Connecting UniSIM

Class of 2009 Graduates with a BANG!

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A first time for SIM University (UniSIM), the Class of 2009 celebrates their graduation at popular nightspot, ZIRCA Mega Club, located at Clarke Quay. Minister of State for Community Development, Youth and Sports, Mrs Yu-Foo Yee Shoon, graced the celebration as the guest-of-honour. The celebration was also attended by senior management, faculty members, alumni volunteers and sponsors.

Some 300 graduates and guests thronged the club, ready to let their hair down after approximately three years of hard work. They enjoyed performances by the EIC band, games as well as dinner. The highlight of the night was the lucky draw segment with a Sony VAIO laptop as the top prize.

Mr Ivan Lim, Chairman of the organising committee said, “It was a challenge to juggle committee work, work and personal commitments, not to mention the various setbacks we faced. But I am proud to say that we did it and not only that, we did it as a team! I would like to thank the rest of the organising committee members for the efforts that they have put in to make this event happen.”

Mrs Yu-Foo, who spoke at the event, urged the graduates to be continually imbued with an endless passion for learning for “learning is a journey and not a destination”. She further commended UniSIM for playing a unique and important role in providing working adults with opportunities for upgrading.

A Complete Cycle!

2009 has been an eventful year. The year has had citizens following the news from the uncertainty of Singapore’s economic performance, to the wonderful news of UniSIM’s expansion. The state-of-the-art campus is set to be completed in 2014 and it promises to provide students with dynamic and holistic learning experiences. I am sure that future students will maximise their learning through the well wired, high-technology and eco-friendly building and classrooms.

In the final issue of the newsletter for 2009, you will have an overall pictorial view of the activities that went on this year. If you have missed out on these events, fret not. Look out for great activities coming up in 2010! Details can be obtained from the UniSIM alumni website. You will also have greater insight on the upcoming campus. The Class of 2009 has also proven that they are capable of partying just as hard as they work.

As the new year approaches, I reflect on what I had done and think about the things that went well and also the things that did not go well. Despite the mistakes, the experiences have enhanced my learning journey and the things that went well will be worth celebrating during the last hours of 2009.

Thus, having completed the last issue of the newsletter for 2009, we would like to take this time to celebrate our moments of toil as well as the joy and fun we have had this year! And in celebrating the festive spirit, I would like to offer a toast and wish one and all Season’s Greetings and a Great 2010!

Cheers!

Mohammad Noor
Editor (Alumni Volunteer)
Newsletter Editorial Group
Marion Neubronner Shared “Powers” and “Magic” on Parenting Teenagers

Some 60 alumni and guests were enlightened and equipped with the powers of “Maximising Mentor Magic” and “Utilising Peer Power not Peer Pressure” at a parenting talk on 12 September at UniSIM.

Marion Neubronner holds a Masters in Education in Human Development and Psychology from Harvard Graduate School of Education, USA and teaches undergraduate psychology at UniSIM.

Ms Neubronner shared how all consequences can be made logical, reasonable and rational when speaking to teenagers. She also highlighted that parents need to practise listening respectfully with the sole intention of understanding what their teens are going through. She warned parents against lashing out when they are angry, and suggested that they write a letter instead. The final tip she shared on “Maximising Mentor Magic” is to be firm, centred and provide non-intimidating expressions of their own anger or disappointment. Ms Neubronner referred to the teenagers as older children, and used the analogy of a bird taking its first flight to illustrate teenager’s “Natural Learning Curve” — plunging down a distance first before flying up.

On “Utilising Peer Power”, the audience was asked to name three mentors with values they wish for their teenagers and connect them to the mentors named. It is important that the mentors are chosen by the parents since horizontal peers would not be able to contribute as much as mentors who would want to leave their legacy behind.

On the whole, the talk was fulfilling and there was also good humour injected into it, making it time well spent on a Saturday afternoon.

Winds of Change at the School of Arts and Social Sciences

The School of Arts and Social Sciences (SASS) set out to attract alumni “back to school”. In a get-together session held on 6 November, Dr Lim Beng Soon, Head of Programme, Malay Language & Literature, outlined the school’s background and its plans for the future.

The evening was a delight as a family-like atmosphere prevailed. Staff members were on hand to usher alumni and warm introductions between alumni and staff led to mingling and light-hearted banter over their experiences whilst studying at UniSIM.

The discussions generated ideas and student mentorship and activities were touted to further enrich and enhance bonds of the SASS family. As the night waned and the guests took their leave, the winds of change were in the air, refreshing and invigorating for all.

Third Run of Unwind Saturday

On 14 November, the annual ‘Unwind Saturday’ movie screening event, organised by the Alumni Relations team, for UniSIM alumni was held at Golden Village at VivoCity.

The movie featured was the epic film “2012”. Each year, this key event has been attracting hundreds of alumni to gather and catch up with one another. Some even managed to “re-connect” with their long lost friends and classmates at the event. This year, as with the past, the alumni exuded positive vibes and were all truly excited about catching “The end of the world”.

UniSIM President, Professor Cheong Hee Kiat, graced the event with a speech and urged all alumni to contribute and stay connected with the University. This resonated clearly among new alumni volunteers who were also invited to the event. Prof Cheong also urged successful alumni to come forward and share their stories with the University.
2009 Milestones
All for You, Our Alumni

February – Launch of Fast Pass Programme
March – Newsletter goes hard copy!
March – Launch of the Alumni Portal
June – Launch of Solemnisation Service
September – Launch of the eShop
November – Recruitment of 49 new Alumni and Student Volunteers

3 January - Feng Shui Talk
Master Vincent Koh from Singapore Feng Shui Centre presented a talk on Feng Shui to our alumni.

21 February - Talk on Managing Your Finances
Alumni attended a talk on how they can better manage their finances in light of the economic downturn earlier this year.

18 April - Resume Workshop
Alumni sharpened their skills in writing a resume, with the aim of scoring a higher chance of an interview.

6 June - Heritage HiPPO Tour
Alumni gathered at UniSIM for a ride on the HiPPO buses. The event attracted alumni of all ages, especially those with families!

15 August - UniSIM Bowling Meet
The first event organised by the alumni volunteers (Events Group) saw alumni and students pitting their skills against each other at the bowling meet.

12 September - Talk on Parenting Teens
Marion Neubronner shared some tips on parenting with us. The event was well attended by many concerned parents.

7 February - CNY Lunch Gathering with Alumni Volunteers
UniSIM management gathered for a “Lo Hei” session with the alumni and student volunteers.

14 November 2009 - Unwind Saturday
Our key annual event, which has many alumni asking for more, has just finished its third run! This year, the movie screened was the blockbuster hit “2012.”
SIM 2014: Bigger and More Dynamic

Barely eight years into our current location in Clementi, SIM will be expanding to accommodate the steady growth of students. Expansions, which will take place in two phases, will be completed by 2014. The 56,000 sq metre expansion will cost a total of S$300 million.

As the only local private tertiary institution recognised by Ministry of Education (MOE) to award its own degrees, UniSIM plays a very important role in catering to the needs of working adults who are pursuing their passion for lifelong learning; be it for self-fulfillment, career advancement or simply to attain higher qualifications.

Moreover, with the MOE subsidy of up to 40 per cent for students enrolled from 2008 onwards, UniSIM has seen a substantial jump in its enrolment. Enrolment is expected to increase to a whopping 14,000 by 2020, as continuing education and training continues to be a pivotal role in Singapore’s economic growth.

The concept behind the Master Plan is that of a learning environment with the campus as the “third teacher”. Facilities will be used to engage students, by way of the indoor and outdoor sporting arenas, which will foster the exchange of ideas through social interaction, allowing students to experience a holistic learning journey at SIM. It will also be one of the few buildings in Singapore that will incorporate eco-friendly materials, green features and technology, making it both environmentally friendly and technologically advanced.

Phase one of the new building, once completed by 2011, will be a totally wireless environment. This will be home to the student hub, a living stage for students’ sporting, artistic and social activities. There will also be a library extension, with cyber stations, an interactive zone, gaming zone, and an alfresco study area that overlooks an open courtyard. It will also house 27 lecture theatres, 32 seminar rooms and four computer laboratories under one roof, all equipped with state-of-the-art technology to further enhance and meet the needs of IT-savvy learners of the future.

Spirit of Enterprise at Let’s Talk Business@UniSIM

Let’s Talk Business@UniSIM are free talks open to the public. The latest in the series held on 5 September had individuals with outstanding achievements in entrepreneurship and business in Singapore sharing their experience and wisdom. Three well-known entrepreneurs engaged the audience in a lively discourse.

The first speaker, Steven Lim, founding member of RSTN Consulting Pte Ltd, shared his experience in growing his business into multinational operations. His company has since won many accolades in salesmanship and entrepreneurship.

The second speaker, Mohammed Ismail, is well known in Singapore’s real estate industry. From a newspaper boy to a CEO, Mohammed Ismail is an exemplary model of building success with individual endeavour and determination.

The third speaker, Philip N. Morgan, is an individual with a unique and interesting background - from creative to operational roles, from broadcasting to providing video technology and from domestic to international. As COO and a founding member of Muvée Technology, Philip shared his experiences in hiring and keeping a happy team and highlighted the importance of sharing the organisation’s vision, goals, successes and failures with employees.

That morning, participants walked away, challenged with new ideas, motivations and attitudes.

First Overseas Study Trip For UniSIM BATI Students

UniSIM organised its first overseas study trip to Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU) in June this year for students from the Translation & Interpretation programme. The week-long study trip, comprised 28 students, family members and the Head of Programme, Susan Xu.

During the study trip, UniSIM’s students attended four customised seminars, observed two graduate classes, and joined the local students for a lecture that compared U.S. and China legal systems. UniSIM’s students also participated in a hands-on laboratory session on Simultaneous Interpretation.

It wasn’t all work and no play.

The students also found time to visit famous historical sites in Beijing, and discovered great bargains at the book stores. Perhaps what made the trip most memorable were the friendships made among students of all ages, ranging from 21 to 83, and diverse backgrounds.
Why Are Credit Reports Important?

Keeping good credit with banks is important, more so if you want your loans to be approved quickly and in full.

Your credit report is a record of your credit payment history compiled from different credit providers. Credit Bureau Singapore (CBS) supplements it with publicly available information such as bankruptcy data.

Banks or financial institutions will usually look out for repayment status of credit facilities, any default/bankruptcy information, number of existing credit facilities, new enquiries and overdue balances in the credit report to assess consumers’ credit worthiness.

Enhancing Credit Reputation

The factors that are likely to influence the outcome of your credit application include:

- Payment conduct – Payment history is a very important factor in determining your credit score. Since recent history carries more weight than what happened five years ago, getting in the habit of making on-time payments is an incredible powerful way to improve your credit rating.
- Number of credit facilities owned – Avoid multiple sources of credit. It is more manageable to keep track of two credit cards than ten.
- Outstanding account balances – Lenders like to see plenty of breathing room between the amount of debt reported on your credit cards and your total credit limits. The more debt you pay off, the wider that gap and the better your credit rating.
- Record of bankruptcy proceedings – Bankruptcy is the most catastrophic impediment to your good credit reputation, far worse than delinquencies, loans or collections. Its impact, however, is dependant on how many defaults you made on your credit before you filed.

Is it accurate to say that the record might affect the person’s chance of getting a loan in the future?

Many factors come into play in the financial institution’s final decision to grant or deny credit to consumers, and your credit history is one of the tools used by lenders to assess your creditworthiness. Defaults can hurt your creditworthiness and affect your chances of obtaining credit as most lenders will check your credit file to assess your creditworthiness prior to making a decision. By reviewing your credit report regularly, it allows you to be aware of any information that is uploaded on your credit file.

You may obtain a copy of your credit report via www.creditbureau.com.sg using your SingPass ID and password, at any of the 62 SingPost branches, CrimsonLogic Service Bureaus or from the CBS head office at Anson House. For more information, call CBS hotline at 6565 6363 or e-mail consumer_services@creditbureau.com.sg.

Special promotion for UniSIM alumni & students:

Get $2 off your personal credit report when you show this page at the CBS office.

Terms & Conditions:
- Usual price of credit report is $5; discounted price of credit report is $3.
- Prices stated are excluding GST.
- This page has to be presented upon redemption of discount. Alumni & students would have to apply in person, produce their UniSIM alumni or student card, original NRIC / passport and complete an application form.
- Not valid in conjunction with other promotions, unless otherwise stated.
- The management reserves the right to amend the terms & conditions governing the use of this promotion without prior notice.
- Vail till 31 January 2015.
CONTEST • GIVEAWAY!

In this issue, we are giving away 20 UniSIM umbrellas. Simply answer the two questions on the right, fill out the form, and mail it back to us! Please paste the cut-out portion at the back of an envelope.

Closing Date: 15 January 2010

Winners will be notified by e-mail.

Mailing address:
SIM University
Alumni Relations Department
535A Clementi Road
Singapore 599490

Name: ___________________________
NRIC no: _________________________
Telephone: _______________________
Mobile: __________________________
E-mail: __________________________
Address: _________________________
Mailing Address: __________________

1) List the two talks that will be held in early 2010.
   _______________________________

2) In which year will expansion work at SIM be completed?
   _______________________________

Congratulations to Contest Winners of Issue 7
Ang So Yen SXXXX469F
Chen Kim Hua SXXXX382G
Christina Cheng SXXXX380G
Chong Chui Fong SXXXX652E
Chian Tuck Keong SXXXX790Z
Chong Kee Wah SXXXX561B
Chong Seok Wah SXXXX198F
Chua Chwee Sim SXXXX253B
Geetha Baskaran SXXXX796F
Guo Huey Lee SXXXX449G
Kuo Suet Lee SXXXX462C
Kyle Alexander Tan SXXXX235A
Lim Boon Hong SXXXX370E
Lim Swee Long SXXXX483Z
Low Kien Lay SXXXX216F
Mah Pow Tu SXXXX078G
Nelly Yeo SXXXX255A
Ow Chung Fah SXXXX638
Tan Biao Beng SXXXX073I
Teo Yi Lin SXXXX057H

For advertising enquiries, call 6248 5782 or e-mail alumni@unisim.edu.sg.
Feng Shui Talk 2010

Venue: SIM HQ
Date/ Time: 9 January 2010 / 2.00pm - 4.30pm
Fee (Alumni): Free
Fee (Guest): $10 per pax
Registration: Register at www.unisim.edu.sg/alumniportal
Speaker: Master Vincent Koh, Founder, Singapore Feng Shui Centre
Topics:
  • What is in store for the Golden Tiger Year
  • Forecast for Financial & Property Industries
  • Areas of concern within the house and office
  • Tips for individual luck

2010 Stock Market Outlook/
Living with Two Casinos

Venue: SIM HQ
Date/ Time: 20 March 2010 / 2.00pm - 5.00pm
Fee (Alumni): Free
Fee (Guest): $10 per pax
Registration: Register at www.unisim.edu.sg/alumniportal from 8 February 2010
Speaker: Mr Charlie Lau, Remisier, UOB Kay Hian
Topics:
  • Market Outlook 2010
  • Fundamental Data on the ST Index components
  • Technical Outlook on Market Favourites
  • Living with Two Casinos
  • Direct & Indirect Influences of Casino Gambling
  • Odds of Winning / Losing at the Casino

Hello? Now You Can SMS Us Too!
To serve you better, from January 2010, you may send a text message to the Alumni Relations team at 91136795. Alumni may use this service to make enquiries or request callback. Depending on the complexity of the enquiries, alumni may get a reply via e-mail or phone call.

Note: Messages for this service are retrieved via a web portal. The number is not for phone enquiries.

Request your Red Packets Now!
From 1 January 2010, you may request UniSIM Red Packets through the alumni portal. Each person is entitled to two packets (20 pieces). The red packets will be mailed to your address. Please be reminded to update your personal particulars first.

Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/unisimalumni

The above events will commence when the minimum group size is met. Information is accurate at time of printing and is subject to change without prior notice.

Connecting UniSIM is published by SIM University’s Alumni Relations Department