

KEEPING THE TORCH ABLAZE

55 YEARS OF EUSOFFIANS

1958-2013



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1958–2013

A PREMIER PUBLICATION OF EUSOFF HALL

Produced by Eusoff Hall, National University of Singapore
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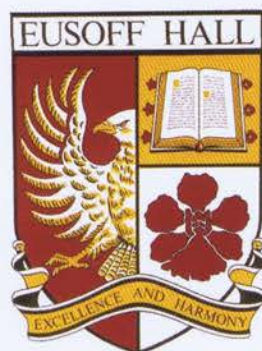
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Our Motto – Excellence and Harmony

To strive for the best, as well as to live in harmony with those around them.

The Open Book

The unquenchable thirst in every Eusoffian for knowledge and academic achievement.

The Colours

The heart of every Eusoffian,
Painted maroon with courage,
Gold with magnificence,
And white with sincerity.

The Eagle

The indomitable spirit of all Eusoffians.
The ceaseless pursuit of excellence and harmony.

The Vanda Miss Joaquim Orchid

(National flower of Singapore)

Loyalty, dignity, integrity, and honor to the hall and nation, coupled with the balance of harmony, beauty and grace.

The Eusoff Anthem

Eusoff our great hall thee we praise
Swelling forth our mighty chorus
We will strive through all our days
Fight to keep the torch ablaze
Lit by those who went before us
Now we know thou art deserving
As our seniors knew of yore
Of our loyalty unswerving
EUSOFF to the fore

Eusoff in years to come our best
Still we'll keep thee onward fighting
True to thee through every test
Winning 'neath thy badge and crest
Thus our love for thee expressing
Time will show thou art deserving
As the years roll by still more
With our loyalty unswerving
EUSOFF to the fore.





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Eusoff Hall in 1988

Prologue

Keeping the Torch Ablaze is not a list of each and every prominent Eusoff alumni. This book is not about the great and the successful in the history of Eusoff College and Eusoff Hall. This book doesn't attempt to give a detailed history of the 55-year-old hall of residence, starting from the all-ladies Eusoff College at Bukit Timah campus to Eusoff Hall at Kent Ridge campus. Instead, this book seeks to capture the essence of the Eusoff experience of those featured in this 55th anniversary publication. There is so much to learn from Eusoff College and Eusoff Hall alumni, past and present Principals and Masters, Resident Fellows, and SCRC members from all walks of life, how their years in Eusoff had shaped them and made an impact to their lives. The collection of stories is not a mere reminiscence; the stories are meant to reflect on the values, experiences, and invaluable lessons which will inspire and guide current and future Eusoffians.

Our initial plan was to feature 55 Eusoffians based on nominations by the selection committee but unfortunately, due to time and space constraints, only 43 can be featured in this book. After much deliberation, it was decided that there is a need to strike a balance in terms of different professions, backgrounds, and life experiences and to keep the book to a reasonable length. To any Eusoffians who are not featured in this book, whether in text or image, our sincerest apologies.

We believe that the people featured in the book can capture the Eusoff spirit which is deeply ingrained in their lives. No matter how similar or different, their experiences really demonstrate what it means to be a Eusoffian. Their common Eusoff history binds them together: strong and long-lasting camaraderie, Eusoff spirit, excellence (in Sports, Rag and Flag, the Arts, Hall Production, etc), and communal living. All these make up the quintessential Eusoff experience – the same experience that has been passed down since the time of Eusoff College. From Eusoff College to Eusoff Hall to the top of the world, the Eusoff spirit has been blazing with honour and glory for 55 great years.



1958 - 1984



1984 - 2001



1988 - present

About Eusoff

With a capacity for 485 residents, Eusoff Hall emphasises student-led activities. It offers a vibrant environment for students to pursue leadership and develop a culture and network of excellence. Opportunities for academic-, sports-, artistic-, and service learning, all initiated and managed by students, are found throughout the year.

Eusoff Hall has long been reputed for its dynamic and vibrant culture. Although previously only known as one of the “sports halls”, Eusoff Hall has now made a name for itself not just in sports, but also in culture and voluntary service. From our performance in the Inter-Hall Games to the Dance Production, Eusoff Hall strives to uphold the highest standards in all areas.

But life in Eusoff Hall is more than just achievements – it’s also about the people. The friendships formed from living together, sharing and working together here will last a lifetime. Perhaps this is one of the manifestations of the hall motto:

Excellence and Harmony.

Eusoff Hall in 2013





Eusoff College c. 1963 (Top) and the Quadrangle of Eusoff College c. 1968 (Bottom)



History

Eusoff Hall, founded in 1988, has its beginning in Eusoff College, the first female residential hall of the University of Malaya in Singapore at Bukit Timah campus. In November 1958, Eusoff College was officially declared open by Mrs Maude Scott, one of the earliest woman graduates of Raffles College. The very first principal was Dr Ruth Wong while the first President of the JCRC was Ms Ng Kim Lan.

During the decade of the 80s, a number of changes swept through Eusoff College. A 26-year-old tradition was broken when Eusoff went co-educational in 1984. In June 1988, Eusoff Hall at Kent Ridge campus began its operations and was officially opened by the then President Wee Kim Wee on 5 August 1989. It inherited the legacy of the life at Eusoff College, as many of the Eusoff College residents moved to the new Eusoff Hall. Despite the change of name, residents who moved from Eusoff College to Eusoff Hall were determined to carry on with the best traditions of the former.

Eusoff College continued to operate as a postgraduate students' hostel at Evans Road until 2001. After Dr Lim Kiat Boey stood down as principal, Professor Lee Kok Onn took over as principal until its closing on the evening of 24 March 2001.



Eusoff College in 1958

Dato Panglima Kinta Dr Haji Mohamed Eusoff

— Adapted from *Eusoff 50th Anniversary Book "50 Years of Eusoffians"*



Eusoff College and Eusoff Hall bear the proud name of Dato Panglima Kinta Dr Haji Mohamed Eusoff, CBE, JP, LLD, Pro-Chancellor of the then University of Malaya in Singapore and Chairman of the University Council from 1953 to 1957. The Hall was named after him in recognition of his outstanding services to education including the important role that he played in the Carr-Saunders Commission in the establishment of the very university that he loved.

Dato Eusoff was born in Ipoh in 1897 to a family of a traditional Malay chiefs of the Kinta district in Perak. He received his education at the Anderson School in Ipoh before embarking on a career in the Malayan Civil Service, where he served with great distinction. In later life as a leading member of the traditional Malay ruling class, Dato Haji Mohamed Eusoff served as the Panglima Kinta of Perak in 1951. He was also a member of the Perak State Council (1952) and the Perak Council of Regency (1955). Dato Eusoff also held positions on the Ipoh Town Board (1953), was President of the All-Malaya Muslim Missionary Society, the Ipoh Red Cross Society (1955), and also President of the Perak Amateur Athletic Association. His other contributions to society included being a Justice of Peace in Selangor in 1948 and in Perak in 1953.

However, Dato Eusoff's most significant contribution was in education and in the establishment of the University of Malaya in Singapore. He was appointed as the only Malay member of the Carr-Saunders Commission on 'University Education in Malaya' in March 1947, which eventually oversaw the establishment of a university in Singapore. For his efforts, he was inducted into the Court of the University of Malaya at its first meeting in 1949 and subsequently conferred an honorary doctorate in law in 1951. In 1953, Dato Eusoff became the Chairman of the University Council and in 1954 the Pro-Chancellor of the University. He was a strong advocate of an all-rounded education saying often that it was 'life outside the classroom' that enriched the lives of students as much as their academic studies; and that each generation of students should 'contribute something new, challenging and stimulating to the richness and diversity of university life.'

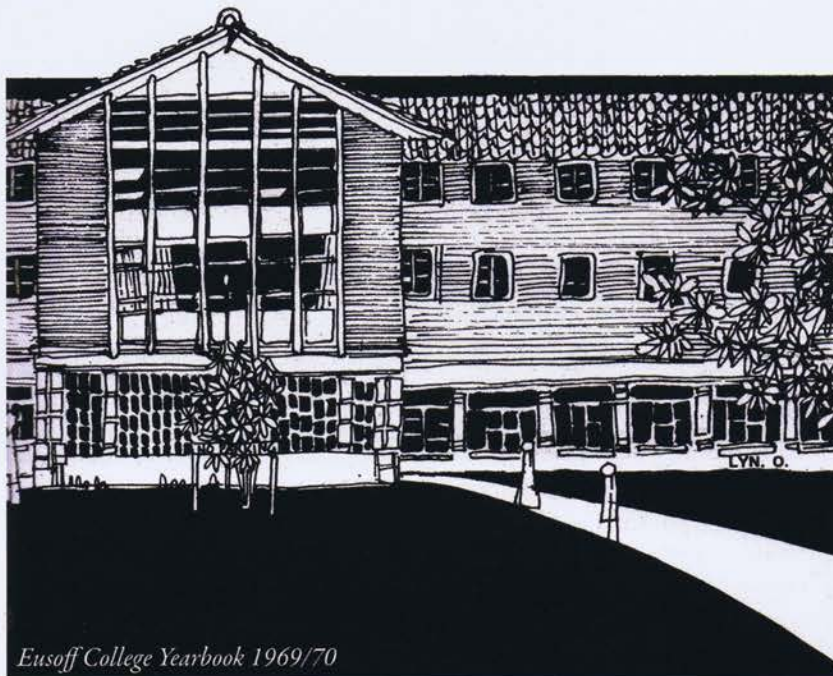
Today, Eusoff College and later Eusoff Hall stand as the only institutions that honour the legacy of this great man, and Eusoffians continue to live the philosophies of their namesake. The traditions that he set out for the university as a whole are the traditions that Eusoffians emulate every day.



Eusoff College in 1988

Principals of Eusoff College & Masters of Eusoff Hall

The next few pages are dedicated to those who served as Principals of Eusoff College and Masters of Eusoff Hall, leaving behind certain traditions and legacy in their own ways. Their dedication, commitment, and contributions to Eusoff embody the values and ideals of a true Eusoffian. They were responsible for many aspects in the College and Hall, not only administrative and day-to-day matters, but also residents' welfare and many other things pertaining to residential life. Indeed, they have directly or indirectly helped to shape and nurture some of the best Eusoffians that we know today. The Eusoff experience would have been vastly different without these people:



Principals of Eusoff College

- 15 Professor Ruth Wong
- 17 Professor Jean Robertson
- 19 Dr Nalla Tan
- 21 Dr Aileen Aw
- 23 Dr Lim Kiat Boey
- 25 Professor Lee Kok Onn

Masters of Eusoff Hall

- 29 Professor Andrew Tay
- 31 A/P Tan Tin Wee



Professor
Ruth Wong
Principal of Eusoff College, 1958 – 1959

The First Principal of Eusoff College: *the Teacher, the Trail Blazer, and the Visionary*

— Partly adapted from Eusoff 50th Anniversary Book “50 Years of Eusoffians”

Eusoff College could not have asked for a more suitable first principal than the late Professor Ruth Wong, well-known in local academic circles for her contributions to education. In 2008, an entire episode of a television programme in a series about outstanding educationists in Singapore featured the late Professor Wong as a pioneer in the field of education. It was our great loss when Professor Wong resigned in 1959 after she was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to pursue her Doctorate in Education at Harvard University. Her short tenure belies the enduring nature of what she impressed upon and had given to Eusoff College.

As the first Principal, she assumed the responsibility of laying the foundations in the form of the values and spirit she hoped all Eusoffians would come to possess; and in this she left a lasting legacy. She stressed the importance of responsibility, self-respect, harmonious living, and the dignity of womanhood; values that are indeed representative of Eusoff College through the years. Through her careful management of the College's finances, she was able to provide for future generations of Eusoffians and also ensured that the young women who entered the College would have some of the best facilities on campus.

Dr Jasbir Kaur, 2nd JCRC President of Eusoff College said: “I would like to pay tribute to our first Principal, Professor Ruth Wong who was there for a short time... As the first Principal, she took such pains to make sure that the college was run well and I think what we appreciated most was the fact that she took trouble to see that the physical side of Eusoff College was well maintained... I think it was very much her own high standards that maintained the quality of the physical facilities as well as the administration of the college.”

In 2013, a book written by one of the late Professor Ruth Wong's sister, Wong Hee-Ong, *Ruth Wong: Educationist and Teacher Extraordinaire* was published. The book serves as an account of Professor Ruth Wong's life, family, and tremendous contributions to education in both Singapore and Malaysia. She helped to shape and nurture future generations of teachers and educators in Singapore through her works in both the Ministry of Education and the National Institute of Education. The book also gives a glimpse of how much she had made an impact on other people's lives. Reminiscences, anecdotes, and personal stories from friends, family members, and tributes serve as a testimony to how extraordinary a person she was. The late Professor Ruth Wong was aptly described as “the Teacher, the Trail Blazer, and the Visionary”. In memory of the late Professor Ruth Wong, her family instituted an annual Memorial Lecture “Ruth Wong Memorial Lecture” to continually inspire younger generations of teachers and educators, and as a reminder of her seminal ideas and works on teaching and education.



Professor
Jean Robertson
Principal of Eusoff College, 1959 – 1967

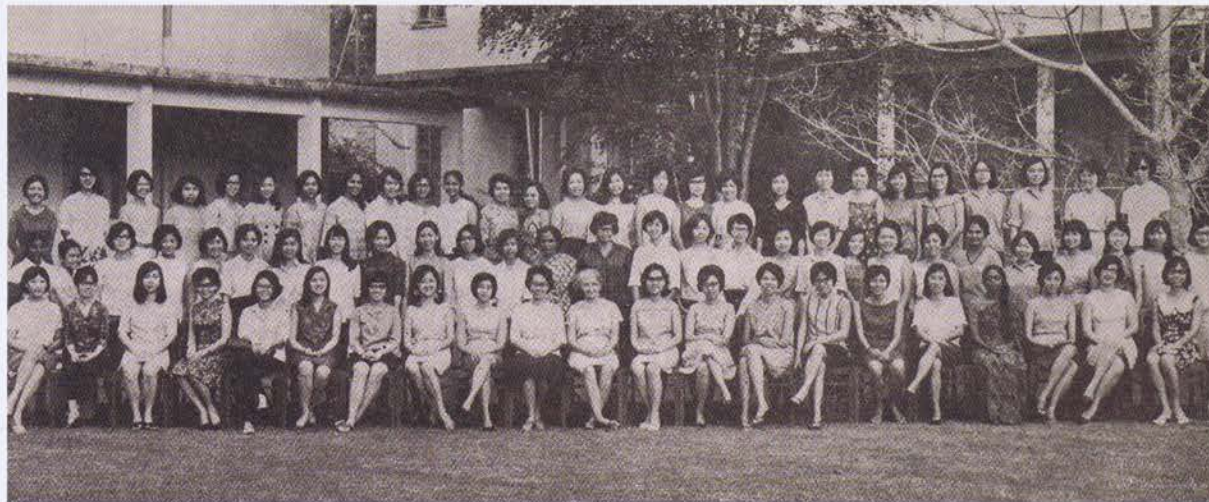
“It was Eusoff College’s loss when she left”

— Adapted from *Eusoff 50th Anniversary Book “50 Years of Eusoffians”*

The late Professor Jean Robertson was with Eusoff College for nearly a decade. She was a senior fellow from the time the College was established, and went on to become its second Principal in September 1959. She played an integral role in the discussion and formulation of what were to be Eusoff traditions together with Professor Ruth Wong and the other fellows.

Professor Robertson’s dedication to Eusoff College and its residents was unquestionable. Despite her heavy commitments outside of Eusoff College as a Head of Department, a social worker, and a member of various university committees and government boards, she always found time to devote to the running of the College. Under her able leadership, Eusoff College soon grew in stature and before long, gained the reputation of being one of the best residential halls in the university. Professor Robertson’s contributions to Eusoff College in the near-decade she spent there can hardly be measured with any conventional yardstick; and indeed, it was Eusoff College’s loss and the University of Hong Kong’s gain when she left the College in 1967 to assume the position of Professor of Social Studies in Hong Kong.

She retired in 1973 and died tragically in a car accident on 7th November 1974, while travelling in the south of France. In memory of the good years that she put in for Eusoff, the Senior Common Room Committee of Eusoff donated a trophy for Eusoff’s Girl of the Year Award. Seah Jia Choo, Eusoff’s Girl of the Year 1974-1975, became the first winner of the Jean Robertson Trophy.



Members of Eusoff College (Professor Jean Robertson in the front row, centre). Eusoff College c.1966



Dr *Nalla Tan*
Principal of Eusoff College, 1967 – 1972

The late Dr Nalla Tan was a doctor, academic, and author; best known for her works in sex and health education, gender equality, women's rights, and family life. She was also the first woman in Southeast Asia to be awarded the Fellow of the Faculty of Community Medicine from the Faculty of Medicine of the Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom. She has published short stories and books about poetry (*Beyond the Navel, Hearts and Crosses, Villa Alicia*, etc), women issues, as well as sex education.

Dr Nalla Tan became the principal in 1967 with a clear vision for the College. She strongly believed that "Eusoff College should and can be the nucleus of a widening and enriching experience that is and must be part of academic living... I look back with nostalgia and a sense of belonging on my entire undergraduate years and in particular the corporate living I participated as a hostelite. It is the kind of living that is to be and nowhere else, and an experience that can never be replaced by anything else."

She also envisioned Eusoff College to be "the hub of the female population in the University, providing the 'modus vivendi', setting the standards, the pace, and leading the way for all women in this region." Clearly, her works, career, and ideals served to inspire many women graduates of Eusoff College to achieve the same in the future, and in that, Dr Tan was a Eusoffian who embodied the value of the dignity of womanhood. Those who experienced life in Eusoff College under Dr Tan will not forget her and her immense contributions to Eusoff College. Indeed, Eusoff would not have been the same without her.

"Let me, before I end, say one last thing to you, the young women of this College. Your future is yours. You mould it, you develop it, you enrich it. Nobody does this for you. And as young women leaders of tomorrow, hold dear to yourselves, this prerogative."

— Dr Nalla Tan's farewell message (*From Eusoff College Yearbook 1970/71*)

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Nalla Tan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature is a single horizontal line that starts under the first letter and extends to the right, ending under the last letter.



Dr *Eileen Aw*
Principal of Eusoff College, 1972 – 1978

My Eusoff College Experience

by Dr Eileen Aw

Eusoff College had 207 ladies at any one time, no guys. Some girls stayed one year, others two years and only special ones who contributed or were in leadership positions stayed three to four years. As Principal of Eusoff College for seven years, I had the joy of having more than one thousand “daughters”. My routine was to be at breakfast every morning from 7:00 am to 8:30 am. I would bring my children to school, drop in at Eusoff and go home to bring my husband to work. This breakfast schedule allowed me to informally chat with many girls and get to know them better. It always gave me a warm feeling to have formed this bond.

As a medical student I stayed at King Edward VII Hall, but being Health Physician I stayed on Campus at Evans Road. I was a non-resident fellow of Eusoff SCRC (Senior Common Room Committee), so becoming a Principal was a seamless transition. Fun time at Eusoff was doing things less ordinary together. The capacity of the girls to rise up to the occasion again and again, their capabilities, their various talents all come forth when we did things that they enjoyed. We won all the Rag and Flag Day Float Competitions. We had our various annual projects like the “Mid Autumn Festival” in the courtyard; the “West End Story” stage production and many others. Warm waffles with maple syrup served up by SCRC members every year when they were preparing for examinations was much appreciated and something to look forward to in the late night.

Being the Principal of Eusoff came with its challenges, too. The first week into the job we had the infamous “panty-raid”, but that was the last time the Raffles Hall boys were able to climb into the front block toilets to steal the panties and display their trophies. We sealed solid the wall and got rid of the climbing blocks the architects provided for this shenanigan. There were the never-ending complaints about food. A huge sheet that covered the entire notice board was put up for comments on meals. I was amazed at the comments. Some loved the most unpopular dishes. It showed clearly that “One person’s meat is another’s poison”, and that really stopped the nagging complaints. Disappearing laundry was another challenge, and we attacked it together as a college. There was a total college lock down and inspection. There were mysterious phone bills that we enlisted Telecoms as detectives to solve. Revamped College staff schedules also resulted in happier and loyal staff. A supportive SCRC and JCRC (Junior Common Room Committee) made all a pleasant experience.

What I like about Eusoff is that it was a girl’s college, and the boys came a-courting. There were no handphones at that time, and it was the voice across the quadrangle that told us whose boyfriend was visiting. For many couples these memories gave Eusoff a special place in their lives.



Dr *Lim Kiat Boey*
Principal of Eusoff College, 1979 – 1996

“to strive, to find, and not to yield”

— *Dr Lim's first principal's message quoting Tennyson*

Even before Dr Lim became the Principal of Eusoff College in 1979, she briefly assumed the position of a resident fellow in 1958 when Eusoff College was just opened. She returned to Eusoff over 20 years later; eventually becoming the longest serving principal of Eusoff College. She took the position while concurrently teaching linguistics and the methodology of language teaching at the Regional Language Centre (RELC).

Dr Lim did not take up residence in the College, but she made sure to go down to the College daily to handle the administrative affairs of the College, as well as interact with the residents. As RELC was reasonably near Eusoff College, her practice was to return to Eusoff College during lunch breaks to meet with other SCRC members who also regularly came back for lunch at the College.

Dr Lim remembered her speech at her very first formal dinner as the Principal of Eusoff College; it was about a rather sensitive issue – ragging. “I won the students over with the speech. I said I don't want to make the newcomers unhappy. I didn't want the newcomers to feel a sense of inferiority and shame in the College. After the dinner, the JCRC came to me saying that they didn't like the speech. But I said that I don't want them to make the newcomers feel scared and unwelcomed in the College. I didn't back down. And after some time, the JCRC and I got along quite well.”

Indeed, it was not surprising that she was respected and well-liked among the Eusoff College residents. It was undoubtedly because of her continual concern for the residents and their welfare, and also because of her ability to mediate and resolve disputes, no matter how divisive or sensitive the issue was. To Dr Lim, her priority in Eusoff College was to get along well with the residents. During her 17 years as Eusoff College's Principal, she believed that her main duty was just to be there, ensuring everything in the College was okay. She admitted that she wasn't a strict Principal. “There was no need to be strict, Eusoff College residents were really well-behaved to begin with.”

Dr Lim believed that Eusoff College experience was all about growing up. She saw how residents grew together in such a close-knit community and forged lasting friendships. Also, there was much interaction between Raffles Hall boys and Eusoff College girls, truly a Eusoff tradition that began many years before her time as the Principal. She distinctly remembered that quite a number of boys from Raffles Hall eventually married the girls from Eusoff College. One notable example is the present President Tony Tan and her wife, Mary Tan (née Chee).

In her time as principal, Dr Lim witnessed major changes in the College and its residents through the transitions of turning to co-ed and later on, into a postgraduate students' hostel. Indeed, she embodies the very words she imparted to the residents in her first principal's message quoting Tennyson: “to strive, to find, and not to yield”. Her commitment to Eusoff was so great that even after retiring from teaching at RELC in 1991, she continued as the principal of Eusoff College until 1996.

When asked why she became the Principal for such an impressive number of years, her answer was simple: “I just wanted to do something for Eusoff College.”



Professor

Lee Kok Onn

Principal of Eusoff College, 1997 – 2001

Eusoff College – the end-times

by Professor Lee Kok Onn

Eusoff College at Evans Road came to the last phase of its existence when men were allowed to penetrate the cloisters and live in the hitherto home for the protection of young women. My wife and I moved into Eusoff in 1984, and I was the first Male Resident Fellow there. Dr Lim Kiat Boey was Principal, the other resident fellows were the honourable Senior Ladies Professor Wong Hee Aik and Ms Lim Bee Lum. We were in time for the freshers week, and the young men who were the first male ‘freshers’ were in a state of complete discombobulation when they encountered the shouts and commands of the many formidable ladies during orientation (‘disorientation’ was a more apt description of the state of the young men). They soon overcame it – and within a year or two, men took over many of the JCRC positions, and the whole character of the Eusoff College orientation week, with the “Eusoff Spirit” concoction (a witches brew that all Freshers had to imbibe) was changed forever.

Further change came when the main campus moved completely to Kent Ridge in 1986. I took over as Principal of the Eusoff College left behind at Evans Road in 1988. Professor Wee Tiong Huan was the Domestic Bursar and Ms Ong Hoe Chin was the administrator. We had become a residence for post-graduate students from overseas. Initially there was not a single Singapore student left. These students came from many foreign countries with very different cultures, and one of the main concerns was to increase friendship and understanding, and to prevent clashes. It was marvelous to be able to have the Singapore harmonious multi-ethnic model for students who had not encountered it before. But in the last days, Eusoff College became almost like a ghetto – as upkeep of facilities was kept to the minimum since ‘the University will be moving all the students to the main campus very soon’. The place did not get much attention. Eusoff hall was already up and running very well (with Professor Andrew Tay as Master), and thus Eusoff College came to a quiet peaceful end in 2001.

And on that fateful evening on 24 March 2001, many Eusoffian alumnae and alumni came for a final farewell, some with tears in their eyes. We locked the gates and declared Eusoff College at Evans Road officially closed, witnessed by myself as the Last Principal of Eusoff College, the last of a long line of principals who presided over many a generation of Eusoffians. I made sure that the legacy of Eusoff remained as memorabilia of its existence were transferred to the Kent Ridge Campus, the paintings that decorated our corridors and common rooms to the NUS Museum eventually, and the famous Nalla Tan sculpture to the new Eusoff Hall in Kent Ridge. Eusoff Hall’s Founding Master Andrew Tay was kind enough to help facilitate the transfer and archiving of Eusoff College memorabilia to Eusoff Hall.

Thus truth to be told, the end times of Eusoff College premises did not see the complete extinguishment of all things Eusoff College. For indeed, the Eusoff spirit lives on in Eusoff Hall, its heritage, its legacy has been transmitted to its daughter entity. And in 2008, on the 50th Anniversary of Eusoff College, the second Master of Eusoff Hall, A/P Tan Tin Wee, made sure that our legacy was truly entrenched forever. Eusoffians of all ages, from the College and from the Hall, gathered in style at the new NUSS Guildhouse to celebrate our half centennial. The Eusoff Alumni Association, formed by a truly loyal bunch of Eusoffian ladies led by Mrs Tan Chee Kiow, continues to live on as a focal point for all Eusoffians. Their regular interactions continue to this day, from informal durian nights, to serious Annual General Meetings.

A/P Tan also worked closely with all of us seniors, to make sure that we were regularly invited to attend various Eusoff Hall functions, and through members of the Eusoff Hall Senior Common Room Committee appointed key Eusoff College alumnae to retain that rich heritage of a generation of students past and to continue to transmit the values we held dear to us, to a new generation of students in Eusoff Hall. In fact, there has been talk, now that the Bukit Timah Campus has been re-assigned back to NUS, that perhaps, across the road, where the original Eusoff College building still stands, that Grand Dame, staked out for preservation as a Singapore Heritage building, will one day, be returned to its rightful fold, where it truly belongs, in the cradle of the National University of Singapore, where we who have witnessed its end times, might have the privilege of witnessing its rebirth.



(Top photo) Dr Lim Kiat Boey and Dr Nalla Tan leading the hen hop – Eusoff 25th Anniversary Celebrations
(Bottom photo, from left to right) A/P Tan Tin Wee, Mrs Mary Tan (Mary Chee Bee Kiang), Dr Tony Tan, Dr Lim Kiat Boey, Dr Eileen Aw, and Professor Andrew Tay – Eusoff 50th Anniversary Celebrations
(Right photo) Professor Lee Kok Onn, Dr Lim Kiat Boey, Dr Eileen Aw, Professor Andrew Tay, A/P Tan Tin Wee – Eusoff 55th Anniversary Celebrations







Professor
Andrew Tay
Master of Eusoff Hall, 1988 – 2003

Eusoff Hall's Founding Master

Professor Andrew Tay was the founding Master of Eusoff Hall from June 1988 to June 2003. He was instrumental in the transition of Eusoff College at Bukit Timah campus to Eusoff Hall at Kent Ridge campus. In June 1984 when Eusoff College took in male residents for the first time in its history, he was appointed Vice-Principal of Eusoff College to assist in the administration of the expanded Eusoff College which had then incorporated the buildings left behind by Raffles Hall when it moved into Kent Ridge. In 1987 he was appointed as Master-Designate of Eusoff Hall and provided useful inputs to the architect then designing the building structure of the new Eusoff Hall at Kent Ridge campus.



During his first year as Master of Eusoff Hall, he commissioned the new Eusoff Hall crest, anthem, and motto “Excellence & Harmony”. He believed in the motto so strongly that he named his son and daughter 杰安 (Jie An) and 佳宁 (Jia Ning) after the motto. He also ensured that the spirit and traditions of Eusoff College were permanently transferred to Eusoff Hall at Kent Ridge by appointing the then JCRC of Eusoff College as the first JCRC of Eusoff Hall, and also admitting the entire cohort of Eusoff College residents into Eusoff Hall. He also initiated a pro tem committee to look into the formation of the NUS Eusoff Alumni which was finally inaugurated in 1989.

When Eusoff College at Evans road was officially closed in 2001, Professor Andrew Tay helped to facilitate the transfer of Eusoff College memorabilia to Eusoff Hall, to preserve the history and legacy of Eusoff College at Evans Road. Eusoff Hall's Founding Master, Andrew Tay, ensured that when the time came, the mosaic tiles of the Eusoff College lobby, bearing the Eusoff College crest, were to be meticulously and physically transferred to the porch of Eusoff Hall where it stands in a place of honour today. He also ensured that all the rest of the memorabilia of Eusoff College were to be safely archived in a newly installed Heritage Corner in Eusoff Hall. He sought the University's permission to have the legacy of the college in the form of its multi-million dollar reserves to be transferred to Eusoff Hall, and managed to get a good fraction of that into Eusoff Hall, fortunately.

Prior to his appointment as Vice-Principal of Eusoff College, Andrew had served as an inaugural resident fellow of Kent Ridge Hall (1981-1983) and resident fellow of Dunearn Road Hostel (1977-1980). He joined the then University of Singapore as a lecturer in the Department of Mechanical and Production Engineering in 1975 after working for a year in the Nuclear Energy Unit of the Ministry of Science and Technology. Andrew did his B.Eng in Mechanical Engineering at the University of New South Wales, Australia, from 1966 to 1969 under a Colombo Plan scholarship. He graduated with First Class Honours and was awarded the University Medal for best performing student in that degree programme. He continued to read for his PhD in Mechanical Engineering in UNSW which he successfully completed in 1973. Professor Andrew Tay has received several awards in his career including the IEEE (Institute of Electrical & Electronic Engineers) CPMT (Components, Packaging & Manufacturing Technology) Society Exceptional Technical Contributions Award (2012); the IEEE CPMT Regional Contributions Award (Asia Pacific Region, 2012); the Outstanding Contribution Award (Engineering Mechanics) from the ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers), EPPD (Electronic and Photonic Packaging Division) for the most outstanding contributions in the area of engineering mechanics applications to the field of electronics and/or photonics packaging (2004); and a Third Millennium Medal by IEEE for outstanding achievements and contributions to IEEE (2000).



Associate Professor

Tan Tin Wee

Master of Eusoff Hall, 2003 – 2013

He Kept the Eusoff Torch Ablaze

by Associate Professor Goh Beng Lan (Master, Eusoff Hall 2014 –)

Associate Professor Tan Tin Wee has served as Master of Eusoff Hall for ten great years. During his tenure, he kept the Eusoff torch ablaze and brought the Hall to greater achievements in sports, cultural activities, and social service.

A passionate and capable Master, Eusoff Hall attained many new heights of excellence under his watch. Eusoff became the hall that won the Overall IHG Championship for six consecutive years (2008-2013) – a record-breaking feat in the history of the halls. Beside sports, Eusoff excelled in cultural activities such as the much-prided annual Dance Production whereby Eusoffians showcase their creativity and professionalism in this major cultural event. Social service also became an important dimension of hall life. Eusoff's Voluntary Corps continued steadfastly to care for the elderly at Chin Swee Road as well as in its educational work with youths at The Salvation Army and the underprivileged at the Clementi Training & Development Centre of MINDS (Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore).

An energetic and visionary Master, A/Prof Tan also presided over many new initiatives at the hall. Among these were: Eusoff Expedition or Service Learning to Cambodia which was established during his tenure and is now into its tenth year; Eusoff Annual Lecture which was launched in conjunction with the Hall's 50th Anniversary celebrations with a Nobel Laureate as the first speaker; Eusoff Business Incubator – a franchise of NUS Business Incubator – which was set up in 2004 has thus far spun-off four companies with four more currently under incubation. Besides new initiatives, A/Prof Tan also established financial aid and achievement awards for deserving Eusoffians via the following vehicles: The Eusoff Bursary (established in July 2006) and the Eusoff-Ngee Ann Kongsi Student Financial Assistance (established in May 2008); Eusoff College Medal (established in 2004) which commemorates Eusoff College as well as rewards students' for their academic achievements, leadership and contributions to hall life. The Eusoff College Medal is awarded to deserving students during the University Commencement Ceremony.

Alumni relations is another matter close to A/Prof Tan's heart. As Master, he revived the Eusoff Alumni Association and cemented relations between Hall and College alumni via the establishment of Residential Life and Alumni Centre (ReLAC). A/Prof Tan was an excellent gatekeeper of the hall's history. He would never miss out on an opportunity to relate the hall's history and the people who helped made the hall to both residents and his colleagues. It is indeed the fortune of Eusoff Hall to have benefited from the capable and dedicated leadership of A/Prof Tan. He was a Master with a keen eye for detail who kept hall amenities and infrastructure in tip-top condition and the hall safe for its residents. He knew every nook and cranny of the hall and had the gradients of the slopes surrounding the Hall in his watchful eye for the danger of landslides. So too, he had every tree branch within the verdant Eusoff compound under his radar should any dying branches fall off under strong wind. Needless to say, A/Prof Tan was a hands-on Master who did not fear getting his hands dirty. Beyond his contributions to hall residents and alumni, A/Prof Tan also carefully mentored the Hall's management staff. He was a Master with high expectations but even as he challenged those working under him to reach greater career heights, he was also there to groom, encourage and support them along the way.

A/Prof Tan's achievements as Master are too many to name. As much as he expected excellence from Eusoffians, his personal career was also characterized by excellence: Singapore Youth Award 1994 (Singapore's highest youth accolade); ASEAN Science and Technology Meritorious Award 2008; Tamil Internet Frontier Award 2008; Inaugural Class 2012 Internet Hall of Fame, as one of three Asians together with 32 other Internet luminaries including Vint Cerf, Tim Berners-Lee and Al Gore. These are but some of his honours and international recognition he has garnered through the years for his professional work, many while in office. Indeed like many Eusoffians of old, he has set a high standard for all to follow.

Eusoff Hall has indeed been lucky to have enjoyed his service and competent leadership for the past ten years. Thank you A/Prof Tan Tin Wee, from the bottom of our hearts! We wish you continued success in your career. May you go on to achieve greater things in your life! The Hall will continue to press on with your good legacy and keep the Eusoff torch ablaze in the years to come.



Preface, Eusoff College Handbook, 1968

This handbook is designed to tell you what Eusoff College is, what it stands for, what goes on within its red brick walls.

Eusoff College is the only Hall of Residence for women undergraduates in the University of Singapore. It can house 210 young women. It has a reputation for supplying good food, and for being more than just comfortable. But surely halls of residence are not merely places where shelter and accommodation are made available. A hall of residence lends the atmosphere whereby young adults electing to continue their search for knowledge can set the tone, establish traditions and lay down values that will form the matrix of the society they are building. The walls, its bricks and stones, give Eusoff material form, but the spirit, the pulse, the very life of the College are fires which are lit by the students themselves.

A Hall of Residence is the logical venue for the extension and discussion of thought and philosophy first conceived in the lecture theatre. It is the place where imperishable qualities of dignity, integrity, loyalty and honour are nurtured and brought to flower. It allows an appreciation of excellence and the attainment of the highest. It is the point where young people of varying backgrounds and different social heritages can meet, find consonance, and develop an common pattern of living. Here, adaptation and adjustments take place and new postures are assumed.

And while it is all these things, it continues, through the experience of corporate living, the lessons of discipline which first began many years ago. No training, no achievement, no learning, is complete without the concept of the self discipline, and this must continue in varying degrees from the time life begins till life ceases. That discipline is a part of University life is then a fact of life that must be recognised. And from the fires of discipline will emerge characters of the finest steel.

You have gained admission into the College. This has not been a right. It is a privilege accorded to you. You must make the most of it, because privilege may never be yours again. Enter then into the life of Eusoff. Give some of yourself to it, and take some of Eusoff with you, so that when you leave this fine College, let it be with the feeling that it was a satisfying and enriching experience.

Photo: Eusoff College c.1970

Eusoff College Days

35 Mary Chee Bee Kiang (Mrs Mary Tan)

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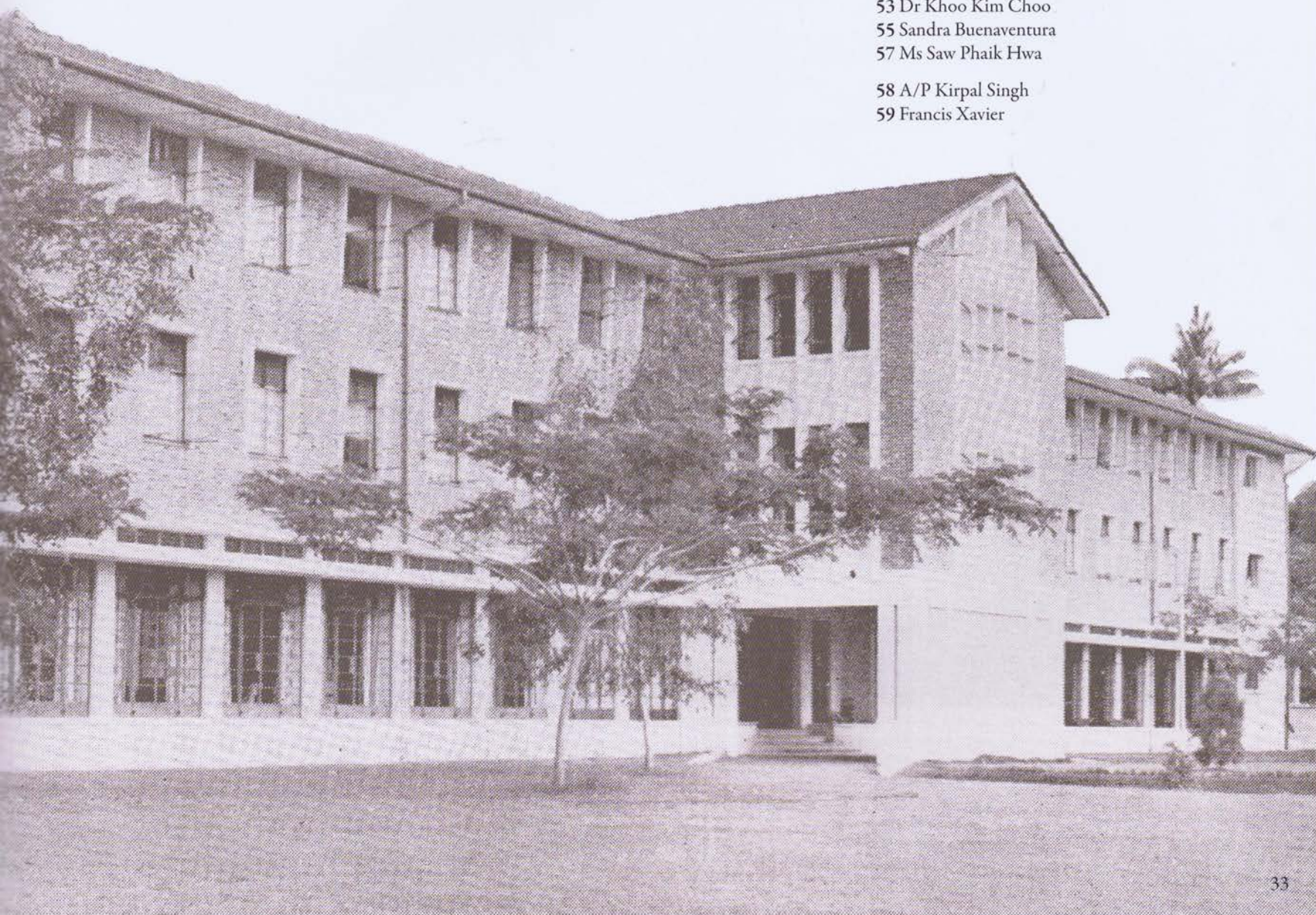
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Mary Chee Bee Kiang
(Mrs Mary Tan)

Mrs Mary Tan (maiden name Mary Chee Bee Kiang), is the spouse of Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, President of the Republic of Singapore. She was born in Singapore on 5 December 1940. She graduated from the then University of Singapore in 1962 with a Bachelor of Arts degree and in 1963 with a Diploma in Education. She was a Secondary School teacher before committing herself to be a Homemaker.

Mrs Mary Tan is the Patron of the Children's Charities Association, The Singapore Girl Guides Association, Singapore Nurses Association, Singapore Council of Women's Organisations (SCWO), and The Girls' Brigade Singapore.

She has three sons and one daughter and five grandchildren.

“If university life taught us how to think, hostel life showed us how to live”

— Mary Chee Bee Kiang

I entered Eusoff College in my second year. I am grateful for the Government Teaching Bursary that allowed me this opportunity; some of the people I met taught the life skills that have stood me in good stead ever since.

Seniors like Tan Suan Imm, Yeong Poh Yee, Winnie Chia, and Lucy Maniam were fantastic leaders and doers. They were resourceful in organizing activities to bond us as Eusoffians. Their greatest talent was not in doing everything themselves, but in creating opportunities for others to contribute in their own special way. College-mates like Joanna Wong and Mary Hoe shared their passion for dance, coaching us for performances. Following their lead, my roommate Chen Lee Foon and I joined the Junior Common Room Committee. Everyone did their part to make Eusoff College their home.

As a result, we were like a family, always looking out for one another. The entire hostel only had two telephones; when the phone rang, anyone could pick it up and shout your name if the call was for you. Other voices would join in the relay line. This spirit of co-operation across age groups, faculties, ethnic, and religious backgrounds was very special indeed.

Hostel living gave me a new independence and I met many people other than students who have left a great impression on me. Reverend Joseph Matthew of the Student Christian Movement demonstrated dedication and selflessness. He organized services to suit our busy schedules, sometimes as early at 7 am!

The kitchen staff at Eusoff College also went beyond the call of duty. As I worked in the University Library (under Lena Cheng), I would miss meals. The staff would keep food for me – a kind gesture that a young hungry girl would remember for life. Years later, my husband and I stayed at Evans Road apartment. I would return to Eusoff College with my baby son to visit them.

I remember the nearby sarabat stall fondly. The owner was a true entrepreneur, keeping goats on premises. In those days of limited refrigeration, I guess the goats may have been his milk supply! On one occasion, I was butted by one of the goats. I steered clear of the goats after that, but still returned to the stall. Not only did he sell kopi, teh tarik, milo and curry puffs, he provided a conducive atmosphere in which we could socialize. We would gather there to chat or prepare for tutorials. We never felt rushed to clear the tables. His stall was the original Starbucks, and he definitely knew how to keep the customers returning.

Finally, living at Eusoff College afforded me the opportunity to get to know my boyfriend, Tony, now my husband of almost 50 years. Tony would walk me back from the library regularly. The walks laid a wonderful foundation for a relationship. We were often so busy, with little time for quiet reflection. Walking slowed the pace, giving us time for reflection and sharing. To this day, Tony and I cherish our evening walks around the neighbourhood or at the Botanic Gardens, not far from Eusoff College.

For many of us, our years at university marked the transition to independence as women, as working adults, and as citizens in an emerging nation. If university life taught us how to think, hostel life showed us how to live. I am always grateful for the precious memories, the opportunities to try new things, and the lifelong friends whom I met at Eusoff College.

HE Ambassador *Chan Heng Chee*

HE Ambassador Chan Heng Chee is Ambassador-at-Large with the Singapore Foreign Ministry, Chairman of the Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities in the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD). She is Chairman of the National Arts Council (NAC). She was appointed a Member of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights in July 2012. In November 2012, she was appointed Singapore's representative to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR).

Ambassador Chan has served as Singapore's Ambassador to the United States, Singapore's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, High Commissioner to Canada and Ambassador to Mexico.



“One should never be afraid to live life to the fullest and take some risks”

— HE Ambassador Chan Heng Chee

HE Ambassador Chan Heng Chee graduated from the University of Singapore with a First Class Honours degree in Political Science (she was the first woman to graduate with a First Class Honours degree in Political Science in 1964). Some of her previous appointments and achievements include: Professor of NUS Political Science and Head of Department (1985–1987); Founding Director of the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) in 1988; and Founder and Executive Director, Singapore International Foundation (SIF). She was the first woman in Singapore to be appointed Ambassador and first woman from East Asia to be Permanent Representative to the United Nations when she was appointed as Singapore's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (1989–1991). From 1993 to 1996, she assumed the position of Director, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS). From 1996 to 2002, she was appointed as Singapore's Ambassador to the US.

How was your time in Eusoff?

“I stayed in Eusoff College from 1961 to 1963. I really enjoyed college life. I made friends and understood what collegial life was about. At Eusoff College, I studied hard and played hard. I did not serve in any Eusoff Committee as I was active outside Eusoff College. I was Secretary of the Singapore Film Society and was on the committee for the publication of *Tumasek*, edited by Dr Goh Poh Seng. I also worked as a freelance writer for the *Singapore Free Press* and *The Straits Times* to help pay my college fees. All in all, it was a fun time living away from home. To be on one's own was very important for me.”

How did your Eusoff experience help shape or prepare you for life after university?

“I learnt good values and scholarship from my department professors. In Eusoff, I learnt a lot about women and the solidarity of sisters. I had a ‘rough’ initiation into Eusoff College, when I was targeted for ragging during the initial period of Orientation. Although the ragging was rough, I made many good friends and enjoyed the protective friendship of many seniors. In those days, ragging did help social bonding but some of it was especially cruel for the men. In today's context however, ragging is another form of bullying. It has no place in today's college life.

In retrospect, it was not all about Eusoff College. I believe that it was the entire education at the University of Singapore that helped shape and prepare me for life after university. My family upbringing was very important too, for I learned my values from my parents and from school.”

Message to young Eusoffians of today

“One should never be afraid to live life to the fullest and take some risks. Remember, you can be whatever you choose to be. Stress in life is something we should manage. Without stress, we do not expand our potential.”

Currently, HE Ambassador Chan is Ambassador-at-large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Chairman of the National Arts Council; Chairman of the Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities at the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD); Member, Presidential Council for Minority Rights; Member, NUS Board of Trustees; Member, Yale-NUS Governing Board; Chairman, Global Council on Urbanization, World Economic Forum (WEF); Trustee, Asia Society; and Board Director, Lowy Institute for International Policy, Sydney.



The Honourable Justice *Lai Siu Chiu*

Justice Lai Siu Chiu held the distinction of being the first female Judicial Commissioner in 1991, and subsequently, the first female Judge on the Supreme Court Bench in 1994.

During her judicial tenure, Justice Lai also contributed her time generously towards social causes close to her heart such as the Salvation Army, the Yellow Ribbon Fund and the Singapore After-Care Association, both of which provides social, emotional and financial assistance to ex-offenders and their families. Prior to joining the judiciary, Justice Lai chaired the Children's Charities Association for a number of years, a charity she continues to support.

Justice Lai Siu Chiu retired from her appointment as Supreme Court Judge with effect from 30 October 2013 after more than 22 years of distinguished service.

“A once in a lifetime experience”

—Justice Lai Siu Chiu

How was your time in Eusoff?

It was an all-ladies college. You don't have to worry about the opposite sex. I just thought that at that time, Eusoff suited me fine. It was walking distance to my classes, so it was really convenient. In those days they provided 3 meals a day: breakfast, lunch, and dinner. They even provided laundry service! It was all very good, everything was provided for us.

What did you remember most about Eusoff?

Flour war. Raffles Hall boys would come at night to raid our undergarments, and they would try to hoist our panties up the flagpole. It was awful and all the girls repelled them with...flour! Lumps of flour! The Raffles boys would just sit there and sing rowdy songs and taunt the girls. The girls would retaliate by throwing flour mixed with water as a form of missile at them. It happened once in an academic year. It was all in good fun.

And then we also had Open House day every year, and the girls loved it because all their boyfriends from other halls like King Edward VII Hall and Raffles Hall, as well as parents, boyfriends from outside, and members of the public would come to visit Eusoff College. Another big event for the girls at Eusoff College was the Annual Eusoff Ball. Again, their boyfriends would come to dance with them. We also had dances, 'hops' they called it, where hostelites from Raffles Hall, Eusoff College, and King Edward VII would mingle. The boys and the girls met up, and some eventually married after they graduated.

I also remembered the late Dr Nalla Tan. To me, she was a Fantastic Principal of Eusoff College. I was very fond of her. She would invite me to her home as she literally lived just next door from Eusoff College. She had a wonderful husband also. Dr Tan was very kind; I felt as if I were one of her children. I was very touched by her gesture in inviting me to her home for Christmas Eve dinners. There was also a time when Lee Kuan Yew who was the Prime Minister back then attended our 'High Table' Dinner as the guest-of-honour. She tried to implement certain traditions in the college.

How did your Eusoff experience help shape or prepare you for life after university?

It was an all-round experience as a hostelite. If you ask me how it shaped or prepared me, it definitely helped in the sense that you had a chance to meet so many people from all walks of life, local and foreign students alike. I recalled there were some exchange students from the United States. And you also got to know the male students from other halls like Raffles Hall. I made lifelong friendships with some of my male seniors, with whom I still keep in touch; some of them are doing very well in the Malaysian judiciary. I made some very good friends in Eusoff.

“Make full use of your time at Eusoff. Study hard... and play hard, enjoy your time, because hostelite time is definitely a once in a lifetime experience.”

Justice Lai Siu Chiu received her LL.B. from the University of Singapore in 1972, and her LL.M. from University of London in 1977. She was admitted as an advocate and solicitor in Singapore in 1973. Justice Lai began her career with the law firm Sim Teow Gok & Co in 1973. Before her appointment to the Bench, Justice Lai was a Senior Partner with one of Singapore's largest law firms Allen & Gledhill to which she was attached from 1973 until her elevation to the Bench on 2 May 1991.

She stayed in Eusoff College throughout her time at the University of Singapore.



Mrs *Joanna Wong*

Mrs Joanna Wong (née Woo) Quee Heng is an expert exponent of Chinese opera, and was a recipient of the Cultural Medallion Award in 1981 – the first Chinese Opera artist to receive the Award. She has extensive experience in community work and has served as the Chairman of the Kreta Ayer Community Club Women's Executive Committee for over 35 years. She was conferred the Public Service Star (BBM) by the President of the Republic of Singapore in 1974 for her contribution to community service and was appointed a Justice of the Peace (JP) in October 1998. She was Chairman of the People's Association Women's Executive Committee Co-ordinating Council (now re-named the Women's Intergrative Council -WIN Council) from 1995 to 2001. Mrs Wong was the Registrar at NUS until her retirement in 2001.

Joanna Wong was formerly a Resident Fellow with Eusoff College from 1964 to 1965, after staying there as a resident from 1959 to 1963. She is currently serving as a member of Eusoff Hall SCRC.

She is married to Mr Leslie Wong with two children.

“It was love at first sight”

— Mrs Joanna Wong

*‘twas was love at first sight,
and they promised one night,
they’d be sweethearts forever more*

Joanna fondly remembered her performance in Eusoff College with Mary Chee (Mrs Mary Tan) – a dance based on a popular song Johnnie Fedora and Alice Bluebonnet. “It was a romantic story about two hats, Johnnie Fedora and Alice Bluebonnet who fell in love in a department store window. I was dressed up as Johnnie Fedora and Mary Chee dressed up as Alice Bluebonnet. We danced to the catchy tune and the audience was delighted. Those were the happy days full of fun”, she said.

But maybe it was also love at first sight when Joanna first stepped into Eusoff College. “I feel that the moment I stepped into Eusoff College, I felt at home. Coming from Penang with only one suitcase, I needed accommodation while studying in the University. Eusoff College became my home for 4 years.” When she entered Eusoff College in 1959, she learnt that there were various committees and although she said that she joined them for “fun” at first, she became an active resident in the College. In her 3rd year, Joanna became the Vice President of Eusoff College JCRC, and in her Honours year, she assumed the position of the JCRC President. In recognition of her great contribution to the College, in 1963 Eusoff College Yearbook, Jean Robertson (2nd Eusoff College Principal) personally thanked Joanna for she had “contributed in very great measure to an atmosphere of harmony and progress” in Eusoff College.

Joanna also had fond memories of Eusoff College, being very happy with the environment and the people there. Eusoff was her home away from home. She felt that she made many good friends in the College. “You knew most of the people. You know practically almost everyone. You eat together, you study together, and you attend a lot of functions together. It was wonderful living there.” She remembered walking out of Eusoff College, to the car, then to the church for her wedding. To Joanna, Eusoff College was filled with so much memory that when Eusoff College was closed down in 2001, she was devastated and in tears. Joanna shared the feelings of many of the Eusoff College alumni: “why close it down?”

“I felt that living in the hostel, you learn much more than staying at home. You had the opportunity to mix with so many different kinds of people. Being in the university, beside doing well academically, you also need to learn how to work with people and get along with them. Living in the hostel trains you to have better EQ as well as providing opportunity for leadership training. I used to be a very shy person but I considered that my 4 years in Eusoff College had helped me to overcome this shyness and I learnt many valuable skills along the way.”

After graduating with a Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree from the University of Singapore (now National University of Singapore), Joanna Wong worked in the University administration for 38 years in which she witnessed the historical formation of the ‘Joint Campus’ for the former University of Singapore and Nanyang University and the establishment of NUS, serving under no less than 7 Vice-Chancellors. Upon her retirement at the age of 62, the Joanna Wong Gold Medal Fund was set up by her colleagues and staff in the University to commemorate Joanna’s contributions to the University over the years. Joanna Wong also earned an unparalleled reputation in leadership and community service. She had served on various committees and boards such as the National Theatre Trust and the Ministry of Health; she had been the chairman of the Cultural Medallion Awards Advisory Panel and the co-chairman of the National Sports Carnival for Women. Whilst studying in the University, Joanna won the University of Singapore Students’ Union All-round Gold Medal, becoming the first female student to win this prestigious Award.

As her personal motto goes: “Steadfast in promoting opera... perseverance in pursuing opera”, she has been deeply passionate about Chinese (Cantonese) Opera. From the age of 14, Joanna has taken on stage the persona of every great heroine of Chinese folklore and history. Together with her husband Leslie, Mrs Wong founded the Chinese Theater Circle in 1981 (CTC) – the most well-known Chinese opera troupe in Singapore, Asia, and elsewhere. Today, the renowned huadan (vivacious young female role-playing actress) remains the troupe’s artistic director and leading actress, and has led it to give more than 2,000 performances in Singapore and overseas to acclaim. Currently, she serves as chairman of Pat Wo Wui Koon (Cantonese Opera Artistes Guild). She still tirelessly promotes Chinese Opera and helps to teach and groom younger generations of Chinese Opera performers.



Ms *Lim Bee Lum*

"The exemplary devotion and commitment of Eusoffians to community work inspired me to participate in University and community activities. I was one of the founder members of the Singapore Association for Continuing Education (SACE) and, for a time, also its President. My interest in women's issues led me to serve on the Women's Committee and the Campus Committee of the Singapore National Cooperatives Federation (SNCF)."

Ms Lim Bee Lum was awarded the Singapore National Co-operatives Federation Commendation Medal in 2003, the second woman to be recognised for service and dedication to the Singapore Co-operative Movement. On Campus, she has served on the Board of Directors of the NUS Multi-Purpose Cooperatives Society since 1986, the Sub-committee S-Connect of NUSS since 2000. Currently she serves as Treasurer of the Senior Alumni of NUS.

Over and above her many activities, Ms Lim Bee Lum still finds time to travel and go round shooting with her camera. She is indeed an avid traveller and keen photographer.

“It was like coming home to a place where I belonged”

— *Lim Bee Lum*

I first saw this dazzling red building from a distance. Only at matriculation did I later learn that it was Eusoff College—the only ladies hostel on campus, and a much sought-after venue for student accommodation.

Two years later, in 1960, I became a bona fide resident of this popular hostel frequently visited by the boys from Raffles Hall and Dunearn Road Hostel. My “squatting days” were over! A new life awaited me. Almost immediately, I was immersed in a spectrum of activities, ranging from sports to float building and Inter-Floor games, just to name a few. Whether it was midnight suppers or floor mates’ birthday celebrations, around eleven o’clock every night, residents with cups and plates in hand emerged from their rooms and headed to the flat roof of the games room for food, fun and fellowship. Many friendships blossom and remain strong to this day, 50 years on.

On reflection, it was serving on the College Library Sub-Committee that prompted my interest in librarianship and my subsequent application for a job at the University Library. Armed with my track record of involvement in various Eusoff activities, I was successful in my application. Subsequently, I was awarded the Ford Foundation Scholarship to pursue my Master in Library Science at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington State. In 1972, I was elated to be appointed Resident Fellow of Eusoff College. It was like coming home to a place where I belonged. With my happy experiences in American hall living among international post-graduate students, I was eager to introduce and interest students in activities such as roller skating (the forerunner to roller blading) along the long narrow back block corridor; cha cha cha sessions for sophisticated party goers; and for the more serious-minded, coffee sessions after the Main Library closed at 10.00 p.m.

In 1988, after 16 years in Eusoff College, I crossed over to Eusoff Hall at Kent Ridge Campus to serve as Resident Fellow of E block for another 12 years. Upon my retirement in 2000 as Head of Hon Sui Sen Memorial Library, I was invited to serve on the Senior Common Room Committee until the present. Over all these years of interacting with, mentoring and living among thousands of Eusoffians, I have had the deep satisfaction of witnessing the transformation of Eusoffians from diffident first-year residents to self-confident young men and women as they leave the portals of Eusoff Hall, well equipped to take their places in society. Being in their midst, I was there to share their jubilant joy in their successes, be it in the sporting arena or on the cultural scene. I lent a sympathetic ear to saints and sinners alike, listening to stories of love and loss and, once, even the confessions of a peeping Tom. I also recall that I once accompanied a distressed hostelite in a speeding ambulance to Singapore General Hospital Emergency Room in the wee hours of the morning. Fortunately she recovered from the overdose of sleeping pills. Sadly, she left the hostel after the incident.

The strong Hall spirit, and the zeal and dedication of Eusoffians to their mates and to Hall events made a lasting impression on me. Their loyalty to Eusoff Hall was unquestionable! Indeed, they made great sacrifices as they contributed their time and talents to the Hall. Many have made good in their careers and have done Eusoff proud.

To all Eusoffians, you are my inspiration and I urge you to keep up your zest for life and for Eusoff Hall! As you take your leave of Eusoff, your second home, I hope you will recall your shining years at the Hall and return to serve your alma mater.

Lim Bee Lum
RF (1960 - 2000)
SCRC (2000 -)



Mrs *Tan Suan Imm*

Mrs Tan Suan Imm is a retired school principal, married to a private medical practitioner. On her retirement in 1995 after 33 years in the Education Service, she did a short stint in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Deputy Chief of Protocol. She served for many years as an honorary Counsellor in the Social Development Unit, Ministry of Community Development, was an Honorary Fellow of Victoria Hall of residence, Victoria School and a Deputy Registrar of Marriages.

Today she remains active in and happily-engaged with the National University of Singapore's Office of Alumni Relations, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Financial Aid and Bursary Committee and serves as a member of the Alumni Advisory Board. She works out regularly in the gym to keep fit, travels, reconnects and plays gin rummy weekly with her Eusoff College friends.

“But even as we blinked back tears, we knew that the Eusoff spirit will live on in Eusoff Hall”

— *Tan Suan Imm*

I feel very proud and most gratified that I have been closely associated with Eusoff College, Evans road and later Eusoff Hall, Kent Ridge, for nearly 40 years, first as a young resident student, 1958-62 and later returning as a Non-Resident Fellow in 1973, remaining happily-engaged in the SCRC to this day, except for one or two short breaks.

As a resident student I served as a member of the Junior Common Room Committee (JCRC) formed in 1958 to organise social and sports activities for the residents. From the beginning the JCRC was also given the important role in the formulation of rules and regulations for the running of the College and shared with the Senior Common Room (SCRC) decision-making policies regarding activities for the College. I remember the first Principal, the late Dr Ruth Wong who stressed the importance of responsibility, self-respect, harmonious living and the dignity of womanhood.

Today over 50 years since I moved out of that dear familiar red brick building in Evans Road, I can still remember and recall with nostalgia and fondness the many activities that crowded my life in the hostel where I spent 4 of the happiest years of my youth. I remember the evening of Saturday 24th March 2001 when I joined hundreds of former Eusoffians in a simple but poignant ceremony to bid farewell to our Alma Mater when her doors were closed for the last time. But even as we blinked back tears, we knew that the Eusoff spirit will live on in Eusoff Hall, Kent Ridge and in the hearts and memories of thousands of women graduates and post-graduates from Malaysia, Singapore and many parts of the world for whom she has always been a home away from home.

Today, the Eusoff spirit is alive and strong in Eusoff Hall, with her tradition of excellence, care and compassion for community and a fierce love for Alma Mater. As a member of the SCRC, I hope to work closely with the Master and the JCRC to build and nurture an enriching, caring and vibrant Eusoff community, that generations of Eusoffians, past, present and future, will be proud to call their own.

Tan Suan Imm
31st Oct 2013



Dr *Rosemary Khoo*

Arts '65

Dr Rosemary Khoo (née Chew) is an educationist and applied linguist who has been closely associated with the language education scene in Singapore and Southeast Asia.

An active volunteer even when she was working, now in her retirement after a 40-year career, she continues with her voluntary work in woman's development (she is the Founding President of the University Women's Association, Singapore, and a past President of the University Women of Asia); helping underachieving students (CDAC); and senior citizens. Her focus these days is on the latter.

She is currently the President of NUS Senior Alumni, leading seniors in active and positive ageing. She started the NUS seniors group informally in 2009 by organising monthly chat sessions to bring alumni back to the campus.

“Our common Eusoff history binds us together. That’s the magical Eusoff Connection!”

— Dr Rosemary Khoo

“What made me decide to stay in Eusoff College? I have always wanted to experience hostel life, but it was way beyond my means. So I worked and saved money for two years in order to be able to afford the hostel fees for my final year. I had been giving private tuition even during my school days, so I continued to have students. I wanted to stay in Eusoff so that I could have the time and space to study as I have many sisters, and we had to share a room at home. Staying in Eusoff felt like a luxury to me—a room of my own complete with a study table, table lamp, and three square meals a day was a dream.”

“Beside studying and giving private tuition, my university life also revolved around the activities of the Varsity Christian Fellowship (VCF)—both on campus and in Eusoff. I co-edited the magazine *Logos* and joined them in volunteering to teach blind children on Sundays at the School for the Blind in Toa Payoh. Hostel life throws you into the presence of people from many different backgrounds. But always, there will be a special group of friends close to your heart, and these were fellow Eusoffians from VCF and my classmates that were staying in Eusoff. Although I was a ‘quiet’ hostelite because my focus then was on earning enough to pay for my studies, I enjoyed my time in Eusoff College, supporting the activities in Eusoff from the sidelines.”

“Looking back, I feel that you contribute in your own little ways. This is my message to young Eusoffians: You don’t have to copy what other people do. Not all people are good in the same things and everyone has his or her own strength. That way, you don’t envy others. Be focused and listen to your own heart to find your own best quality, and let that be the place where your contribution starts. Realise what your abilities are and have confidence in them and always be true to yourself. You don’t always have to take centre-stage. For most of my life, I would occupy the back seat at the side, for from that vantage point, I had a good sweep of any situation and could learn a great deal without other people noticing. I try to educate myself as best as I can and develop my abilities. These days I need to come forward to the front and have done so—it’s the only way to create public awareness of the needs and contributions of seniors in our fast ageing population.”

“In Eusoff, I learned valuable people skills, which are life skills. You encounter people with their own unique behaviour, so you learn to give and take and to accommodate their habits. I formed some very good friendships with people along my corridor. Earlier this year I had the good fortune to meet some of my friends at a Eusoff Tea. We hugged one another warmly although it has been 50 years since we last met. Although we had lost touch, they are still my special friends, because our common Eusoff history binds us together. That’s the magical Eusoff Connection!”

Dr Rosemary Khoo began her career as a senior English teacher, then Specialist Inspector of English at the Ministry of Education in the early 1970s before she joined the SEAMEO Regional Language Centre as the Specialist in Applied Linguistics (1975 to 1995). In 1996, she worked as Professor (full) of English Language at Nagoya University of Commerce and Business Administration, Japan. In 1999, she returned to Singapore to be Senior Fellow at the Department of English Language and Literature, NUS, till August 2002. From 2002 to 2006, she worked at Singapore Management University as Adjunct Faculty member at the Lee Kong Chian School of Business, teaching students Business Communication and she also trained faculty members in their communication skills. She also planned the English Language Programme for NAFSA when it first started till end 2011.

EUSOFF COLLEGE DAYS

Now in my season of autumn haze,
I blink away the dust of fifty years
To relive the spring of Eusoff College days ...

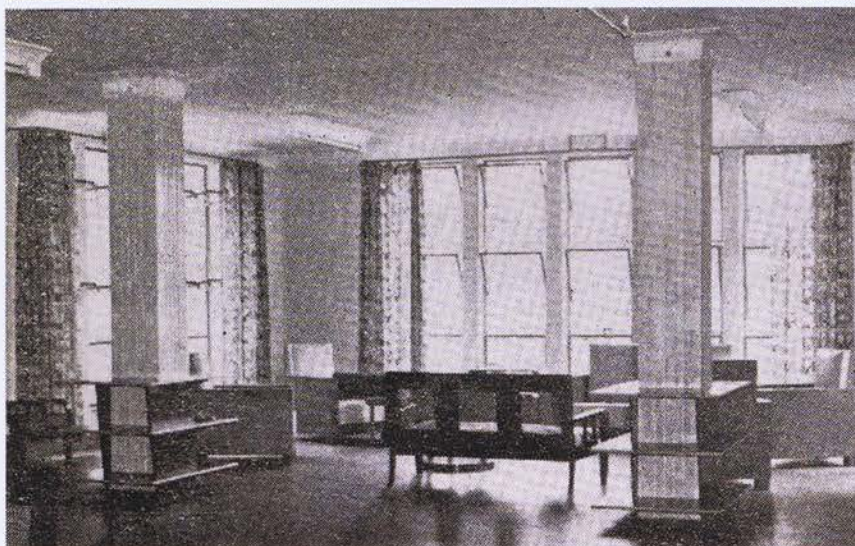
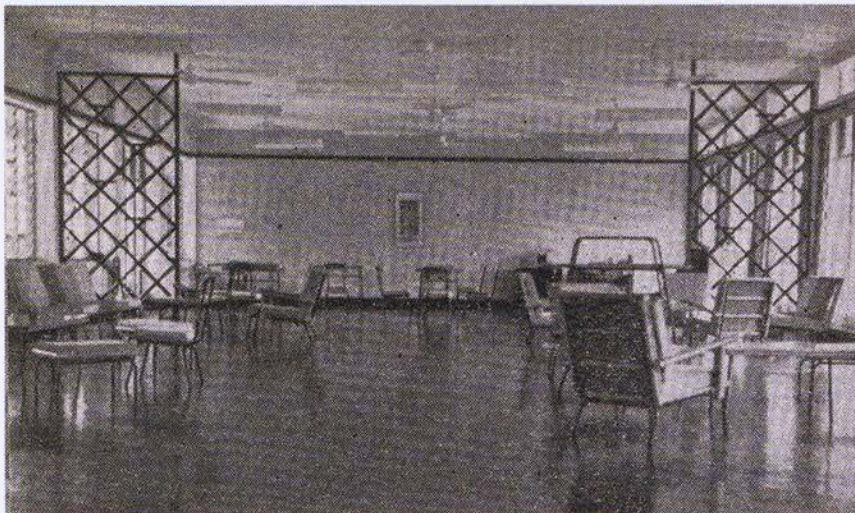
I walk down the well-trodden path
past the popular sarabat stall
to the familiar front porch, on whose steps
perch pretty girls in shorts, enthralled
by the admiration of boys from Raffles Hall.
In great contrast, walking slowly past
are girls with thick-rimmed glasses
returning from classes, weighed down by erudition
but buoyed by hopes of getting 'A's;
Unlike procrastination's playful band of those
with last-minute essays getting out of hand,
gulp down dinner, then scurry back
to hidden library nooks to chew on the sinews
of red spot books and beat the deadline or pay the fine.

At night amidst giggles and girlish fun
parades the strangest fashion in sleepwear
or ethnic gear, by girls, one by one.
I hear the excited screams of cracker wars,
witness scorched marks of bedsheets,
and on the hapless flag-pole, behold the flutter
of undies unclaimed, whose blushing owners
silently bear losses as the unnamed.
Room numbers shouted across the quad
are a welcome summons to dash
to the lobby phone below for needed respite
with a friend or lovelorn beau;
And in a different key, upwards waft
earnest voices in common prayer
as looming examinations bring despair.

Laughter, song, prayer, and chatter;
Joy, jubilation, fear and frustration.
Affirmations of mind over matter.
Such mixed notes reverberate along the walls
of this great mother hall of girls
leaving its indelible imprint in the minds
of those now far behind in Eusoff history,
of those who shared their common stories
of taking floodwaters in our stride and pirate taxi rides.
In the give and take of hostel living,
we developed both our character and mind
and dreamed great dreams for humankind;
For ourselves we envisioned giving birth
to heirs, not only—but to ideas of women's worth...

The memory rouses me from my sweet reverie
and I return fifty years on—and look afar to Kent Ridge,
where the Eusoffian spirit embraces one and all
and leaves its lasting legacy in Eusoff Hall.

Rosemary Khoo
3 Nov 2013



From Top to Bottom: Dining Hall, Lounge, Junior Common Room; Eusoff College c.1968



Dr Rosemary Khoo with Minister Heng Swee Keat at NUS Senior Alumni's "Our Singapore Conversation" held at Eusoff Hall on 10 May 2013



Dato' Datin Prof Dr *Wazir Jahan Karim*

Wazir Jahan Karim was born in Melaka, Malaysia. She completed her undergraduate studies in the Social Sciences in the University of Singapore in 1972. She was a voluntary worker for the mentally handicapped and a relief reader for the blind before venturing to study Anthropology and Social Work at the University of Singapore (now NUS). After graduation, she obtained a place at the London School of Economics and Political Sciences (LSE) to pursue her Masters and Doctorate in Social Anthropology (1972-1977).

In 1978, she joined Universiti Sains Malaysia in Penang as a lecturer in the School of Social Sciences and was immediately invited to head an important international project on "Women and Children in Development" (popularly known as KANITA).

In 2003, Wazir Jahan was the first woman to hold the Andrew's Chair in Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa where she delivered several lectures on Islam, Gender and Violence and presented the Andrew's Lecture on "Islam in America". For her contributions, she was invited to be a member of the TODA Council for Peace and Policy.

In 2006, Wazir Jahan successfully applied for a Professorial Fellowship at Cambridge and became a Visiting Fellow of Clare Hall, University of Cambridge. She became a Life Member of Clare Hall in 2007. She is the first Malaysian scholar to be awarded the status of fellow and Life Member at Clare Hall.

“Knowledge is power but power is only powerful if it empowers others to seek new knowledge” — Wazir Jahan Karim

Wazir Jahan Karim joined Eusoff College in 1968 when she was in the University of Singapore to complete a degree in Social Science and Social Administration, a specially tailored programme geared to professionalise the Social Sciences. She obtained her Masters and PhD from the London School of Economics and Political Sciences in economic anthropology. She is Distinguished Fellow and Founder of the *Academy of Socio-Economic Research and Analysis* (ASERA) and is currently a Life Member of Clare Hall, University of Cambridge. ASERA is a global think-tank and research collective focusing on economic justice.

She is a co-founder of Gender Studies in Malaysia (KANITA, USM: 1978-2001) and Founding Director of the *Women's Development Research Centre* at *Universiti Sains Malaysia* (KANITA, USM: 2001-2004). She is also Founder and the Founding President of the *Southeast Asian Association for Gender Studies* (SAMA), 1992-1996, now based in Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM).

She has authored and edited several books on minorities in Islam and women including *Ma' Betise' Concepts of Living Things*, Athlone Press: London, 1981; Berg: Oxford, 2004; *Emotions of Culture: A Malay Perspective*, Oxford University Press: Singapore, 1990; *Women and Culture: Between Malay Adat and Islam*, Westview Press: Boulder 1992; *Male and 'Female' in Developing Southeast Asia*, Berg Publishers: Oxford, 1995 and *Gendered Fields: Women, Men, Ethnography* with D. Bell and P. Caplan, Routledge: London, 1994. She co-authored and co-edited *Cultural Minorities of Peninsular Malaysia: Survivals of Indigenous Heritage*, AKASS and Toyota Foundation: Penang, 2002, with Mohd Razha Rashid, and *Straits Muslims: Diasporas of the Northern Passage of the Straits of Malacca*, Straits G.T: George Town, 2009. Her latest book, *Feasts of Penang: Muslim Culinary Heritage*, Malaysian Publishing House (MPH): Kuala Lumpur, 2013 led to the establishment of JAWI HOUSE, a gallery restaurant and café in the UNESCO Heritage City of George Town, Penang, dedicated to the intangible culinary heritage and works of art of the Jawi Peranakan of Penang and Malaysia. Her contributions to chapters in books and refereed articles in journals number more than sixty. She is currently Executive Chairman of JAWI HOUSE and Inter-societal and Scientific Sdn. Bhd. (INAS), a company dedicated to the pursuit of the Arts and Intangible heritage of indigenous people.

“In my ‘rites de passage’, I found my experiences in Eusoff College the most enjoyable for we built a multi-racial close community based on friendship and love. Eusoff College made me believe that my dream to engender society towards social equality will work. Thus my pioneering work to establish Gender Studies as part of the main curriculum in public universities was realised. I also nurture those days when we challenged stereo-types, racial prejudice and ethnocentricity. I believe the next generation of Eusoffians should strive to be passionate about life and work and pursue broader goals which can advance their nation and society. Success at the top is assured by reaching out to those below.”

Dato' Datin Prof Dr Wazir Jahan Karim



Dr *Khoo Kim Choo*

Dr Khoo Kim Choo is a pioneer in the early childhood field with over 25 years of experience in various capacities as a CEO, trainer, writer, project director, conference keynote speaker, international volunteer and consultant in early childhood both locally and abroad.

Dr Khoo is listed in Marquis' Who's Who in the World and in the Encyclopedia of Applied Developmental Science. She was conferred an Honorary Doctorate in Education in 1992 by Wheelock College, Boston, USA, which also established a scholarship in her name – the Khoo Kim Choo Scholarship for Leadership – in recognition of her contribution to the early childhood field in Singapore.

Dr Khoo wrote three books of rhymes for young children recognised by the International Digital Children's Library. They are full of humour and delightful to read to children. Some of Dr Khoo's rhymes have been selected for the primary school text.

“It is a privilege not to be taken for granted” — *Dr Khoo Kim Choo*

I stayed at Eusoff College from 1967 to 1970. Fresh from Penang, Malaysia, and the first time in Singapore, Eusoff College was a haven for me. I made friends with fellow Malaysians and Singaporeans – and many have remained friends to this day. There are fond memories of ‘Hen Party’, and friendly ragging of freshies. There were panty raids with rowdy Rafflesians and medical students from King Edward hall running down the corridors throwing water and raiding panties from the wash-room. The next day we would find someone’s panty up the flagpole. No one claimed ownership to the article waving cheerily in the breeze.

Memorable was the Rag and Flag day to raise funds for charity. We won first prize for almost all 3 years. I was also involved in setting up Eusoff-Raffles Committee to serve disadvantaged children. Staying in Eusoff College greatly enhanced my experience and learning beyond academics during my undergraduate years.

My advise to young Eusoffians – take advantage of your stay in Eusoff – make friends, take on leadership positions and challenging causes and participate actively in campus life. It is a privilege not to be taken for granted.

I graduated in 1970 as a social worker, worked for 6 years before heading for to do my Masters in Social work and PhD at the University of Washington, Seattle, Washington State, USA, specializing in children and families.

I have been in the early childhood field for the past 3 decades in various capacities – as chief executive officer, advisor, trainer, lecturer, advocate, editor, publisher, conference speaker and author of parenting and children’s books and chapters on child welfare, childcare, early childhood education and parent/community involvement. I have been a consultant and resource to governments, local and abroad, as well as to UNICEF, UNESCO, WORLD Bank, Save the Children and other International agencies in various countries including Mongolia, Romania, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia and Hongkong. I was consultant to the Ministry of Social and Family Development on the Early Years Framework for children from birth to 3 years. Recently I served as a resource to the Education Bureau in Hongkong on the planning of free kindergartens.

Over the years I have received various awards, including an International Fellowship from the American Association of University Women (1981-1982), Honorary Doctorate in Education (1998) from Wheelock College which also set up the Khoo Kim Choo Scholarship for Leadership for 5 years in recognition of leadership and contributions to the early childhood field, Special Recognition Award from the then Ministry of Information and the Arts (2001), “Friend of MCYS” by the then Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (2003) for significant contribution to committees and projects of the Ministry, Public Service Medal Award (PBM, 2007) and the Singapore International Foundation Volunteer Award (2012).

I am the Founder-Director of the Preschool for Multiple Intelligences and consultant to the Circle of Care Project of the Lien Foundation and Care Corner. I have been a Specialist Volunteer of the Singapore International Foundation for about 15 years, in Vietnam and Myanmar for the Training of Trainers in Early Childhood Development and Education. A side project of Myanmar is on going. I was adjunct Associate Professor with the then Social Work and Psychology Department at NUS and am currently teaching in the Master of Social Work Programme at SIM University.

I chair and am a member of various committees including the Early Childhood Development Agency’s Child Development Network, SIM University’s Early Childhood Education Programme and the Lee Kuan Yew Bilingualism Board Fund, among others.



Sandra Buenaventura

Sandra Buenaventura has worked in the Ministries of Defence, and Culture, and Singapore Broadcasting Corporation where she managed the acquisition of foreign TV programmes and the scheduling, and promotion of SBC's main TV channels. She also helped set up Channel 12 in 1984 and was the founding President and CEO of TV 12 when SBC corporatised in October 1994.

After 17 years in managerial positions in SBC, she rejoined the Ministry of Defence in 1997. She was also Chairman of the SAF Music and Drama Company, Chairman of the National Day Parade Publicity and a member of the Organising Committee as well as General Manager of SAFRA Radio, what is known today as Power 98 and Jia 88.3 FM.

In 2008, she decided to opt for early retirement to 'pay back to society' by volunteering in several organizations. She now volunteers in the mentorship programme in the Faculty of Arts and Social Science, NUS, and in church.

“Strong views don’t work. Understanding others is very important”

— Sandra Buenaventura

“E-U-S-O-F-F Eusoff is our name, whether we win or whether we lose, we are Eusoff all the same”. Sandra remembers one of the cheers from her cheerleading days in Eusoff College. She describes Eusoff College as “a hostel of bright young intelligent ladies and a community of dynamic and energetic people, full of the Eusoffian spirit.” In Eusoff, she was involved in many committees and activities such as the lounge committee, cheerleading, and Rag and Flag. She had a great time in Eusoff College; full of fun and friendliness because of the people she met, and all the friends she made in Eusoff. The strong bond continues until today – when she meets her fellow Eusoff friends, they would still reminisce about the fond memories they had in the college: Hops and Hen parties, birthday celebrations, and the ‘Bao Man’ – a char siew bao vendor who always strategically stationed himself at the Bukit Timah campus to entice hungry university students to buy after-dinner snacks. And when the semester ended, she would take the train back to Malaysia together with other fellow Eusoffians who were also going back to Malaysia. “Life was simple but there were things to look forward to”.

As Sandra’s family was in Malaysia, Eusoff became her home away from home. It was a learning experience living away from her family for the first time. She remembered that she had to learn how to make a cup of coffee for herself and her friends, to make her own bed, and to tidy her own room. Eusoff College did not only train her to be independent and self-reliant, but also taught her to be respectful of the feelings and needs of others and to understand what community spirit is all about. “This Eusoff experience was very helpful in future cosmopolitan Singapore”. Eusoff College gave her the opportunity to learn how to live harmoniously with other people from different races and backgrounds, and to respect cultural differences in multi-racial and multi-religious Singapore.

Participation in various activities had also trained her to develop leadership qualities, to negotiate and persuade people, and to help other team members. While in Eusoff College, she felt that it was important to try and get people to share the same goals as “living in such a close-knit community helps you be aware of the idiosyncrasies of people; you have to use logical reasoning to persuade and build teamwork. Strong views don’t work. Understanding others is very important.”

Sandra’s words of wisdom to young Eusoffians: “Make the most of your time. Life is not all about lectures, library and books/papers. If you want to do well in your professional life, begin by making friends. A network of contacts and friends will be very beneficial to you. Whilst learning to live with others will train you to be more adaptable and conscious of the views of others.”

Sandra Buenaventura graduated from the University of Singapore with a Bachelor of Arts degree (majoring in History and Political Science with Geography as a minor) in 1973/74 and a Second class Upper Honours in Political Science in 1974/75. She stayed in Eusoff College (Bukit Timah campus) in all her four years of study at the University.



Ms *Saw Phaik Hwa*

I was a resident in Eusoff College from 1974 to 1978. During my stay, I was heavily involved in various activities and held several leadership positions, such as Orientation Committee Chairman (1975), Co-Director for annual drama project (1975), and Eusoff College JCRC President (1976). In 1976, I also represented Eusoff College in these sports numbers: hockey, netball, and carrom. Eusoff was my home for 4 years. During these years, I made many friends for life. Eusoff allowed me to develop many skills – communication, leadership, teamwork. These were certainly important in my career development. To the current Eusoffians, I would encourage you to enjoy your stay in Eusoff, steeped in tradition, so many experiences and friendships to live through and so much to learn in preparation of each one of your journey ahead.

Ms Saw Phaik Hwa is currently Group CEO of Auric Pacific Group. Brands in the portfolio include Food Junction, Delifrance, Sunshine, SCS, Buttercup, Gourmet, etc. Headquartered in Singapore, Group's business operations are located in various countries throughout Asia including Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong and China. Prior to this, Ms Saw was the President and CEO of SMRT Corporation Ltd, between December, 2002 to January, 2012, Singapore's first multi-modal public transport service provider. For the period 1984 to 2002, Ms Saw was with DFS, an international luxury and travel-related retailer. She held various positions in Operations and Merchandising in Singapore and Hong Kong. Her last position from 1998 was as Regional President in charge of businesses in Singapore, Indonesia, and Malaysia for DFS Venture Singapore. She is currently a member of Eusoff Hall Senior Common Room Committee (SCRC).

An Interview

SAW PHAIK HWA

1974-1978

Few have made more significant contributions to Eusoff in all her twenty-five years of history than Saw Phaik Hwa, who during her period of residence, held the JCRC Presidency for one year, was a FWOC member, and voted Girl of the Year in 1975-76. She had numerous other achievements to her credit.

We spoke to her in her office at Le Classique. She combined an unmistakable dynamism with a charming and warm personality and would frequently intersperse the conversation with her beguiling sense of humour. Phaik Hwa reflects on some of the times that she remembers most distinctly.....

One of the events most looked forward to was the Fancydress Netball match between RH and Eusoff. Six boys and six girls would be decked out in a splendid array of colours - a grand sight to behold! - and would vie for the most goals, which signalled victory. It was quite a gala affair. The most interesting feature in this game was that the rules were arbitrarily improvised. Picture this scene: A Eusoffian grabs hold of the missed ball. Another Eusoffian quickly holds up a basket strategically in front of her. The first Eusoffian takes aim, and scores a quick goal. The next moment, a brave Rafflesian climbs up the netball pole, calmly drops the ball into the net and scores a goal too. Unsurprisingly, hundreds of goals were ceaselessly scored. The staid matches and ball-games of today pale in comparison both in gaiety, or mood, and the number of goals scored per match.

Phaik Hwa also recalls how pranks were pulled off by the Rafflesians. One such incident was the attempt by a highspirited Rafflesian to pull a girl's pigtails, and was furiously chased "round and round the quad, with loud screams of laughter following them." Another occasion that saw this interhostel tussle was the Annual Rag-and-Flag Day. Eusoff, with her unbeatable slogans centered on the theme of "Milkbank", emerged joint winners with DRH. So then, the indecisive organiser reportedly told them to "fight for it", which they did, literally. The Cup was fought for "tooth and nail", and finally, both the antagonists came to a peaceful resolution, and the much-prized trophy became the common property of both the hostels taking turns to safeguard it. The first waves of indignation quickly subsided, but the team spirit remained as fervent as ever. It was a matter of pride and dignity to excel in all things. Some of the girls took great delight in scooting off to peep at the floats of the other hostels, just to see how badly made they were!

Within the college population, an irreconcilable chasm existed between the true-blooded Eusoffians and those who had forgone orientation in their first year. The Malaysians, who made up a sizable 60 - 70% of the entire population, were reputedly the more active participants in the college affairs. They kept the spirit alive and strong despite the growing lethargy and general apathy shown by the rest.

On the subject of orientation, Phaik Hwa said "You've got to stick through it". She admitted that she broke down in the midst of it but was never ashamed to say so because "you learn, and emerge victorious in the end". She felt that the merits of the Orientation Programme far outweighed all of its demerits.

The boasts of Eusoff were the Hightable Dinners, "with good food". These affairs would be the talk among the other hostelites and it was the Eusoff custom to tell them that Eusoffians ate like princesses, while they only got to eat "junk food".

This perspective of Eusoff is not that unfamiliar to the present Eusoffians. Hightable dinners are still very much a part of every Eusoff experience up to the present. Although one notes, with a tinge of regret, that perhaps some of the colour and vibrancy, which were once so much reflections of hostel life, are missing now. Nevertheless, Eusoff is still considered the best place to be in, by most Eusoffians, past and present.



A/P Kirpal Singh

Associate Professor of English Literature, Singapore Management University

Member, Eusoff Hall SCRC

My journey with Eusoff College/Hall started a long, long time ago when Dr Lim Kiat Boey was the Principal. When I was invited to be a member of the SCRC (Senior Common Room Committee) as a non-Resident Fellow, I did not even spend a second blinking because the opportunity to be closely associated with this wonderful residential place was just too too good to be missed! As an undergraduate, my friends and I had had much to do with the several residents of Eusoff over many years. There was always much ado about things big and small. From the simple frolicking of young men and women not knowing what to do better to the more serious engagements which on occasion caused both the heart and mind to stir and sometimes quiver we knew that at Eusoff and in Eusoff lay some truly wonderful possibilities.

Through the years I have experienced the mastership of and by three talented and gifted Masters: Dr Lim Kiat Boey, Professor Andrew Tay and currently Associate Professor Tan Tin Wee: each offered wise and useful guidance and ensured things steered well and triumphantly. The numerous and exciting programmes have always made me aware of just how creatively Eusoff has responded to the challenges of the times and the changing styles and sensibilities which follow. Our young have changed tremendously – their dreams and aspirations very different from those who earlier made a mark and left indelible impressions. When Eusoff went co-ed and changed from College to Hall and we saw the significance writ large and I am proud to say we stood the test of moving from the old Bukit Timah campus to the new Kent Ridge campus where jostling for attention became curiously more urgent and sometimes hard! But Eusoffians have never been known to balk at anything – least of all obstacles of the kind we know will be easily overcome with tenacity and some careful use of our vast imaginative resources.

So here we are today – again on the brink of yet a new journey and one which promises to be even more vigorous than before. It has been my privilege to have been associated with this vital, energetic and profoundly influential home to thousands over the years. Once a Eusoffian always a Eusoffian: this glorious identification I have learnt is more than just a convenient rallying cry – it is a TRUTH we all appreciate more and more as we grow with our beautiful Eusoff Hall.

A/P Kirpal Singh taught at the National University of Singapore until 1991 and was then invited to move to NTU to help set-up the BA Programme there. For 5 years (1993 - 1998) he served as Head of the Division of Literature & Drama and initiated several significant programmes as well as a thoroughly revised syllabus.

A/P Kirpal has always been an active participant of cultural and literary affairs, whether within the University environment or within the larger public domain. As a writer, critic and scholar, he is among the most powerful voices to emerge from this part of the world and is constantly sought by international bodies and universities to present papers and sit on various boards. He has written and published three collections of poetry and edited many literary journals and books. He was a founding member of the Centre for Research in New Literatures, Flinders University, Australia in 1977, the first Asian director for the Commonwealth Writers' Prize in 1993 and 1994, and chairman of the Singapore Writers' Festival in the 1990s. He has attended international writers' festivals in Adelaide, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Toronto and Kent, to give readings of his works. In 1999, he was invited to join the new Singapore Management University, where he co-ordinates and teaches the Creative Thinking Programme. In recent years he has been invited to give Keynote Papers and Plenary Speeches on issues pertaining to Creativity, Innovation, and Leadership Management. In 2004, Singh became the first Asian and non-American to be made a director on the American Creativity Association's (ACA) board.



Mr *Francis Xavier*

*Executive Committee Partner
Head, Dispute Practices, Rajah & Tann LLP*

Senior Counsel, Supreme Court of Singapore

JCRC President, Eusoff College 1986–1987

Mr Francis Xavier served as President of the Eusoff College JCRC from 1986 to 1987, and graduated from the NUS Law Faculty with his LLB (Honours) in 1988. A distinguished debater, he participated as a member of the NUS debating team in a number of competitions including the SBC Tertiary Debate Series, Australasian Debating Series and the International Varsity Challenge Series. As a member of the NUS Law Moot Team, he participated in the Philip C Jessup International Moot Court Competition in 1988, where his team emerged World Runners-Up.

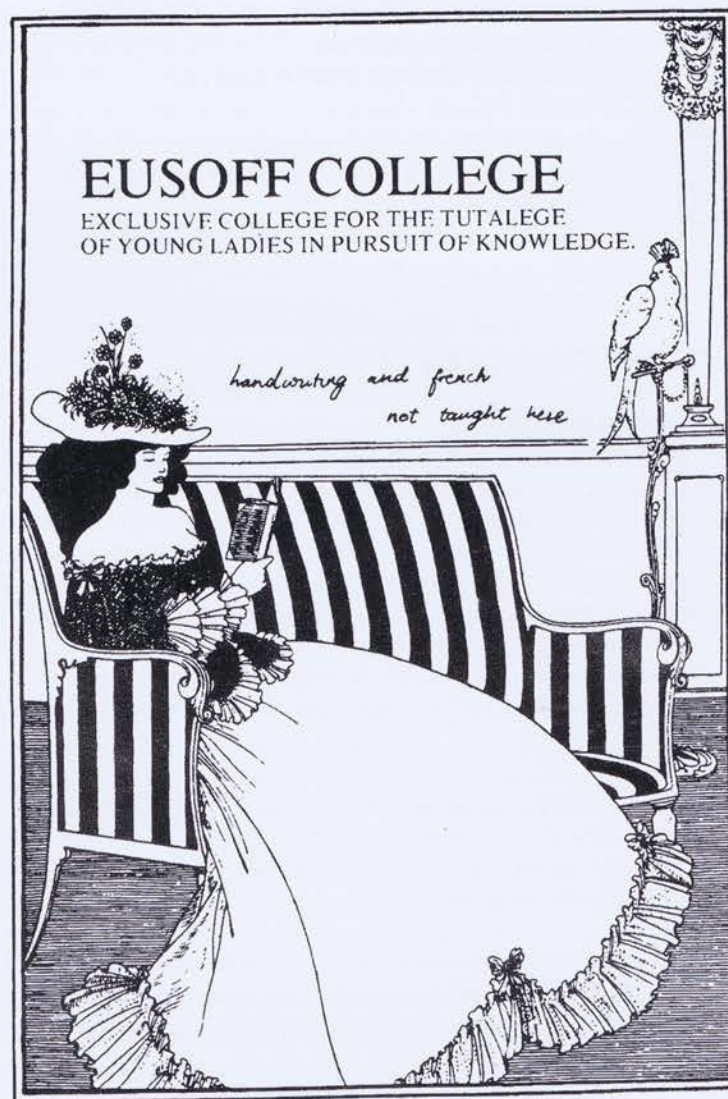
Francis is notably involved in social service and helping the needy. Coming from a humble background, he understands the plight of those in need, especially poverty stricken families. He turned one of his passions – playing drums in a rock band – into a fund-raising means, to help struggling families hit hard by the recession. By performing at various events, the band raises considerable amounts of money; which are channeled to various worthy causes. The band has contributed to a number of causes including the Family Aid Vouchers Project, a welfare project launched jointly by Francis, the Rotary Family Service Centre (FSC) and the Rotary Club of Pandan Valley. Indeed, the project was a huge success; over a year, 50 families in need received monthly vouchers worth between \$40 and \$70. That was enough to help these families buy food essentials such as oil, rice and sugar.

Francis is also engaged in a range of regional and international charitable projects, which he mostly undertakes under the banner of Rotary. For example, he secured an international award for his Rotary Club for a safe haven project for the Akha tribes children in Chiang Rai, Thailand, preventing them from being trafficked as sex slaves. He has also contributed to a project in Kenya to build basic sanitation for indigenous tribes.

During his stay in Eusoff, it is evident that his contribution to Eusoff College was commendable. From 1985 to 1986, he was the JCRC Cultural Secretary, Publication Editor, and played football and sepak takraw for the Hall. From 1986 to 1987, he took up the position of Eusoff College JCRC President, Hall Debating Captain, and the drummer in the Hall band. He is now part of the SCRC.

“To me, Eusoff means a varsity home filled with great memories and the start of many meaningful lifelong friendships. My Eusoff experience taught me core values – time management, importance of diligence and the foundational work/life balance. Serving in the SCRC means giving back to the alma mater and contributing in a small way to future generations of Eusoffians.”

My message to young Eusoffians: “*Seek your heart and discover your passion. Then pursue it to the ends of the earth!*”



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Eusoff Hall Days



Dr Teo Ho Pin

I served as Resident Fellow and Bursar in Eusoff Hall from 1991 to 1998. My family and I enjoyed our stay thorough during the 7 years. Two of my children grew up with the students in the hall. In those days, students would come over my flat to play with my children. Living in the hall had provided me a unique set of experiences in terms of understanding students' lifestyle, habits, activities and problems. As an SCRC member, we had many meetings to brainstorm ideas and guide students in organising various hall activities. These experiences have helped me to better understand the needs and aspirations of youths today. I have a simple message for young Eusoffians today: "Enjoy your hall life. Make as many friends as possible. Always care for one another". Best wishes!

Dr Teo Ho Pin is a Member of Parliament (MP) representing the Bukit Panjang Single Member Constituency (Bukit Panjang SMC), Mayor of the North West Community Development Council (CDC), and a Deputy Government Whip.

“There is a much wider world beyond straight As”

— Carolyn Tan

Since graduation, Carolyn has always been working in the financial sector, specialising in Equity Sales. She's currently working at Deutsche Bank, her previous employers include DBS, HSBC, BNP Paribas, and Macquarie Group.

What does Eusoff mean to you?

Eusoff Hall means a melting pot of various friends from various faculties, countries and different cultures. It was a significant part of my campus life. I was constantly busy and was very involved in hall activities, and less so at the faculty.

What did you do in Eusoff?

I did so many different things in Eusoff. I do remember being in Dance and Rag and Flag. I was one of the heads of the Rag and Flag committee which was responsible for putting together the presentation and dance.

What makes Eusoff, Eusoff?

It's all about the people. Also, in my days it was one of the newest halls of residence, so facilities were superior then. However, what I remember most from Eusoff is the camaraderie and the strong community spirit. I found it heartwarming to have friends really looking out for you, especially in difficult times.

How did Eusoff help to shape and prepare you in your career and life?

I learned group dynamics and teamwork. Living and interacting with a very diverse group of individuals from varied backgrounds have taught me invaluable skills that are relevant in my career.

Message to young Eusoffians

Enjoy campus life, make the most of your time spent beyond the books, there is a much wider world beyond straight As.



Carolyn Tan

Director, Deutsche Bank
Asian Equities/
Institutional Client Group (ICG)

NUS Business Administration

Eusoff Hall 1988 – 1991



Colin Ong

Senior Executive Director,
Great Eastern Financial Advisers

Founder, Advisors' Clique

NUS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Eusoff Hall 1989 – 1992

“If you help as many people as possible to get what they want, you will inevitably be ok yourself!”

— *Colin Ong*

Colin Ong stayed in Eusoff Hall from 1989 to 1992. During this 4 years, he held several positions in several committees; being involved in cultural activities such as the band, the choir, and the annual Eusoff Hall drama production. He also played some sports in the hostel. He jokingly describes himself as “Jack of all trades but master of none” as he remembers doing many different things during his stay in Eusoff Hall. After graduation he served as the Vice President of the Eusoff Hall Alumni. He is currently serving as a member of Eusoff Hall Senior Common Room Committee (SCRC). He feels that Eusoff Hall has given him a lot of opportunities to explore so many different things in life and that’s the reason why he is still heavily involved in the hostel even after graduation. It is his way of giving back.

Colin’s breakthrough into the world of entrepreneurship and financial planning is a direct result from his involvement in hostel activities. Colin was part of the marketing team for the inaugural Eusoff Halls mega drama production KOJIKI held at Kallang Theatre. It was at the KOJIKI production that Colin was spotted by one of the event sponsors, Mr Tan Koon Chuan, who subsequently offered to mentor him in the world of financial services.

Colin fervently believes in core values such as team spirit, togetherness, and helpfulness. To him, these qualities and characteristics embody a true Eusoff Hall resident. He also believes that Eusoff Hall residents take pride in Eusoff Hall identity and in thinking in each other’s best interest. This has helped shape his beliefs and his very attitude. Interestingly, Colin is keen to employ ex-Eusoff Hall mates to be his associates. He feels ex Eusoff Hall mates share similar virtues, a high level of cohesiveness and share much mutual support. These qualities are deeply ingrained in Eusoff Hall’s culture.

His financial firm, Advisors Clique, enjoys a hall-like culture and environment, having a family-like atmosphere. Advisors Clique promotes the culture and belief that every individual is passionate about the larger cause and the culture is being pursued by every individual playing his part and contributing to the resultant productivity of the entire team. More importantly, everyone believes in helping his fellow associates along the way in keeping with the Eusoff Hall spirit.

“The greatest joy is when someone I’ve helped in some small way achieves his goals or gets an award. It gives me a deep sense of satisfaction ... knowing that maybe in some small way I played a part in the achievement of his goal!”

“If you help as many people as possible to get what they want, you will inevitably be ok yourself!”



Daniel Png

General Manager,
Building & Construction Australia

NUS Business Administration (Hons)

Eusoff Hall 1988 – 1992

“I was a full time hostelite and part time student”

— Daniel Png

As the pioneer batch of Eusoff Hall residents at Kent Ridge Campus, it is no surprise that Daniel Png became one of the most influential Eusoffians in his time. He was heavily involved in various hall activities such as Freshman Welcoming Orientation Committee (FWOC), Senior Orientation Committee (SOC), and served as the Block Head of Block A. He was also the Head of the Recreation Committee and he remembers playing in 11 different games for the Block in the Inter-Block Games. Daniel did not only excel in Eusoff, but also in school. He was one of the top students in Business Administration and his Honours dissertation was published in a key American academic journal *Decision Sciences*.

“My entire life in the university revolved around Eusoff Hall. I always jokingly say that I was a full time ‘hostelite’ and part time student. Although it was a new hostel when I started, there was already a core group that came from the affiliated Eusoff College, who brought along this warm and glowing ‘Eusoff Spirit’. Primarily Malaysians and overseas students, the hall was their home, and all they had, and it made Eusoff Hall our home too, with a strong identity. This was what differentiated us from the other halls. We were initiated into the hall and were fanatically loyal to the hall, ‘Once Eusoff, Always Eusoff’. Once you are in, there was no other place to be. I remember I was the cheer fight leader for the hall during our orientation, which was very intense during those days, and was hoisted up on the shoulders of another hostelite during cheerfighting. And we had to train hard and learn cheer fight songs against the other halls. Its funny when you think about it now but this activity bound us together and made us feel as one. The friends I made in the hall stayed on as friends till today and there is this bond, this spirit amongst us that will always be there. When I meet another Eusoffian, its like meeting another kin, or one of your kind. This is the Eusoff Spirit and what it means to be a Eusoffian. The spirit lives in us forever.”

“Just an example of what Eusoff Hall means to me. I reside in Australia, and made it a point to bring my son back to the hall and show him where I stayed and what I did in the hall. It was an important part of my life history that I felt important to pass on to him. Even in Australia, I have had numerous Eusoffians visit me, and I have visited Eusoffians here, and we still keep in touch.”

“That period in my life, I would rate as the best times of my life. The memories last a lifetime. I got to meet different people with different backgrounds and personalities. I learned to be away from my comfort zone, learned to be independent and deal with issues on my own, learned to live in a communal environment, learned to manage my time, learned to be responsible and what it means to be a friend. I learned to be loyal, to be sociable, to lead and to organise. I matured and grew up in the hall. I went in as a teenager and left as an adult.”

“The hostel days were carefree, adrenaline pumping, fun and heart-warming. It is your fortune that circumstances have brought you to Eusoff Hall now. What you get out of hostel living is what you put into and contribute to it. So treasure your time there, enjoy it and breathe every moment of it, whilst you are there and still can. Make the best of it and enjoy. When you are older, like me, and have experienced more and look back at your life, you will find that it would be one of the best times of your life. Carpe Diem!”



David Ng

Senior Vice President and
Chief Marketing Officer,
Prudential Assurance Company Singapore

NUS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Eusoff Hall 1989 – 1992

“You don’t want to be the last one, because you always feel you hear some other footsteps behind you...”

— David Ng

During his time in Eusoff, David considered himself as a sports person. He played for almost all IBG (Inter-Block Games) sports, participated in IHG (Inter-Hall Games) Squash and Road Relay, and he was also a varsity squash player. It was undeniable that David’s contribution to Eusoff Hall squash team was remarkable. In one game that he remembered, he helped the hall clinch the IHG squash champion as he delivered the winning point. He credited his decisive win to all the support from his hall mates that kept cheering him on.

To David, his Eusoff experience was very interesting and varied. The time he spent in hall allowed him to meet different people from all walks of life. He believes that Eusoff Hall was a very good place for building relationship and trust. From simple, various “post-dinner” activities in the evenings, to the more elaborate and hectic activities such as Freshmen Orientation, Inter-Block Games, and Inter-Hall Games, David is thankful that there were many interesting events promoting bonding and camaraderie in Eusoff Hall. Indeed, he made many close friends in Eusoff that he still keeps in touch with on a regular basis. Eusoff Hall and fellow Eusoffians had helped shape his thinking and career after NUS. He remembers having a lot of face-to-face interaction as he had to walk around looking for his friends, knocking on their doors and having supper together at the kitchenette. “That was a good part of the relationship building. Staying in hostel helps to foster communal living. It really teaches you how to give and take. Definitely, communal living helps understand our friends better.”

What makes Eusoff, Eusoff?

It was a relatively new hall. People in Eusoff were very eager to build a mark for Eusoff in the new campus, to make it stand out. Eusoff was very big in Rag and Flag. We did very well with the float and fund-raising. Sports was also another big thing in Eusoff. We were squash champions for 2-3 years when I was there. Everyone was so determined to keep winning. The hall also had very talented people. Most of us remember the groundbreaking hall production KOJIKI very fondly. It was a big thing. And of course, Eusoff hall was the closest to Fong Seng Nasi Lemak Stall. It was very easy to get supper.

What do you remember most in Eusoff?

I remember doing runs at midnight. The route that I used to take was from Eusoff Hall to Pasir Panjang Road, to the winding South Buona Vista Road, then you come down towards NUH and come back to NUS. It’s about 8km and very hilly. And it is quite scary at night to run alone near South Buona Vista Road. In World War II, that was where a lot of wars were fought and the regiment that defended the hill against the Japanese all got killed there. So when you’re running that route, you don’t want to be the last one, because you always feel you hear some other footsteps behind you...

“You should cherish the time in the hall because you’ll probably make many friends that will remain friends for a long long time. You think it’s a long time spending 3 to 4 years in the hall, you look back it is actually very very short and it is probably one of the most interesting times in your life.”



Evonne Tan

Managing Director, Magenta Advisors

NUS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Eusoff Hall 1990 – 1993

“I spent more time in hall than in class”

— *Evonne Tan*

“Hall life was very very busy, I spent more time in hall than in class.”

Evonne considers her time in Eusoff very busy because of her involvement in numerous committees and many different activities. Being very passionate about dancing and performing on stage, she took part in the mega Production KOJIKI as the Mother Earth character. She put tremendous amount of effort and time to make sure that she could perform her character well for the groundbreaking hall production that debuted at Kallang Theatre.

Evonne thinks that what makes Eusoff, Eusoff is the Eusoff spirit. Most Eusoffians, including herself, really put in their 100% during their stay in Eusoff Hall. She believes that this is due to the legacy and long history of Eusoff Hall.

She describes her stay in Eusoff as “a whole new world” and “a very enriching experience” as it was her first time living away from family and living with friends. Beside meeting a lot of new friends, one of the main things that she learned is to be active. Eusoff had also taught her important life skills such as multi-tasking, time management skills, and competitive spirit. During her time, staying in hall was very competitive because everyone needed to earn points to continue staying and to have a better choice of room the following year. In addition, she also learned leadership skills by being involved in organising many events and activities in hall. She remembers she had so much fun during orientation, collecting signatures and interacting with the seniors. During exam times, she would study together with her friend until 5 or 6AM the next morning.

Evonne admits that her experience in Eusoff was in itself is a life-changing experience as it was the critical growing-up age for most people. She had to learn how to be independent, to live together in a community, to be responsible: “You have to do everything by yourself. You are forced to be an adult. Nobody is going to tell you what to do.” This was very important because such a valuable experience took place just before she started working life; she was able to enjoy her time in a very interesting yet safe environment. She believes that Eusoff Hall had helped her learn essential life skills, how to get along with people, valuable organisational skills and timeless friendship: “You have to be a people person. You have to be social. Eusoff Hall is a very social place.”

Her message to younger Eusoffians: “When you graduate, be bold. Be brave. Don’t be afraid to work hard. Don’t be afraid of failure. You must always be humble and hard working. Most young people grow up in a comfortable environment. They think highly of themselves. They have high expectations. They get very impatient. The road is very long. You have to persevere. There’s a lot of things to learn. Learn everything new everyday. When you’re ready, you’ll know it. Be patient. And work hard. And you’ll get what you want. Enjoy your time in Eusoff.”



Gregory Vijayendran

Equity Partner, Rajah & Tann LLP

President, Club Rainbow Singapore

JCRC President, Eusoff Hall 1989 – 1991

“It is more blessed to give than to receive” — *Gregory Vijayendran*

Gregory graduated from the National University of Singapore and was one of the main speakers in the university's moot team in 1992 that emerged world runners-up at the 1992 Jessup International Law Moot Competition in Washington D.C. Gregory was thereafter admitted to the Singapore Bar in 1993 and joined Rajah & Tann LLP after being in practice in two other leading law firms for 15 years (and jointly heading the Banking and Insolvency Litigation Practice group of another leading law firm). A former South East Asian schools oratorical award winner, Asian silver medallist in international chess, two time Law Society Appreciation Award winner and judicially commended by the highest court in Singapore, Gregory was humbled to receive the Good Samaritan Award conferred on him in Washington DC in October 2008 by Advocates International for his leadership of Advocates Asia – an NGO committed to (among others) international reconciliation, conflict resolution, religious liberty and professional ethics.

Gregory presently serves on the Council of the Law Society and is Treasurer-elect and Exco Member for the Council 2014. He was long time Chairman of the Law Society Publications Committee and immediate past Deputy Chairman of the Board of the Insolvency Practitioners' Association of Singapore. He has also served on the Inquiry Panel of the Law Society of Singapore and served as a long standing Senior Advocacy Trainer with the Law Society. He regularly conducts nationwide seminars and was part of Summer School Faculty in Handong International Law School (teaching International Business Transactions). Presently, he serves as Subject Coordinator for Wills, Probate and Administration for law graduates taking Part B Examinations and is a Faculty Panel Member of the Singapore Institute of Legal Education.

In community service, Gregory has also had a unique, longstanding and direct service in various charities in Singapore. He served as a founding member and Vice President of the Children's Cancer Foundation (then known as Working in Aid of Leukaemic Kids) from 1992 – 1995, had the joy of organizing Camp Rainbow (for children with chronic and terminal illnesses) as Chairman in 1994 – 1995 and from late 1996 to date, serves as President of Club Rainbow (Singapore) (serving families of children with chronic and life-threatening illnesses). He commented on why he volunteers: “In one sentence, it is more blessed to give than to receive. It is a joy to be part of a mission that has touched and will continue to touch lives in unique ways – whether that of a Rainbow parent needing financial aid, a Rainbow child needing a friend or Rainbow families needing social support. It is also inspiring to see the growth of the charity and the personal growth that the serving Council, Staff and myself have experienced over time through the opportunities and challenges that have come our way.”

Today, Club Rainbow helps more than 500 families and offers a vibrant array of free services. This includes personalised counselling, group sharing sessions, social activities, tuition and financial assistance when necessary. A Volunteer Management Council headed by Gregory charts the direction of the charity. In January 2007, Club Rainbow established its first purpose-built facility – Rainbow Family Care Centre. This serves as the focal point of our many services and activities. It has two other branches located in the KK Women's and Children's Hospital and in the National University Hospital. Today, Club Rainbow takes on a holistic approach to conduct numerous events and programmes for its beneficiaries; ensuring holistic psychosocial, financial, educational, informational and social support to complement the medical services provided by health care professionals.

In addition, Gregory has served as Executive Advisor to We-Share-Care Society for Children and Youth (a charity dedicated to imparting character values to children) in the 1990s. He presently serves on the Board of the Singapore Cord Blood Bank and as Means-Test Committee Member for National Council of Social Service. He recently completed a term of service on the Board of Centre for Enabled Living (focusing on care for the disabled and the elderly) and now serves on the Board for the Agency for Integrated Care. Since 2012, he has been appointed by the Singapore government to serve on the Bio-ethics Advisory Commission.

Gregory Vijayendran served as two-time Eusoff Hall JCRC President and is currently a member of the Eusoff Hall SCRC.



Loh Pui San

Vice President, Global Financial Institutions,
OCBC Bank

Non-Independent & Non-Executive Director
and Member of Remuneration Committee,
MFS Technology Ltd.

Faculty of Science (Economics)

Eusoff Hall 1990 – 1993

“Get your university education but do spend time to build friendships and relationships”

— *Loh Pui San*

What does Eusoff mean to you?

Eusoff was a relatively young hall and I was one of the few students from Science Faculty. I was attracted to Eusoff as, relative to other halls, it was more vibrant, diverse and had a more balanced culture. I had the opportunity to be part of the melting pot and got to meet and interact with so many Eusoffians all from different backgrounds. It was a great place to experience diversity in cultures, social differences, and outlooks in life and a place to make great friends.

How was your time in Eusoff?

We had good fun. Besides my “official” involvement in sports activities, such as basketball (both for the Hall for in NUS basketball Inter-Varsity team), netball, and handball as well as block organising activities as a floor rep, we also had many social and informal get togethers – suppers, marathon carrom games, and participation in and supporting the hall’s other activities.

How did Eusoff help prepare you in your career and life after NUS?

It was the first time in my life that I was staying on my own, away from my family. My experience at Eusoff helped me to become more independent, which helped me adapt easier later when I ventured to Australia for my MBA and work. I also learnt to instil self-discipline as there were always so many distractions possible from the primary purpose why we were there – getting a university education! At Eusoff, I also learnt how to work with people from diverse backgrounds, and this would put me in good stead subsequently in my career both in Australia and Singapore.

What makes Eusoff, Eusoff?

Eusoffians make Eusoff, Eusoff. Eusoffians are a vibrant and diverse bunch, but yet when they come together, they work together and are committed and dedicated to what they do. During my time, everyone was very supportive of the monumental hall production KOJIKI. It was an amazing performance that demonstrated Eusoffians’ commitment to the highest standards. I recall that besides the Eusoffians who were directly involved in the production, everyone else was there to lend their full support whenever possible.

Advice to young Eusoffians?

Today, I still stay in regular contact with some of my friends from Eusoff. There are also annual get togethers organised for a wider group which I try to join whenever possible. Treasure and make full use of your time in Eusoff. It may be the last opportunity to meet and interact with so many people on a social basis and to build friendships. For most of us, the work environment that follows after is not likely to offer those opportunities for us the same way. Get your university education but do spend time to build friendships and relationships.



Phyllis Soh

Freelance Copywriter

NUS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Eusoff Hall 1991 – 1993

“Eusoff made my dreams come true”

— Phyllis Sob

What does Eusoff mean to Phyllis? Freedom. Phyllis believes that her time in Eusoff was the best time of her life as she could do anything she wanted. For example, as Eusoff Hall was very close to FASS buildings, she remembers that she “can sleep until last minute and wear pyjamas to class”. Fong Seng Nasi Lemak Stall was also especially memorable as she always went there to dabao nasi lemak. Eusoff had given her a rich and fulfilling experience as a student before starting work.

To Phyllis, her most life-changing experience in Eusoff was going *botak*. She said that she shaved her head because “the weather was too hot”. Coincidentally, at the time of writing, she went *botak* again. But this time it’s for a good cause: raising funds for Children Cancer Foundation. It is of no surprise to learn that Phyllis was someone who aspired to be creative and different. In fact, she believes that people (ex-Eusoffians from her time) will always remember her for wearing pyjamas to DnD (Dinner and Dance). She chose to wear such an intriguing attire in order to differentiate herself from the other girls who wore nice dresses.

When asked whether she had any message for young Eusoffians, she replied that she only had one: “live your dream, Eusoff made my dreams come true.”

“First of all, Eusoff Hall made me live out my dreams of acting on stage. I always wanted to act but I never dared to. In my first year in Eusoff, Eusoff Hall very kindly allowed me to be the lead actress in their production. And also, I wanted to direct and they very kindly allowed me to be the director also. I don’t know how I did it. But I did it. The first production was called ‘Salvation’, held at LT13. My second production KOJIKI was at Kallang Theatre. That was the first big scale musical that started the Eusoff tradition of having big scale musical every year. And I was so proud to be part of the first. When I did the production, it was such a big troublesome project. But then on hindsight when I realised it was the first, I was really proud. Most of the time, the hostel was a place for me to play and sleep, to study for exams, and to make money. In Eusoff, I had my first and longest relationship and I lived all my dream on making money part time.”

Phyllis suffered from a stroke in 1999. “I think I got it after I came home late one night. After the operations, I was in a coma for about a week or so. But during that time, my whole body system shut down except my brain. My parents wanted to shut off my life support machine but I woke up! And after I woke up, I got infection and the doctors already wanted to harvest my organs for donation. So, the doctors think I was a gone case, BUT I SURVIVED”. Her recovery process since then had been tremendous. She regained her speech and motor abilities to perform some basic tasks such as eating and using her hands. At home, she enjoys making earrings and small gifts, mostly for birthday presents.

Currently, Phyllis works as a freelance copywriter.



Quek Chin Thean

Managing Director, Head, Asia Pacific Com-
modities Trading, Securities Division
J. Aron & Company (Singapore)
The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc

NUS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Eusoff Hall 1989 – 1992

“hungry, humble, humour”

— *Quek Chin Thean*

Chin Thean has always been working in energy supply and trading industry since graduation, spending more than 7 years working overseas in the UK, US, and Hong Kong.

In Eusoff Hall, he was once one of the highest pointers in the hall (achieving impressive amount of points in the point system for halls and residences) before. This was a result of having a lot of fun running for numerous committees and activities, including FWOC chairman, SOC, DnD, choir, other performing arts groups and being an active resident of Block B.

What makes Eusoff different from other halls?

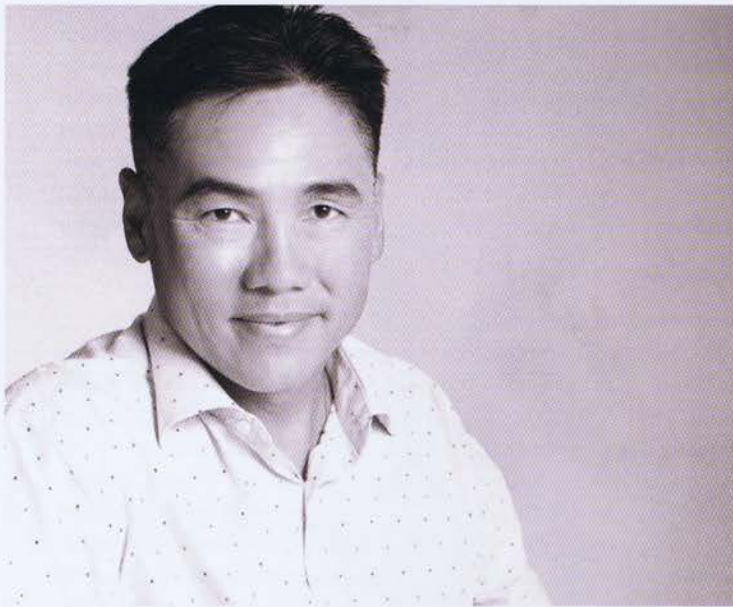
“Eusoffians are very united as Eusoff residents tend to bond very well.” This is also reflective in life after graduation, as he believes that Eusoff has a very strong alumni group. Chin Thean also thinks that Eusoff was an attractive hall of choice at that time because it was a relatively new hall, housing very diverse residents across all faculties and nationalities. Eusoff had a lot of charm, attracting many talented people around campus. Eusoff has always had very strong hall spirit which carries on even after Eusoffians graduate, as can be seen from the strong alumni support. “People are still connected outside. They do not forget their roots. It’s a really good mix of people. My best friends today are from Eusoff. Maybe they are closer to me than my secondary school or JC friends. Eusoff was the best part of my education period. Friendship is long-lasting. Because you need to run committees and participate in a lot of events, friendship was built through late night nasi lemak and running for committees, actually.”

How did Eusoff help shape and prepare you in your career and life after NUS?

“Friendship, social skills, team-building, organising ability, being tolerant to differences, being inclusive when you’re doing things, embracing diversity. These are very important in life. And if you’re active in Eusoff, you will build leadership quality which is highly important. You will learn to engage, interact, and motivate your team. I think Eusoff really prepares me very well; it helped me realise my own potential. Eusoff is actually a good place for you to test out what you’re good and bad at. It’s a really good testing ground as you are immersing yourself in Eusoff experience in different committees: sports, culture, social—to really discover yourself. You also have the ability to take the step to try out different things and be ready to fail and learn from the experience. Failing is really important because if you don’t fail, you can never be successful. I believe the experience you had in Eusoff really gave you a lot of opportunity to step out and be outside of your comfort zone, discovering your strengths and weaknesses. It’s all about personal development. I think that really prepares you in the real world. I also picked up social interacting skills and interpersonal skills, all very practical in working life. Learning to be tolerant was very important also because Eusoff is a melting pot. It really trained you to pick up all these social and adapting skills.”

Message to younger Eusoffians

“3H: hungry, humble, humour. Stay hungry for both knowledge and friendship; build your friendship network. Stay humble; the world is bigger than NUS and Eusoff. And lastly, don’t take yourself too seriously sometimes, have a good sense of humour; take work seriously but when you fail, learn from it and move on.”



Raymond Tan Eng Teik

Director (Architecture), ONG&ONG Pte Ltd

B.Architecture 1995

Eusoff Hall 1989 – 1995

“I came with one luggage and nowhere to stay”

— *Raymond Tan Eng Teik*

“Generally the hall is a very nice place. We made a lot of friends; friends that you make for life. Of course, Rashidah, was one of the nicest people. She helped me when I was in dire need of a room. I was frantic. I came to Singapore with no place to stay. She found my application and processed in like 3-4 hours. “You come back again at 12.30 and I see what I can do”, she told me that. When I came back, I got a single room. Do you know what it takes for a first-year student to get a single room? You have to be either a scholar or a very good sportsman. I came with nothing except one luggage, nowhere to stay. Rashidah got me my room in 3 hours and that experience led to 6 years staying in Eusoff Hall. I pushed it till the very last day I could stay in the hall.”

“Communal living is actually a reflection of life. There were 485 residents, minus you, 484. Every year, around 30% are retained, 70% are new faces. Generally you have mostly new people every year. New people coming in and out of your lives. So hall living is a very good experience to prepare you for going out into the world, living with people. Some people have strengths and some, weaknesses; some people that you try to be friends with, they are oblivious of you. You go out to the working world, you go into big organizations, there are some people whose characters do not align with you; and hall teaches you how to deal with it. At the very young age you learn that. Living together is also about making friends that last for a lifetime. There are some people who you get in together with you in year 1. You go through orientation together, being involved in various activities together later. You spend four years with them, then you all became very close friends. Four years staying together in hall really forges very strong friendship. Until today we still keep in touch, although some of them are no longer in Singapore. No business relationship. Pure friendship.”

“This is my message to you: treasure your moment in the hall. It’s a stepping stone of what is to come outside when you join the working world. Eusoff Hall actually subconsciously teaches you that you need to plan ahead in life. What you need to contribute to the hall to ensure a place in the hall. You need to plan, if you don’t plan, you can’t stay. It’s the way of life because you need to chart what is to come next year, always. You’re always charting ahead of what you are actually doing. At the very young age, we had to contend with going to school, doing our schoolwork, graduating, passing the exam, while at the same time making sure that we have enough points to stay next year. Staying in the hall makes a lot of economic sense as it is lodging with breakfast and dinner included. For the same price, you could only get a room outside and on top of it, transportation cost.”

“In pursuit of wealth, people sacrifice health. Once they have wealth, they use the wealth to hunt back the health that they sacrificed. Never compromise your health. Leading a balanced life is all about planning. Planning has to be subconscious, planning becomes part of you.

That’s my story.”



Tan Choon Wee

Founder and Principal, Advance Capital Partners

Executive Director, Elektromotive Group Ltd

NUS Mechanical Engineering

Eusoff Hall 1988 – 1990

“Nothing beats having a network of friends” — *Tan Choon Wee*

Tan Choon Wee was from the pioneer batch resident of Eusoff Hall when it relocated to Kent Ridge campus. He was very active in sports, representing the hall, faculty, and university. He was involved in the Inter-Hall, Inter-Faculty and Inter-Varsity Games such as soccer, rugby, sepak takraw, and hockey. At Eusoff, he also participated in Dance and Rag and Flag activities. Not surprisingly, he became one of the highest pointers in the hall (amassing impressive amount of points for the halls and residences point system) in 1989. Despite his heavy extra-curricular activities, Choon Wee also did very well academically, having been selected as one of the two students sent to the Netherlands for a prestigious internship in an aeronautical engineering services company for 3 months in 1989.

For Choon Wee, his most memorable Eusoff experience was being involved in Rag and Flag: “One of the most significant events that I really really enjoyed back then was the Rag and Flag in 1989. We had this fantastic theme which won the Rag and Flag float presentation award. Our Samurai theme left a lasting impression for all. We had Japanese exchange students then who contributed to the theme and the construction of the samurai float. I played the devil character that fought the samurai and had to sword fight in full gear equipped with all the special effects. The story was I tried to kidnap the princess and fought the samurai over her. It was an interesting time for me because I was the lead actor and there were a lot of pretty girls in kimonos around me. My friends said that I looked really impressive although I had to paint my face all white. How did I land the role in the first place? I guess the committee that came up with the theme was looking for a suitable actor who was loud, brave, agile and skilful enough for the character. With that I had to learn sword fighting for a bit before I eventually performed. It was a very good and fun experience.”

Choon Wee also strongly believes that Eusoff was unique because of its diversity and all the friendships that he built there. The network of friends that he formed in Eusoff proved to be very significant in his career.

“Nothing beats having a network of friends. When you’re in the university and Eusoff, this is the time and place when you make friends who are of the same mentality. You will never know the day when you will need fellow Eusoffians’ help, which could sometimes be lent without much ado. People from various aspects and disciplines of life, in whatever they do and their professions, can offer you their two cents worth of advice; in case you need certain advice or help in specific areas, be it legal, financial, even running a business. That’s the thing about life, you’ll never know when, where and how, but it happens. I’ve been through that. Since I left the hall in 1990, I do come across a lot of my ex-Eusoffians friends where I, in one way or another helped them, or they helped me.”



Willie Low

CEO & President Director (Manufacturing and Distribution), Niro Ceramic Indonesia

NUS Mechanical Engineering

Eusoff Hall 1988 – 1990

“The people in Eusoff were down to earth and humble”

— Willie Low

Willie Low was privileged to be the pioneer batch of Eusoff Hall residents at Kent Ridge campus. When everything just started, there was a good mix of new people and former Eusoff College residents that moved from Bukit Timah campus. He had a chance to experience the old and the new of the Eusoff tradition. At the same time, he helped to shape the new identity of Eusoff Hall, being involved in the Orientation Committee as the Vice chairman in his final year.

During his time, Willie was in the NUS *sepak takraw* team together with Tan Choon Wee, his fellow Eusoffian, Malaysian and classmate. Being an NUS Inter-Varsity *sepak takraw* player, they also played for Eusoff Hall, helping Eusoff to win Inter-Hall Games (IHG) *sepak takraw* for two years in a row.

He enjoyed his time in Eusoff very much as he had a lot of fun doing various things in his 2 year stay in Eusoff. While having a lot of fun, staying in Eusoff also taught him to be independent as there were no more mummies and daddies to look after oneself. He had to be standing on his own 2 feet and running fast to compete in a very competitive and dynamic environment. During his time in the hall, residents had to compete to earn points in order to continue their stay in the following year and to have a better choice of room. This taught Willie what competitive spirit really means, which is highly relevant in life after university.

“There’s a lot of learning. A lot of memories of people from Eusoff Hall. Eusoff Hall teaches you to be yourself. In Eusoff, people just let you be. At that time, it was a nice environment to be in. That what makes Eusoff Hall different.”

Even until today, Willie still keeps in touch with his Eusoff friends; friendship that lasts for more than 20 years. Despite how busy they are, they will find time and opportunity to meet up. He believes that “the camaraderie is still within his heart”, as he remembers the time they spent frequently chit-chatting until late at night, studying together for examinations and having coffee and instant noodles at 2AM. “Friendship was priceless. The people in Eusoff were down to earth and humble.”

Perhaps the greatest life lesson that Willie learned while staying in Eusoff was how to live in a communal situation. He fervently believes in giving back to the community as a means to develop oneself, as he encourages young Eusoffians: “Give all you have. The reason why you live in hall is to give, give yourself, give your time, give yourself the freedom to explore, and it will come back to you in terms of growth, personality and character building and people interaction abilities.

“In the hall, this is the chance that you can interact freely, the more you give, the more you get back. In the working life, one’s ‘personality and character’ is very important. In Eusoff Hall, you will grow and blossom in terms of ‘personality and character’. It’s a great start to adulthood as one develops strong positive fundamentals in their attitude and behavior as a starting platform in their continuous journey of change later in their lives.”



Anisa Hassan

Managing Director, It's Just Lunch Asia

NUS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Eusoff Hall 1991 – 1994

“Don’t ever be afraid to fall”

— Anisa Hassan

“Eusoff was my home away from home throughout my University years. It was a place that allowed me to craft my own identity without expecting me to conform to the norm. It gave me enough space to learn to lead from within as it nurtured and developed me to be the best version of myself. I was fortunate enough to be placed among the most positively outrageous group of young men and women at E Block. This is where I learnt the value of true friends when the 3rd floor girls like Grace, Andrea, Chai Wei, Ee-Khem and Anissara always looked out for me when I was going through challenging times at home and a difficult period in “school”. I was made E-Block Head in my Year 2 and learnt first hand that leadership was no longer about seeking compliance. Rather, leadership has everything to do with collaboration, cooperation, and a caring nature to give others what you want for yourself. There were many valuable lessons on leadership that I gleaned throughout my years in Eusoff Hall but I now know for sure that I’m only successful in leading a team if I know first how to lead myself.”

“Life is all about choices. Make a decision right now to build a foundation for developing friendships that could lead to real and lasting relationships. Life is not about who can climb the highest, the fastest. But life is about lifting others and extending help to those who need it the most for this will make your ascent that more interesting and meaningful. Believe me, everyone will get ‘there’. Life will give you hits and misses – don’t ever be afraid to fall. The scrapes and the bruises, the hurt and the disappointments are your best lessons in keeping you grounded and humble.”

*Anisa Hassan is an award-winning entrepreneur and an internationally certified trainer, speaker and coach with the **John Maxwell Group** – a world renowned leadership training company. Yet, she is best known for her role as a “matchmaker” being the owner and Managing Director of the highly successful dating company, **It’s Just Lunch Asia**.*

*In 2005, Anisa also started **Stellar Consulting Group**, a consulting company that helps small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with business advisory, market intelligence and capital raising activities for those who are keen to venture into the ASEAN and/or Gulf Cooperating Council (GCC) markets. Being a serial entrepreneur, Anisa also started **Anisa Hassan International** – a training company specializing in communication, leadership and workplace relationship dynamics. For her exceptional enthusiasm and rapid growth of her business, she was awarded the **Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Award** by the Singapore Malay Chamber of Commerce and Industry in 2006. In June 2013, Anisa was named as the Top 10 Most Inspiring Businesswomen in Singapore by a Malaysian publication, Top 10 of Asia.*

Prior to her foray into the business world, Anisa was instantly recognized as the face of a regional television station, Channel NewsAsia. For 8 years, she worked as a producer, journalist, presenter and news anchor. Apart from running her businesses, Anisa is also a published author and she is often invited as a relationship columnist for magazines and online publications.

Away from her professional life, Anisa is a mother of two daughters and is married to her college sweetheart for 15 years. Currently, Anisa serves as a Board of Director with the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) in Singapore. Anisa was also recently featured as the benefactor for an underprivileged family in Singapore, in the Channel 5 program “Undercover Happiness”



Lieutenant Colonel Kong Eu Yen

Republic of Singapore Navy

Masters of Science in Defence Analysis,
Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California, USA

Bachelors of Social Sciences (Honours) in Political Science,
National University of Singapore

Eusoff Hall 1999 – 2002

“Have the will to do, and the spirit to dare!”

— *Lieutenant Colonel Kong Eu Yen*

Kong Eu Yen was a resident of Eusoff Hall from 1999 to 2002. During his stay in Eusoff, he was part of the Eusoff Voluntary Corps and played for Inter-Hall Games (IHG) Soccer and Road Relay. He also served as the JCRC President, JCRC Information Secretary, Block Head, and Chairman of Combined Halls of Residence Committee.

What being a Eusoffian has meant to me

Eusoff was much more than just a home. Fellow Eusoffians were close family, wise mentors and still remain among the closest of friends. My JCRC mates, B4 & C4 mates, and many hall buddies gave me the most diverse gaggle of friends ever. They came from different walks of life, covered many areas of knowledge, competed in a multitude of sports and excelled in a plethora of ways. They showed me that excellence took many forms and wonderful people took many guises. My fellow Eusoffians regularly surprised me with their enthusiasm for life and infectious energy. Even among my Eusoffian friends that may not meet regularly, there remains an implicit understanding that we stand ready to help each other in an instant.

With the guidance of my seniors and peers, Eusoff became more than just a vibrant university residence, it became an academy for life and leadership. Being a Eusoffian taught me more about myself and life that any other experience at that point in my life and continues to shape me today.

How being a Eusoffian influenced my Life and Career

Being a Eusoffian reinforced my devotion of the best years of my life to the service of our country with the Navy & Singapore Armed Forces. The passion of Eusoffians demonstrated the strengths of a united community and affirmed that our country had the talent and vigour to build a potent force to defend her interests.

Being an active Eusoffian compelled one to seek balance between inescapable responsibilities and the passions that fuelled life. Eusoff made me a more complete person and equipped me with the mentality and skills to forge a path to success later in life. The positive life lessons from being a Eusoffian constituted the most precious experience of my university education. Being a Eusoffian gave me practical knowledge about life and living that no lecture or book could hope to equal.

Advice for Future Eusoffians

Recognise the unique and precious opportunity afforded by being a Eusoffian. To reap maximum benefit from your time in Eusoff, become an active Eusoffian. Through participation you will personally feel the joy; taste the success; learn from the mistakes; and be inspired by the myriad experiences that constitute the Eusoff journey. Seize the opportunity, and you will be amazed and energized for the rest of your life! Do not merely listen to my words, take action yourself! Have the will to do, and the spirit to dare!



Koh Li Yun Grace



Head, Inaugural Eusoff Expeditions:
Project Barefoot

Eusoff Hall 2001 – 2005

The Road Less Travelled

Eusoff Expeditions: Project Barefoot

During her time in Eusoff, Grace was involved in numerous activities, especially voluntary works and community service. In her first year, she was the Vice Head, Eusoff Voluntary Corps, volunteer at NUH Children Cancer Foundation, and involved in the annual Eusoff Dance Production as the Marketing Committee Member. In her second year, she took up the leadership positions of Head, Interim Eusoff Voluntary Corps and Head, Eusoff Voluntary Corps. At the same time, she also volunteered at Salvation Army. She was also involved in the Inter-Hall Games as the IHG Convening Committee Member. In her third year, she served in the Eusoff Hall JCRC as the Honorary General Secretary while still volunteering at Salvation Army. In her final year in Eusoff, she set up and headed the inaugural Eusoff Expeditions: Project Barefoot.

What does Eusoff mean to you?

Eusoff was a home away from home. It was the place where I met a group of friends that I would want to keep for life; it was a place where I remembered spending most of my University days in; it was a place where I pursued my dreams. It was in Eusoff that my dream of starting an overseas expedition came true. It was an idea many were unfamiliar with and had their reservations about. I would never forget how I had to manage both my thesis and expedition preparation work. While my peers were busy mugging in central library, I was busy fund raising with my fellow team members. However, it was the people I met in Eusoff that gave me the support and strength to pursue my dream and making it come true. A big thank you to Master, A/Prof Tan Tin Wee for the 100% support given to me and my committee, and the pioneers of Eusoff Expeditions who trusted me and went on the road less travelled with me.

How did your Eusoff experience help shape you in your life and career?

Eusoff Expeditions opened up a whole new world for me and had greatly influenced my career and the work I have been doing for the past 10 years. I have continued working with Love Cambodia, our partner in Cambodia, for the past 10 years and have continued to influence youths in schools to do their part for the community. Till date, I have linked up at least 6 student teams with Love Cambodia, ensuring at least S\$30,000 project funds for them annually. As I progress in my career, I might not be able to lead teams every year. However, I continue to see myself as a support and resource person for new expedition leaders, conducting training workshops for new teachers and student leaders.

Message to young Eusoffians

Dare to pursue your dreams and make the most out of your Eusoff experience. You never know how the activities you participate in Eusoff could influence you in future.



Nikhil Mohanan

NUS Faculty of Engineering

Eusoff Hall 2008 – 2012

Performing Arts Director, 22nd Eusoff Hall JCRC

There is no place like home

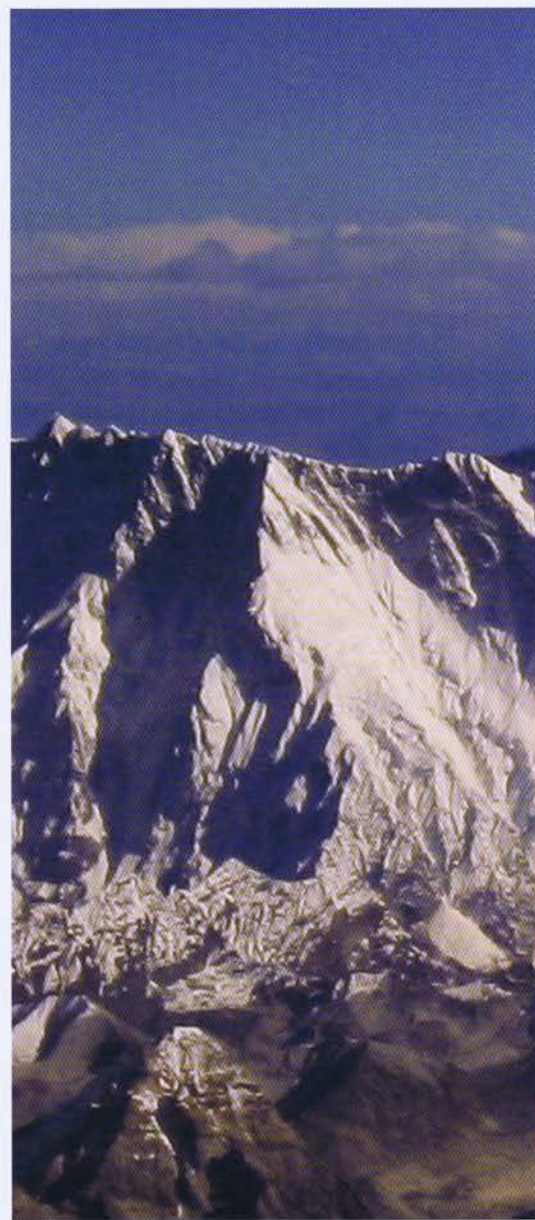
Eusoff Hall was home to me for four years from 2008 to 2012. To me university life was synonymous to Eusoff.

From theatre to IT to my TV show craze all my current passions stem from my years in Eusoff. Back in 2008, when I had just joined Eusoff, all I knew was that I wanted to do something new; so I joined Drama and Eusoff Works. For someone who had no theatre background I must say I had a ball of a time in Drama. I even tried my hand at acting during Dramafest. Eusoff Works, on the other hand, taught me skills no module in university could. In my second year I took up the role as the Performing Arts Director which was a great learning experience. I also made it a point to act for Dramafest again. In my last two years I tried my hand in Dance Production as the Production Manager and even went back to Eusoff Works to pass on the skills I had learnt. All in all it was an eventful four years in Eusoff.

It sounds like I came to Eusoff with a master plan but I did not. I was literally clueless what hall life would be. I believe that is the case with many people out there, but don't worry – batches before you have gone through this very same stage in life and we all came out fine (at least to an extent). But put a positive spin on it and you see that in this uncertainty lies the opportunity to try new things to broaden your horizons. There are opportunities you get in Eusoff you get nowhere else but it is the fear of failure that stops us from grabbing them. But consider this would you rather fail here surrounded by friends who will be cheering you all along or in the working world where everyone is trying to outsmart each other. You decide.

Your years in Eusoff are the most moldable ones of your life and you are at a crucial juncture in life where you can explore yourself as a person. A beautiful quote from Steve Jobs which I hold dear to my heart encapsulates this idea perfectly – “Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition.”

Nikhil Mohanan





Eusoffians On Top of The World

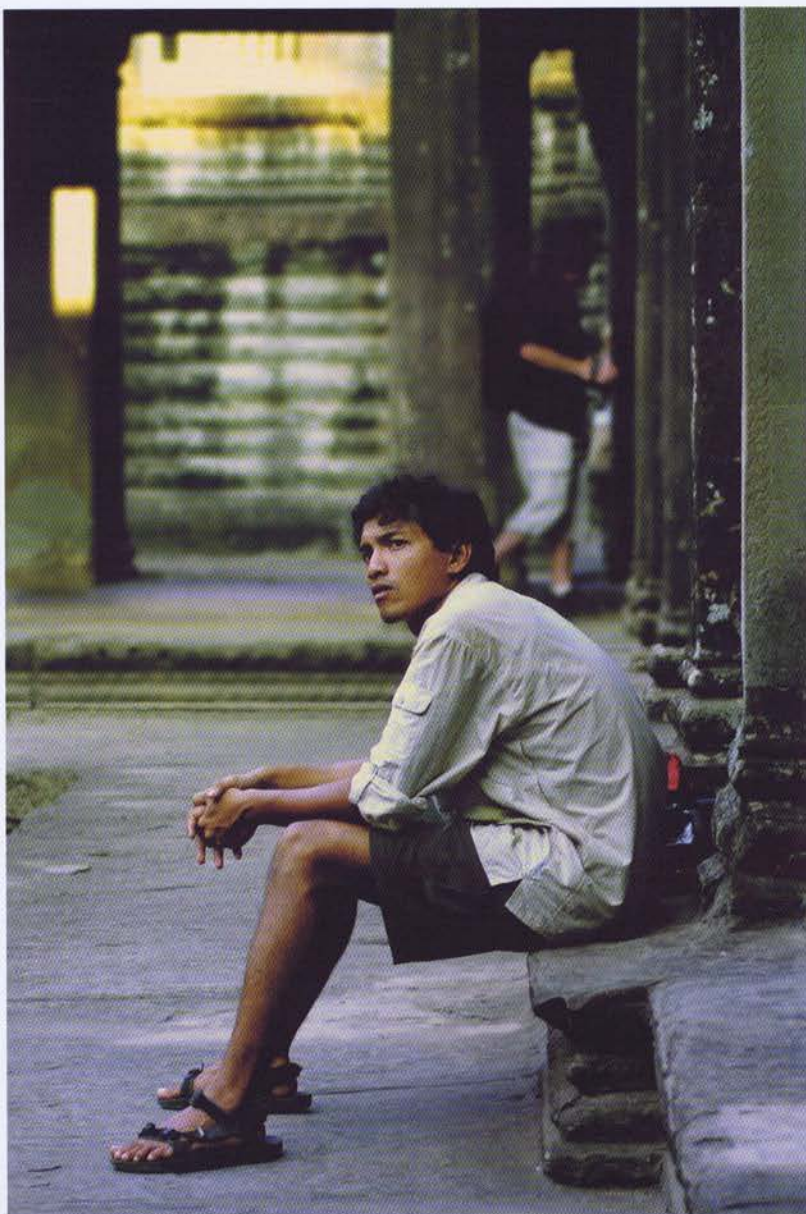
Eusoff Hall has greatly contributed to the many historic Singapore Mount Everest expeditions. There was Johann Annuar who was part of the first ever Singapore Mount Everest Expedition; Stefen who was a part of the NUS Centennial Everest Expedition; and Jane and Yi Hui, co-leaders of the Singapore Women's Everest Team.

Stefen found that Eusoff really helped to develop his skills to talk to people from all walks of life. These skills were very useful when he needed to speak to corporations to raise funds for his NUS Everest Team. Eusoff Hall had really helped him set the foundations when he was part of the NUS Everest Team, preparing for the climb of his life.

Jane and Yi Hui remembered the huge support that Eusoff Hall gave to their Women's Everest Team, especially the continuous help from the hall Master, A/P Tan Tin Wee and the hall manager, Rashidah. Eusoff Hall became their training base, and their Eusoff experience essentially centred around trainings and meetings in preparation for the expedition. Both Jane and Yi Hui believe that Eusoff Hall had a great impact on the success of their historic expedition.

97 Johann Annuar
99 Stefen Chow E-Fung
101 Jane Lee
103 Sim Yi Hui





Johann Annuar

Communications Officer,
1st Singapore Mt Everest Expedition 1998

Cyclist, 1st Singapore Trans-continental cycling
expedition, 2003 – 2004

Currently Consultant and Trainer at Humanity
Assist, specialising in overseas community
development and humanitarian work

Member of the Board, Médecins Sans Frontières
(MSF) Hong Kong

Eusoff Hall 1995 – 2000

The problem with Eusoff is this.

That when it calls you back to write an essay to put in its book, you feel you have to.

You can check out anytime you like, but you can never leave.

Call it a sense of duty, loyalty, a feeling that you can't let it down... whatever it is, living in Eusoff changes you. It changed me especially because I had gone to University to stay in Hall, not the other way around. I had a feeling I would learn more important things there than I ever would in the Faculty of Engineering, and boy, was I right. Not only because I rarely went to school, either.

From the day I walked in and a senior told me "get used to sleeping at 3am" (I honestly didn't believe him) to the day I got married and HAD to have my wedding in Eusoff, the Hall has been an active part of my life.

Eusoff allowed like-minded people in the prime of their lives to amplify their thoughts, ideas and lives to something bigger than the sum of their individual beings. We lived together, ate together, cried together. We comforted each other and celebrated together and saw each other day in, day out. Now that I think about it, it was an old folks home. For young folks.

But I do miss Eusoff, for it taught me many important things in life. Like what a sock hanging from your neighbour's room door means. How to play mah-jong in your room and not get caught. Why you MUST wear underwear on your birthday. And why relationships are the most important things in the world.

From how you see authority and administration (thank you, Rashidah & Mr Mok), to how you treat service staff (thank you, Mr & Mrs Yap). From the best of friends to

working with colleagues. From significant others to insignificant others (I'm looking at you, Temasek :) And all that filters down to who you are now, and your relationship with your spouse and your children.

And now, when I look at my daughters smile, the truth is that a part of that smile was created when I was in Hall, having the time of my life.

See, the problem with Eusoff is that it defines you. And your future.

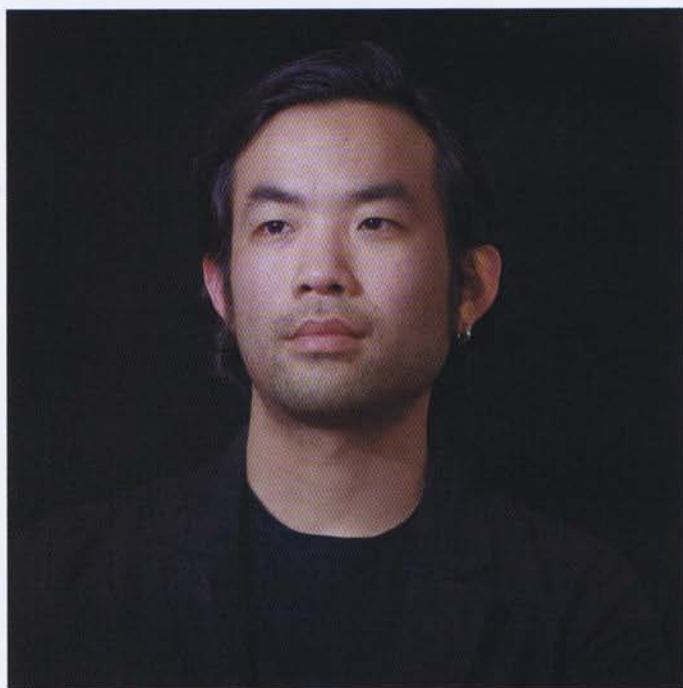
PS: And now I'm off to my Ex-Eusoffian friend's wedding. The fact that he was an exchange student from Canada now living in Japan just goes to show how far the Eusoff spirit touches.

Johann Annuar

While he was satying in Eusoff, Johann's notable ball involvements include, amongst others, Vice-President of the 9th Eusoff Hall JCRC, Captain of IHG-winning carrom team, and Technical Producer of Eusoff Hall's first movie "Clocks and Cockroaches".



Johann (grey shirt, bottom) with his gang of B4 short wing '99



Stefen Chow E-Fung

Professional Photographer

NUS Mechanical Engineering

Eusoff Hall 1999 – 2003

“In Eusoff Hall, to learn something, experience is not needed. Only passion is.”

— *Stefen Chow E-Fung*

Grateful to be a witness through his camera, Stefen is a photographer with a unique eye and effervescent personality. An accomplished adventurer, Stefen has climbed in the Himalayas, Karakoram, and most importantly, he climbed the summit of Mount Everest together with the NUS Centennial Everest Team at the age of 25. He was presented the NUS Outstanding Young Alumni Award in 2007. There are perhaps 3 very significant things that Stefen discovered in Eusoff Hall. Firstly, he found out that he could sing. Secondly, he discovered the importance of soft skills such as communication and social interaction skills which are very useful in his work today. And lastly, he found his true love in Eusoff. “I was lucky to discover them in Eusoff Hall”. In August 2012, Stefen was presented with a special prize for international achievement by Eusoff Hall. His Eusoff experience is encapsulated in the excerpt from his acceptance speech below:

“It has been an exciting 9 years since I stepped out of hall. I had the opportunity to summit Mount Everest, carrying the Singapore and NUS flag to the top of the world. The experience made me realised what you can achieve, with hard work, determination and lots of luck and good weather. For the past 6 years, I have also managed to become a professional photographer, working for the world’s largest magazines, corporations and seeing the world through my lens. Last year, I clocked 100 flights and photographed assignments in nearly 20 countries. I always find it strange and enchanting that people would pay me to see the world. It is possible. In May, I was invited to speak at a main TED event in Shanghai, about a social economic visual body of work I co-created called *The Poverty Line*. The other co creator is also an ex-Eusoffian. The body of work has since been featured in more than 100 media outlets around the world. And for the past 4 years, I have been fortunate to marry the woman I love, the woman where I set my eyes on my first day in Eusoff Hall. I remember that not too long ago, we were gathered in this same hall, divided into orientation groups, and we made conversation, eye contact, and the rest, as they say is a good story. I never thought I would be able to achieve this much, and Eusoff Hall, deserves much of the credit. What have I learnt during my 4 years in hall? 3 things:

This is the best chance to learn new things. In these 4 years, I was in DnD marketing, set a record for Rag and Flag collections as the flag head, managed EVC and learning so much about voluntary work, was a bass singer in Choir, was the gym committee head, and I even managed to pass my exams in Mechanical Engineering. These skills, are invaluable. It made me a well-rounded person, In Eusoff Hall, to learn something, experience is not needed. Only passion is. *Second*. This, is the best time of your life. You have the youth, the energy and the time. You have the hall spirit, the late night suppers, the assignments that always seem last minute. You have plenty of goals, a lot of struggles, a lot of success and lots of tumbles. Looking back, life has been rich, but not nearly as rich as what I lived through in Eusoff Hall. Consider this the best time of your life, make the best of it, and don’t regret saying you didn’t do enough. Don’t think, just do. *Third* thing. Your best friends, and lifelong soul mates will be made here. I have never met so many friends from so many countries before coming to Eusoff hall. This is your best chance to know friends, to understand cultures, to even learn new foreign languages, including foreign words and phrases that we wouldn’t want our parents, or the Master to know. This is the last time, you will really know someone, before you go your separate ways and be the professional you are, and I can tell you, friendships made outside school is different. Bonds made in Eusoff Hall is truly special.

Enjoy your life and I wish you an unforgettable experience in Eusoff Hall.”



Jane Lee

Associate at McKinsey & Company

Co-founder and Co-leader,
Singapore Women's Everest Team

NUS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences,
University Scholars Programme

Eusoff Hall 2004 – 2006

“honoured to call Eusoff Hall home”

— Jane Lee

Jane co-founded the six-member Singapore Women's Everest Team in 2004 and was one of its intrepid co-leaders. The team was the first all-women's climbing team from Singapore, and reached the summit of Mount Everest in 2009. Jane was the leader, and also the youngest member of the team. Fellow ex-Eusoffian and co-leader, Sim Yi Hui, commented on how Jane became the leader, despite her young age at that time: “It's rather simple; we recognize a leader when we see one.”

Together with the rest of the Everest team, Jane was awarded the Her World Young Women's Achiever Award and an Honorary Award from the President of Singapore. Jane also received the Outstanding Young Alumni Award from NUS. Recently, she became the first female climber from Southeast Asia to complete the “Seven Summits”, the tallest mountain on each of the seven continents (Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America and South America), and also completed a ski crossing of Greenland from West to East.

Jane has been honoured to call Eusoff Hall home while at NUS, along with other ex-Eusoffians who also went on to become mountaineers. Ex-Eusoffians such as Johann Annuar, was a member of the first ever Singapore Mount Everest Expedition; Khong Lean and Stefen were members of NUS Centennial Everest Expedition; and of course, Jane and Yi Hui were members of the Singapore Women's Everest Team.

Jane is especially thankful for the personal support extended by the Hall Master then, A/P Tan Tin Wee, for his mentoring and networking support. A/P Tan invited the team to use Eusoff Hall as a training base, and Jane's Eusoff experience was centred around trainings and meetings conducted at Eusoff Hall, in preparation for the expedition. “What I really appreciated, was the fact that A/P Tan and Eusoff Hall were so welcoming of people with different talents, and were enthusiastic in encouraging new sports such as mountaineering. Thank you Prof Tan for the support over the years.”

In 2013, the Singapore Women's Everest Team published “More Than A Mountain” – a collection of stories, experiences, and reflections by the team members about their Everest journey. With the belief that the Everest story is not theirs to keep, “More Than A Mountain” is an extension of their community outreach efforts to tell more people about their story, to encourage others to climb their own “Everests”.



Sim Yi Hui

Experiential Education Specialist,
Raffles Leadership Institute, Raffles Institution

Co-leader, Singapore Women's Everest Team

NUS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Eusoff Hall 2004 – 2005

“Eusoff Hall is really a place to chase your dreams”

— Sim Yi Hui

Yi Hui was part of the first all-female team from Singapore who climbed Mt Everest – the world’s highest mountain in 2009. Together with the rest of the Singapore Women’s Everest Team, Yi Hui was awarded the “Her World Young Women Achiever’s Award” and an Honorary Award from the President of Singapore. She was also a proud recipient of the Outstanding Young Alumni Award from NUS in 2009.

Given her bubbly personality, her team members describe her as the “Merry-maker”. Nevertheless, Yi Hui was very serious and determined about her dreams of conquering Mount Everest. She believes that the whole process was a valuable learning experience. Through the Women’s Everest Team’s feat, she seeks to inspire people to do something that was once thought impossible.

Because her mind and soul were in trainings and preparing for the Everest expedition, she feels that her experience in Eusoff was different from other residents. Eusoff was mainly a place for meetings to discuss logistics, sponsorship, and other planning activities. Despite her short stay in Eusoff, it was sufficient for her to learn that Eusoff means excellence: “Excellence in all aspects, all-rounded, and not only good in one area but in many areas: sports, performing arts, service learning, a good diversity in hall... but most importantly, the Eusoff spirit is very strong.”

Thinking back, she was very thankful for the eye-opening experience while she was in Eusoff. Staying in Eusoff had helped her understand herself a bit more and taught her how to relate to other people. The time she spent in Eusoff really allowed her to be independent as she had to do everything by herself. The hall culture also made her feel comfortable: “Eusoff Hall is really a place to chase your dreams. It is a safe and conducive environment, even if you made mistakes, you had chance to learn and fail.”

What she remembers most from Eusoff was the support from Eusoff Hall Master, A/P Tan Tin Wee and Rashidah, the Hall Manager. “Master was personally very involved, giving a lot of encouragement and confidence as he shared useful tips and support. Master had a direct impact on me and the success of the team.”

The time, the friends, and the whole support from Eusoff had helped to make the Everest expedition a successful one. If she has a chance, she would like to help someone, just like how Eusoff has helped her and her team before. That is why at Raffles Leadership Institute, she wants to make a difference in her students’ lives through student development programmes, camps, and hiking expeditions that let them experience tough living conditions in order to really appreciate life.

Her advice to younger Eusoffians: “Make the best out of your experience in Eusoff. Give your best.”

In 2013, the Singapore Women’s Everest Team published “More Than A Mountain” – a collection of stories, experiences, and reflections by the team members about their Everest journey. With the belief that the Everest story is not theirs to keep, “More Than A Mountain” is an extension of their community outreach efforts to tell more people about their story, to encourage others to climb their own “Everests”.



Photo Courtesy of Stefan Chow E Fung

Epilogue

It cannot be denied that the Eusoff experience has in one way or another played a huge role in the lives of those featured in this book. Based on the stories, reflections, and recollections of these Eusoff alumni, we can learn much about the rich history, traditions, and excellence of Eusoff College and Eusoff Hall. Their stories greatly illustrate what it means to be a Eusoffian: their time living in the College/Hall, and how their Eusoff experience made an impact in their lives, shaping them to who they are today.

What is most important, however, is that through the inspiring stories of these Eusoffians, we can see how the Eusoff spirit is being passed down from one generation to the next. The image of torch and fire which symbolises the Eusoff spirit is ever-present throughout the 55 great years of Eusoff history, as the latest Eusoff Anthem goes: "We will strive through all our days. Fight to keep the torch ablaze. Lit by those who went before us". The old Eusoff Hall song also reminds us that "With our undying flame, we'll be bright and forever strong". In fact, when Eusoff Hall was officially opened in 1989, the Eusoff spirit was symbolically transferred from Eusoff College at Bukit Timah campus to Eusoff Hall at Kent Ridge campus:

Earlier, the President witnessed the Eusoff "spirit", symbolised by a burning torch, being carried by relay runners from Eusoff College in Bukit Timah to the new hostel. The torch, accompanied by 32 Eusoffians along the 12-km journey, was used to light up a cauldron at the Eusoff Hall grounds. The ceremony was watched by President Wee and other VIPs while Eusoff Hall residents cheered the symbolic transfer of the Eusoff "spirit" which had taken root 30 years earlier in Eusoff College, which was an all-girl hostel until 1984. Explained the president of the hostel's Junior Common Room Committee, Mr Yap Soon Pen: "The Eusoff spirit is an intangible sense of togetherness embodied by our new motto, Excellence and Harmony."

(From the Straits Times, 6 August 1989)

The title of this publication *Keeping the Torch Ablaze* is an apt description of how everyone featured in this book has been keeping the Eusoff spirit ablaze with honour and glory in their own ways. The Eusoff spirit truly lives on. For 55 glorious years, Eusoffians, young and old, have been united by the same spirit – the Eusoff spirit.

To the current and future Eusoffians, it is now your duty to keep the torch ablaze.

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Dr Lim Kiat Boey . Dr Eileen Aw . Professor Lee Kok Onn . Professor Andrew Tay . A/P Tan Tin Wee . A/P Goh Beng Lan

Mary Chee Bee Kiang (Mrs Mary Tan) . HE Ambassador Chan Heng Chee . The Honourable Justice Lai Siu Chiu . Mrs Joanna Wong . Ms Lim Bee Lum . Mrs Tan Suan Imm . Dr Rosemary Khoo . Sandra Buenaventura . Saw Phaik Hwa . A/P Kirpal Singh . Francis Xavier . Dr Teo Ho Pin . Carolyn Tan . Colin Ong . Daniel Png . David Ng . Evonne Tan . Gregory Vijayendran . Loh Pui San . Phyllis Soh . Quek Chin Thean . Raymond Tan Eng Teik . Tan Choon Wee . Willie Low . Anisa Hassan . Lieutenant Colonel Kong Eu Yen . Koh Li Yun Grace . Nikhil Mohanan . Johann Annuar . Stefen Chow E-Fung . Jane Lee . Sim Yi Hui . Eusoff Works

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“To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high”

— From John McCrae’s 1915 poem “In Flanders Fields”

Eusoff College Song

Eusoff!
All hail to Eusoff,
Eusoff!
The greatest in the campus.
Through all our struggles,
We stand united.
Let's fight for
Eusoff...
Today!

Eusoff Hall Anthem

by Joe Peters

Eusoff our Hall
United we will stand
With our undying flame
we'll be bright and forever strong

Eusoff our Hall
In harmony we live
And with excellence we strive
to lead all a bright and shining star

When duty calls we answer with pride
Perfection is our goal
With determination true
Steadfast to our Glory

