

# ORDINARY MAN *Extraordinary* Outlook

05



Photo by Sanketa Anand / Sport Singapore

## Highlights

02

May the **FORCE**  
be with you

03

UniSIM's  
School of Law  
to Commence Classes  
in January 2017

07

*Alumni Card  
Special Deals*

## A Teardrop on the Cheek of Time

In 1631, Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan ordered the construction of a monument of unsurpassed splendour and majesty in memory of his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who died during her last childbirth. Thus, began the building of the Taj Mahal – a monument to love by a bereaved husband – which was completed in 1654. Indian poet, Rabindranath Tagore, aptly described the Taj Mahal as “a teardrop on the cheek of time.”

I was fortunate to have visited the Taj Mahal, located in Agra, Uttar Pradesh, around mid-February this year with my wife. Considered the most important tourist destination in India, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World, the Taj Mahal continues to fascinate us with its beauty, serenity and magnificence.

The setting of this splendid mausoleum has changed little through the centuries and the Taj Mahal is surrounded by a timeless aura of magic, which we felt through its marbled walls. It was as if time stood still for a moment in our lives as we marvelled at its beauty.

Taking time off from our busy lives was something both my wife and I had wanted to do. We had planned and saved for this trip a long time ago. I believe that breaks from the “rat race” are required whether one is holidaying somewhere near or far.

Just like lifelong learning, we may need to take such breaks too to keep us on track. Planning, saving and registering for courses offered by UniSIM perhaps, can help us realise our full potential and achieve our dreams. Let time be your slave, rather than your master.

**Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere.**

- Chinese Proverb

**Gregory Athastaraj Francis**

Editor (Alumni Volunteer)  
Newsletter Editorial Group



## MAY THE **FORCE** BE WITH YOU

By Ng Pui Ling



Rosezita (right) and family members posing before the movie screening.

The lobby of the ‘Golden Village at Suntec City was buzzing with excitement’ on 19 Dec 2015 as our alumni members waited to catch the latest addition to the *Star Wars* franchise, *The Force Awakens*. The much-anticipated Episode VII had drawn in not only fans of the original 1977 trilogy, but also fans from newer generations who were keen to find out more about the hype.

“I hope watching the latest *Star Wars* movie with my family can help us to bond further,” Ms Rosezita binte Mohamed Hussein said smilingly, with her husband whom she described as a *Star Wars* fanatic and two children by her side. The Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in English with Business student, also shared the reasons she enjoyed the emotional aspects of the 1999 trilogy which delved into the backstory of Anakin Skywalker in his younger days. She hoped that by watching the latest *Star Wars* film together with her family, it would bring them closer together as it bridges her husband and her generation to that of their children.

Alumnus Mr Audray Gwee, Bachelor of Science in Information Technology and Business, Class of 2010, who works in the IT industry, had also decided to spend his Saturday watching the movie. Audray’s favourite character is Anakin Skywalker, just like Rosezita. “I am not a huge fan, but I am excited to see how the *Star Wars* story evolves in the latest movie,” said Audray as he queued for some popcorn before the movie started.

Mr Wang Bo, a Bachelor of Science in Information and Communication Technology, Class of 2013, mentioned that he is an ardent fan of the action-filled *Star Wars* franchise, having watched the previous movies ages ago. Hence, he was thrilled that Alumni Relations Department organised the event.

As the movie came to an end, fans will now have to wait until 2017 to catch the next *Star Wars* movie. May the force be with them, and you, till then.

# Gratitude & Growth

*Dear Alumni,*

I confess! I am one of those who would read the Foreword and Acknowledgement pages of a book. I know that most people will zoom straight into the story, but for me, I am interested to know more about the writer, why we should read the book and who had been instrumental in supporting him/her on the writing journey. It is also in the Acknowledgment page that you will see gratitude being expressed. Gratitude is something that we often overlook in our busy lives. We often forget to appreciate the many individuals who have given their time, effort and/or financial support to enrich the lives of others in their community.

At UniSIM, we too have a bunch of such committed volunteers in our alumni community, helping to organise or cover events and being career mentors. For example, this newsletter that comes to you quarterly is the result of much hard work from our Newsletter Editorial Group (NEG) working alongside our Alumni Relations team. They give ideas and suggestions on the story line-up, cover the events and conduct interviews, often during weekends or after office hours to bring interesting University developments and alumni achievements to you, quarter after

quarter. I salute and thank each of our volunteers for their commitment and contribution.

I met up with the NEG members on one of the week nights in January and we had a fruitful meeting which ended close to 10 pm, talking about how we can bring alumni engagement to greater heights via the newsletter. Should we go digital? Should we include more calls to action? Should we have more features?

Besides the views of this dedicated group, we would also like to hear from you! So, there is a short call to action survey, in this particular issue, to solicit feedback on how we can "grow" the publication to garner more readers. The newsletter is for you! Have your say in shaping it. We look forward to your feedback.

Thank you.

**Evelyn Chong**

*Director*

*Office of Student and Alumni Relations*

## LATEST NEWS

### UniSIM'S SCHOOL OF LAW TO COMMENCE CLASSES IN JANUARY 2017

Singapore's third law school, set up at UniSIM, will take in students from Academic Year 2017. This was announced by the Ministry of Law at a press conference on Feb 16.

UniSIM's School of Law (SLAW) will be a specialist law school for the training of prospective family and criminal lawyers, which will address the shortage of practitioners in these fields. Professor Leslie Chew, a Senior Counsel, is the Dean of SLAW, which will see one intake per year. Applications to SLAW opened in March 2016 and classes will begin in January 2017, with an initial intake of 50 – 60 students.

Panel members at the press conference comprised Ms Indraneel Rajah, Senior Minister of State for Law and Finance; Mr Ng How Yue, Permanent Secretary for Law; Mr Lam Yi Young, Deputy Secretary (Policy) in the Ministry of Education; Mr Narayanan Sreenivasan, Managing Director of Straits Law Practice LLC; Ms Foo Siew Fong, Matrimonial & Family Law Head and Partner at Harry Elias Partnership LLP; and Professor Cheong Hee Kiat, President of UniSIM. Ms Indraneel chaired the Steering Committee set up in November 2013 to guide the establishment of SLAW.

SLAW will offer two law programmes – a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) for undergraduates and a Juris Doctor (J.D.) for graduates. With a curriculum that is credit-based and modular, students will have the flexibility to complete the LL.B. in four to six years and the J.D. in three to six years. SLAW will provide an opportunity for those seeking a mid-career switch to law, such as paralegals, law enforcement officers and social workers, and create an additional path for prospective law students who may otherwise have to go overseas.



Artist's impression of the new State Courts Complex  
(Source: State Courts, Singapore).

The majority of the students are expected to be mature students with life and work experience. With holistic admission criteria, students will be selected not just based on their academic ability, but also their aptitude, attitude and interest in the practice of family and criminal law. The practice-oriented curriculum will also include a mandatory six-month practicum for hands-on teaching and learning, which will allow the students to apply what they have learnt and handle real-life cases under the close supervision of senior legal officers or practitioners. SLAW's interim location will be at the existing UniSIM campus, and the proposed long term co-location with the State Courts and/or the Family Justice Courts, so as to support the emphasis on practice.

The panel also shared that SLAW will provide continuing education and training opportunities for both legal and non-legal professionals, in line with the *SkillsFuture* initiative to encourage lifelong learning. A school with a difference to make a difference, SLAW aims to meet the community's needs for well-equipped family and criminal lawyers with a strong sense of justice and a heart for their fellow Singaporeans.

# AN ORDINARY MAN WITH AN *Extraordinary Outlook*

COVER STORY *By Wu Yanping*



Teck Hua with his wife, son and daughter.



Dressed in a crisp purple shirt and business pants, Mr Lieu Teck Hua, 36, looks like an ordinary office employee. But he once went through a difficult past which moulded his extraordinary outlook on life.

In 2004, a car collided into his motorcycle while he was riding from an army camp to his girlfriend's home. He sustained extremely serious injury to his right leg that the doctors advised him to amputate it above the knee. The then 24-year-old SAF officer could not accept it and did not sign the consent letter for amputation immediately. However, three days later, after he developed an itch throughout his body following blood transfusions, Teck Hua agreed to the amputation. He received his prosthetic leg about five months after the accident.

Teck Hua is grateful that his then 17-year-old girlfriend stood firmly by him. The couple is now married with a two-year-old son and an eight-month-old daughter.

According to Teck Hua, the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) gave him a year's paid leave to recover from his accident. During that time, he trained seven times a week in swimming and one-and-a-half-years later, he competed in swimming competitions including the 1st Asia Swimming Championship, and World Wheelchair and Amputee Games (2005).

Teck Hua left the SAF in 2008 for the Singapore Disability Sports Council (SDSC) where he served as the Sports Development Manager for six months, before joining Phillip Securities as a remisier.



Teck Hua with his men from Platoon 7.



Teck Hua (right) as an army officer.

Source: The Straits Times © Singapore Press Holdings Limited. Permission required for reproduction.

All images are used with permission from Mr Lieu Teck Hua.

Source: Mr Lieu Teck Hua's Facebook profile at <https://www.facebook.com/dehua02>

It was while working that Teck Hua decided to further his studies. He took up UniSIM's Bachelor in Finance programme in 2011, and graduated in 2014. He also undertook the Chartered Financial Consultant course.

SDSC subsequently persuaded Teck Hua to join them as a swimmer because Singapore would be hosting the 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Para Games (APG 2015). He eventually represented Singapore in amputee sprinting because the sport lacked Singaporean representatives. Teck Hua trained almost every day with slightly less than a year to the APG 2015. He reflected that although the timing at the APG 2015 was his personal best, the other amputee sprinters from the ASEAN region were better, and he looks forward to challenging himself further to compete against them in future.

Teck Hua hopes to qualify for Paralympics 2020 in Japan. He also hopes to build up a career so that his wife and he could try for a third or fourth child. He shared his own concerns as a typical Singaporean: "The cost of living here is high. It is also about aspirations for my family. So, it's not just quantity, but also quality."

Teck Hua, we hope that you can achieve your dreams with the same spirit that you have demonstrated in overcoming your accident.



Teck Hua (standing, centre) with the Singapore swimming team at World Wheelchair Amputee Games 2005 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

*I had a choice to live my life either negatively or positively. I choose to cherish and make the most out of my life. My life became more purposeful after amputation. I didn't know what I had wanted in life before that. After the accident, I was even more lost. But I cherished my life more.*

## OUTLET SHOPPING FOR CHINESE NEW YEAR



By Lee Siew Kuan



Our happy alumni taking a group photo after another good haul at a factory along Woodlands Terrace.

You might have heard of this place, but you may not know where it is exactly. We are talking about an open house factory sale designed to bring joy for all to enjoy the Chinese New Year season.

On Jan 30, a group of our alumni and their guests gathered on the UniSIM campus for a filling breakfast, before departing for Woodlands Terrace and Senoko South for a half-day festive food shopping expedition. Our alumni not only enjoyed great bargains, but also had the opportunity to sample freshly-baked cakes, titbits, fruits and Chinese New Year goodies. Many of the alumni ended up happily with bags of frozen seafood and salmon from Fassler, ice cream from Melvados, mandarin oranges, and even barbecued pork slices from Fragrance.

Everyone enjoyed themselves throughout the trip. Ms Yip Si Wah, a 2015 School of Business graduate, expressed her appreciation to UniSIM for organising this trip.



# CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERISM

By Kong Gaik Suan

One wonders why an annual dinner with UniSIM's senior management and deans is organised for the alumni volunteers of UniSIM. After all, volunteering is generally an altruistic activity and the outpouring of one's innate willingness to serve the community, which is exactly what the UniSIM alumni volunteers have been doing.

Well, Professor Cheong Hee Kiat, President of UniSIM, thanked and encouraged the alumni to continue to be active participants in the future of the University, and shared that the University wants to recognise the alumni for their contributions.

The dinner on Feb 18 was UniSIM's show of appreciation to its many alumni volunteers who have been most pro-active and committed to its cause. Pre-dinner cocktails flowed as the alumni members enjoyed having their names and well-wishes for the season calligraphed onto thin pairs of chopsticks, as mementos. That evening, nine alumni volunteers were presented with their Volunteer Service Award by Prof Cheong for completing five years of volunteering service at UniSIM. Prof Cheong also updated the alumni on some key university developments including the new School of Law,

which will focus on family and criminal law, and see its classes commence in January 2017; the launch of two new full-time degree programmes in Supply Chain Management and Social Work, and UniSIM being a significant contributor to the nation-wide implementation of the *SkillsFuture* movement. He also urged our alumni to continue their pursuit of lifelong learning and reminded all that UniSIM has a wide range of continuing education and training courses on offer.

Everyone feasted on a sumptuous buffet dinner amid much laughter and gaiety, and caught up with fellow alumni and the UniSIM management team. The volunteers shared that they were gratified that the Alumni Relations Department had provided various platforms for them to contribute back and remain engaged with UniSIM. They added that they were raring to go the extra mile in the new year for the University, in spite of their various work and family commitments.



The Alumni Volunteer Service Award winners, together with UniSIM's senior management team.



Our alumni volunteers posing with the UniSIM senior management team and staff.

## SAY IT!

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For details and application procedure, please visit  
[www.sim.edu.sg/simscholarships](http://www.sim.edu.sg/simscholarships) or call **6248 9489**



# 2D4N Trip to Malacca

30 APRIL 2016 TO 1 MAY 2016

Venue Assemble at the UniSIM Campus, SIM HQ, Clementi Road (Tour will start and end here)

Time 6 a.m.

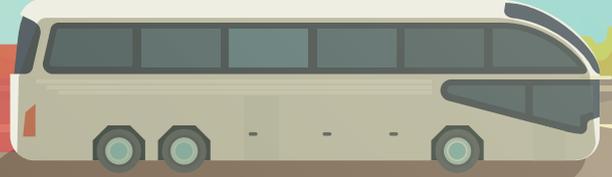
Register at [www.unisim.edu.sg/alumni\\_events](http://www.unisim.edu.sg/alumni_events)

Source: Tourism Malaysia

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## SCHOOL OF BUSINESS UniSIM MBA

The UniSIM MBA is an 18-month programme (evening classes). The programme aims to equip you with the business knowledge and skills to function as entrepreneurial leaders who will be capable of driving initiatives to meet business objectives while ensuring the needs for sustainability, social responsibility and ethical practices are met.

UniSIM alumni who qualify will enjoy attractive fee concessions.



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Find out more



Next Available Intake  
January 2017

Application Deadline  
30 November 2016

For more information, email us at  
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