CONVOCATION 2012: WELCOMING SMU’S BIGGEST STUDENT COHORT EVER

“Focus and study hard; but also find time to learn more about the wider world and how you can play a role in it.”

Mr Ho Kwon Ping, SMU Chairman

The way forward: President’s State of the University Address
LEAD STORY (pg 1)

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President Amoud De Meyer: Let’s shape our future together

By Lily Thuyhuyen

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President Amoud De Meyer: Let’s shape our future together!

SMU leaders take the world by storm

The Class of 2013’s big day

Valkyrian, Java Boy, open his heart

SMU: A place for all

All hands on deck for the inaugural Asia-Pacific Cup

SMU People

SMU Challenge: The numbers add up

Making a difference - with a book


Performing arts take the world by storm

Diversity in perfect harmony

SMU receives ASEAN community service award

A voice of hope rises boldly

A double win at Venture Dare 2012

Shaping the competitive edge of SMU graduates

Smart Day to collaborate with SMU

Taking partner governments to the next level

Leveraging Smart Duck, an initiative from the Hub

Inauguration of SMU-TECH City Lab and Smart Duck Center

A new partner for SMU

Fostering university in Southeast Asia to receive EMSE master data

Corporations with responsibilities in human rights

Business schools need more of SMU

SMU's future: a Forrester report

The Future of Higher Education

SMU Global Summit on the Future, Germany, 2012

- Broadening horizons, opening minds in a relationship with China

Linda Jackson, President of Ford, delivers public lecture in effective business leadership by S. K. Loh

A new platform to boost faculty engagement

Women in the Future

Innovation Asia

Wee Cheng, his first love and pride

Dr Orfeo Smith’s letter to SMU

Talking point: How to grow Singapore’s economy

Nuclear Clinton speaks at SMU

Discussing nuclear energy on Channel NewsAsia

Let’s Engage

This second issue of the new SMU Engage newsletter provides a timely review of the second half of 2012 with news of developments you can look forward to this year. We will share stories of both Convocation 2012, when we welcomed our 15th and largest cohort of students to our university, and on Commencement 2012, which marked the graduation of our 9th cohort and the start of the next stages of their lives.

The headline is a concise summary of the President’s Road to the University, in which he called for the SMU community to innovate and build the "want something, do something" culture he has witnessed recently at SMU.

To the 2nd section for a snapshot of the diverse student body at SMU, with stories on our students’ contributions to sports, the arts, community projects, as well as the broad range of opportunities and started the Kuo Hui Meng Career Centre.

Connections highlights IMU as an established hub of thought leadership. Among the high-profile speakers at the conference, U.S. Senator Al Franken from the United States, renowned for his wit and candor, was one of the highlights of the conference. IMU has also invited leading figures from the business, finance, and technology worlds to share their insights on industry trends and best practices.

And we have stories on what kinds of films are being projected in SMU’s university-wide film festival. The research shows that films are an excellent way to engage students and enhance their understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity. The festival provides a platform for students to explore different cultures and perspectives, fostering a greater understanding of the world around us.

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SMU leaders raise the roof at Convocation 2012

The 13th cohort of SMU students enjoyed a very different welcome, to a very different U.

Developing values is a lifelong process. Even if you become a great entrepreneur, you might end up rudderless, hit a rock and sink, if you do not start cultivating your values early in life.

Guest of Honour Dr Tan Chuan-Jin

Michael’s 13th batch of business leaders is treated to a whole different induction to NUS, where they were taught developing values asSMU’s Superheroes.

Think big, be big-hearted

"Think big, act big" said NUS President Tan Chuan-Jin.

A parade of stars in a grand finale

The 13th cohort of SMU students was welcomed with performances by members of WOCA Choirs. A tribute to the achievements of SMU students was made by the Singapore Armed Forces, and President Dr Tan Chuan-Jin. The audience was treated to a grand finale of performances by the Singapore Armed Forces, the Singapore National University Choir, and a parade of stars in a grand finale.

Convocation was attended by approximations, 600 members of SMU's academic community, including students, alumni, faculty, and staff. A special welcome was extended to the newly graduated students from NUS, who were invited to participate in the ceremony.
Big Day}

The well-rounded ideal

The Opening Ceremony on 27 July 2012, hosted by the Singapore Sports Council, SMU Chairman Mr. Kaven Leung and SMU President Dr. Lim Chuan Poh, was attended by the student body and representatives of all the institutions that comprised the Southeast Asian Games 2012. The event highlighted the philosophy of SMU as a well-rounded university, which emphasizes the development of students in both academic and co-curricular areas.

Valedictorian, Jack Moy, opens his heart

My speech at SMU was a deeply personal and heartfeltexpression of gratitude to all those who have supported and encouraged me throughout my academic journey. I am truly honored to be the valedictorian of my graduating class.

Memorable moments

In the morning, the athletes arrived at the stadium to the cheers of the crowd, while the SMU band played stirring tunes. The athletes were eager to showcase their talents and compete against each other.

Look far, think big, do right, and serve.

Guest of Honor: Dr. Mary Ann Taha

At Commencement 2012, SMU’s Valedictorian Award recipient, Mr. Jack Moy, shared a photo of his family and friends.

100m heroes

In a season full of sporting achievements by SMU undergraduates, those of Gary Yeo and Yeo Pin Xu stood out. Both made Singapore and SMU proud when they competed in the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics, respectively.

All hands on deck for the inaugural Asia Pacific Cup

Adding to the festive atmosphere of the event, the SMU band performed a special number, while the Asia Pacific University's cheer squad also took the stage.

LONDON 2012

On the track

At the Olympics, Gary broke a personal best of 10.04s in the 100m hurdles, while Yeo set a new personal best of 10.02s in the 100m. On the Paralympics, Yeo set a new world record in the T47 100m.

In the pool

Both Gary and Yeo also participated in the swimming events, with Gary setting a new personal best in the 100m freestyle and Yeo breaking a world record in the 100m breaststroke.

Business can bring about positive changes to improving communities.

Jack Moy
SMU Challenge: all the numbers add up

Join the name of community service. The SMU Challenge once again brought 15,000 students, faculty, alumni and staff together to address a significant challenge. The theme this year, "Am I the Change I wish to see?" took place from 15 March to 15 April. SMU community members brought their Banner to office, school and home to campaign for their cause. In addition, 1,000 students and staff members were expected to benefit from the SMU Challenge.

Participants in the Challenge gathered on 13 May in the Lee Hsien Loong Lecture Theatre to hear from the SMU Challenge Committee members and to find out the results of the challenge.

Making a difference... with a book

With others that age are focused on academic pursuits and finding their place in the world, the SMU students' book project, "The Book of Our Time", aims to provide a platform for them to express their thoughts and ideas on various aspects of life. The project encourages the students to look beyond their immediate lives and to think about the world in which they live.

Tapping into a smarter way to queue

The new version of the "Tick'it" app allows users to purchase tickets for events directly from their mobile devices. The app now includes features such as real-time updates on event availability and automatic notifications for upcoming events. Users can also view their purchase history and access information on upcoming events.

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Flashmob for charity

For four hours, the executives, teachers and students were clogging their heels. And it was no wonder, as it had been the first time that they were witnessing a Flashmob in the heart of Singapore. The Flashmob, which was aimed at raising funds for a local non-profit organization, was a huge success.

Performing arts troupes take the world by storm

Caderas Latinas dazzles with their moves

When SMU’s arts scene goes into full swing, the School of Music, Drama and Dance is a center of attraction. From the choral ensembles to the world-renowned orchestra, the School of Music, Drama and Dance offers a rich tapestry of cultural experiences to SMU students and the wider community.

SMU’s success story lauded by PM Lee

Some 4% of the university’s BSc undergraduates come from ASEAN countries, and 15% from countries that are not ASEAN members. However, the social integration of these diverse nationalities is a key element of the Malaysia Education and Employment Program (MEEP) for students who are not citizens of Malaysia. The program is designed to provide a supportive and inclusive environment for international students, with a focus on cultural exchange and social integration.

Welcome back to Coburg

Garth International Bursary for SEA students

Garth International Bursary for SEA students is a scholarship that provides financial support for students from Southeast Asia to pursue undergraduate studies at the University of Melbourne. The bursary is open to students from all ASEAN member countries and it provides full tuition fees, as well as a living allowance for the duration of the undergraduate program.

The 18th ASEAN Youth Day Meeting and the 7th TAYO ASEAN Award

The 18th ASEAN Youth Day Meeting and the 7th TAYO ASEAN Award is an annual event that aims to foster cultural exchange, youth development, and social innovation among ASEAN youth. The event features a variety of activities, such as cultural performances, workshops, and panel discussions, to promote understanding and cooperation among young people from different ASEAN countries.

SMU receives ASEAN community service award

The 18th ASEAN Youth Day Meeting and the 7th TAYO ASEAN Award was held in Singapore on 30 November 2012. During the event, students from different ASEAN countries gathered to share their experiences and to learn about the challenges and opportunities facing young people in the region.

Integrating the diversity of students, SMU was the first to introduce the ASEAN Community Service Award, which recognizes the contributions of students from ASEAN countries who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to community service and social responsibility. The award was presented to 10 outstanding students, who were selected based on their involvement in community service projects and their impact on the local community.
A voice of hope rings loudly
by Alan Goh

For many freshmen, SMU’s unique 3+3 undergraduate/graduate degree program offers them a chance to discover their passions. Early exposure to a wide variety of courses and study abroad programs allows them to explore different fields and find their interests. However, for some, especially those who come from less privileged backgrounds, the financial burden of higher education can be overwhelming.

Olivia Ng, a fresh graduate from the Office of Information Technology, is a testament to the challenges faced by students who struggle to balance their studies and finances. Despite facing financial difficulties, Olivia remained determined to pursue her passion and completed her degree with distinction.

Olivia’s story is not just an inspiration to her peers but also a reminder of the importance of support systems in helping students navigate their academic journey.

A double win at Accenture Gives 2012

The success of Olivia’s story is a reflection of the commitment of the Accenture Gives program, which aims to support students facing financial difficulties. The program provides scholarships and mentorship opportunities to help students like Olivia achieve their academic goals.

The program is not only about financial assistance but also aboutempowering students to become change-makers in their communities. By providing mentorship, students are encouraged to give back to society and make a positive impact.

The success of Olivia’s story is a testament to the power of mentorship and the importance of support in achieving one’s goals. It is a reminder that with the right support, students can overcome financial obstacles and pursue their dreams.

The Accenture Gives program is a shining example of how organizations can make a meaningful difference in the lives of students. By providing scholarships and mentorship opportunities, the program not only helps students financially but also empowers them to become change-makers in their communities. It is a testament to the power of mentorship and the importance of support in achieving one’s goals. It is a reminder that with the right support, students can overcome financial obstacles and pursue their dreams.

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Taking postgraduate professional education to the next level

SMU has embarked on a university-wide plan to expand the postgraduate professional programme offerings to create a stronger and more diverse student body. The plan will be implemented in the Faculty of Law, with changes in the curriculum and course offerings to better meet the needs of professionals.

Q1. Could you explain the reorganisation of the non-academic graduate programmes?

Professor Zeppetella: There are three key areas: First, we are looking at professional programmes that are not academic in nature, such as the Master of Laws and the Master of Laws (Foreign Law). These programmes are designed to provide students with practical skills and knowledge that they can apply in their professional careers. Second, we are looking at professional programmes that are more closely aligned with the current needs of the legal profession, such as the Master of Laws in International Business Law and the Master of Laws in Intellectual Property Law. These programmes are designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills that they need to succeed in their professional careers. Third, we are looking at professional programmes that are more closely aligned with the current needs of the legal profession, such as the Master of Laws in International Business Law and the Master of Laws in Intellectual Property Law. These programmes are designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills that they need to succeed in their professional careers.

II. Postgraduate Professional Programmes have achieved a number of noteworthy milestones.

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Questions about any further expansion and developments?

Professor Zeppetella: Our annual enrolment has increased from 600 to 900 in the last five years, and we are looking at expanding our postgraduate student population to 1,200 students. In order to achieve this, we will increase our intake of postgraduate programmes to 2,000 by the end of the Academic Year 2020/2021.

Q3. What differentiates SMU’s postgraduate professional programmes?

Professor Zeppetella: What makes us unique is the active dialogue with industry and the profession. Our postgraduate programmes are designed to provide students with practical skills and knowledge that they can apply in their professional careers. We are committed to providing a high-quality education that is relevant and responsive to the needs of the legal profession.

II. LiveAnalytics@SG: Launch of LiveLabs and SmartHub

SMU has recently launched SMU’s first Innovation Hub, LiveAnalytics@SG, which focuses on the development of innovative solutions for the Asian market. The Hub is designed to bring together faculty, students, industry partners, and government agencies to work on projects that have the potential to drive economic growth and social impact.

II. UOB and SMU launch Asia’s first Institute for SMEs

UOB and SMU have launched Asia’s first Institute for SMEs, the Institute for SMEs Asia. The Institute will focus on providing training and support for small and medium enterprises in the region, helping them to grow and become more competitive in the global market.
Corporate responsibilities in human rights

Lawyers, policymakers, HRD project leaders, and human rights representatives from 11 countries gathered at SMU in July 2013 for the 5th Annual Business Institute in International Human Rights, Business and Human Rights.

With an activity of speakers and representatives including US representatives and US officials, this event is the culmination of the annual Business Institute for Human Rights, a Summer Institute for SMU faculty and participants to examine case studies, trends, and challenges faced by SMU professionals, faculty, and students.

Established in 2006 by the Asian International Institute of Business, the Summer Institute is a collaborative effort between the Law School and the School of Business. It was hosted at SMU for the second consecutive year.

Business school leaders meet at SMU

For two days in late June 2013, SMU played host to the 3rd Annual Global Business Institute (AGBI), a conference that brought together 30 leaders from the business and public sectors in the Asia-Pacific region.

The conference was organized by the SMU School of Business and the AGBI, a business school based in Hong Kong. The event featured panel discussions and workshops on topics including corporate social responsibility, sustainability, and global business leadership.

The Future of Learning

The future of learning is rapidly changing. With increased access to information and technology, students are becoming more engaged and collaborative. This has led to a shift in how education is delivered, with more emphasis on personalized learning and online platforms.

Innovative teaching methods and technologies are being incorporated into traditional classrooms, allowing for a more interactive and personalized learning experience. This has led to a reevaluation of the role of institutions of higher education, with a focus on fostering critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills.

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Building a relationship with China

Inaugural Singapore Mediation Lecture by Mr S R Nathan

The Singapore Mediation Centre

Nobel Laureate Prof Paul Krugman delivers public lecture

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The Singapore Mediation Centre
A new platform to boost bilateral engagements

Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Heng Swee Keat said the aim of the platform is to enhance the dialogue and collaboration between Singapore and Malaysia. He added that it will allow for more effective and efficient engagement, especially in areas such as trade, tourism, and education.

Dr Heng said that the platform will enable both countries to share information and expertise, and facilitate partnerships in various sectors. He highlighted the importance of such partnerships in promoting economic growth and development.

"Our partnership has been strong and resilient despite challenges," Dr Heng said. "We look forward to strengthening our ties through this new platform to further deepen our collaboration and cooperation in various areas.'
Dr Della Suantio Lee’s gift to SMU

A generous contribution of $17.1 million by Dr Della Suantio Lee and the Della Lee Foundation will help to create excellence and future leaders at SMU.

Connections

Talking point: How to grow Singapore’s economy?

At the 1st ERIA-ADBI Economic Dialogue in November 2013, Second Minister for Home Affairs and Trade & Industry, Mr. S. Iswaran stressed the need for Singapore to maintain its competitive edge and create a conducive environment for businesses and industries. He believes that Singapore needs to continue to develop its human capital and attract more foreign investments. He also highlighted the importance of fostering innovation and research. Mr. Iswaran also emphasized the need for Singapore to be more open to foreign investments and to maintain its global competitiveness.

Hillary Clinton speaks at SMU

Delivering on the Promise of Economic Statecraft

U.S.-SMU relationship continues to expand with the establishment of the U.S.-SMU Center for Strategic Studies. The center aims to enhance understanding of the U.S.-Singapore relationship and to promote economic and educational ties. The center is supported by the U.S. State Department and SMU’s Office of International Affairs.

SMU President Tan Sri Dr D. B. Gillies noted, “The establishment of the U.S.-SMU Center for Strategic Studies is a testament to the strong partnership between SMU and the U.S. It will be a valuable resource for our students and faculty to explore the complexities of the U.S.-Singapore relationship.”
Discussing nuclear energy on Channel NewsAsia

Following a successful round of discussion on Channel NewsAsia’s Perspectives series in June 2012 on leadership, SMU President Professor Andrew De Meyer was invited to return to the programme on 2 September 2012 to share his views on the imperative topic of nuclear energy. In the hour-long programme, the panel of thought leaders engaged in an active discourse on whether nuclear power is the way to go for the world, and whether Asia can afford not to take the nuclear path.

Professor De Meyer commented that renewable sources of energy (e.g., wind, sun, geothermal, tidal waves) will remain a marginal energy source for many countries because there are limitations tied to these alternatives. For example, these sources may not be applicable in all countries due to geographical constraints; some sources such as solar and wind energy are very intermittent and supply is unstable. Renewable energy sources are also very expensive, thus not viable for some nations.

On nuclear energy developments in Southeast Asia, Professor De Meyer said that nuclear energy is such an important and high-risk project that those Southeast Asian countries pursuing it will most likely want to collaborate with its neighbours. He is therefore optimistic that ASEAN countries will work together on the matter.

Reflecting on the programme, Professor De Meyer also said, “I am convinced that if we want to maintain our standard of living and offer the same quality of life to the billions in China, India, Latin America, Africa or Southeast Asia, we will need to manage the energy supply. This will require a serious investment in energy conservation, the development of alternative (non-carbon based) energy sources and a careful investment in nuclear energy. I don’t think we should go all nuclear, but electricity sourced from nuclear energy is an important and diverse source of energy.”

He concluded that we should either reduce our standard of living, or cautiously include nuclear energy into our portfolio of electricity sources. But we must also invest in the technological developments of waste treatment and decommissioning of plants, as well as be more transparent and rational about the real dangers of nuclear energy.