

# Like us, they too have dreams.

*"We have an obligation and a responsibility to be investing in our students and our schools.*

*We must make sure that people who have the grades, the desire and the will, but not the money, can still get the best education possible."*

*- Barack Obama*

*This picture was taken in Nepal by our students under Project Angel XI.*

In an integrated world with considerable uncertainties and complexities, our deserving yet financially-challenged students need to be well-prepared and equipped for their careers. Helping these students by ensuring that they are not disadvantaged because of financial circumstances is important to ensure their holistic education is not compromised.

NUS Faculty of Science has two funds for its students – Science Student Fund (SSF) and Science Student Overseas Exposure Fund (SSOEF) – to address these needs.

Here is how you can **Make a Difference!**



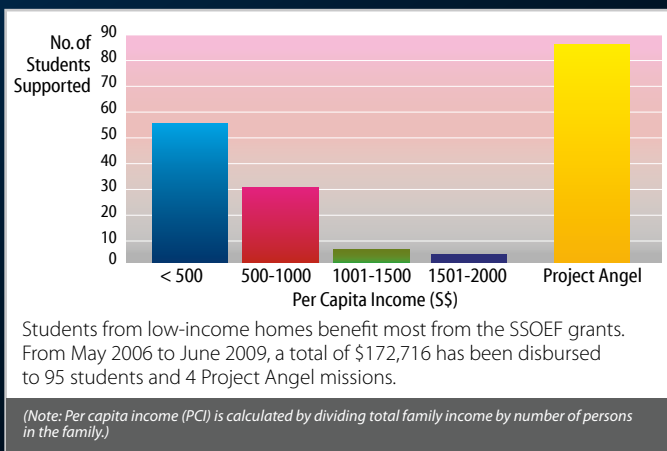
# SSOEF – Science Student Overseas Exposure Fund

To cultivate a generation of undergraduates who have an enterprising and global outlook, students are encouraged to take up overseas learning opportunities to broaden their horizon. Mindful of globalisation and its consequences, we would hope to also provide needy students a gateway to such experiential learning. This is the objective for establishing SSOEF in May 2006.

Many deserving students find difficulty in addressing the costs of travel, accommodation and living expenses when they contemplate these travel-abroad programmes. Karthi, who has been brought up by her retiree grandparents, would never have considered going overseas as a student. This 2<sup>nd</sup> year Chemistry student, who is supported by the MOE Teaching Scholarship, was selected for the Science Summer Programme to spend a semester at the University of Toronto in Canada. She almost wanted to turn down this opportunity due to the financial burden, until we supported her with a Madam Lum Yoke SSOEF Award. Hear what Karthi said after returning from this meaningful trip,

*“The way I see life now has changed so much. I have become more optimistic, and more appreciative for the simple things in life. The culture and the different people I met in Canada have helped to further the confidence I have in myself. It has certainly benefited me and will make me a better teacher in the future.”*

See how much your gift can help! In order to sustain this worthy endeavour, SSOEF is endowed together with the government’s 1:1 matching grant. We hope the interest generated can benefit 30 to 40 low income students annually. As of June 2009, there is still a shortfall of some \$400,000 from the targetted \$1.5 million that will permit the realisation of this objective. Your gift, however large or small, will go a long way towards fulfilling a dream and change the life of an undergraduate!



As shown in this chart, the most deserving students are not deprived. Your generous gift to SSOEF will help needy students obtain an overseas exposure:

- **Student Exchange Programmes with selected universities**
- **Summer Programmes with partner institutions**
- **Global conferences and competitions**

## Naming Opportunities

In recognition of generous gifts of \$20,000 or more, we have set up 4 named awards

- **Mdm Anna Ho Siew Yong SSOEF Award**
- **C.J. Koh SSOEF Award**
- **Lee Foundation SSOEF Award**
- **Mdm Lum Yoke SSOEF Award**

To find out more about such naming opportunities, please contact us. In addition to attracting 1:1 government matching, your generosity made in 2009 calendar year will receive 250% tax exemption.



## Project Angel

The SSOEF also supports Project Angel, the NUS Students' Science Club's overseas humanitarian programme. Since 2006, our students have led four Project Angel missions to Cambodia (Dec 06; May 08), Thailand (May 07) and Nepal (May 09) with the support of SSOEF. In these overseas exposure opportunities, students plan and participate in building new schools in remote villages in these countries. They also spend time teaching underprivileged children and local teachers English, Mathematics and Science. Last year, they facilitated donations of computers to operate a computer training centre in the village in Cambodia.



Yvonne Kwang, a Year 2 Life Science student and Leader of Project Angel XI 2009 says of her experience,

*"We constructed the school from rocks and stone masonry. We quarried and carried rocks to the construction site, mixed cement and carved wood for the windows and doors. For most of our members, this is their first time witnessing and constructing a building made of rocks."*

Project Angel XI was supported by the C.J. Koh SSOEF Award.



Caroline Lim, a Year 1 Applied Mathematics student has similar things to say about her experiential learning,

*"Project Angel was definitely a rewarding and eye-opening experience for me. We went as eighteen young individuals with big dreams and hopes to touch the lives of the people. We came back as a team who had gone through the experience of a lifetime, being touched ourselves."*

# SSF – Science Student Fund

## SSF Emergency Aid

SSF was set up in 2008 to provide emergency financial aid to Science students. Since its inception, \$10,400 from the SSF has been disbursed to help nine students in financial difficulty with grants ranging from \$800 to \$1,200.

***Xiaowei\*** is a Statistics major from China. Shortly after starting her undergraduate studies, her father died in a car accident. Although fees were covered by scholarship, her family had to support her rent and daily expenses. Calamity struck again the following summer – her kidneys failed and she had to have an emergency operation. Her situation was brought to our attention and, thanks to the SSF, we were able to offer her immediate assistance through our SSF Emergency Aid scheme.*

***Meng\***, a Singaporean, whose father had recently been retrenched, approached us for help. Her parents freelanced and did not have a stable income to feed their family of five. As it was in the middle of the academic year, we provided SSF Emergency Aid to tie her through the semester until she could apply for more help from the University at the commencement of applications in the following financial aid cycle.*

*\* These are real students. Their names have been changed.*

## SSF Bursary

In Academic Year 2008/2009 alone, 566 Science students from low income homes applied for financial aid through the NUS Office of Financial Aid. This is about 15% of the Science undergraduate population. There is evidence that some families have a household PCI (per capita income) of only \$150 a month.

The Faculty is calling all staff and alumni to **Make a Difference** as we mark our 80th anniversary year in 2009. We are providing the SSF Bursary at a quantum of \$2,000 to Science students. Only students who need it most will be awarded these bursaries, and you can be assured that every dollar of your gift will go directly towards helping a student.

You may also consider pledging \$8,000 to support a student's 4 years of study in Science. This worthy undertaking will go a long way towards alleviating the financial worries faced and encourage the student to focus on his/her studies. If the full donation of \$8,000 is received in the 2009 calendar year, your generosity will enjoy tax exemption for \$20,000 (250%).

## Say YES! Make a Difference Today.

For more information, contact  
Vice-Dean (Outreach) at **6516 3334**  
or email **giving@science.nus.edu.sg**.

Please make cheques out to  
“**National University of Singapore**”  
with your gift purpose stated overleaf,  
and send your gift to:  
**Science Dean's Office, S16 Level 9,  
6 Science Drive 2, Singapore 117546.**

Or  
Give directly through online form at:  
**[www.science.nus.edu.sg/aboutfos/giving](http://www.science.nus.edu.sg/aboutfos/giving)**

