

A Night to Remember

By Tham Shu Qi



Emcee Suren introducing the combined band for the night



String quartet led by Dominic entertaining the crowd with classical and popular music

The inaugural Wine & Dine was held on 17 September 2011 at Goodwood Park Hotel, and it certainly was a night to remember. Amidst the good music, conversation, wine and food, the main purpose of Wine & Dine was not forgotten.

A collaboration between National University of Singapore (NUS) Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (YLLSoM) and Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School, this event aimed to raise funds for bursaries for needy medical students of both schools.

At Duke-NUS, slightly more than 30% of students come from households with monthly incomes less

than \$1000. Thus, the Duke-NUS Bursary was set up to support financially needy students. Meanwhile, the NUS Medical Society - Christine Chong Hui Xian Bursary was started by the YLLSoM Class of 2012 in collaboration with the NUS Medical Society (see page 28). It aims to give out up to three bursaries yearly to needy students to subsidise their tuition fees, textbooks, and medical instruments. This bursary is named in memory of the late Christine Chong Hui Xian (Class of 2012) who passed away in December 2009 during her third year of medical school after a long drawn battle with lymphoma. Despite fighting against lymphoma, she stood firm

in her quest to fulfil her dreams of becoming a doctor. By setting up this endowment bursary, the NUS Medical Society not only wishes to honour this brave young girl's determination to live life to the fullest, but also to serve as a rally point and symbol for current medical students and alumni to give back to their school and the community.

The evening began with soulful music from a string quartet, entertaining guests who ranged from the Deans of both schools, members of the Alumni Association and SMA, to other distinguished guests from various healthcare-related fields. Throughout the night, bands made up of students from Duke-NUS and YLLSoM treated the crowd to familiar tunes such as "You Raise Me Up" and "Can't Take My Eyes Off You".

A highlight of Wine & Dine was definitely the wine auction, where guests bid for good wines donated by Mr Tony Chew, Prof John Wong and Mr Andy Ng, ranging from the 1986 Chateau Pape Clement, Grand Cru Classe de Graves, Pessac-Leognan, to the 2003 Voyager Estate Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot. There was never a dull or quiet moment, with emcees Suren and Kenneth facilitating a lively auction and trying to keep track of the amounts raised! Several groups of generous guests even re-donated their wines back to the auction table in order to raise more money for the bursary.

The peak of the night came with the performance auction where guests bid to hear their favourite bands again. Dr Bertha Woon, a general and breast surgeon from Gleneagles Hospital, gave her rendition of "La Vie En Rose", accompanied by the string quartet, comprising of Dominic,

Hui Fen, Edmund and Anthea. This was followed by Esther, Mayank and their band, comprising Joshua Hoe, Apurva, Martin and Joshua Chua, who performed the classic "Quando, Quando, Quando". The night ended with a bang, with a duet by Joshua Wilks and Giselle, accompanied on the keyboard by Joel and the string quartet. With their strong voices, they belted out Celine Dion and Andrea Bocelli's "The Prayer" to perfection, and won the adulation of the audience.

However, the audience was not content with just watching the young talents perform, and before we knew it, auctions were made to get several doctors on stage to perform their favourite songs of their time! The spontaneity and energy were amazing, proving to us that age is nothing but a number when it comes to wine, singing, and raising money for a good cause.

Amidst the night's revelry, we raised \$65,800 for the medical bursaries. We sincerely thank all the generous donors for their contributions, with special mention to Prof Arthur Lim, Mr Tony Chew, Mr Oei Hong Leong and family, Dr Wong Chiang Yin, Ms Jenny Bi and Dr Wong Sze Tai for purchasing the tables for this event. The bursaries seek to continue extending their help to needy medical students, and if you wish to help, please email Benjamin Tan at benjaminytan@gmail.com (YLLSoM) and Corinna Cox-Ng at corinna.cox@duke-nus.edu.sg (Duke-NUS). **SMA**

Shu Qi is from the YLLSoM Class of 2014.



VIPs toasting to a good bottle of auctioned wine and more money raised for the medical bursaries



A guest entertaining the audience throughly with his rendition of an old song, "Once in a While"