends or relatives whenever he had funds, or merely keeping them company, whenever they were unwell.

He instilled that joy of love and giving in us and taught us to always extend a helping hand when necessary. He was a family man and would make sure that family gatherings happened regularly.

You studied in NUS and are now teaching here. What are some of your best memories studying and teaching at your alma mater?

Ask any university student who stayed at the halls of residence while studying at NUS and the answer will most likely be a positive one - of good memories with great friendship and great times with your friends. This is the time when we enjoyed our youth, made friendships that last, and revelled in the opportunities that led to success in our later years. I also enjoyed teaching at NUS. My best memories were watching nervous students becoming successful doctors and even teachers.

What advice do you have for the recipients of this Bursary?

They should consider that someone reached out to help them achieve success in life. When they are successful, I hope that they remember to extend the same helping hand to someone deserving.

What inspires you to give back to NUS? When someone has done something good for you and you have succeeded, it is only right that you return the good deed.
Chairperson of the Alumni Student Advancement Committee, Mr Johnny Tan ('82), says, “Through the NUS Alumni Bursary Endowed Fund, we hope to provide the neediest students with the same, if not better, educational opportunities that we enjoyed at NUS, as well as give these students a chance to improve their social mobility. We also hope to cultivate a sense of regular giving among alumni and broaden support for our alma mater. Giving back should be part of our community spirit.”

And there are many ways in which alumni can show their support for ABF. Apart from making a gift, alumni can come together to organise class reunions and other alumni activities. These events not only provide them with opportunities to engage with each other and celebrate their past, but to do so in a meaningful way – raise funds for financially disadvantaged students. In fact, the very first gift to ABF came in the form of funds raised by alumni in an annual golf tournament organised by the NUS Society.

Yet another way alumni can give back to their alma mater is through the NUS Campus Couples Bursary Fund. Part of the ABF Campaign, the Fund encourages couples who met on campus to make a gift to bursaries in support of students who need financial support.

Ms Khalijah Masud ('92) and Mr Aznan Ghazali ('92) are one such couple who has made a gift towards the NUS Campus Couples Bursary Fund. Khalijah, who firmly believes that education is a social leveller, says, “I had a good education at NUS and I would like to ensure that anyone has access to it, regardless of their background. I came from a poor family and can relate to the stress of having to look for money to continue studying. I received financial assistance from generous donors for my days in NUS and I am truly grateful.

“I think that the Fund is a good initiative. There are many happy couples who got together during their NUS days. Giving to this Fund is one of the ways to thank NUS, I suppose, for their love stories!”

Are you a campus couple? Would you like to support the NUS Campus Couples Bursary Fund? For more information about the NUS Campus Couples Bursary Fund, or to make a gift, please contact kjyeo@alumni.nus.edu.sg.