

## ADVERTORIAL

# At the helm of a brave new world

Graduates of SIM's Global Education programme gain the tools a leader needs to ace it in corporate life

FROM joining well-known multinational corporations, working in leadership positions in the civil service to even setting up their own businesses, it's clear that graduates of the Singapore Institute of Management Global Education (SIM GE) are not short of employment options after they graduate.

Many of them would also concur that it was their very enriching student lives that helped them hone the necessary skills needed to succeed in their respective careers.

Take Eliza Teo, for instance. During the day she puts in a full shift as an assistant manager at a government statutory board. On most evenings after work, the 25-year-old takes a short walk from her office to Tanjong Pagar to Mission Juice, a juice and yogurt bar that she volunteers to help run.

There, Ms Teo spends the rest of her day doing the budgeting and managing the month-old start-up's accounts, among other finance-related responsibilities.

All this, on top of hitting the books in whatever spare time she has in order to prepare for her upcoming Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) examinations, to boot.

"I do enjoy the adrenaline rush and the fast pace of my life. As some people say, 'we only live once' and I do enjoy this pace. I feel that this is the best time for me to make the most of the opportunities that come my way," she says.

Ms Teo, who graduated with first-class honours two years ago in her Banking and Finance course with the SIM-University of London programme, also had the chance to travel to the United Kingdom for the very first time as part of the London School of Economics Summer School programme.

She describes the month-long experience in the British capital as one that she will never forget, having been able to interact with students from renowned

global universities such as Imperial College and Yale. What's more, Ms Teo even finished in the top 10 per cent of the class.

"My time at SIM GE has taught me to be independent, open-minded and disciplined, and these are qualities that I have taken with me into the working world," she says.

Then there are others like Shane Lee and Diana Chew, who first met during their time at SIM and went on to co-found 6oz Espresso Bar, a bustling cafe at the Tokio Marine Centre in the heart of the Central Business District.

The budding entrepreneurs, both alumni of the SIM-Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) programme, took a gamble and jointly invested more than \$100,000 in the 60-seater coffeehouse where they serve speciality coffee and gourmet pastries to busy office workers every day.

"My RMIT degree allowed me to learn how to collaborate with and manage different teams of people of various backgrounds and capabilities," says Mr Lee, an SIM GE scholar.

"Knowing how to work and deal with people is very important in the working world. SIM GE provided me with an all-round education experience that I would never trade anything else for," he adds.

As for Ms Chew, she balanced her studies with her love of acting. In fact, it was at the rehearsals of a student production of the Broadway musical, "Thoroughly Modern Millie" where she first met Mr Lee.

"Juggling work and studies was certainly no walk in the park but it built character. I learnt strong self-discipline and proper time management in order to keep up with projects and assignments while managing a business," she says.

SIM GE's graduates are also making their mark in the private sector. Zachary Liew, who recently graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree as part of the SIM-University at Buffalo (UB), The State University of New York programme, is one of them.

He first joined Credit Suisse upon graduation and later moved to Singapore Airlines where he is now under the company's prestigious Administrative Officer Scheme.

Under this SIA programme, qualified applicants are selected after going through rigorous rounds of assessments and presentations. They are later given the chance to rotate and work in different departments of the company before deciding where they would like to return to on a permanent basis.

Mr Liew has many fond memories of his time at SIM GE. He shared that he enrolled in the UB programme because of the opportunity to pick up real world knowledge and a basic understanding of the global business environment.

"I chose the UB programme because of the way the classes were taught. In an American education system, students are granted the flexibility to learn in their own way," he said.

"Projects and assignments often have guidelines but with enough freedom for us to truly think and to



**Java jive:** Shane Lee (above, right) and Diana Chew, both alumni of the SIM-Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) programme, co-founded 6oz Espresso Bar, a bustling cafe at the Tokio Marine Centre, jointly investing more than \$100,000 in the 60-seater coffeehouse.



**Maximising yields:** Eliza Teo graduated with first-class honours two years ago from her Banking and Finance course at the SIM-University of London programme.



**Flying high:** Zachary Liew recently graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree as part of the SIM-University at Buffalo (UB), The State University of New York programme, joined Credit Suisse upon graduation, and later moved to Singapore Airlines where he is now in the company's Administrative Officer Scheme.

**'An SIM GE education has 4 cornerstones - rigorous curricula; dedicated teaching staff with real-world experience; compact yet vibrant campus; wide range of learning and development opportunities beyond the classroom - all of which prepares our graduates to be work ready for any industry.'**  
- SIM GE chief executive officer Lee Kwok Cheong



**Making inroads:** Industry career talks for students by successful alumni such as media celebrity Vernetta Lopez, an SIM-RMIT alumnae.

present our own unique interpretation. To me, true education does not consist of only providing facts and figures, but also to encourage independent thinking and personal development," he added.

In between his studies, Mr Liew found the time to serve as the finance manager for the SIM Muay Thai Club and as vice-president of the SIM Investment & Networking Club.

He was also in the All Rounder Student Development Programme in 2011, which gave him the opportunity to learn from industry experts and share information on career planning with his fellow students.

"We did this through workshops on personal leadership, grooming and dressing and interview skills. I also had the opportunity to attend networking sessions with potential employers, and was even assigned a personal career coach," he says.

SIM GE - the largest of all the private education institutions (PEIs) in Singapore - has an alumni strength numbering more than 105,000 and growing.

## Learning beyond the classroom

SIM GE offers more than 70 student CCA clubs and close to 100 enrichment workshops to students. The popular programmes include:

### All-Rounder Student Development Programme (ARS)

■ This is a series of skills training and one-on-one career coaching to prepare students to be workplace-ready and highly employable in the working world.

■ Career and pastoral guidance is given throughout the final year to fast-track students from an all-rounder student to an all-rounder professional.

### Analyst Training Programme (ATP)

■ This is a hands-on training programme to prepare students for the industrial study and business analyses.

■ Students are required to perform the functions and tasks expected of an Economic / Industry / Financial / Research Analyst under the supervision and guidance of experienced industry specialists.

### SIM Education Abroad

■ Seven signature initiatives based on the three anchors of: Academic and Cultural Development, Professionalisation, Civic and Social Engagement.

■ Students have visited places such as the United States, Norway, Holland, United Kingdom, Hong Kong, South Korea, France, China and Nepal for their overseas exposure

■ Companies that have hosted our students for global internships in China include Mapletree, OCBC, Merck, Sino-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City, Ascendas, Asta Hotels, Cushman & Wakefield, Bund Center International