Tan Eng Chye Ph.D. 1989, Mathematics

Your assumption of the Presidency of the National University of Singapore is recognition of your judgment and vision as an educational leader, and is just one more step in your journey of accomplishment and service through which you have benefited your university, your country, and your field of scholarship, mathematics.

After graduation from Yale, you authored a book with your advisor that still serves as a graduate level text, and is also a heavily used reference, not only in your research area of representation theory, but also in ergodic theory, diophantine approximation and other fields.

On returning to Singapore, you immediately began contributing to mathematics, in your department, in teaching, and in local and regional organizations. You served as President of both the Singapore Mathematical Society and of the South East Asian Mathematical Society. You worked to improve mathematics teaching and increased the presence of the Singapore Mathematical Society in schools, and Singaporean presence in international mathematics competitions. You have won multiple awards for exemplary and innovative teaching.

You served with distinction as Chair of the Mathematics Department, beginning your ascent through the administrative ranks of NUS: Dean of the Faculty of Sciences, then Provost, and now President.

Throughout, you have sought to deliver the best possible education to the students of NUS. The value you place on a liberal arts education has been instrumental in forming the Yale-NUS partnership, and in spreading the valuable attributes of liberal arts learning to the NUS student body at large. Your excellence and vision as an educational leader have already been recognized by Singapore with a gold medal for public administration.

For the meaningful ways in which you have translated Yale’s educational values into the southeast Asian context and created beneficial institutions for your country; the Yale Graduate School Alumni Association is proud to confer on you its highest honor, the Wilbur Lucius Cross Medal.

GRADUATE SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION