

Profiles in BLUE

Adrian Lim

It's only natural that UK alumni want to get together and share good times. That's one of the reasons UK Alumni Clubs form, just like some of the newest clubs that are organizing in Knoxville, Tenn., Charleston, S.C., and the Twin Cities/Minnesota area. But it would probably surprise many UK grads that another UK alumni community gaining momentum is in Malaysia. This is the result of an effort led by Adrian L. H. Lim, who lives in Subang Jaya, just west of Kuala Lumpur in the state of Selangor.

Lim received a bachelor's degree in finance from UK in 1999 and then continued on to earn a master's degree in business administration in 2001. Although he was born and raised in Malaysia, his family wanted him to pursue his education with a more global perspective and he also studied in China after graduating from UK. While at UK he was very active in student organizations on campus, including the International Student Council and the Cosmopolitan Club. His friendly nature made him a natural mentor and many students looked up to him for advice.

Today he runs Hargrave Corporation in Malaysia, a firm that was started by his father. The company distributes industrial pumps, environmental care products and building materials.

For recreation, his favorite exercise is hiking. "I hike a local hill, Bukit Gasing, every Saturday morning. I bump into quite a few UK alums at this hill," he says.

Though he is busy running the family company, he is a Big Blue fan, follows UK sports and organizes get-togethers for Kentucky alumni living in Malaysia. In the past, representatives from the UK community have had occasion to visit this growing group of former students. Doug Boyd, former associate provost for International Affairs and now chief of staff for UK President Lee T. Todd Jr., is impressed with Lim's desire to show his Wildcat pride to encourage other students from Malaysia to consider attending UK. Boyd saw Adrian during a trip in January and attended a dinner gathering Adrian organized. Boyd notes, "Adrian joins many other UK graduates in Malaysia that stay in touch with each other and with us because of having graduated from here, fond memories of Lexington, and remembering their first-rate undergraduate and graduate educational experience that is now part of their success."



Photo: © 2008 Danny Foo

Recent Project At Work

Setting up a building materials division and implementation of customer relationship management software

Family Pets

"Happy," a miniature Shih Tzu who is four this year, but still behaves like a puppy

Agenda For Saturdays At 3 p.m.

"Saturday afternoons are reserved for catching up on my sleep or playing futsal (indoor soccer). But, usually sleep wins!"

Favorite Hobby

"Reading, I usually Google the hottest topics everyone is talking about."

Best Personal Decision

"Still waiting to make one! Picking UK ranks very high up on my list of best decisions ever."

Most Important Lesson Learned

"When things are going great, one should be careful on complacency setting in."

Two Words That Describe You

"Honest and practical. I prefer life to be simple, and I find adhering to these two values makes things a whole lot simpler."

Celebrity You'd Like To Meet

"Whoever wins the next U.S. presidential election!"

One Thing You Don't Go Anywhere Without

"My cell phone. It's always within arm's length."

Favorite Web Sites

msnbc.com and facebook.com

Last Thing Bought Online

Intel stocks using Ameritrade

Business Goals

"Diversify our products' portfolio and multiply our revenue."

First Job As A Teenager

Casual clerk in a department store

Business Achievement

Reorganizing sales teams and service teams and almost doubling revenue over the last two years

Indispensable Business Tool

"E-mail, definitely! I am not yet on BlackBerry and trying very hard to avoid it, but, I suppose it will catch up sooner or later."

My Colleagues Would Never Guess That I ...

"...used to be a prankster back in my college days and turned Jewell Hall upside down with my pranks."

Best Way To Unwind

Drinking Chinese tea in the garden with family

Favorite Sport To Watch

English Premier League soccer

Favorite Vacation Location

"None yet, but I'd like to hike through nature, be it Red River Gorge or a tropical forest."

Place You'd Like To Visit

"Believe it or not, I'd like to go back and visit Lexington after having been away for seven years."

How Would You Live Your Life As A Cat

"I'd probably run around the neighborhood trying to annoy the dogs."

One Food Not In Your Home

Pickles

"I still don't understand how they're supposed to make a burger tastier!"

Last Big Surprise

"I can't remember the last one, but I will tell you about a memorable one. Doug Boyd, the UK president's chief of staff, went up on stage during International Talent Night 2001 and announced it was my birthday in front of a packed Worsham Theater."

The World Ends In 5 Days. What's On Your To-do List?

"Make lots of phone calls to family and friends all over the world, stuff myself silly with all my favorite foods, stop tidying up my desk, confess to all my sins and spend whatever money I have left on useless stuff I always wanted."

Most Afraid Of

Losing loved ones

For A Good Laugh, I ...

"...invite some friends out for a beer or wine. Laughing is a lot easier given enough alcohol."

Lucky Number

Eight

"It's a Chinese superstition."

Best Meal Ever Had

"If you lived in Malaysia, you'd understand this is a question a lot of us Malaysians cannot answer. Spoiled by variety!"

Favorite Hot Day Drink

Cold isotonic drink

Favorite Kentucky Food

"Kentucky Fried Chicken! I am serious! The KFC in Malaysia tastes a whole lot better than the KFC in Lexington. It's crispier and we have the spicy variety here."

How Did You Pick Your Major

"I don't know — just ended up picking finance without really thinking about it."

Favorite Hangout At UK

Tolly-Ho's

Obstacle Overcome In College

Taking 3 classes in the summer of 1998
"As a matter of habit, I only start my assignments and revisions when the sun sets. It was my first summer experience in the Western Hemisphere where the sun only sets late at night. Needless to say, I got very little sleep that summer and turned in half-baked assignments."

One Thing Done In College That Makes You Proud

Playing an active role within the international student community and making life-long friends from the United States and all over the world

One Way College Changed You

"It has given me a better handle on interacting and working with different types of people."

Most Memorable UK Moment

The 1998 NCAA Championship, definitely! I first arrived in Lexington in January '98 and by March '98 there was this huge party on Euclid Avenue and I was already hooked on UK Basketball!"