SMU sees oldest graduate for Bachelor's programme

Eugene Low, 45, is the oldest person in the Singapore Management University's history to be awarded a Bachelor's degree.

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EUGENE LOW
SMU Graduate

SINGAPORE: The Singapore Management University saw 2,348 students graduating this year - its largest batch of graduates since the school's inception 15 years ago.

The commencement ceremony was held at Suntec City Convention Centre on Wednesday (Jul 15).

Among the graduates was 45-year-old Eugene Low from the School of Information Systems. He is the oldest person in the university's history to be awarded a Bachelor's degree.

The senior military expert had received full funding from his employer - the Singapore Armed Forces - to obtain his degree, but he noted that it was a struggle at first to fit in with his younger classmates.

"They see things differently from me," he said. "For example, they have brilliant and innovative ideas that were rough around the edges, and it was tough trying to convince them. So, what I did was I took a step back, allowed them to proceed. And when they stumble, that's where I came in and guided them, and polished their ideas. And they felt that 'Hey, he's the guy we can go to with our ideas and he can help us to make it even better'."

For graduate Ang Ben You, 26, his past failures motivated him to change. He is now a double degree graduate, majoring in Business and Social Sciences. However, he had to go through the longer route to achieve this.

His addiction to computer gaming and rebellious attitude had caused him to repeat a year in secondary school and that proved to be a turning point.

"It was just too much for me to take because I never realised that this would happen to me," he said. "After a big shock, you have some time to reflect on your life and then you look at your mum crying and things like that. That sort of motivates you that this lifestyle is not sustainable and you need to do something about it. So, I picked up the pieces, set a plan and I went on from there."

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