



SMU inaugurates Alumni Awards to celebrate distinction, impact and purpose

Singapore, 12 November 2025 (Wednesday) – Singapore Management University (SMU) hosted the inaugural **SMU Alumni Awards 2025** on 12 November 2025 at SMU Hall, with **President Tharman Shanmugaratnam** as **Guest of Honour**.

Launched in celebration of **SMU's Silver Jubilee**, the SMU Alumni Awards marked the University's highest recognition of alumni achievement. To be conferred every five years, the Awards honour SMU alumni and associate alumni who have distinguished themselves through professional excellence, innovation, and service to society.

Recipients were trailblazers and changemakers who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and drive, advanced social impact, and embodied the University's values of integrity, inclusion, sustainability, and community upliftment — both within SMU and beyond.



(L-R) President Tharman Shanmugaratnam, SMU alumni Yip Pin Xiu and Shanti Pereira, and SMU Chairman Mr Piyush Gupta at the inaugural SMU Alumni Awards.

Honouring Excellence and Purpose

SMU Chairman **Mr Piyush Gupta** said: “Our alumni are different. They speak well, think critically, and act with confidence and empathy. As we look at our recipients tonight, we see leaders who inspire by example: entrepreneurs redefining industries, servants of the public strengthening communities, and changemakers who use their success to serve. Their achievements are a powerful reflection of what it means to be both successful and significant.”

Celebrating 25 Years of Impact

President **Professor Lily Kong** shared: “It is fitting that we are introducing these alumni awards in our 25th anniversary year. This evening, we celebrate not only our award recipients’ achievements, but the enduring spirit of SMU, embodied in our people. The Awards recognise many forms of excellence – changemakers improve the lives of those in the community they serve, innovators who imagine and create that which did not exist before, and achievers who persevere despite the odds.”



President Tharman joining alumni for dinner.

Recognising a Diverse Slate of Recipients

The inaugural Awards recognised **22 recipients** representing the breadth and impact of the SMU community – spanning entrepreneurs, corporate leaders, public service professionals, social innovators, academics, and athletes.

Among them were **Tan I-Ren Gabriel**, Founder of Bamboo Builders, a Singapore-based social enterprise that equips individuals with real-world skills to multiply real-world impact; **Lin Fengru**, CEO and Founder of TurtleTree, which is pioneering dairy-free nutrition with animal-free lactoferrin (LF+), a rare dairy protein that supports immunity, gut health, and iron regulation; **Aaron Tan Wei Cheng**, **Aditya Lesmana**, and **Chng Soon Yeong Kelvin**, Co-Founders of Carro, a full-stack ecosystem that guides customers across the region through every stage of car ownership; **Yip Pin Xiu**, seven-time Paralympic gold medallist and seven-time World Champion; and **Charles Chen Yidan**, Core Founder of Chinese multinational technology conglomerate Tencent and Founder of the Yidan Prize Foundation, established in 2016 with the mission of creating a better world through education.

Together, they exemplified the **SMU ethos of leading with purpose** – using creativity, empathy, and collaboration to create positive change in their fields and communities.



SMU alumni a capella group [SMU ReVOIX](#) entertained the guests.

Enclosures:

- Profiles of Award recipients.
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For media queries, please contact:

SMU Corporate Communications

Mr Tim Jaycock
Senior Manager, Corporate Communications
+65 9489 1543
tjaycock@smu.edu.sg

SMU Office of Alumni Relations

Mr Benjamin Lee
Assistant Director, Communications and
Marketing
+65 6828 0840
benjaminlxp@smu.edu.sg

About Singapore Management University

Singapore Management University (SMU) is internationally recognised for its world-class research and distinguished teaching. Established in 2000, SMU's mission is to generate leading-edge research with global impact and to produce broad-based, creative, and entrepreneurial leaders for the knowledge-based economy. SMU faculty members collaborate with leading international researchers and universities around the world, as well as with partners in the business community and public sector. www.smu.edu.sg

Annex

List of Alumni Award Recipients

	Preferred Name	Degree/Year	Designation
1	Shereen Firdaus BINTE AZIZ	BAcc 2005	MBE (UK); CEO, Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru
2	Charles CHEN Yidan	DBA 2019	Core Founder, Tencent; Founder, Yidan Prize
3	Kelvin CHNG	BSc ISM 2011	Co-Founder, Carro
4	Kenny CHNG	LLB 2012	SMU Associate Professor of Law
5	Trang CHU MINH	MCM 2015	Senior Vice President, GIC
6	Seyed Nazhath FAHEEMA	BSc ISM 2010	Interfaith dialogue practitioner; President's Volunteerism & Philanthropy Award (People of Good) 2021
7	Fahima FARHA	BAcc 2018 and MiM 2020	Roses of Peace founder; Associate Lecturer, PSB Academy
8	LAI Chang Wen	BBM 2012	CEO & Co-Founder, NinjaVan
9	Aditya LESMANA	BSc ISM 2010	Co-Founder, Carro
10	LIM Kexin	BAcc 2005	Tax Partner, PwC Singapore; SMU Board of Trustees
11	Kimberly LIM Min	BAcc 2023	Olympian; Deloitte Audit Associate
12	LIN Fengru	BSc ISM 2011	CEO & Founder, TurtleTree
13	Abbas Ali MOHAMED IRSHAD	BBM 2014 and MCM 2020	Roses of Peace founder; Head of Corporate Affairs, Tata Consultancy Services
14	Veronica Shanti PEREIRA	BAcc 2021	National Athlete
15	Terence QUEK Chun Hou	MCM 2013	CEO, Singapore Institute of Directors
16	Toshin Canute SEQUEIRA	BSc Econ 2019	Manager, Asia Pacific Government Advisory, The Tony Blair Institute for Global Change
17	Aaron TAN	BSc ISM 2010	CEO & Co-Founder, Carro
18	Gabriel TAN I-Ren	BBM 2019	Founder, Bamboo Builders
19	TAN Thian Kiang	DBA 2022	Strategic Initiatives and Development Lead, Microsoft Singapore
20	Jeff TUNG Chi Fung	BBM 2013	Executive Director and Chairman, SY Holdings Group Limited
21	Nivedita VENKATEISH	BBM 2011	Founder, AIRE
22	YIP Pin Xiu	BSocSc 2017	Paralympian; Seven-time Paralympic gold medallist and seven-time World Champion

Glossary:

- BAcc – [Bachelor of Accountancy | School of Accountancy](#)
- BBM – Bachelor of Business Management – [Bachelor of Business Management | Lee Kong Chian School of Business](#)
- BSc Econ – [Bachelor of Science in Economics | School of Economics](#)
- BSc ISM – [Bachelor of Science \(Information Systems\) | School of Computing and Information Systems](#)
- BSocSci – [Bachelor of Social Science | School of Social Sciences](#)

- DBA – [Doctor of Business Administration | Lee Kong Chian School of Business](#)
- LLB – [Bachelor of Laws \(LL.B.\) | Yong Pung How School of Law](#)
- MCM – [MSc in Communication Management \(MCM\)](#)
- MiM – [MSc in Management \(MiM\) | SMU PG Admissions](#)

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