Chua Kheng Kok
Class of 1980
Diploma in Business Studies

Meet Mr Chua Kheng Kok, the man behind Mary Kay Asia Pacific Pte Ltd. Under his leadership as the President of the cosmetic chain, the Asia Pacific operations covering 10 countries became the largest business region for the company in 2011, with sales in excess of US$1 billion. A graduate of the then Ngee Ann Technical College, Mr Chua has garnered extensive experience in international business. As the Marketing Manager of Richard Clay (the Chaucer Press), he was posted to London in 1985 to help the company develop the US market for thin paper printing. He subsequently became the General Manager, operating out of Beijing. When the Chinese operation was sold to Maxwell Communication Corporation, he was promoted to Group Managing Director. In 1989, Mr Chua took on the role of the Regional Vice-President of United International Pictures and was instrumental in opening up China and Indonesia to movies from Hollywood.

Till today, Mr Chua maintains close ties with Ngee Ann Polytechnic, sharing his experiences with students to inspire them and also supporting their learning journey by providing overseas internship placements.

Tan Aik Kee Ken Steven
Class of 1993
Diploma in Mechanical Engineering

Mr Tan Aik Kee Ken Steven was only seven when he started learning the clarinet. While other children were playing with toys, he would be practising the instrument. As a student in Ngee Ann Polytechnic, he naturally gravitated towards the concert band, where he played the clarinet and eventually led the group as the student conductor and concert master.

In 2001, Mr Tan received a scholarship from the Singapore Armed Forces to attend a three-year bandmaster course in the Royal Military School of Music in the United Kingdom. Proving his prowess, he graduated as the best overseas student. He also won prizes for being the best in conducting, brass band arrangement, choral setting and for attaining the highest marks in the academic examinations and secondary instruments studies.

Keen to give back to his alma mater where it all began, Mr Tan returned to the polytechnic as the resident conductor in 2004. Apart from making beautiful music with students, he is also the Director of Music of the Singapore Armed Forces Central Band.
Desmond Lee
Class of 1993
Diploma in Business Studies

Keen to tap into the Internet technology that has paved the way for e-commerce, Mr Desmond Lee co-founded online business FRESHdirect in 2000. A graduate of Ngee Ann Polytechnic’s Diploma in Business Studies course, Mr Lee and his co-founders hit upon their winning formula of supplying fruits and vegetables from wholesalers to customers directly. Their online shop succeeded in keeping costs low and the products fresh by eliminating the middlemen. Despite the initial challenges, the team persevered and the company grew. Today, the product range includes more than 200 varieties of fruits and vegetables sourced directly from premium farms all over the world.

Besides the trading arm, the company has also invested in its own production facility called Kitchenomics to supply pre-packed vegetables, culinary herbs and fruits to hotels, supermarkets, restaurants and cafes. This service is in demand as it helps clients keep a lid on their costs and manpower requirements. Plans are underway to move into non-perishables, bakery, catering, food concepts and consultancy. The company is also eyeing the overseas market.

Daniel Yeong Bou Wai
Class of 1979
Diploma in Mechanical Engineering

A corporate high-flyer, Mr Daniel Yeong has proven himself time and again. As the Executive Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Amtek Engineering Limited, Mr Yeong was instrumental in the privatisation and restructuring of the company in 2007 as well as its subsequent relisting on the Singapore Exchange Securities Trading in 2010.

Prior to joining Amtek in 2007, Mr Yeong was the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of GES International Ltd. There, he oversaw its transformation from an IT distribution company into a leading Original Design and Manufacturing company in Point of Sales Systems. GES was later sold to Venture Manufacturing in 2006 for close to S$1 billion.

Despite the demands on his time, Mr Yeong has constantly supported the polytechnic by providing valuable inputs to improve the quality of its programmes. He is currently a member of the Ngee Ann Polytechnic Council and also served in the Mechanical Engineering Advisory Committee from 2007 to 2012.