



TO BE EMBARGOED UNTIL 4.30PM, WEDNESDAY, 15 JULY 2015

SMU celebrates its 12th and largest graduating class

Singapore, July 15, 2015 (Wednesday) – The Singapore Management University (SMU) kicked off the celebration of its 12th Commencement this afternoon, sending 2,348 graduates into the world. Among them is 45-year old Eugene Low, who serves as a Military Expert with the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF). Mr Low will be awarded his first degree, making SMU history as the oldest person to do so.

This is SMU's largest batch of graduates since its inception in 2000 as Singapore's first public-funded autonomous university.

Jubilant friends and family filled the Suntec Singapore Convention and Exhibition Centre to capacity, to witness a ceremony filled with colourful pomp and pageantry.

The Commencement ceremony was officially opened by SMU Chancellor, Mr Yong Pung How. The event's Guest-of-Honour, Deputy Prime Minister and Home Affairs Minister Teo Chee Hean gave the keynote speech to the over 6000-strong crowd.

The ceremony celebrated the graduation of 1,643 students who were awarded their bachelor degrees and 634 their master's. This year also saw a record number of over 70 students who received their doctorate degrees including pioneer graduands of four new programmes, namely PhD in Psychology, PhD in Business (General Management), Master of Science in Management and Master of Tri-Sector Collaboration.

Welcoming the new graduates to a family of close to 17, 000 SMU alumni, SMU President Professor Arnoud De Meyer said, "As the name of this ceremony (Commencement) suggests, this is really about looking at the future, starting something totally new. For that future I have (as President of this University) two wishes for you: that you will have learned to learn and that you will become active alumni. "

Professor De Meyer told the Class of 2015 that the professional world they will step into is a very different one from what it used to be. Organisations they will work in may look flatter and more networked and therefore career progressions may look very different than what you expect today.

To that end, he said “My strongest advice I can give you is to be flexible in the development of your professional career and continue to learn: continue to be curious, continue to absorb new knowledge and insights, and continue to be critical of whatever information you receive.”

“As you begin your careers, I urge all of you to keep the spirit of SMU alive and to espouse the principles that we consider so important. Carry our CIRCLE values of Commitment, Integrity, Responsibility, Collegiality, Leadership and Excellence with you wherever you go. These values are an integral part of SMU’s holistic approach to education. We have always emphasised not only the training of graduates intellectually, but also the nurturing of graduates with the heart,” he added.

Each year at the Commencement Ceremony, SMU recognises students from each School who have embraced these values with CIRCLE Awards. Winners of the CIRCLE Award are also distinguished by their all-round excellence in Student Life, Student Leadership, Community Service and Academic Studies. They have been actively involved in serving and giving back to SMU and the community at large. In addition, they have demonstrated leadership abilities, are upright in character, and well-respected by peers, staff, and faculty.

This year, double-degree graduate Jasper Wong Chun Yin from the School of Law and Lee Kong Chian School of Business has been selected as Valedictorian of SMU’s Class of 2015. Darren Ong Wei Sheng who also graduated with a double degree from the School of Accountancy and Lee Kong Chian School of Business has been named Salutatorian. Both stood out for their outstanding leadership skills, significant contributions to co-curricular activities and the community at large, good character records, excellent oratorical skills and excellent academic results (both achieved Summa Cum Laude).

Summing up his remarks for this year’s commencement ceremony, Professor De Meyer concluded, “To the entire Class of 2015, my heartiest congratulations and best wishes to all of you. I am confident you will step out to become leaders in your chosen fields and help to shape a better world!”

Senior Class Gift 2015

Each year, the graduating class raises funds collectively for the Senior Class Gift as a celebration of their journey and achievements at SMU. This tradition of giving back began when SMU’s pioneering class decided that the best legacy they could leave behind was one that could sustain for many generations to come. They decided that the most meaningful gift was to pool their funds together to form a scholarship that would ensure future generations of students – especially those who are financially stretched – would not find doors to an education at SMU closed to them. And hence the tradition of the Senior Class Gift at SMU was born. Gifts to the Senior Class Gift 2015 are pooled together towards the “Graduating Class of 2015 Scholarship”. The award will help cover tuition fees of the less fortunate undergraduates for one year of study at SMU. The scholarship will be awarded next

year for AY2016/2017. This year's collection continues till December 2015. This initiative is managed by the SMU Office of Alumni Relations.

SMU Warriors Scholarship (SWS) programme

The inaugural batch of 10 graduates under the first-of-its-kind SMU Warriors Scholarship (SWS) programme completed various postgraduate degrees with flying colours this year. Four of them celebrate their 50th birthday along with the nation and the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) this year. This marks a new milestone for the SMU-SAF collaboration launched last year, with the SAF personnel prepared for their second careers. It also demonstrates the strong value of excellent industry partnerships in driving talent development for the nation.

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Enclosures:

1. Speech by Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean
2. Speech by SMU Chairman Ho Kwon Ping
3. Speech by SMU President Prof Arnoud De Meyer

About the Singapore Management University

A premier university in Asia, the Singapore Management University (SMU) is internationally recognised for its world-class research and distinguished teaching. Established in 2000, SMU's mission is to generate leading-edge research with global impact and produce broad-based, creative and entrepreneurial leaders for the knowledge-based economy. SMU education is known for its highly interactive, collaborative and project-based approach to learning, and for its technologically enabled pedagogy of seminar-style teaching in small class sizes.

Home to around 8,800 undergraduate, postgraduate, executive and professional, full- and part-time students, SMU is comprised of six schools: School of Accountancy, Lee Kong Chian School of Business, School of Economics, School of Information Systems, School of Law, and School of Social Sciences. SMU offers a wide range of bachelors', masters' and PhD degree programmes in the disciplinary areas associated with the six schools, as well as in interdisciplinary combinations of these areas.

SMU has an emphasis on generating rigorous, high-impact, and relevant multi-disciplinary research that addresses Asian issues of global relevance. SMU faculty members collaborate with leading international researchers and universities from USA, Europe, China and India, as well as with partners in the business community and public sector, through its research institutes, centres and

labs. SMU's city campus is a state-of-the art facility located in the heart of downtown Singapore, fostering strategic linkages with business, government and the wider community. www.smu.edu.sg

For media queries, please contact:

Lyn Lee FOO (Ms)

Assistant Director

Singapore Management University

DID: (65) 6808 5238

Mobile: (65) 9694 0842

Email: lfoo@smu.edu.sg

Leila Thayalan (Ms)

Head, Corporate Communications

Singapore Management University

DID: (65) 6828 0235

Mobile : (65) 9689 1205

Email: leila@smu.edu.sg