UniSIM Senior Management, Alumni & Student Volunteers Meet the “God of Fortune”

HIGHLIGHTS

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Alumni Volunteer, Angie Ng, from the Newsletter Editorial Group, returns to UniSIM for a night of fun-filled gathering.

Feb 18 saw the “God of Fortune” ushering UniSIM’s senior management, alumni and student volunteers into the Year of the Tiger with his pot of gold at a Chinese New Year (CNY) dinner gathering.

With festive music filling the air and a buffet spread consisting of delectable CNY delights including Yu Sheng, Herbal Emperor Chicken and Butterfly Prawn Fritters fried to golden perfection, the celebratory mood reached its peak when everyone rose to “Lo Hei”.

Organised by the UniSIM Alumni Relations department to express their appreciation for the volunteers’ wonderful spirit of giving, the dinner provided volunteers with an opportunity to mingle with UniSIM’s senior management and each other. Professor Tsui Kai Chong, Provost of UniSIM, who was seated at my table said, “It’s always nice to meet past students to find out how they are progressing in their careers and personal lives after graduating from UniSIM.” Similarly, alumni like myself enjoy returning to our alma mater and catching up with friends and fellow alumni.

During the dinner, Professor Cheong Hee Kiat, President of UniSIM, shared his thoughts on the spirit of volunteerism, his inspiration and passion apparent to all present. Prof Cheong also presented tokens of appreciation to volunteers with outstanding contributions in 2009.

The fun-filled night concluded with endless photo shots, bottoms-ups, warm handshakes and most of all, good wishes for everyone in the Year of the Tiger…Roarrrrrrrrrrrr!

Work-life Balance

At the beginning of every New Year, we always make it a point to write a list of things that we would want to complete or achieve by the year’s end. This will give us a certain direction and goal to head towards. Just as you jot down “the list”; I want you to have a look at them again and see how many items on your list would actually equip you with more “me and my family” time. Yes, did you list down items such as “bringing the children to the beach”, “dining out with parents and siblings”, or even, “having a romantic dinner with my spouse or partner”? If none of the above items are on your list, then include them as part of your “to-do” list for the year 2010. As Singapore’s economy improves, slowly but steadily, in this brand new year, you may want to take the time to ensure that you spend time with your loved ones and also to achieve harmony and balance in your work life.

Part of my pursuit of work-life balance is to ensure that I take some time out of my hectic schedule to give back to society. Though my contribution may not be significant, I feel that through volunteering my services, I am able to take time out and spend some quality time with the (academic) society that moulds me. This activity has given me a great opportunity to connect with friends whom I did not get a chance to interact with during my undergraduate years and make connections with academic professionals.

With the first quarter of the year already gone, we have nine more months to complete that list. At the top of my list this year is taking my parents on a holiday where they can rest and relax! I hope you will be able to accomplish the tasks on your list! Have a great 2010 and a “roaring” year of the Tiger!

Mohammad Noor
Editor (Alumni Volunteer)
Newsletter Editorial Group
Roaring
In The Year Of The Tiger
With Feng Shui

To usher in the Lunar New Year, UniSIM’s Alumni Relations department organised a Feng Shui talk on Jan 9 which attracted more than a hundred alumni and guests. The speaker was Master Vincent Koh, the principal consultant at Singapore Feng Shui Center.

Master Koh started off by pointing out an interesting fact about the year of the Tiger. Contrary to popular belief, the year of the Tiger actually began at 6:42am on Feb 4 although we celebrated the Chinese New Year on Feb 14.

Master Koh further shared that the year 2010 represents the year of the Metal Tiger where the two dominating element forces are “Yang” Metal and “Yang” Wood. It is also a year where the superior reigns over the inferior. The Tiger is a symbol of colour, dynamism and courage. It also exhibits elements of volatility, impulsiveness and impatience. In general, Master Koh advised that one should stay harmonious and be forgiving in the year of the Tiger.

UniSIM Alumnus
Walks Through Life
Despite Being Wheelchair-bound

Being wheelchair-bound is not a setback for UniSIM alumnus Toby Lim who overcame all odds to complete his Bachelor of Arts (English with Business) in 2006.

At the age of 20, Toby was diagnosed with Meningitis after suffering from bouts of fever and headaches. This turn of events made him stronger and spurred him on to achieve his dream of becoming a successful entrepreneur.

With no prior experience in setting up a business, Toby ventured into the unknown with the skills that he learnt in school and set up his provision kiosk (located at Block 103 Bukit Purmei Road).

However, the road to success has been, at times, painful as he has had to raise funds to keep his business going owing to low profit margins. To overcome these hurdles, he takes on odd jobs such as giving private tuition to supplement his monthly income. “I have to fork out large sums of money for goods and the profit margins are very low. I think I earn less than an office cleaner as I take home approximately $300 a month. There are months also when I make losses,” said Toby.

The fruits of one’s labour are always sweet at harvest. Despite the tough times, Toby singles out his provision kiosk as his greatest achievement.

Besides scaling the mountains of success, there is another challenge that Toby hopes to conquer and that is “To be able to walk again and I plan to overcome this through motivational books and regular exercise.”

For any person, balancing academic with personal commitments such as work and family is already tough, but having peers like Toby in school will certainly help to put things in perspective as he exemplifies the virtue of approaching challenges with optimism and sheer determination.

Sharing with the Newsletter Editorial Group, he offered a valuable insight on embracing change.

“Patrick O’Brien, a UniSIM business lecture, once said that if we don’t change with our environment, we will be extinct. Although change can be tiring at times, at least that beats being dead. Change comes with risks, but not wanting to change entails even more risks.”

To take his idea even further, Toby said, “Welcome that change rather than being passive. Say that you love it and change will love you back. If you are negative about change, change will always be negative.”
UniSIM Alumna Weds on Campus

UniSIM Organises a Sponsored Wedding for Alumna on Campus

To commemorate the launch of UniSIM’s solemnisation service, the University organised a sponsored wedding for the first alumna who got married on campus! The bridal service and food and beverage were sponsored by Serangoon Broadway and Purple Sage, respectively. The lucky alumna, Ms Jessica Vincent, graduate of Class 2008 (BSc Psychology, School of Arts & Social Sciences) wed Mr Kenneth Wayne Wills, on Jan 9, with friends and relatives in attendance at the familiar koi pond area near the Tay Eng Soon Library. What made the wedding even more memorable was that Mr Zenon Teh, UniSIM’s very own Director of Academic Services, performed the duties of solemniser.

“Getting married is an important event in one’s life which the groom and the bride officially enter into a lifelong binding commitment to each other. Thus, it is personally meaningful whenever a couple requests that I solemnise their marriage. Even more so if they are UniSIM students or alumni! It demonstrates that UniSIM not only plays a significant role in their degree education, but is also instrumental in their marriage!”, said Mr Teh.

To find out more about the Marriage Solemnisation Service, visit www.unisim.edu.sg/alumnisolemnisation.

Sponsors of First Marriage Solemnisation at SIM University

Another Campus Wedding

Jan 23 saw another UniSIM student getting married on campus. Ms Shen Cui Ping (BSc Mathematics) solemnised her marriage with Mr Zhang Qin Jie with friends and relatives in attendance. The couple met next door, at Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP), in 2002.

Though it was not love at first sight, love blossomed when they were reacquainted again at a BBQ event and they soon started dating. Upon further questioning, the blushing bride revealed that she accepted Qin Jie’s proposal as she was sure that he was her “Mr Right”.

For Qin Jie, a lecturer at NP, UniSIM will remain a memorable place as it is where they often meet for dinner whenever Cui Ping attends classes.
New Degree in Facilities and Events Management to Train 6,000 in Green Building Management Careers

Come July 2010, lessons will commence for the first batch of students undertaking the Bachelor of Science in Facilities and Events programme. Jointly offered by UniSIM, the Building and Construction Authority (BCA) and the Singapore Polytechnic (SP), the new programme aims to equip graduates with competencies in both facilities and events management.

Within the next 10 years, Singapore needs about 6,000 facilities management professionals to help achieve the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Sustainable Development’s (IMCSD) target for 80 per cent of buildings to be Green Mark certified by 2030. Hence, this new undergraduate degree would contribute towards meeting this demand by producing practitioners with the requisite knowledge, skill and competency to operate and manage buildings effectively by optimising the use of resources (such as energy and water).

In addition, the graduation of the first batch of some 200 SP students pursuing the Diploma in Property Development & Facilities Management and Diploma in Integrated Events & Project Management in April 2010 will allow this integrated degree programme to tap on this pent-up demand for a degree qualification in both facilities and events management.

UniSIM and LTA Academy to Offer Region’s First Urban Transport Management Master Programme

Exchange of mementos between Mr Yam Ah Mee, Chief Executive, LTA (left) and Professor Cheong Hee Kiat, President, UniSIM (right).

The Land Transport Authority (LTA) and UniSIM have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to conduct a Master of Science in Urban Transport Management programme.

The programme is the first of its kind in the region and will provide students with a holistic and rigorous post-graduate training in urban transport for students. The programme will be broad-based and will cover the entire spectrum of policy, planning and management in areas such as sustainable land use, transport economics and infrastructure financing.

Conducted by respected academics and expert practitioners in the field, the programme is targeted at working professionals from both technical and non-technical backgrounds.

Interested participants can find out more and submit their application from 15 March to 7 May 2010 on UniSIM’s website.

UniSIM to Offer Two New Aviation Degree Programmes

New Programme to Meet Singapore’s Aerospace Manpower needs and Nurture Management Talent

UniSIM, in partnership with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Embry-Riddle) and the Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA), will be offering two new aviation degrees – the Bachelor of Science in Aviation Maintenance (BSAM) and the Bachelor of Science in Aviation Business Administration (BSABA) in July 2010 and January 2011 respectively.

Students will graduate with separate degree certificates from UniSIM and Embry-Riddle. The collaboration is of great significance to UniSIM as it is the first time that Embry-Riddle, the world’s leading aviation and aerospace university based in the United States, is collaborating with an Asian partner to offer its undergraduate degree programmes.

The BSAM and BSABA programmes focus on technical-based knowledge in aviation maintenance and soft skills in aviation administration and management, respectively. The faculty will comprise academics from both UniSIM and Embry-Riddle, as well as experienced industry practitioners.
Achieving
Work-life Balance.
Why and How?

At the beginning of each year, some of us craft a number of New Year resolutions to give ourselves some form of direction to guide us through the rest of the year. Some might want a career switch; others might wish to start a family. The fresh graduates among you may hope to commit more time to your work so as to progress quickly in your chosen career.

One important item one must not forget to include in one’s list of resolutions is to achieve work-life balance.

General research discusses work-life balance as having adequate time to accommodate both work and family. A global study carried out by research firm AC Nielsen in 2007 revealed that more than 50 per cent of the respondents wanted better work-life balance.

Below are some useful tips the Newsletter Editorial Group have compiled that we hope will be of help to you.

**At Work**

- **List your priorities for the next day at the end of every working day.** Before you leave for the day, sit down for a good five minutes and sort out the tasks and assignments that you have not finished. Then, rank each task in order of urgency and importance. Be disciplined and work on the tasks in the order you have ranked. In this way, you will not only feel more in control of your work, the tendency of you being bothered by what you need to do will be minimised.

- **Give yourself time-outs throughout the day.** By taking 10 minute breaks every two to three hours, your productivity and effectiveness will increase.

- **Shut out distractions.** Some of you may have the habit of constantly checking for unopened e-mails and responding to them at the first instance. This is not beneficial as important details may be omitted in quick e-mail responses and your tasks on hand will be fulfilled later than desired. Allocate at most an hour or two each day to check your e-mails. Then, close your e-mail program and focus on the tasks on hand.

- **Be forthcoming with meeting deadlines.** If you feel that you are unable to complete a particular task by its deadline, tell your supervisor that you are encountering a deadline issue and you need his or her guidance.

- **Recognise the distinction between work and family time.** Once you are off work, tune off from all work-related electronic communications devices. For instance, disable the e-mail function in your Blackberry and do not turn on that laptop that your company has supplied you with. It is hard, but think about it – You spend about 10 to 12 hours of your waking time at work. If you take away your sleeping time, you have only about eight hours left to communicate with your family members and friends. Surely they deserve some of your time as well?

- **Utilise your leave and time-off.** Do not be afraid of going on leave or taking time-off and coming back to the office to deal with a bigger backlog of tasks. Going on leave and taking time-off give you some “breathing space” and time to do the things you want to do. You will feel more refreshed and energised when you return to work. One good way of getting yourself to go on leave is to say to yourself, “no one is indispensable.”

**At Home**

- **Create routine tasks after work.** Make a conscious effort to adhere to a standard timetable after you leave for the day. For instance, you may want to have dinner at home at 7pm, take a brisk walk in the nearby park with your spouse after dinner, and play some games with your kids before you go to bed.

- **Pursue an interest.** The world does not revolve around documents, spreadsheets and hitting sales targets. Take up a sport like mountain-biking or an interest like web designing. Doing something different will allow you to discover more about your strengths and weaknesses.

- **Share your thoughts.** It is good to communicate with your family members on the challenges that you face at work. Not only will you feel better by pouring out your woes, your family members may have the solution to your problems. After all, two (or more) heads are always better than one!

- **Eat healthily.** Have a well-balanced diet. This will ensure that you have the energy to continue to strive in your work and climb the corporate ladder.

Source: Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports, Singapore & Canadian Mental Health Association
Enjoy one of the following one-time specials at only S$32.10 at ATOS Wellness:
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- C-Trex (a 40-min wellness therapy worth S$180)
- Therm O’Draine (a 45-min wellness therapy worth S$180)

- Standard Servicing Package with Shell Helix Ultra fully synthetic engine oil (up to 4 litres) at S$98 (U.P S$128)
- Premium Servicing Package with Shell Helix Ultra fully synthetic engine oil (up to 4 litres) at S$228 (U.P S$258)
- 20 per cent off on Car Grooming (only for individual service)

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Check www.unisim.edu.sg/alumnispecialdeals for details to the above offers.

- S$20 off all PADI Recreational Dive courses
- Complimentary rental of equipment for leisure dive trip (worth S$50)
- Up to 20 per cent off on purchase of equipment

Flash your UniSIM Alumni Card to enjoy the above offer.

CONTEST GIVEAWAY!

We are giving away 10 thumbdrives (4GB). Simply answer the two questions on the right, fill out the form, and mail it back to us! Please paste the cut-out portion on the back of an envelope.

Closing Date: 23 April 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) How many couple(s) solemnised their marriage(s) at UniSIM in January?
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

2) List any two programmes launched by UniSIM recently.
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

Congratulations to the Contest Winners of Issue 8!

Azmi Bin Hassan SXXXX370Z
Chan Hoi Lai SXXXX292G
Chang John SXXXX211D
Chiang Mui Kwee SXXXX158B
Gunasunthari Thangarajoo SXXXX476H
Guo Huey Lee SXXXX449G
Hanim Bte Ali SXXXX909J
Lee Gim Fang SXXXX276I
Lim Ching SXXXX611F
Lim Bee Ling SXXXX778C

Loy Chung Heng SXXXX671C
Lua Bee Ling SXXXX000E
Ng Thian Hao SXXXX489B
Ow Chong Fah SXXXX763B
Phui Lay Har Lydia SXXXX666Z
Radziah Binte Abdul Manaf SXXXX021F
Tan Seng Hin SXXXX857D
Tan Kulie Alexander SXXXX235A
Wong Ying SXXXX403Z
Wong Sing Fatt SXXXX456G

For advertising enquiries, call 6248 5782 or e-mail alumni@unisim.edu.sg.
Alumni Portal

Account Creation Guide

1. Visit www.unisim.edu.sg/alumniperonal
2. Click on “Create Account”
3. Verify account by matching your personal particulars with the system
4. Retrieve password sent to the e-mail address which you had provided during account creation
5. Log on to the Alumni Portal with your NRIC number and password
6. Change your password
7. Update your personal particulars under “Manage Your Profile”

Request for your car decals now!

For alumni who have not requested for your car decals, you may log on to the Alumni Portal to do so. The car decals will be mailed to your address. Please be reminded to update your personal particulars first.

Join Us as a Student Mentor!

Here is a chance for you to guide your juniors (students and new graduates) in exploring their career options after they graduate. Share your valuable industry experience and knowledge with them!

Requirements:
- You must be a UniSIM alumnus.
- You should be in full-time employment, with more than three years of working experience relevant to the programme you graduated from.
- You should reply to all e-mail requests within five days from date of request.

To apply, visit www.unisim.edu.sg/studentmentor

Information is accurate at time of printing and is subject to change without prior notice.