

SMUENGAGE

DECEMBER 2016

BAN KI-MOON:

IDEAS *for a* better WORLD

THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL'S
HO RIH HWA LEADERSHIP IN
ASIA PUBLIC LECTURE

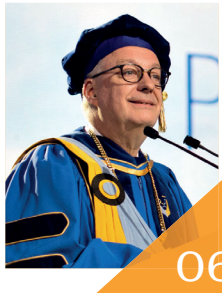


LEADERS FOR
A BETTER WORLD

The Global Impact Scholarship Award

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the final issue of *SMU Engage* for 2016. The lead story in this issue, and one of the highlights of the year for many in the SMU community, was the lecture by UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon in SMU's Ho Rih Hwa Leadership in Asia Public Lecture Series. This proved to be hugely popular, attracting an audience of 3,500 enthusiastic guests, which Mr Ban said was one of the largest gatherings he has addressed.

This issue also includes features on two other large SMU events during the last few months — SMU's 13th Commencement for graduating students with Guest of Honour Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) and Second Minister for Defence Mr Ong Ye Kung; and SMU's 17th Convocation for freshmen, with Guest of Honour Chairman of Fung Group and Honorary Chairman of Li & Fung Limited Dr Victor Fung. The theme of 'sports' was chosen for Convocation this year, to mark the fantastic feats of SMU students and alumni at the 18th ASEAN University Games and to set the scene for the 2016 Paralympics, in which SMU students and alumni competed in three sports and undergraduate Yip Pin Xiu won two

medals and set a new world record.

The Academia section opens with the highly successful launch of the prestigious new Politics, Law and Economics major, which was more than 20 times oversubscribed. Announced for the next academic year is SMU's Global Impact Scholarship Award which seeks to equip recipients to make strong societal impact and contributions on the world stage.

Opening the Connections section is a report on the inaugural Shirin Fozdar Annual Lecture and SMU Provost Professor Lily Kong's well-received talk in the Presidential Distinguished Lecturer Series. Professor Kong also led the team which produced SMU's report for the government's Committee on the Future Economy.

SMU received a generous donation from the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry to fund two scholarships, while the inaugural SMU Charity Golf Classic raised \$160,000 for the SMU Steven Miller Scholarship.

We also review SMU President Professor Arnoud De Meyer's 2016 State of the University Address in which he set forth his plans to "Accelerate" our rate of progress towards SMU Vision 2025.

I hope you find this newsletter an engaging read and wish you the Season's Greetings!



Alan Goh
Vice President
Corporate Communications & Marketing

CHAMPIONING MULTILATERALISM

Speaking at the eighth SMU Ho Rih Hwa Leadership in Asia Public Lecture Series, UN Secretary-General His Excellency Mr Ban Ki-moon urged closer collaboration to tackle various regional and global challenges



A large contingent of students from various junior colleges, polytechnics and international schools were among the more than 3,500 guests.

With more than 3,500 guests in attendance, the eighth edition of SMU's Ho Rih Hwa Leadership in Asia Public Lecture Series drew one of the biggest gatherings that His Excellency Mr Ban Ki-moon had ever addressed in his capacity as Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN). The South Korean statesman spoke to the assembled crowd at Suntec Convention Centre on 29 August 2016, as part of a two-day trip to Singapore — his third and last working visit here before stepping down from the position at the end of the year.

In his welcoming remarks, SMU Chairman Mr Ho Kwon Ping introduced Mr Ban as "a true friend of Singapore and of those who believe in peaceful solutions to resolve global problems". He touched on the contributions Mr Ban had made throughout his 10-year tenure as the eighth UN Secretary-General, particularly in promoting sustainable development, women's empowerment, arms control and disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation.

DID YOU KNOW?

MR BAN KI-MOON IS THE SECOND ASIAN TO SERVE AS UN SECRETARY-GENERAL SINCE THE LATE U THANT OF BURMA (NOW MYANMAR), WHO HELD OFFICE FROM 1961 TO 1971.



A long line of guests queued patiently to pose questions to Mr Ban during the Q&A session moderated by SMU Chairman Mr Ho Kwon Ping.



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DECEMBER ISSUE #10

FRONT COVER: Mr Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN)

Cover Photo: UN Photo (Eskinder Debebe)

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This is one of the biggest gatherings I have addressed as Secretary-General of the United Nations ... I am very impressed to see so many young students — the leaders of our future.

Mr Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General, United Nations



(Left to right) Mrs Ban; Dr Noeleen Heyzer, former UN Under-Secretary-General; and Prof Arnoud De Meyer, SMU President enjoying the lecture.

“For small states like Singapore, the United Nations remains one of the most important defenders of international peace, security and the rule of law. It is a vital forum for small voices to be heard, and for regional groupings such as ASEAN to occupy a larger stage,” said Mr Ho.

Among those in the audience were members of the SMU community, members of the Singapore Parliament and diplomatic corps, as well as a large contingent of students from various junior colleges, polytechnics and international schools. They listened raptly to Mr Ban’s wide-ranging talk as he reflected on his decade-long service at the helm of the UN and revealed his hopes for the future.

Mr Ban (centre) striding into the vast auditorium accompanied by Mr Ho (centre left).



Mr Ho presented Mr Ban with an SG50 flag, in response to Mr Ban’s wish, as expressed in his speech, to take home an SG50 button or a banner as a souvenir.

A SHINING MODEL

Mr Ban kicked off his speech by lauding Singapore’s commitment to the UN ideals of global peace and prosperity. He noted that the Republic is admired worldwide for its far-sighted investments in education, healthcare, jobs, housing and public transport; its pioneering efforts in sustainable urbanisation; and its cutting-edge advances in innovation, energy efficiency and waste management. At a time of global divisions, the country is held up as a model of tolerance and co-existence, and is a force for regional

stability and solidarity through its involvement in ASEAN.

He also voiced appreciation for Singapore’s cooperation with the UN Development Programme on several fronts, including as founding partner of the Global Centre for Public Service Excellence and as host country of the annual Responsible Business Forum on Sustainable Development. “Singapore continues to show that a small state can have a big impact,” he said.

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

In September 2015, a historic milestone was reached when the UN-spearheaded 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by world leaders. Mr Ban called this “our new landmark framework for ending poverty and ensuring lives of dignity for all on a healthy planet”, and called on all countries — including Singapore — to align their policies, programmes and spending with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) contained in the Agenda.

An integral part of sustainable development — No. 13 of the SDGs — is tackling climate change and its impacts. “The actions needed to reduce emissions and build climate resilience are among those that are needed to implement the 2030 Agenda and set the world on course for prosperity and security,” said Mr Ban. He expressed hope that the Paris Agreement would cross the 55-country threshold for ratification and enter into force by the end of the year.

The sheer number of questions from participants clearly showed that youths in Singapore are increasingly engaged in world affairs.



On the rise of violent extremism in countries such as Syria and South Sudan, the outgoing UN Secretary-General said these protracted crises are shattering lives and forcing millions of civilians from their homes. At least 130 million people require humanitarian aid to survive, constituting the largest such caseload the UN has ever seen since it was founded in 1945. This heightens the need for member-states like Singapore to actively engage in UN peace operations and address the root causes of conflict.

Mr Ban urged the new Myanmar leadership to overcome discrimination, ensure equality and promote inclusive development for all, with full respect for human rights. On South China Sea tensions, he reiterated his call to all involved to resolve these disputes through peaceful dialogue, in accordance with the universally-recognised principles of international law. Mr Ban voiced the importance of aligning ASEAN’s Vision 2025 behind the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights, and the development

of an ASEAN Human Rights Declaration. For the Korean Peninsula, he said that it is necessary to “find the path back to denuclearisation through sincere dialogue. I stand ready to contribute in any way that might be helpful.”

HEARING THEM OUT

Mr Ho joined Mr Ban on stage after his speech to moderate a Q&A session with the audience. Judging by the sheer number of questions from participants, it was clear to Mr Ban that Singaporean youths are increasingly engaged in world affairs. The issues they raised ran the gamut of current concerns, from gender equality and human rights to respect for international law and UN reform.

While aware of the UN’s shortcomings, Mr Ban explained that initiating systemic reform to elicit greater commitment from government leaders — although necessary — is not enough to maintain global peace and security. Civil-society partnership is also essential. “Real power comes from the people,” he said. “The voice of civil society, including women and young people, is becoming stronger in recent years. We rely on you to speak up!”



ABOUT THE SERIES

Established in 2002, SMU’s Ho Rih Hwa Leadership in Asia Public Lecture Series invites business and political leaders from Asia and beyond to share their experiences, insights and opinions. It is named after Mr Ho Kwon Ping’s late father, a businessman and former ambassador. Past speakers include Singapore Prime Ministers, Mr Lee Hsien Loong and the late Mr Lee Kuan Yew; Nobel Peace Prize laureates, Myanmar’s Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and former South African President Mr F.W. de Klerk; Malaysia’s former Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad and ex-Philippine President Mr Benigno Aquino III.

LEADERS OF THE FUTURE

Like other SMU students at the event, these two were inspired by Mr Ban’s parting words as UN Secretary-General:

“

GET INVOLVED

I have a deep interest in the UN, having learnt about it since my junior college days. Seeing how Mr Ban has given so much of himself to make the world a better place made me realise that I should put more effort into the cause. Each and every one of us has a role to play in achieving the SDGs, no matter where we live or how small our contribution is.

Ms Anisah Ab Ghapar,
final-year Social Sciences undergraduate

“

TOGETHER AS ONE

Mr Ban’s speech showed that the UN has a plan in place to maintain peace and prosperity, but a global effort is required for [the 2030 Agenda] to succeed. Change has to start from the masses. People should ask themselves how they can serve and contribute to the collective welfare of the global community.

Mr Ravins Cheung,
third-year Business undergraduate



→ THE 17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, AS OUTLINED BY THE UN



THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES

At their Commencement, SMU's 13th and largest graduating class celebrated the journeys that got them to the 'finish line' of their university experience

When it comes to vacations, it has often been said that 'getting there is half the fun.' And some might feel that the same logic can be applied to the pursuit of a university degree. SMU's 13th Commencement, held on 13 July 2016 at the Suntec Singapore Convention and Exhibition Centre, paid homage to the varied experiences of each graduate in preparation for their journeys ahead.

The class of 2016 — SMU's largest so far with a total of 2,663 graduates — reminisced about their university years, and spoke of their most memorable moments via videos screened throughout the proceedings. Among the graduates were 11 pioneer graduands from the Master of Laws in Cross-Border Business and Finance Law in Asia programme, as well as Jeremy Toh, the first Law graduate to have joined SMU from a polytechnic.

The event's Guest-of-Honour was Mr Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) and Second Minister Ministry for Defence. Also on board the evening's theme of 'Journeys' was SMU Chairman Mr Ho Kwon Ping, who officiated the ceremony and gave the more than 6,000-strong crowd a glimpse into his own unconventional educational path. "I had several journeys which occasionally met dead ends," he revealed. "I attended three universities in three countries but only graduated from one, and received a university degree after nine years." Mr Ho congratulated the graduates for having "arrived", and reminded them of their new passages on the horizon.

A PRIVILEGE AND A RESPONSIBILITY

The quality education that the graduates have received, Mr Ho stressed, is "a privilege and a responsibility. Whatever your chosen vocation, you can play a meaningful role in the many voices which make up [Singapore's] civil society. And whether our increasingly complex society moves towards a more chaotic or a more cohesive diversity, will depend on you."

Echoing the privileged position of the graduates, SMU President Professor Arnold De Meyer cited the instance of Brexit. "The future is yours to shape — and as members of the younger generation in the United Kingdom have recently discovered in the European Union membership referendum, if you do not speak up and play an active role, you might not like the consequences," he said, urging the graduates to put what they have learned to good use.

LEAVING A LEGACY

"Who am I to make a difference?" asked Sharon Yeo, Singapore Press Holdings Valedictorian Award recipient in her speech. Sharon (Summa Cum Laude, Business)



Minister Ong Ye Kung (right) with SMU Chairman Mr Ho Kwon Ping.

THE CLASS OF 2016 SPEAKS

"Everybody comes to university expecting to learn life-changing lessons. SMU has taught me that the most powerful lessons are often those that come in the most unexpected ways."

Sharon Yeo, Singapore Press Holdings Valedictorian Award recipient (Summa Cum Laude, Business)



"I've been working hard for today, which is really more for my parents to witness their sacrifices paying off. The time at SMU was challenging but great overall. SMU has given me a lot of opportunities to grow, including starting a soccer training programme for underprivileged children."

Siddiq Poh (Magna Cum Laude, Accountancy)

regaled of a time in class, in which she and her classmates were asked to share their dreams. "It was clear how each individual can contribute," she said. "We all have a mission here on Earth. But the mission remains a dream unless we act on it."

As their Senior Class Gift — an annual SMU tradition of giving back — this year's graduates conducted a fundraising campaign. Titled 'Bear with us', the gift comprised directing a large part of the proceeds from the sale of the SMU Graduation Bear to the SMU Bursary in support of needy students.

HUMPHREY CHIN

graduated with a Master of Communications Management programme under the SMU Warriors Scholarship for retired/retiring SAF officers. Humphrey is the father of Singapore's first quintuplets who are now aged 19.



Humphrey Chin and family.

→ SMU'S LARGEST GRADUATING CLASS

1,806 BACHELOR'S DEGREE GRADUATES + 39 JURIS DOCTOR GRADUATES + 798 MASTER'S DEGREE GRADUATES + 20 DOCTORATE DEGREE GRADUATES = A TOTAL OF 2,663 GRADUATES

Celebrations abounded at SMU's Commencement 2016.



CREATIVE, IMMERSIVE, UNCONVENTIONAL!

THE UNIVERSITY'S biggest, most colourful homage to the arts ever, this year's SMU Arts Festival held from 2 to 16 September 2016 saw a huge outpouring of creative offerings both on campus and across several venues in the heart of the city. During its run, close to 700 SMU students and alumni from more than 20 University arts co-curricular activity clubs presented over 30 events. From song, dance and music to visual art installations, the performances and showcases engaged over 6,000 attendees from the general public and the SMU community.

Themed FRESH!, the Festival was a hotbed for experimentation, as audiences were invited to "Think Different, Feel FRESH!" The Festival

opened with a bang on 2 September with "Ignite", by SMU Funk Movement (SMU's street-style dance club) at the new Festival Stage@ SMU U-Square. Further igniting the thrills was a live music gig by SMU Voix and SMU Music Interactive Club, plus a showcase by SMU Eurhythmix (Breakers).

NEW AND NOTABLE

This year's Festival marked several firsts. For one, it saw the debut performance at the new Festival Stage @ SMU U-Square. There were several cross-club and -genre collaborations, leading to interesting combinations such as a fusion of jazz played on Chinese instruments, and choral serenades with a symphonic twist. Another first was the wider array

of engagement activities, such as the hands-on workshops at the Activity Hub on weekends. There were also dance workshops, as well as contests, and promotions such as the Design-A-Cup Contest and beverage deals.

Also for the first time, the Festival worked with an official ticketing agent. The automated online ticketing offering was aimed at encouraging greater patronage and enabling more bundle deals. Through free programmes, and a bigger offering in other arts venues, the 2016 Festival increased its accessibility to a wider public. The 2016 Festival, organised by the SMU Office of Student Life and SMU Arts & Cultural Fraternity, also received more support, with partners such as Mum's Kitchen and 7KickStart Café.



Clockwise from far left: SMU Chamber Choir & SMU Symphonia, SMU President Prof Arnold De Meyer at SMU Artidicted & SMU Literati's "Voice VIII" visual art exhibition, SMU Funk Movement's "Ignite" street-dance showcase, and INDANCITY's "Beyond 2016 – Identity".

SHOW AND TELL

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FESTIVAL OPENING:

- The Festival opening featured a "live" doodling session by student artists with arts group Band of Doodlers.
- SMU Artidicted's annual visual arts exhibition, "Voice", saw a collaboration with SMU Literati — all the artworks created by SMU Artidicted's artists were in response to poems written by SMU Literati's writers.
- Guests also passed through the "Passage of Evolution", a photo exhibition of dance poses frozen in time and paired with poignant poetry.
- The finale saw acts from SMU Eurhythmix, SMU Music Interactive Club, SMU Samba Masala and SMU Stereometa.

WALK FOR GOOD

This year's SMU Challenge celebrated inclusion of the special needs community by getting participants to put their best foot forward

Taking the notion of 'going the extra mile' quite literally, SMU Challenge, the University's longest-running annual community service project, held its signature annual walkathon in conjunction with Singapore's last Car-Free Sunday of the year on 31 July 2016.

Flagged off by Mayor of Central Singapore District Ms Denise Phua, an estimated 250 participants from SMU including students, faculty and staff took part in the Walk for Good with SMU Challenge's beneficiaries along the 5km city route. Advocating greater inclusion of and equity for those with special needs, the walk — which passed landmarks such as National Gallery Singapore, The Float@Marina Bay and Kampong Glam — gave participants opportunities to interact with this year's beneficiaries from the Muscular Dystrophy Association Singapore and

the Singapore Association for the Deaf.

Furthermore, all participants and even some of the beneficiaries carried a 'necessity pack' — a backpack loaded with basic necessities such as rice, biscuits and soy sauce — that was delivered to the seniors of Peace Connect Neighbourhood Link, the Challenge's end-point. A total of 1,050kg of items were delivered by the participants. The event was funded and supported mainly by Central Singapore Community Development Council (CSCDC).

PAVING THE WAY TO INCLUSIVITY

In the months leading up to the walkathon, the student-led SMU Challenge — which is organised by SMU's Special Interest and Community Service Sodality — conducted regular beneficiary interaction sessions. These sessions were held in collaboration with CSCDC's Purple Outings

programme, which aims to foster inclusion and bring people with special needs on outings for a day of fun. Both educational and experiential activities were organised, such as a sign language workshop for volunteers, bowling, ice skating, an ice cream-making workshop and a fun-filled two-day camp for the beneficiaries and participants. The SMU Challenge committee hoped that through such ground-up interactions with the beneficiaries, participants would learn how they can play a part in making those with special needs included in society.

SMU Challenge also attracted members of the public to join in the Walk for Good. "It's a terrific idea to honour people with special needs and different abilities," said Ms Phua. "It's good that we do not see them as objects of pity; they, like everyone else, have social needs and want to contribute to society." She added that by inviting those with special needs to do their part in community service, SMU Challenge is looking beyond the usual narrative of helping them by recognising their abilities to serve and contribute. This, in her view, "is a good way to raise the bar for the cause of building a truly inclusive society."



Participants at the official flag-off.

READY, SET, GO!

SMU Convocation 2016 was an unforgettable welcome for the University's 17th cohort of freshmen



The beep of a whistle is more commonly associated with a sports match than a college ceremony — but in keeping with the University's spirit to Discover A Different U, SMU did things a little unconventionally for its Convocation 2016. Held on 12 August at Suntec Convention Centre, the ceremony boasted a sporting theme inspired by the 2016 Summer Olympics and the 18th ASEAN University Games. (for more on the ASEAN University Games, see page 8). It gave the 1,983 new students from the University's 17th freshmen cohort — and their families — a better idea of life at SMU.

EMBRACING CURIOSITY

University life has evolved over the years in response to the changing educational landscape. In his welcome address, SMU Chairman Mr Ho Kwon Ping shared how these changes were affecting employers' expectations of fresh graduates. "A good degree and being well-rounded are now expected by employers. So you will need to practise astute gamesmanship if you want to be a winner," he said, adding that the University's interactive pedagogy was key to this. "SMU imparts a lot more than just teaching. Instead, you will learn how to learn, by always asking 'why?'"

His call to remain curious was echoed by Guest-of-Honour Dr Victor Fung as he delivered the evening's keynote address. "Innovations arise from curiosity and a will to decipher the unknown, or deliver what has never been delivered before," he said, praising SMU for its programmes that fostered innovation. Dr Fung — the Group Chairman of Fung Group and Honorary Chairman of Li & Fung Limited — is no stranger to SMU, having been a former trustee of the University from 2000 to 2005.

SMU President Professor Arnoud De Meyer also spoke to the cohort and encouraged them to make the most of their coming years in SMU (see sidebar for more). He advised them to try new things and to not be risk-averse. "Don't be afraid ... study something for the sheer joy of learning. You will be more complete, more resilient and you may discover new strengths," he said.

A SLICE OF STUDENT LIFE

Prof De Meyer also highlighted the new facilities and programmes that the latest cohort of freshmen will enjoy. "You will be the first to use a brand new School of Law Building, which will significantly increase the total amount of space on campus for everyone," he said (for more on the Campus Development Project, see facing page).

The latest batch of students is the first to be offered the five new SMU-X courses introduced this academic year: International Moots 1, Public International Law, Introductory Statistics-X, Analytics Practicum and Family and the Society: Economic Theories and Practices. They can also choose from two new majors: Politics, Law and Economics (PLE), and Entrepreneurship (for more on PLE, turn to page 11).

New students also got to learn more about life at the University from a current student, Mr Fu Fei. The SMU Students' Association President shared his experiences and the lessons he has learnt

Dr Victor Fung, Group Chairman of Fung Group and Honorary Chairman of Li & Fung Limited, was the Guest-of-Honour and delivered the Keynote Address.



SMU Convocation 2016 had Sports as its theme.

during his time in SMU so far.

"Even the smallest of opportunities matter — seize each one to develop yourselves," said the third-year student.

Throughout the evening, several student clubs, including hip-hop dance club Eurhythmix and contemporary group Indancity entertained the audience with thrilling performances. At the end of the ceremony, it was the audience's turn to show off what they had, as they did the SMU Roar, a take on the popular Kallang Roar football cheer. And with that, the freshmen were initiated into the SMU family.



→ ALSO FOR FRESHMEN...

SMU CONVOCATION 2016 WAS JUST ONE OF SEVERAL ACTIVITIES HELD TO WELCOME AND INTEGRATE FRESHMEN. OTHER HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FRESHMEN EXPERIENCE WERE:

► FRESHMEN ORIENTATION CAMP

Three editions of the popular camp were held in July and August. Over three days, freshmen familiarised themselves with the University's city campus, its culture and their new schoolmates.

► FRESHMEN BASH

On 18 August, freshmen had a chance to let their hair down and mingle with their friends at Zouk discotheque. A highlight of the evening was the final of the annual Mr and Ms SMU pageant.

► VIVACE

CCAs are an integral aspect of undergraduate life, allowing students to discover new passions or reignite old interests. On 26 August, new students got a glimpse into the variety — ranging from the arts to sports — offered at the University.

THE PRESIDENT'S FIVE

IN HIS SPEECH, SMU PRESIDENT PROFESSOR ARNOUD DE MEYER GAVE STUDENTS FIVE TIPS TO EMBARKING ON A FRUITFUL SMU JOURNEY:

1

KEEP LEARNING

"Education and training are continuous processes, so honing your ability to learn is the most valuable skill you can develop."

2

BE ACTIVE IN CAMPUS LIFE

"Follow your interests and enrich SMU with your gifts, whether they lie in the arts, sports and adventure, or other areas."

3

GIVE BACK

"You may feel unsure about facing those less fortunate than you and being able to help them, but the more nervous you feel, the greater the discovery that you have so much to give and to gain."

4

EMBRACE INTERNSHIPS

"The more you put into it, the more you will get out of it. Stretch yourself beyond the compulsory minimum — you will gain valuable insights into specific job functions of your interest."

5

EXPLORE

"Go beyond your cultural and geographical boundaries. Being confident and capable in another culture is so often a part of doing business today."

NEW AND IMPROVED



Phase 1 of the Campus Development Project has been completed — SMU Engage takes a tour of the new facilities

When SMU students returned to the campus for the new academic year in August 2016, they were greeted by a suite of new facilities completed as part of Phase 1 of the Campus Development Project. The two-year, \$20 million redevelopment initiative was launched in 2015 to meet the needs of the growing student body.



MORE STUDY SPACES

Six new study lounges were created by reconfiguring the University's basement concourse walkway and transforming an open space on the ground floor. Together, these spaces can seat 375 students and cater to an increasing demand for self-study and group discussion areas. Student feedback played a key role in the design of the new study spaces, which boast novel features such as 'whiteboard walls' that students can write on during group discussions. Students also have a choice of group, individual and counter-type seating options.

The lounges are exclusively for use by the University's students, who find them useful and convenient. Said Mr Viknesh Kumar, 24, a final-year Political Science and Public Policy student, "Finding an area on campus for group meetings is a lot easier now. I expect that I'll be spending a lot of time in the study spaces when exams come around!"

Two seminar rooms have also been added. Located at the School of Social Sciences/School of Economics building, each can cater to up to 70 students. With a horseshoe-shaped design to facilitate dialogue and interaction among students, the rooms house larger classes for popular undergraduate modules and for postgraduate programmes.

Above SMU President Prof Arnoud De Meyer (2nd from right) with (left to right on bikes) President, SMU Sports Union Shannon Koh Zhikai; Director, Campus Development, Mr Sundaravadivelan Selvam; and Director, Student Life, Mr Kenneth Tan, at the opening of the new SMU Gymnasium and Fitness Centre.

FOCUS ON FITNESS

Those seeking to stay in shape also have something to cheer about, as the SMU Gymnasium & Fitness Centre has been expanded by 50 per cent. SMU President Professor Arnoud De Meyer officially opened the new centre on 23 September 2016. Spanning 1,010 square metres, the revamped facility at the School of Information Systems comprises two fitness studios and a gymnasium.

Open to all SMU matriculated students, exchange and bridging students, alumni, staff and faculty, the facility is also disability-friendly, with ramps and lifts. And as the fitness centre now spans three levels — up from one previously — it includes a larger variety of workout equipment. Specialised equipment has also been introduced to support the training of University athletes. The top level features a glass façade to give users a workout with a view. It faces the lush greenery of Campus Green, which is being overhauled.

"The facilities are amazing," said SMUpreneur President Mr Ivan Chang, 27. "They allow students — both past and present — to get active in a modern and spacious setting," added the Business Management graduate, who is a familiar face at the gym.

→ CHANGES AT A GLANCE

2 NEW SEMINAR ROOMS + **6** ADDITIONAL STUDY LOUNGES

► These offer more than 500 new seats spread over 1,107 square metres of study space

EXPANDED GYMNASIUM & FITNESS

► Larger and better-equipped

SMU Samba Masala performing "Deconstructed" at the club's 12th anniversary concert.



DRUMMING UP A STORM

SMU's youth percussion group SMU Samba Masala spiced up Europe's festival scene with their unique brand of Afro-Brazilian beats featuring a dash of Asian flair

→ SMU'S PREMIER student percussion group SMU Samba Masala returned to Germany and visited the United Kingdom from 1 to 19 July 2016, this time performing at two of the biggest European Samba festivals.

The band, affectionately nicknamed "Asia's Brazilian Spice" by festival-goers, performed at several iconic venues in Berlin and Liverpool, and played at the 25th Internationales Samba Festival in Coburg — Europe's biggest and the world's second-largest samba festival — accompanied by the world's best and most-loved samba percussion bands. This was the fourth consecutive time that Samba Masala was invited to perform at the Coburg festival. Following that, the group crossed the English Channel to take part, for the first time, in Liverpool's Brazilica Festival, the largest samba festival in the UK.



SMU Samba Masala "Christmas Busingk 2015" on Orchard Road.

THE BEAT GOES ON

One of Singapore's most popular youth percussion bands, Samba Masala recently celebrated its 12th anniversary with a concert held in Singapore in February 2016, entitled "Deconstructed". The concert was a new milestone for Samba Masala, with entirely new and unique pieces such as an all-girls item, and even a mash-up piece that explored changes in time signatures and featured intricately-composed breaks.

In 2015, Samba Masala also hosted the very first samba percussion festival in Singapore, Viva O Samba, which saw more than a thousand young people congregating at SMU Campus Green as they bonded over a common love for samba music. The second instalment of Viva O Samba will be held on 4 March 2017. Samba Masala also thrilled tennis fans when they performed at the WTA Finals Singapore Opening Ceremony and at its Fan Village in late October 2016.

SMU Samba Masala was formed as a small dhol percussion band in 2004. Today, it grown to a full-fledged Afro-Brazilian-influenced percussion band with a unique Singaporean flavour. The juxtaposition of Brazilian samba instruments alongside ethnic Asian ones such as the Indian dhol is what sets Samba Masala apart from other percussion bands. The group's heart-stopping choreographed moves are also another crowd favourite. Samba Masala's catchy heart-thumping beats have certainly made an impression in the local arts scene, most notably through its many commercial gigs, as well as at the band's annual concerts. The group's music has also brought them international recognition through performances in countries such as Ireland and cities like Los Angeles and London.

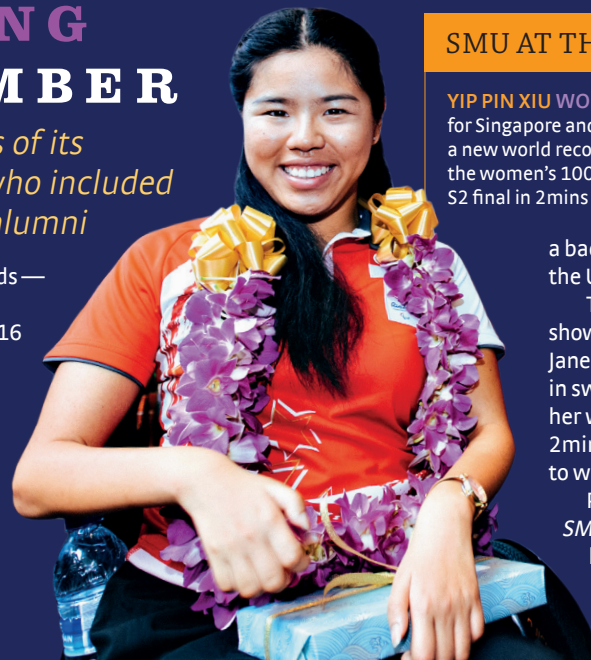


A HOMECOMING TO REMEMBER

SMU celebrated the success of its Team Singapore's Paralympians, who included a current student and two alumni

→ SLEEK FERRARI CARS, London cabs and wild crowds — this wasn't a glamorous movie premiere, but scenes from a celebratory parade held on 24 September 2016 across the island for Singapore's Paralympians.

SMU faculty and students joined the event at the National Library to celebrate the University's own students and alumni within the Team Singapore contingent: School of Social Sciences undergraduate Yip Pin Xiu (pictured right) and SMU alumni Nurulasyiqah Mohammad Taha and Nur Syahidah Alim. The SMU entourage presented the athletes — and other Team Singapore champions — with customised bears, each wearing



SMU AT THE PARALYMPICS 2016

YIP PIN XIU WON TWO MEDALS for Singapore and also clocked a new world record, finishing the women's 100m backstroke S2 final in 2mins 07.09sec

THREE ATHLETES FROM SMU IN THREE SPORTS:
SWIMMING (Yip Pin Xiu)
BOCCIA (Nurulasyiqah Mohammad Taha)
ARCHERY (Nur Syahidah Alim)

a badge with a congratulatory message from the University.

The parade celebrated the Republic's best-ever showing at the Paralympics, held this year in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil — where Pin Xiu clinched two gold medals in swimming. She also set a new world record, during her win in the Women's 100m backstroke S2 final in 2mins 07.09sec. Pin Xiu is also the first Singaporean to win multiple gold medals at the Paralympic Games.

Pin Xiu joined SMU in 2012 and received the *SMU Outstanding Achievement in Student Life* honour at the 2014 University Student Life Awards. She deferred her studies from January this year to focus on training for the Paralympics.

SPORTING GLORY FOR SINGAPORE

2016 was a stellar year for sport at all levels, as SMU's performance at, and contributions to, the 18th ASEAN University Games proved

Twenty-five SMU student athletes did Singapore proud as part of the Republic's contingent at the 18th ASEAN University Games (AUG), which was held from 10 to 19 July 2016 in Singapore. Together, they clinched 73 medals, nearly three times the amount hauled at the previous edition of the biennial games. This put the Republic at fifth place in the medal tally, two spots higher than its ranking in 2014. The 240-member Team Singapore contingent comprised both undergraduates and freshmen. They participated in a variety of team and individual sports, such as canoeing, swimming and water polo. Ultimately, 12 athletes contributed 10 medals (five gold, one silver and four bronze) to Singapore's medal tally.

ALL HANDS ON DECK

SMU didn't just win medals — it also ensured the Games ran smoothly. The University was a member of the 18th AUG Organising Committee, along with five other local universities. The committee included some 30 staff from the Office of Student Life (OSL), the Centre for Social Responsibility, Office of Advancement and Office of Business Improvement. They supervised nearly 100 SMU student volunteers as well. Together, they oversaw five core areas of organising the Games: Accreditation; Education; Protocol; PR, Media and Publications; and Info-Technology. Staff and

volunteers also coordinated the running of the badminton and swimming events.

Several arts groups — namely SMU Eurhythmix, Sound Foundry, Voix, MIC and Artdicted — also had a chance to show off their talents. The groups put on exhilarating numbers at the Games' Opening and Closing ceremonies. Students from SMU Broadcast & Entertainment also provided commentaries and emceed at several matches and fringe activities. "To say that this has been an invaluable experience for those involved is an understatement," said Mr Kenneth Tan, Director of SMU OSL. "Besides showcasing our young sporting talents, the AUG has also given us ample opportunities to learn lifelong skills in project and people management, as well as leadership."

Incoming freshman Lionel Khoo won two gold medals in swimming for the Men's 200m Breaststroke and Men's 200m Individual Medley events.



A LEARNING JOURNEY

Some 150 AUG athletes were introduced to Singapore's heritage through a walking trail around the island's Civic District. The initiative, spearheaded by SMU, culminated in a food festival at the University, where athletes sampled local delights. More than 300 students from local schools also got to see how such large-scale events were organised, thanks to the outreach programme.



12 SMU STUDENT ATHLETES CONTRIBUTED

FIVE GOLD **ONE SILVER** **FOUR BRONZE**

TO SINGAPORE'S MEDAL TALLY OF 73

They won medals in
► Canoeing ► Rugby ► Shooting
► Swimming ► Table Tennis ► Water Polo

PROMOTING CLEAN SPORTS

SMU, along with other members of the 18th AUG Organising Committee, took a firm stance against doping by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Southeast Asia Regional Anti-Doping Organisation. The partnership set the processes for Results Management and Therapeutic Use Exemption. It also promotes clean sports and the right sporting values among college-level athletes in the region.

Photo: Cheah Chin Poh / ASEAN University Games, 2016

They say good things happen in threes — and if the official results are anything to go by, this may well be true. Just as the new Academic Year began, students from SMU's School of Law brought home the championship title of the 11th LawAsia Moot, for the third time no less!

The triumphant trio — 3rd year Law undergraduates Alexander Lee, Grace Goh and Melissa Ng — were crowned in Colombo, Sri Lanka, after eight matches held in the days leading up to the final round on 15 August 2016, where they were pitted against former Vis champions West Bengal State University from India. The judging panel for the finals — which comprised several legal luminaries including the President of the Sri Lankan Court of Appeal and a judge from the High Court of Australia — also awarded Alexander the 1st runner-up prize for Best Speaker of the tournament. Furthermore, the SMU team clinched the Best Memorial award.

Thirty teams had participated in this year's competition, with the top 15 qualifying for the international rounds. The moot problem they had to tackle was about whether a company could sell its own brand of tea in Malaysia after an agreement to sell Ceylon Tea had expired, raising issues related to intellectual property rights and trademark infringement, international trade, commercial law and contract law.

"Winning the LawAsia Moot for the third time means that we have overtaken Hong Kong University as



the university with the best record in this competition, despite making our debut five years after they did," said Assistant Professor Chen Siyuan, who heads SMU's international moot programme. "This win brings our overall tally of international moot championship titles to 17, and our total number of final appearances at international moot competitions to 36."

The trio were coached by Qabir

Sandhu of WongPartnership and Nanthini Vijayakumar of TSMP Law Corporation — both of whom graduated from SMU last year. Nanthini was herself a LawAsia mooter when her team emerged champs in 2013.

As of August 2016, SMU's international mooters have been to the championship finals of all seven largest and most prestigious moots in the world: the Philip C Jessup

Moot in Washington DC (2013, 2014), the Willem C Vis arbitration moot in Vienna (2015, 2016), the Willem C Vis East moot in Hong Kong (2015, 2016), the Price Media Law moot in Oxford (2010, 2015, 2016), the International Criminal Court Moot in The Hague (2015, 2016), the Investment Arbitration Moot in Frankfurt (2015), and the Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot in Hong Kong (2016).

YOUNG EXEMPLAR

IN ACCOUNTING

SMU alumna wins the Young Accountant in Practice Award

Ms Belinda Teo with Guest-of-Honour Mr Teo Ser Luck (right), Minister of State for Manpower and ISCA Advisor, and Mr Chaly Mah, Chairman of the Singapore Accountancy Commission, at the Awards Dinner on 25 August 2016.

professional qualities, and possess sound technical knowledge are awarded the Individual Excellence Awards. These seek to honour those who have made exemplary contributions to the industry as well as to spur young accountants to play a greater role in charting the future of the profession.

→ **MS BELINDA TEO HUI** (School of Accountancy (SOA), Class of 2010) has done SMU proud by winning the Young Accountant in Practice Award at the Singapore Accountancy Awards 2016.

Organised by the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants (ISCA), the Awards are a mark of excellence for businesses and individuals, and also serve to promote good practices and strengthen the branding of the profession and industry. It comprises two main categories, the "Business Excellence Awards" and the "Individual Excellence Awards". The Young Accountant in Practice Award, which comes under the Individual Excellence Awards, is open to individuals below age 35 and with 12 years or less of accounting/audit experience. Accounting professionals who embody strong leadership and

For Belinda, a manager with Ernst & Young LLP (EY), the win is a validation for her decision to make accountancy her chosen profession. "This is a great recognition for someone who is still young in her career journey like myself and also an encouragement to continue to do my best," she said. "I believe that the Awards will encourage others to look beyond themselves and to seek opportunities to be change-makers to the accountancy sector."

A WELL-BALANCED LIFE

At EY, Belinda provides guidance to her juniors, and conducts in-house training to new assurance entrants on the EY audit methodology. She has exemplified effective teaming with internal specialists to meet the valuation, advisory, tax and hedge accounting

needs of her clients. She was nominated as a member of EY Visionaries — a network developed to encourage discussion about the firm's vision among its staff across the Asia-Pacific, and to act as the bridge between EY's senior leaders and her peers. Belinda also supports EY's corporate social responsibility initiatives, and has contributed to the Boys' Brigade Share-A-Gift project since 2010, as well as participated in the Walk for Rice initiative, which makes donations of rice to low-income families in Singapore. Belinda also gives back to the wider community. She is the Deputy Chairperson of the ISCA Young Professionals Advisory Committee and also a donor towards the Care Channels International Ltd education sponsorship programme, which supports children in Indonesia.

On why she chose to study Accountancy, Belinda said that she was "looking for a professional degree with a structured career path. I was also interested to discover the role that accountants play in businesses and the contributions that they can make to society." Among the factors she cites for her win is the educational experience at SMU. "The SMU pedagogy and values equipped me with the skills and ethics I needed to excel in my career, and also taught me to look beyond myself and seek opportunities to make a positive impact to the sector at large," she said.

The win is yet another feather in the cap for the SMU SOA. At the inaugural Singapore Accountancy Awards in 2014, its alumni Ms Annie Seah Yi' En (Class of 2007) and Ms Lim Kexin (Class of 2005) both won Young Accountants of the Year Awards, for the Professional Accountants in Business and Accountants in Public Practice segments respectively.

THE WRITE STUFF

SMU student Nicholas Soh wins global essay competition

Nicholas Soh Zhan Yi, a Year 2 student from the Lee Kong Chian School of Business, has done SMU proud by winning the Youth Prize in an international essay competition. Administered by The Fields Institute for Research in Mathematical Sciences' MathEd Forum in partnership with Vretta, a Toronto-based educational media studio, the competition features a cash prize award of CA\$1,500 sponsored by The American Statistical Association.

Named "The Taming of Chance Story Competition", participants were posed the question: "What would our world be like if the Normal Curve had never been discovered?" The Normal Curve refers to a very common continuous probability distribution. Ms Rosie Ching, Senior Lecturer of Statistics at the School of Economics, helped to refine and improve Nicholas' story entitled *The Organisation*. It tells of the protagonist who, during the course of his work at a clothing factory, discovers the phenomenon of the normal distribution and consults The Organisation in hopes of seeing a better tomorrow. Entries were judged on each story's insightfulness and cultural impact, as well as the storyteller's ability to draw attention to the competition question.

"Storytelling by itself is already a difficult art. For Nicholas to incorporate statistical concepts he learned in my class into his original story was

no mean feat," said Ms Ching. "I am thrilled for Nicholas, in his receiving international recognition for his imaginative and creative effort."

On the inspiration for his story, Nicholas shared that, "Anyone with an avid interest in Statistics would find the timeline of events and the protagonist's daily routine, familiar. This is because I wrote the essay in the summer that immediately followed my completion of SMU's Introductory Statistics course. Ms Ching, my professor for the course, included numerous historical breakthroughs in the field of Statistics in her curriculum. With these breakthroughs fresh in my mind, I envisioned a parallel universe which retained these landmark occurrences, but took on a dark twist of events." He added that the plot line was largely inspired by dystopian novels; the classic 1984 by George Orwell, and the more recent *Divergent* series by Veronica Roth.

Nicholas credited Ms Ching for encouraging him to participate in the competition. "Without her passion for Statistics, it is unlikely that I'd have written this essay at all," he said. He added that, "Besides allowing me to consolidate my Statistics knowledge and apply it creatively, my participation has been a great confidence-booster that has led me to challenge myself more and embark on endeavours I otherwise would not have."



Nicholas Soh credited Ms Rosie Ching, Senior Lecturer of Statistics at the School of Economics, for encouraging him to take part in The Taming of Chance Story Competition, in which he emerged as winner of the Youth Prize.

ACHIEVING FINESSE IN FINTECH APPS

SMU teams clinched first and third positions at a national programming competition

universities and working professionals. The team's product, a mobile-compatible web application, showcases how keystroke biometrics can be used to authenticate users on smartphone devices. It captures the users' keystroke coordinates and timing information of keystroke events, and runs them through a probabilistic machine learning model, using Feature Selection and Classification algorithms like Gaussian Mixture Models and Naive Bayes. These statistical methods help to identify users' identities based on their typing signature, adding an added layer of security above username and PIN.

For their stellar efforts, Team GCP walked away with cash prizes worth a total of \$9,000. In addition, the trio also won the \$1,000 SPRING Standards Award which was given to the team that submitted the best video or essay demonstrating the importance and benefits of standards in Fintech.

Also doing SMU proud was Team ThreeTee, comprising SIS students Tan Kee Hock and Tan Chee Wei, as well as Toh Yi An from the Lee Kong Chian School of Business, which took the second runner-up spot in the Open Category. The team devised an intelligent financial advisory app that helps consumers make the right financial choice. The intuitive app utilises chatbots to understand the user's financial profile. The data is then used to make intelligent conclusions on the user's financial profile through ThreeTee's in-house profiling algorithm. The user experience is further enriched through the use of Natural Language Processing, providing a more intuitive and personalised experience. The app also offers a platform for users to search for financial products that are tailored individually, based on the user's financial profile.

The competing teams were assessed on a range of criteria, including their key ideas and concepts behind the overall solution design, prospective social or commercial value and user-friendliness, as well as usage of software and hardware features. "CodeXtremeApps has been a meaningful journey for my teammates and I, from brainstorming of the idea to actualising it," said Kee Hock. "It may have been an arduous journey, but it was definitely a fruitful one." He added that the 24-hour hackathon not only put their technical skills to the test, but their soft skills as well. "The competition exposed us to the challenges in the Fintech industry, and offered a platform for us to showcase our ideas to solve these problems. We gained many valuable insights from interacting with industry professionals."



Above Team GCP received the SPRING Standards Award from Ms Choy Sauw Kook, Assistant Chief Executive (Quality & Excellence), SPRING Singapore at the prize-giving ceremony on 18 August 2016.



Left Team ThreeTee is seen here with Mr Yap Chee Yuen (extreme left), Chairman of IT Standards Committee, and Guest-of-Honour Mr Gabriel Lim (extreme right), Co-Managing Director, Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore.

→ **IN AN AGE** where privacy and security threats abound, it's always worthwhile to stay one step ahead of the 'bad guys' — and that's exactly what some students from the School of Information Systems (SIS) have done. By proposing an alternative solution to existing authentication methods such as PIN and two-factor authentication, they clinched the top prize at the 2016 Code::XtremeApps: 24-hour hackathon organised by the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA) and the IT Standards Committee (ITSC) with support from SPRING Singapore. The theme of this year's competition, Fintech, was selected due to its emergence and large potential to disrupt and benefit citizens with new solutions.

'New solutions' were indeed the name of the game for Team GCP, comprising Tan Chang Sheng, Jeremy Ong Tee Seng and Beh Min Yan, who won the competition's Open Category which is open to students from polytechnics,

A WINNING COMBINATION

The new Politics, Law and Economics major equips students with skills for the future — and is a hit

When Clarabelle Koh learnt that SMU's latest academic major offered insights into three different disciplines — politics, law and economics — she jumped at the chance to pursue it. "I had already chosen to study at SMU because of its interactive learning style. I was even more excited about the Politics, Law and Economics (PLE) major, as I found its modules practical and relevant — in both the local and global context," the former Singapore Sports School student told *SMU Engage*. Clarabelle was among the 1,108 who applied for the Bachelor of Social Science's PLE major — and was one of just 46 freshmen who were admitted into its inaugural cohort. High demand for the new course contributed to a six per cent increase in the total number of undergraduate applications received by the University this year.

The major will give students a deeper understanding of how politics, law and economics intersect to shape the world. It will also equip students with the tools needed to analyse and tackle major public issues. SMU Provost Professor Lily Kong told *The Straits Times* that she was delighted with the response to the new major. "It is clear that students, parents and employers recognise the value that the PLE combination can bring in preparing graduates who can handle multifaceted careers... Through a deeper understanding of how politics, law and economics intersect to shape the world in which we live, we hope to groom a new generation of leaders and thinkers for Singapore."

Echoing her sentiments were School of Social Sciences Dean Professor James Tang, School of Law Dean Professor Yeo Tiong Min and School of Economics Dean Professor Bryce Hool. In particular, Prof Tang said, "In a globalised world full of uncertainties, interdisciplinary knowledge and analytic skills are crucial for the future success of our younger generation."

A HOLISTIC EXPERIENCE

In their first year, students will explore all three subjects through 10 core modules, ranging from Political Philosophy to Company Law to Intermediate Macroeconomics. Students will then explore one of the following themes in their second year: choice and behaviour, global studies, public policy and governance or distribution and

justice. Modules offered in these themes include Policy Design and Analysis, Global Migration and Human Security, Public International Law and Public Sector Economics. Students can choose to deepen their study of any of the three subjects by combining the PLE major with relevant second majors or a double degree.

The academic rigour of the major does not daunt Nur Dini Haziqah Binte Mohd Sukri, another successful applicant. "It's a small cohort, so I believe that peer-to-peer learning will be substantial," she said. "I think the seminar-style classes will facilitate this, while also honing our communication skills," she added.

These academic requirements will be pursued alongside several non-academic activities, including an 80-hour community service commitment and a series of career preparation workshops. Students will also embark on 10 weeks of internship to apply their learning in a real-world setting. Several organisations, including the Economic Development Board (EDB) and Singapore Airlines, have expressed interest in offering internships to those on the course. "The PLE major is testament to SMU's efforts to prepare students for the increasingly interconnected and global economy," said Ms Ng Ying Yuan, EDB's Executive Director of Human Resources and Organisation Development.



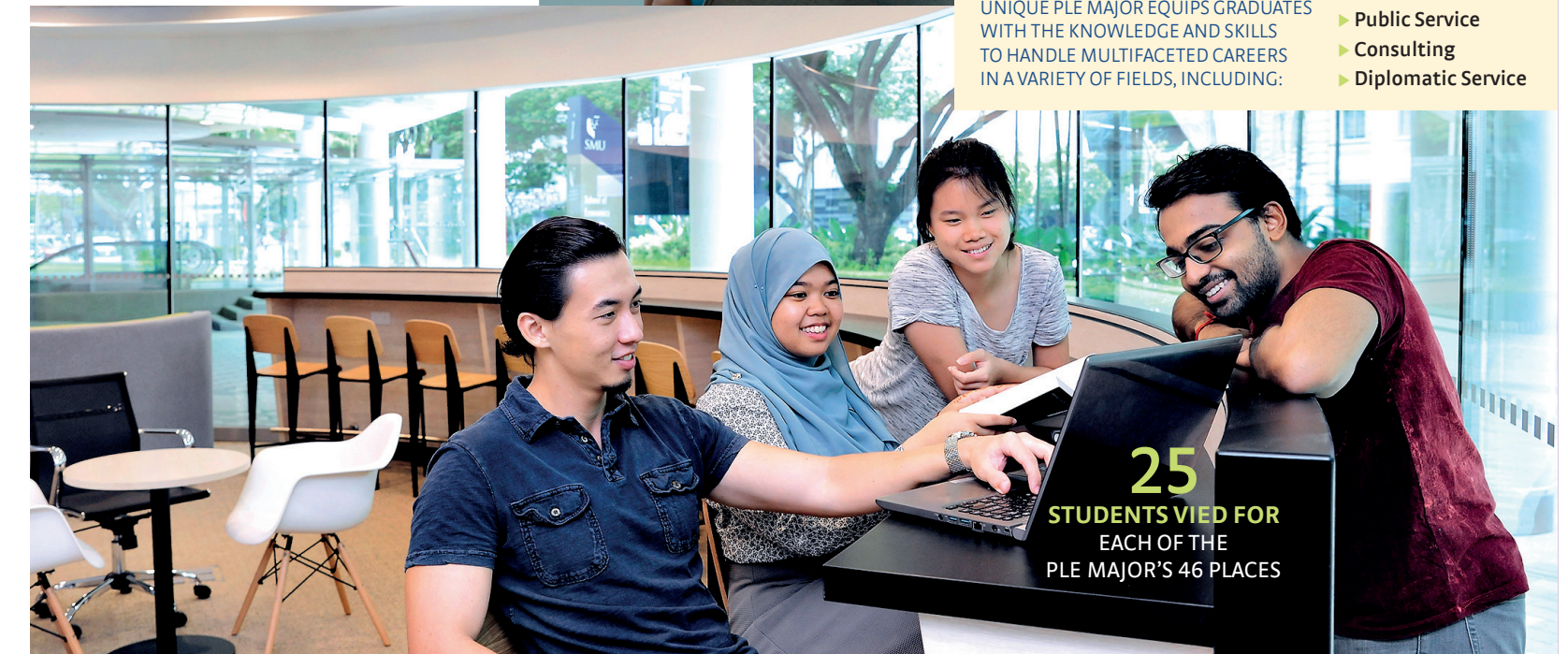
"We hope to groom a new generation of LEADERS and THINKERS for Singapore."

SMU Provost
Professor Lily Kong

→ EXCITING PROSPECTS

OFFERING A ONE-OF-A-KIND COMBINATION OF DISCIPLINES, THE UNIQUE PLE MAJOR EQUIPS GRADUATES WITH THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS TO HANDLE MULTIFACETED CAREERS IN A VARIETY OF FIELDS, INCLUDING:

- Journalism
- Research
- Public Service
- Consulting
- Diplomatic Service



(Left to right) Braet Elliot Gaston, Nur Dini Haziqah Binte Mohd Sukri, Clarabelle Koh and Subramaniam S/O Narayanan.

WHAT STUDENTS SAY



"With its breadth and versatility, the PLE major gives me the freedom to pursue my academic interests in an all-in-one package. I hope to be able to develop creative solutions and gain a multi-perspective view of the world."

BRAET ELLIOT GASTON



"I hope that the major will expand my perspectives and stretch my intellectual capabilities. Employers — be it in the public or private sector — are increasingly looking out for individuals who are competent in not one, but multiple areas."

SUBRAMANIAM S/O NARAYANAN



SMU Provost Prof Lily Kong with Global Impact Scholarship Academic Director Prof Chow Hwee Kwan at the launch.

GLOBAL IMPACT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Enabling tomorrow's leaders to make their mark on the world

→ **COME AUGUST 2017**, 40 Singaporeans starting their freshman year at SMU will have even more reason to be excited about commencing their undergraduate journey: they will be the pioneer recipients of the University's prestigious Global Impact Scholarship Award.

The first of its kind in Singapore, this scholarship aims to equip a new generation of Singaporean leaders with the global perspective, skills and commitment needed to solve complex problems and make strong societal impact and contributions.

Worth more than \$120,000, this bond-free scholarship programme is fully funded by SMU and is open to applicants across all six schools.

SPARKING POTENTIAL

A clear vision informed the curriculum design (see sidebar). "The programme is designed to help realise each scholar's leadership potential, ignite their desire and hone their ability to make a meaningful impact on society," said SMU Provost Professor Lily Kong. It is her hope that that these scholars will have a "sense of

global citizenship as well as local rootedness, and show committed leadership" by the time they graduate.

Echoing these views was Professor Chow Hwee Kwan, Academic Director of the Global Impact Scholarship Award, who said the programme is targeted at "top pre-university students with high leadership potential... and aims to develop leaders with a global perspective for the public, private and people sectors."

Applications for the scholarship are now open and close on 19 March 2017.



Scholars will get multiple overseas exposure opportunities through a study mission (above) and overseas community service (below).



THE GLOBAL IMPACT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD 4 KEY DRIVERS

1

Multiple Forms of Global Exposure

YEAR 1 Overseas Community Involvement Project
YEAR 2 Scholars' Study Mission
YEAR 3 One-term overseas exchange at top universities, or a summer programme at the University of Oxford or University of Cambridge

2

Exceptional Infusion of Experiential Learning

3 bespoke SMU-X courses, taught in collaboration with industry partners:
▶ Transformative Leadership
▶ Managing in a VUCA Context
▶ Scholars' Capstone Research Project

3

Robust Scholars' Core Curriculum

4 SCHOLARS' CORE MODULES
(3 SMU-X courses + Scholars' Study Mission), in addition to degree-specific requirements
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES via events featuring close interaction with industry leaders

4

Dual Degree Options

▶ Single or double undergraduate degree
▶ Integrated Bachelor-Master programme (concurrently)
▶ Sequential Bachelor-Master programme (with the option to enrol in a Master's course within 5 years of graduation)

RULING THE CHARTS

SMU's LKCSB ranks well in Financial Times Rankings 2016

The University's Lee Kong Chian School of Business (LKCSB) has emerged third in the world in the Financial Times (FT) *Global Masters in Finance Post-experience Ranking 2016* for its Master of Science in Wealth Management (MWM) programme. The School remains the only institution in Asia and in Singapore to make it to the top five positions globally.

Added to this, SMU LKCSB also ranked

4th among Asian business schools and 42nd in the world in the FT *Global Masters in Finance Pre-experience Ranking 2016* for its Master of Science in Applied Finance (MAF) programme. It is again the only Singaporean institution that was ranked. This is the second time that LKCSB has been featured in both the Pre- and Post-experience rankings — last year, it became the first school to feature in both rankings and was the highest-positioned new entrant.

LKCSB's Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA) programme also won honours in FT's *Executive MBA Ranking 2016*. It ranked 9th in Asia, up from 10th last year, and 32nd globally, up from 36th in 2015. It is the second time that LKCSB has made the list, in just its second year of qualifying for the ranking. FT findings revealed that SMU EMBA graduates are among the highest-paid in Singapore, Asia and the world, with a pay of around US\$311,000.

"These rankings validate and boost our efforts in making LKCSB Asia's best business school, and strengthen our reputation globally," said LKCSB Dean Professor Gerry George.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN WEALTH MANAGEMENT
3RD | WORLD WIDE
& 1ST IN ASIA
FINANCIAL TIMES GLOBAL MASTERS IN FINANCE POST-EXPERIENCE 2016

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN APPLIED FINANCE
4TH | ASIAN BUSINESS SCHOOLS
AND 42ND WORLDWIDE
FINANCIAL TIMES GLOBAL MASTERS IN FINANCE PRE-EXPERIENCE 2016

9TH | EXECUTIVE MBA PROGRAMME
AMONG ASIAN INSTITUTIONS
AND 32ND GLOBALLY
THE FINANCIAL TIMES EXECUTIVE MBA RANKING 2016

MASTER STROKES

The SMU MWM started in 2004 as Asia's first and only full-time master's programme in wealth management, and the first specialised one globally. It comprises a curriculum designed by SMU, Wealth Management Institute (WMI), Swiss Finance Institute (SFI) and the Yale School of Management (SOM).

In 2015, the SMU MWM became the first and only master's programme accredited by the Institute of Banking and Finance Singapore (IBF) Standards, and also incorporated the Client Advisor Competency Standards assessment required for entry into the private banking sector. The programme is also associated with the CFA Institute and CAIA. Participants have opportunities for exposure via learning activities and interactions with industry professionals in Singapore and abroad. Graduates receive the MWM degree from SMU and certificates from WMI, IBF, SFI and Yale SOM.

Launched in 2002, the SMU MAF prepares students to pursue the Chartered Financial Analyst designation. The programme has grown over time — in 2008, the MAF (China) programme was started with Xiamen University; in 2013, SMU partnered Washington University to offer the Global Master of Finance Dual Degree. To date, SMU has graduated over 1,000 students under the various MAF tracks.

Despite only being introduced in 2011, the SMU EMBA has attracted senior leaders from a variety of industries world-wide. More than 95 per cent of the surveyed class are senior executives of C-suite director levels and above. It offers study segments in renowned partner universities Guanghai School of Management at Peking University in China, the Indian School of Business in India, and the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania in the US. The curriculum has been designed in consultation with more than 100 Asian corporate leaders, resulting in first-of-its-kind customised courses.

MANAGING DOLLARS, MAKING SENSE

SMU and ITE organised a carnival to raise financial literacy among the young

→ SMU and the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) organised a Financial Literacy Awareness Day on 17 and 18 August 2016 at ITE College West to increase the level of financial literacy among ITE students. At the event, SMU and ITE also announced the extension of their joint efforts to deliver financial literacy training and pedagogical support initiatives for ITE students and staff.

The carnival attracted the participation of 1,400 students from the three ITE Colleges. They were able to partake in eight interactive games infused with financial concepts such as budgeting, insurance and fixed deposit. There were also exhibition panels on topics such as Inflation, Needs



The mobile game app *1 Million Dollar Journey* was put together by a team comprising SMU faculty and student trainers, Citi staff, ITE lecturers and students.

vs Wants, Online Shopping and how to reduce household expenditure. One highlight of the carnival was the participation by more than 460 ITE students in two classroom games designed by SMU students. Another was the launch of the mobile app *1 Million Dollar Journey*, which was put together by a team comprising SMU faculty members and student trainers, Citi staff, ITE lecturers and students. The app is a financial management learning game targeting young adults, and is free for download from the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

The carnival was held in conjunction with SMU and ITE's decision to extend their co-operation to deliver a financial literacy programme for ITE students and staff for another three years. The collaboration, which began with ITE College West in 2013, will now be extended to ITE College Central and College East. Via this collaboration, both parties will develop content on financial literacy, engage students through peer-to-peer coaching and related activities, as well as train ITE staff and selected ITE students as trainers and facilitators for the Financial Literacy Programme. A Financial Literacy Student Club in ITE will be set up, and it will be affiliated to the Citi-SMU Financial Literacy Student Club in SMU.

This collaboration has been made possible by the Citi-SMU Financial Literacy Programme for Young Adults, launched in 2012 between Citi Singapore and SMU's Sim Kee Boon Institute for Financial Economics. Supported by the Citi Foundation, it is the first programme of its kind for those between ages 17 and 30 in Singapore.

Since 2013, SMU has helped in developing a Personal Finance elective module at ITE, supported ITE staff's training in pedagogy and curriculum delivery, and implemented student engagement activities on financial literacy. To date, over 140 SMU student trainers have completed the train-the-trainer programme.

PANEL 1: FINANCIAL TECHNOLOGY AND INCLUSION



SKBI Advisory Board member Professor David Lee (extreme right) moderated a panel discussion on 'Financial Technology and Inclusion'.

HARNESSING FINANCIAL TECHNOLOGIES

The 6th Annual SKBI Conference explored the growing use of Fintech and Financial Inclusion

The emerging area of Financial Technology (or Fintech) and Financial Inclusion proved to be of great interest to the more than 300 professionals from the financial industry, financial innovators, investors, regulators and academia, who attended the 6th Annual SKBI Conference. Jointly organised by the Sim Kee Boon Institute for Financial Economics (SKBI) at SMU and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and supported by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) and the United Overseas Bank, it was held on 18-19 August 2016 at SMU's Mochtar Riady Auditorium.

Themed "Fintech and Financial Inclusion", the conference explored the growing use of financial technologies and how these can contribute to financial inclusion.

CRITICAL DIFFERENTIATOR

In his Opening Remarks, Mr Piyush Gupta, Chairman of SKBI's Advisory Board and CEO of DBS Group said that with Singapore's strong public-private sector ties, the country is poised to be a living lab for Fintech. He noted that societies will have to grapple with issues of data privacy, data security and data access, and that Singapore is the ideal country to pull these pieces together.

Mr S Iswaran, Minister for Trade and Industry (Industry) and Co-Chairman of the Committee on the Future Economy said in his Opening Speech that Fintech is a critical differentiator for Singapore to remain a financial hub in the region. He noted that Singapore has sought to strike an optimal regulatory balance between ensuring the financial system's safety and stability, and providing an environment conducive for Fintech innovation.

Minister Iswaran added that the Government will also support Singapore companies in the adoption of Fintech — particularly e-payments — which confer on SMEs big productivity gains. He urged industry participants to cooperate in order to build Singapore's Fintech ecosystem via sharing their research, insights and ideas.

STRATEGIES, SOLUTIONS & SCENARIOS

Mr Chen Long, Chief Strategy Officer of Ant Financial, delivered the Keynote Speech "From Fintech to Finlife: the future of Fintech and Inclusive Finance" in which he shared the development of Fintech in China in recent years. This was followed by panel discussions by experts from IMF, Interruptiv, Plug & Play FinTech and Stanford University who shared insights on various Fintech issues. The first day concluded with a

Below Mr Chen Long, Chief Strategy Officer of Ant Financial, spoke on the development of Fintech in China in recent years.



→ TOWARDS AN e-payments society

In his Keynote Speech on Day 2, MAS Managing Director Mr Ravi Menon (above, right) unveiled the vision to make Singapore an e-payments society. He said that of all the developments in Fintech, it is in e-payments where the gains in financial inclusion are potentially strongest, as everyone needs to use payment services. In his view, an e-payments society "will be inclusive, innovative, and perhaps, even inspiring." He outlined four strategies to achieve this:

- ▶ **Streamlined regulation** which is targeted, activity-based and risk-appropriate;
- ▶ **Inclusive governance** framework that brings together different stakeholders to guide the development of Singapore's payments landscape in a coherent way;
- ▶ **Interoperable infrastructure** to enable swift, simple, and secure electronic payments for all;
- ▶ **Pervasive digitisation** to help firms integrate their digital processes with electronic payments solutions, so as to maximise productivity and efficiency gains.

dinner featuring a speech by Dr Janil Puthucherry, Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information & Ministry of Education.

Panel discussions on Day 2 explored topics such as Smart Nation, Sharing Economy, and e-Residency, and Virtual Currencies and Payment Systems by experts from the European Central Bank, Mitsubishi UFJ, Microsoft and Indian School of Business. The day ended with a roundtable discussion on policy challenges by representatives from Reserve Bank of India, Central Bank of the Philippines, MAS and University of Nairobi. The session was moderated by Mr Rhee Changyong, Director of Asia and Pacific Department, IMF.

Below Mr S Iswaran, Minister for Trade and Industry (Industry) and Co-Chairman of the Committee on the Future Economy, delivered the Opening Speech on Day 1 of the 6th Annual SKBI Conference.



The SMU TA-Centre for Excellence in Taxation Annual Conference 2016 provided a glimpse into future policy considerations

TAX TRENDS OF TOMORROW

Change is inevitable, and the world's evolving socio-economic and political landscape should spur policymakers into rethinking current international tax frameworks. This was the main focus of the Second SMU-TA Centre for Excellence in Taxation (CET) Annual Conference. Held on 9 September 2016 at the Marina Bay Sands Expo and Convention in Singapore, it was attended by more than 150 participants from the region, who heard insights from Guest-of-Honour Ms Indranee Rajah, Singapore's Senior Minister of State for Law and Finance, as well as from government, industry and research experts.

Designed to be a unique forum for tax practitioners, policymakers and academics to discuss key issues related to international tax policies and trends with a particular focus on Asia, this year's conference was themed "The Future of Tax – Reforms for Growth and Protection of Revenue Base".

SPEAKERS & PANNELISTS

- **Prof Dr Jeffrey Owens** Director, WU Global Tax Policy Center, Institute for Austrian and International Tax Law, WU (Vienna University of Economics and Business), and Chairman of SMU-TA CET Technical Advisory Panel
- **Prof David Rosebloom** Director, International Tax Program, School of Law, New York University
- **Prof Philip Baker QC** Visiting Professor, Tax Law, Oxford University, and Barrister and Queen's Counsel, Field Court Tax Chambers
- **Prof Dr Alfred Storck** Managing Director, WU Transfer Pricing Center at the Institute for Austrian and International Tax Law at Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU)
- **Dr Raffaele Petrucci** Managing Director, WU Transfer Pricing Center, Institute for Austrian and International Tax Law at Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU) and Transfer Pricing Advisor, Deloitte (Vienna, Austria)
- **Mr Yuri Araki** Deputy Director, International Operations Division National Tax Agency, Japan
- **Prof Dr John Hutagaol** Director, International Taxation, Directorate-General of Taxes, Ministry of Finance, Indonesia

attract and retain business activities.

The conference looked into pertinent issues and the latest developments in international taxation. The experts and Centre's researchers shared views on the reform of tax systems, the inter-relationship between governments and businesses, the impact and challenges of Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) implementation, as well as tax treaties and transfer pricing developments in the region.

SMU-TA CET Director and SMU Associate Professor of Accounting Goh Beng Wee said that the role of taxes has evolved greatly over time. There are many perspectives from which tax issues can and should be considered. This, in Assoc Prof Goh's view, "is what makes tax research exciting. I hope through good quality discussions and research, the SMU-TA CET will contribute to continuous improvement to the tax environment."

The SMU-TA CET is the first tax research centre in Singapore and was jointly set up by SMU's School of Accountancy and the Tax Academy of Singapore. It undertakes policy-relevant, practice-oriented research and provides thought leadership in international tax with a focus on Asian economies and tax systems.

A ROADMAP FOR THE YEARS AHEAD

SMU hosts dialogue on the future economy

Professor Hoon Hian Teck of SMU's School of Economics gave his take on the future economy during the panel discussion.

SMU SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS and the Ministry of Trade & Industry (MTI) jointly organised the MTI Economic Dialogue 2016 on 6 September at the Ngee Ann Kongsi Auditorium. The event was supported by National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University. Established in 2008, the annual Dialogue is a platform for students to gain insights into economic issues that Singapore faces. It also provides them the opportunity to gain a greater appreciation of the role played by the discipline of Economics in policymaking. Themed "Seizing Global Opportunities in our Future Economy", the dialogue was graced by Mr S Iswaran, Minister for Trade & Industry (Industry) and Co-Chairman of the Committee on the Future Economy. Some 250 participants — secondary, tertiary students, as well as policymakers and academics — attended the event.

In his Opening Speech, SMU President Professor Arnoud De Meyer said that he believed Singapore can take advantage of its strength in ICT (Information, Communications and Technology), finance and legal services to be a trusted provider of data and cyber-security services for companies in the region and beyond. Secondly, he said that Singapore needs to attract and retain manufacturing plants which have high levels of complexity and proprietary design of the products they produce, as well as the processes used to produce them. Thirdly, he suggested one way to make Singapore workers more resilient is to emphasise the importance of "learning to learn" skills for the future workforce. "At SMU, we seek to train students to develop domain, functional and market expertise," he said. "These legs must also be topped off with soft skills to make them adaptable and agile."

THE WAY FORWARD

In his Keynote Address, Minister Iswaran touched on two key areas of opportunities for Singapore. The first is the potential of ASEAN and India. The second pertains to the digital economy, which presents unprecedented opportunities for Singapore's businesses. He also shared areas that the Committee on the Future Economy is looking into to enable Singapore to capture global growth opportunities. These are: positioning Singapore as a digital hub and an innovation-led economy; and equipping Singaporeans with relevant skills and mindsets.

The speeches were followed by a panel discussion on topics such as technological disruption and the future of Singapore's manufacturing sector. In recognition of the achievements of top

Economics students at SMU, NUS and NTU, the MTI Academic Awards — the MTI Book Prize for the best 3rd year Economics student, and the MTI Best Thesis Award for the student(s) with the best thesis — were presented by Minister Iswaran. The former was won by Ms Kelly Goh, while the latter was won by Mr Tan Bing Yang.

SMU School of Economics student Ms Kelly Goh Wan Yun received the MTI Book Prize from Minister Iswaran.

SMU PROVIDED one of Singapore's senior leaders with a glimpse into proposed solutions for addressing urban flow and resource management, demand and supply management, as well as mass and personal flow control. On the afternoon of 21 June 2016, the University welcomed Mr Teo Chee Hean, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the National Research Foundation (NRF), who visited the Fujitsu-SMU Urban Computing & Engineering Corp Lab (UNICEN). The delegation was greeted by SMU President Professor Arnoud De Meyer; NRF CEO Professor Low Teck Seng; SMU Vice Provost Research and then-Dean of School of Information Systems Professor Steven Miller; Fujitsu Corporate Executive Officer, Head of Innovation Planning & Promotion Unit Mr Akihisa Kamata; and Executive Director of A*STAR Science and Engineering Research Council Prof Tan Sze Wee.

UNICEN is a synergistic industry-university partnership jointly funded by Fujitsu Limited (Fujitsu) and the NRF under the Corp Lab @ University Scheme. UNICEN seeks to conduct industry-relevant R&D by combining computing, behavioural economics and management science approaches to create intelligent systems to address local urban challenges. Established in October 2014, UNICEN is also the SMU arm of the Urban Computing & Engineering Centre of Excellence (CoE) — a public-private partnership between Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), Fujitsu and SMU. The lab's current research focus is on Dynamic Mobility & Flow Management and Maritime, Port & Logistics Optimisation.

For DPM Teo's visit, the UNICEN team showcased prototype agent-based simulators and mobile apps to be used for test-bed with industry partners. Professor

ADDRESSING URBAN CHALLENGES

DPM Teo Chee Hean visits Fujitsu-SMU Urban Computing & Engineering Corp Lab

Lau Hoong Chuin, Director of UNICEN, presented an overview of the lab, including its genesis, mission and vision, methodologies and research areas. Prof Lau, together with Dr Teng Teck Hou, then presented their research project "People Flow Simulation and Management in High Density Venues".

Assistant Professor Akshat Kumar of SMU

School of Information Systems then presented his research project "Maritime Traffic Prediction and Optimisation", followed by Associate Prof Cheng Shih-Fen, Deputy Director (Research) of UNICEN who presented on "Mobility on Demand for Future Cities". Mr Ryoichi Yamaura and Dr Eiji Kitagawa, Co-Director and Research Manager of UNICEN respectively, shared Fujitsu's research activities on "Incentive-based Crowd Management". Dr Hazel Khoo, Deputy Executive Director of A*STAR Science and Engineering Research Council, then shared the benefits of CoE and leveraging on the public-private partnership to solve industry partners' challenges. The presentations inspired questions and further discussions on converting crowds, queues and congestion to consumers, convenience and consumption.

DPM Teo rounded off his visit with a tour of SMU Labs which comprises a variety of learning spaces for individual study and group work. He met and interacted with UNICEN researchers and students.



MAKING BOLD STRIDES

SMU's School of Information Systems expands its footprint in western China

Fujitsu-SMU Urban Computing and Engineering Corp. Lab (UNICEN) at SMU and Service Management Institute at Sichuan University (SCU) have entered into an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on long-term research collaboration and talent development in Big Data and Urban Logistics. The MOU was inked on 29 August 2016 at the 17th Singapore-Sichuan Trade and Investment Committee (SSTIC) meeting in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan province. Under the MOU, both parties will also explore the setting up of an Urban Logistics Management Institute, organising mutual visits and joint workshops for Master's degree students, PhD students and researchers based on the relevant research topics.

Also at the SSTIC meeting, the SMU School of Information Systems (SIS) and the University of Electronic Science and Technology

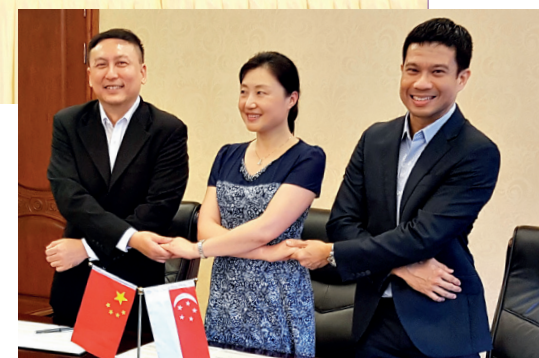
of China (UESTC), in Sichuan province, entered into an MOU for high-calibre UESTC undergraduates to enrol in the SMU Master of IT in Business (MITB) programme after completing their first three years of undergraduate studies at UESTC.

Under the terms of the MOU, UESTC students who have completed the third year of their undergraduate degree programme at UESTC may apply for conditional admission to the MITB Programme offered by SIS. Successful candidates will receive an offer of admission to the MITB Programme upon commencing the final year of their undergraduate degree. Upon completion of the SMU-UESTC 3+1.5 Fast-Track MITB Programme, students will be conferred a Bachelor's degree in Business Management, Economics, Computer Software or Engineering from UESTC as well as a MITB degree from SMU. The first intake of

the programme in August 2016 has attracted two high-calibre students. Up to 20 UESTC students will be admitted.

The SMU-UESTC MOU followed the signing of an MOU by SMU and UESTC with International Enterprise Singapore to collaborate on an Info-Communications Technology (ICT) Global Talent Network (GTN) programme, which was also signed at the SSTIC meeting. The ICT GTN aims to create a platform to enable Singapore ICT firms to tap on ICT talents in strategic locations.

On 2 September, SMU, Chongqing University (CQU) of China and Singapore logistics software and solutions provider Y3 Technologies Pte Ltd signed an MOU to establish a big data logistics laboratory and nurture talent in big data analysis. The three parties will work on projects that align with the Chongqing Connectivity Initiative (the 3rd



Director of UNICEN Prof Lau Hoong Chuin, Prof Wang Xu of Chongqing University, and Marc Dragon, CEO of Y3 Technologies, signed an MOU to strengthen strategic cooperation, enhance international academic interactions and technology exchanges.

Singapore-China government-led project), including multi-modal logistics and city logistics. Additionally, CQU will invite Y3 staff as guest lecturers and SMU faculty as visiting professors to lecture on product application cases and data analysis, as well as the application of knowledge. Y3 will hire strong CQU graduates, while SMU will consider enrolling outstanding CQU students for internships as well as its Masters or PhD programmes.

A new grant will support SMU's efforts in promoting training for professionals involved in the higher education of those with disabilities in Singapore

A BOOST FOR INCLUSIVITY

SMU's Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) team is set to strengthen its efforts to promote inclusive higher education practices, after receiving the Tote Board-Enabling Lives Initiative Grant. The two-year grant is provided by the Tote Board, in partnership with SG Enable.

With this grant, the D&I team will work with local Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs) to develop guides for disability services and disability services professionals in Singapore. The funding will also support training and development programmes for Disability Service Officers (DSOs) from these institutions.

Together, these projects will strengthen the network of disability service professionals and facilitate the sharing of best practices and case studies. The D&I team also hopes that the initiatives will address the broad-based education needs of students with disabilities.

These projects will tap on the D&I team's experiences with developing and administering disability services processes and protocols in higher education and adult training.

MEETING EMERGING NEEDS

With the success of earlier efforts to expand education opportunities and pathways for students with disabilities, disability requests at IHLs have increased in volume and

complexity in recent years. Professional codes and skills development for providers of disability services in higher education will equip and empower IHLs to better support students with disabilities; ensuring standards of care and access.

The grant was presented to SMU for its experience in the sector and commitment to inclusive education and work. Since 2014, SMU has organised programmes and events dedicated to promoting various aspects of diversity and inclusion. SMU is also a member in the Association for Higher Education and Disability.

This is the third of eight grants distributed as part of the Tote Board-Enabling Lives Initiative Grant. The programme aims to improve the wellbeing of persons with disabilities and their caregivers via innovative and evidence-based projects.



71% OF SINGAPOREANS SURVEYED SAY THEY SUPPORT THE IDEA OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION.
Source: Lien Foundation's Inclusive Attitudes Survey

NEW INITIATIVES by SMU's D&I Committee funded by the grant

SET ▶ guidelines and protocols for disability services in Institutes of Higher Learning and centres for adult training

SUPPORT ▶ training and development of Disability Service Officers (DSOs)

STRENGTHEN ▶ network of DSOs to share best practices and case studies

GETTING RE-TOOLED & RE-SKILLED FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADING

Mid-career professionals exploring new employment opportunities can now participate in the International Trading Professional Conversion Programme (PCP)

Prof Annie Koh representing SMU at the official launch of the International Trading PCP. Witnessing the signing are (back row, left to right) IE Singapore CEO Mr Lee Ark Boon, Minister Ong Ye Kung, IE Singapore Chairman Mr Seah Moon Ming, and former WDA Chief Executive Mr Ng Cher Pong.

Mr Lee Ark Boon, CEO of IE Singapore, stressed that there is always room for talent in this area. "If you have good analytical skills, a hunger to solve problems, a global perspective and ability to build strong relationships, you will thrive in this sector," he said. From now until 2020, around 15,000 jobs will be created in this sector.

As Singapore lacks a large domestic trading market, Mr Lee stressed the importance of a trading ecosystem with sophisticated finance and legal solutions, and skilled talent. He pointed to the International Trading PCP as an example of IE Singapore's partnership with institutions to build a talent pipeline for the sector.

TAILORED TO MEET DIVERSE NEEDS
The programme reskills mid-career professionals for diverse job functions in International Trading:

- ▶ Operations & risk management
- ▶ Supply chain management
- ▶ Trade finance & documentation
- ▶ Market Analysis
- ▶ Human Resource
- ▶ Finance



FAST-GROWING SECTOR

Accounting for 17 per cent of Singapore's Gross Domestic Product, international trading is a high-growth sector that is among the largest contributor for jobs here.



Assoc Prof Dr Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education & Ministry of Social and Family Development (left) presenting the award to Mr Jack Ho, Assistant Director, Diversity and Inclusion, SMU Office of Global Learning.

"Teach a woman to fish and she will not just fish, but change the whole fishing industry," said former United Nations (UN) Under-Secretary-General Dr Noeleen Heyzer to rapturous applause, at the inaugural Shirin Fozdar Annual Lecture held at SMU's Mochtar Riady Auditorium on 2 September 2016. The event's 250-strong audience were treated to insights and experiences from the outstanding woman leader who had achieved several record-breaking feats herself. Among those in attendance were SMU Chairman Mr Ho Kwon Ping, SMU President Professor Arnoud De Meyer, SMU Provost Professor Lily Kong, and several distinguished guests.

While the participants came from diverse walks of life, they all shared a common interest — Shirin Fozdar's movement. The late Mrs Fozdar is best remembered as an outspoken advocate and pioneer of women's rights — she was one of the founders of the Singapore Council of Women in 1952, and a key figure in the establishment of the Muslim Syariah Court and the Women's Charter in 1961. The event organised by the Shirin Fozdar Programme (SFP) at SMU celebrated women who dared to make differences for women and societal progress.

LIGHTING THE PATH FOR OTHERS

In line with the theme "At the Frontlines of Change: Women Who Dared", Dr Heyzer could not have been a more apt speaker for this inaugural lecture. In the words of SFP Chairperson Ms Claire Chiang, Dr Heyzer is an "eminent daughter of Singapore", who has been advocating rights and transformations for women, peace and security. Dr Heyzer was the first woman to serve as the Executive Secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and the first woman from outside North America to head the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). She has also received many awards for leadership, including the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal in 2004. She was the first international recipient of the Aletta Jacobs Prize from the University of Groningen, Netherlands, and the Woman of Distinction Award (2003) from

Dr Noeleen Heyzer delivered the inaugural Shirin Fozdar Annual Lecture



Above Former UN Under-Secretary-General Dr Noeleen Heyzer (centre) having received a token of appreciation after the inaugural Shirin Fozdar Annual Lecture, with (left to right) SFP Chairperson Ms Claire Chiang, SMU Chairman Mr Ho Kwon Ping, SMU Provost Prof Lily Kong and SMU President Prof Arnoud De Meyer.

Left Participants of the Lecture as well as the SFP and SMU organisers at the event.

→ MAKING A MARK

THE SFP HAS MADE AN IMPACT ON SMU STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF, AS WELL AS THE WIDER LOCAL AND REGIONAL COMMUNITY THROUGH ITS ACTIVE OUTREACH PROGRAMMES OVER THE YEARS. THIS YEAR, THE SFP HAS ESTABLISHED MORE FIRSTS:

- ▶ **AWARDING** the new Shirin Fozdar Scholarship to two female SMU undergraduate students from ASEAN
- ▶ **CONFERRING** the Shirin Fozdar Fellowship to two faculty members to support research that will make a difference to women's lives and build knowledge on women's issues
- ▶ **SETTING UP** the Shirin Fozdar Diversity & Inclusion Award to recognise and celebrate contributions by individuals or groups to the enhancement, support and advancement of diversity and inclusion on campus and in the community

the UN-NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York, USA. Dr Heyzer is currently Lee Kong Chian Distinguished Fellow at SMU. In her opening remarks, Ms Chiang also described Dr Heyzer as "someone who lights up the path for others", just like Mrs Fozdar did. The lecture and SFP seeks to "Ignite the flame within us to light up the path for others" — a motto that has led SFP's mission.

A SALUTE TO HEROINES

Dr Heyzer paid tribute to women pioneers such as Singapore war heroine Elizabeth Choy and African-American Civil Rights activist Rosa Parks, illustrating that countless women have formed a movement and dared to transform lives. She discussed women leadership issues for a more inclusive and sustainable future, and shared about her own work on gender equality and female empowerment in the UN. "My hope is that with greater wisdom and more women leadership, humanity will finally have two wings soaring in the 21st century," she concluded, echoing Mrs Fozdar's belief and fundamentals of the SFP's vision — that it takes both men and women to work in unison for the community and society to reach greater heights.

In the question-and-answer session that followed moderator Prof Kong asked, "Do you see a time when Singapore might be led by a woman Prime Minister?" Dr Heyzer remarked candidly that "if it's possible to have a first woman provost, why not a prime minister?", before elaborating further. She was referring to Prof Kong being the first female provost in Singapore. Guests also posed questions across topics such as paternity leave, Asian values and women's issues.

In closing, Prof De Meyer thanked Dr Heyzer, Ms Chiang and the audience. He noted that Dr Heyzer has demonstrated in action what the SFP hopes to achieve — advocating women leadership, empowering others to dare to make differences, and taking to the frontlines of change for women's and society's progress. Ms Chiang, on the other hand, has been a constant force driving the SFP mission, and her ambition and energy will keep the legacy of Shirin Fozdar alive through the SFP at SMU. Prof De Meyer also said that the SFP aligns deeply with the University's strongly-anchored thrust in Diversity and Inclusion — SMU is the first education institution in Singapore to have a full D&I function.



Dr Noeleen Heyzer presenting her lecture on 2 September 2016.

→ **OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED** on 28 July 2016 by Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) Mr Ong Ye Kung, the International Trading PCP is jointly developed by IE Singapore with the then-Singapore Workforce Development Agency [now Workforce Singapore (WSG)], SMU's International Trading Institute (ITI) and the International Chamber of Commerce Academy. The one-year programme aims to reskill mid-career professionals and provide jobs in international trading. It is part of the Singapore Government's Adapt and Grow initiative that helps Singaporeans acclimatise to changing job demands, and is the first PCP where two institutions are delivering a joint curriculum. The first cohort of 24 participants began their programme at SMU ITI in November 2016.

On 27 September 2016, SMU Provost Professor Lily Kong became the first faculty member ever to deliver the University's Presidential Distinguished Lecturer Series. Lecturers in the Series have covered a diverse range of fascinating topics from economics, national development, government, management, leadership, innovation and environmental sustainability to data privacy, education and happiness. However, not since the Series' first lecture in February 2005 has a speaker addressed the topic of religion. It proved to be an area of great interest to many people, and Prof Kong's lecture on "Religion and Space: Conflict and Violence in the Contemporary World" proved to be a crowd-puller indeed. Close to 350 people were in the audience at the Mochtar Riady Auditorium, along with others watching a live feed in the nearby Media Theatre. Participants included representatives from various religious orders, government sectors, educational institutions, research institutions, business chambers and corporations as well as the SMU community.

ON CREED, COMPETITION AND COMPROMISE

In her Presidential Distinguished Lecturer Series speech, SMU Provost Professor Lily Kong delivered many insights on the topic of 'religion and space'



SEEN
AND
HEARD

"The lecture started with a very clear outline and each theme was followed through with careful explanation. I've gained a better idea of how spaces function and influence religious issues."

Chen Jingfu, Student, National University of Singapore

"Excellent analogies and examples on religion and space... A very interesting and insightful lecture."

Tan Xiao Ying, Executive, Ministry of Home Affairs

"(The lecture) has presented new perspectives and a deeper understanding of the inner workings of religion and its connection with space. SMU should organise more lectures discussing social issues like this!"

Amrit Singh Gill, Student, SMU

SMU President Professor Arnoud De Meyer opened the proceedings with a welcome address. "About six months ago, Prof Lily Kong offered me a copy of her latest book, *Religion and Space: Competition, Conflict and Violence in the Contemporary World*, written with co-author Dr Orlando Woods," said Prof De Meyer. "The next morning I had to tell her that I almost had a sleepless night!" He said that the book was so compelling that he kept on reading well into the wee hours, and thought "that it would be a pity that only a small group of specialised readers would have the opportunity to hear about the creative research and ideas explored here... on how religious groups interact and negotiate for space in the contemporary world." As such he decided that that he would "create the opportunity for Prof Kong to showcase her research to the broader SMU community."

MAKING A CASE FOR SPACE

Prof Kong's lecture was largely drawn from the contents of her book. The use of space is integral to religions, she said. However, as sites of worship and destinations of

DID YOU KNOW

The Angullia Mosque, Ngee Ann Kongsi land, Bethesda Chapel, Chek Sian Teng Chinese Temple, Sri Sivan Temple and a Sikh temple were relocated to make way for the Mass Rapid Transit stations in the Orchard Road corridor.

pilgrimage, physical spaces themselves sometimes take on sacred significance. As different religious and secular needs compete for physical and symbolic space, conflict and even violence may erupt. As a result, spaces may become places to be fought over, defended and protected. She went on to explore how religious groups negotiate their claims to both religious and secular spaces, and how such claims may be managed, negotiated and contested by different secular and religious agencies. As globalisation has given rise to new forms of religious competition, these dynamics have evolved, she suggested. At the same time, in the face of competition, conflict and violence, religious groups need to



Prof Kong answered questions from members of a diverse audience.

develop a capacity for social resilience among their adherents. Prof Kong also discussed how religion plays a role in developing social resilience.

After the lecture, Prof De Meyer moderated a question-and-answer session between Prof Kong and the audience. Questions included those on how to avoid religious conflict and the role of government in relation to religious practices and managing religious spaces, and the implications of religious spaces becoming heritage spaces as well as the relationship between politics and religion. The discussion did not stop at the end of the Q&A session, but continued as Prof De Meyer and Prof Kong joined audience members in discussions at a dinner reception outside the auditorium.



SMU President Prof Arnoud De Meyer and Prof Lily Kong during the Q&A session.

PLANNING FOR THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW

SMU's strategies for the next stage of Singapore's economic growth

A response to the call to contribute to the dialogue initiated by the Committee on The Future Economy (CFE), SMU held a series of engagement sessions with faculty and staff to brainstorm and propose recommendations to add to the government's deliberations on strategies for the next stage of Singapore's economic growth.

Referring to the engagement sessions, SMU President Professor Arnoud De Meyer, said that "SMU has a role to play in the area of future jobs and skills. With the pace at which jobs change in the new economy, employees require a balance of job-specific skills as well as universal skills such as pattern recognition, strategy, communications and problem-solving."

He added that the University's dynamic curriculum emphasises developing critical skills such as

these. As an example, its new collaborative, experiential SMU-X courses bring students into contact with industry partners to work together as cross-disciplinary teams in solving real-world problems. This helps students develop functional skills and market expertise in addition to applying their acquired domain knowledge. "Most important of all, they develop soft skills and the ability to adapt to whatever is required for the jobs of Singapore's future economy," he said.

The SMU engagement sessions discussed future scenarios as well as practical challenges in view of Singapore's existing economic and

social structures. Under the leadership of SMU Provost Professor Lily Kong, faculty members and senior staff members produced various recommendations on five key areas: Corporate Capabilities and Innovation; Future Growth Industries & Markets; Future of Connectivity; Future City; and Future Jobs and Skills. These recommendations were put together in a paper titled "Contributions to the Committee on the Future Economy".

In the same vein as the efforts spearheaded by the CFE, the

engagement process at SMU was an inclusive one. An open invitation was made to all faculty and staff who were interested to attend the sessions. In addition, specific SMU staff members who have deep content knowledge of the five areas (through research, education or practice) were invited to participate and contribute their thoughts and expertise. The draft of the paper was shared with SMU's Board of Trustees, whose comments helped to refine and finalise it.



GENEROSITY IN PRACTICE

The Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry has bestowed a \$1.2 million gift to SMU to spur academic excellence

THE SINGAPORE CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION (SCCCF), the charity arm of the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCCI), has donated \$1.2 million each to the five public universities in Singapore. The donation was formalised at the University Scholarship Endowment Fund Inauguration Ceremony held at SCCCI on 9 September 2016. SMU President Professor Arnoud De Meyer signed the gift agreement with SCCCI Vice Chairman Mr Wu Hsioh Kwang.

The new Scholarship, which will commence in academic year 2017/2018, is a revamp of the existing Scholarship scheme. Established at SMU in 2001, the current SCCCFF Business Scholarship hands out four scholarships each year valued at \$10,000 each and is tenable for the recipient's one year of study. Four SMU students received the current SCCCFF Business Scholarship at the ceremony. They are Mr Neo Hui Shen, Year 2, Lee Kong Chian School of Business (LKCSB); Ms Melrose Tan (Year 4, LKCSB); Ms Lisa Tan Jia Ying (Year 3, School of Economics); and Mr Soh Jie Qi (Year 4, School of Accountancy). Ms Fadhillah Mohamed Faizan (Year 1, LKCSB) received the SCCCFF-Mendaki Scholarship.

Under the new Scholarship scheme which bears the same name, two Scholarships valued at \$15,000 each and tenable for up to three years will be awarded annually to SMU students in their second year of study. The award will fund students in any undergraduate degree programme at SMU. The Scholarship aims to motivate and reward academically-excellent undergraduates to achieve greater heights of academic excellence. The Scholarship is bond-free.

To be considered for the Scholarship, applicants must have achieved excellent



(Right to left) Ms Lisa Tan Jia Ying, Mr Soh Jie Qi, Mr Neo Hui Shen, SMU President Prof Arnoud De Meyer, SCCCI President Mr Thomas Chua, Ms Melrose Tan Qiu Hui and Ms Fadhillah Mohamed Faizan.

academic results, possess good character and leadership potential, have a good CCA and/or community service involvement record, and be effectively bilingual in English and Chinese. Preference will be given to students who are motivated to give back to society, and who demonstrate a keen interest and knowledge of local Chinese businesses.

"This scholarship is especially meaningful to me because it's the first that I have received during my university years," said Mr Neo Hui Shen, "It is an important recognition of my hard work, and will go a long way in motivating me to work harder in my future academic and non-academic pursuits." Added Ms Melrose Tan, "This scholarship has helped to relieve the financial burden on my family and has also given me an opportunity to learn about and gain exposure to Chinese businesses. I believe the opportunity to network with the SCCCI members will provide me with immense insights and knowledge which I truly appreciate."



NS
ADVOCATE
AWARD

SMU President,
Professor Arnoud
De Meyer receiving
the NS Advocate
Award from
Minister of Defence
Dr Ng Eng Hen.

SMU RECOGNISED FOR EXEMPLARY SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL SERVICE AND TOTAL DEFENCE CONTRIBUTIONS

SMU WAS ONE of 126 companies and individuals to be acknowledged for its exemplary support for National Service (NS) and our National Servicemen this year. The Singapore Ministry of Defence conferred upon the University the NS Advocate Award, and along with the accolade SMU receives the NS Mark (Gold), a new accreditation scheme that recognises all employers and organisations that support NS and total defence. On behalf of the University, SMU President Professor Arnoud De Meyer received the award from Defence Minister Dr Ng Eng Hen at the annual Total Defence Awards held at Pan Pacific Hotel Singapore on 26 August 2016.

Addressing the audience, Dr Ng emphasised the importance of the wider community's role in supporting NS and strengthening Total Defence. "Businesses, organisations and individuals make a difference too," he said. "When you support your NS men in your company or provide civil resources during mobilisation, you are directly contributing to Singapore's security." First introduced in 1986, the NS Advocate Award is given out to four groups — small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); large companies; organisations; and individuals. This year, award winners included 52 SMEs, 34 large companies, 28 organisations and 12 individuals.

Mr Goh Thiag Hock (right), Director of SMU Office of Facilities Management, received the award at the ASEAN Energy Awards 2016 Ceremony.

ASEAN
ENERGY
AWARDS



SMU WINS FOR ITS ENERGY-MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

AT THE ASEAN Energy Awards 2016, the University picked up its first-ever regional accolade for sustainable energy-management practices. Mr Goh Thiag Hock, Director of SMU's Office of Facilities Management (OFM), received the ASEAN Best Practices Awards for Energy Efficient Buildings (Retrofitted Building Category) from HE Mr. Viraphonh Viravong, Vice Minister, Ministry of Energy and Mines, Lao PDR. The ceremony was held at the 34th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting Gala Dinner on 21 September 2016 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. The awards aim to promote regional cooperation on energy efficiency and laud the efforts of the private sector in energy management.

Mr Goh praised the OFM team's efforts in carrying out the retrofitting exercise for the centralised Campus Chilled Water Plant, which has improved the system efficiency of the plant. The exercise is part of OFM's efforts to review, select and improve operational efficiencies of systems and processes in SMU.

Photo: Ministry of Electricity & Energy, Myanmar

CELEBRATING A DECADE OF TRIUMPHS

SMU's Master of Professional Accounting (MPA) programme marked its 10th year in style

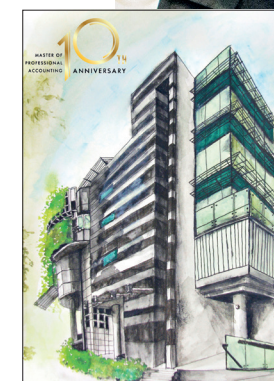
Among the ways the SMU MPA programme commemorated its 10th anniversary was via an evening of celebration and a show of heartfelt appreciation to multiple integral stakeholders. Several engagements marked the milestone and the programme's stellar achievements over the last decade. The gala dinner held on 26 August 2016 at the Carlton Hotel was attended by about 230 guests made up of industry and academic partners, alumni, students, faculty and staff.

In his welcome message, SMU Dean of the School of Accountancy (SoA) Professor Cheng Qiang spoke of how the MPA's total cohort size has increased from 30 to more than 60 students a year. This demonstrated a healthy demand for accounting talents which has enabled the programme to grow from strength to strength. The increased collaborations and links with industry and academia have also contributed significantly to building the programme's relevance and distinction.

SMU Vice-Provost (Special Projects) Professor Francis Koh, in his congratulatory speech on behalf of SMU President Professor Arnoud De Meyer, echoed that the MPA is a well-designed programme that looks into various career paths and opportunities. Chairman of the SMU SoA Advisory Board Dr Ernest Kan congratulated MPA, SoA and SMU for its



SoA Dean Prof Cheng Qiang, Vice-Provost Prof Francis Koh, SoA Advisory Board Chairman Dr Ernest Kan and MPA Programme Director Assoc Prof Wang Jiwei kicked off the gala dinner by popping champagne.



The MPA 10th anniversary commemorative stamp collection.

Prof Sum Yee Loong (left) was among the list of faculty receiving the MPA Long Service Award from SoA Dean Prof Cheng.

success. On a university level, he said that it was the right decision for SoA to have started the programme. He also recognised SMU's contribution in helping Singapore expand the paths for the profession and grow the pool of accounting talents.

MILESTONES OF ACHIEVEMENT

Beyond Singapore's shores, MPA's success has been exemplified in areas such as SoA being ranked fifth in the world for archival research in financial accounting and sixth in all accounting areas in the Brigham Young University accounting research rankings. In recognition of faculty who have been instrumental to the MPA's success, long-service awards were given out. Awardees included 'tax guru' Professor Sum Yee Loong; 'passionate terminator' Associate Professor Themis Suwardy; Associate Professor Hwang Soo Chiat, who is 'knowledgeable and keeps students on their toes'; 'animated and engaging lecturer' Associate Professor Gilbert Tan; 'passionate and inspirational'

Associate Professor Pearl Tan; as well as Associate Professor Foo See Liang and Associate Professor Andrew Lee.

Another anniversary highlight is an initiative by the SMU MPA Alumni Group (MPAA) to establish the MPA10 Endowment Fund for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities. MPA has so far raised \$132,000 including matched funds. The Fund is expected to provide support of more than \$3,000 per year in perpetuity to CSR initiatives for the MPA community. To mark the occasion, MPA also produced a customised stamp collection. The painting on the stamps was done by Meisie Yang (MPA Class of 2016). The collection illustrates the milestones of MPA over a decade.

To entertain guests, performances were presented by MPA students and alumni. Open and silent auctions at the dinner also generated more than \$5,000 for the Endowment Fund. The items were donated by faculty and industry partners including Prof De Meyer, who contributed a canvas print photo entitled *Dusk@SMU*.



Photo: SGBC

Photo: NEA

GOLFING FOR A CAUSE

Driving home a message of goodwill at the SMU Charity Golf Classic

THERE'S NO BETTER WAY to give back than by having a whole lot of fun in the process. And on 28 July 2016, an enthusiastic crowd — SMU staff, students and their parents and alumni, as well as corporate and individual well-wishers — turned up to make the inaugural SMU Charity Golf Classic a runaway 'hit'.

Organised by the Office of Advancement with support from the SMU Golf Club, the event held at the Singapore Island Country Club's new course raised over \$160,000 for the SMU Steven Miller Scholarship, an endowed scholarship that assists needy students at the School of

Information Systems (SIS). After conquering the 18-hole course, the golfers and SMU staff tucked into a sumptuous dinner, complete with glasses of cold beer, against the backdrop of a breathtaking sunset. Mr Robert Yap, Chairman of SIS Board of Advisors, thanked the donors and organising committee for their efforts in helping to raise funds. Mr Yap also thanked Professor Steven Miller, who stepped down as founding dean of SIS in July this year, for his contributions to the School. "Steve's energy, vision, drive, commitment and leadership

in building a world-class SIS at SMU is now a reality — a rare and tremendous lifetime achievement," said Mr Yap. Prof Miller is now Vice Provost (Research) at SMU. Ms Chan Wai Leng, Director of Advancement said that the event, "also afforded SMU faculty, staff, student volunteers and our donors the opportunity to interact and get to know the university better." The organisers express their appreciation to all who took part as well as to Daimler South East Asia for sponsoring a Mercedes-Benz CLA 180 as the hole-in-one prize.

(Left to right) Mr Robert Yap, Chairman of SMU School of Information Systems Board of Advisors, with Mr Brian Mc Girr Head of Debt Solutions, Asia, International Clients, ABN AMRO; Mr John Tiong, Senior Vice President, Certis Cisco Security, and Mr Ng Yow Meng, Associate Group Director, Orange Tee, who were the Champion, 1st runner-up and 2nd runner-up for the individual stroke play stableford competition.



If you wish to contribute to the SMU Steven Miller Scholarship, please visit <https://giving.smu.edu.sg/givenow/steven-miller>

AT THE WINNERS' TABLE

A round-up of recent awards and accolades earned by the University in recent months



LEADERSHIP IN
SUSTAINABLE
DESIGN AND
PERFORMANCE
AWARD

SMU Senior Vice President Sim Teow Hong (centre right) received the award from Minister for the Environment and Water Resources Mr Masagos Zulkifli (centre left). With them are Mr Chia Ngiang Hong, President of SGBC (extreme left) and Mr Lee Fook Sun, Chairman of BCA (extreme right).

A PROACTIVE APPROACH TO ENERGY MANAGEMENT

SMU WAS A WINNER in the Excellence in Energy Management category at the Energy Efficiency National Partnership (EENP) Awards 2016. Jointly organised by the National Environment Agency, the Economic Development Board and the Energy Market Authority, the Awards aim to foster a culture of sustained energy-efficiency improvements in Singapore, and to encourage companies to adopt a proactive approach towards energy management.

OFM started its energy-efficiency programmes in 2007 and implemented an ISO 50001-certified energy management system in 2013. SMU's data centre also meets the SS564 Green Data Centre standards. In addition, more than 200 power meters have been installed in SMU to monitor energy consumption in each building and the important energy-consuming systems. These green efforts reduced SMU's total energy use from 25 GWh in 2006 to 16.8 GWh in 2015. The reduction in energy usage is enough to power about 1,782 4-room housing units for a year. SMU has also improved its energy intensity in terms of energy use per student by 65% from 2006 to 2015.

Mr Sim Teow Hong, SMU Senior Vice President, received the award from Minister for the Environment and Water Resources Mr Masagos Zulkifli on 4 October 2016. He said that SMU promotes the responsible use of energy on campus: "We adopt an inside-out approach, improving the areas within our purview in the first instance and promoting the culture of sustainability among stakeholders." He also shared that SMU will be adopting a two-pronged strategy to further improve energy efficiency: The first is to engage more often with students, faculty and staff to promote the mindset of 'responsible energy use'; and to encourage sustainable energy-saving initiatives. The second is to continue to find new and better ways to improve energy efficiency. This year, OFM's focus includes optimising demand management by using the facilities booking system and exploring better use of smart LED solutions.

ENERGY
EFFICIENCY
NATIONAL
PARTNERSHIP
AWARDS

Minister for the Environment and Water Resources Mr Masagos Zulkifli (third from right) and SMU Senior Vice President Mr Sim Teow Hong (second from right) with the members of the Office of Facilities Management team.



The race is on to the future — and SMU President Professor Arnoud De Meyer sought to inspire the University community with his call to accelerate its progress towards realising Vision 2025 in his 7th State of the University Address.

In his speech on 26 August 2016, Prof De Meyer reviewed the many significant successes over the past year as a prelude to calling for renewed efforts by the SMU community. Among the priorities he set for the year ahead were improving the quality of SMU's undergraduate intake; being innovative in undergraduate offerings; growing the University's postgraduate programmes in both quantity and quality; co-ordinating and integrating SMU's portfolio of offerings in continuing education into a seamless service; continuing to enhance SMU's research environment, funding and initiatives; raising the profile of SMU as a global city university; and engaging our alumni more effectively. In summing up, he said, "We must continue to build up with energy and confidence and leverage the diverse range of talents and expertise across our university." Prof De Meyer cited collaboration as an excellent way to pull together the collective efforts of various players. "Working collaboratively across our schools, offices, institutes and centres will enable us to get the best out of available opportunities and resources, and give our SMU community the added strength and momentum to accelerate ahead towards Vision 2025."

INFORMED AND INSPIRED

The President's message left the faculty members, staff and students feeling motivated and empowered. Associate Professor of Accounting

→ STUDENTS SAY

"The address helped to inspire a sense of pride in SMU and I felt optimistic about SMU's future."

Beatrice Wee, School of Law undergraduate, Member of SMU's award-winning moot teams

"SMU wants to be a test bed and thought leader for new ideas for the new generation of innovative learning and teaching... I felt energised and reassured that SMU has a strong future ahead because of the distinct goals set by the President."

Yash Mavani, President of the SMU Ambassador Corp and Economics undergraduate

(Practice) and then-Deputy Dean (now Dean), Postgraduate Professional Programmes Themim Suwardy, felt that it gave everyone a better sense of perspective and their role in the University's overall effort. "It's good to hear updates from other parts of the University that we normally do not interact with directly and it gives us a sense of many people doing different things to make this institution great."

Head and Associate Director of the Centre for Social Responsibility, Ms Devi, also welcomed the opportunity to learn about University developments outside her usual scope of responsibility. "It was interesting to hear updates on research by faculty and about the grants/fellowships they have received. I found of particular interest his update on SMU X and the interest among students in the School of Social Sciences' new PLE major. It was also good to be updated on SMU's involvement in the ASEAN University Games."

Assistant Professor of Law Chen Siyuan felt that the bigger picture provided by the President will help University members to work towards a higher standard of excellence. "There are many things going

on in a University with different people having different interests, so it comes down to ownership and passion if one truly wants to be globally transcendent," he said.

Chief Information Officer and Vice President, Integrated Information Technology Services Lau Kai Cheong sensed that the SMU community is positive about meeting the developments outlined by Prof De Meyer, saying, "Change is the only constant and we should be prepared for the accelerated changes coming our way."

Vanessa Lee, Manager in the Office of Research, felt that President De Meyer had presented his scorecard. "He showed how we, in our own areas, are contributing towards SMU's overall performance, and how we've been taking action to realise the vision we committed ourselves to on the whole as an organisation.



The Address was followed by a short but frank Question and Answer session.

PICKING UP THE PACE TOWARDS VISION 2025

SMU President Professor Arnoud De Meyer's State of the University Address 2016 energises the University community

Prof De Meyer chatting with SMU Students Association (SMUSA) President Fu Fei and SMUSA Assets Secretary Toshin Canute Sequeira.



(Left to right) Dean of the School of Economics Prof Bryce Hool; Dean of the Lee Kong Chian School of Business Prof Gerry George; and Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programmes Tom Estad, with the event door gift held by Prof George.

