

## 2014 Chinese Studies Tea Session

The Tea Session for graduating students of the Department of Chinese Studies on the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2014 is in its fifth year. Graduating students, family, friends and professors of the department were nestled in a cozy seminar room at AS7. It was unlike a formal commencement ceremony, where graduating students received their scrolls in a solemn ceremony. Instead, it presents an opportunity for this close knitted department to show their gratitude for one another, and especially so for graduating students to their parents.



The ceremony begun with a simple welcome address by Professor Koh Khee Heong, before the Acting Head, Professor Lee Chee Hiang, delivered a heartwarming speech that clearly resonated well with the audience. Following the speech, Professor Lee gave out a souvenir package and special congratulatory letter to each and everyone of the graduating students. The souvenirs, including a cute Linus Lion and a Chinese Studies mug, came from both the department and the office of Alumni Relations. Representatives from the undergraduate cohort, the graduating students' cohort and the Masters/Ph.D. cohort then took to the stage to share their appreciations and thoughts with the guests.



The highlight of the Tea Session was the PowerPoint slide show done by the graduates. It was overfilled with words of appreciation for their family, friends, classmates and teachers. When images of the graduates with their parents and friends were flashed along with sentimental music, it was apparent that the parents were moved by the heartwarming words of gratitude from their children. This display of gratitude for the unconditional love and support from family and friends, brought some of the guests close to tears.



Finally, the Tea Session ended with a simple spread of buffet. But it was more of a photo taking session for everyone than a post event tea. Students were taking photos with teachers and there were numerous selfie moments with family and friends. Although the entire event might not span more than two hours, we believe that the connection between members of the “Chinese Studies family” will definitely last for a lifetime. We wish all graduating students all the best in their future endeavors!

(Shaun Choh)