



40th
ANNIVERSARY
COMMEMORATIVE
MAGAZINE 2013

**CELEBRATION
WITH A CAUSE.
LOOKING BACK,
PAYING IT FORWARD ■**



WELCOME FROM THE LSEAAS PRESIDENT

Turning 40, the LSEAAS has certainly come of age. I am humbled as I reflect on the years gone by in the history of the LSEAAS and am privileged to have inherited a leading, active and vibrant alumni association in Singapore. The LSEAAS Executive Committee has decided to celebrate our anniversary with a cause, adopting the motto “*Looking Back – Paying It Forward*”.

In *Looking Back* over the past forty years, alumni from all walks of life have played a part in weaving the fabric of the LSEAAS. I am told that in the early days, the few alumni got together over a simple meal, and recreational fun and games – often at each other’s homes. Forty years on, alumni still get together over a diverse and wide range of activities in our events calendar; each bound by a shared experience of studying at the LSE. In ways big or small, our pursuit of academic excellence at the School has shaped our learning and thinking in developing the individual that we are and facilitated a camaraderie with fellow students that has endured. The Gala Dinner is a celebration of the LSEAAS’ 40th Anniversary and of friendships over the years.

In *Paying It Forward*, the LSEAAS has a special and unique platform via The Singapore LSE Trust to enable us to support the next generation of Singaporean students who aspire to walk the same passageways as we did. We have reaped what others have sown and in turn, are encouraged to do likewise. In this magazine – and in the communication you have received prior to the Gala Dinner – the Organising Committee has collected the personal stories of selected recipients of The Singapore LSE Trust Award. They give us all a glimpse of how the Trust Award has impacted, even transformed, the lives of its recipients. Like my fellow LSEAAS Executive Committee Members, I am deeply motivated and inspired by these stories that have given us that added lift in volunteering for the cause and mission of the LSEAAS.

My heartfelt “thank you” goes to Professor Saw Swee Hock for underwriting the entire cost of the Gala Dinner and to Desmond Lim, Trustee of The Singapore LSE Trust, for sponsoring all the wines for the event. Desmond has also kindly sponsored ten tables for the recent graduates from the Classes of 2009-13. Their giving has made it possible that the full amount of funds raised from the Gala Dinner will go directly to The Singapore LSE Trust Awards.

The collaboration between the LSEAAS and the Trust in the run-up to this event has been exceptional. Collin Tseng-Liu, my predecessor as President of the LSEAAS and Trustee of The Singapore LSE Trust, has kindly acted as our link to the Trustees. The celebration owes much to those who volunteered in the Organising Committee and our Special Volunteers, as well as the LSEAAS Committee Members who have taken on additional responsibilities for the event. I am deeply thankful for their personal sacrifices and tireless efforts over the many months which have made this event possible. Finally, special thanks go to Stefan and Julia for their hard work in putting this Commemorative Magazine together.

To all my fellow alumni, thank you for coming out and supporting the LSEAAS’ 40th Anniversary Gala Dinner!

CONTENTS

- 1 Welcome from the LSEAAS President
- 2 Message from the LSE Director
- 3 Message from the Global LSE Alumni Association
- 4 Message from The Singapore LSE Trust
- 5 The LSEAAS
- 6 LSEAAS Executive Committee
- 7 Distinguished Alumni Award: Tharman Shanmugaratnam
- 8 Alumni Portrait: A.E. Wee
- 10 Life at the LSE Today
- 13 Opening of the Saw Swee Hock Student Centre
- 14 The Singapore LSE Trust
- 15 The Singapore LSE Trust Award Recipients (as of 2013)
- 16 Meet some of the Trust Award Recipients
- 18 LSEAAS Events
- 21 Acknowledgements

“THE GALA DINNER IS A
CELEBRATION OF THE LSEAAS’ 40TH
ANNIVERSARY AND OF FRIENDSHIPS
OVER THE YEARS.”



Garich Lim Shington
President of the LSE Alumni
Association of Singapore

MESSAGE FROM THE LSE DIRECTOR

It is my great privilege to congratulate the LSE Alumni Association of Singapore on reaching a truly historic landmark – one that reaffirms the very special relationship enjoyed between Singapore and the LSE.

Last March, in one of my first overseas visits as LSE Director, I visited Singapore to meet alumni and share with you my vision for the School. During my stay I was immediately struck by not only the great affection with which you hold the LSE, but also your passionate commitment to its future – a desire to help maintain and enhance its reputation as a world leading university for new generations.

I should not have been surprised. For 40 years the LSEAAS has been an invaluable resource to the 2,000-strong LSE alumni community in Singapore. You have created a network – on a voluntary basis, it should not be forgotten – that supports generations of alumni living and working in Singapore.

The LSE is greatly indebted to you. You are ambassadors, in the region and internationally. You demonstrate to the world the prominent role alumni groups can play in nurturing the vibrancy and the health of the School.

The LSEAAS supports the LSE at a strategic level, providing a platform for vital engagement and outreach initiatives – most obviously, through the hugely successful and important inaugural LSE Asia Forum in 2008.

You have also been pioneers in alumni philanthropy by setting up The Singapore LSE Trust. That philanthropic support extends to campus redevelopment, and it is fitting that as you celebrate your 40th anniversary, the Saw Swee Hock Student Centre prepares to open its doors in London as the first entirely new building on campus in 40 years. It will transform the student experience.

I am delighted to join you once more to share your celebrations. Congratulations on reaching such a wonderful milestone and thank you for your contribution to the LSE over the past 40 years – and, I very much hope, for many more years to come.



Professor Craig Calhoun
LSE Director

“FOR 40 YEARS THE LSEAAS HAS BEEN AN INVALUABLE RESOURCE TO THE 2,000-STRONG LSE ALUMNI COMMUNITY IN SINGAPORE. YOU HAVE CREATED A NETWORK - ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS, IT SHOULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN - THAT SUPPORTS GENERATIONS OF ALUMNI LIVING AND WORKING IN SINGAPORE.” ■

MESSAGE FROM THE GLOBAL LSE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Congratulations on your wonderful achievement!

One of the LSE's great strengths is that, while being a London School, it is truly a world class university with a rich international student base and alumni community.

As outgoing chair of the LSE Alumni Association it fills me with immense pride that LSEAAS, thousands of miles from London, embodies the School as a whole and is all that we hope a vibrant alumni association might be: active, engaged and committed to the LSE.

The LSEAAS is a wonderful example to our alumni groups around the world of what a great community of volunteers with the committed support of the School's Office of Development and Alumni Relations, the ODAR for short, can achieve. The LSE Asia Forum in Singapore and the visits by the cream of the LSE's faculty and the School's leadership are two of the ways in which ODAR has worked with the LSEAAS to make it a shining example of alumni engagement that other groups seek to emulate.

Your achievement in initially establishing and then successfully growing and maintaining the association over the past four decades should never be underestimated. The LSEAAS enables almost 2,000 alumni to access a range of services and, crucially, to network and stay connected with the LSE upon their return to Singapore. You are also an important “gateway”, which in turn enables the School and its wider alumni network to connect with, and draw upon, the considerable talent pool that your membership represents.

Thank you for all that you do for the alumni community as a whole. You lead by example and demonstrate the contribution we as alumni can all make to the LSE – and the collective impact we can have on the future of the School.

“AS OUTGOING CHAIR OF THE LSE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IT FILLS ME WITH IMMENSE PRIDE THAT LSEAAS, THOUSANDS OF MILES FROM LONDON, EMBODIES THE SCHOOL AS A WHOLE AND IS ALL THAT WE HOPE A VIBRANT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MIGHT BE: ACTIVE, ENGAGED AND COMMITTED TO THE LSE.” ■



Professor Jeffrey Golden
Chair, LSE Alumni Association
2011-2013

MESSAGE FROM THE SINGAPORE LSE TRUST

The Trustees of The Singapore LSE Trust celebrate the happy occasion of the LSE Alumni Association's 40th birthday with you.

"Looking Back, Paying It Forward" – the motto of the Alumni Association's birthday celebration – resonates with the aims of The Singapore LSE Trust. The simple ideals of working hard, caring deeply and putting what one has learnt into action for the greater good is what this important event is about.

Recipients of The Singapore LSE Trust Award will let us into how going to the LSE has been transformative, and motivated them to work to benefit society.

Your taking part in the dinner is a further step on that gracious journey, with the LSE Community. May it be filled with the spirit of adventure and true fellowship.



Jane Ittogi Shanmugaratnam
Chair, The Singapore LSE Trust

"THE SIMPLE IDEALS OF WORKING HARD, CARING DEEPLY AND PUTTING WHAT ONE HAS LEARNT INTO ACTION FOR THE GREATER GOOD IS WHAT THIS IMPORTANT EVENT IS ABOUT." ■

THE LSEAAS

The LSE Alumni Association of Singapore (LSEAAS) was founded by enthusiastic alumni forty years ago to bring the spirit of the School's motto of deepening our knowledge of the cause of things - *Rerum Cognoscere Causas* - to Singapore, many thousand miles away from Houghton Street. It provides various platforms for alumni and friends of the LSE to learn, network and re-live fond memories of their time studying in London. ■



BRIEF HISTORY

In September 1973, the LSEAAS was formally registered as a society with the Registry of Societies (0169/1973) in Singapore. Past luminaries closely associated with the LSE, and indeed the LSEAAS from the 1970s through to the 1990s include Professor You Poh Seng, former Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Goh Keng Swee and Professor Saw Swee Hock.

In the early 2000s, the LSEAAS experienced a revival of leadership which has carried on till the present day. We currently have almost 2,000 active members and are an increasingly active society. Turning 40 marks another milestone in our history, and we hope there are many more to come.

OUR MISSION

The LSEAAS continues a proud tradition of facilitating and organising events that are educational and entertaining as a means to maintain our links with the School and fellow alumni here in Singapore.

The LSEAAS is also the platform from which The Singapore LSE Trust was launched as an independent initiative in 2004.

Looking ahead, the LSEAAS is building closer ties with with our regional alumni chapters, particularly those of Southeast Asia. The LSEAAS Executive Committee believes that we can all benefit from the cross-cultural exchange with a wider pool of alumni. The work has already begun, and a series of initiatives will follow in the coming months. Do check our website and social media platforms for regular updates.

LSEAAS ACTIVITIES

The LSEAAS organises a variety of events. Similar to student life at the LSE, it offers a combination of serious academic study and interest in society – with conviviality and lots of fun! The event calendar includes the traditional "Bon Voyage" reception to send off the most recent batch of LSE students to London, talks or seminars about current topics by LSE scholars or illustrious alumni and community outreach events. You can find a selection of photographs from our events further on in this magazine, on pages 18 to 20.

The LSEAAS is also a member of the DUAL, the Distinguished Universities Alumni League, comprising a group of distinguished American and British Universities who open their respective events to fellow DUAL alumni.

To find out more about the LSEAAS and its events, please visit our website or scan the QR code with your smartphone.



LSEAAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



MR. GARICH LIM SHINGTON
PRESIDENT

MSc in the History of International Relations (2003)
Director, Seaward Chemicals Pte. Ltd.



DR. STEFAN ALTORFER-ONG
COMMITTEE MEMBER

MSc and PhD in Economic History (2003 and 2007)
Director, Wealth Management Asia-Pacific, UBS AG, Singapore



MS. MIAO FONG TIEN
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MSc in Media and Communications Regulation and Policy (2005)
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MSc in Accounting and Finance (2012)
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MR. TED LOW
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MS. GERTRINE CHEO
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LLB Bachelor of Laws (2011)
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MS. CAROL WEN YA
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Senior Analyst, Mitsui & Co. Energy Trading Singapore Pte Ltd



MR. CHONG CHOR MING
HONORARY TREASURER

BSc in Accounting and Finance (2010)
Executive (Community Relations), PUB Singapore

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD: THARMAN SHANMUGARATNAM



As we celebrate the LSEAAS' 40th Anniversary, the LSEAAS Executive Committee is proud to present the Distinguished Alumni Award to fellow LSE alumnus, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of Singapore, **Tharman Shanmugaratnam.**

DPM Tharman read Economics at the LSE and graduated with a BSc in Economics in 1981. In July 2011, he became only the third Singaporean recipient of the award of Honorary Fellowship of the LSE.

Tharman was appointed Deputy Prime Minister in the Singapore Cabinet in May 2011. He is also Minister for Finance, a responsibility he has performed since December 2007.

Tharman was made Chairman of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC), the policy steering committee of the IMF, in March 2011. He was also admitted to the Group of Thirty, also known as "The Consultative Group on International Economic and Monetary Affairs", in June 2008.

Tharman spent much of his earlier professional life at the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), where he was chief executive before entering politics in 2001. He has served in economic and education appointments since then, including five years as Minister for Education. In May 2011, he was also appointed Chairman of MAS. Tharman serves as Member of Parliament for Jurong GRC, and is 2nd Assistant Secretary-General of the People's Action Party.

Besides his responsibilities in Government, Tharman is Chairman of the Ong Teng Cheong Labour Leadership Institute; and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Singapore Indian Development Association (SINDA).

Following his bachelors education at the LSE, Tharman obtained an MPhil in Economics at Cambridge University. He later obtained a Masters in Public Administration at Harvard University, where he received the Lucius N Littauer Fellow award for outstanding performance and leadership potential. He became the fifth recipient of the Award of Honorary Fellow of the Economic Society of Singapore, in July 2010.

Tharman is married to fellow LSE alumna Jane Yumiko Ittogi, a lawyer by background who is now actively engaged in community work and the non-profit / arts sector, including Chair of The Singapore LSE Trust and Chair of the Singapore Art Museum. They have four children.

The LSEAAS Executive Committee is very grateful for the enthusiasm, vigour and willingness of DPM Tharman to engage with, and support the LSE Alumni Association of Singapore.



ALUMNI PORTRAIT A.E. WEE

The earliest graduate among the LSEAAS lifetime members is Ann Elizabeth Wee. She graduated from the School in 1947, just as the LSE moved back to its Houghton Street premises after a wartime exile in Cambridge, where Ann completed her first LSE year. Her story provides a precious glimpse of life at the LSE in those days. When the LSEAAS Executive Committee invited her to the 40th Anniversary Gala Dinner, she replied that “Alas, this 87-year-old ‘tiger’ (referring to her Chinese zodiac) is not very good at gala dinners these days, but if I can help with the magazine, let me know what is needed.” ■

In 1950, Ann Elizabeth Wilcox, a young LSE alumna of 24 years, stepped off the boat at Collyer Quay, following a three-week long voyage from her native England. Ann had arrived in Singapore to join her fiancé, H.L. Wee, a Singaporean lawyer whom she had met during her studies. She shared her boat with many exiled Chinese Communist sympathisers who wanted to return home to rebuild Maoist China. Maybe it was this coincidence – or the sheer suspicion of an independent woman hailing from what she calls “this hotbed of Communism” that was the LSE at the time – that aroused the suspicions of immigration officers. Ann later found out that the Colonial Government had called her next-door neighbours to inquire about her activities in Singapore. She recalled, “it was as if they had set up a spy ring to find out more about us. We had a good laugh.”

Ann had met her Singaporean fiancé five years earlier, in 1945, at a party in Cambridge, where he was studying law. She was reading economics at the LSE at the time; but along with her fellow students and faculty had been evacuated from central London to the venerable university town on the River Cam. During the war years, the LSE was housed in Cambridge’s Peterhouse College, while the School buildings on Houghton Street were used for the Ministry of Economic Warfare and later for the Air Ministry. The 450 undergraduate students who joined the LSE in Cambridge in 1944/45 together with Ann were mostly women – which must have been quite a sight in Cambridge, where women were not allowed as full members of the university until after the war (and where many colleges remained all-male until the 1970s). In an account of the School’s wartime exile in Cambridge, the former LSE Director Lord Ralph Dahrendorf described the LSE exiles as “strangers without gowns and with a lively interest in politics as well as the other sex.”

Ann returned to the Houghton Street campus with the rest of the School in 1945 to continue her studies, while her fiancé was working as a solicitor’s clerk before taking his final examination. She graduated from the LSE in 1947 with a BSc in Economics and set off for Singapore a few years later.

Ann and H.L. Wee were married in St. Andrew’s Cathedral in 1950 and she took on the name of Ann Elizabeth Wee. When asked if her parents had an issue of her marrying a Singaporean, she quotes what her father usually said to his friends who questioned her choice of husband that “I sent her to the LSE so she would learn not to follow the crowd, and now that she has done something which is not following the crowd, I can hardly object!”



1 & 2. LSE students in Cambridge during the war years, enjoying a tea break
3. The LSE in the late 1940s: Main entrance

Photo credits: LSE Library

Ann taught at the Methodist Girls’ School and joined the Social Welfare Department in 1955, where she was the only Caucasian social worker. She learnt the Chinese dialects of Cantonese and Hokkien on the job. One of the first phrases she had learnt to speak in Hokkien was, “eee aay ang boh hoh (her husband is not good)”. Two years later, she joined the Social Work Department of the then University of Singapore (what is now the National University of Singapore), which she headed from 1967 until her retirement in 1986. Ann still holds the position of Associate Professorial Fellow to-date and is the co-author of the only textbook on social work in Singapore, titled *Social Work In Context: A Reader*.

In parallel to her academic career, she volunteered on the Juvenile Court’s advisory panel for four decades until 2009. For her long-standing contributions to Singapore, Ann Elizabeth Wee was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal in 2010. A feature in the Sunday Times in 2011 called her the “Founding Mother of Social Work” in Singapore.

When talking about the early days of the LSE Alumni in colonial and early independence Singapore, Ann highlights her interactions with luminaries such as Prof. You Pong Seng, Dr. Goh Keng Swee and Yeoh Lam Kheong. Their countless debates about labour and welfare issues reminded her of the lively discussions during her student days. She cherished every opportunity to combine her interest in economics and anthropology with the ambition to build a more equitable society for Singapore, and her fellow LSE alumni acted as companions on this journey.

Ann Elizabeth Wee’s story is a powerful testimony of the daring and courage of our fellow LSE alumni; it is also an inspiration for what a difference our LSE alumni can make in our society.

“I CHERISHED EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO COMBINE MY INTEREST IN ECONOMICS AND ANTHROPOLOGY WITH THE AMBITION TO BUILD A MORE EQUITABLE SOCIETY FOR SINGAPORE, AND MY FELLOW LSE ALUMNI ACTED AS COMPANIONS ON THIS JOURNEY.”

A.E. WEE ■

LIFE AT THE LSE TODAY

As alumni, we all have fond memories of our time at the LSE, whether they be from attending a lecture at the Peacock Theatre for the first time, jostling with the other students for a sandwich at Wright's Bar, or from late night discussions with coursemates that went through till dawn. But what is life like at the school today? We wanted to hear from some of the current students and have asked two recipients of The Singapore LSE Trust Award to share their experiences with us. ■



BRENDA SOH
*The Singapore LSE Trust Award Recipient;
LLB (Bachelor of Laws, class of 2015)*

People often say that you may walk along Kingsway not knowing that you are right next to the LSE, one of the world's foremost social science universities. When I was a Fresher, this could not have been more true. Walking to my first Public Law lesson, I passed the building where my class was twice before realising that it was part of the school campus! Now that my days as a "confused Fresher" are over, I have come to realise that there are many little things that make up the life of an LSE student – queuing for the cheap sandwiches and 99p fries from Wright's Bar, LSE100 lectures in the Peacock Theatre, flocking to the Three Tuns Bar for drinks after our last paper, passing through the flurry of society activities along Houghton Street... and the list goes on – just like the spiral stairs in the Library.

The transition into university life was not merely a change in school and academic study. Looking back, what has made the past year memorable was the experience of meeting new friends, living independently, exploring new places and adapting to a new life in a City I had never set foot in before. I had to step out of my comfort zone to make friends with people from all over the world; but along the way I learnt that as long as I kept an open mind, cultural differences would not prevent me from having fun frolicking at Lincoln's Inn Fields with my Kenyan and Pakistani friends on the first day of snowfall, teaching the British how to use chopsticks and helping each other in our schoolwork.

Living away from home on my own for the first time, I was naturally apprehensive at first, but I got the hang of it soon enough. I learnt to manage my expenses, whip up some home-cooked food and organise my room (or perhaps my father would call it living in my own mess). The one thing that I took a while to adapt to was the weather. The frequent drizzles and perpetually strong winds were a stark difference from hot and humid Singapore, and I started to miss the abundance of sunshine back home.

However, thanks to the relatively strong Singaporean community both at the LSE and in London, I never felt too far away from home. Braving the freezing winter night on New Year's Eve to catch the fireworks by the River Thames, enjoying Chinese New Year steamboat dinners and huddling together in a room to watch "Ah Boys To Men" are just a few of the heartwarming memories I have with my Singaporean friends. Ultimately, the cure for homesickness is not the "chow mien" or the overpriced bubble-tea from Chinatown, it is knowing that in an unfamiliar place, one can find familiarity in fellow Singaporeans.

Nonetheless, the endless opportunities for exploration never failed to distract us from feeling homesick for too long. Ask any non-European student what the best thing about studying in the UK is, and the answer will probably be: cheap travelling! During the course of my first year, I explored several cities in and out of the UK. Every city had a different flavour to it, from the majestic white cliffs of Dover to the sombre heaviness lingering in the concentration camp site I visited in Berlin. Travelling and interacting with people have further broadened my mind and shaped my thinking, each one a truly memorable and unforgettable experience.

I have also taken the opportunity to enjoy musicals, visit museums, explore markets and appreciate the beautiful parks around London. When there was more opportunity and time, I was able to venture further, to Windsor Castle, Hampton Court Palace and I even managed to visit my friends in Warwick, Oxford and Newcastle. There is just so much that the LSE student life has to offer.

My first year in London has truly been nothing short of amazing, and though the three years I will be spending here seemed long at first, I am now afraid that the remaining two years will fly by too quickly. There is so much to learn both in and out of school, and I look forward to discovering even more in the next two years.

"I HAVE COME TO REALISE THAT THERE ARE MANY LITTLE THINGS THAT MAKE UP THE LIFE OF AN LSE STUDENT - QUEUING FOR THE CHEAP SANDWICHES AND 99P FRIES FROM WRIGHT'S BAR TO PASSING THROUGH THE FLURRY OF SOCIETY ACTIVITIES ALONG HOUGHTON STREET... AND THE LIST GOES ON - JUST LIKE THE SPIRAL STAIRS IN THE LIBRARY."

■ BRENDA SOH





MOHD ILHAM

*The Singapore LSE Trust Award Recipient,
BSc in Economics (class of 2015)*

Amidst the daily drudgery of lectures, it can be easy for a student to underestimate how big and diverse London truly is. On particularly lazy afternoons, there is nothing quite as enjoyable as opening a map and exploring the city on foot, with each borough offering a distinctly different character.

During my time here, my friends and I have never had a lack of activities to pursue and have had the opportunity to meet a lot of cool and interesting people from around the world. There are many native Londoners who organise meet-ups on the fly, and anyone is free to join them in activities ranging from pub-crawls to gaming nights. They regularly advertise these events on websites like reddit.com, so anyone can easily drop in for a few drinks and get to know new people, before enjoying a night out. The most important thing is to be open and friendly. I have some very fond memories with one of these groups where we got on one of the amphibious duck boats on the Thames – with a raucous rapping driver no less – and ended up with an invitation to visit Manchester the next day. London is surprisingly similar to Singapore, with few barriers to meeting people with similar interests. That said, it is a big City and so safety is something that I do need to consider, especially if I am out at night.

In the day, however, getting around the City is easy. I personally recommend walking from Highgate to Freud's Museum, popping by Belsize Park for refreshments. Drop by Hampstead, which is a stunning slice of old London surrounded by new developments and on the way back, stroll through Hampstead Heath, and stop at Kenwood house for tea. Following the Thames is also a great way to explore London. It has a brilliant panorama for photography, if you have a penchant for that, but please, no stopping in the middle of the pavement!

For daily necessities, Westfield, as well as other small malls, is a good place to shop while staying out of the rain. Londoners do not have a strict sense of fashion, so I can wear whatever I want as long as it protects me from the cold. On Sundays, my friends and I often take

to the vibrant markets of London. The museums are wonderful as well, but the smaller ones, such as the Hunterian and the Grant, are the most intriguing. The best times to go are when they have special exhibits, so I have found it useful to do some research before making my way to the museums. If you love spending time with animals, there are several shelters in Zone 2 that I like visiting. There is a zoo as well, though it is a bit small, and many exotic animals have been moved to the Whipsnade Zoo outside London. Regent's Park is my favourite green space for a cheap day out but my friends prefer Richmond Park for the deer.

The West End, where many students from the LSE live, is filled with entertainment venues to keep you occupied over the weekends. There is also Leicester Square, the Comedy Store, the West End theatres, and plenty of movie theatres where students can do to get their late night movie fix. Dropping into the pub for a Sunday roast is a good way to top it all off.

Five months into living in London, I realised that there was an East End chock-full of art and culture, an ethnic food paradise that I had not been to. I personally love the bagels on Brick Lane, a place I love as it is the best place to find cloth if you need it for any project. Contrary to hearsay, the East End is being gentrified. The place provides a great reprieve from the corporate side of London. I love it so much that I chose to move closer to it this year!

While London is an amazing city, LSE students love to enjoy the low-cost travel and the lovely countryside. All you need is a rail card that you can use to board a train which will take you around the UK and France for the weekend. It is beautiful up north and south (Brighton), where people are a little bit more relaxed and not as stressed. Since my friends and I had time last year, we just hopped on one of the budget airlines (last-minute openings are the best), flew to Central and Eastern Europe and stayed in the country for several days to see what it was like. By trying new things, I learnt a lot more about myself and I cannot wait to do more next year.

OPENING OF THE SAW SWEE HOCK STUDENT CENTRE

This year, the LSE will celebrate the opening of a new student centre, named in honour of the philanthropy of LSEAAAS Honorary Lifetime Member, Professor Saw Swee Hock. In a gesture that is testament to his generosity, Prof. Saw made a landmark gift to the building of the School's new Student Centre on the occasion of his 50th Anniversary as an LSE graduate. Unquestionably, Prof. Saw serves as an inspiration for fellow alumni in giving, both in Singapore and abroad. ■

In building a new student centre, the LSE is seeking to transform the facilities currently available for its vibrant student community. The school's stated goal is to build the best student centre in the UK. Upon completion, the Saw Swee Hock Student Centre will become a student hub at the heart of the LSE campus and will significantly improve the student experience. The Centre will be the first new building at the LSE in over 40 years, and will house school services including:

- the Students' Union reception
- the Advice and Representation Centre
- Sabbatical and General Manager's Offices
- an Internet Café and Large Venue Spaces
- a Pub
- a Media Centre
- a Fitness Centre including gym and dance studio
- a Faith Centre
- the LSE Accommodation, Sales and Marketing office
- the LSE Careers Service

Designed by Dublin-based architects O'Donnell and Tuomey, the geometry of the building will deliver an unconventional arrangement of irregular floors, enabling an adaptable use of space that can absorb the complexity and diversity of its function, and changing requirements for its use. In July 2012, the building design won the 2012 New London Award (NLA) in the Education category. The NLA is an architectural competition that recognises the very best in architecture, planning and development in the Capital.

Prof. Saw's landmark gift to the building of the new Student Centre is not his first donation to the LSE; he began with donations to the New Library, the New Academic Building, and also contributed to the LSE Asia Forums in Singapore and Beijing. Furthermore, he underwrote the LSEAAAS' 35th Anniversary Gala Dinner, as well as its 40th Anniversary Gala Dinner – in addition to his generous support of The Singapore LSE Trust.

Prof. Saw said: "The high level of academic rigour and challenge I encountered during my time at the LSE, and the PhD that I eventually received, played a huge role in my subsequent career development. In those days, I was made to feel part of a lively, diverse and inclusive student body, with the tradition of opposing political and social injustice. There were exciting anti-apartheid,



Photo credits: Osborne

anti-Vietnam war, CND and anti-colonial movements, marked by rousing speeches by academic and political luminaries. Students are the LSE's most valuable asset, and I am most privileged and proud to support an iconic building that can bring the student community closer together in ways not currently possible."

The photo above shows the Saw Swee Hock Centre in its current stage, shortly before opening. For a live webcam that shows progress on the building of the Saw Swee Hock Centre, you can scan the QR code below with your smartphone. The school also has a website that provides additional information on the Saw Swee Hock Student Centre.



Live Webcam



Information
Page

THE SINGAPORE LSE TRUST

Launched in 2004, The Singapore LSE Trust benefits from the contributions of distinguished LSE alumni who play a meaningful part in supporting young Singaporeans who have gained admission to the LSE on academic merit, but face financial obstacles. To enable such Singaporeans to realise their dreams, the Trust has to date raised more than one million Singapore dollars and has given out thirteen Singapore LSE Trust Awards.

The students qualifying for the Trust Awards have all made personal efforts to fund their studies, sometimes through work or through giving tuition. The Trustees see these Singaporeans as a committed group who will positively add to society and the nation.

Gifts to the Trust will provide direct undergraduate scholarships to Singaporean students. Owing to the generosity and support of alumni who have contributed in cash and in kind, the Trust has no expenses other than the direct funding of the Trust Awards. The Trust also has the distinction of being the first charitable trust of its kind established in Singapore for an overseas university. ■

THE SINGAPORE LSE TRUST AWARD

Recipients of The Singapore LSE Trust Award are Singaporeans who have gained admission to the LSE and who have successfully gone through two rounds of rigorous selection and assessment:

- First, by the LSE's Financial Support Office to ensure the pre-chosen group has a genuine financial need, with planned funding supplemented by family savings, borrowings, part-time work arrangements; and
- Second, through careful interviews by the Trustees of The Singapore LSE Trust, who select from among the LSE's pre-chosen group the special recipients who have the hunger for learning, want to pursue their dream at the LSE with a drive to succeed, and – importantly – have the grace and gratitude to give back.

As of 2012, the Singapore LSE Trustees have focussed on undergraduates, where assistance makes a bigger difference to the recipients. Successful applicants can expect to receive £15,000 per annum.

TRUSTEES

The Trustees of The Singapore LSE Trust include the following distinguished alumni:

- Ms. Jane Ittogi Shanmugaratnam, (*Chairperson*), Chair of Singapore Art Museum
- Mr. Eugene Lai, Managing Director and Co-Managing Partner of Southern Capital Group
- Mr. Lim Ho Kee, Chairman of Singapore Post Limited
- Mr. Desmond Lim, Chairman of Les Amis Group
- Mr. Low Chee Kian, Founder and Chairman of Cluny Park Capital
- Mr. Ong Ye Kung, Director of Group Strategy at Keppel Corporation

- Mr. Eugene Ooi, Partner at Allen & Gledhill LLP
- Mr. Tan Suec Chieh, Group Chief Executive Officer of NTUC Enterprise
- Mr. Wong Yew Meng, Retired Partner of PricewaterhouseCoopers
- Ms. Patricia Yeo, Group Finance Director of Hong Leong Investment Holdings Pte. Ltd.
- Mr. Collin Tseng-Liu (*Secretary-cum-Treasurer*), Chief Operating Officer (South-east Asia) of Baker & McKenzie

DONATIONS

As an Institution of Public Character, all donations to The Singapore LSE Trust will enjoy a 2.5-times-tax deduction, i.e. for every \$1,000 donated, \$2,500 will be deducted from the taxpayers' chargeable income. Donations to the Trust must be made by cheque and must be accompanied by a donation form, which can be found on the Trust's website or through the QR code below.

All the funds raised by the Trust are used directly for the funding of the Trust Awards and the Trust adheres to the highest standards of governance; all charitable donations and accounts are audited and filed annually by PricewaterhouseCoopers, Singapore.

Further information on The Singapore LSE Trust and donation forms can be found on the Trust's website: http://www.lsesingapore.com/index.php/lse_trust/. You can also scan the QR code with your smartphone.



Trust Website



Donation Form

THE SINGAPORE LSE TRUST AWARD RECIPIENTS (AS OF 2013)

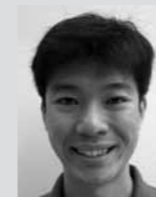
FORMER TRUST AWARD RECIPIENTS



CHAN ZHENG HAO
LLB (Bachelor of Laws, 2013)



WONG JEN HAN
BSc in Economics (2012)
Analyst, US Investment Bank



HENEDICK CHNG
MSc in Media and Communications (2011)
College Relations Officer at ITE College West and Part-time Associate at SIM University



FIRDAUS ARMAN
MSc in Management, Organisations and Governance (2011)
Consultant for Products and Services, Advisory at Ernst & Young LLP (UK)



CHONG LING LI
LLB (Bachelor of Laws, 2008)
Associate, Linklaters LLP, London

WENG WAN YI
MSc in History of International Relations (2007)
Assistant Superintendent, Singapore Police Force

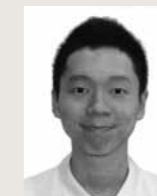
JUSTIN WONG
MSc in Biomedicine, Bioscience and Society (2007)
Assistant Superintendent, Singapore Police Force

TAN TAI KIAT
MSc in Public Policy and Administration (2006)
Assistant Director, Patient Support Services, KK Women's & Children's Hospital

CURRENT TRUST AWARD RECIPIENTS



CAI YONG
BSc in Economics (class of 2016)



JONATHAN LEAW
BSc in Economics (class of 2016)



MOHD ILHAM
BSc in Economics (class of 2015)



BRENDA SOH
LLB
(Bachelor of Laws, class of 2015)



ELAINE TAN
BSc in Geography with Economics
(class of 2014)



Far right:
Wong Jen Han

MEET SOME OF THE TRUST AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Singapore LSE Trust Award was established to support young Singaporeans who have gained admission to the LSE and who face financial hurdles in pursuit of an LSE education. Hear first hand from some of the Trust Award recipients about their experience at LSE, how the Trust Award has made a difference in their lives, and how they in turn endeavour to “Pay It Forward”. ■

WONG JEN HAN

BSc in Economics (2012)

Q: Please tell us a little about yourself

I grew up in a single-income Singaporean household of four. My family has always been thrifty and needed to keep track of expenses. At school, despite not always scoring top grades, I balanced studies and extra-curricular activities well, including gymnastics and kayaking. On hindsight, these elements played an integral part of my personal development during my formative years.

Q: Why did you choose the LSE and the Singapore LSE Trust Scholarship?

I began thinking seriously about studying overseas in junior college. Without question, the LSE emerged as my top choice. I wanted to gain a deeper understanding of Economics through a focused undergraduate education. And where else can one have the opportunity of both learning in a world-renowned institution and living in London, one of the greatest cities in the world?

Words cannot describe my elation when I received an offer to study at the LSE. However, my excitement was short-lived, as I faced an immediate challenge: Funding. At that time, my father was about to retire, and an education at the LSE would pose a severe drain on my family’s financial resources and cash flow.

I was fortunate to have been awarded The Singapore LSE Trust Award, which provided a means for me to obtain the education of my dreams. It is a unique scholarship in that it encourages students to pursue any discipline, while also imposing no work obligations or service “bonds” that many scholarships in Singapore typically come with. I was free to choose the industry and company I wished to work for upon graduation, which I am extremely grateful for today.

Q: How has your LSE experience shaped you?

My LSE experience was both enriching and memorable. The world-class education taught me important critical thinking skills, while my daily interactions with the driven and dynamic student body inspired me to aim high and dream big. London’s buzz and vibrancy as the world’s financial capital was also a true eye-opener for a young Singaporean boy like myself, and had a huge impact on my choice of pursuing a career in finance. I am now working as a corporate finance analyst in a US investment bank. Looking back, I truly appreciate my LSE experience, which had prepared me well for the challenges I encounter now on a daily basis. I am eager to see what the future brings.

Q: How do you intend to “Pay It Forward” and give back to society?

Without the Trust scholarship, I would not be the person I am today. I want to reach out and contribute through helping more fellow Singaporeans in the way The Singapore LSE Trust Award did for me. This is why I volunteered for the organising committee of the LSEAAAS 40th Anniversary Gala Dinner that will help to raise funds for The Singapore LSE Trust. To me, this is a meaningful cause, not only because I was a recipient myself, but also because an LSE education is life changing. It would be a pity if a deserving individual were to be denied this opportunity due to a lack of funding.

Alumni have taught me that people care – and have given me the precious gift of an LSE education. I believe that there are many more alumni out there who are happy to help, and this Gala Dinner serves as an avenue for alumni who have benefited from their own LSE experience to come forth to donate to a good cause.

ELAINE TAN

LSE Undergraduate, BSc in Economics and Geography (class of 2014)

Q: Please tell us a little about yourself

I grew up as the youngest of three children in a single-parent family. The best parts of my childhood were spent in my mother’s coffee shophouse in Redhill. Afternoons were spent helping out in our small “kopi” shop while waiting to sneak out the back door to play with the kids from the neighbourhood. I quickly realised that I was quite different from my peers at a prestigious all-girls school. I was more independent, more resourceful, and certainly more “hardy”. That being said, I was also less obedient, less studious and definitely less lady-like. I am very lucky to have an extremely supportive mother who did not place tremendous emphasis on academic excellence. She supported me in pursuing whatever I wanted, as long as I kept my grades decent enough.

Q: Why did you choose the LSE and the Singapore LSE Trust Scholarship?

The LSE’s strong interdisciplinary emphasis appealed to me. It is the only university to offer both geography and economics as one integrated degree. Furthermore the prospect of being able to live in London and following the School’s motto of “understanding the causes of things” seduced me greatly. I dreamt of being able to study there one day. But dream as I may have, I was deeply aware of the limitations of my family’s finances.

Raising three children and supporting two grandparents was not easy for my mother as a single parent. Her acute awareness of how restricted the future can be without a good education led her to make the many sacrifices she did in order to provide us with the best education we were capable of. Yet, the cost of an overseas education was a burden that I could not possibly have asked her to shoulder. I learnt of The Singapore LSE Trust Award while I was searching for financial help to fulfil my aspirations of attending the LSE. I am thankful for having been awarded the Trust Award; its value to me far outweighs its monetary sum of £30,000. The Trust Award transformed my life. It represents a fulfilment of dreams — my

“THE TRUST AWARD TRANSFORMED MY LIFE. IT REPRESENTS A FULFILMENT OF DREAMS – MY DREAM OF BEING ABLE TO FURTHER MY EDUCATION AT ONE OF THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS UNIVERSITIES IN THE WORLD, A MOTHER’S DREAM OF SEEING HER SEEING HER DAUGHTER SUCCEED IN SPITE OF FINANCIAL LIMITATIONS, AND IT SEEDED IN ME AN EMPOWERMENT TO DREAM OF BIGGER THINGS.”

■ ELAINE TAN

dream of being able to further my education at one of the most prestigious universities in the world, a mother’s dream of seeing her seeing her daughter succeed in spite of financial limitations, and it seeded in me an empowerment to dream of bigger things.

Q: How has your LSE experience shaped you?

My LSE experience has been humbling. I have learnt so much within the past two years, yet am increasing aware of how little I know. Having been accustomed to Singapore’s education system, the LSE compels me to retrain my “learning muscles” to become more sensitive to the different approaches to, and perspectives of any issue. To me, going abroad to study at the LSE is less about going to a new place and learning new content. It is about educating myself to learn, and coming home to revisit old ideas and places and with a fresh perspective.

Q: How do you intend to “Pay It Forward” and give back to society?

At the LSE, I served on the Committee of LSESU Singapore Society as an Events Officer, organising various events to foster a sense of camaraderie amongst Singaporeans at the LSE. I remember running around frantically one evening, reliving my coffee-shop days of old when we took on the challenge of whipping up a steamboat feast for 120 people during the Chinese New Year. While I served on the Committee of Singapore Society out of a desire to give back to the LSE community, I found myself being rewarded for my service.

I look forward to serving the LSE community further upon graduation. I have thoroughly enjoyed my LSE experience thus far, and that would not have been possible if not for the generous donations of those who have gone before me. I hope to be able to pay forward the gracious assistance that has been rendered to me someday — but for now I hope that my story will encourage you to empower others after me to experience the gift of an education at the LSE.



LSEAAS EVENTS

You can find more pictures from LSEAAS events on our website



1. Tribute to the Director, Sir Howard Davies at Bistro Du Vin

2, 9 & 10. The Singapore LSE Trust Dinner

3 & 13. Director of LSE, Prof. Craig Calhoun's Inaugural Visit to Singapore

4. Friends!

5. LSE Asia Forum (Singapore)

6 & 7. At The Conrad Centennial, Singapore

8. Dialogue with DPM Tharman Shanmugaratnam on Developments in Singapore

11. Prof. Saw Swee Hock at Au Jardin, Singapore

12. Professor Danny Quah at The Earshot Cafe



14 & 16.
Lombok Trip!

15.
Chinese New Year "Lo Hei" Lunch

17 & 18.
LSEAS AGM

19.
Shakespeare in the Park
at Fort Canning Park

20 & 22.
"Bon Voyage" Pre-Departure Events

21.
Community Outreach Day

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Executive Committee of the LSE Alumni Association of Singapore would like to thank the following people who have contributed much to the Gala Dinner and the Commemorative Magazine:

OUR SPECIAL ALUMNI:

- Deputy Prime Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam
- Professor Saw Swee Hock
- Ann Elizabeth Wee

THE TRUSTEES OF THE SINGAPORE LSE TRUST:

- Jane Ittogi Shanmugaratnam, *Chair*
- Eugene Lai
- Desmond Lim
- Lim Ho Kee
- Low Check Kian
- Ong Ye Kung
- Eugene Ooi
- Tan Suee Chieh
- Wong Yew Meng
- Patricia Yeo
- Collin Tseng-Liu, *Secretary-cum-Treasurer*

THE LSE TEAM:

- Professor Craig Calhoun, *Director of LSE*
- Professor Jeffrey Golden, *Chair of the LSE Alumni Association*
- LSE Office of Development and Alumni Relations, ODAR
- LSE Design Unit

THE DINNER ORGANISING COMMITTEE:

- Garich Lim Shington
- Geok Wen Ting
- Stefan Altorfer-Ong
- Carol Wen Ya
- Miao Fong Tien
- Wong Jen Han
- Marcus Aw

OUR SPECIAL VOLUNTEERS

- Julia Yap
- Sandy Chua
- Ashraf Maniam

AND ALL THE FELLOW LSEAS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

STAYING IN TOUCH

There are various ways for alumni in Singapore to connect with fellow alumni and keep abreast of what is happening at the School. Please check them out if you have not done so already! ■



LSEAAS MEMBERSHIP

Membership to the LSEAAS is open to all alumni and friends of the LSE. LSEAAS members will be notified by e-mail newsletters – our primary means of communication – about the latest academic, professional and social networking events. They will also be given priority bookings and discounted rates for our events.

The LSEAAS is a member of DUAL, the Distinguished Universities Alumni League comprising of 20 American and British universities. LSEAAS members will automatically be subscribed to DUAL e-mailers and included in invitations for DUAL events.

The LSEAAS also maintains close links with regional LSE Alumni Associations in Southeast Asia. From 2013, the LSEAAS Executive Committee has made this endeavour a priority and initiated several initiatives by building on existing relationships to develop and enhance stronger regional ties.

There are three categories of LSEAAS membership:

- **Alumni Biennial (two-year) Membership: S\$48**
- **Alumni Life-time Membership: S\$188**
(with a special rate of S\$100 for graduates who sign-up within two years of graduation)
- **Associates & Friends Membership: S\$78 for two years**

Please sign up through our website <http://www.lsesingapore.com/> or by scanning the QR code with your smartphone. In addition to the LSEAAS website, we are also on various social networking platforms including FaceBook, LinkedIn and Twitter.



HOUGHTON STREET ONLINE

Houghton Street Online (HSO) is the online community for alumni of the LSE. HSO allows you to remain close to your friends, stay in touch with the School and the wider worldwide alumni community and special interest groups.

Houghton Street Online provides:

Online Profile:

Your personal LSE space. Maintain and manage your personal details ensuring that you never lose contact with your friends or the School. You can invite others to join your network list, and email all your friends through the ‘Social Networking’ function. Please register with HSO if you have not already done so.

Online Directory:

A searchable directory of alumni. Search by country, career, name, degree or department to find your friends or make new contacts. Opt-in and list your details and make sure that your friends can always find you.

Alumni Groups:

Access to the worldwide network of alumni groups. Find alumni groups in your part of the world through each of the LSE alumni groups own web presence. This will allow you to join them and participate in the many regional alumni activities that go on throughout the world.

LSE Email Forwarding:

Your LSE alumni email address will offer a forwarding service so that you can read your LSE email from your preferred address whether at home, work or on the move.

Events and Reunions:

As well as an extensive international events and reunions calendar we are also introducing a secure booking and payment facility to ensure your place at them.

Professional Mentoring

Detailed access to the Alumni Professional Mentoring Network. Either as a mentor or a mentee you can manage your professional profile online or search the directory for a professional mentor.

Online Giving

A secure online donations facility allowing you to make Annual Fund and other gifts to support the School.

For more information on Houghton Street Online and to sign up, please visit the School’s website at <http://www.alumni.lse.ac.uk> or scan the QR code with your smartphone.

