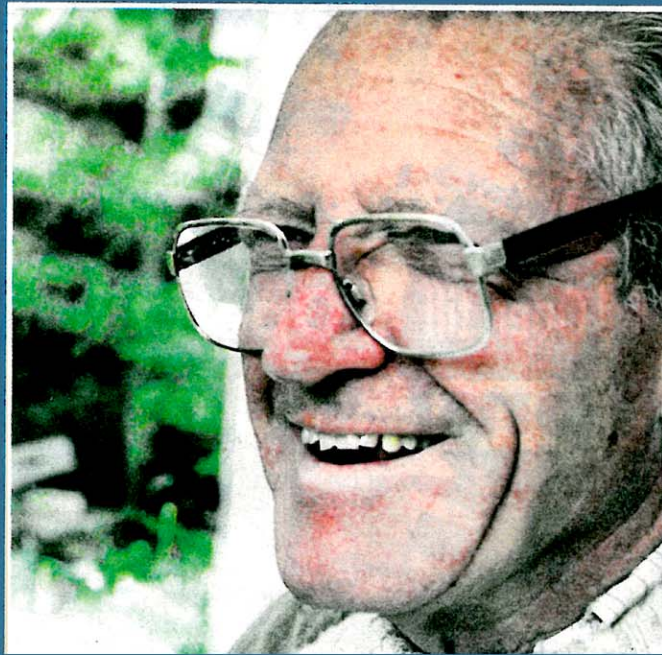


## News



**LOVING COUPLE:** (From left) Madam Chua Swee Liew and Professor George Wadsworth. (Below) The plaque that Prof Wadsworth erected at the arboretum in memory of his wife. (Bottom) The couple at their wedding at St Andrew's Cathedral in Singapore.

PICTURES COURTESY OF VICKI ARMES, PROFESSOR GEORGE'S FAMILY

## Other legacy gifts here

IT IS not common for a former lecturer to bequeath such gifts to a university here.

Associate Professor Soong Tuck Wah, head of department of physiology at the National University of Singapore, said: "It's not common that the school receives such legacy gifts.

"(Prof Wadsworth's) exemplary generosity will encourage faculty and students. We are truly grateful for his gift."

There are only two other similar funds in other tertiary institutions here.

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) said it has two funds set up in memory of its former lecturers who have died.

Associate Professor John Cheung set up a fund for his wife after she died in May 1999.

Prof Cheung, who taught at NTU's then

School of Mechanical and Production Engineering, and his peers set up the Dorothy Cheung Memorial Fund.

Associate Professor Dorothy Cheung taught in NTU's then School of Civil and Structural Engineering from 1984 until her death.

To date, \$350,000 has been donated towards the memorial fund.

The fund supports activities that mirror the vivacious personality of Prof Dorothy Cheung, who made many contributions while she was at NTU, such as in music appreciation, said NTU's spokesman.

Another fund, the Emeritus Professor Kiang Ai Kim Endowment Fund, was set up in 2005 to honour the professor who was considered the "father of chemistry" in Singapore.

He was the head of the then Nanyang University's Department of Chemistry from 1975 to 1980.

The fund supports the advancement of the School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences.

It pays for undergraduate bursaries and scholarships, travel awards for graduate students, medals and book prizes.

Singapore Management University has not had any such donations, its spokesman said.

# His greatest love: A S'pore willow

## UK professor who met wife here leaves \$1.7 million to NUS medical school

REPORT: CHAI HUNG YIN  
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**A** MAN dies and leaves half his estate to the university he was once with. It's a story you might just skip, but the beneficiary of late British professor George Wadsworth's £900,000 (\$S1.77 million) bequest is the National University of Singapore's Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine.

The former professor of physiology at the then University of Singapore had not been here for years.

Prof Wadsworth, who died in England on Dec 9 last year at the age of 94, was the head of the university's department of physiology from 1961 to 1971.

When he returned home, he took a piece of Singapore with him - his wife, Madam Chua Swee Liew.

Madam Chua died on June 30, 1996, at the age of 75.

Prof Wadsworth's donation is to be used for a fund in memory of his wife, called The Swee Liew Wadsworth Memorial Fund.

Prof Wadsworth, who was also a horticulturist, was born in Liverpool in 1916.

During World War II, his work as a medical officer took him to various countries, including Malaya (now Malaysia), said his nephew, Mr Bertram Clough, 64.

After the war, he arrived here and worked as a general practitioner specialising in lung diseases.

Prof Wadsworth was 32 when he met his wife, who was then 27, in 1948. He married her soon after.

Madam Chua, whose family started the Cycle & Carriage Company in Singapore, assisted him as an interpreter when he interviewed patients to make his diagnoses.

It was love at first sight for



Prof Wadsworth, said Madam Chua's niece, Mrs Vicki Armes, 53, a homemaker and former crime scene examiner.

After the couple got married, Prof Wadsworth decided to pursue an academic career and returned to the UK, along with Madam Chua, to obtain his Doctor of Medicine title.

### Common interests

The couple loved horticulture and traveling around the world, said Mr Clough.

He said Prof Wadsworth and his wife did not have any children, but they enjoyed a very happy marriage.

Their blissful retirement life came to an abrupt end when Madam Chua died in 1996 from lung cancer.

In memory of his wife, Prof Wadsworth erected a plaque near where they lived and scattered his wife's ashes there.



Different varieties of willow trees were planted there, as Madam Chua's name means "willow" in Chinese, said Mrs Armes.

He also dedicated the arboretum to his wife and named it The Memorial Gardens of Chua Swee Liew.

For the rest of his life, Prof Wadsworth spent most of his time working at the arboretum.

Even in his 90s, he drove 45 minutes daily to garden there from sunrise to dusk.

Memories of his wife never left him. Mrs Armes told *The New Paper*: "Uncle George loved Auntie Swee Liew deeply."

Mr Clough said: "My uncle was very much a gentleman, quite reserved and very intellectual. He was a distinguished scientist as well as a doctor, and always beautifully dressed."

Together with his twin brother John, Mr Clough will scatter Prof Wadsworth's ashes early next month at Madam Chua's final resting place.