



# Once Inspired, Now Inspires

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# SkillsFuture: Rise of a National Movement

The buzz of **SkillsFuture** is all around us. What exactly is this phenomenon?

SkillsFuture is a national movement to enable all Singaporeans to develop to their full potential throughout life. Whichever stage of life you are in, whether you are in your early career, mid-career or silver years, SkillsFuture will enable you to take advantage of a wide range of opportunities – to help you realise your aspirations and attain mastery of skills.

I, too, have joined the bandwagon in my journey towards lifelong learning. I recently signed up for a Workforce Skills Qualifications (WSQ) Diploma in Security Management. As a security professional and a certified trainer, I want to further develop my expertise in this area so that I can continue to impart relevant and current knowledge and skills to my future learners. Signing up was so convenient and I also did not have to pay out of my own pocket for some of the modules as the SkillsFuture Credit of S\$500 covered the costs.

I have already set personal goals in my development as a trainer and assessor. In charting my course, I realised that goals can save one a huge amount of time and money. They give us

direction, enabling us to frame new opportunities or pitches for training strategies within the question: "Will this take me nearer to or further away from my goals?" Anything that does not serve the goals I've set could potentially be a step backwards and should be considered for shelving, saving some hard knocks. In my opinion, having clear goals is a highly effective decision-making tool.

So, set your goals, realise your dreams and move with the times.

*"A goal is a dream with a deadline."*

– Napoleon Hill

**Gregory Athastaraj Francis**

Editor (Alumni Volunteer)  
Newsletter Editorial Group



## Alumni's First Overseas Trip to Malacca



Our alumni and their guests at our inaugural overnight trip.



Our alumni and their guests enjoying the relaxing river boat cruise.

Excitement was in the air as 41 alumni and guests set off from Singapore at the break of dawn on April 30 for a two-day-one-night trip to Malacca, Malaysia. The group's first stop in Malacca was for lunch at a local cuisine restaurant, followed by a 45-minute river boat cruise along the Malacca River. The cruise was an eye-opener for the majority of the participants, as they passed old warehouses known as *godowns*, fish markets, churches and villages.

This was followed by a city tour before the group checked into Novotel Hotel and proceeded to a Peranakan dinner, where tapioca chips were served as the appetizer, with otah, assam fish, fried squid, mapo tofu, chicken rendang, fried egg and

chendol as the main courses and dessert. The group explored Jonker Street after dinner and grabbed some cheap souvenirs and local products from San Shu Gong, a famous local store. They also hopped onto trishaws with themed cartoon character decorations such as Hello Kitty and Doraemon for a short ride along the street.

On the second day, they visited the famous Baba Charlie Nyonya Cake shop, which is actually the open kitchen of a household where they could see how the different *kuehs* are prepared. Thereafter, the group visited popular places of interest such as A'Famosa, St Paul's Church, the Stadthuys and Christ Church. A truly enjoyable trip!

Look out for our next trip!

[www.unisim.edu.sg/Alumni\\_Events](http://www.unisim.edu.sg/Alumni_Events)

UniSIM Alumni

UniSIMAlumni

# OSIM Sundown Marathon 2016: We are Limitless

By Ng Pui Ling

The word “limitless” was plastered all over the venue of this year’s OSIM Sundown Marathon to inspire runners to push their boundaries to achieve the impossible. Held on June 28, the ninth edition of the popular night run saw over 20,000 zealous participants gather at the marathon’s starting point – under the shimmering lights of the Singapore Flyer. Among the sea of runners were our UniSIM students and alumni, donned in the same uniting shade of powder blue.

Most of the participants were taking part in the race with their family and friends, livening the atmosphere and creating a great experience for them. Our runners also posed and took photos in front of the UniSIM booth to capture the moment and create a positive memory.

UniSIM alumni and couple Ms Nicole Nay Win and Mr Zack Lim, who graduated in 2010 with their Bachelor of Engineering in Electronics, took part in the 5 km category. “We hope that by joining the run together, we can liven up our relationship,” said Nicole, explaining their reason for taking part in the run. The enthusiastic couple even participated together in the recent Straits Times Run.

Alumna Ms Jocelyn Neo, Class of 2013’s Bachelor of Science in Finance, was joined by her husband Mr Clement Kan, another UniSIM alumnus, and her brother, Mr Neo Wei Leng, a UniSIM student. By venturing into something novel, the three first-time

marathon participants were motivated into creating a healthier lifestyle for themselves. “It’s a good way to start,” Wei Leng commented. Clement also mentioned that joining events such as the marathon can contribute to a more all-encompassing university experience, which they may have missed, being part-time students.

The Sundown Marathon is not only a refreshing way to push your limits and train your perseverance, but also, undoubtedly, a good way to create new memories with your family and friends. As it is never too late to start, be sure not to miss out on the fun in next year’s night run!



Alumnus Mr Stephen Ong (right) with his family at their first marathon together.



(From right) Alumni Clement and Jocelyn, with her brother Wei Leng.

## Unwind Saturday Movie Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice

By Lee Siew Kuan

More than 300 from the UniSIM alumni community gathered at GVMax VivoCity on March 26 for the action adventure movie, Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice, which saw more superheroes than the two leads featured. In addition to this group of metahumans, we also saw many new alumni faces – some dressed in character – at the event. Ms Jasmine Leong, Class of 2013’s Bachelor of Science in Information Technology and Business came in a group of four, and Mr Low Eng Siang, Class of 2011’s Bachelor of Science in Information Technology and Business, came with a friend. According to them, they signed up for the event as they were really keen to catch one of the most highly anticipated movie of the year, and to remain connected to and be supportive of UniSIM. The pre-movie buffet gave all the opportunity to mingle and get to know one another.



UniSIM alumni events are great not only for networking amongst alumni, but for fun family time too!



Alumna Nur 'Izzah (left) striking a playful pose with her husband, Mr Mohamed Alfie, before the movie.



## From the Director's Desk

# What's in a Name?

*Dear Alumni,*

For an institution like UniSIM, our "brand" is really brought alive by the people who come through our doors, be they faculty, staff, students or alumni. Whether UniSIM can stand head and shoulders above our peers depends to a large part on our students and alumni as you form a sizeable community out there living our "brand promise". More than our students, our alumni are even better equipped brand advocates, being the "finished product" due to your graduate status compared to the "work-in-progress" status of students.

Grounding our brand in truth would make all the difference to the University's credibility and reputation. The UniSIM

brand essence is one of inclusive opportunity, widening access to those committed to take on the challenge and rigour of a university education.

Beyond academic standing and research capabilities, it is what hits the emotional buttons of our constituents that will bring out the unique flavour of the University. Do you value the knowledge acquired, the learning experienced and applied, and the friendships cultivated at UniSIM? Is there a sense of pride and affinity with your alma mater for the transformation that it has enabled in your life?

2015 marked the 10th anniversary of UniSIM. Moving forward, the University is poised for its next phase of

development amidst a changing local and global landscape. As we review and refresh our brand and update our plans for the next five years, our mission to provide lifelong education, equipping learners to serve society remains steadfast. However, the ways that we will go about achieving this will change as we capitalise and leverage on new opportunities and adjust to new challenges.

We look to our alumni not just as brand advocates out in industry and the community, but also as partners, be it in volunteering, providing job opportunities or mentoring, and interacting with our students to share and promote our core values and objectives. Come aboard to help map futures and fulfil dreams.

Thank you.

**Evelyn Chong**

Director, Office of Student and Alumni Relations

## Conquering the Gobi Desert

Over a span of four gruelling days from April 29 to May 2, nine UniSIM staff did the University proud as they pushed their limits and trekked 112 km through portions of the great Gobi Desert that were part of the old Silk Road, an important trade route from 2nd Century BC to 14th Century AD.

"The Industrial and Commercial Road – Second Gobi Expedition of Chinese Entrepreneurs" saw about 300 participants gather in the city of Dunhuang in western China, with the UniSIM team being the only one representing a Singapore university. Team UniSIM comprised Mr Allan Chia, Head, MBA programme; Dr Lim Tai Wei, Senior Lecturer, UniSIM College;

Dr Yu Yinghui, Senior Lecturer, Finance programme; Associate Professor Lee Pui Mun, Dean, School of Business; Ms Kristin Suaw, Manager, School of Human Development and Social Services; Dr Ding Ding, Head, Finance programme; Ms Tan Lee Cheng, Senior Lecturer, Business programme; Professor Tsui Kai Chong, Provost; and Ms Annie Lee, Senior Counsellor, C-three." after "a Singapore university. Inspired by the team's "battle-slogan" of "新跃大学·跨越戈壁" ("SIM University, Leaping Across Gobi"), and armed with essential items such as water, food, walkie-talkies, personal tracker and GPS navigation device, they triumphed over harsh rocky terrain and extreme weather conditions to complete the expedition.

The Gobi Expedition was conceptualised as an experiential challenge for graduate students and alumni, and staff members, from business schools specialising in entrepreneurial and executive management studies. It not only symbolises the entrepreneurial dynamism of ancient travellers who had trekked through these routes in search of business and trade, but also



Yes, we did it!

embodies the spirit of Xuanzang, a Chinese monk who had braved many obstacles along the Silk Road to bring Buddhist teachings from India to China in a 16-year journey.

Assoc Prof Lee shared: "We assessed the value of such an experiential activity and found it relevant in support of UniSIM's 'Head, Heart and Habit' educational principles. Acquiring the Gobi Expedition experience may invoke a positive transformation for our participants, where one will learn to be always mentally ready, passionately committed and physically capable to meet life's many opportunities and to tackle any obstacles."



Team UniSIM in Dunhuang.

# Once Inspired, Now Inspires

By Jocelyn Huang

UniSIM is Singapore's only university dedicated to the education and lifelong learning of working adults and adult learners. UniSIM enables its students to upgrade at their own time, place and pace without compromising work, family and social responsibilities through its more than 60 academic programmes in various disciplines, offered in a modular structure and through e-learning facilities. Its curriculum and pedagogy are designed to suit adult learners to improve competence, enhance career potential and propel aspiring students in realising their dreams.

One UniSIM alumnus who realised his long cherished dream on graduation is Mr Lai Wee Yeong from the Class of 2010's Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with Sociology. Back in 2006 when UniSIM was in its infancy, Wee Yeong decided to leverage on its unique education philosophy as a viable option to him becoming a teacher.

Wee Yeong had done poorly for his GCE 'A' Level despite two attempts, and his job applications to the Ministry of Education (MOE) were rejected repeatedly. He was not successful in his application for an office job either, and ended up with lowly paid technical jobs in logistics.

Though rejected, he was never dejected. Amidst such trying circumstances, Wee Yeong's dream continued to burn passionately in his heart. He recalled that this dream was ignited when he

was 14 years old. His father had passed away tragically that year. His family went through a rough patch to make ends meet and he began to lose interest in life. He regained hope through his caring teacher who went beyond her call of duty to encourage and take care of his well-being even after school hours. His teacher treated him as though he was her son. Wee Yeong was truly touched by his teacher's compassion and vowed to emulate her.

He cherished his mentor's guidance as he braved the storm of adversity.

He quotes renowned poet and religious leader Dr Daisaku Ikeda: "When you pursue something with a strong determination, you will have no regrets even should you fail. But if you succeed, you will achieve truly great things. Either way, your unceasing efforts will lead you to the next path you should follow."

During this trying period, Wee Yeong applied to the universities to further his studies and was delighted when UniSIM offered him a bridging programme. He did well and eventually qualified for the degree programme. According to Wee Yeong, it was tough juggling studies and work. One of the most difficult challenges was to ensure that he could submit his assignments on time. Thankfully, he had very understanding and helpful tutors, and supportive classmates who constantly encouraged one another to persevere until they harvested the fruits of their labour

Armed with his UniSIM degree, Wee Yeong was finally accepted by MOE three years ago hence fulfilling his dream of becoming a teacher. According to him, his learning journey at UniSIM has helped him become a better teacher as it was then that his creativity and ability to empathise with others were enhanced. He is also able to better encourage and motivate his students having gained a wider perspective through his personal ordeals.



Wee Yeong (right) with his students after football training in school.

The long route to success definitely instils in Wee Yeong a greater sense of appreciation of his own fruit of success. He constantly reminds himself of the Three H's of "Head", "Heart" and "Habit" – the cornerstone of UniSIM's education philosophy. He shares: "'Head' refers to the professionalism and competency to teach students not just knowledge and skills, but also values and character building. 'Heart' is the ability to empathise with people and the desire to make positive changes in society. And 'Habit' is to constantly seek new knowledge and new skills and with strong work ethics and values."

Wee Yeong plans to take on another challenge, and that is to pursue a graduate programme within the next few years. He reflects that nothing is easy in life: "Even though we may meet failures at different stages of our lives, it is more important to move on from them and plan the next step. If we allow ourselves to be defeated, then we will never be able to advance in life. It is a matter of our mindset and determination."

As an educator and one who had gone through hard times himself, Wee Yeong is in the best position to mould his students to be resilient and face their problems in life. His greatest goal is none other than to motivate and inspire his students to become the future leaders of Singapore.



Wee Yeong (in red t-shirt) with his students during a trip to Mount Ophir in Malaysia.



## DEEPEN YOUR SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE

**\*Subsidy for SkillsFuture Courses**  
Higher subsidy if you are 40 years old & above



### CET REGISTRATION

Register from October 15 – November 30 for January 2017 semester at [www.unisim.edu.sg/cetregistration](http://www.unisim.edu.sg/cetregistration)

*\*Terms and conditions apply*

## Be Ready for the Transformation of the Economy

SIM University offers a wide range of SkillsFuture courses for diverse sectors such as Aerospace, Electronics, Accounting, Analytics, Media, Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Early Childhood and many more.

Develop your skills for career mobility in growth sectors or for personal development. Use your SkillsFuture Credit or enjoy subsidies for any MOE-approved SkillsFuture modular course. You may stack these courses to a degree.\*

All eligible Singapore Citizens (SC) enjoy a 55% course fee subsidy for MOE-approved courses. In addition, eligible SC aged 40 and above will enjoy an additional 60% subsidy off the remaining fee payable.



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# E-Shop Items



**Two-port  
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**ECO Can**



**Luggage Organiser  
(six-piece set)**



**Travel Mug**

Visit [www.unisim.edu.sg/eshop](http://www.unisim.edu.sg/eshop) for the full range of UniSIM merchandise.

# Upcoming Events

## WELLNESS DAY

Date	6 Aug 2016 (Saturday)
Activities	<p><b>Yoga</b> Session 1: 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Session 2: 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.</p> <p><b>Massage by Singapore Association Of The Visually Handicapped</b> 9 a.m. to 12 noon</p> <p><b>Health Screening</b> Session 1: 8:30 a.m. Session 2: 9:30 a.m. Session 3: 10:30 a.m. Session 4: 11 a.m.</p> <p><b>Health Talk by Health Promotion Board</b> 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. (Registration starts at 11:30 a.m.)</p>
Fees	UniSIM alumni: S\$5 per person (inclusive of GST)
Venue	<p><b>Yoga, Massage, Health Screening</b> SIM HQ, Block B, Basement 2: Multi-Purpose Hall</p> <p><b>Health Talk</b> SIM HQ, Block B, LT B.2.05</p>

**UniSIM Students & Alumni**  
*Family & Friends Get-together*



**3 September 2016 (Saturday)**

**SKILLS FUTURE TALK**

**23 JULY 2016 (SATURDAY)**

**10:30 A.M.**

**SIM HQ, BLOCK A, LT A4.19**

For detailed information and registration, visit [www.unisim.edu.sg/alumni\\_events](http://www.unisim.edu.sg/alumni_events).

### Connecting UniSim is published by SIM University's Alumni Relations Department

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