

UWAS Extra-ordinary General Meeting

Lee Chwee Beng

An Extra-ordinary General Meeting was held on Saturday, 17 November 2001 at 2.30pm. The venue was 96 Waterloo Street, #03-01, SCWO Centre. The meeting started with the President's speech and a warm welcome for our two new members, Tan Swan Too and Goh Teck Pek.



UWAS members at the EGM

That was followed by a self-introduction by all present. Our President proposed nominating Dr. Della Lee of the Lee Foundation as UWAS First

Honorary Life Member as she had helped in getting financial support for events such as "Every Woman Counts" and "Multiple Roles of Women in the New Economy" as well sponsoring the two educational seminars cum workshops conducted in Vietnam. All members supported this. The audited accounts for the Year 2000-2001 were approved unanimously.

Rotary Club of Orchard Dinner Talk

Tan Chor Suan

In the evening of 8 January 2002, President Elena Lui was invited by the Rotary Club of Orchard to give a talk to its members at their weekly Tuesday dinner meeting at Orchard Hotel. Our Program Chair, Rosy Nakhoda, past president and current member of the club had recommended to the committee to invite Elena to deliver the talk.

All the Exco members were invited by Elena and Rosy to attend the dinner talk at 7.30 pm. The other eight Exco members who were present included Serene Low, Lee Chwee Beng, Chan Fong Kin, Tan Chor Suan, Lim Kim Hoon, Leong Chooi Peng, Patricia Liew and Brenda Goh.

The mood of the meeting was casual and relaxed. Members could be seen streaming in at different times according to their work schedule as it was a Tuesday evening and most came after work. There was a wonderful spread of buffet dinner before the commencement of the talk.

The topic selected by Elena was **"Self Literacy and Lifelong Learning"**.

Elena made an interesting presentation to a rapt audience. After the talk, time was given to the audience to raise and clarify issues with Elena. The topic was very relevant to all present and those who were keen



President Elena Lui receiving a Certificate of Appreciation

to develop the topic further had a good intellectual exchange with Elena.

All the Exco members enjoyed themselves. In addition, Elena also made a sales pitch to the lady members of the club to join UWAS.

Rosy Nakhoda gave the following feedback regarding Elena's talk: "I'd like to thank Elena for the insightful talk. You left much in our minds to mull on. You are right, we fail ourselves through lack of faith in ourselves more often than the world fails us. It was a warm and friendly meeting and all went very well. Our Rotarians were certainly happy."

News updates at IFUW

Katherine Chua

- 21 – 23 August 2002: The Korea Association of University Women will be hosting the Regional Meeting of University Women in Seoul, Korea. Information on the event is available on IFUW website: www.ifuw.org.
- 4 – 5 March 2002: Official IFUW delegation at the forthcoming 46th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women will be led by newly elected IFUW President Prof. Reiko Aoki. For more details, please contact: ifuw@ifuw.org.
- Urgent appeal has been made by IFUW for donations to the IFUW Fellowships Programme for its IFUW 2002/2003 Award of International Fellowship. This is to promote education for women/girls and assist women/girls internationally to reach their potential and to create a better society. Donations can be made by bank transfer or by Visa Credit Card. Please contact Sheba Skirball at: ifuw@ifuw.org.
- The Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme fosters international solidarity and partnerships between IFUW federations and associations. It encourages various projects to empower women/girls through education and development for leadership. To request for donation and for more details, please contact : ifuw@ifuw.org.
- Action Alert – Afghanistan: With the rapidly changing situation in Afghanistan and the potential for further infringement on women/girls rights by a future Afghan regime, IFUW National Federations and Associations (NFAs) request that members contact their respective governments on two issues: the inclusion of women in the United Nations negotiations for peace and democracy and the inclusion of women within the new government in Afghanistan.
- 10 – 17 August 2001: 27th IFUW Conference at Ottawa, Canada. Resolutions proposed by National Federations and Associations were on the status of women, education, human rights and peace.

Message from Hong Kong

Gina Savarese

Hello to all my dear, dear friends at UWAS! I do miss Singapore, and especially all of you. But then, that seems to be the downside of being an expatriate – often having to move wherever our husbands' jobs take us and having to leave behind all the wonderful friendships we have made. My time in Singapore was made more wonderful by having known all of you and for being made to feel so welcome in UWAS.

But moving to Hong Kong has also been a wonderful experience. I have joined the American Women's Association (AWA) and have made some

wonderful friends in the process. Through the AWA I have become quite involved in the community. I am a member of the Education and Scholarship Committee and, as such, have traveled to many of the local schools to which the organization gives scholarships to needy students, as well as monetary awards for the libraries at these schools. I am part of the English Language Committee and volunteer to teach English one day a week to Form 4 and 5 students at Kwun Tung Government Secondary School. I also volunteer one day a week at the Institute for International Education, doing counseling for students who wish to attend

university in the USA, as well as helping to coordinate their TOEFL program.

For anyone in UWAS who has the desire to come to Hong Kong, our bed and breakfast is always at the ready. Hong Kong is an exciting, vibrant city with lots always going on.

Let me take this opportunity to thank all of you for the wonderful farewell party and the lovely gifts you gave me when I left. You will be remembered always with grateful thanks! My love to you all!

Gina

Aloha from Dr Rosalind Mau in Hawaii

Dear friends,
Happy Lunar New Year from Hawaii! My best wishes for good health, happiness and prosperity to you and your family.

Here's something for those who don't believe their chronological age and remain very much young at heart.

1. Throw away nonessential numbers. This includes age, weight and height. Let the doctor worry about them. That is why you pay him/her.
2. Keep only cheerful friends. The grouches pull you down. Ban complaining.
3. Keep learning. Learn more about the computer, crafts, gardening, whatever. Never let the brain idle. "An idle mind is the devil's workshop" — the devil's name is Alzheimer.
4. Laugh often, long and loud. Laugh even until you gasp for breath. Laugh so much that you can be tracked in the store by your distinctive laughter.
5. Surround yourself with what you love, whether it is family, pets, keepsakes, music, plants, hobbies, photos, whatever. Your home is your welcome refuge.

6. Cherish your health. If it is good, preserve it. If it is unstable, improve it.

7. Tell the people you love that you love them — at every opportunity. Keep in touch by a letter, a phone call, an e-mail, a simple gift, a wave and a smile.

AND ALWAYS REMEMBER

8. Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.



Chew Lee Chin, Roz and Elena, photo taken at NIE before Roz left for Hawaii

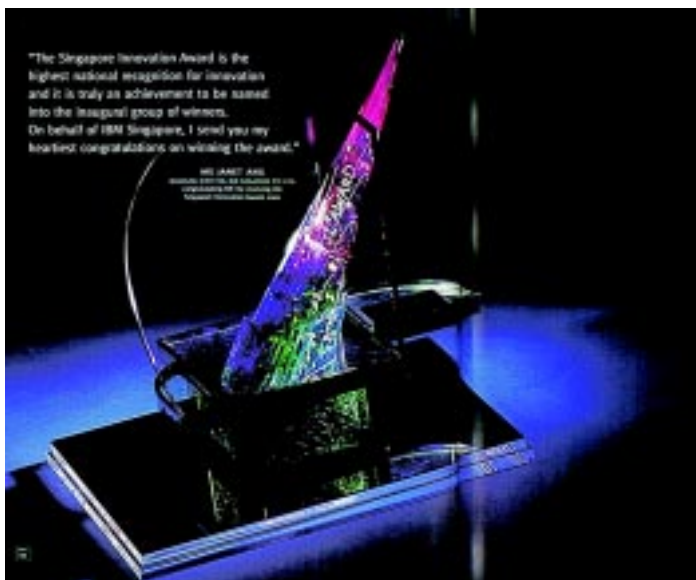
Dr. Elsie Yu's landmark achievements

Rosy Nakhoda

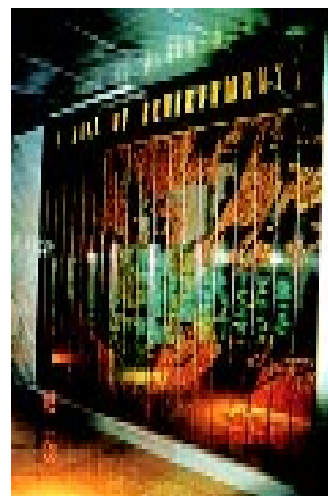
Our long time member, Dr. Elsie Yu, has been moving ahead in her artistic adventures during the past year. She recently completed two murals for the Monetary Authority of Singapore and the Board of Commissioners of Currency, Singapore, to commemorate their forthcoming merger. Both were commissioned works. One, a relief wall mural, entitled "Journey of Excellence", depicts the history of BCCS since its inception in 1967. The other, called "Wall of Achievement", showcases awards won by staff and institutions of the BCCS between 1967 – 2001. The two relief art works are in metal and glass.

Commissioned by the Economic Development Board, Elsie also created the Innovation Award trophy, which is like

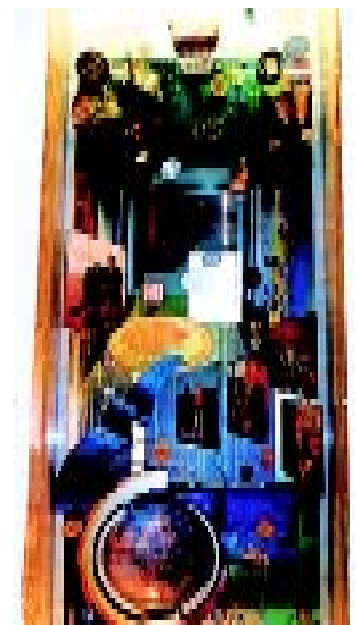
the Oscar of innovations for Singapore. It was this award which was last presented to the winners at the Istana by Prime Minister Goh Chock Tong. The stainless steel and crystal glass trophy signifies a move away for Elsie from her traditional favourite medium of steel. Nicknamed the "lady of steel" by the *Straits Times* in 1986, Elsie is now turning to the modernistic material of crystal glass as a medium for her sculptures and murals. Other commissioned works that she is currently working on include the Olympic Council glass wall feature, the Outward Bound HQ Landmark Feature and the stained glass for the Holy Spirit Church. Elsie is now on a trip to Germany and Italy to specialize in working in warm glass and to bring home new and exotic glass materials for her future creations.



"Innovation Award" trophy by Dr. Elsie Yu



"Wall of Achievement" by Dr. Elsie Yu



"Journey of Excellence" by Dr. Elsie Yu

Dr. Della Lee is conferred UWAS' first ever Honorary Life Membership

Lee Chwee Beng

On 28 March 2002, UWAS had the distinct honour of conferring Dr. Della Lee with the first ever UWAS Honorary Life Membership. An elegant, yet cozy and sumptuous, tea reception was held in her honour at the SCWO Center.

Dr. Lee (Mrs Lee Seng Gee) of the Lee Foundation has been most supportive of our public education events and publications since 1999 namely the publication of "Women's Future, World's Future"; two separate delegations of course leaders sent to Vietnam in 1999 and 2001 to conduct seminars and workshops; a road march on "Every Woman Counts" in 2000 and our recent public symposium on "Multiple Roles of Women in the New Economy". UWAS members turned up in force to express their personal thanks to the fine lady whose kind generosity helped so many of our projects materialize so meaningfully over the past years. Always unassuming and gracious, Dr. Lee was clearly touched by the warmth of the reception.

Some of Singapore's well-known women also joined us in this special event, including Dr. Shirley Lim, President of SCWO, Dr. Anamah Tan, President of Asean Confederation of Women's Organisation (ACWO), Ms. Tisa Ng, President of AWARE, Ms. Ivy Singh Lim, President of Singapore Netball Association, and many representatives from other women's organizations.

UWAS President, Associate Professor Dr. Elena Lui Hah Wah presented Dr. Della Lee with a specially designed certificate to signify her membership.

Dr. Shirley Lim, who has known Dr. Lee for many years, was invited to pay a tribute to Dr. Della Lee on behalf of UWAS.

It was truly a wonderful and joyous evening, with Dr. Lee's charisma filling the air with her natural charm and gentility.



Rosy Nakhooda, Dr. Della Lee, Dr. Anamah Tan, Dr. Shirley Lim



President presenting a certificate to Dr. Della Lee



Dr. Della Lee and all attendees

A TRIBUTE TO DR. DELLA LEE

SCWO President Dr. Shirley Lim

I would like to thank UWAS for giving me this privilege of paying a tribute to Dr. Della Lee, a woman leader of outstanding distinction and integrity, whom we are honouring today with the UWAS Award of Honorary Life Membership. I understand that this is the first award of its kind. It is indeed a momentous event for all of us as Dr. Della Lee has been on several occasions offered and has modestly declined recognition of various kinds that she so well deserves. An outstanding philanthropist in her own right, Dr. Della Lee, wife of Mr. Lee Seng Gee, Chair of the Lee Foundation, is patron and champion of numerous social, educational, health and community enterprises.

Many organisations and institutions have received financial support and encouragement from Dr. Della Lee through the Lee Foundation and her wide network of influence. Dr. Lee is unstinting in her efforts to help individuals and organisations find their feet, particularly during the pioneering stages of their development. This has endeared her to many, especially the aged, the youth, the needy as well as women in all sectors of society.

The Singapore Council of Women's Organisations (SCWO), for example, received a generous donation of \$120,000 for renovations of its centre from the Lee Foundation when I became SCWO President two years ago. Dr. Della Lee's quiet support and understanding of the real needs of individuals and organisations is augmented by her generosity in giving advice readily to one and all. Her efforts range from helping building projects, education and social endeavours for all sectors of the community. Dr. Lee is known in many circles as the "social

integrator" who brings together people from different races and religions through her persuasiveness and encouragement.

As a highly qualified medical doctor from Medan, Dr. Lee is well versed in medical and health issues. Her compassion ranges over marriage and family life issues, care for the terminally ill and even the quality of domestic service and the cleanliness of homes. Her vision is far ranging and we can expect to see concrete expressions of her passion for building families to strengthen the fabric of our society. Perhaps many of us are less aware that Dr. Lee is highly competent in domestic chores and can also roll up her sleeves in practical service to the community. For example, she has the ability to teach women how to mop the floor in such a way as to ensure that the dirt and grime are removed and not merely smeared around. There is nothing too insignificant or trivial for her.

There is a line by poet John Dryden that reads, "All heiresses are beautiful". As a well-loved woman of substance, Dr. Lee is an heiress of captivating beauty but she sees riches not as an end in life but as an instrument of peace and love. Though English is not her first language, we have often heard Dr. Lee address boards and public functions with grace, dignity and characteristic charisma.

Dr. Della Lee, we honour you today as our model and as you lead the way into the hearts of men, women and children, we, at UWAS and others, will be close behind you to cheer you on. We wish you health and well being to accomplish all you seek to do and continue to be a blessing to others !