

Linking Alumni Together



MDIS
Management Development
Institute of Singapore

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THE MDIS EXPERIENCE

MDIS began the year with a great deal to celebrate. The inaugural MDIS-Leeds Beckett University Graduation Ceremony held in January, marked our very first graduation for year 2018. Of the 98 graduates, a remarkable 47 attained 1st Class Honours. We wish them every success in their future endeavours and a warm welcome to the MDIS Alumni Network.

In April, one of our leaders, Dr R Theyvendran, MDIS Secretary-General and past Chairman of Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry, was conferred a 'Lifetime Business Achievement Award' at the Singapore Indian Entrepreneur Awards 2018, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to business.

In May, MDIS proudly launched the private education sector's first dedicated School of Nursing. Graced by Guest-of-Honour, Dr Chia Shi-Lu, Member of Parliament for Tanjong Pagar GRC, the launch also marked the official opening of the MDIS Nursing Practicum Lab, a well-equipped facility for post-registered nurses to enhance their practical skills. The school aims to recruit 2,000 students by 2025 to meet Singapore's increasing need for personnel in the public healthcare sector.

Another highlight in May was Kolej MDIS Malaysia's first convocation ceremony. A total of 164 diploma students received their qualifications on 5 May. It gives me great pleasure to welcome them to the MDIS Alumni network.

I am also proud to introduce a refreshed look for the Bond Magazine, that is visually captivating with a touch of fun and youthfulness. It would be great to receive your feedback, so do get in touch with us.

In this issue, our feature story showcases five alumni from different walks of life, connected through their participation in the Chingay Parade. We have Pricillia, an Arts Project Manager with the People's Association who helped organise the Chingay Parade. We also spoke to Cindy Wang, the Dance Choreographer for the MDIS Chingay Contingent for the past four years, on the challenges in training a contingent of performers. We also have Michael Wang and Kerren Fong, entrepreneurs who made time to participate in the parade despite their busy schedules. Lastly, we learned about Kalyn's Chua journey on reconnecting with the Institute and her passion for dancing after graduating nine years ago.

Just as how I have met many alumni through the Chingay Parade, I hope to have the opportunity to meet many more of you in the alumni events we have in store. Do refer to page 5 in this issue for details on the events. I wish for all of you to have a wonderful year ahead.

Ms. Jesline Wong
Senior Director
MDIS Corporate and Membership Relations

DURIAN FIESTA



Durian, the king of fruits commonly found in Singapore and Malaysia, is a favourite not only among the locals but also foreigners! On 11 July 2018, MDIS hosted an inaugural Durian Fiesta on campus and attracted a good response from students, alumni and corporate members. Participants joined the “all-you-can-eat” durian buffet that included other tropical fruits, such as mangosteens, longans and lychees. The durian spread included all-time favourites among durian lovers - Mao Shan Wang, Golden Phoenix and Red Prawn durians.

The participants thoroughly enjoyed the event. If you missed this year’s event, fret not! Keep a look out next year and do join us then!

MDIS ALUMNI MOVIE NIGHT 2018



On 4 July 2018, MDIS hosted yet another fully sold-out MDIS movie night. Held at Golden Village@ VivoCity, alumni were treated to free drinks and popcorn while they enjoyed the latest instalment of the Marvel Cinematic Universe, Ant Man & The Wasp.

Alumni also received their new MDIS Membership card and learnt about the latest happenings in MDIS before the movie commenced.

Missed this event? Do check out the MDIS website to keep up with our latest activities and happenings!



HAPPY FEET



A first for the institute, the MDIS Membership department organised a reunion cum networking session for an interest club instead of at the usual university level.

On 18 April, MDIS Dance Club alumni and current members were invited to a reunion session at MDIS Campus. The reunion was very well received, with plenty of 'happy feet' from those who attended. A dance exchange featuring seven dance performances of different genres was put up by the participants which allowed

them to learn techniques and choreography from one other. Dance club alumni were also keen to share their personal experiences about their lives after graduation.

It was a nostalgic reunion for the alumni. They were also able to make new friends with common interests. Eagerly looking forward to the next gathering, everyone agreed unanimously to make this an annual affair and grow the MDIS Dance Club family.



ALUMNI SHARING WORKSHOPS



MDIS places much emphasis on mentorship workshops, where MDIS alumni return to conduct short courses for current students. In May, an Urban Dance Workshop was conducted by alumnus Sherman Ong. Sherman graduated in 2016 with a Bachelor of Science in Biotechnology, awarded by Northumbria University, UK. He is also a member of Boysllgents dance team. Not only did he teach urban dance techniques in a high energy session, Sherman also took the opportunity to share his real-world experiences after graduating from MDIS.

The following month, MDIS organised a Mandarin language workshop for students to learn basic conversational phrases. MDIS alumna, Debbie He conducted the workshop and shared with participants the history of the language.

Mentorship provides a link between current MDIS students and successful MDIS alumni. For alumni, mentorship offers an opportunity for them to be role models and positively influence their juniors. Current students also find it easier to connect and relate to their mentors.



For Alumni interested in conducting workshops, please contact MDIS Corporate & Membership Relations department at 6473 5885 or email to alumni@mdis.edu.sg.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY

5
OCTOBER

REUNION WITH BASKETBALL ALUMNI

MOE (Evans) Sports Hall
21 Evans Road, Singapore 259366

Form a team of three and compete in a friendly 3-on-3 basketball tournament with MDIS alumni and MDIS Basketball Club members!

SATURDAY

6
OCTOBER

CAT EXPERIENCE WORKSHOP

The Cat Café
241B Victoria St, Singapore 188030
\$10 (students/alumni/members)
\$15 (public)

Calling all cat lovers! Join us for this workshop and get to interact with the cuties in The Cat Café. What's more, learn first-hand from the owner of The Cat Café about the interesting behavioural characteristics of cats.

THURSDAY

1
NOVEMBER

MOVIE NIGHT - X-MEN: DARK PHOENIX

Golden Village, VivoCity
\$8 (students/alumni/members)
\$14.50 (public)

Be the first to catch the blockbuster movie premiere of X-MEN: Dark Phoenix with your friends and family over a treat of popcorn and drinks!

SATURDAY

3
NOVEMBER

NATURE EXPLORER SERIES: BUKIT TIMAH NATURE RESERVE

Time: 9:30am to 1pm
Venue: Bukit Timah Nature Reserve
\$3 (students/alumni/members)
\$5 (public)

Located within the tropical region, Bukit Timah Nature Reserve has one of the richest and most diverse ecological systems in the world. Join us for a walk with your eyes wide open, and you will see an astonishing variety of plant and animal life!



MDIS

Management Development & Consultancy
The Corporate Training Arm of MDIS

Who We Are?

MDC provides a wide range of well-designed programmes specially catered for business organisations with different training needs.



Download our
2018 Training Calendar



Local Corporate Business

MDC's key services include seminars, customised training programmes and business consultancy services designed to equip professionals with essential tools of the trade. By putting theoretical knowledge into practice for our training programmes, MDC has since become a reputable company recognised for developing the next wave of dynamic corporate and business professionals.

We listen to our clients carefully and are able to support them to achieve real behavioral change in a business world that is constantly evolving. When industries and the business world demand new skills, MDC is there to provide the support.

We customise courses for unique corporate needs ...



Overseas Business

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MDC Overseas Business unit offers customised and cross-cultural training programmes for individuals and corporates. Our experienced, resourceful and dedicated team works closely with many organisations from a wide range of industries and agencies.

MDC conducts immersion programmes and corporate training for overseas participants from Asia Pacific, Africa, UAE, Russia and Uzbekistan. Our learning programmes are led by accredited, highly experienced and engaging trainers, facilitators and coaches. MDC continues to develop and customise new well-designed programmes to keep up with market trends and organisations' training needs. For overseas business enquiries, please visit us at mdc.mdis.edu.sg.

RECONNECTING WITH ALMA MATER THROUGH THE CHINGAY PARADE

Featuring 60 international students across ten countries, this year's contingent of students from the Management Development Institute of Singapore (MDIS) went all out to wow the crowd at the Chingay 2018 parade. The diverse contingent celebrated the joy of a multicultural student life in MDIS and demonstrated unity and camaraderie among students from different cultures.

The contingent is also made up of members from our MDIS alumni. Events like Chingay allow alumni to connect with the Institute after leaving the school for years. Bond sits down with five such alumni who participated with the MDIS contingent in this year's Chingay Parade, to understand their life after graduation and their motivation to join the parade.



UNSUNG HEROES BEHIND THE GLAMOUR PRICILLIA MEI PEI SHI



Pricillia graduated in 2010 with a Bachelor of Business in Convention and Event Management, awarded by Southern Cross University, Australia. Today, Pricillia is a Manager at People's Association and an integral member of the Chingay production team where she manages different stakeholders to help set-up the Chingay parade.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO STUDY IN MDIS?

I was really drawn to the well-equipped hospitality training centre at MDIS School of Tourism and Hospitality. Furthermore, the school offered internship opportunities and also industry visits. Such experiences were important to me as I wanted to gain real-world experiences that in my opinion, are key to enhancing my employability upon graduation.

WHAT IS THE HARDEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

Chingay is a massive project and one of national importance. During the set-up, challenges arose from having to manage a lot of different stakeholders ranging from vendors, volunteers, performers, to contractors, and more. All have different working styles and there is no one-size-fits-all management style. There were plenty of late nights as well that really took a toll on our physical wellbeing.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE THE MOST ABOUT YOUR JOB?

As mentioned, I have to liaise and manage a variety of stakeholders. With time, rapport is built and slowly, everyone gels together as one Chingay family. Working together for a common goal, the bond we build is something I really cherish.

And of course, when we successfully completed the Chingay Parade, the satisfaction derived is euphoric. Seeing a successful parade and hearing compliments about how the parade was done well really made all the hard work and late nights worth it. Eventhough I have been doing this for four years now, the feeling never gets old.

WHAT IS SUCCESS TO YOU?

To me, success is not about being rich or reputable. It is being able to do what you like and getting a sense of achievement after every victory.

A REKINDLED PASSION FOR DANCE

CHUA HUI TING, KALYN



Kalyn is an alumna of Oklahoma City University, USA. Kalyn graduated in 2009. It has been close to 10 years since Kalyn left MDIS. Despite time constraints as she is a working mother, Kalyn was determined to join Chingay as a way of reconnecting with her passion for dance.

YOU HAVE GRADUATED FROM THE INSTITUTE CLOSE TO 10 YEARS NOW. WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO JOIN CHINGAY?

Last year, I chanced upon photos of MDIS participating in the Chingay parade. I was really interested to join and jumped on the opportunity when MDIS was recruiting. As a former MDIS Dance Club member, I was keen to reconnect with the Institute through dance. And, as a working mother, it was really difficult to find time to

dance again. Chingay gave me the golden opportunity to be in touch with my passion again.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT CHINGAY?

I really fell in love with the vibrant spirit of Chingay. The event is uplifting with the dazzling costumes, upbeat music, energy from the performers and of course, the fireworks. I really enjoyed the camaraderie and friendships forged with my fellow performers. It was beautiful witnessing all of us from different walks of life, coming together in unison and putting up a good show.

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS YOU LEARNT FROM PARTICIPATING IN CHINGAY?

As Chingay is a 'live' show, my takeaway is that we need to be flexible and adapt to on-site changes that can happen at the very last minute. Just as how we cannot stubbornly stick to our moves and the given Chingay music, such is life where we cannot always be stubborn in pegging our choices to the given environment. We must always be adaptable and learn to "dance in the rain" at times.

RELIVING STUDENT-LIFE NOSTALGIA

FONG SIEW LIN, KERREN



Kerren graduated from the University of Bradford, UK back in 2010. Currently, she is the owner of a flower shop. In her free time, she enjoys gatherings with her former MDIS Dance Club members, especially if they get the opportunity to dance.

WHY DID YOU AGREE TO JOIN THE CHINGAY PARADE THIS YEAR?

I was invited by some of my former MDIS Dance Club members. I was very excited with the thought of being able to dance together with them for our alma mater. As we all have moved on with our lives, participating in Chingay was a rare opportunity for us to relive the nostalgia of our student life.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT IT WAS YOUR FIRST TIME PARTICIPATING IN CHINGAY. WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT IT?

I never expected that I would enjoy performing in the Chingay Parade to this extent. It had definitely been a fun-filled journey, but what was especially amazing was the forging of new bonds and celebrating new friendships with the diverse MDIS performers from many different backgrounds and cultures.

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS YOU LEARNT FROM PARTICIPATING IN CHINGAY?

There were a few key lessons that I gained from this experience. Firstly, commitment is very important. Without commitment, it would be hard to diligently attend or endure the physically taxing trainings in order to execute a good show. Also, before participating in Chingay, my only experience was watching it on TV. Being on the ground, I witnessed first-hand the tonne of work that goes into preparing for the whole parade. I have a new found appreciation for the parade as there is so much planning and hard work that goes into putting the parade together.

PERFECT CHEMISTRY

FALLING IN LOVE ON THE DANCE FLOOR

WANG XINYUE, CINDY

Cindy Wang is an MDIS alumna and currently an employee too. Cindy graduated with a Master of Business Administration, awarded by the University of Sunderland, UK. An avid dancer, Cindy has been the dance choreographer for MDIS Chingay contingent for four years now.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR JOURNEY IN MDIS.

After I finished high school in China, I enrolled in a Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Business & Management Studies, awarded by the University of Bradford, UK. Subsequently, I furthered my studies and graduated with an MBA, awarded by the University of Sunderland, UK. During my time in MDIS, I was the Dance Club president and the event secretary for the Student Council. Currently, I am working in the MDIS Membership Department, where I help plan and organise activities for our MDIS members.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT YOU HAVE BEEN THE CHOREOGRAPHER FOR MDIS CHINGAY CONTINGENT OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS. WHAT WAS ONE OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES IN DOING THIS?

To me, developing the choreography is not difficult. The biggest challenge comes from teaching the choreography to the whole MDIS contingent made up of over 60 students. Usually, the majority of performers would have no prior experience in dancing and would thus require a lot of training to get the moves right. At the start, most of them are fearful of performing. Slowly but surely, they start to get better not only in their dance but also in gaining more personal confidence. This is why I have been doing this year after year. Seeing their progress and them eventually enjoying the performance truly warms my heart. I derive a lot of satisfaction from that.

WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST TAKEAWAY IN MDIS?

My time in MDIS is really made up of several defining chapters of my life. As a student, MDIS had equipped me with relevant knowledge and skills to prepare me for the workplace. MDIS had also allowed me to develop my interest and pursue my passions through various student interest groups. Now, I am also building my career and achieving my work aspirations in MDIS. Most importantly, I met my Mr. Right in MDIS as well! We got married last year in 2017. Fun Fact: 2017's Chingay Parade was just two days before our wedding ceremony, which we still went ahead and participated in together!

WANG QIUTONG, MICHAEL

Michael Wang, graduated in 2015 with a Bachelor of Arts (In Liberal Studies with Concentration in Mass Communications), awarded by Oklahoma City University, USA. A successful entrepreneur, Michael is currently the founder of three companies. Despite his hectic schedule, Michael makes it a point to support and participate in activities by MDIS, actively sharing his experiences with current students.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS YOU'RE MOST PROUD OF THUS FAR?

As an owner of three businesses, I have learnt that many factors, apart from talent and skill, determine whether a business will be a success or failure. Even with the right business ideas, we will also need to find the right people to work with. Luck plays a factor in the business world as well. There are just a multitude of challenges constantly coming at you as an entrepreneur. I am glad to share that I have coped well with the challenges and brought my businesses to stable growth.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE THE TOP REQUIREMENTS FOR SOMEONE ASPIRING TO BE AN ENTREPRENEUR?

I feel that the top requirement is to have a strong and positive mindset. As an entrepreneur, you will always be faced with challenges. Your staff will also look up to you for leadership during hard times. Without a strong mindset, the pressure can crack you easily and the company will definitely fall apart.

WHAT DOES CHINGAY MEAN TO YOU FOR YOU TO PARTICIPATE YEAR AFTER YEAR DESPITE YOUR HECTIC SCHEDULE?

I was one of the pioneer performers when MDIS first participated in Chingay in 2015. I can still vividly remember how proud I felt when we successfully completed the parade for the first time. As a performer, I really enjoy the energy and vibe of the parade. To me, Chingay goes beyond a performance as it serves as an opportunity for me and my friends to catch up and have a great time together.



MDIS ALUMNI MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME

YOU'RE
INVITED

Calling out to all MDIS Alumni who have the expertise, passion and time to make a positive difference and contribute to MDIS as an Alumni Mentor!



Mentorship Programme is for a duration of two months and includes providing:

- Career Advice
- Engagement & Support

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Beverages excluded

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10% off total bill

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Promotion is valid from now until 31 Dec 2018

DON'T TELL MAMA



15% off total bill

HAO LAI WU



10% off total bill

BARO BARO



15% off total bill

OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE



20% discount on regular dinner menu

MDIS ALUMNI CARD

A card that connects... and more



Dear Alumni,

Welcome to the Alumni Community of the Management Development Institute of Singapore (MDIS). We are happy to share with you that we have launched the new MDIS Alumni Card. Enjoy an array of benefits with the new MDIS Alumni Card, including exclusive invitations to activities, alumni event updates and discounts from our treats partners.

We look forward to seeing you at our MDIS Alumni Community events where you can keep in touch with your friends from MDIS and stay connected with your alma mater.

How to receive the MDIS Alumni Card? Simply contact us at alumni@mdis.edu.sg to update your particulars today!

Exclusively for MDIS Alumni Card Holders

- Attractive rebates for progression students
- Auditorium and Facility rental at member's rates
- Discount on selected items at Brew and Bites Café
- Enjoy special MDIS Toastmasters Club membership rate of S\$107 per annum
- Exclusive invitations to alumni events
- Gym and badminton court usage at member's rates
- Special rates on courses at Management Development & Consultancy (MDC), MDIS corporate training arm



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 - Globally Recognised Qualifications
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- | | |
|---|--|
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|---|--|

Check out our Refer-a-friend scheme at <https://www.mdiss.edu.sg/refer-a-friend>

EXCELLENCE FOR EVERY ACHIEVER.

MDIS. Your Trusted Choice For Success.



At MDIS, we nurture our students' potential and amplify their talents, grooming them into outstanding achievers in their fields of choice. For over 60 years, we have produced stellar professionals who go on to achieve successful careers and positive social change.



- ✓ Ranked among the Top 2% of Global Higher Education Institutions in the World - The Times Higher Education World University 2015-2016
- ✓ Top 15 UK University for Student Experience - The Times and Sunday Times League Table 2016

Awarded by Bangor University (UK)

- **Master of Business Administration in Banking and Finance**
- **Master of Business Administration in International Marketing**



- ✓ Ranked 13th UK University by The Guardian University Guide 2019
- ✓ Awarded Gold for outstanding teaching and learning by Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) 2017

Awarded by Coventry University (UK)

- **Master of Science Molecular Biology** NEW



- ✓ Best in the North East of England for Satisfaction with Teaching including Management and Marketing (The Guardian University Guide 2017)
- ✓ Member of the Association of Commonwealth University (ACU)

Awarded by the University of Sunderland (UK)

- **Master of Business Administration**
- **Master of Business Administration (Human Resource Management)** NEW
- **Master of Business Administration (Supply Chain Management)** NEW
- **Master of Science Tourism and Hospitality**



- ✓ Listed in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2016-17 (601-800th world band listing)
- ✓ Awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Excellence and Outstanding Work in the Field of Enterprise and Business Engagement 2014-2018

Awarded by Teesside University, UK

- **Doctorate in Business Administration** NEW

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