

# GRADUATE PROGRAMME

## WELCOME PARTY



The NUS Economics Department organized its annual welcome party for graduate students on 28 August 2010, at the Sun Bistro. The location provided a cosy atmosphere for fraternizing and delicious buffet spreads which everyone savoured throughout the evening. The purpose of the welcome party was to introduce faculty members and students to the newly-joined ones in an informal environment, fostering a better working relationship in the future, especially as the Department consists of people from different parts of the world.

Faculty members and students began streaming into the venue at six in the evening with anticipation, not only familiar faces whom we always sit next to in classes but also fresh faces, many of whom we have never spoken to before. The new students were encouraged to find their seats among the students who have been here for a longer time and it was not long before persons at each table engaged in their own lively conversations, asking each other about the places they came from and tips to do well in each module. The event officially started with the introduction of each faculty member. It was a good opportunity for new students to meet professors beyond those who are teaching their classes. Associate Professor Zeng Jinli, who is also the Director of the Graduate Programme, gave

a welcome speech and commended seven Teaching Assistants who achieved the best student feedback.

After the formalities, the evening livened up with the ice-breaking game Bingo. The game enlivened the spirit at the venue as everyone busily sought out the others who possessed characteristics described on the grid that was distributed. This was followed by more games which required the participation of both students and faculty members, as students gamely sang and performed as punishments when they lost. One memorable moment was when the students dispensed with the formalities they usually have in front of their professors when they engaged Professor Danny Quah, Dr. Jessica Pan and Dr. Tatsushi Oka in a number game where they had to form groups among each other in order to make up a number specified by the game master.

The party came to a close with a lucky draw where attractive prizes were awarded to the winners. It was not only the prize-winners who had prizes to bring home with them, but everyone left the event with fond memories as they look forward to their stay in NUS.