



THE UNIVERSITY OF
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AUSTRALIA

SINGAPORE

UONS Connections

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**BUSINESS
CLUB**

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UON SINGAPORE BUSINESS STUDENT CLUB

The seventeen new committee members were selected after having interviews with Dr. Huong Ha and Ms. Isabel Kum. However, the previous committee members who still wanted to join this Business Club did not need to attend the interview. The Business Club committee members and their positions for T2 2017 are as follows:

President:

Hanna Daphne Ediza

Vice President:

Claudia Sutanto Wijaya

Magic Club Manager:

Nicklaus Limansantoso

Secretaries:

Koushitha Chinnapa Reddy

Hrushikesh Girish Kulkarni

Ankit Gupta

Prisca Natasha Lunardhi

Treasurer:

Jay Bipinkumar Umaria

Assistant Treasurer: Lili Wang

Event Manager:

Andrian Alexander Putra

Event Assistant Manager:

Candice Shayne Leocadio

PR & Marketing Manager:

Sachit Bajaj Raman

PR & Marketing Assistant Manager:

Ashik Ninan

Committee Members:

Suhan Mohammed Kabeer

Aditya Wiratama Putra

Gopinath Selvaraju

Nguyen Thi Quynh Trang

WELCOME MESSAGE!

Dear Students and Alumni,

Welcome to the fourth issue of UONS Connections, the UONS MBA and Business Club's official magazine. This issue captures the memorable moments of the many Novocastrian journeys throughout 2017 so far. The UONS Business Club team has spared no effort in creating an account of our students' experiences and moments both fun and challenging in their journey towards a Business degree or MBA. UONS Connections is a compilation of the energy and efforts put forward by confident Novocastrians, and also represents a footprint of their creativity.

2017 has been another delightful year for UONS and the Business Club, with our local and international students bringing enthusiasm and showing the UON spirit in various activities, both internal and external. Students have had the opportunity to meet new people and build professional networks through these events and activities. Hence it is fair to conclude that "ceteris paribus, the expected marginal benefits of joining Business Club are greater than its expected marginal costs".

Huge thanks to everyone who has sent in their stories; CPA Australia, Singapore branch for their sponsorship; Ms. Isabel Kum for editing all the write-ups; Mr. Andrian Alexander Putra for designing the cover page and setting the magazine's layout; Ms. Candice Shayne Leocadio for helping with the layout and format setting. I also would like to thank UONS management for their continual support.

To those who want to contribute to the next issue of UONS Connections, you can share your story of studying at UON Singapore, your career aspirations and success as an alumnus, and any other activities that are relevant to UONS Connections.

Thanks and regards,
Dr. Rita Pidani

ACADEMIC SUPPORT AT UONS!

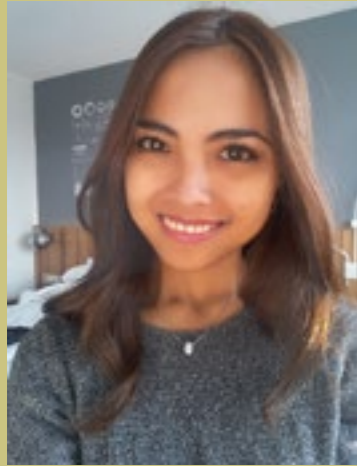
Hello everyone! I am very glad to see that the UON Business Magazine is thriving, and that so many people are writing in about their experiences studying with UON Singapore. It's great to see you have established a sub-community of friends and peers with goals in common (one of these goals, I hope, is 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



BUSINESS CLUB



HANNA DAPHNE EDIZA (MBA 316)

President

To be part of this amazing team is truly a remarkable experience for me. UONS Business Club is one great student organization as it provides exciting opportunities including creating and building strong relationships with other students. Teaming up with like-minded students and with such a diverse team has helped me strengthen my capacity to handle challenges, adapt to multiple cultures, gain new ideas and inspire others.

I am extremely honored and excited to lead the team and witness how each member grows as we all discover talents together. Every single activity this club does is a learning curve for everybody and it is a delight to see each improvement. I also would like to thank Dr. Ha and Dr. Rita for entrusting me with this responsibility. This certainly gives me the chance to showcase the skills I already have and further develop them, and continually learn more. Wonderful journey, most certainly!



CLAUDIA SUTANTO WIJAYA (MBA 316)

Vice President

As I have just completed in my final term, I find that I have learnt a lot this past year. I have gained a lot of knowledge from different perspectives and points of view. In my previous studies I learnt more about theories; I find that UON MBA program is more practical and the knowledge more applicable in real life. Often, the problems that we need to solve are real case studies that happened to real companies. Even though the MBA program is only a year long, I have successfully gained a lot of knowledge, ranging from accounting, business analysis, and human resources (both national and international), to cross cultural management, globalization, corporate governance, and strategic management. These modules have given me new perspectives from the managerial position. Overall, I am satisfied that I chose this program!

COMMITTEE MEMBERS



NICKLAUS LIMANSANTOSO (BCOMM 315)

Magic Club Manager

Hi there! My name is Nick and I am currently a University Of Newcastle student, taking the Bachelor of Commerce programme. I am a part of the UON Singapore's Business Club; more specifically, I am the leader of the new Magic Club right under the Business Club! Magic is a lot of fun and the goal of this particular club is not just learning "tricks" – I am also hoping to improve all the members' creativity, confidence, communication skills, presentation skills, and many more. So, to any individual who feels like they need more of these, I would highly recommend joining the Magic Club! I am definitely looking forward to meeting you!

Currently there are only 2 people running the club : Ken, a good friend of mine from Thailand, and myself, from Bali. The Magic Club also acts as a supporting group of the Business Club at meetings and events. Situations like these are perfect to apply the skills and knowledge that the individual members have learned.

So! What are you waiting for? Join us! If you have further questions, you can always approach the Business Club members or myself. And remember: "The most beautiful and deepest experience someone can have is a sense of the mysterious." -Albert Einstein

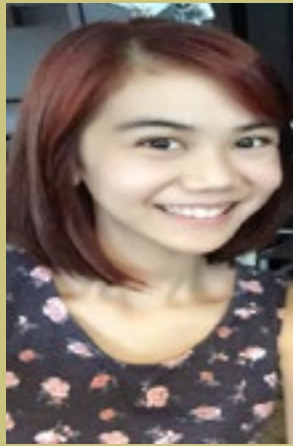


ANKIT GUPTA (MBA 217)

Secretary

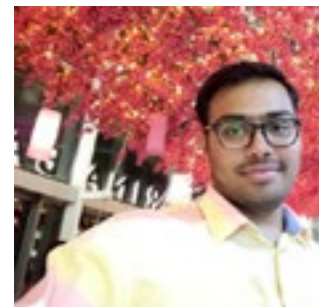
Being an active student, I have always taken part in many activities ever since my school days. I was the part of cricket team, basketball team, and dramatics during my undergrad days. Upon graduation I was still part of the dramatics society and also the commerce society where I was the event head for 2 years. I love making new friends and exploring my different sides by learning new things from others. Doing my MBA at the University of Newcastle, Singapore will help me to develop my skills and will also give me a platform to showcase my skills.

BUSINESS CLUB



PRISCA NATASHA LUNARDHI (MBA 217)
Secretary

Hi guys! My name is Prisca Natasha Lunardhi, a student of the University of Newcastle – MBA class of 217. I am from Surabaya, Indonesia. Actually, this is my first time studying abroad; living far away from my parents, elder sister, and other family members, but I find it kind of interesting and I really enjoy my life in Singapore. In short, I decided to join the UON Business Club as I thought that it would be fun meeting new friends from different countries and cultures. I believe that becoming a member of this Business Club has given me so many benefits. One benefit is connections (networking). Perhaps someday I can create a partnership with the people I have met and grow our businesses together. Being part of the Business Club has also taught me better time management since I have to balance my life between studying, working for this club, and my own leisure time. I can acquire new knowledge and experiences, not only hard skills but also soft skills, such as improving my English and Chinese language skills, learning how to be a good leader, being more open-minded, and also understanding how to deal with people in an organisation as a whole.



HRUSHIKESH KULKARNI (MBA 217)
Secretary

Hello everyone, I am Hrushikesh from Mumbai, India. It gives me immense pride to serve in the UONS Business Club as Secretary. Currently, I am pursuing my Masters in Management with the University of Newcastle, Singapore. Joining the Business Club gives you the courage to face challenges in day-to-day life as a team and it brings everyone together for one fantabulous opportunity to network and further your future career. Learning by helping others is an excellent way to learn, and helps to enhance your abilities and skill set, and expands your experience in life. I appreciate how the business club gives students the chance to build a network of people from various cultural backgrounds.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS



JAY UMARIA (MBA 316)
Treasurer

I am Jay Umaria from Mumbai, India. Going abroad to study has always been my dream as I knew that by meeting and becoming friends with people of different nationalities, I would be better able to understand the world. After joining UON for my MBA, I decided to make this year abroad more exciting and interesting by joining clubs and associations, and I came across the UON Business Club. In the first trimester, I didn't join the club as I thought I wouldn't have time for both it and my studies. But I decided to join the club and was proven wrong! Today, I am the Treasurer of the UONS Business Club. The committee is very diverse, and I have broadened my perspective towards different nations and their cultures and ideas by interacting with my fellow committee members who are from different countries. The team is understanding, helpful, and creative. I am thankful to Dr. Ha for believing in me and giving me this position. I hope I have done justice to my role as Treasurer. Thank you to all my fellow team members and all the best for your future.



ANDRIAN ALEXANDER PUTRA (BIT 316)
Event Manager

Hello, I am Andrian from Jakarta, Indonesia. I came here to Singapore to study with PSB Academy and I chose the University of Newcastle to continue my Bachelor degree in information technology.

Firstly, I want to share my experience with UON Singapore; it is a very good choice for students who want to study IT, Engineering, or Business, and UON has very good rankings in university league tables. Secondly, before I joined the UON Business Club, I spent most of my days just studying, and then Dr. Ha asked me to join the Business Club to improve my soft skills. She encouraged us to organize many events and learn how to be a good leader and work in a team.

Lastly, I am really thankful to our best faculty advisors, Dr. Ha and Dr. Rita, for giving me a lot of opportunities to be part of the UON Business Club and showing me that UON Singapore has many activities beside our studies.

BUSINESS CLUB



CANDICE LEOCADIO (MBA 217)

Event Assistant Manager

Candice is not your average self-licensed food-craving, idea-fueled, pop culture specialist and part-time memelord. If not ranting over online shenanigans or crying over penguins racing for the puck, she can be found crafting a top secret plan that will propel every business under her wing to digital marketing immortality over the next decade.



SACHIT BAJAJ RAMAN (MBA 217)

PR & Marketing Manager

Studying for my MBA at UON Singapore has been a really enriching experience so far. In such a short span of time, I have been able to learn a lot of new things that are definitely going to help me in the long run. While pursuing my undergraduate degree, I was appointed the Vice-President of the Student's Association of the Department of Commerce. After my graduation, when I started working, I was under the assumption that I had learnt almost everything that a student could, in terms of organising and managing events and pretty much anything along those lines, until I joined the UON Business Club. After joining the business club, I realised that there is still so much more to learn and a long way to go. I am deeply honoured and immensely happy to be a part of this club and hope that I can contribute as much as I can and enhance my leadership and entrepreneurial skills to the fullest extent during my stay here.

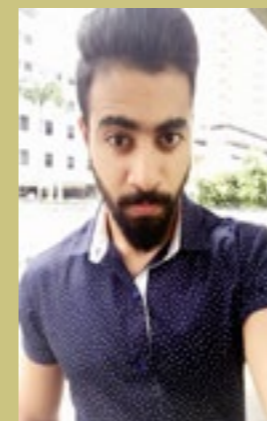
COMMITTEE MEMBERS



ASHIK NINAN (BBUS 217)

PR & Marketing Manager

For several years, I have been wanting to learn more about business, innovation and entrepreneurship, and joining UON for my Bachelors in Business programme has given me a wonderful opportunity to learn, improve, network, support, and contribute to this cause. I have not been disappointed since I'm currently the PR & Marketing Assistant Manager, which gives me abundant enriching experiences to learn, improve, and put my marketing and PR skills to good use in the multiple events we host as the UON Business Club. Every committee member has been invaluable, giving advice, leading and supporting, even devoting a brainstorming session to help one another when we encounter a problem. All this comes with friendliness and courtesy - no query is too small or irrelevant. Thank you to all the members of the UON Business Club for making me feel so welcome.



SUHAN MOHAMMED KABEER (MBA 117)

Committee Member

Hello everyone, I hope you are enjoying your academic life so far. I feel so proud to be a part of the UON Business Club, which provides me the opportunity to enhance my leadership, communication, entrepreneurial, management, and team building skills. These are the few things that cannot be learnt from textbooks alone. It's very important to be engaged in non-academic activities as well. I wish to become a successful businessman in the coming years and I believe the UON Business Club is the perfect platform for me to gain some real-life experience before I step out of my student life into a professional life. I wish you all good luck in your future and your career.

BUSINESS CLUB



ADITYA WIRATAMA PUTRA (MBA 217)

Committee Member

It has been three months since I first came to Singapore to pursue my Master of Business and Administration (MBA) at the University of Newcastle (UON), Singapore. In the beginning, I was thinking that everything would be difficult since I had no experience studying overseas, or even staying in a different country for a long time. Moreover, since English is not the native language of Indonesia, I felt that it would be hard to communicate with other people in English. In actual fact, my anxieties were completely groundless!

On the very first day, the University held an orientation to welcome all new students, familiarize us with the learning system, as well as introduce the lecturers and the staff. I met a lot of friendly fellow students from different countries who played a major role in my adaptation process.

I really enjoy the teaching and learning system of UON, which has an open-interactive atmosphere that encourages a lot of discussion between the lecturer and students in class. Also, I've established good relationships with a lot of great people, senior students, and also students from other courses or universities by joining the UON Business Club. In addition, I've attended some seminars as well as participated in a competition called the ECO 2017 challenge by UNEP-DHI, and even won the third prize!

All these valuable experiences will boost my future career. Since working life will not be easy, I'll need to enrich my knowledge, train up my hard and soft skills, as well as learn to connect with different people and cultures, and pursuing my MBA at UON Singapore has offered me all these opportunities.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

GOPINATH SELVARAJU (MBA 217)

Committee Member



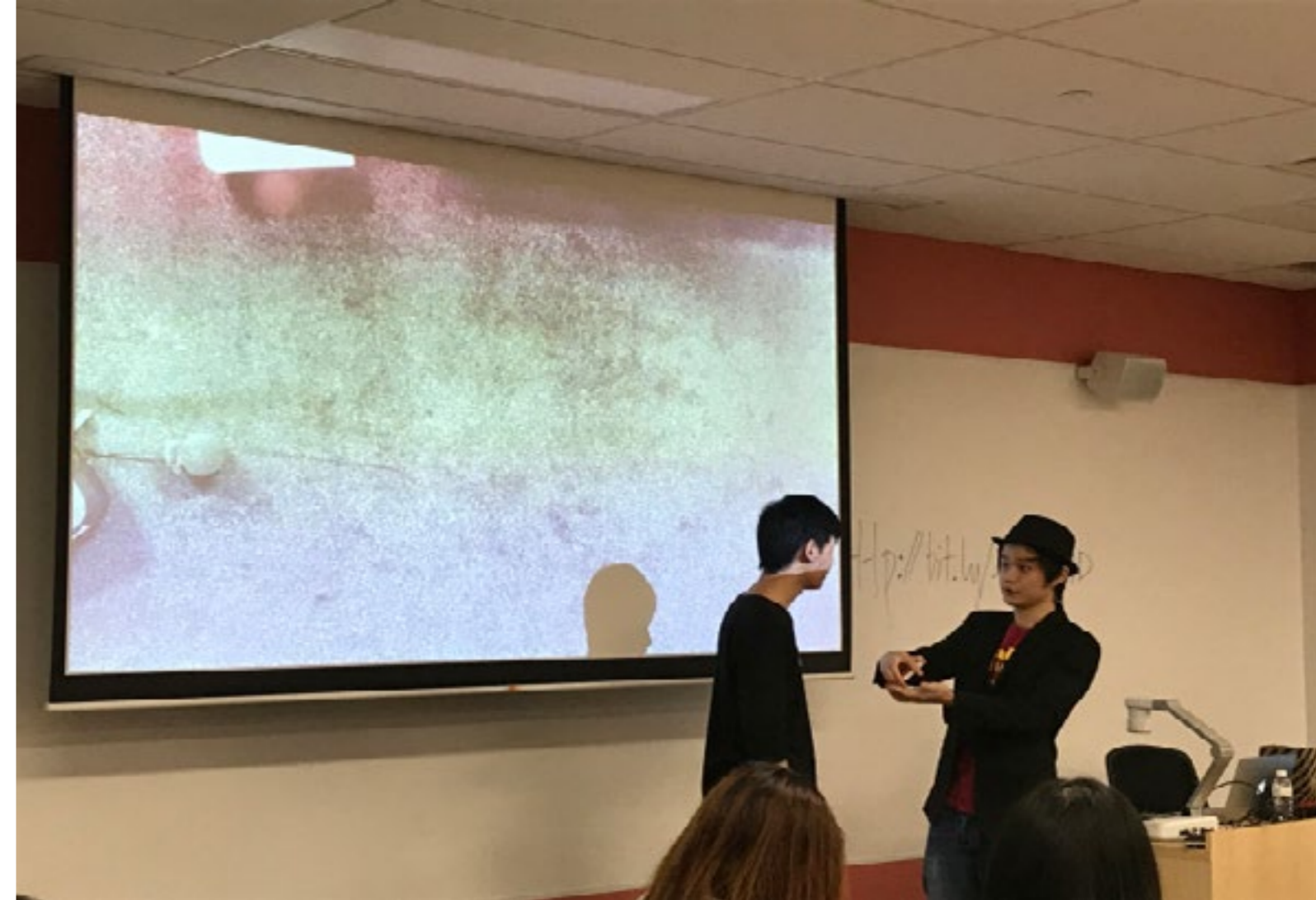
The aim of this write-up is to share my opinions on the UON Business Club, why I was interested to join it, how I felt about the changes that happened in it, and the various contacts and skills I acquired because of it. First of all, I want to introduce myself a bit. My name is Gopinath Selvaraju and I am from Namakkal, Tamilnadu, India.

I came to Singapore three months ago to do my MBA here in the University of Newcastle, Singapore. Before coming here, I never had the honour of being in a club and an influencer of people. Though I like to organise events and take on responsibilities, I didn't actually have much opportunity to do so. Communication skills have always been one of my strong points, but were not put to much use in my previous environment.

After coming to Singapore, I felt it was a pleasant change in the environment and atmosphere and I came to know that there is a Business Club run by the University of Newcastle. At first, I didn't even fully understand the significance of a club and the responsibilities I had to take on. So, at first I hesitated but then decided to explore the club first as a basic member, for which I was interviewed by the respected Dr Ha and Ms Isabel Kum, and later I was appointed as a basic committee member of the club. I came to know that it was a wonderful club with Miss Hanna as its president and Miss Claudia as the vice-president, and other important committee members. I was introduced to all of them during the inauguration of the new members and got to know them on a personal level too.

One of the main things that worried me was the responsibilities I had to shoulder and my work-study balance, but after getting to know the club members and how they tackled their responsibilities, I was confident enough to be ready to want to contribute and let my presence be known in the club. This would also be a good opportunity for me learn about different cultures and work culture practices, which I must face once I graduate. The president Hanna and all the club delegates were wonderful, making me and the rest of the new members feel confident and relaxed and at home.

Finally, I feel happy about my decision to join the club and I would highly recommend future UON students to join the UON Business Club as it provides tons of fun with effortless learning and builds in us a strong professional attitude.



Extended Orientation

UONS welcomes new batch of students in style

BY HANNA DAPHNE EDIZA

The Extended Orientation was held on 2 May 2017, for the new UON Singapore batch of students (T217), organized by the UON Singapore Business Club committee members. The idea of the event was to promote the business club, explain its benefits and responsibilities, and encourage students to join and gain some real-life work exposure. Through the Business Club, students will get to experience working in a diverse team, discover their talents, and enhance their skill set.

It was a very fun and informative event. The Business Club team had also prepared an icebreaker game that allowed new students to interact, gain knowledge about the new people they just met, exercise their communication skills to stimulate self-confidence, and to foster a friendly and fun environment.

The magic show, performed by the Magic Club manager, Nick Lim, was fascinating to watch! It was truly dumbfounding. An example of an extraordinary skill that interested students can also practice, learn and discover. All of the students participated in the activities which was delightful to see. They showed interest, eagerness to engage, and share in creating a wonderful experience.





Appreciation Event & Announcement of New Members

BY UONS BUSINESS CLUB STAFF

NATASHA

The Appreciation Event and Cultural Adaptation Talk was held on 12 May 2017. The cultural adaptation talk was about understanding which stage the students were in then; whether they were still in the honeymoon stage, cultural shock stage, cultural adjustment stage, or adaptation stage. This workshop aimed to provide students an overview about ways of transitioning to a new culture that might

be dissimilar to their own culture, improve students' skills so that they can succeed in the future, and how to build their career advancement through LinkedIn. From the presentation given by Dr Florence Ng, we learnt that LinkedIn is always useful for career preparation. That's why creating an appropriate profile on LinkedIn is a very helpful tool since this individual profile will be seen by the companies or other potential high-level managers. In addition, Mr Ervan Sukardjo and Mr Amir Merchant

shared their experiences of joining the Business Club, and this sharing was then followed by an icebreaker game, a magic card show by Nick, a photo session, and refreshments, before ending at about 6.30pm.

SACHIT

As far as the appreciation event is concerned, the most interesting nugget I took away with me was the many different uses of LinkedIn. From creating a profile to writing my bio, I learnt a lot of things that I'm sure are going to help me tap into several career opportunities.

HRUSHIKESH

The UON Business Club represents not only UON Singapore but how a cross-cultural team can work very well under any circumstances. Such a team earns not only appreciation, but also respect. This appreciation event was fantabulous and well organized. We are very thankful for the senior members of the business club and their admirable performance. We hope new business club members will enhance their capabilities and provide support for the club together.

ANKIT

The Appreciation Event on 12th of May was very useful as it gave us information on how to get a head start for our job search. Earlier I didn't know about the LinkedIn app, but Dr Florence Ng's presentation gave me some

ACTIVITIES

insight into the app. It is very helpful as we can search for jobs directly and it is very easy to apply using the app. The percentage of people getting hired via LinkedIn is increasing, so that makes this app very attractive to jobseekers. I hope to get a job soon after my graduation via LinkedIn.

CLAUDIA

On 12 May 2017, there was an event held by UON Singapore Business Club that helped students to equip themselves to enter the "new world". For graduating students, one of the event activities was a talk about building a LinkedIn profile to prepare and help them find suitable jobs. As LinkedIn is a new way to connect employers and potential employees, this was very good information, especially for a graduating student like me. For new students, there was a topic regarding cultural adaptation and tips to reduce cultural shock, especially if you are an international student. There was also a sharing session by recent graduates about their life in university that can help new students to familiarize themselves and give a relative expectation of what to expect in university life. Last but not least, an appreciation event was held to thank outgoing Business Club members and officially

appoint the new members. The event ended with a casual networking event where refreshment was provided, so new students and senior students could get to know each other and build networks that will be useful in their future, especially once they have begun working.

JAY

I recently went for an interview with Dr Ha to join the Business Club. I was informed by her that there would be an official introduction of new

members in the Business Club on 12th May. Along with the introduction of new members, there was an appreciation event for the outgoing members too. After the introduction speech by Dr Ha and a short and very informative presentation by Dr Florence Ng, who spoke about how our profile on LinkedIn should look like to attract employers. My classmate and current president of the Business Club, Ms Hanna Ediza,



Dr. Huong Ha and Dr. Florence Ng



Dr. Yeap Peik Foong and Claudia

“That was one of my best memories in my year at UON Singapore.”

also spoke about the different stages of culture shock. I personally was excited about the day as I had been selected for a post in the Business Club. We had an ice breaker game, where we played Human Bingo. I too won a small prize in the game. After the game, Dr Ha thanked the old Business Club members with a token of appreciation each and then introduced the new Business Club members, which included me. That was one of my best memories in my year at UON Singapore.

Back to Square One

CANDICE

The idea of taking up an MBA didn't really cross my mind until one morning in September 2016, when my dad brought it up to me. At first, I was hesitant over the fact I would have to trade my then-job as a community manager in exchange for an avalanche of critical essays, readings, and exams just like the old days of university. I was so consumed by my then-job that I thought of nothing but moving up the career ladder. To tell you honestly, going back to school was my last resort.

Things changed all of a sudden when I made my first visit to the University of Newcastle last December 2016 during my annual Singapore holiday vacation. There were forty minutes of briefing, questions and answers, and high hopes for the future. It wasn't until I left the campus that I arrived at the epiphany that perhaps I should go for an MBA degree after all if I wanted to succeed in other fields besides digital media and marketing communications. It may not be the easiest decision as my pursuit meant not only would I have to pause my life as a career go-getter for a year, but also leave my loved ones in my beloved home country behind.

But most importantly, it was back to square one. I had to start anew once more – new country, new culture, new set of friends, new customs. Goodbye salary, hello weekly allowance. Goodbye carefree weeknights, hello all-night cramming. Goodbye Facebook Ads, hello balance sheets and case studies. Goodbye Ayala Triangle, hello Marina Square.

Narrating a play-by-play of my story would eat up a significant chunk of your precious time. Therefore, I'll just go ahead and skip right away to Orientation Day which also happened to be my first encounter with the UON Singapore Business Club. After a warm introduction about

ACTIVITIES

their activities and past accomplishments in addition to a 10-minute icebreaker for the newbies, the members sent out a membership invitation to all new students. It was at that moment I knew I wanted to be a committee member because of the myriad of opportunities: new friendships from different cultures, harnessing opportunities for growth, extra productivity for my spare time, and a booster to my CV and portfolio come graduation time. Just imagine my glee when I received The Invitation to attend the UONS Business Club Appreciation Event following my interview with Dr Ha, my lecturer and club moderator.

This is it, I thought to myself. Welcome to the family.

The UONS Business Club Appreciation Event held last May 12, 2017 was everything I hoped for. Dr. Ha's recounting of the alumni members who have since made the big leap into the corporate world made me so grateful for the opportunity to follow their steps a year from now. Moreover, club president and fellow Filipina Hanna's speech on cross cultural environments further opened my eyes to the ethereal beauty of diversity. The human bingo icebreaker was all

sorts of fun as we mingled around with each and every person inside the room. Throughout the five-minute duration of this activity, I made instant acquaintances with an Indonesian bookworm, an Indian math aficionado, and a Chinese cinephile among others. Of course, the event was not complete without the after-event networking wherein we gathered together as one family for a toast to new beginnings – the first of hopefully many more marvelous opportunities in store for us.

Forget about 'back to basics'. Who knew the experience of its less clichéd, catchier

equivalent – square one that is – would be just as good as the first day of high school or college? All things considered, the UONS Business Club Appreciation Event was a tremendous success and a day forever etched in my memory. Indeed, I was among those who lived in this blissful moment – fresh faces, indelible moments and all. Thanks to this event, I finally found a family in my new second home through the guidance of my fellow UON Singapore students, newfound Business Club colleagues, and brilliant lecturers.

Off to square two we go!



“Thanks to this event, I finally found a family in my new second home through the guidance of my fellow UONS students, newfound Business Club colleagues, and brilliant professors.”

2017 UNEP-DHI x UONS Eco-Challenge

Who says you can't associate sustainability with fun and technology?

BY UONS BUSINESS CLUB STAFF

HRUSHIKESH

The ECO Challenge 2017 was organized by UNEP-DHI with UON Singapore as a local collaborator. The ECO Challenge helps students understand the importance of environmental sustainability through an online game competition. The ECO challenge promotes and creates more awareness about water management, harvesting, and usage. This year's event also incorporated team building and bonding with teammates. UON Singapore was declared the winners for the local prize. Players enjoy the game because it is a new creative way of learning about water conservation. I played this game for a full three days, and it was an enriching and fulfilling experience! I'm very thankful to UON Singapore for this great opportunity.

CLAUDIA

Another event that I attended was the Eco Challenge Briefing session for participants of the gaming competition. Mr.

WHAT ARE THEY SAYING

"I really enjoyed myself throughout the certification event. The presentation regarding the dangers of water scarcity, and the purpose of the game provided by the UON Business Club was really informative. Furthermore, the ice-breaking challenge added to the fun and vibrant feeling of the event. Overall, it was a pleasant experience to be involved in the ECO Challenge certificate award event."

- Erick Andershen

Darren Tan from CPA was the guest speaker and he talked about sustainability and accounting. He argued that a company is judged by the public not only from the amount of profit that the company makes, but also the sustainability efforts the company has. An accountant can play some important sustainability roles such as assess the company's sustainability standing, compute the financial performance and risk, and communicate and execute it once it is approved. After Mr. Darren Tan, one of the business club members, Koushita also talked about sustainability and the background of the game. Lastly, Hanna and Jay briefed the attendees about the Eco challenge game. They talked about how to play the game, what are the objectives and rules of the game, and gave a real-time demo of the game. The event closed with networking and refreshments.

ADITYA

It had been almost two months since the first time I was at the Singapore for pursuing my Master of Business and Administration in the University of Newcastle (UON), Singapore. One day, the campus informed me that there was a competition as well as the seminar of "actively learning to better manage water in a sustainable way" by UNEP-DHI organisation. As an engineering graduate, I thought that it would be an excellent opportunity to participate this event and therefore, I decided to join the seminar as well as the competition which offered attractive prizes and certificate, of course.

I've learnt a lot of things in regard to the sustainability of the environment, particularly the water management. The impact of the waste towards the earth as well as what we can do, especially as the future generation, in order to ensure the long-term environmental survival in the future had been discussed during the seminar. After the seminar had been held, the competition was directly started until the next three following days. It required us to create the strategy on how we could generate the profit as much as possible but still notice the environmental issues. At the end of the day, the group which could earn the highest points would be the winner of the competition. And I was very grateful that I could win the third prize in the ECO 2017 Challenge by UNEP-DHI. Overall, this event was extraordinary.

"I think the UON Singapore Business Club does an amazing job. I know how challenging it is just running a club as well as the events, and I appreciate the enormous effort put in by many people. The certificate award ceremony was arranged after our lectures, and was carried out successfully. I had a great experience playing this game. I learnt many new things simply from playing the game, like how to work in a team, manage the available resources properly, manage my time (number of chances are limited), and manage my strategy. I loved playing the game a lot as well as I have always liked playing strategic games and this game needs a lot strategy to score points. Though I didn't qualify for the top 5 places, I learnt many new things and skills from the game. Overall it was a very good experience. Lastly, I would like to request Business Club and its members continue organizing such events where people can enjoy themselves as well as gain some skills." - Kaustubh Baldawa



Dr. Ha with Eco-Challenge Participants



Mr. Amir Mahmood, Dr. Denis Hew, Mr. Lau Yin Cheng

Lifelong Learning Seminar 2017

From the dawn of the smart nation to 'future-proofing' your career, this year's edition of the Lifelong Learning Seminar was one to remember

BY UONS BUSINESS CLUB STAFF

HRUSHIKESH

UON Singapore and the Lifelong Learning Institute collaboratively conducted an Innovation & Lifelong Learning Seminar for the Singapore public to discuss Singapore's future as a Smart Nation. The event was held on 6th of July 2017 at the Lifelong Learning Institute, Singapore. The intention of this seminar was to discuss new upcoming technologies and be ready for external change. The

agenda of the event was to focus on the different challenges facing us and what we can do collectively to ensure Singapore's future as a Smart Nation. Professor Amir Mahmood, Pro Vice-Chancellor and CEO of UON Singapore inaugurated the seminar with a warm welcome address, and talked about the importance and effects of learning throughout life. This was followed by a speech from the Australian High



Ms. Sandra Davie and Mr. Frederick Tan



Dr. Huong Ha

Commissioner to Singapore, Mr Bruce Gosper who talked about how Singapore can develop its status as a leading smart nation. Mr Gosper also spoke about the challenges for the societies of developed economies, such as specialization, adaptability, highly skilled employment, and environmental support and sustainability.

The key speaker Dr Denis Hew, director of the APEC Policy Support Unit, talked about the ongoing research work in the APEC region. He also discussed economic development and digital technologies, and how the labour force has to develop its skills to keep up with the digital age. For economic development, digital technology is one of the important components that brings about necessary

change. Dr Hew also spoke of his concern about the pros and cons of digital technology, and how we can positively embrace it with the utilization of a sharing economy. Later, Mr. Lau Yin Cheng, Chairman of the Singapore Computer Society Compass Club, spoke about lifelong learning in a digital future of possibilities and probabilities. Mr Cheng pointed out that in the cultivation of the new era, every person needs to be ever more aware of values, ethics, positivity, and conversely, fear, emotions, and ego as well. He pointed out the need for mindfulness in this new era of the digital economy.

The panel discussion involved Ms Sandra Davie, Senior Education Correspondent of the Straits Times and Mr Frederick Tan, Managing Director of the Adam Khoo

“If you want to prove yourself, first know yourself, enlighten yourself and then plan your career.”

Learning Centre and was moderated by Ms Isabel Kum. Each panel member expressed their views, experiences, and gave an overview about how lifelong learning can be helpful. Specifically, Ms. Sandra Davie stressed the need to change the mindset of society. Learning should be mission oriented, a concept from Stanford University's Open Loop concept. Mr Tan agreed that learning and growing throughout life is important - human beings need to change as per time and situational changes. The guest speaker for the post lunch session was Dr Michael Teng, who is the CEO of Singapore Innovation & Productivity Centre. He spoke about how to 'Future-Proof of Your Career'. To continue with learning over the lifetime, an individual should grasp these golden words, "Learn – Unlearn – Relearn". Also, to maintain work-life balance, the best employees need to flourish in their skills, professional integrity, and be able to fit into the corporate culture. The next speaker was Mr Shabir Aslam, Director of Education at the British Council, Singapore. His topic was "Update, Upskill and Improve: Repeat – life long journey from an IT professional to an education director". Mr Aslam traced his journey from IT professional to education director. He pointed out that whatever training an institute offered, it should be innovative so that students will take an interest in what they're learning,



Lifelong Seminar Speakers

even while learning. UON Singapore's Academic Coordinator and Senior Lecturer of the Business programme, Dr Huong Ha then guided the audience in a short workshop on "Smart Nation – Smart Learning" in a timely review of the importance of lifelong learning and how it contributes to Singapore's vision as a nation of the future.

CLAUDIA

The Lifelong Learning Seminar was held on 6th July 2017 with the theme of "Singapore as a Smart Nation". The seminar started at 9.30am and ended at 4.00pm.

The seminar kicked off with a speech by Professor Amir Mahmood, the CEO and PVC of the University of Newcastle, Singapore, who discussed microlearning and its impact on lifelong learning. Next, the Australian High Commissioner, Mr Bruce Gosper discussed the future trends of a developed economy, which

is dominated by digitalization, automation, and robotics. This has brought about the replacement of 'human' jobs in developed countries by machines, and this requires people to gain more skills and knowledge that cannot be replaced by machines. It is also important for people to have more than just

Technology moves very fast and does not wait. We have to adapt, recognize and change accordingly.

one skill and keep improving themselves as there is always the chance to switch to a new career later in life.

The first guest speaker was Dr Denis Hew, the director of the APEC Policy Support Unit. The topic that he shared was "Rethinking Skills Development in the Digital Age". Dr Hew talked about the relationship between the digital economy and

economic development. Firstly, as technology becomes more advanced, it has a positive impact on GDP, consumption, and production; thus it would help the growth of the economy. There are some arguments that technology would replace human workers and create job losses, but in fact, it just shifts the job requirements. The effect that digital technology would bring is job polarization, which means that only low and high skill jobs would remain, while jobs in between would disappear. Simple jobs will be removed, but new job opportunities will be created such as for software developers. New types of jobs would be introduced as well, such as app developers, and cloud and data managers. The digital economy would also create a marketplace for skills or goods in the sharing economy. Some opportunities that would grow in the digital economy would be efficient training programs, distance learning, and online job platforms. As the cost of attaining information decreases, access to this information would increase. What is important is that we remember that we must cultivate the skills that would not be removed through the emergence of technology, such as cognitive skills. The second speaker was Mr. Lau Yin Cheng, the chairman of Singapore Computer Society Career Compass, and the topic he discussed was "Lifelong Learning in a Digital Future of Possibilities and Probabilities". He shared the three things behind digital trends: to sense changes early and respond quickly; realize and know that the interconnected world means infinite possibilities; and lastly, to recognize the limitation of the human brain, which underscores the importance of cultivating lifelong learning. Mr Lau talked about the three ways to cultivate lifelong learning: first, to cultivate mindfulness, to be aware



Mr. Shabir Aslam

of your feelings and thinking and their impact; second, to cultivate possibility thinking, which means that all things are possible as long we think hard how to achieve it. Lastly, to cultivate probability thinking. Mr Lau left the audience with some advice: first, we do not need to be right all the time, as long as we are right for most of the time. Second is to make many small bets rather than a few big bets. And last but not least, is to keep learning about ourselves and the world.

The next event was a panel discussion, moderated by Ms. Isabel Kum with two panel speakers, Ms Sandra Davie, senior education correspondent of the Straits Times and Mr Frederick Tan, managing director of Adam Khoo Learning Centre. They discussed how technology has changed the way people work and students study. Ms Davie talked about how the Straits Times wants to buy technology that is able to scan press releases and produce articles in a very short time. If this happens, then reporters would lose their jobs. Mr Tan talked about the importance of student engagement by teachers so that students look forward to learning. Ms Isabel Kum then asked the panelists about what they felt was the one thing that is needed for us to cultivate lifelong learning. For Ms Davie, the growth mindset is the most important thing as learning is not fixed. For Mr. Frederick Tan, the thing that is important is to keep learning and growing. There is no time when people are too young or too old to learn something. The next question asked was regarding the external things that are important in enabling lifelong learning. Ms Davie shared about Stanford's Open Loop university where students are given the chance to keep coming back after



His Excellency Mr. Bruce Gosper and Mr. Amir Mahmood

“The only thing that need to be think about is the type of skill that would not be removed through the emergence of technology, such as cognitive skills.”

they have spent some time looking for experiences. It is aimed at ensuring students keep developing their skills. Mr Tan shared that the most important thing is to focus on the development of soft skills such as how to interact with people. The last question asked was about the fact that the older generation might be left behind because of the rapid advancement of technology. For Ms Davie, older people have skills that cannot be replaced by machines, for they are able to connect to people, such as in fields like nursing and early childhood education. Mr Tan argued that the older generation should not be afraid of being involved in the emergence of technology, because technology can help them as well.

The next speaker was Dr Michael Teng

whose topic was “Future Proof Your Career”. Dr Teng is the CEO of Singapore Innovation and Productivity Centre. He shared that there are the right skills for the right jobs. However, economies all over the world now face challenges such as technology, which will affect the job market, globalization, which will affect competition, middle management delayering, and the scarcity of qualified talent. To tackle this, it is important for people to build careers that would enhance their employability, because in this world there is no guarantee for lifelong employability, but there is always the chance to find new jobs. Individuals have to have skills that cannot be replaced by machines. The attributes that individuals have to possess are to know their selves, enlighten their

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selves, embrace technology, and plan their future careers through continual learning. There are three things that employers look for: competence, wherein individuals have to make their passion their core competence; character, where the individual cultivates not only intelligence but also ethical conduct; lastly culture, which refers to the fact that failing in one job might be due to not fitting into the culture, rather than because of a lack of competency. The last speaker of the seminar was Mr Shabir Aslam, the Director of Education at the British Council, Singapore. He discussed the need to keep improving oneself in his talk "Update, Upskill, Improve: Repeat". This would involve changing dimension, opportunity, relevant and applied knowledge, thinking ahead and creating careers. He emphasized that we should study something that is relevant in the industry. Technology moves very fast and does not wait. We have to adapt, recognize trends, and change accordingly.

The seminar ended with a workshop held by Dr Huong Ha with the theme of "Smart Nation – Smart Learning". Dr Ha discussed how a Smart Nation would look like, what changes might take place, and how these changes would affect people. In order to be able to keep up with the changes, it is important for people to be able to learn fast, efficiently, and effectively. Dr Ha explained that there are different methods of learning for different persons, and this is important as it would affect the success of the learning. There are seven learning styles, and one person can have a combination of these eight styles. The styles are verbal, visual, auditory, physical, logical, social, and solitary. Dr Ha also played a video that illustrated to participants how to figure out their learning styles.

GOPINATH

The Innovation and Lifelong Learning seminar was conducted on the 6th of July 2017 at the Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI), Singapore. It was a joint initiative by both UON Singapore and the LearnSG Seed Fund. The main aim of this program was to understand the capabilities of a smart nation, identify where

Singapore stands as a smart nation, and what measures are needed to catalyze the process to becoming a truly smart nation. In this seminar, there was the common topic of technological advances and how it will change the future. The collective aim of this seminar was to discuss measures to improve Singapore as a smart nation.

Ms Isabel Kum emceed the event, which started with a welcome address from Professor Amir Mahmood, Pro Vice-Chancellor and CEO of UON Singapore, who brought up microlearning. Then His Excellency Mr Bruce Gosper, the Australian High Commissioner to Singapore addressed the audience and gave an impressive speech on ways to improve Singapore as a smart nation. He also discussed the current growth of technology and intellectual power in the world and how Asians can benefit from it in the future and the challenges faced by such a community.

The first guest speaker was Dr Denis Hew, the director of the APEC Policy support unit, who talked about the current research going on in the APEC, and brought up topics like economic development and how digital technologies would have a negative impact on the labour market and create job polarization. He also stressed the importance of rethinking skills in the new digital era, which can incite necessary change in the new era. He also talked about the pros and cons of new technologies and gave practical examples of such technology.

The second guest speaker was Mr. Lau Yin Cheng, Chairman of the Singapore Computer Society Compass Club. He spoke on lifelong learning and the possibilities and probabilities of a digital future, and why digital trends are important and how it can improve our standard of living. He insisted that we must be mindful and protect our human



Ms. Sandra Davie

“Make many small bets rather than few big bets.”



Er Dr. Michael Teng

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values in the new era of digital disruption.

The morning session concluded with a panel discussion on lifelong learning by Ms Sandra Davie and Mr Frederick Tan, moderated by Ms Isabel Kum. Ms Davie talked about the importance of a proper mind set and the need to cultivate it from an early stage like in school. Mr Tan mused on what he felt to be the secret of life – Learn and Grow. After lunch, Dr Michael Teng, CEO of Singapore Innovation and Productivity Centre, spoke about how to “Future Proof Your Career”. He explained the need for an advanced plan for our career and how we have to acquire more working knowledge of our desired field. Then Mr Shabir Aslam, Director of Education at the British Council, Singapore discussed the update, upskill and improve theory. He explained how he became the Director of Education at the British Council from starting out as an IT employee and the important things he learnt on that journey.

Finally, to close the proceedings, the ever popular Dr Huong Ha took to the stage and gave a brilliant workshop on lifelong learning where she motivated everyone to participate, before the day’s events came to a close.

ANKIT

Learning is not something that only comes from books. Learning encompasses more than just books, and we learn everywhere and in every moment of our lives. It is a continuous process, and never ends.

This lifelong learning seminar was a topic that was not part of our syllabus, but as I mentioned earlier, learning is not confined to books. I am very glad



Mr. Lau Yin Cheng



Ms. Isabel Kum, Ms. Sandra Davie, Mr. Frederick Tan



Dr. Huong Ha

“This would involve changing dimension, opportunity, relevant & applied knowledge, thinking ahead and creating careers.”

that UON Singapore and Dr. Huong Ha gave us the opportunity to experience this seminar, as it made us even more aware of how important learning is, and is helpful for us to build our future and for our overall growth. The main points of the event was on the rapid change in technology and its impact on employment, and what changes in policy and in the people are required. In today’s world, technology and automation is growing and developing rapidly. This is a major issue for our generation as we tend to be educated in one specific field and in future, technology and automation might dominate our field, leaving us jobless. The speakers in the seminar threw light on what the opportunities are in that situation, such as a requirement for more app developers. However, they cautioned us that this is only for highly skilled workers. They suggested we can counter this issue by changing our education system: instead of focusing on one particular field, students should be more flexible and be provided with the knowledge and skills in other fields. This kind of education system exists in UON, as here we are not trained to do a specialized MBA, but rather a generalized MBA incorporating skills we can utilize across different industries, so that we can compete in other fields too.