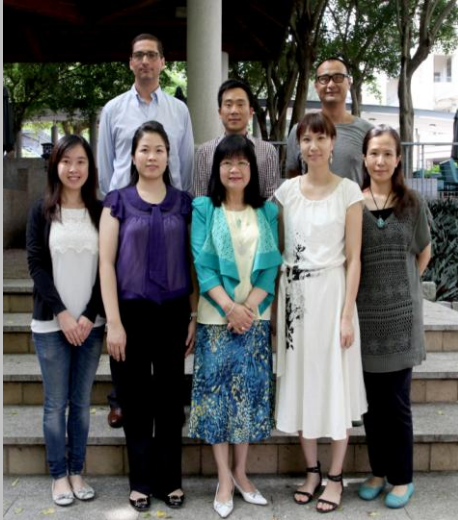


BACHELOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (HONS)

NEWSLETTER



Staff Photo
Department of Applied Psychology

DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY IS COMING IN JANUARY 2014

A new Department of Applied Psychology (with an academic niche in positive occupational health psychology) will be formed from January 2014 in the Faculty of Social Sciences. The new department enables Lingnan to better serve its liberal arts mission as psychology is a major component of liberal arts education. The University and the Faculty of Social Sciences have been supporting this endeavor over the past decade by gradually expanding the psychology group within the Sociology and Social Policy Department and setting up a Psychology Laboratory recently.

Content Page

- Page 2* *Opening of Psychology Laboratory*
- Page 3* *Social Sciences Programme Retreat, Discipline Major/Stream Briefing*
- Page 4* *Workshop on "Tax Reform: Directions for a Better World"*
- Page 5* *Students' Activities: LEAP*
- Page 6* *Students' Activities: Visit to Zero Carbon Building*
- Page 7* *Society of Social Sciences: Event Highlights*
- Page 8* *Society of Social Sciences: Event Highlights*
- Page 9* *Professor Brian Bridges*
- Page 10* *Welcome to Our New Colleagues*
- Page 13* *My Fruitful University Life*

Event Spotlight



THE OPENING OF PSYCHOLOGY LABORATORY

On 25th April 2013, the Department of Sociology and Social Policy had an opening ceremony for the Psychology Laboratory. The Lab is integral to the teaching and studying of behavioural sciences: its main aim is to provide students and staff the facilities to carry out experimental studies ranging from computer-based experiments to focus groups.

CONGRATULATIONS

General Research Fund (GRF) Humanities and Social Sciences Prestigious Fellowship Scheme (HSSPFS)

The GRF and HSSPFS are established by the University Grants Committee to encourage/recognize excellent academic research projects.

In the GRF and HSSPFS results for 2013-2014 application cycle, we are glad that Professors Wei Xiangdong, Siu Oi Ling, David Roman, Drs. Lucia Siu have won the GRF grants, Dr. Tam Wai Keung won the ECS grant, while Professor Peter Baehr won the HSSPFS grant.

Congratulate on their great success!



Opening Ceremony
Psychology Laboratory
25th April 2013

SOCIAL SCIENCES ANNUAL RETREAT

The Bachelor of Social Sciences (Hons) Programme Office together with the Departments of Economics, Political Science, and Sociology & Social Policy had its annual Retreat on 4th and 5th June 2013 in Macau. 42 faculty members participated in the Retreat where colleagues voiced and exchanged views on issues relating to the development of the Programme, teaching and learning, and research areas. The annual Programme Retreat not only nurtures a culture of collegiality, it instills a sense of collaborative responsibility and ownership of the programme.

DISCIPLINE MAJOR (DM)/STREAM BRIEFING

The Bachelor of Social Sciences (Hons) Programme Office held a DM/Stream Briefing to brief the 2nd year students under the 4-year system on the details of the individual DM/Stream, as well as the criteria for allocation of DMs/Streams on 7th October 2013. About 110 students participated in the Briefing, and they had an in depth understanding on the characteristics of each DM/Stream.



P.3

WORKSHOP ON “TAX REFORM: DIRECTIONS FOR A BETTER WORLD”

The Department of Economics co-organized a workshop on “Tax Reform: Directions for a Better World”, jointly with the Hong Kong Economic Association (of which Prof Ping Lin is President), The Chinese University of Hong Kong and The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology on 7 September 2013. We were honored to have Sir James Mirrlees, Nobel Laureate in Economic Science, to be the Keynote Speaker and Professor Leonard Cheng, President of Lingnan University, to give the Welcoming Address. Ten experts from local and overseas presented their papers.



Workshop on “Tax Reform: Directions for a Better World”
7 September 2013



Group Photos, LEAP



Mr. Ma Man Wai and Ms. Tanya Chan

BAUHINIA'S LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE & ADVANCEMENT PROGRAMME (LEAP)

The Bauhinia Foundation Research Centre invited our programme to nominate students to join their "LEAP" Programme from 3 to 5 July 2013 at Gold Coast Hotel. LEAP is a three-day intensive programme for local and international university students to explore their strengths, values and vision. Through distinguished talks, panel discussions, practical experiences, as well as self-reflection, students were given ample opportunities to learn to become competent leaders and responsible global citizens.

Mr. MA Man Wai, Year 3, International Studies Stream

The programme consisted of mainly talks and guest lectures, and sometimes some small games. There were talks from Henry Tang (唐英年先生), Simon Shen (沈旭暉教授), Tanya Chan (陳淑莊小姐), Norman Chan (陳德霖先生) etc. Also some sharing was made by business elite like James Hong (項明生先生), Elton Chan and Armstrong Lee.

What surprised me were my camp-mates. They were mostly from HKU, while others were from CU and UST. But at the same time, there were some students from Cambridge and Warwick. They indeed impressed me in both attitude and ability. As a team leader, I had much communication with them throughout the three days. I was grateful that under all the groupmates' efforts, we had a great learning experience in the presentation on the last day.

There were networking dinners every night, with some renowned guests from the public and business sectors. It was a great chance to learn from the talks and to build up networks with both groupmates and guests. I think these were my most precious gains from the Programme.

P.5

Wonderful Learning Experience

VISIT TO ZERO CARBON BUILDING

Dr. Steve Chan, the subject teacher of the course “POL 111 Ecology, the Environment and Society”, organized a visit for 26 students to Zero Carbon Building (ZCB) on 22 March, 2013. ZCB is a signature project to showcase state-of-the-art eco-building design and technologies to the construction industry internationally and locally and to raise community awareness of sustainable living in Hong Kong.

What Did Our Students Learn?

“The course covers topics of human and environment relationship, energy consumption and urban ecology. I find the Zero Carbon Building and our course share similar ideas with some ecological thoughts.”

“It is a golden opportunity to understand more advance environmentally friendly technology. It builds up my knowledge about how the technology helps to reduce environmental problem.”

“The design of the building plays an important role that uses airy design which lets the natural wind blows into the building. It reduces the time of using air conditioner which reduces the energy consumption.”



Visit to Zero Carbon Building on 22 March 2013



THE SOCIETY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Society has been working hard to organize activities for their members, and to help freshmen adapt to University life. The Society is also an important body to assist the Programme Office in conducting various activities, such as Academic Advising and Information Day.

Social Sciences Orientation Camp

The Social Sciences Orientation Camp was held from 15th to 17th August 2013. It was a big step for freshmen to enter into University. The Camp aims to help freshmen build up a sense of belonging to the University, and to provide them with an opportunity to meet new friends. About 100 new students joined the Camp. The freshmen enjoyed the activities and more importantly, they had built up a good relationship among themselves.

Social Sciences Orientation Day

In order to help freshmen experience a smooth transition to University life, the Bachelor of Social Sciences (Hons) Programme Office together with the Society of Social Sciences held a welcoming session for the new students under 4-year system on 23th August 2013.

More than 90 students joined this important event. The Programme Director briefed freshmen on the distinctive characteristics on our Programme, while professors gave valuable insights to freshmen on how to equip themselves for their future/career life. The society members shared their study experiences and gave guidance on course registration. Freshmen found the Orientation Day very useful for them to know more the Programme, as well as to prepare them for University life.

P.7

Society of Social Sciences



Interactive Game
Orientation Day



Sweet Memories
Orientation Camp

Social Sciences Orientation Night

The Orientation Night came on 23rd September 2013. This is another golden chance for the freshmen who missed the Social Sciences Orientation Day to meet with new friends and get more information about the University/Programme. The Society of Social Sciences organized a series of games and had a barbecue at the Butterfly Beach.

Social Sciences Week

The Society held its “Social Sciences Week” in March every year. The theme in 2013 was to arouse students’ awareness on “Nativism”. Through participating in a series of seminars, forums, film sharings and picnics, students had a more in-depth understanding of the popular cultures and hot topics/issues in Hong Kong.

Forthcoming Event

The Annual Dinner is coming in November 2013. It is an important event for the social sciences staff and students to have fun outside the classroom. It also serves the purpose of expressing appreciation to the efforts made by society and faculty members.



Prof. Brian Bridges
Department of
Political Science

FROM STUBBS ROAD TO FU TAI: Reflections on Two Decades in the Social Sciences Faculty

Sorting through old files and lecture notes, some dating right back to when I first joined Lingnan in 1993, has prompted various memories. We have moved from the historic but cramped Stubbs Road campus to a real campus in Tuen Mun, rightly proud of its Chinese garden and more reflective atmosphere. But what else has changed?

I was attracted to Lingnan in part because of its close student-staff relationships – and that has remained a constant. Students' English language skills have fluctuated, but in recent years seem to have recovered to earlier levels (last year fewer students addressed their term papers and/or emails to someone known as 'Brain'). Moreover, classroom and especially tutorial dynamics have changed with the arrival of overseas students and the return of our own students from their own exchange experiences. But quietly encouraging students to be confident about their own ideas and their ability to express them remains important.

Teaching technology may have been transformed through OHPs to Powerpoints and Moodle, but I still believe in writing (and drawing) on the whiteboard as well as using maps when teaching international and even regional politics; geography may be under-rated in international relations but what is where does still matter.

The quality of my syllabuses has surely improved, not least in the clarity of expectations, even if both I and the students may struggle to achieve those desired standards. I do hope to encourage students to think critically – in politics there is never only one 'correct' answer.

The heightened pressures to publish (and publish 'well') have meant balancing research aspirations with increasing administrative demands and only marginally-decreased teaching loads. For a discipline such as political science, for which a sole-authored monograph is a key marker of expertise, the possibilities to take up study leave have become invaluable.

Finally, the collegiality of PolSci and other Social Science colleagues has sustained me through the ups and downs of life in Lingnan and Hong Kong. The 'old hands' helped me greatly when I first joined and even though the Programme has expanded that collegiality has remained important to me. Lengthy committee meetings, tiresome administrative tasks, complicated student requests, and research set-backs all seem much easier when talked out over lunch or a cup of coffee.

P.9

Professor Brian Bridges

WELCOME TO OUR NEW PROFESSORS



**Professor CHENG Kwok-hon, Leonard
(President/Chair Professor of Economics)**

I formerly worked at the University of Florida in US for 12 years, joined HKUST in 1992 and Lingnan this September 2013. I am honored to be president of this 125-year-old university since its founding in Guangzhou in 1888. Though not an expert in liberal arts education, I am convinced that it can cultivate humanistic attributes such as a broad horizon, flexible thinking, sound moral judgment, a sense of responsibility and care for others. My daughter also graduated from a liberal arts institution in the US. From her learning experience, career opportunities and the alumni support she received after graduation, I greatly appreciate the advantages of liberal arts education. I chose to join the Lingnan family precisely because I hope to work with you to achieve the aspirations of liberal arts education. Should you see me jogging on campus, I hope you will see me not only as president, but also as a friend with whom you can directly discuss and share your thoughts.



**Dr. MONTASEM, Alexander
(Visiting Senior Teaching Fellow, Department of Sociology and Social Policy)**

As a psychologist, I am interested in personality and motivation – how, when and why do people engage in certain behaviors and how this affects people's (job) satisfaction, happiness, and health. Much of my work involves cross-cultural research, collecting and analyzing responses from people living and working in different parts of the world. Before turning to academia, I was involved in human resources projects in the aviation and sports industry, where I coordinated educational and professional development programs for staff. Later, I was self-employed as a health consultant, taking care of clients' needs in stress and health management. Other than that, I have a long-standing passion for Food & Arts. I love particularly Hong Kong's multicultural culinary scene and the fantastic shows of the 'Hong Kong Dance Company'. I am also a regular runner and a big fan of the countless hiking trails.



Dr. PARK Jeongwon

(Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science)

I belong to the Department of Political Science. I have travelled and lived in many countries, but living in Hong Kong is my first experience. In fact, I already feel very comfortable to be here as if I had lived in Hong Kong for many years. I am teaching 'Global Environmental Politics' and 'Ecology, Environment and Society'. I will also teach the course, 'Politics and International Relations of Japan', next term. If you have anything to discuss with me, you are more than welcome to come and see me anytime.



Professor SHARMA, Shalendra

(Chair Professor, Department of Political Science)

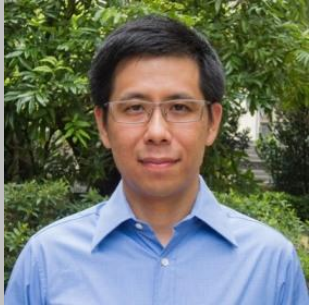
I joined Lingnan in August of this year from the University of San Francisco. I am the new Chair Professor in the Department of Political Science with a rather long title (Lee Shau Kee Foundation Chair Professor of Political Science). However, do not let the title intimidate you – My office door is always open to students and the Lingnan community.



Dr. WHITTEN Gregory William

(Assistant Professor, Department of Economics)

I took a circuitous, but mostly enjoyable route, to becoming a professor. I started out majoring in French literature, to which I added later majors in Economics and International Relations. I also took a minor in math and 5 semesters of Japanese. I was very fortunate to be able to work and to study abroad during my studies (Paris, Gießen, Osaka). Later, I worked in research centers on regional economics as well as the economics of education, before completing a PhD at the University of Pittsburgh in international economics. I not only learned a lot about economics and research as a doctoral student; I also became something of a movie buff! I enjoy watching movies, especially “art house” cinema from Europe and Japan, as well as independent or “indie” films from the US. I have not yet seen any Chinese or Hong Kong movies, but Lingnan University is surely the place to do so. You may see me swimming in the Tin Ka Ping pool or walking on the track. Feel free to stop by my office if you ever have any questions about your studies, current or future!



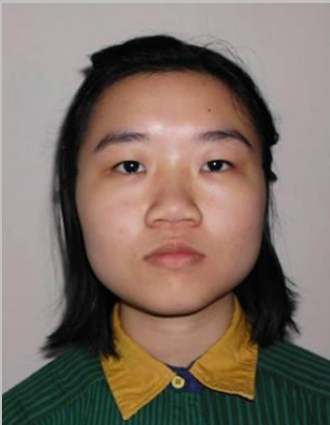
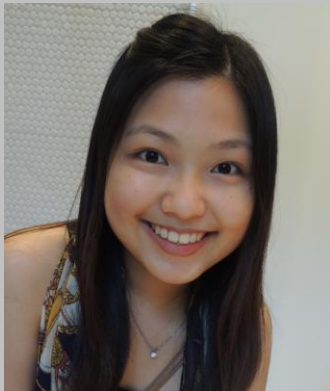
Dr. WONG Ho Lun, Alex
(Assistant Professor, Department of Economics)

Like many of you, dear students in Lingnan, I was born in Hong Kong and grew up here. I stayed here till I completed my secondary school and went to the University of California, Los Angeles for undergraduate studies. Interested in learning about how the society and economy work, I studied Economics, Political Science and Mathematics at UCLA. I then moved to Northern California, lived next to the headquarters of Apple, Facebook and Google, and pursued a doctoral degree in Economics at Stanford University. After tanning myself with 10 years of California sunshine, I finally returned home and recently joined Lingnan in August 2013. I enjoy teaching and doing research and it is always joyful for me to hang out with Lingnan students!



Dr. ZHANG Tianle
(Assistant Professor, Department of Economics)

I am originally from Guangzhou and speak both Cantonese and Mandarin (and, of course, English in class). I like doing sports such as running, swimming and badminton. I look forward to seeing you around the campus.



MY FRUITFUL UNIVERSITY LIFE

LUK Ki Chun, Year 3 International Studies Stream

I am proud to say that Lingnan has offered me a lot of opportunities to enhance my growth, both academically and spiritually. Thanks to the excellent liberal arts education, I have learnt to value the importance of personal exposure alongside academic studies. This is the photo in Universal Studio, FL taken during my exchange in the United States which broadened my horizons and improved my English proficiency.

CHAN Abi Yau Yung, Year 3 Contemporary Social Issues and Policy Stream

In the last semester, I joined the exchange program in La Trobe University, Australia. I did not expect that I could integrate my travelling experience into my learning process when I was studying Tourism & Hospitality in Melbourne. Joining different local events, like running race and voluntary work, allowed me to fit into the local culture and built up close relationship with other international students. I will never forget all these valuable experience in my university life!

TSOI Hoi Yin, Year 3, Contemporary Economic and Public Policy Stream

Lingnan University is truly a place for me to widen my horizons and realize my potentials. Since the campus is small, I can always meet the professors and have a close relationship with them. I can also make a lot of new friends from different countries through the exchange programme. I am grateful to be one of the Lingnan students because it makes my life more fruitful.

Address:

Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) Programme Office
WYL318, 3/F, Ms. Dorothy Y. L. Wong Building,
Lingnan University, Tuen Mun, Hong Kong

Telephone: 2616 7176 and 2616 7552

Fax: 2455 0754

E-mail: bssprog@ln.edu.hk

Website: <http://www.ln.edu.hk/progs/ssprog>

Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) Programme Office reserves the right to make alteration to the content of this newsletter.