Dear students and alumni!

Welcome to the third issue of the UON Singapore (UONS) Business Club’s student magazine – Connections! I am very pleased to see this publication has been sustainable and well received by all groups of stakeholders. In this issue, I want to share three key points with you. Firstly, the external environment is dynamic and constantly changing, and the market labour has become intensively competitive, thus you have to equip yourselves with the necessary skills to be competent employees who are highly “demanded” by employers. Obtaining good marks for assignments and passing exams is not the only goal in your journey of learning. Be ready and willing to put additional effort in order to acquire and develop both academic and non-academic skills and knowledge which can really help you survive and grow in the future workplace! Secondly, there are many tangible ‘items’ which you can lose (though not everything you can find again when it is lost or when the opportunity passes). Yet, you can never turn back the clock. Therefore, try to manage your time effectively and efficiently, and spend time on productive activities which can help to improve your studies, your life and your future. Remember to start your “sigmoid curve” (I hope you still remember this terminology if you have studied Business Strategy/Strategic Management course) timely in order to avoid stagnation. Finally, be confident in yourself (i.e. self-efficacy)! If thousands of other UONS students can progress well in their studies, why can’t you? However, overconfidence may result in adverse consequences, and hence you should prepare well for all assessment components.

My deepest appreciation always goes to (i) all contributing authors who have spent much time and effort to write and submit their contributions, (ii) Ms. Isabel Kum for editing all the write-ups, (iii) the UONS Business Club President and committee members for their contributions, and (iv) Mr. Andriun Alexander Putra (BIT316) for the design and layout of the magazine. On behalf of the editorial board, I would also like to thank UONS management for their support.

Lastly, you are encouraged to join the UONS Business Club which is a platform for students to practice and develop their leadership, management, communication, time management and networking skills. You are also encouraged to submit your write-ups, such as articles, poems, photos, self-introduction, etc., to share (i) your study experience, your career goals, your job search strategies and your successful (or even non-successful) stories as a student or an alumnus, and (ii) any other academic and non-academic activities which are deemed relevant to UONS Connections! Feel free to send me an email anytime at Huong.Ha@newcastle.edu.au. If you have any questions, please contact the Business Club committee members or myself. We are always here for YOU!

Dr. Huong Ha
UONS Business Club Advisor
Senior Lecturer (Business), UON Singapore
Academic Coordinator (MBA, BBUS and BCOM programs)
Hello everyone! I am very glad to see that the UON Business Magazine is thriving, and that so many people are writing in about their experiences studying with UON Singapore. It's great to see you have established a sub-community of friends and peers with goals in common (one of these goals, I hope, is to also have fun while you study!). As always, thank you to Dr Huong Ha for nurturing this project and for giving me the opportunity to advertise myself! As the Teaching & Learning Adviser of UON Singapore, I am happy to help all our students with their academic queries, and to give learning advice. Do send me an email at Isabel.Kum@newcastle.edu.au if you have any doubts you need to clarify about your writing, referencing, study skills, and assignments in general.

Isabel Kum  
Teaching & Learning Adviser, UON Singapore

UON SINGAPORE BUSINESS STUDENT CLUB

INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The eight new committee members were selected during the last event organised by the T2, 2016 Business Club Committee. Committee members did not need to attend an interview. However, other EXCO members had to attend an interview by two UONS academics before they were appointed to their current positions.

President: Ervan Priestley Sukardjo (MBA 216)  
Vice President: Hanna Daphne Ediza (MBA 316)  
Secretary 1: Amir Merchant (MBA 216)  
Secretary 2: Claudia Sutanto Wijaya (MBA 316)  
Events Manager: Andrian Alexander Putra (BIT 316)  
Committee Members 1: Sundar Pandian Mohankumar (MBA 316)  
Committee Members 2: Simran Tantia (BBUS MT 315)

The other students automatically become members and will be included in our exciting upcoming club activities.
Hello guys, I am Ervan Priestley Sukardjo from MBA 216, I have been studying in the University of Newcastle (UON) since my bachelor degree (BCom313). I have many experiences from studying in this university, such as how to communicate with friends who come from different countries and cultures. As the class consists of many different nationalities, I need to be open-minded to accept as well as learn how to communicate and work together with students from different backgrounds.

During my MBA program, I was honoured to be appointed as UON business club president. The Business club has helped me improve myself (leadership skills, teamwork, knowledge and many other skills), as well as increase my network. I have met more people inside and outside the university who can help in my future. This experience has enriched my skills, which will be useful to prepare myself to join the workforce.

As a proactive student, I have been involved in many extracurricular activities in school such as volunteer to welcome the former President of the Philippines, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, during one of the biggest events while I was taking my degree in Tourism, majoring in Hotel and Restaurant Management. I was also the Tourism-HRM Circle Secretary. While pursuing my internship in the USA, I was fortunate to be one of the employees selected to complete the Leadership Development Series class to progress into a managerial position. Being able to work in such vastly different cultures has given me a unique perspective, as well as an appreciation for different kinds of people. This has helped shape me into a patient, emerging leader in my future long-term career field.

Now, with UON, I am deeply honoured to be appointed as the Vice-President of the Business Club and am keen to encourage students to be part of the club as this enhances their leadership and entrepreneurial skills and unleashes their talents in preparation for their future career.
Choosing to pursue my Master’s degree in Business Administration at the University of Newcastle, Singapore has been one of my best decisions. This course has helped me gain confidence and develop myself as an individual by enhancing my leadership, communication and management skills. Coming from an engineering background, being part of the UON Singapore Business Club as the Secretary has helped me gain real world knowledge of performing administrative responsibilities and experience in organising and managing events along with my fellow committee members who come from all walks of life. Working and studying in such a diverse environment has given me a greater understanding of cultures and traditions. I personally encourage you to take this amazing opportunity to be a part of this dynamic club and take the right step towards building your career.

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Studying in UON Singapore is one of the best choices I have made. I just started my first semester, but I have already obtained a lot of knowledge and experience. The subjects, which require students to work in groups or as individuals enable, students to develop and grow their skills and shape their thinking so that they are ready to be involved in an actual working environment. As the class is also dominated by international students, it allows different perspectives to be communicated and discussed to reinforce out of the box thinking. This diversity also allows students to be ready once they enter the globalised marketplace. Even though there are a lot of challenges to complete the subjects, it improves our skills as it stretches students' capacity to finish deadlines in a timely manner. The new campus space at Marina Square is also very nice. It has writeable walls which enable students to write anywhere in the class without being worried about running out of space. Overall, I am very happy with my experience with UON Singapore.

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My name is Nick and I am currently a University of Newcastle student in the Bachelor of Commerce programme. I’ve been living in Singapore for about three years now, and I am always amazed and inspired and ‘educated’ right here in UON. Oh! Did I mention I’m also the leader of the Magic Club?

Let’s talk about the Magic Club: it’s a newly opened club under UON’s Business Club. Currently, there are two people running the Magic Club, myself and Ken. We are definitely looking forward to meet you all!

This club is more than meets the eye. What I mean by that is that you will get more than just magic tricks. As manager and leader of the magic club, my goal is to make any individual member make themselves better, in terms of presentation, showmanship, communication skills, gaining confidence, creativity, and so much more.

Arise, new leaders! Join us! You may seek me out directly, or if you are unsure you may seek the Business Club members for further details. Remember: “And above all, watch with glittering eyes the whole world around you because the greatest secrets are always hidden in the most unlikely places. Those who don’t believe in magic will never find it.” - Roald Dahl

I am Andrian Alexander Putra and come from Jakarta, Indonesia. Currently, I am studying in Singapore and a student in the Bachelor of Information Technology from the University of Newcastle, Australia (Singapore campus).

Firstly, I took the University of Newcastle programme because I am learning IT/Computer module with combination of Business and the UON Australia has very good academic ranking. Secondly, I want to share my experience of joining the Business club and I made many friends from the Business club especially the MBA students, and also learnt how to effectively work in a team and organise events. And lastly, I would like to say thanks to UON Singapore for all its extracurricular activities.

I am Nicklaus Limansantoso and come from Jakarta, Indonesia. Currently, I am studying in Singapore and a student in the Bachelor of Information Technology from the University of Newcastle, Australia (Singapore campus).

Firstly, I took the University of Newcastle programme because I am learning IT/Computer module with combination of Business and the UON Australia has very good academic ranking. Secondly, I want to share my experience of joining the Business club and I made many friends from the Business club especially the MBA students, and also learnt how to effectively work in a team and organise events. And lastly, I would like to say thanks to UON Singapore for all its extracurricular activities.
I am Sundar Pandian Mohan Kumar from Thanjavur, India. It has been an enriching experience to study at UON Singapore. It gives us global exposure when we study with people of different nationalities. The standard of education here is the same as in Australia. Currently, I am pursuing my Master degree and join the UONS Business club because it provides a platform to learn, organise business events, and increase my leadership qualities.

Hello! I am Simran, and I am from Kolkata, India. I joined PSB Academy as a diploma student to pursue Hospitality and Tourism, and then proceeded to enrol in UON Singapore. Joining UON was probably the best decision for me, as I’m getting a dual study experience, both in terms of my major, as well as the study environments of Singapore and Australia. Although it has not been too long since I joined the UON Business Club, I feel like a significant part of it. It makes me interest in organising and planning events a boost, and has also given me the opportunity to meet some great individuals from different parts of the world. I hope that we, as a team, can create a more viable and appealing business environment for all students from UON Singapore.
BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION FOR UONS STUDENTS (July 2016)

The UONS Business Plan Competition was launched in May 2016. The objectives were to (i) encourage entrepreneurship among UON Singapore students and provide them with a platform to showcase their innovative ideas, (ii) celebrate UON Singapore 10th anniversary. The organizing committees received 17 business plans with interesting ideas from both undergraduate and postgraduate students. The Final Presentations and Awards Ceremony was held on 20 July 2016. The winners are as follows:

First prize: Ms. Anuja Sandeep Chalke  
Second prize: Mr. Htun Htun Lin  
Third prize: Mr. Brang Seng Maw
ELECTION AND EXTENDED ORIENTATION (Sep 2016)

The extended orientation began with a presentation by the Business Club President. Some key points were shared, including “Be fearless, Be resilient, Be responsible and Participation”. “Being fearless does not mean having no fear, but admitting your fears and going beyond them. Since university is the start of life and probably the first time a student had interaction with the outside world, you cannot expect to stay within your comfort zone. Step out of your comfort zone and start accepting new things. Be resilient - a student should be flexible and reliable at the same time. As an adult, it is important to understand that no skill or talent can overshadow the act of preparation. And also, accept the fact that you can’t always win, and learns from mistakes instead of whining about the outcome. But students still need to work hard in order to pass. They cannot make mistakes during the exam. Be responsible - Some students tend to point out their own mistake or responsibility to other people. But this behaviour should transform into a motivation to chase after better results and improvement. Participation - I noticed that there are many students, not only in UON but also in my previous school, tend to just keep quiet and like their own “me” time. Most of them are sleeping, playing with their phones, doodling and/or doing other activities that are not related to the class. These types of students tend to fail in understanding their assignments and are super confused during exam. Don’t be one of them and be resilient, responsible and participate!

Indri Novina Sulih, (MBA 116)
ELECTION AND EXTENDED ORIENTATION (Sep 2016)

The sharing sessions by UON alumnus, Vaishnavi Nagapandian (MBA) who has been working at PSB Academy since her graduation, was interesting with useful tips on how to achieve good academic results and how a UON degree can help graduates in their careers. The ice-breaking games brought the participants together – There is no division between new students and current students, between undergraduate students and postgraduates. The session also included a “magic show” when Nick Lim and Nick Nguyen showcased their talents by performing magical tricks with playing cards and the Rubik’s cubes.

SMU TAX CHALLENGES CASE (Oct 2016)

Team UONS got this opportunity to represent UON Singapore in the 2016 edition of the SMU Tax Case Challenge. This annual keynote event organised by The Tax Society@SMU helped us to network with and compete against all the top Institutes in Singapore. Participating in this event helped us build relationships with fellow like-minded students from different universities and provided us with an insight into organising and managing an event of this scale. We also got a chance to interact with executives from major industry organisations like Ernst and Young, CPA, Deloitte and KPMG, and learn more about the industry. We had the chance to network with some people represent the organization above. In all, it was a very enriching and fulfilling experience for all of us.

Ervan Priestley Sukardjo and Amir Iqbal (MBA 216)
I would like to start this email off with big thanks for the great opportunity available to the club members. Attending events like the CPA Congress Student Symposium is one valuable experience not only to meet influential people but also add learning support to how you plan and foresee your future career. The speakers gave us insightful tips on what to expect when you are applying for a specific job, how to be resilient in your personal life and professional career and what are the factors of a healthy work-life balance.

The answer always goes back to you. You create your own expectations. You make your own choices. You define balance according to how it satisfies you. People are driven by different things; it can be achievement, or power, or affiliation. How you manage yourself and your emotion depends on every individual because what works for you may not work for others.

The key point is "BE YOURSELF". Nothing is more important than being authentic or genuine in all sorts of aspects in your personal and professional life.

This event was more informative than I expected it to be. All the speakers delivered their speeches very clearly with full enthusiasm. It was really worth the time. And not to mention, the refreshments were very delicious.

Hanna Daphne Ediza (MBA 316)
ACTIVITIES

CPA STUDENT SYMPOSIUM (Oct 2016)

People and students from different fields of work and education were present to gain knowledge and a clear idea about the CPA Course. The course was explained in detail by the organizers. Speakers at the symposium were articulate about their fields and shared with us their struggle to get where they are today.

Mr. Sam Kok Weng gave a clear idea about the mutual expectations of employers and employees. This helped me in knowing what I should expect from my future employer and what my future employer may or may not expect from me. Mr. James Walton shared his struggle to reach the post he has in Deloitte today. How he sacrificed his dreams, adapted to various cultures in different countries, just to work hard for his company to succeed. He also explained how one should be flexible and careful in choosing plans for one’s career and how sometimes sacrificing the things we love for our career actually helps us grow our career. Ms. Kuan Li Li shared parts of her personal life, how becoming a mother at the beginning of her career was challenging and how she balanced both her job and personal life. It was a great example for people who find it difficulty managing their work-life balance.

After the coffee break, four speakers, Mr. Albert Ho, Ms. Helen Lee, Ms. Jean Lee & Mr. Stanley Sia, took over four corners of the convention hall and helped us address our doubts about the CPA Course and how it will help us in our career growth, our job prospects, selecting or changing career options and how to get what we want out of a job.

The entire event was incredibly helpful and highly informative. Attending the CPA Student Symposium was a correct decision because it helped me broaden my options for a successful career in the future. Networking with people working in highly successful companies and speaking to them directly gave me assurance that everyone can grow in their career with proper guidance and hard work.

Jay Bipinkumar Umaria (MBA 316)

It was a privilege to attend the 58th CPA Congress 2016, a premier global event that connects and brings together some of the world's brightest minds, leaders and policy makers. The panel discussion was very informative and provided insights into mega trends and upcoming competitive strategies. This was further enriched by the keynote speakers and life experiences shared by Honourable Member of Parliament and Secretary-General of the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC), Mr. Chan Chun Sing and some of the finest speakers from the fields of accounting and finance. The CPA Student Symposium which followed was a great opportunity to interact with students from different universities and network with established industry professionals from several elite organisations including Blackberry, Deloitte and Standard Chartered Bank thereby gaining beneficial insights and guidance to build a successful career path.

Amir Iqbal Merchant (MBA 216)
My idea of success is actually failure because the moment you experience failure, you start looking at life from a different perspective, which makes you a stronger person who can continue preparing for success. From one such personal experience I realized where my true passion lies. I developed an interest in understanding the business world and knowing how any business operates. My passion and interests focus on two main areas in business, Charted Accountancy and Mergers and Acquisitions (M&A). Being a part of the CPA Student Symposium as an UON student provided a great opportunity for me to meet experts in the field of finance and accounting. The whole conference focused on how to build a successful career after our graduation.

Every speech taught me the things I need to focus on to achieve my goals of having a successful career in the field that I love. Networking and socializing is very important to any student as it will play a key role in our career prospects. In fact, Professor Themin Suwardy, Deputy Dean of SMU said that belonging to a professional body helps us build a strong network and will give you a head start far above than many people.

The speech given by Mr. Sam Kok Weng, Partner at PwC on Employer Expectation versus Employee Expectation was very insightful. In a very simple way he explained what employers look at when they hire such as the potential of the candidates (i.e., us) in the long run, how authentic they are, whether they can think out of the box, whether they are willing to unlearn what they have learnt. He admitted that these are the important qualities he considers when he hires a candidate. He also spoke about what candidates/employees must consider when it comes to choosing a job in the company they want to work for. His first advice was to achieve self-actualization, to know our temperament, talk with open-mindedness, to know the life cycle of the company and if we fit into that environment. He said we will be powerful beings when we know ourselves completely. His closing line to us was “Don’t let others take away your authenticity and live true to yourself”. Mr. James Walton, Clients and Markets Partner at Deloitte, gave an inspiring speech on How do I build resilience in my career? For him resilience means “Bounce back ability”. He said, “We are looking for candidates who are resilient”. He gave us seven ways to build our resilience and those are – “Know yourself, a good vision, focus on what matters, think long term, always be positive, live and learn constantly, balance (Work life Integration)”. The face to face interaction session on Chasing my professional dream: Journey of a CPA with speakers Albert Ho (Managing Director of Centrum Capital), Helen Lee (Head of Finance, Blackberry), Jean Lee (Vice President, NICE Systems) and Stanley Sia (Managing Director, Standard Chartered Bank) gave me a lot of information on how to start my career and which areas to focus on for my career goal, and tips on how and when to take up CPA exam.

Every single one of their stories is a true inspiration and what I have learnt from them is that the mistakes we make or failures we encounter in life are not obstacles for our career but valuable learning experiences. How we convey this to others is what matters. Be clear about what we want and overcome any challenges that are thrown our way to achieve our dreams and turn those dreams to reality. Attending the event gave me a clear idea as to how and where to start my career, and which areas to focus on. I thank UON and Dr. Huong Ha for providing me this opportunity to attend the CPA Student Symposium and helping me take one step closer to my goals.
CPA STUDENT SYMPOSIUM (Oct 2016)

On the 11th of October, I attended the CPA Student Symposium and it was a truly eye-opening experience. The event had a few companies there to set up booths, as well as staff to answer our queries. During the symposium itself, the speakers were well prepared and gave great advice, tips, including their own story experiences to share with the audience.

One good example was the subject on: Employer versus Employee expectations. The speaker from PWC basically talked about personal perspectives, and learning to control our expectations such that it will motivate us, but at the same time, not let it set us back during hard times. The highlight of this talk was something that I personally resonated with me and the takeaway was - Authenticity is key. The next speaker was from Deloitte and the subject was Career Resilience. He spoke a lot from his personal experiences and this gave me a lot of motivation to constantly strive for what I want to achieve in my career. I learnt a new word from this lecture- “Bounce back ability” which is essentially getting right back up on your feet even after multiple setbacks.

Through this Symposium, the school has enabled me to broaden my perspectives on learning. Not only that, it was also a great way to get more information from future prospective employers as well as build my network.

Ng Jun Ching (BBUS LMM 216)

This was a huge eye opener, being my very first symposium. I have gained much useful knowledge ranging from the key attributes of a good employee to having a good work-life balance from the success stories and personal experience shared by the leaders of the respective Big 4 organizations, which were particularly engaging. I find the panel style of sharing and discussion highly interactive and enlightening. There was effort taken to gain awareness of our aims for future career paths, and the panel members shared more relevant issues, guidance and advice with us. Of course, the networking was an important part of this event; in fact, it was the greatest takeaway from this session.

Despite it being a student-centered symposium, I also got the chance to meet and network with the experienced and well-established professionals who were there for the other corporate SME talks. It was a great learning opportunity and I would love to make time to attend such seminars again in future.

Ho Xin Ying Sherilyn (BCOM)
The CPA Symposium was well thought out and well executed from beginning to end. I am grateful that I got the opportunity to interact with the C Level top management and senior decision makers working in this field, which is of a special relevance to my professional goals and career objectives. I have learned from the more experienced members through sharing their experience and skills with us along their career paths. At the same time it gave me a clearer image between employer and employee expectations and building resilience in the career.

The first speech was given by Mr. Sam Kok Weng, a partner of PwC, on Employer versus Employee Expectations. The first question is ‘what does it take for you to be hired in a role that you desire?’ As we know, the global environment and circumstances are changing all the time, leading to jobs becoming more competitive in the market; hence, our expectations are changing over time too. We as individuals have our priorities through the Maslow hierarchy of needs that comprises self-actualization, esteem, belonging, safety and physiological needs, but a company goes through a life cycle of formation to rapid creation. In order to match the two different life cycles to make it a meaningful job, one has to constantly be in progress, seeking better career enhancement or recognition from professionals. The second question is ‘what does it take for employers today to be impressed?’ Firstly, does the potential of an individual fit into the purpose of a continuing future? Secondly, an individual must suit the company in terms of fitting into the organization through contribution. Thirdly, an individual must add value to the company such as solving problems in fulfilling their mission. The third question is ‘how do employers continue to motivate employees?’ Basic human motivation is down to these three things: mastering your own ability to match the expectation, relating to people around you, and unlearning and fitting into the context.

The second speech by Mr. James Walton, a clients and markets partner of Deloitte Southeast Asia, was on how to build resilience in one’s career. He shared with us his experience working in 50 different countries from the time when he was young looking for a job after graduation until now, when he has fulfilled his dream working in a global company in an emerging market that is doing good for the society. There is a part of his story that gave me a deep impression, when he was working in the United Kingdom, human resources manager gave him a warning that if there was no improvement in his performance, he might get retrenched. That is the time when he started to share with us how he started to be resilient because he is the type that has the ability to bounce back and handle new challenges and toughness in his career. The seven ways of how to build resilience in his career are live and learn, focus on what matters, be yourself, think for the long-term, balance, skills and always be positive.

In conclusion, it was a great experience and opportunity attending this CPA Symposium. In this event, I learned that being authentic is important because the company and we as individuals have our interdependent changing needs. So, it is important to understand the confluence of a group of people who are going to be our colleagues in terms how are they going to behave, what things we can do to prepare ourselves for survival, how do we pick up communication skills and fact finding so that we and the people we work with can breach the gap of expectation.

This event really helped me in my future career plan and was an empowering experience.

Jia Hui Eunice Lim (BCOM 315)
ACTIVITIES

CPA STUDENT SYMPOSIUM (Oct 2016)

I am thankful to Dr. Huong Ha for giving me the opportunity to represent my university (University of Newcastle) at the symposium. There were many other students who were representing their universities. It was a great experience to be present there, and the speakers of the event shared their own life experiences and gave us key points to be successful in life. I learnt not to give up in life whatever the situation and just concentrate on what I am doing. The speakers beautifully explained every point by giving an example from their work which influenced me to use such examples in my life to achieve my goals. I learnt that I need to select a field to which I have an inclination or which I am good at. The speakers were very interactive.

It was a beautifully organised event where we could network with different people where we got new ideas and knowledge. This was my first time to attending the symposium and it was great. I also got a chance to interact with Sir James Walt, a partner of Deloitte, regarding my career opportunities in the future and he gave me some wonderful advice. It was a wonderful experience in life. I would like to attend more events like this in future.

Jay Kartikkumar Vakharia (MBA 316)

First of all, thanks to Dr. Ha for giving me the opportunity to attend the CPA Symposium. My experience at the Symposium was wonderful. I got a lot of information regarding interview criteria, employee’s and employer’s expectations, etc. the refreshments were also good. I got a lot of information about the Big four firms like Deloitte KPMG, E & Y, and PWC. I was happy to meet a Partner of PWC, Mr. Sam Kok Weng, and a Deloitte Partner, Mr. James Walton. I got a lot of useful information from all the speakers who shared their personal experience which was an inspiration to me.

In the last session, we discussed queries with four different FCPA members. There I got information about CPA, the structure of CPA course, and all my doubts regarding job opportunities; accounting and finance were cleared. Some panelists also gave us information of how to develop skills which are required for a specific job, how to overcome interview questions etc. I enjoyed the CPA Symposium and I hope I will again get the opportunity to attend this type of events.

Kaustubh Rajesh Baldawa (MBA 316)
Reflecting on the event held on 11 Oct, I realize I have learnt a lot. I met some formal staff from the supporting companies and asked some simple questions like "What are the things I could do now to help myself in getting a better job?" or "How do I prepare for my interview in future?" My friends and I got a few answers from all the staff, but the reply that was the most memorable was from Mr. James Walton, the clients and markets partner from Deloitte South East Asia. He told us, nowadays, it is not only about the qualification you hold that differentiates you from other interviewers. You should try to present yourself in a different way such as participating in more networking events like this congress event.

After lunch, the actual event started. The first speaker, Mr Sam Kok Weng, a partner in PwC, taught me what I can do to meet the employers’ expectations by thinking from their point of view. When working, employers view us as a long-term potential investment, while we would view our job as a basic requirement in Maslow's hierarchy and slowly increase our level. At the end of the session, he left us with an important word: to be "authentic", to be yourself.

Another speaker, Mr. James Walton, who we met earlier, told us about how to stay resilient in our career. He is an interesting person; he talked about a Japanese concert, "Ikigai", which represents the reason for being balanced work-life integration. Moreover, to achieve this balance, resilience is one of the factors and to have "bounce back ability" - the ability to recover after a setback.

The last speaker, Ms. Kuan Li Li, is a very nice and cheerful person. Through the interview session, I learned how to have a manageable lifestyle while setting up my career.

Lastly, the sharing sessions from the four professional speakers also gave us many useful points on what skills to practice to become a better accountant. In a nutshell, this event taught me many things about how to pursue my dream of being an accountant in the future. If such event is organized again, I would like to be involved too.

Zhang Zhi-Yun
INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTANTS DAY (Nov 2016)

On 10 November 2016, the fifth event of International Accountants Day was held. It was located in the Silver Garden of Gardens by the Bay. One of the most interesting things about the event is that this event tried to break the Singapore Book of records for the “Longest Name Card Chain”. The event was supposed to start at 5 p.m. but it was raining heavily, which postponed it to 5.30 p.m. When the event started, it was very fun! There were a lot of free games we could play, and we received gifts despite failing to win. There were also free drinks, foods and snacks available. When we arrived, we were each given a sandwich, a donut and a bottle of mineral water. But after most of the stalls opened, we were able to take any free cold drinks available such as green tea, lemon tea, chrysanthemum tea, etc. There was also free food like popcorn, fries, sweet corn, etc. There were also live performances from bands. However, even though the event was so fun, I was not able to stay too long since I had to practice my presentation for the next day. Around 6 p.m. we left the event with lots of gifts, drinks, and food! Overall, it was a very fun event.

Claudia Sutanto Wijaya (MBA 316)

The International Accountants Day event was enjoyable and interesting. There were several exciting games, food and drinks were unlimited all throughout the event, good live band performances, and beautiful semi-covered venue and more. In other words, we had a blast!

It was truly a great experience despite the heavy rain at the beginning. The rain just couldn't stop this amazing event! I learned how important it is to actually meet, get to know people and see how everyone who joined the event was so dedicated and happy to be involved. It was an honour to be able to support the charities, and witness and build awareness of what they do for the society. This was also a great example of good business relationships where you see different companies of the same industry coming together to have fun and celebrate their hard work. It was truly a friendly atmosphere!

Hanna Daphne Ediza (MBA 316)
ACTIVITIES

EXTENDED ORIENTATION (Jan 2017)

The extended orientation for UON Singapore students 117 intake (January 2017) was held on 3rd January 2017. The extended orientation was held in order to promote the Business Club, including the Magic Club to the new students. The event was attended by many students from BBUS, BCOM and MBA programs who come from many different countries such as Singapore, Indonesia, India, Korea, China, and many others. The event consists of several things. First was the introduction of the Business Club and its committee members. After that, there was an explanation of the purposes and benefits of joining the Business Club, which is to help Business students develop leadership and entrepreneurial skills and other talents, as presented by Ervan Priestley Sukardjo, president of the Business Club.

Next was ice breaker games to help new students get to know each other, and help them to interact with one another. There were prizes for six students, who successfully completed the bingo cards. This was followed by the Magic Club performance (Nicklaus Limansantoso) which succeeded in amazing the audience. At the end of the event, some pictures of past activities were shown to the new students, such as the SMU Tax Case Challenges, CPA Congress Student Symposium and many other events.
Alexander Sutikno (MBA 216)

Studying in UON Singapore has definitely transformed my life, and the kind classmates, dedicated lecturers and sophisticated campus facilities definitely gave me an awesome, unforgettable experience. When I first joined the program, I was quite scared and uncomfortable, especially since when I had to live in a foreign country alone and had no family members to support me. However, soon I was able to adapt much faster, thanks to my kind classmates who never excluded me, but instead helped me and treated me like a member of their own families. The lecturers too, are extremely dedicated, intelligent and knowledgeable. I remember during the first semester when I faced massive difficulties in accounting and asked for help from the lecturer. Instead of shrugging the student off like what lecturers usually do in other universities, they are very dedicated and helpful. I remember that one day he even stayed till 8 pm just to help me with my accounting problems, and in the end I scored the third highest in accounting among my entire cohort. All my classmates too were caring, fun and helpful. It was really an awesome and unique experience, especially knowing people of different nationalities and cultures and how all of us could help each other, especially in times of need. Studying the UON MBA is definitely the best life choice that I have ever made, and the best choice to help me move towards all my goals and dreams in the future.

Vijay Patel (MBA 216)

It is a pleasing experience to be a part of a prestigious institute like The University of Newcastle, Singapore. I believe that UON discovers talents every year. This University has encouraged me to shape and sharpen my knowledge, skills and abilities, which are vital elements of business management capability. Also, the exuberant and flamboyant people at UON make up an enthusiastic and energetic studying scenario. Besides, UON is a proficient example of “Unity in Diversity”. In the beginning, it was difficult for me to understand the accents of students from different regions. But after a year, the students from distinctive cultures, religions, and ethnicities have bolstered my communication and interaction skills. Also, the free flow of knowledge, ambience of campus, approachable faculty members, and quality of education makes UON the best place to pursue an MBA. In short, UON has helped me to visualize and achieve the financial and social aspect of life, to sustain my edge in a competitive world.

Julius Wijaya (MBA 216)

I have never regretted the decision of continuing my postgraduate studies in the University of Newcastle Singapore. The UON postgraduate program has the relevant materials and requires me to have a deeper understanding of the topic which I could not get from my Bachelor’s degree alone. Besides that, UON are recognised internationally, which will help me to find a job easily. Also the postgraduate program can be done in a year, which enables me to get my Master’s degree at the age of 22.

Moreover, UON Singapore has world class facilities that enhance my learning process. The lecturers have been cooperative in helping me clarify my doubts to better understand the materials. What I like the most about the program is that UON has students from all over the world. Meeting people from different backgrounds as well as different working experiences has helped me to prepare myself for a global career and better understand cultures from other countries like India, China and Myanmar.
MY EXPERIENCE, UON SINGAPORE!

Anuja Chalke (MBA 216)

Taking the initiative to enrol for the MBA program at UON Singapore was one of the best decisions of my academic life. The course is designed in a manner that promotes critical thinking and encourages us to undertake extensive research for assessments. The lecturers are distinguished academics, whose insights about the modules make learning much more interactive and holistic. Apart from the academics, UON organizes additional events and competitions that give us an opportunity to enhance our skillset and network.

I feel studying at UON Singapore will definitely give me a competitive advantage over other MBA graduates; considering that UON has recently achieved AACSB Accreditation, a recognition received by less than 5% of Business schools worldwide. Personally, this course has helped me to feel a lot more driven and confident about advancing my career. Moreover, Singapore has a vibrant culture, giving me plenty of options in terms of art museums, cafés, gardens, landmarks, beaches, pubs, etc. at my leisure. Overall, it has indeed been an enriching study-abroad experience!

Tammy Hong Ching Wong (MBA 316)

I may be a familiar face to some of the students as I used to work for PSB Academy. Although I am a trained engineer, my career choices so far have always been business or management related as I enjoy the interaction with people. In my quest to enhance my management skills and gain knowledge on the different management roles, I have attended several personal development training programs. During my stay with PSB Academy, I was exposed to the quality of the programs offered by the University of Newcastle. The Masters in Business Administration program piqued my interest with its list of diversified, current and practical courses. The rest is history!

Vigneswary Pillai (MBA 316)

I am a Singaporean in the MBA program with the University of Newcastle, Singapore. I did my Bachelor’s in Science and worked in my family business for a year. I decided to pursue my Masters in Business to improve my knowledge on business management. The MBA program, so far, has been filled with plenty of new, interesting information and theories. The modules are stimulating, relevant and very applicable to my field of work. The lecturers are knowledgeable and most are passionate about their field which increases my enthusiasm for that module. However, because I am working and studying at the same time, I do feel a little stressed out, especially during datelines and exam periods.

The multi-national student population in the class has enabled different perspectives and thinking styles to be incorporated during discussions. However, I feel that the standards and cognitive abilities of students can be a little too wide, making it hard to work together at times. Overall, I think the UON MBA program has improved my knowledge and I am happy with the experience, thus far.
My name is Irene Wanady and I am an Indonesian. I am currently in my second year in Electrical Engineering at the University of Newcastle (Singapore). I was interested in this degree mainly because UON offers a three-year programme instead of the usual four-year. Over the course of my one year studying in UON, I have not been disappointed since my personal and academic skills have developed a lot, through the comprehensive modules offered and the guidance of highly experienced faculty. The programme places equal emphasis on theory and hands-on applications, which are both essential for my future in the working field. The teaching staff are very supportive and highly qualified to train me to face the possible challenges I face in the future at work. Overall, the holistic learning environment and abundant resources provided by UON, have helped me in achieving academic success and my own personal growth.

Hi, my name is Sunny Thin Aung. As some of you might have guessed, I am a Burmese, born and raised in Mandalay, Myanmar. I am an artist, an enthusiastic photographer and a student studying at the University of Newcastle. I am majoring in Marketing and Tourism. As an artist, I would like to travel the world and explore different cultures and arts. I hope to draw inspiration to start my own business from the experiences that stem from my globe-trotting journey. With the time I have spent studying in UON, I feel confident and prepared to face new challenges in life.
First of all, I would like to thank Dr. Huong Ha, the staff, and fellow students from the University of Newcastle, who have given me an opportunity to share my experience of studying at UON, as well as my experience in looking for a job in Singapore.

Before I start, let me introduce myself. I am Jonathan Setiaji, and I was born in Solo, Indonesia. I did my bachelor’s degree at Petra Christian University, Surabaya, majoring in business management, and graduated in 2012. I continued my studies in the Master of Business Administration program at the University of Newcastle in Singapore, and graduated in January 2015.

It was such a memorable experience to study in UON, as I met new friends from many different backgrounds, which gave me a lot of new knowledge and perspectives. Academically, it was also very useful for me, as now I can see business processes as a whole and connect all parts of the business process, which I learned during my bachelor’s degree, with the help of experienced lecturers in UON.

Just three months after I graduated with an MBA, I finally got an employment offer from PSB Academy as a Management Trainee, under the Branding and Corporate Communication department. Of course, it was not an easy business to find a job in Singapore, and I went through many difficulties to find my first job. Therefore, there are several tips that I can share with fresh graduates and job seekers. Firstly, you have to really “know” yourself, by identifying your main strengths, main interests, and the most suitable position for you. Secondly, during the interview, be relaxed, stay cool and focus on the question. Thirdly, maximize every chance given to you, meaning that as a fresh graduate, do not think too much about the monetary benefit, and consider the learning opportunity your priority.

In conclusion, I want to stress that the MBA program is not a guarantee to getting a job, or to becoming successful. It really depends on the students themselves, how they manage their time, and maximize the potential they have. However, with the combination of potential and knowledge offered in this MBA program, it will give the graduates more value, and become more attractive employees.
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