Fighting strong against cancer.

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Celebrating 10 Years Of Making A Difference
A Jubilee to Remember

With the November rains, the haze retreated significantly, paving the way to the close of a special Jubilee year.

2015 can be remembered for the poignant passing of Mr Lee Kuan Yew — the founding Prime Minister of Singapore, the S$50 celebrations, and our University's 10th anniversary. Our alumni too enjoyed more activities and events. A greater number of alumni are getting involved and the vibes are good!

2016 can be welcomed with a slowing global economy, but we can dismiss these forebodings with opportunities to increase our skills and pursue lifelong learning as it is important to stay relevant.

On a personal note, I am considering taking up courses under the SkillsFuture initiative, which I believe can be beneficial to my own personal development. Hope to see you in one of those courses!

“Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, Whispering 'It will be happier.'”
— Alfred Lord Tennyson

Gregory Athastaraj Francis | Editor (Alumni Volunteer) | Newsletter Editorial Group

Family Day at Marina Barrage

By Melinda Kaur

Nothing is more rewarding than having a memorable bonding session with your family and friends. On Aug 29, more than 60 alumni, family and their friends gathered for a get-together at the Indoor Gallery of Marina Barrage. The Alumni Relations Department organised the annual UniSIM Alumni Family and Friends Get-Together with stimulating activities such as a kite design competition and a treasure hunt.

Divided into groups, each team — provided with a “do-it-yourself” (DIY) kite set of colour markers and materials — allowed their creative juices to flow and designed their very own kites. The creative and inspiring kites, based on the theme “UniSIM's 10th anniversary”, left the judges overwhelmed, but they were able to finally decide on the winners for the individual and group categories, who walked away with up to S$200 worth of shopping vouchers.

Alumna Ms Arina Tan, Bachelor of Science in Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Class of 2013, shared that the event was well-organised and that it brought her husband and two kids closer together.

Not only did the participants display creative minds, they also flexed their muscles as they participated enthusiastically in the treasure hunt where clues to six treasures hidden in the three-storey Marina Barrage facility were provided. At the end of the event, every participant walked away happily with prizes. Alumni members with their families and friends also brought home memorable polaroid pictures and colourful picnic mats after a fascinating time together at the Marina Barrage.

Madam Zuraimah, Bachelor of Early Childhood Education with Management, Class of 2013, who is a mother of two young kids, attended this alumni event for the very first time! Her kids were so happy designing their very own kites, and given their great enthusiasm and creative spark, it was not surprising that they won the kite design competition. Enjoying this event thoroughly, she expressed interest in attending upcoming alumni events.

Many thanks to the event sponsor.
Dr Aline Wong has assumed the position as Chancellor of UniSIM, making her the first female chancellor in Singapore’s educational history while Mr Richard Eu, Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Eu Yan Sang International Limited, has been appointed Chairman of the UniSIM Board of Trustees, with effect from Sept 1.

As UniSIM’s Academic Advisor since 2005, Dr Wong has been closely involved with the introduction, oversight and support for several of its degree programmes. She also served as a member on UniSIM’s Board of Trustees from 2005 to 2011. Dr Wong has a remarkable record as an educator, politician, advocate for women’s rights, and contributor in public and social service, having held key positions including Senior Minister of State for Education and Health, and Chairman of the Housing and Development Board. Mr Eu was a member of the UniSIM Board of Trustees from 2005 to 2015, as well as Chairman of the SIM Governing Council from 2006 to 2010. He has an illustrious entrepreneurial career, having won industry awards including the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2011 (Singapore) and the CEO of the Year by the Singapore Corporate Awards 2010, for SGX-listed companies with a market capitalisation of under $5300 million.

Mr Eu and Dr Wong took over from Mr Gerard Ee, who stepped down as Chancellor and Chairman to pursue other interests.

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On Oct 10, the School of Science and Technology (SST) celebrated the graduation of its Class of 2015 at the Hood Bar and Cafe. The lunch, which was attended by 50 graduates, 15 industry partners, nine associate faculty and 22 UniSIM staff, was a great opportunity for the graduates to bond with one another and network with potential employers.

SST Dean, Associate Professor Philip Cheang, congratulated the cohort for surviving their journey in SST and emerging victorious after years of blood, sweat and tears. He also encouraged the graduates to sharpen their axes frequently to ensure that their skills remain relevant to industry.

Two graduates shared their SST story during the lunch. Mr Chan Chee Cheong, from the Bachelor of Science in Human Factors in Safety programme, shared how despite missing several examinations because of work commitments, he still managed to complete the programme in four years. He thoroughly enjoyed his studies, which had taught him to look at things with a wider perspective. He credited his close group of classmates who went through thick-and-thin together with him, and encouraged all to continue with the pursuit of knowledge. Mr Pang Cheng Chin, a Bachelor of Engineering in Aerospace System graduate and award winner, shared that he had enrolled in the programme out of a deep passion and interest for aerodynamics and flying. He felt that his years in UniSIM were the most enriching and considered working on the capstone project and his study trip to Cranfield University as his best experiences.

On Oct 29, the School of Arts and Social Sciences (SASS) held its annual Alumni Dinner at Kintamani Indonesian Restaurant, Furama Riverfront Hotel. Over 100 alumni and staff got together to catch up with old friends, course-mates and lecturers. It was a night to remember, as everyone spoke fondly about their learning journey with UniSIM and shared the new paths that their degrees had opened up to them. The heads of programme and associate faculty were certainly delighted to find out how well our graduates have done in life.

The event was a resounding success that proved an education with UniSIM is not just about getting a good degree that will help you advance in your career – it is also about making friends that will last a lifetime.
Guests of honour this year were Mr Lim SweeSay, Minister for Manpower, Ms Law Yin Ling, Parliamentary Secretary for Education and Trade & Industry, and Mayor of South West District, Mr Stanley Lim, Chairman, Singapore Logistics Association; Mr Kon Yin Tong, Managing Partner, Foo Kon Tan LLP, and Ms Ho Peng, Adviser, Ministry of Education.

In his opening address at Session 1, UniSIM President Professor Cheong Hooi Kiat emphasised the importance for all to develop the habit of lifelong learning that would see them through their careers and lives. To promote this, Prof Cheong announced an enhancement to UniSIM’s Alumni Continuing Education (ACE) programme, which currently provides course fee incentives to our alumni to return to UniSIM for new knowledge and to deepen or rekindle their capabilities. He shared that our new alumni will be able to take two UniSIM-SkillFuture modular courses for free or at a small cost if they do so within the first two years of graduation.

In his address, Minister Lim shared that Singapore is subject to growing uncertainty and deeper competition in the global economy. He urged students to stay employable by seizing every chance to learn and deepen their knowledge and skills. He also assured that the Government is committed to creating as many and as good employment and career opportunities as possible for all, regardless of age.

This year’s Convocation was further enriched by graduates from the Bachelor of Science in Logistics and Supply Chain Management programme, who celebrated the occasion by performing a flash mob styled dance with faculty members and associates. A pair of graduates had another reason to celebrate – love. Mr Leong Kok Youn Yuan, a Facilities and Events Management programme graduate, touched onlookers as he got down on bended knee and proposed to his girlfriend Ms Severe Huang Sriyin, who graduated from the Bachelor of Human Resource Management programme.

UniSIM congratulates the Class of 2015’s game changers, all the very best as you transit from student to graduate, joining a network of over 25,000 UniSIM alumni who have been empowered to make a difference.
Battling Cancer
-A Heroine’s Story

Shocked, fearful, extremely tired, anxious, painful, more self-conscious, memory lapses, weight loss. These are some words that could possibly describe the journey of patients who have been diagnosed with breast cancer. These are also words that humble us when considering life’s tiny that happens in such unfortunate circumstances.

One such patient is our alumna who battled this cancer. And to me, she is not a patient, but a heroine. Every heroine has her story and Ms Ang Peh Ling, who obtained her degree in Psychology last year, has one too. People like her are special. They strive exceptionally hard in the midst of adversity and achieve great results admirably. Even though she was diagnosed with breast cancer during the first term of the second semester in her programme, she managed to complete her studies within four years. She is indeed a fighter.

She might wonder how she actually coped with her studies given the circumstances. When she was diagnosed with cancer, her daughter was studying in Primary 3 and her son was sitting for PSE. She also had to cope with her recovery from a seven-hour surgery and deal with the side effects of chemotherapy. In the excruciating process, she lost her appetite, weight, hair and memory to a large extent. Thankfully, she received enormous support from her family and friends. They were sensitive to her needs and were understanding towards her. Her husband stayed lovingly by her side through every treatment. She had to undergo my examination without skipping one. But my body immunity was very low and I had to avoid crowded places. So, Associate Professor Klaus Templer was very kind to arrange a “quarantine room” for me, so as to minimize my contact with fellow students,” says Peh Ling.

She had faithful “study buddies” who helped her with revisions for the examinations. This was especially helpful given the difficulty she was facing with remembering her study notes. She also credited her success to Associate Professor Klaus Templer, Head of UniSIM’s Psychology programme, who supported and helped her wherever he could.

Although I was in the middle of several chemotherapy sessions, I wanted to sit for my examination without skipping one. But my body immunity was very low and I had to avoid crowded places. So, Associate Professor Klaus Templer was very kind to arrange a “quarantine room” for me, so as to minimize my contact with fellow students,” says Peh Ling.

Peh Ling fought valiantly and outstandingly against all pessimism and discouragement. She had the tenacity of a heroine who stood tall and strong in the midst of rising tides of despair and darkness. She overcame her frailty, letting her love for her family members and friends prevail over it. A love that remained uncompromisingly strong, sturdy and firm in the midst of overwhelming doubts, worries and uncertainties. A love that truly shows who a heroine is. Despite having to undergo five years of hormonal therapy, she continues to live life to the fullest and bring greater awareness to this type of cancer. She is a member of the BCF Paddlers in the Pink – the dragon boat team from Breast Cancer Foundation. The team has won several trophies in Hong Kong this year itself. A visit to their Facebook page shows an inspiring video which was posted on 23 November 2015. This video was made by Peh Ling to showcase the team’s spirit and bond.

This is the story of a heroine – nothing of the super human-power sort, but more of mortality with real courage and strength.

And this is the story, which Peh Ling would like to share with readers and fellow survivors of breast cancer.

“Having cancer does not stop us from doing things that we want to do or enjoy doing. Life is unpredictable and cancer does not discriminate anyone. It is important to go for regular check-ups because early detection can save lives. Meanwhile, live life to the fullest”, says Peh Ling. We salute brave women like her who have fought the battle or others who are fighting against breast cancer.
Are you Skilled for the Future?

2015, being UniSIM’s 10th anniversary, is in many ways a time to celebrate. Highlights for the year include a celebration luncheon in April, followed by several international and local conferences, forums, symposiums, etc., to engage the academic fraternity, as well as the community. Convocation 2015 in October also had as its theme “Game Changer” to remind ourselves that despite the significant achievements and progress of the past decade, UniSIM is now on the cusp of a new era brought on primarily by technological advancement. The future will certainly be a game-changing one.

At UniSIM, it has always been our priority to encourage and enable our alumni to carry on the spirit of lifelong learning by coming back to update and upgrade your skills at various points in your career and life. Our Centre for Continuing and Professional Education (CCPE) is geared to support you and the nation in this SkillsFuture movement. Among the course providers, CCPE has on offer one of the highest number of MOE-approved courses which will provide skills for priority and growth sectors in Singapore’s economy such as Accountancy, Advanced Manufacturing, Applied Health Sciences, Biomedical Sciences, Construction, Early Childhood, Financial Services, Human Resource Management, ICT and Media, Logistics and Aerospace, Smart and Sustainable Urban Solutions, and Social Services.

Exciting times are ahead. I hope that all of us will remember that learning is not about being spoon-fed with knowledge and skills to do our job better. Let’s approach learning as a joyful experience, fuelled by a passion to discover and a curiosity to query and explore. We look forward to having you at UniSIM again as our student as you up-skill and re-skill for the future.

Wishing all a fruitful 2016 ahead, SEASONS GREETINGS and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Best wishes,

Evelyn Chong
Director, Office of Student and Alumni Relations

Career Fair 2015

By Yan Ping

The unhealthy haze did not deter jobseekers from attending UniSIM’s first-ever career fair on Oct 3, which saw exhibitors from a variety of industries such as social services, security, hospitality and finance participating.

Ms Jessica Ang, Director of Marketing from CareerBuilder (Singapore) Pte Ltd, who gave a talk during the fair, shared the key points to consider when contemplating a mid-career switch. She urged jobseekers to be cautious in view of a worsening global economy. According to her, one may not necessarily get a pay rise when one switches to another industry or a different role, contrary to common perception. In fact, one may suffer a pay cut or find that they are not suitable for the new environment.

Mr Lee Wei Liang, Bachelor of Arts in Translation and Interpretation, Class of 2012, who attended the talk has gained more insights on what to look out for when considering his next full-time job. He said: “This career talk has certainly helped me think through my options thoroughly. As my baby is eight months old, I have to balance between my interest in Interpretation studies and my family responsibility.”

The career fair has also broadened Mr Lin Jin Rong’s, Bachelor of Science in Information and Communication Technology, Class of 2009, search for his dream job as he found an opportunity during a discussion with an exhibitor. He quipped: “There are quite a lot of jobs that are not advertised in the brochures. MBS (Marina Bay Sands), for example, has an engineering job that I am interested in. I gave my resume to the the exhibitor who told me that they would contact me after this.”
On Sept 19, UniSIM alumni and students had a showdown at a bowling competition. Organised by the Alumni Relations Department, this popular bowling competition was attended by 48 participants who gathered at SAFRA Toa Payoh’s bowling alley early in the morning for the friendly showdown. Armed with cheerful dispositions, they formed themselves into teams of two as they set their sights on the 10 pins and the opportunity to be crowned top bowler.

Occupying 25 lanes, they proceeded to roll down the pins with their camaraderie very much evident. As the sounds of balls knocking down pins and cheers could be heard all around, bystanders may have found it hard to believe that these poised and graceful bowlers are not professionals. With each strike, high-fives and fist bumps were exchanged, sometimes even amongst fellow competitors.

The competition concluded with the winning teams and individuals receiving their well-deserved medals and prizes worth up to $3300. Madam Ang Peh Ling, Bachelor of Science in Psychology, Class of 2014, came up tops with her son. She won not only the team gold medal, but was also named the Best Female Bowler. She exclaimed: “My son and I have not bowled in years! Being a cancer survivor, I am thankful to have won. Life truly carries on after cancer. Don’t stop moving forward.”

If you missed out on the action, be sure to join us for next year’s bowling challenge!

Alumni and student bowlers having a fun time at SAFRA Toa Payoh.

On Oct 3, 23 UniSIM alumni volunteers and guests gathered at the Harmony Activity Centre located at Block 98 Aljunied Crescent to assist with the Mid-autumn Festival organised for the Geylang East Home for the Aged.

As the subsidiary service provider for the Home, the Centre organises leisure programmes for the elderly to interact and stay active and healthy. Our alumni lent a helping hand in the preparation and facilitation of the lantern procession.

This is the third consecutive year that our UniSIM alumni members are volunteering with the Centre. The relationship between the Centre and UniSIM was first established when the Centre Manager, Ms Juay Chiew Lui, was interviewed for an article by the Alumni Relations Department three years ago. Chiew Lui had graduated from UniSIM in 2011 with a Bachelor of Social Work with Honours. An inspired suggestion from her during that interview started the ball rolling for our alumni to be actively involved with this outreach.

Each alumnus found their inspiration and meaning through volunteering for this event, which was graced by Ms Tin Pei Ling, Member of Parliament for MacPherson. Ms Julia Lin Ying Qing, Bachelor of Science in Multimedia Technology and Design, Class of 2014, sought an opportunity to “give back to society”. Mr Ng Seng Lim, a 2001 Open University, UK, Computer Science with Management programme graduate, candidly commented that this was his first experience participating in a lantern procession.

Our volunteers also enjoyed themselves during the night with activities such as performances by members from the Singapore Artists Association and by managing the games stall for children.

Children eagerly queuing outside Harmony Activity Centre to collect their lanterns.
A terrarium workshop held on Nov 14 was very well-received with 47 alumni and guests turning up for the event. Under the meticulous guidance of Mr Ng Kok Cheng, the participants were able to create their very own Christmas-themed miniature garden in glassware containers.

The two-hour workshop was both theoretical and practical where basic concepts of a terrarium and its necessary care requirements were introduced first. The hands-on segment had everyone working on their terrarium following Kok Cheng’s instructions.

Ms Evangeline Tan, Bachelor of Building and Project Management, Class of 2014, shared that she was given a terrarium as a gift. As a result, this workshop was timely as it gave her the opportunity to learn more about its care and maintenance, and enabled her to create her very own terrarium.

After the workshop, everyone was beaming while admiring their own creations. Ms Tan Li Xian, Bachelor of Science in Business, Class of 2013, had only two words to say: Very good! “She later added: “Kok Cheng was attentive, and tried his best to answer all the questions fielded by the participants. He also made the effort to personally guide everyone to ensure that we were on the right track with our creations.”

When asked how she knew about the event, Ms Tan shared that she is an ardent supporter of the alumni’s events and would check the Alumni Portal regularly for event updates. She also suggested that UniSIM organise more hands-on workshops such as baking and canvas painting, which we will certainly look into.

Life is too Short to Drink Bad Wine

Bonjour! Comment allez-vous?

Did you know that beer is cheaper than water in Germany, just as wine is similarly lower-priced than water in France? This clearly shows how much beer and wine are consumed in Germany and France. And in France, the variety of wine is so diverse, that an amateur like me finds it hard to remember their names, let alone their places of origin.

Great complexity, however, often commands great admiration, and two charming Frenchmen, Mr Vincent Morello and Mr Eric Joubert, from The French Cellar brought this mystery to a level where amateurs were able to comprehend and better appreciate wine-making.

On Nov 21, the Alumni Relations Department held a wine appreciation event for alumni and associates at ThreeBistro, Marina Square. The response was good, with 38 eager participants. Surrounded by bottles of red and white wines, finger food and aroma bottles, what stood out to the participants was the aroma of musk. A scent that most found rather interesting – some commented that this aroma is quite common in the perfume market. Now, wouldn’t it be interesting to try a bottle of wine infused with the aroma of musk?

Aside from enjoying the musky aroma, the participants had a good appreciation of the event. Ms Christina Tay, who has been an associate in our Accounting programme for six years, found the event interesting. Ms Wong Li Ping, Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with Business, Class of 2014, who was attending her first alumni event, found it informative and the speakers responsive.

The participants enjoyed several rounds of different wines with Mr Morello going round enthusiastically refilling empty glasses throughout the afternoon event, enjoyed the fine finger food, chit-chatted and most importantly, gained a better appreciation of wine and wine-making before parting ways.

Et maintenant, amusez-vous!
Flash Your Alumni Card To Enjoy These Special Deals:

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**
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- One year National Geographic Kids subscription (10 issues) at $44.
- One year National Geographic Little Kids subscription (six issues) at $32.
- One year National Geographic Traveler subscription (six issues) at $40.

Subscribe via this link [www.mag-ez.com/promo/unisim](http://www.mag-ez.com/promo/unisim) to enjoy the offer.

Promotion is valid till November 30, 2016.

**Angel Florist**
10% off on www.angelflorist.com with a minimum purchase of $80 with promo code ‘UniSIM20156’.

Promotion is valid till December 31, 2016.

**BOOKS & CREAMY**
15% off all beverages.

Promotion is valid till December 1, 2017.

Unisim shall not be held responsible for any changes in the promotion or quality of the products/services offered. Merchants’ terms and conditions apply. Refer to the Unisim Alumni website for more information.

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**CONTEST GIVEAWAYS!**

We are giving away four exclusive Unisim luggage tags. Simply SMS the answers to the two questions below to 9113 6795 in the following format:

Newsletter <space> PI number <space> Email address <space> Answers for Q1 and Q2.

Example: Newsletter 01234567 alumni@unisim.edu.sg Answers for Q1 and Q2.

**QUESTIONS**

1. **Q1** What was the theme for this year’s Unisim Convocation?
2. **Q2** Who was the speaker for the Terrarium Workshop?

**Closing Date**: January 31, 2016.

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**Congratulations to the Contest Winners of Issue 31!**

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For advertising enquiries, call 6248 9215 or email alumni@unisim.edu.sg
Request Your Red Packet from January 4, 2016!

Each alumnus can request two complimentary sets of red packets (8 pieces per pack). Please request via the Alumni Portal (www.unisim.edu.sg/alumniportal).

While stocks last.

Terms & Conditions: Alumnus must have attended UniSIM Alumni Relations’ event at least once in 2015.

Look out for Pre-CNY events coming in January 2016.