

SS Commencement Celebration 2024



To mark a closure to SS graduates' university journey and a new beginning in their personal lives, SS celebrated the students' academic and whole-person development achievements with a graduation celebration after the College commencement on June 17, 2024. The event consisted of three sessions where graduates' family members and friends were invited. Professor Alfred Ho Tat Kei, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and Professor Matthew Manning Garnet, Head of the Department of Social and Behavioural Sciences, began the celebration with a cake-cutting ceremony. Students enjoyed taking photos and using the photobooth during the event.



Welcoming Freshmen to SS

Welcome, SS freshmen, to the SS Department! This year, a total of 89 newly admitted students joined the Departmental orientation day on 24 August 2024.

For the CRSO & CRIMLLB and Psychology orientation, our Department Head and faculty members shared essential programme-specific information with the freshmen. Current students were also invited to share their academic experiences and insights about campus life.

For the Social Work programme, an orientation day camp was held at the Breakthrough Youth Village. During the orientation, students shared their experiences with both current and incoming students, fostering a sense of belonging to the university. This event aimed to provide new students with opportunities to build social connections, encourage engagement in university life, and assist their transition by introducing them to the university's facilities, resources and study tips.

Social Work Orientation Day Camp disciplines



CRSO & CRIMLLB Orientation Day



Psychology Orientation Day



CityUHK Undergraduate Information Day

The CityUHK Undergraduate Information Day 2024 was held on Saturday, 5 October 2024. The SS Department organised various activities, including admission talks for prospective students, dialogues with our psychologists, criminologists, sociologists and social workers, as well as participation in Psychology eye-tracker and lab demonstrations. We attracted more than 2,000 guests, who joined our activities and visited our inquiry counter on the day.



Admission talks



Visiting us at the inquiry counter



Dialogues with our faculty members



Psychology eye tracker and lab demonstration



Flagship Psychology Programmes



The WE-CARE flagship programme is designed to nurture talented students' international and intercultural competence and provide them with overseas study, research attachment or internship opportunities in one of the prestigious universities and organizations worldwide, leading to enhanced global competitiveness and future career success in their professions. Unique features of the WE-CARE flagship programme consist of the following.

- a) One-to-one mentorship. Each student will be paired with a faculty member to meet monthly for academic advice on study, internship and career plans. The one-to-one mentorship helps closely monitor students' learning and progress in the BSSPSY programme.
- b) Overseas experiences in Year 3. Each student will be given opportunities to have at least a one-semester overseas exchange/research attachment/internship in an overseas university. This experience is intended to equip exceptional psychology students with the expertise for establishing cross-cultural research skills and global professional networks, thus enhancing their competitiveness in further studies and the global job market.
- c) The GLOBAL LEADERSHIP stream. This stream is intended to equip exceptional psychology students with expertise for establishing cross-cultural research skills and global professional networks, thus enhancing their competitiveness in further studies and in the international job market.

SALSA

In the academic year 2024/25, the SS Department welcomed nine new SALSA students.

Name	Cohort	Sport Specialty	Programme
LEE Chun Hei Reginald	2022 (transferred from the Department of Management)	Badminton	CRSO
LAU Wai Yan Vivian	2024	Table tennis	BDSS
YUEN Nok Man	2024	Fencing	BDSS
FONG Sum Sophia	2024	Fencing	BDSS
WAN Chun Lim	2024	Swimming	BDSS
CHAN Baldwin Ho Wah	2024	Table tennis	BDSS
CHAN Austin	2024	Swimming	BDSS
WONG Lorraine	2024	Fencing	BDSS
MAK Kwai Chung	2024	Rugby	BDSS

The SALSA students are a cohort of elite athletes pursuing dual career development in sports and academic work. Full-time athlete SALSA students must undergo a minimum of 25 hours' training over five days each week. Concurrently, they are required to manage an average of two courses per semester. To navigate this dual pathway, SALSA students must invest extra effort and time and demonstrate exceptional determination. CHIU Kan Shan, Austin CHAN and Lorraine WONG have shared their educational journeys.

CHIU Kan Shan expressed: "English poses the greatest challenge for me. Understanding instructional materials in English is tough. I usually resort to computer translations for assistance." Despite her struggle with English, Kan Shan is determined to enrol in an English course next semester. She emphasized: "I must push myself to reach proficiency in English. Enrolling in an English course provides me with a concrete goal to strive towards." Kan Shan's determination is not only shown in English learning. Having had a ruptured blood vessel near her spine, leading to reduced mobility, she initially pursued fencing but transitioned to table tennis to enhance her leg mobility, where she showed remarkable talent.



CHIU Kan Shan celebrates her sports achievement.

Similarly, Austin CHAN finds English demanding. He remarked: "While English was used in some of my secondary school subjects, university courses are entirely in English. Everyday conversations in English are manageable but understanding specialized English terms can be difficult." Nonetheless, Austin has consistently attended classes in person. When asked about his motivation, he shared: "I am fascinated by psychology. Exploring emotions, behaviours and reactions truly interests me." He added, "I also find the Social Welfare course (SS1011) enjoyable because of the bonding I have with my groupmates."



Austin CHAN as a member of the CityUHK sports team.

Lorraine WONG, a classmate of Austin CHAN, added, "English is a big challenge, but I am grateful for the support from the SS Department, PE Section, and HKIS staff." Lorraine also highlighted her enthusiasm for participating in the CityUHK fencing sports team.



Lorraine WONG in her fencing uniform.

YUEN Nok Man, another SALSA student, mentioned his smooth adaptation to university studies. He said: "As a part-time athlete, I have more daytime hours to finish assignments compared to my full-time athlete peers. After training, I spend my evenings revising." He also shared thoughts on managing studies more efficiently, saying: "I think the environment is important. I'm fortunate to have friends who are dedicated to studying. They motivate me to keep up. Their academic excellence means I can turn to them for guidance whenever necessary."



YUEN Nok Man at a sports competition.

Even with challenges, SALSA students are finding ways to excel in their academic studies while maintaining high performance in sports. Their determination and positive attitudes are recognised by the SS Department, which is committed to providing the necessary support.

Meeting Our New Teaching Staff –

Mr. LAU Ka Bo Gilbert



Mr. Gilbert Lau joined CityUHK as a teaching consultant in June 2024, after acting as a part-time lecturer for Basic Psychology I in 2023/24 Semester B. Gilbert is also an alumnus of the Master of Social Sciences in Applied Psychology programme at CityUHK. Prior to joining CityUHK full-time, Gilbert was a research fellow at the Centre for Child Development at Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU), where he facilitated numerous research projects on children with special education needs, such as autism spectrum disorder and intellectual disability. Gilbert was also a part-time lecturer for several research courses in the nursing division of the School of Continuing Education at HKBU. Currently, Gilbert is pursuing a Doctor of Education degree (DEd) in Educational Psychology at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Before switching to a career in psychology and education, Gilbert worked in the financial services sector for five years, advising multinational clients on mergers and acquisitions (M&A), pre-IPO structuring, and initial public offering (IPO) projects.

Why did you switch careers?

Thanks to countless mis-portrayals of psychologists on TV shows, I have always been fascinated by psychology. It has drawn my interest to the point where I dedicated all three of my precious electives to core psychology courses while completing my maths degree in financial analysis and risk management.

However, as in the case of many young adults from traditional Asian families, I succumbed to my parents' will to pursue a career in finance. After working in M&A for several years, I came to realize that there is more to life than providing economic value in the financial sector, and so I began exploring other avenues where I could leverage my skills and contribute to the society.

What courses are you teaching now?

For the time being, I am teaching personality and social psychology, among other courses, for both undergraduate and taught postgraduate psychology programmes. As I have a keen (personal) interest in different pedagogy and learning strategies, I would like to gradually integrate pedagogic content knowledge into the courses I teach. My goal is not only to provide suitable and effective learning environments for our students, but also to enhance the learning experience of students—importantly, to provide sufficient support to students who may require additional attention, such as those with special education needs.



Meeting Our New Teaching Staff –

Dr YOUNG Chi-Man Terence

Dr Terence Young has joined the Department of Social and Behavioural Sciences at City University of Hong Kong as a Senior Teaching Fellow, starting in August 2024.

Dr Young holds a PhD from the University of South Australia, an MBA from the University of London, and an MSc in Public Order Studies from the University of Leicester. With over 30 years of public sector service, he amassed extensive experience and expertise across operational, administrative, tactical, strategic and policy domains. Dr Young also brings significant expertise from the banking sector, where he served as Head of Personal Banking Fraud Management and received the prestigious Star of Bank of China award.

In addition to his professional achievements, Dr Young is an experienced part-time university lecturer, having taught business management, criminology, and criminal psychology courses at the University of Hong Kong, CityU, and Hong Kong Metropolitan University. He is also an accredited mediator, providing pro bono services to the judiciary.

A recognized professional in fraud prevention and money laundering, Dr Young has led initiatives that leverage regulatory technology (RegTech) to help financial institutions meet the compliance standards of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority. As lead author, he recently published an article on advancing fraud prevention in the Hong Kong Institute of Bankers' official journal, *Banking Today*.



At CityU, Dr Young brings a wealth of expertise to our faculty as he teaches an array of courses, including Organized Crime, Forensic Criminology, Criminal Justice, and Applied Sociology. Renowned for his commitment to enriching the academic experience, Dr Young frequently invites distinguished guest speakers to share their insights and experiences. Esteemed guests have included Professor Patrick Nip, former Principal Official of Hong Kong; Mr John Reading, practising barrister and former Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions; and Mr Michael Fung, Clinical Psychologist in Criminology with the Hong Kong Police.

Additionally, Dr Young organizes engaging field trips, such as visits to the Police Museum, to enrich students' practical learning experiences and deepen their understanding of real-world applications in the field of criminology.

We are excited to welcome Dr Young and look forward to his contributions to our department.



Heads' message

Message from SS heads: Four new programmes to come!

The Department of Social and Behavioural Sciences (SS) has long been striving to provide timely and excellent education and professional training to equip our students with the necessary future qualities in response to the ever-advancing needs of society. To align with this mission, four new programmes at both undergraduate and Master's levels will be offered starting from 2025/26. A brief introduction to these new programmes is presented in the following.

BSocSc Crime Science

SS has conducted a comprehensive revamp of the current two-stream Criminology and Sociology major into a new single-stream major in Crime Science. This new structure has been approved by the university, the first cohort of Bachelor's students being due to enrol in the 2025/26 academic year. This change is designed to meet the local and international market demand for young graduates with foundational knowledge in crime prevention and the security industry. This new programme will further collaborate with government and pertinent professional bodies to provide our students with the most up-to-date information, skillset and developmental trends in the field. In addition, this change will strengthen our identity to connect better with other prominent Crime Science programmes overseas (e.g. UCL).

BSocSc Psychology (Stream: Wellbeing Enhancement and Care Management [WE-CARE] programme)

Starting from 2025/26, each College/ School of the university will offer a flagship programme aiming to nurture high calibre young talents with vital skills and knowledge of the field, international exposure and competence, and global leadership capacity. The WE-CARE programme is the very first flagship programme to be offered by CLASS. Students admitted to this programme (both JUPAS and non-JUPAS routes are available) will be entitled to scholarships of up to HKD 500,000 in their third year of study to support their overseas study, research attachment or internship opportunities in one of the prestigious overseas universities and organizations. They will also have guaranteed student residence throughout their study and have their tuition fees waived (depending on the amount

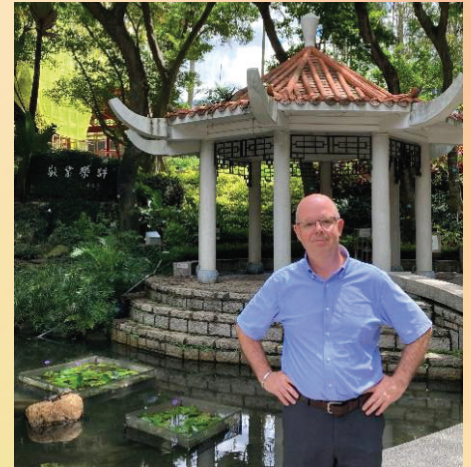
of scholarship). Apart from the existing courses offered for our regular Psychology major students, students from the WE-CARE programme will be allowed to take a few tailored courses, including "Enhancing Cultural Competence in Overseas Study and Work" and "Supervised Independent Study and Research", to better prepare and equip them with the necessary skills, knowledge and cultural literacy for their future global engagement.

Master's degree level

Currently, SS is offering two academic programmes in the Master of Social Sciences in Psychology with Advanced Psychology and Education streams, and the Master of Arts in the Applied Social Sciences with Criminology and Sociology streams. The Master of Social Work, which is accredited by the Social Workers Registration Board (SWRB) in Hong Kong, and the Master of Social Sciences in Counselling, which is recognised by the Hong Kong Professional Counselling Association (HKPCA), are two important programmes equipping students not only with academic knowledge but also with professional qualifications, offering high quality professional practice to people in need in society. In response to two key social issues in Hong Kong—family dysfunction and mental illness—two new streams, Family Conflict Resolution and Mediation and Clinical Mental Health Practice, will be launched in the Master of Arts in Applied Social Sciences (MAASS) 2025/26 academic year. Both streams also aim to equip social work and helping professionals with advanced knowledge and practical skills to handle and address complex social issues.

MAASS in Family Conflict Resolution and Mediation stream

The Mediator-Assisted Case Settlement Conference was newly introduced in the District Court in Hong Kong in January 2023. This measure is timely to address the significant upsurge in divorce cases in Hong Kong, with an approach of drawing different parties together to work out mutually beneficial agreements even in family separation and divorce. The Family Conflict Resolution and Mediation stream is tailor-made for social workers and helping professionals seeking advanced skills and knowledge in managing family conflicts. This stream covers essential topics such as negotiation



Prof. MANNING Matthew Garnet

Head

Department of Social and Behavioural Sciences

and mediation techniques, domestic violence prevention and marital therapy, helping students learn both theoretical and practical approaches to family mediation.

MAASS in Clinical Mental Health Practice stream

The rise in mental health issues across all ages, genders, classes and races, including young students, students with special educational needs, older adults and their caregivers or ethnic minorities, is alarming both locally and internationally. This has created great demand for helping professionals with intensive knowledge and practical skills in working with people with mental illness. This Clinical Mental Health Practice stream is specifically designed to equip social work and helping professionals with advanced knowledge and practice in assessment, diagnosis and crisis intervention for people with a variety of mental health problems, such as schizophrenia, depression, anxiety, personality disorder, autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, dyslexia and dementia. SS is a multidisciplinary department offering high quality academic programmes, professional training, and research in five disciplines including Psychology, Crime Science/Criminology, Sociology, Social Work and Counselling. We are always ready and responsive to the everchanging needs in the local, national and global contexts.