

SMU
ALUMNI AWARDS
2025

A stylized star logo composed of several overlapping triangles in white and gold, positioned to the right of the text.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

MR PIYUSH GUPTA

Chairman, SMU Board of Trustees



Launched in celebration of SMU's Silver Jubilee, the SMU Alumni Awards are the University's highest recognition of alumni achievement. As Chairman of the Board of Trustees, I take great pride in recognising these exceptional individuals. They embody the values that define SMU: inclusion, sustainability, and community upliftment and serve as living proof of our mission to nurture leaders who create, innovate, and inspire.

These awards stand as a testament to the enduring impact of our alumni who lead with vision, integrity, and purpose. Our recipients exemplify the values that define SMU - inclusion, sustainability, and community upliftment - but they also represent something uniquely SMU: relevance, adaptability, and a bold readiness to lead in the real world. They are proof that an SMU education equips our graduates not just to thrive, but to stay ahead of the curve, to anticipate change, challenge convention, and make an impact that endures.

Selected through a rigorous and discerning process, these alumni demonstrate excellence in every sense of the word. They have scaled remarkable professional heights while remaining grounded in purpose and integrity. They are innovators who turn ideas into action; visionaries who lead with empathy and insight; and changemakers who remind us that doing well and doing good are not opposing ideals, but powerful partners in shaping a better future.

At a recent SMU Leadership PowerUP session, I had the privilege of engaging with our alumni on the importance of leading with purpose. I shared that in a world of constant change, leaders must seek clarity in their "inner compass": understanding not only what they do, but why they do it. Purpose fuels resilience, shapes legacy, and defines meaningful impact. It also enables leaders to remain grounded, even as they navigate complexity and transformation in their industries; titles may come and go, but the alignment between personal values and professional action is what truly endures.

In this spirit, I encourage all alumni to stay connected with the SMU community through our alumni groups and networks, both in Singapore and across the globe. With support from the Office of Alumni Relations, these communities offer rich opportunities for meaningful dialogue, collaboration and mutual support strengthening our collective impact, and contributing to SMU's continued growth and influence. These connections are powerful catalysts for collaboration, mentorship, and collective impact, ensuring that our alumni community continues to thrive and make a difference long after graduation.

Congratulations once again to all our inaugural SMU Alumni Award recipients. You are the embodiment of the SMU spirit and the pride of our community.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PROFESSOR LILY KONG

President, Singapore Management University



As we mark SMU's 25th anniversary and look ahead to the next chapter under SMU2030: Shaping Impact, Transforming Lives, this occasion is both timely and meaningful.

The SMU Alumni Awards celebrate the enduring spirit of our graduates – individuals who carried the University's ethos into the world and demonstrated how knowledge, purpose and empathy can drive meaningful impact.

Our alumni exemplify the transformative power of an SMU education. They are innovators, leaders, and changemakers whose work inspires confidence in the future we are building together. Through their achievements, they show us that success is not measured solely by personal accomplishment, but the difference one makes in the lives of others - by creating opportunities, uplifting communities and shaping a more inclusive and sustainable future. These awards honour not only their professional excellence but also their commitment to lead with heart. Each recipient reminds us that when we act with intention and align our talents with the greater good, we magnify the impact of what we do, as we turn knowledge into progress, and success into significance.

As we celebrate their achievements, I hope their stories continue to inspire generations of SMU alumni to make bold choices, act purposefully and make a lasting, positive difference. Together, we carry forward the SMU spirit of creating meaningful impact in all that we do.



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**ABBAS ALI MOHAMED IRSHAD
(BBM 2014 and MCM 2020)**

Head of Corporate Affairs for ASEAN,
Tata Consultancy Services

Mohamed Irshad is the Founder & President of Roses of Peace (ROP), a non-profit organisation that seeks to build a harmonious, cohesive and resilient Singapore. The unique programmes of ROP have united the hearts of people across faith, race, nationality and cultural traditions by building bridges, deepening understanding and strengthening trust.

Professionally, he is the Head of Corporate Affairs for ASEAN at Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), a global leader in consulting, business solutions and technology services. He is also an Adjunct Faculty of Strategy & Entrepreneurship at the Lee Kong Chian School of Business at Singapore Management University (SMU).

In 2018, Mohamed Irshad was appointed by the President of Singapore as one of the youngest Nominated Member of Parliament (NMP) and served for one term in the 13th Parliament of Singapore. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of Honour (Singapore), National Volunteer And Philanthropy Centre (NVPC) and as a District Councillor at Southeast CDC.

In recognition of his exemplary contributions to the nation, in 2025, Mohamed Irshad was conferred The Public Service Medal, Pingat Bakti Masyarakat (PBM). He was awarded the President's Volunteerism & Philanthropy Award and the MUIS50 Inspiring Youth Award in 2018.



SHEREEN FIRDAUS
BINTE AZIZ

BAcc 2005



**Shereen Firdaus Binte Aziz
(BAcc 2005)**

CEO, Democracy and Boundary
Commission Cymru

Ms Shereen Williams MBE OStJ DL is the Chief Executive Officer of the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru and Secretary to the Boundary Commission for Wales. A trailblazer in electoral reform, she has led landmark projects, including the 2023 Parliamentary Constituencies Review and the first review of Senedd constituencies for the 2026 elections. Her achievements make her the first person in Welsh history to deliver electoral boundary reforms across local government, the Welsh Parliament, and the UK Parliament.

Previously, she spent a decade in local government across Newport and Monmouthshire, advancing community cohesion, equalities, and counter-extremism initiatives. A passionate volunteer, she has served extensively in the Third Sector and statutory bodies, earning multiple awards for community service, including an honorary MBE. In 2026/27, she will serve as High Sheriff of Gwent, becoming the first Singaporean appointed to this historic Crown office, supporting both judiciary and community.



CHARLES CHEN YIDAN

DBA 2019



Charles Chen Yidan (DBA 2019)

Core Founder, Tencent;
Founder, Yidan Prize

Dr Charles Chen Yidan is the founder of the Yidan Prize Foundation, established in 2016 with the mission of creating a better world through education. A core founder of Tencent and its former Chief Administrative Officer, he pioneered charitable giving in China's Internet industry by launching the Tencent Charity Foundation in 2007. He led the establishment of an internet philanthropic platform and spearheaded numerous innovative charitable projects, and is known as "the Father of Internet Philanthropy." After stepping down in 2013, he continued as Lifetime Advisor Emeritus of Tencent and Honorary Chairman of the Tencent Charity Foundation, while expanding his personal commitment to education philanthropy.

Dr Chen has been instrumental in establishing Wuhan College, a pioneering non-profit university in China. He has consistently been recognised as one of China's leading philanthropists, donating Tencent shares in 2018 to create a charitable trust dedicated to education. Armed with multiple honorary doctorates, Dr Chen exemplifies visionary leadership in harnessing innovation for the public good.



CHNG SOON
YEONG, KELVIN

BSc ISM 2011



CHNG SOON YEONG, KELVIN (BSc ISM 2011) Co-Founder, Carro

Mr Chng Soon Yeong, Kelvin is a technologist and entrepreneur dedicated to building software that creates meaningful impact. A graduate of Singapore Management University with a degree in Information Systems, he co-founded Carro, a pioneering platform that transformed the way people buy and sell cars across Southeast Asia.

Today, Kelvin leads First To Fly, a technology venture focused on developing AI-driven tools that help small and medium-sized enterprises overcome operational and data challenges. Guided by the same commitment to purpose and practicality, his team builds software that is simple, collaborative, and designed around real business needs.

With a vision to create an autonomous software platform that empowers SMEs to automate routine processes and make data-driven decisions, Kelvin continues to exemplify innovation with integrity, advancing technology that not only improves business efficiency but also uplifts communities and drives sustainable growth.



KENNY CHNG

LLB 2012



KENNY CHNG (LLB 2012)

Associate Professor of Law,
Singapore Management University

Associate Professor Kenny Chng has distinguished himself as a scholar, teacher, and alumnus of the SMU Yong Pung How School of Law. He is the first graduate of the School to be appointed Associate Professor with tenure at his alma mater. His academic journey is equally remarkable, being the first alumnus to pursue studies at both Harvard University and the University of Oxford. At Oxford, he is undertaking a DPhil in Law as a Senior Hulme Scholar of Brasenose College and as the inaugural recipient of the SMU Yong Pung How Fellowship. At Harvard, he graduated with an LLM, receiving the Dean's Scholar Prize for outstanding achievement in the Public Law Workshop.

His research has been published in top international journals in his field and has been cited by both the High Court of England and Wales and the Singapore Court of Appeal. A recipient of multiple teaching awards at SMU, he exemplifies academic excellence and dedicated service to his students and the university.



FAHIMA FARHA

BAcc 2018 and MiM 2020



FAHIMA FARHA (BAcc 2018 and MiM 2020) Associate Lecturer, PSB Academy

Fahima Farha is a double alumna of Singapore Management University, having graduated with both a Bachelor's and Master's degree. Her time at SMU was formative, with active involvement in student leadership and community engagement initiatives that laid the foundation for her continued commitment to social impact.

She currently serves as Vice President of Roses of Peace, a ground-up non-profit organisation that empowers youth to build bridges across racial and religious divides and promote social cohesion in Singapore. With over nine years of experience in the interfaith and interracial space, Fahima has designed and led national training programmes on unconscious bias, facilitation, and effective dialogue—engaging more than 1,000 youths across diverse communities.

In addition to her community work, Fahima is a lecturer at a private institute, where she mentors and educates students in critical thinking, empathy, and inclusive leadership. She is also known for building partnerships with grassroots and faith leaders to create safe and inclusive spaces for dialogue.

Fahima is passionate about nurturing the next generation of socially conscious youth leaders. Her work continues to reflect her belief in the power of youth engagement, education, and dialogue to shape a more cohesive and compassionate society.



LAI CHANG WEN

BBM 2012



LAI CHANG WEN (BBM 2012) CEO & Co-Founder, Ninja Van

Mr Lai Chang Wen is the CEO and Co-Founder of Ninja Van, Southeast Asia's leading technology-enabled logistics company. Founded in 2014, Ninja Van has grown into a regional powerhouse providing hassle-free parcel delivery and innovative solutions that empower merchants with seamless access to markets and a consistent delivery experience. Driven by his vision to open Southeast Asia to global possibilities "one delightful delivery at a time," Chang Wen has led Ninja Van through rapid expansion across multiple countries, transforming the way e-commerce logistics is experienced by businesses and consumers alike.

Chang Wen began his career as a derivatives trader at Barclays before venturing into entrepreneurship with Marcella, a men's custom fashion retailer. Encountering inefficiencies in delivery and tracking firsthand, he was inspired to reimagine logistics through technology sparking the creation of Ninja Van. His entrepreneurial spirit emerged early, from assembling and selling bicycles as a student to building ventures that blend business acumen with technology. Recognised by international platforms such as Forbes 30 under 30 Asia (2017), he continues to champion innovation in the region's startup ecosystem, mentoring founders and inspiring the next generation of entrepreneurs.

Passionate about solving real-world problems through data and mathematical models, Chang Wen exemplifies the resilience, creativity, and impact that define SMU alumni.



ADITYA LESMANA

BSc ISM 2010



ADITYA LESMANA (BSc ISM 2010)

Co-Founder, Carro

Mr Aditya Lesmana co-founded Carro, one of Southeast Asia's largest automotive marketplaces, where he built and led the technology team before driving the company's regional expansion into Indonesia. He currently oversees Carro's auto financing business in Indonesia, helping to grow and modernize how people and dealers access vehicle financing.

Earlier in his career, Aditya was part of CapitaMall Asia's innovation team, where he led technology initiatives that improved both shopper experience and operational efficiency across retail properties in Asia.

He began his professional journey at National Computer Systems (a Singtel company), working as a consultant on various government and enterprise IT projects in Singapore. Aditya received the ASEAN Pre-Tertiary Scholarship and the National Infocomm Scholarship. He graduated Summa Cum Laude from Singapore Management University and earned his Master's degree from Carnegie Mellon University, where he also received the Singapore Computer Society Best Final Year Student Award.



LIM KEXIN

BAcc 2005



LIM KEXIN (BAcc 2005)

Partner, Corporate Tax and Entrepreneurial and Private Business, PwC Singapore;
Board Trustee, SMU

Ms Lim Kexin is a Tax Partner at PwC Singapore with deep Asian experience, notable expertise, and market recognition in international tax and cross-border transactions. She brings her extensive international experience, from Singapore to Indonesia, London and more. Over her distinguished career, she has advised on inbound and outbound investments, cross-border transactions, international tax structuring, compliance, and incentive planning, with deep expertise in supporting leading corporate and entrepreneur-driven clients. During her 3.5 years secondment in Jakarta, she gained invaluable experience in the dynamic Indonesian economy, strengthening business and trade ties between Singapore and the region.

Beyond her professional contributions, Kexin has demonstrated outstanding leadership and service since 17. Frequently profiled in the media, she was the youngest-ever council member in the history of the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants and a former member of the National Youth Council. She currently serves on the Singapore Chamber of Commerce in Indonesia, is faculty member of the Wealth Management Institute and first alumna appointed on SMU's board of trustees.

An avid volunteer and multiple award recipient, she exemplifies excellence, leadership, and service, embodying the highest ideals of her alma mater and profession.



KIMBERLY LIM MIN

BAcc 2023



KIMBERLY LIM MIN (BAcc 2023)

Olympian;
Deloitte Audit Associate

Ms Kimberly Lim Min has brought distinction to SMU and Singapore through both sporting excellence and achievement.

On the world stage, Kimberly made history at the Tokyo 2021 Olympic Games by qualifying for the medal race, becoming the first Singaporean—and the first Asian sailor—to achieve a top-10 finish at the Olympics. At the Asian Games, she has been a consistent medallist across more than a decade, securing two Gold medals (2014, 2018), one Silver (2010) and one Bronze (2023), cementing her legacy as one of Asia's most successful sailors. She was in February 2025 nominated to the World Sailing Athletes' Committee, affirming international recognition of her contribution within the sport.

Currently with Deloitte Audit & Assurance, Kimberly exemplifies the resilience, discipline and excellence fostered at SMU. As both athlete and professional, she continues to inspire, raising Singapore's flag high on international waters and beyond.



LIN FENG RU

BSc ISM 2011



LIN FENG RU (BSc ISM 2011) CEO & Founder, TurtleTree

Ms Lin Fengru, Chief Executive Officer and Founder of TurtleTree, is reshaping the future of functional nutrition through innovation and purpose. Under her leadership, TurtleTree has raised over US\$35 million and gained international recognition, winning the Entrepreneurship World Cup and the Temasek Liveability Challenge in 2021, the World Food Innovation Award for Best Ingredient in 2024, and Fast Company's World Changing Ideas Award in 2024.

Through precision fermentation, TurtleTree became the first in the world to achieve FDA GRAS status for animal-free lactoferrin (LF+), a rare dairy protein that supports immunity, gut health, and iron regulation. This breakthrough is transforming access to critical nutrition while reducing the environmental impact of traditional dairy.

Fengru also founded Intentional, a consumer wellness brand, and remains closely connected to SMU's Institute of Innovation & Entrepreneurship. Her journey exemplifies how innovation, perseverance, and vision can turn global challenges into meaningful impact.





PEREIRA VERONICA
SHANTI

BAcc 2021



PEREIRA VERONICA SHANTI (BAcc 2021) National Athlete

Ms Pereira Veronica Shanti, Team Singapore sprinter, has etched her name into sporting history as one of Asia's leading athletes. She holds multiple national records, including the 100m (11.20s) and 200m (22.57s), and became the first Singaporean woman to advance to the semi-finals of the World Athletics Championships. At the 2023 Asian Games, she ended a 49-year medal drought for Singapore by winning gold in the 200m and silver in the 100m.

In 2025, Shanti continued her historic form, capturing two silver medals at the Asian Athletics Championships in Gumi, South Korea, and helping to set a new women's 4x100m national record. She also secured qualification for her second World Championships.

Shanti embodies the resilience, discipline, and relentless pursuit of excellence that define a true sportsperson. Her journey is a testament to personal determination and stands as an inspiration to future leaders and athletes on the global stage.



TERENCE QUEK
CHUN HOU

MCM 2013



TERENCE QUEK CHUN HOU (MCM 2013) CEO, Singapore Institute of Directors

Mr Terence Quek Chun Hou exemplifies outstanding professional leadership and lifelong service to his community and alma mater. With experience as a board member of a statutory board, charity, private companies, district councillor of two community development councils, chairman of three SAFRA clubs, and advisor to various organisations, Terence has built a broad and distinguished career while continually giving back to SMU.

Beyond his 13-year Singapore Navy career and 14-year entrepreneurial journey, he has worked closely with the Office of Alumni Relations and Office of Advancement to strengthen the alumni community and support SMU's fundraising efforts. He has served on the Lee Kong Chian School of Business Alumni Board, as Chairperson of the MCM Alumni Group, Co-Chair of the SMU Alumni Advisory Council, and member of the Alumni Philanthropy Council.

A tireless fundraiser, Terence initiated the Imagine Better coffee table book, served four times as SMOO Challenge ambassador, and established the Pegasus Overseas Exchange Grant to fund exchanges in perpetuity. He also founded the SMU Leading Executives And Directors (LEAD) Alumni Group. Widely recognised with national awards for public service, humanitarian leadership, and volunteerism, Terence embodies SMU's spirit of impact, philanthropy, and stewardship.



TOSHIN CANUTE
SEQUEIRA

BSc Econ 2019



TOSHIN CANUTE SEQUEIRA (BSc Econ 2019)

Manager, Asia Pacific Government Advisory,
The Tony Blair Institute for Global Change

Mr Toshin Canute Sequeira has built a career partnering with governments to further socioeconomic development. He has worked with several leaders across Asia Pacific, including serving as an embedded advisor to Nobel laureate President José Ramos-Horta of Timor-Leste. His work is focused on strengthening state capacity, translating national visions into actionable priorities, and navigating complex governance challenges.

Toshin's prior experience includes developing a framework for measuring resilience for the UK Government's National Preparedness Commission, co-authoring the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Risks Report, and serving as a Senior Advisor to the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (Youth).

At SMU, Toshin was elected to consecutive terms on the Executive Committee of the Students' Association (SMUSA). He was a recipient of the university's highest student honour - the President's Award for Excellence in Student Life. He also represented SMU and Singapore at the US Military Academy at West Point. Toshin is the first and only SMU alumnus to be selected for the Schwarzman Scholars Program, a fully funded Master's degree designed to prepare the next generation of global leaders.



SEYED NAZHATH
FAHEEMA

BSc ISM 2010



SEYED NAZHATH FAHEEMA (BSc ISM 2010)

Director of Development & Community
Relations, Hope Initiative Alliance

Ms Seyed Nazhath Faheema is a researcher and interfaith dialogue practitioner with over a decade of experience facilitating dialogues and designing civil society initiatives that build understanding across identities and communities. Her work focuses on interfaith relations and the role of religion in global politics. She founded hash.peace, a youth-focused advocacy group that nurtures leaders to engage in conversations on race, religion, and identity, while countering exclusivist and extremist narratives threatening social cohesion. Previously, she served as General Manager of the Inter-Religious Organisation, Singapore, collaborating with ten faith communities on initiatives promoting religious harmony.

Her volunteerism spans youth leadership, charity, and social impact. She was Chairperson of the Youth Group at Jamiyah Singapore, leading social projects, and currently serves as Team Lead for Sowing Care Together under the Hope Initiative Alliance, fostering youth volunteerism and interfaith charity. For her contributions, Faheema received the President's Volunteerism & Philanthropy Award (People of Good) in 2021, conferred by the President of Singapore. In 2022, she was named among Tatler Asia's Gen.T Leaders of Tomorrow and featured as an SMU Changemaker Alumna. Faheema is pursuing a PhD in International Relations, with long-term research interests in the role of religion in global politics and diplomacy.



GABRIEL TAN I-REN

BBM 2019



GABRIEL TAN I-REN (BBM 2019)

Founder, Bamboo Builders

Mr Gabriel Tan I-Ren is a social entrepreneur and Founder of Bamboo Builders, a Singapore-based social enterprise that equips individuals with real-world skills to multiply real-world impact. Since 2017, Bamboo Builders has trained tens of thousands of leaders and launched hundreds of initiatives benefiting diverse communities, including youths, seniors, persons with disabilities, inmates, and migrant workers.

Gabriel's work has been recognised globally, with Bamboo Builders named among the ASEAN Top 10 Social Enterprises by Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the ASEAN Top 20 by the ASEAN Foundation, and the Global Top 40 by the Singapore International Foundation. Personally, he has been honoured as Singapore's Impact Entrepreneur of the Year by ACE.SG and Top 35 Under 35 Entrepreneur at the National Youth Entrepreneurship Awards, and a Yellow Ribbon Advocate for Second Chances. His mission reflects the values of SMU in nurturing leaders who uplift communities and shape a better world.



TAN THIAN KIANG,
JOEY

DBA 2022



TAN THIAN KIANG, JOEY (DBA 2022)
Strategic Initiatives and Development Lead,
Microsoft Singapore

Dr Tan Thian Kiang, Joey, an accomplished global leader with more than 25 years of experience in enterprise technology and sustainable innovation, has recently led high-impact transformation initiatives at Microsoft, AWS, and Alibaba. He was appointed Strategic Initiatives and Development Lead of Microsoft Singapore in 2024, driving operational excellence, commercial strategy, and strategic partnerships.

Previously, he led teams managing over USD \$800M in P&L across APAC, EMEA, and LATAM, and spearheaded the global expansion of Alibaba and Alibaba Cloud through joint ventures and Olympic partnerships. Joey also chaired the Singapore Computer Society Sustainability Tech Executive Committee, earning recognition as a fellow and thought leader for advancing sustainability across ASEAN.

Joey continues to serve on multiple international boards and contributes as an adjunct and visiting professor at leading institutions, exemplifying his steadfast belief in the transformative power of education, an ethos deeply rooted in his formative SMU experience.





AARON TAN WEI
CHENG

BSc ISM 2010



AARON TAN WEI CHENG (BSc ISM 2010) CEO & Co-Founder, Carro

Aaron Tan is the Chief Executive Officer of Carro, Asia Pacific's leading online car retail platform. Since co-founding the company in 2015, he has led it to unicorn status within six years, raising over US\$600 million from world-renowned investors including SoftBank Vision Fund, Temasek and PNB.

A prodigious entrepreneur, Aaron founded his first company at 13 and sold two ventures before turning 21. Representing Singapore at the biennial WorldSkills Competition, he earned the nation's first and only medal in Web Technologies. A Singapore government scholar, he graduated summa cum laude from Singapore Management University's School of Information Systems.

Guided by a spirit of lifelong learning, Aaron is pursuing a Doctorate in Business with a specialization in Artificial Intelligence at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, focusing on agentic and edge AI applications.

For his visionary leadership, he has received numerous accolades, including the Singapore Computer Society's IT Leader of the Year Award (2024) and The Straits Times Young Business Leader of the Year Award (2025).

Beyond business, Aaron is dedicated to nurturing future technology leaders and serves as a non-executive director at the National Library Board and SMU's Institute of Innovation & Entrepreneurship.



TRANG CHU MINH

MCM 2015



TRANG CHU MINH (MCM 2015)

Senior Vice President, GIC

Ms Trang Chu Minh is a passionate advocate for sustainability and inclusion who has dedicated her career to spotlighting underreported social and environmental issues. She led campaigns that secured the first US state law banning child marriage, established the UK's first safe house for LGBTQ+ refugees, and championed Indonesia's first provincial ban on plastic bags. She also advanced refugee rights through a Know-Your-Rights guide in the US and contributed to a landmark Indian case against the distribution of sex crime videos.

As a freelance journalist, her reporting for CNA, Mongabay, and Eco-Business exposed issues from the global shark meat trade to threats facing the world's most endangered great ape. Today, she leads sustainability communications and thought leadership at Singapore's sovereign wealth fund, in addition to launching the firm's new social impact programmes.

Beyond her day job, she volunteers as a running guide for persons with disabilities and serves on the management committee of Runninghour, helping grow Singapore's largest inclusive sports cooperative into a community of over 800 athletes, caregivers, and volunteers. In 2024 alone, Runninghour engaged over 10,000 participants in 200 adaptive sports activities. Her contributions earned her the One Young World Campaigner of the Year Award.

Grounded in the strong academic foundation and values of service from her SMU education, Trang exemplifies socially conscious leadership.



JEFF TUNG CHI FUNG

BBM 2013



JEFF TUNG CHI FUNG (BBM 2013)

Executive Director and Chairman,
SY Holdings Group Limited

Mr. Jeff Tung Chi Fung has charted a remarkable path within the fintech scene, embracing technology, innovation, resilience, and social responsibility. Nurtured by his formative ventures at SMU, including an eco-friendly products company and a student-run restaurant, Jeff honed the necessary skills that became the foundation of his entrepreneurial journey.

In 2013, with China's growing economy and strong policy support, he founded SY Holdings to promote the development of small, medium, and micro enterprises. Under his leadership, Jeff harnessed technology to develop the company's AI-powered platform from ground-up, building SY into one of the first tech-driven supply chain financial companies in Mainland China, and also the first of its kind to be listed on the Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. Demonstrating over a decade of profitable growth, SY Holdings was also named one of the World's Top 200 Fintech Companies by CNBC in 2023. In recognition of his contributions, Jeff was also named a recipient of the Asia Pacific Entrepreneurship Awards in 2018.

A believer in balancing business success with societal good, Jeff actively supports initiatives in youth development, education, and poverty alleviation, holding leadership roles in several charitable organisations. In gratitude to his alma mater, he co-established the P.A.K. Entrepreneurship Fund at SMU, fostering the next generation of changemakers. He served on the advisory board of SMU's Lee Kong Chian School of Business and is a current member of SMU's International Advisory in China.



NIVEDITA VENKATEISH

BBM 2011



NIVEDITA VENKATEISH (BBM 2011) Founder, AIRE

Ms Nivedita Venkatesh is a pioneering entrepreneur whose work is redefining perceptions of ageing and advancing dignity in elder care. As the founder of AIRE, Singapore's first venture capital-backed consumer brand for seniors, she has transformed an overlooked category into a platform for empowerment, innovation, and meaningful social change.

Her decision to leave a successful corporate career to build a purpose-driven enterprise reflects her conviction, resilience, and commitment to impact. Inspired by her grandmother's experiences, she translated personal insight into a bold vision, confronting stigma around ageing and incontinence with empathy and determination. Through her leadership, AIRE has grown from a single idea into a recognised brand that resonates with seniors, caregivers, and healthcare partners across Singapore.

Nivedita's influence extends beyond business innovation. She is a strong advocate for community education, women in leadership, and inclusive health solutions, embodying the belief that entrepreneurship must also serve society. She exemplifies the transformative potential of mission-driven leadership, inspiring future generations of changemakers across Singapore and the region.



YIP PIN XIU

BSocSc 2017



YIP PIN XIU (BSocSc 2017) Paralympian

Ms Yip Pin Xiu stands as Singapore's most decorated Paralympian and Southeast Asia's most celebrated swimming Paralympian. A seven-time Paralympic gold medalist, eight-time World Champion, and holder of multiple world records, she has redefined what resilience and excellence mean in sports. Since making her international debut in 2005, Yip has consistently raised the bar for para swimming, from her breakthrough victory at the 2008 Paralympic Games to her historic three-peat of golds at the Rio 2016, Tokyo 2020, and Paris 2024 Games.

Her remarkable achievements transcend the pool, as she exemplifies the ethos of shaping individuals who lead with courage, integrity, and impact. She is a passionate advocate for inclusivity, dignity, and recognition of persons with disabilities, serving as a Nominated Member of Parliament and championing sporting opportunities for future generations.

For her sporting excellence, leadership, and unwavering spirit, Pin Xiu is honoured not only as a national icon, but also as an enduring inspiration to the SMU community and beyond.



ADITYA LESMANA

BSc ISM 2010

AARON TAN WEI CHENG

BSc ISM 2010

CHNG SOON YEONG,
KELVIN

BSc ISM 2011



CARRO

Founded in 2015, Carro has redefined Southeast Asia's automotive landscape. More than a marketplace, Carro supports every stage of car ownership, from purchase and financing to insurance, servicing, and after-sales care. Using proprietary pricing algorithms, AI, and data-driven technology, Carro has transformed the traditionally opaque used-car industry into one that is transparent, data-driven, and customer-centric. Now operating in Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Japan, Taiwan, and Hong Kong, Carro achieved unicorn status in 2021 with a valuation above US\$1 billion. Backed by investors including SoftBank Vision Fund, it has raised over US\$600 million and employs over 4,500 staff across Asia-Pacific. Carro's innovation and growth have earned it multiple awards for technology, customer service, and regional business excellence.

AARON TAN WEI CHENG (BSc ISM 2010)

CEO & Co-Founder, Carro

Mr Aaron Tan Wei Cheng embodies excellence in technology, entrepreneurship, and community service. A WorldSkills bronze medallist, National Infocomm Scholar, and summa cum laude graduate of the CMU-SMU fast track programme, he has shaped Singapore's startup ecosystem, invested in emerging ventures, and continues to serve on boards of leading institutions and non-profits.

CHNG SOON YEONG, KELVIN (BSc ISM 2011)

Co-Founder, Carro

Mr Chng Soon Yeong, Kelvin, is a technologist and entrepreneur dedicated to building impactful software. After graduating from SMU and earning a concurrent master's at CMU, he co-founded Carro, transforming car ownership across Southeast Asia through data and AI. Now, at First To Fly, he leads a team creating AI-driven tools empowering SMEs to automate operations and make smarter decisions.

ADITYA LESMANA (BSc ISM 2010)

Co-Founder, Carro

Mr Aditya Lesmana co-founded Carro, Southeast Asia's leading automotive marketplace, building its tech team and leading expansion into Indonesia. He now heads Carro's auto financing there. Previously at CapitaMall Asia, he drove tech innovations improving retail operations. A former consultant at National Computer Systems, he began his career in government and enterprise IT projects.



FAHIMA FARHA

BAcc 2018 and MiM 2020

ABBAS ALI
MOHAMED IRSHAD

BBM 2014 and MCM 2020



ROSES OF PEACE

Founded in 2012, Roses of Peace has grown into a nationally recognised movement for interfaith harmony and social cohesion. Born in the wake of global religious tensions, the initiative began with the simple yet powerful act of distributing roses accompanied by messages of peace. Over time, this symbolic gesture has flourished into a sustained effort that has touched communities across Singapore.

Through annual rose distributions, leadership symposiums, and interfaith dialogues, Roses of Peace has brought together more than 2,000 volunteers and reached tens of thousands of individuals, fostering conversations that transcend race, religion, and culture. By engaging youth from diverse faith backgrounds, the organisation has nurtured a new generation of leaders committed to inclusivity, respect, and understanding.

Today, Roses of Peace stands as a beacon of hope and unity, with an enduring commitment to strengthening the bonds of harmony that define Singapore's social fabric.

FAHIMA FARHA (BAcc 2018 and MiM 2020)

Associate Lecturer, PSB Academy

Ms Fahima Farha exemplifies adaptability and courage. From global exchanges to industry-focused projects, she embraced challenges, broadened perspectives, and built confidence. Today, she applies her learning in organisational development, championing growth, resilience, and meaningful change within institutions and people.

ABBAS ALI MOHAMED IRSHAD (BBM 2014 and MCM 2020)

Head of Corporate Affairs for ASEAN,
Tata Consultancy Services

Mr Abbas Ali Mohamed Irshad is one of Singapore's youngest Nominated Members of Parliament, and a tireless advocate for interfaith harmony, social cohesion, and youth leadership. His visionary efforts continue to unite communities, strengthen trust, and inspire a more resilient and inclusive Singapore.



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

MS FLORENCE NEO (ASSOC. ALUM)

Director, Alumni Relations



To all SMU Alumni awards recipients!

It is with immense pride and joy that I welcome everyone to the SMU Alumni Awards, a celebration of the remarkable journeys of our alumni who embody the values, vision, and spirit of our University.

As we honour their contributions to their professions, communities, and society at large, and reaffirm the strong bonds that connect us as one SMU family. Let us also take a moment to express our heartfelt appreciation to our Patron, SMU President and senior leaders, the eminent members of our selection committee, our dedicated nominators, alumni, colleagues, students and all who have come together to make this meaningful celebration possible.

As we launch this meaningful tradition, let us take pride in the legacy of distinction our alumni have built, and look forward with confidence to the generations who will follow. I encourage our inspiring alumni to stay connected, return often, and continue to be part of this vibrant SMU community because no matter where life takes you, SMU will always be a place you can call home.

My heartiest congratulations to our inaugural cohort of SMU Alumni Awards recipients. Keep flying the SMU flag with pride!

