SMU Commencement 2012

The Opening Ceremony of SMU Commencement 2012 was hosted by the School of Social Sciences on 25 July 2012. 127 graduates, parents and guests came together to celebrate the achievements of four years’ hard work and dedication of the graduates. Fellow graduates reminisced about the good times they spent with each other in SMU with memorable photos and video clips. The ceremony ended with a live song performance by fifteen graduates.

Heartiest congratulations to the Social Science Class of 2012!

Tan Wei Loong, Jonathan, DBS Bank School Valedictorian Award in Social Sciences, Ho See Beng Excellence Award (Top Graduating Social Science student majoring in Psychology) and SMU CIRCLE Award winner.

SOSS Dean, Prof James Tang, addressing the audience.

Winner of SMU CIRCLE Award and Helen Chua Chin Xiang Best Senior Thesis in Political Science, Tim Mou Hui, receiving his CIRCLE Award from SMU President, Prof Arnoud De Meyer.
Academic Briefing
SOSS welcome its largest cohort of freshmen for AY2012/13 at the Academic Briefing on 31 July 2012. 215 freshmen attended the briefing which was held at the Mochtar Riady Auditorium. SOSS Dean, Prof James Tang extended a warm welcome to the freshmen with his usual inspiring speech. Associate Dean, Prof Tan Yoo Guan gave an overview of the BSocSc curriculum and some advices on the courses offered by the School. Nine other faculty were there to interact with the freshmen too.

Ho Bee Professorship – Professor Ezra Vogel
Distinguished scholar, Prof Ezra Vogel visited SOSS in May 2012 under the Ho Bee Professorship in Chinese Economy and Business. Prof Vogel is an Emeritus Professor at Harvard University. He spoke at various events held during his visit.

Interview with Professor Vogel
By Tim Mou Hui, BSocSc Class of 2012
The Singapore Management University, School of Social Sciences (SOSS) was proud to host Prof Ezra Vogel, Henry Ford II Professor of the Social Sciences Emeritus at Harvard University, under the Singapore Management University Ho Bee Professorship in Chinese Economy and Business 2012.

Prof Vogel is one of the world’s top scholars on East Asia, China, and Japan, and his most recent book, “Deng Xiaoping and the Transformation of China” received critical acclaim, winning the 2012 Lionel Gelber Prize, and being selected as the Best Book of 2011 in the Financial Times, Economist, Washington Post, Book of the Year for 2011 in Wall Street Journal, and Editors’ Choice for 2011 in the New York Times.

Prof Vogel had a packed schedule while in Singapore, giving public lectures, accepting interviews from the media, and meeting with Singapore’s senior government officials. It was thus a great privilege to have had an hour to interview Prof Vogel on a wide range of topics, from his work on East Asia, to his thoughts on China, and his advice to social scientists. (READ MORE)
The conference was chaired by Asst Prof of Asian Studies, Hoon Chang Yau. Prof Wang Gungwu (NUS) was present at the conference as keynote speaker. Presenters included Asst Prof Margaret Chan (SMU), Assoc Prof Thomas Menkhoff (SMU) and Asst Prof Elaine Ho (NUS). This conference provided a multi-disciplinary perspective on the trajectories of Chinese communities in Southeast Asia by focusing on their history, religious and business practices, and migration patterns. It aimed to facilitate intellectual exchange between the presenters, audience and academics visiting from the United States under the ARCAS-Luce Project on Chinese Diaspora in Southeast Asia. The project included a historical grounding in the Chinese experience in Southeast Asia, and explored ongoing and contemporary issues related to the dynamics of life in the Chinese diaspora. Funded by the Henry Luce Foundation, the project was written for the Association of Regional Centers for Asian Studies, a consortium of 20 universities and colleges affiliated with the Asian Studies Development Programme at the East-West Center in Hawaii.

The Business of God: Marketing of Mega-Churches 27 July 2012

It has been argued that religions are basically ‘faith brands’ that have blurred the lines between marketing and religion. While marketing is a ‘pervasive social activity’, the case of mega-church informs us how this activity can influence religious practices. Mega-churches provide a significant site for study as they exhibit continuous growth albeit the decline in other traditional churches and adopt a model that appear to reconcile theology, business and marketplace ideologies successfully. This presentation by Dr Jeaney Yip from University of Sydney built upon a critical perspective as she explored how business discourse and practice affect mega-churches. The seminar is chaired by Asst Prof of Asian Studies, Hoon Chang Yau.
A place in the history of English language theatre in Singapore: Margaret Chan, Assoc Prof of Theatre/Performance Studies (Practice) is featured in the “Emily of Emerald Hill”: Singaporean Identity on Stage exhibition at Peranakan Museum, 1 Jun 2012 - 17 Feb 2013.

Assoc Prof Chan was given the signal honour of performing the role in the Museum (6 and 7 July). The staging, in the words of playwright Stella Kon, marks Assoc Prof Chan’s rendition of Emily as “the touchstone to which all other renditions are compared”.

SOSS New Appointments

SOSS warmly welcomes the following new faculty who will be joining the School from AY2012/13, Term One.

TSAI Ming-Hong
Asst Prof of Psychology
Research Areas
Decision-making | Group processes and performance | Negotiation and conflict management
Cross-cultural research | Research methods

Asst Prof Tsai is interested in studying the topics related to decision-making. He will teach a class “thinking and reasoning,” which helps identify and correct decision-making biases. His class also focuses on applications of decision-making theories, such as career choice, consumer behavior, and negotiation behavior.

Adjunct Faculty

Aaron MANIAM
Course offered: Public Policy & Public Management Roundtable

Alan CH’NG T H
Course offered: SPRT001 Principles of Coaching in Sports

Anthony JONES
Course offered: ARTS006 Arts Leadership (Co-teach)

David BRITTON
Course offered: ARTS005 Arts, Society and Culture (Co-teach)

ONG Keng Sen
Course offered: ARTS006 Arts Leadership (Co-teach)

Richard McDONOUGH
Course offered: IDIS001 Analytical Skills

ONG Keng Sen
Course offered: ARTS006 Arts Leadership (Co-teach)

SONG Jiyoung
Course offered: POSC003 Introduction to Political & Policy Studies

TAY Tong
Course offered: ARTS006 Arts Leadership (Co-teach)

WANG Shengyu
Course offered: MAND201 Mandarin
Sociology Study Mission
By Webster Lim, BSocSc Yr 3
Asst Prof of Sociology Chung Wai Keung led a class of 20 students on a Sociology Study Mission (SSM) from 2 May – 12 May 2012 to Guangzhou, China. The objective of the study mission is to understand the social impacts brought by urbanization in China, in particular on the city of Guangzhou.

Camp Caédo – No One Gets Left Behind
By Eoin Ee Wei Hao, BSocSc Yr 2
Camp Caédo – the 2012 Social Sciences Freshmen Camp proved to be an event of numerous firsts as the latest additions to the Social Sciences family were welcomed with a one-of-a-kind camp programme.

Combining for the first time the still and allure of the night with the emotions and mystique of a murder-mystery storyline, Freshmen were tasked as Detectives and engaged in various group and mass games in a hunt for evidence and clues to solve the case of a student who had mysteriously disappeared. In that quest, Freshmen also saw themselves embarking on an amazing race styled activity round the city, which culminated in a night trail on Sentosa.

Camp Caédo, which was held from 5 August – 8 August 2012, inducted this ninth intake of Freshmen; the largest in the school’s history; with an experience where no one was left behind.
Faculty in the News

David Chan – 27 July 2012, The Straits Times
Govt seeks feedback on population issue

James Tang – 10 July 2012, Today
The Social Sciences Edge in Business

James Tang – 5 July 2012, Channel NewsAsia, Insight
The Widening Gap

Chung Wai Keung – 5 July 2012, Channel 8, Focus
Hong Kong’s Handover 15th Anniversary – What have changed?

Bridget Welsh – 4 July 2012, The Straits Times
Violence in Transition: Lessons for Myanmar

Faculty Research

Journal

Forrest ZHANG, John Andrew DONALDSON - “China’s Agrarian Reform and the Privatization of Land: A Contrarian View”, 2012, 21, 78, Journal of Contemporary China

Nicholas Michael HARRIGAN, Palakorn ACHANANUPARP, Ee Peng LIM - “Influentials, novelty, and social contagion: The viral power of average friends, close communities, and old news”, 04/2012, Social Networks, Elsevier


Chapters in Books


Books and Monographs


Conference Papers

Margaret CHAN. “The Art of Adaptation: Moving Beyond the Pages”
Singapore Arts Festival, National Arts Council
21 April 2012
SOSS Dragon Babies

Congratulations to Assoc Prof Norman Li for his bundle of joy! Winifred Zhen Ping Li was born on 23 April 2012, weighing 4.2 kg. Baby Winnie was greeted by both parents in a lovely, natural water birth.

Asst Prof Tobias Rettig proudly announced the birth of his daughter Sarah Kai-En Rettig. Baby Sarah was born on 10 May 2012, weighing a mere 1.9kg at birth, Sarah Kai-En has put on quite some weight since, and still keeps daddy Tobias, mummy Pauline, and brother Thomas on their toes. Congratulations to Tobias!

Asst Prof Angela Leung welcomed her first born on 23 July 2012. Baby Lauren Qiu weighed 8.2 lbs and measured 54 cm at birth. Lauren was very expressive as she posed for a photograph. Congratulations, Angela!