Studying abroad at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) changed everything for Dr. That Ngo (PhD), whose decision to leave Indonesia in the 1960s opened up a whole new world of opportunity.

Barred from applying to state schools back home in Indonesia by the Suharto regime military dictatorship, Ngo headed overseas to Saskatoon where he would graduate with honours in 1970 and earn his PhD in biochemistry in 1974 at USask. Ngo went on to become a celebrated biochemist, researcher scientist and innovator, serving as president and CEO of a number of companies in Canada, the United States and China, including firms that he founded. Ngo published more than 140 researcher articles, edited seven books, and went on to hold 14 different industry patents.

Ngo was the co-inventor of the Ngo-Lenhoff Assay, a groundbreaking technological procedure that benefits diabetes patients worldwide. The development led to the home-based OneTouch blood glucose test that became the industry standard and is still used by diabetes patients to this day.
Ngo went on to earn numerous awards and honours, including being named a fellow of the American Institute of Chemistry, the National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry, and the Royal Australian Chemical Institute, as well as earning the Society of Chemical Industry Merit Award. Ngo was named a member of the American Association of Clinical Chemistry, and earned the 1992 Most Innovative Biotechnology Product award by the University of California-San Diego.

In 2016, he was selected one of the College of Arts and Science’s Alumni of Influence, and in 2020 received the Honoured Supporter Award from the Saskatoon chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professors. A popular guest speaker, Ngo has delivered numerous national and international lectures.

Now retired and living in California, Ngo continues to open doors for other enterprising students after establishing the That Ngo Fund for Study Abroad in the College of Arts and Science. Ngo’s endowed fund provides financial support for USask students who want to have the chance to experience international learning opportunities, as he did 55 years ago.

Ngo has also become a prolific writer of poetry, newspaper articles and four cookbooks, in addition to authoring his 2013 memoir titled *Chinese-Indonesia: An Odyssey through Racism, Ethnicity and Science*. The autobiography is his deeply personal account of leaving his home in Indonesia in search of new opportunity in Canada, and finding his future at USask.