

# BLAZE

THE SUNWAY UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



## ME FIRST, PANDEMIC SECOND?

*Pathfinding the self-care route in a unique season*



Photo by Pavel Danilyuk from Pexels

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## PRINTING BY


Kuan Press Sdn Bhd  
No. 1, Jalan Perindustrian PP 7,  
Taman Perindustrian Putra Permai,  
43300 Seri Kembangan,  
Selangor Darul Ehsan

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# FOREWORD

FROM THE PRESIDENT  
PROFESSOR SIBRANDES POPPEMA

**SUNWAY UNIVERSITY  
IS HERE FOR YOU – ALWAYS**



Sunway University recently held its first-ever virtual graduation ceremony. The proceedings were deeply moving, joyous, and truly memorable as we recognised and honoured the remarkable achievement and resilience of over 2,000 graduates.

You made it and are now embarking on a new chapter of your lives. We recognised your incredible journey achieved against a backdrop of constant change and uncertainty. We are proud of your endeavours and perseverance and are delighted that Sunway University was here to provide you with unforgettable moments. As you now plan for a bright new future through our active Alumni community, we very much hope to be part of your coming chapters and support you even more on this new journey of discovery.

In this issue, distinguished guests of the Sunway University Virtual Graduation Ceremony alongside the valedictorians of both Class of July 2020 and February 2021 have come together to give you some unique insights into the ceremony. This special coverage also captures some wonderful moments at Sunway University and exciting plans for the future.

Throughout this challenging learning environment, Sunway University continues to achieve greater heights as it propels the reputation of Malaysian education across the globe.

For the first time, we entered the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2021, which measures universities' commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and officially became the highest-ranked private university in Malaysia.

We also feature the exciting launch of the inaugural Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) programme in Electronic and Electrical Engineering this coming August. The School of Engineering and Technology (SET) has worked tremendously hard to bring this programme to fruition during a pandemic. We are excited to add this new industry sector to our illustrious portfolio of programmes.

Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to offer special thanks to Sunway University's staff, parents, and friends. Your dedicated response to the pandemic enabled us to support our students in some of the most difficult circumstances the University has ever faced. Our staff's energetic and innovative adaptation of their teaching and research carried forward the University's mission and sustained its excellence during this pandemic.

Regardless of the challenges and difficulties we face curbing the COVID-19 pandemic, I remain hopeful that the semester that begins in August will reflect more positive times ahead for the Sunway University community. I look forward to seeing you – virtually and physically. In the meantime, please continue to keep safe and healthy.

# ME FIRST, PANDEMIC SECOND?

*Pathfinding the self-care  
route in a unique season*

by Hailey Chung

Help! Not another article about that deadly contagious virus that is to steal, kill and destroy my joy. The coronavirus has been quite the name above all names these days and not an hour has spared its trace of movement.

It has brought on a global pandemic and life does not seem normal at all. We found ourselves bowing to the standard operating procedures to save our lives but cannot help feeling that we have lost ourselves too.

The impact has cascaded to all livelihoods and for many students, a big part of the effect meant embracing the transition into online-oriented learning.

Almost overnight, the structures of group assignments, lectures and exams took a spin. Naturally, it takes time, strength, and perseverance for any student to adjust to the new normal of education from the mental, emotional and physical aspects.

For some, self-care can easily take a backseat in the pressing urgency to stabilise one's performance or to keep excelling in the scoresheets.

Under such circumstances, a couple of Sunway University students shared how to ethically put self first during the public health crisis. They remind us of what we can say yes to for a battle we cannot say no to.

Being an extrovert, Fatima Hesham Abdo Al-Herwi was afraid of being cooped up at home. The lockdown was akin to imprisonment if she could describe it. "It was mentally and emotionally challenging not being able to socialise and meet new people or my friends," she said.

Video calls were made one green button after another, yet the digital platform could not possibly be the fulfilment for the social gap. Loneliness crept in and as days went by, stress and anxiety followed when Fatima remained in the walls of her apartment.

Thankfully, the young 20-year-old BIS (Hons) in Mobile Computing with Entrepreneurship student from Yemen decided that it was reflection time. "Eventually, I realised that doing something I love or enjoy would keep me sane," she said.

Cooking was one of her favourite activities. "I had time to learn some of my mom's recipes through video calling her." She also choreographed a better routine which includes setting herself for a proper sleep schedule.

**"There will be times I struggle to get things done, but I would still say that I am satisfied with my current routine."**

Her parents were also her backbone. "When I am down, I will always video call my parents and seek advice. My father usually says, 'If you need some time to breathe, stop whatever you're doing, think positively and do an activity you enjoy to regain strength.'"



Fizza Zaidi has a story of picking herself up too. If she had to choose one of the toughest adjustments as a student, it was the transition from physical classes to online learning.

**"I struggled to get out of bed or attend classes online because of my lack of motivation. I felt the difference of online and physical classes, managing house chores and other things I had to adapt to during a pandemic," she said.**

Her antidote was going through a list of things that she is thankful for every morning. "It might sound slightly cheesy but this positive attitude helps me keep my mental health in check," she said.

Acknowledging her privileges such as being financially secure, receiving an education and having good health has pushed her to strive forward and stay motivated. Not only that, but she could also have additional strength to ensure others around her are well and safe.

"I made a habit to call and catch up with my friends and family weekly. This reminds me to check up on others as it is easy to get caught up worrying about yourself. Life is easier when you know others are having similar issues," Fizza said.

The BA (Hons) in Communication, year-two, student born and raised in Dubai said having conversations about mental health and being vulnerable about difficulties in life was a game-changer.

**"There is always someone out there who feels the same as you do. You just need to try to be open to difficult conversations to bring you closer to one another. Take this opportunity to build better relationships with new people and bond over the struggles of experiencing a pandemic."**

She believes that being empathetic is key to helping each other to go the distance. A safe environment is one that is supportive and generous towards its citizens struggling with mental health.

“It is important to recognise that people of all ages, professions and backgrounds can experience mental health issues. Often, the focus does fall around students and our struggles with mental health, but lecturers and staff are experiencing it just as much.”

Adding to that, Fizza thanked her supportive lecturers who themselves had adapted to this mega change and did everything they could to give students the best online learning experience.

“I am truly grateful towards the effort teachers put in above and beyond during this pandemic to make sure students have a positive experience. I admire them for they have motivated me to be a better student.”

Self-care for Yee Kah Yan is to step away from the constant motion of her studies and responsibilities. “Rather than gluing myself onto the screens of my computer and my mobile device, I would try to do some sports to keep my mind active while having fun.”

She had, in particular, grown an interest in skipping and had integrated various tricks and routines into it. Rest time meant to her that studies and responsibilities could not interfere then.

The pandemic is also an opportune time to be gracious about failures and imperfections. For Kah Yan, the practicality of it is to accept and recognise that failure is a part of life.

**“Most of the time, our instinct to failures and imperfection is that we should be ashamed of them. But what we should remind ourselves is that failure is a fundamental element of our success.”**



Photo by Rodnae Productions from Pexels

The 22-year-old BSc (Hons) Business Studies student said that to remove the sting of fear towards failure is to confront it and look at the fruits of our labours. “Even though we may not have achieved the desired result, we should also look into the effort and dedication put into achieving the end goal.”

She warned against being carried away by imperfections and falling into the pit of self-blaming ourselves. “We should all learn from the experience and realise that the gain from a failure is much more valuable than success,” she said.

Professor Hew Gill, Sunway University’s associate provost and a chartered psychologist, echoed the testimonials of these students to embrace change, establish a healthy routine and find a hobby in this season.

“Have you ever had the experience of being so interested in something that time seems to stand still, and when you next look at the clock, several hours have passed? This is being in ‘flow’ and it happens when we focus all our attention on something.”

He said that hobbies do help with our mental and general health because it is mindfulness with purpose and fun.

**“Find a hobby activity that you find completely absorbing, make it your hobby, and you will have hours of focused enjoyment. There’s evidence that people who have hobbies and pastimes are happier and live longer.”**

Along with that, he said it is easy for students to treat sleep as though it is an inconvenience, but a discipline of getting the shut-eye time is essential.

“In normal times, we are all rushing here and there, so it’s easy to stay up a little later or get up a little earlier without thinking about the impact on our sleep. Lockdown means we have nowhere to go and the opportunity to rebalance our sleeping pattern so we can get back into a healthy cycle.”

Professor Hew also encouraged students to take control of the precious gift of time because it is the one thing that we cannot buy or get back. In aligning with the new world of work, he said students could appreciate being pioneers of users of amazing technologies in a cutting-edge era.

“Online is going to be a substantial part of the future. Organisations have discovered how easy it is to do business online, and the fact that it is also faster and much cheaper means it will become the new norm.”

In foresight, the pandemic is the epitome of all bad things. But it’s okay to not have felt okay, to have slipped in the first few steps of the uphill journey as you grow cosy to these new shoes. Take time to check in with yourself, to unwind and destress, while knowing that as you go through it, you grow through it.

The Wellness and Counselling team also provides outlets for students to access help consists of professionals available for mentoring and counselling. Taking care of your well-being is crucial for making your university experience an excitingly positive one. At Sunway University, we are committed to the mental health and wellbeing of all our students, and we want you to know that a range of support is available to you, should you need it. **B**

# CAMPUS UPDATES

Some of the many insightful interviews of our professors with key media channels.



Professor Sibrandes Poppema (right) and Astro Awani anchor and editor, Cynthia Ng

## Professor Sibrandes Poppema

President of Sunway University

Spoke to top local media channels on multiple COVID-19 related topics while clearing the doubts of the public.

### ASTRO Awani #AWANIreview

Did COVID-19 Kill 'Traditional' University?  
<https://qr.go.page.link/ckKAh>



### ASTRO Awani #ConsiderThis

Vaccines – Beyond Demand & Supply  
<https://qr.go.page.link/gkgsww>

### The Star Online

COVID-19 Vaccine Q&A: Vaccination for Older People  
<https://qr.go.page.link/A416K>



## Professor Elizabeth Lee

Chief Executive Director  
of Sunway Education Group

Encouraged SPM leavers about their purposeful education journey ahead.

### The STAR

Starting afresh post-SPM  
<https://qr.go.page.link/55t58>



Photo by Bernama



The question is whether 6G will use the same platform as 4G and 5G because it may completely disrupt the latter. This is why I think taking a staged approach is good, so that if something new comes about, we can adjust."

Mahendhiran



Image: The Edge Markets

## Professor Mahendhiran Sanggaran Nair

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Engagement and Impact)  
of Sunway University

Spoke to The Edge about connectivity being the foundation of Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint.

### The Edge

Connectivity, the foundation of MyDIGITAL  
<https://qr.go.page.link/ZuPyF>



## Professor Hew Gill

Associate Provost  
of Sunway University

Live interview with TRAXXfm on the topic of vaccine hesitancy.

### HEALTH on TRAXX

The Psychology of Talking to People with Vaccine Hesitance

<https://qr.go.page.link/nQLrb>



## COVID-19 VACCINE Q&A SESSION

DEBUNKING MYTHS AND MISCONCEPTIONS

FEATURING PROF. DR. ABHI VEERAKUMARASIVAM  
Sunway University Dean of School of Medical and Life Sciences & Professor of Genetics

Got questions about the vaccine? Share them in the comment section!

We'll address them on Monday, Feb 22, 11:00pm via Facebook Live



## Professor Abhimanyu Veerakumarasivam

Professor and Dean of School of Medical and Life Sciences,  
Sunway University

Live Facebook Q&A with The Star on the myths and misconceptions of COVID-19 vaccines.

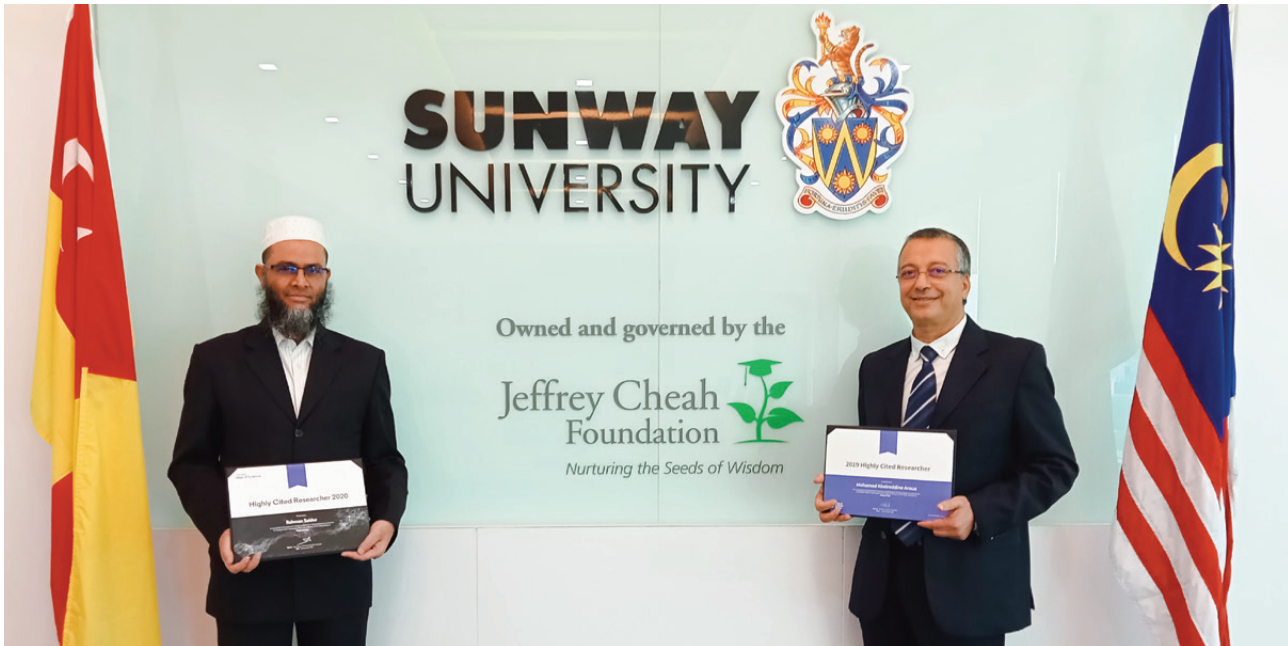
### The Star Online

COVID-19 Vaccines Q&A: Debunking Myths and Misconceptions



<https://qr.go.page.link/CjUpR>

Image: The Star Online



*Professor Saidur Rahman (left) and Professor Mohamed Kheireddine Aroua*

## MALAYSIA'S GLOBAL TOP 1% RESEARCHERS BY CLARIVATE'S WEB OF SCIENCE

The School of Engineering and Technology Professor Mohamed Kheireddine Aroua and Professor Saidur Rahman were recently celebrated as Malaysia's Global Top 1% Researchers by Clarivate's Web of Science at a virtual award ceremony that feted 19 of the top researchers in Malaysia.

Clarivate powered by Web of Science identifies a list of Highly Cited Researchers annually who have demonstrated significant influence in their research field through the publication of multiple highly cited papers during the last decade.

In 2020, approximately 6,400 of the world's researchers were selected for this recognition in 21 research fields and across multiple fields. Of the world's population of scientists and social scientists, Highly Cited Researchers are one in 1,000. Their names were drawn from publications that rank in the top 1% by citations for field and year in the Web of Science citation index.

Associate Dean (Research and Postgraduate Studies) and Head of the Research Centre for Carbon Dioxide Capture and Utilisation, Professor Kheireddine earned his third recognition in a row by Clarivate's Web of Science. His research focuses on three challenges that mankind is facing which are the water security, energy security, and environmental and climate change.

"This is a very inspiring international award. It is a great recognition of my research output and impact in the field of my expertise," said Professor Kheireddine. His ultimate goal is to translate his research findings into practical solutions aim to mitigate the emissions of carbon dioxide which is the major contributor to global warming.

"This issue cannot be addressed by a singular individual, team or institution. Collaboration and partnership involving multiple research teams, universities and stakeholders is the key to tackle this task successfully," expressed Professor

Kheireddine to the challenge of solving the carbon dioxide problem.

Distinguished Research Professor and Head of the Research Centre for Nano-Materials and Energy Technology, Professor Saidur's expertise is in nano-materials, energy storage, heat transfer, energy policy and renewable energy. This is his seventh recognition in a row by Clarivate's Web of Science, realising his passion and dedication in his areas of research.

"It is an exciting moment and certainly drives me further towards high quality and impactful research," said Professor Saidur. Through his research, he intends to have an impact on academic, industrial, societal and environmental. Aside from producing high quality research publications in top ranking journals, Professor Saidur also educated postgraduate students who advanced their careers in top universities globally.

Professor Saidur's consistent achievement in his field of research did not stray him away from advancing his research for a better future. "Cost-effective, fast charging, longer duration, utility-scale energy storage would be my future research topic as these are grand challenges in my field," he added.

Devoted to their field of research, Professor Kheireddine and Professor Saidur also wish to address the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) through their innovative ideas.

Sunway University is rapidly developing an ever-increasing reputation for its research activities that contribute to the economic and social development of the nation. These efforts are developing world-class researchers, supported by world-standard laboratories and international collaborations with some of the world's leading international universities, including joint research centres. **B**





# SUNWAY UNIVERSITY RANKED MALAYSIA'S TOP PRIVATE UNIVERSITY

For the first time, Sunway University entered the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2021 which measures universities' commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and officially became the highest ranked private university in Malaysia.

In addition to this exceptional introduction to the Times Higher World rankings, Sunway University is now officially credited to be within the Top 200 for SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities, once again making it one of the world's leading institutions in this noblest and topical of categories which reflects the dedication to creating career and business opportunities, safe and affordable housing, and building resilient societies and economies.

The SDG 11 highlights Sunway University as a state-of-the-art campus that is connected to a wide range of social and community amenities by safe walkways at treetop level (the "canopy walk"), giving a unique sustainable study, work and social environment for our students and staff within and around the campus. Sunway City is a prime example of the new global movement of sustainable "fifteen-minute cities" with hyper-connectivity and all amenities accessible within 15 minutes by walking.

Realising the need for health and safety, Sunway University strives to focus on pedestrian priority on campus with covered walkways that run between buildings and provide students and staff convenient access to all facilities within the campus. The University was also one of just two universities that won a National Energy Award last year

in recognition of its efforts on energy efficiency.

Professor Graeme Wilkinson, the Vice-Chancellor of Sunway University said, "We are delighted now to be recognised as one of the world's leading institutions for sustainability. We are a signatory institution to the SDG Accord and absolutely committed to aligning our educational and research efforts with the SDGs and this ranking demonstrates that our efforts are yielding results. We know that our students are very concerned about the future of the planet and sustainability issues, and we take very seriously our responsibility to educate them on these issues and to undertake research on policies and technologies that can make an impact in relation to the SDGs."

The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings are the only global performance tables that assess universities against the United Nations' SDGs. They use carefully calibrated indicators to provide comprehensive and balanced comparisons across four broad areas: research, stewardship, outreach and teaching.

The Impact Rankings was first launched by Times Higher Education in 2019 and now has almost triple the number of international premiere universities participating from nearly 100 countries or regions across the world, sharing invaluable data and presenting insights into the growing commitment to address global challenges and societal impacts.

Stefan Priesner, United Nations Resident Coordinator for Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam congratulated Sunway University, "The education sector is a key driver in the whole-of-nation approach towards achieving the SDGs and I congratulate Sunway University for the well-deserved recognition by Times Higher Education. Academia has a crucial role to play in nurturing future SDG champions and developing thought leadership for a more sustainable world. As an organisation, universities can also contribute by walking the talk and being SDG compliant in their business operations as demonstrated by Sunway."

Sunway University is dedicated to championing sustainability efforts within and around the campus by instilling sustainable practices into the various aspects of the university experience, such as ensuring high standards in sustainability research, sustainable work practices and sustainable consumption. Its 'Last Straw' campaign to reduce single use plastic on campus was a major success and helped launch the #CampusWithAConscience, a theme very much close to heart of all Sunwayians.

In recognition of Sunway's embrace of the sustainability agenda and commitment to advancing the SDGs in Asia, Sunway University recently joined New York City and Paris as the three United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) centres in the world to coordinate continent-wide sustainability initiatives in Asia, the Americas and Europe/Africa, respectively. **B**

# Sunway University Hosts First-Ever Virtual Graduation Ceremony



*Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah delivering the Welcome Address*

***Sunway University held its first-ever virtual graduation ceremony, honouring the achievement and resiliency of 2,261 students from the Class of July 2020 and February 2021 through all the challenges during the unprecedented period has created.***

Despite the pandemic, the time-honoured tradition in Sunway of bringing notable and influential speakers to address, inspire and congratulate the graduating class remained strong.

The virtual ceremony comprised of students from School of Arts, School of Engineering and Technology, School of Hospitality and Service Management, School of Interdisciplinary Studies, School of Medical and Life Sciences, School of Mathematical Sciences and Sunway University Business School.

The graduation was officiated by YBhg. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr Jeffrey Cheah AO, the Chancellor, along with the presence of Professor Elizabeth Lee, Chief Executive Officer of Sunway Education Group, Professor Sibrandes Poppema, President of Sunway University, and Professor Graeme Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor and Chair of the Academic Senate, Sunway University. Professor Andy Schofield, Vice-Chancellor of Lancaster University was also present virtually to confer the University of Lancaster scrolls to the graduating students for the honours and master's degree programmes by Sunway University, validated by Lancaster University and delivered the Occasional Address.

"We are building Sunway University into a leading global institution which you all



*Professor Sibrandes Poppema*



*Professor Andy Schofield delivering the Occasional Address*

will be proud to call your alma mater in the years to come," said Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah as he congratulated the graduates and highlighted the institution's constant strive to create an environment that encourages learning, sparks great ideas, and promotes innovation as well as sustainable solutions for the future.

The momentous event was streamed live on 22 and 23 May 2021, garnered over 50,000 views across YouTube and Facebook, with many graduates, family and friends around the world tuning in, sending congratulatory messages online and sharing their celebrations at home via social media with the hashtag #SunUVirtualGrad.

Notable Ambassadors including H.E. Charles Hay MVO, British High Commissioner to Malaysia, H.E. Roland Galharague, Ambassador of France to Malaysia, H.E. Amna Baloch, High Commissioner of the High Commission of Pakistan, Kuala Lumpur, and H.E. Visam Ali, High Commissioner of the Republic of Maldives to Malaysia also took time from their schedule to send video messages of support, whilst some of the world's leading corporate brands such as Standard Chartered, Huawei and PwC took the moment to recognise this gifted generation of future nation builders.



Leading dignitaries from the University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Harvard University also virtually supported the graduates and their families.

“My time at Sunway College and Sunway University has not only allowed me to discover my enthusiasms and passions but lit the way forward to shape a better future for myself, my community and my country,” said Raenuga A/P Indran, the valedictorian from the Class of February 2021, also one of the four valedictorians, graduated with a BSc (Hons) Psychology. She also encourages her fellow graduates to enter the next chapter with strength, tenacity and resilience.



*Raenuga A/P Indran*



*Professor Donald William Borwyer, Professor of Music and Dean of the School of Arts, at the ceremony*



*Professor Elizabeth Lee*

“We hope you will stay connected and have many future engagements with us. I wish you every success in your future and rest assured that your alma mater will always be here for you,” said Professor Elizabeth Lee as she welcomed all graduates to be part of the Sunway Alumni Community and gave her best wishes for their future endeavours towards the end of the virtual graduation ceremony.

It was a distinguished ceremony of gratitude, celebration, and achievement for the graduates, recognising their accomplishment despite the uncertainty and challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. **B**

# VALEDICTORIANS

## of Class of July 2020 and February 2021

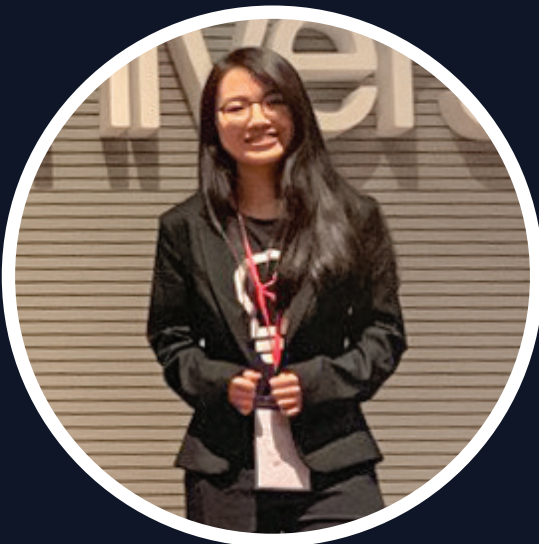
# SHARE THEIR JOURNEY

*Clubs and Societies you joined*

### MARISHA BARTH UBRANI

#### BSc (Hons) Psychology

- Sunway University Student Council, Sunway Cultural Exchange
- Being awarded the Chancellor scholarship, given the opportunity to work as a research assistant, published my first joint research paper with Associate Professor Dr Malissa, getting an A on my final-year project on a Lo-Fi music and improving the academic welfare of students through the Sunway University Student Council.
- Attending an exchange cultural program at Lancaster University, being present for neuropsychology lectures for lab sessions (where we tested EEG machines, eye trackers and more), carrying out my research and sharing my passion with my participants. Also, spending many sleepless nights yumcha-ing at Rock Café with the Sunway University Student Council.
- Practice discipline, you will have to know how to manage your time and workload and to be clear on what you have to focus on at the moment. Get to know yourself, for real, – the university is a place for you to find out what you like, don't like and everything in between. It's also where you can be more self-aware, learn how to take care of your mental health and understand how others perceive you. Most importantly, this is the time to find the values and principles that you cherish. They will carry you forward for the rest of your career and adult life.



### LIM JING XIN

#### BSc (Hons) Business Management

- TEDxSunwayUniversity – President of year 2019, Sunway Student Ambassadors, Malaysian Institute of Management, Leap Platinum, Leap Programs, Sunway Student Volunteers
- One of my proudest achievements will be my time as President of TEDxSunwayUniversity in 2019. It has been a great honour to be able to lead a diverse team, cultivate a culture to spread ideas that are worth sharing, curate good content for our community to share greater knowledge and empower them with more opportunities. From conference to student speaker series, it was very interesting to meet new people, engage and work with people from distinctive backgrounds and achieve common goals together.

From planning and rehearsals to the final day of the event, the team put in a lot of hard work from behind the scenes or in front of the screen. It meant a lot to us as we had a lot of breakthroughs in the year – first interactive salon event, first panel forum, a continuation of student speaker series to empower students with this platform, annual conference with the great diversity of speakers from various industries.

- Shoutout to my Operations Management subject where we had one of our practical projects – Lego assignment as we truly understand the theoretical concepts and apply them in real life.

Using Lego as key material, we improvised and had a few trial-and-error moments to improve our efficiency. As we spent most of the time practising together, we shared good memories where we motivated each other, discovered our own talents and competencies to achieve a great outcome in the end. Teamwork indeed makes a dream work – it was a very heartfelt moment.

- Study smart and understand the power of knowledge. Know that you are always empowered, valued and loved. People around you are always willing to help, so ask when you need some guidance or some support – speak to your lecturers, friends and family. University times will always be the best time of your life, so live in the moment, cherish and have fun!

*Proudest achievements/ accomplishments during your time at Sunway University*

*Favourite memories from your time at Sunway University*

*Advice to the juniors to excel in all that you have achieved*



**TEH KOH HSING**  
BSc (Hons) Business Management

● Sunway University Business School Student Concilium, AIESEC, Sunway Business Investment Society, Sunway University 24 Festive Drums Team

● One of my proudest accomplishments during my time at Sunway University would definitely be taking part in a volunteering exchange program in Taiwan. The experience not only allowed me to widen my perspective on many social issues faced by our community, but it also enabled me to contribute and give back to the society by offering my little. Started off my journey as a teacher in a primary school with only 22 students, I ended up being a big brother to them. Seeing the students grow day-by-day was immensely satisfying to me.

● The memories made at Sunway University have been much more gratifying than what I have anticipated. Whilst I believe that the essence of education and the formation of education institutions are to produce individuals and future talents for the society, deep down in my heart, making memorable memories and concurrently living the experiences throughout the University days are more meaningful - achievements are temporary but memories last forever.

● Take ownership of your life. Decision-making lies at the heart of our everyday lives. You have the freedom to determine the choices that you will make. Inevitably, we make mistakes along the way. But fret not because the truth is that even enormously important decisions made by intelligent people are sometimes miserably unsound. Perhaps, the good decisions are decisions that you are confident you will not regret for decades.

**RAENUGA A/P INDRAN**  
BSc (Hons) Psychology

● Sunway Student Ambassadors, Sunway Student Volunteers, Sunway - Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations

● It has truly been an honour to be selected as the Valedictorian for the graduating class of 2021. Receiving this award is a recognition for the academic milestones achieved and extracurricular accomplishments throughout my three years at Sunway University. It was also an opportunity to honour the community that has supported me throughout this journey - my mother, family, friends, educators, university support staff and everyone else I have crossed paths with throughout this journey.

Completing a BSc (Hons) Psychology was more than just an intellectual fulfilment. The experiences both inside and outside of the classroom slowly developed a personal character that found strong resonance with values such as compassion, excellence, justice and honour. The merit of my transformative experience at Sunway University is not only evident in the work that I have done but also in the person that I have become.

● A personal favourite memory of my time at Sunway University would definitely be my involvement in Sunway Student Ambassadors.



As a recipient of two scholarships under the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation, I was automatically considered a Sunway Student Ambassador (SSA). In 2017, I joined the SSA committee under the Special Projects division as the Vice Director and I stayed in SSA till the end of my time at Sunway University after serving as the President and later as an Advisor.

● Your life is made up of chances to make choices - the decisions of what you wish to do, and the accumulated results of those choices are what you called life. During your time at Sunway University, make choices and take up chances that will ignite your personal and academic potential.

## Inaugural intake for **ENGINEERING PROGRAMMES**

*The Sunway University School of Engineering and Technology (SET) will introduce two inaugural Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) programmes in Electronic & Electrical Engineering and Chemical Engineering, in the upcoming intakes in August 2021 and March 2022, respectively.*

Electrical engineering focuses on larger scale electrical equipment and machines as well electrical power generation, transmission and utilisation. In contrast, electronic engineering is largely associated with microminiature hi-tech semiconductor components, devices and systems along with their applications in areas such as embedded signal and data processing, computing and data processing, computer-based control, sensing and instrumentation, interfacing solutions, digital networks, radio, optical and mobile communications, among others.

Professor Serge Demidenko, Dean of the School of Engineering and Technology highlighted, "New laboratories with high-quality equipment were built to ensure students receive the best knowledge, exposure to new technologies, and skills training. Our school has assembled a team of highly capable academics with advanced professional qualifications, diverse international exposure, strong research portfolios, and extended successful education records to enhance students' learning experience. The SET team is led by Professor Dr.-Ing. Lau Sian Lun, Associate Dean (Engagement and Internationalisation) and Head of Department of Engineering who has in-depth knowledge of Malaysian and international engineering education landscape and possesses advanced professional qualifications and diverse experience in academia and research."

Recipients of the new Bachelor of Engineering degrees will be eligible to register as Graduate Engineers with the Board of Engineers Malaysia (BEM) and then to advance to Professional Engineer qualification upon gaining appropriate professional experience and meeting the requirements set by BEM. This Professional Engineer qualification is internationally recognised through the Washington Accord of the International Engineering Alliance – a global organisation that establishes and enforces internationally benchmarked standards for engineering education and expected competence for engineering practice.

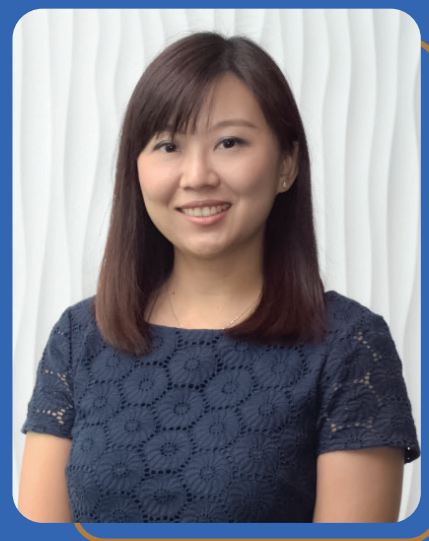
## Data Analytics Professor Wins Distinguished SAS EDUCATOR AWARD

At the virtual SAS Global Forum 2021, Associate Professor Dr Angela Lee Siew Hoong from the Department of Computing and Information Systems, School of Engineering and Technology received the Distinguished SAS Educator Award. The award recognises an educator who has made significant contributions to advancing analytics education and preparing students for analytics and data science careers.

Analytics is one of the most popular fields for new graduates and educational institutions to improve administration, teaching, research and learning. In acknowledging the importance of analytics in education, SAS has recognised Dr Angela's contribution and impact in the

field and engagement with SAS have spanned more than five years at Sunway University.

Dr Angela received this award for supporting students and incorporating analytics in the classroom and beyond. Dr Angela has been integrating analytics into the syllabus and prepares her students to enter the workforce by staying up to date with industry needs. She considers herself an "advocate" for data science. She was the key person to introduce Bachelor of Information Systems (Honours) (Data Analytics) at Sunway University, and she has also developed many innovative ways to use SAS from the most elementary



to advanced analytics. Dr Angela teaches Social Media Analytics, Visual Analytics, Advanced Analytics, Business Intelligences and regularly speaks at data and analytics conferences.

# BEAR ESSENTIALS OF BIODIVERSITY: FROM PASSION TO EMPOWERMENT



## SLOTH BEAR

The Barefoot Bear of Sri Lanka

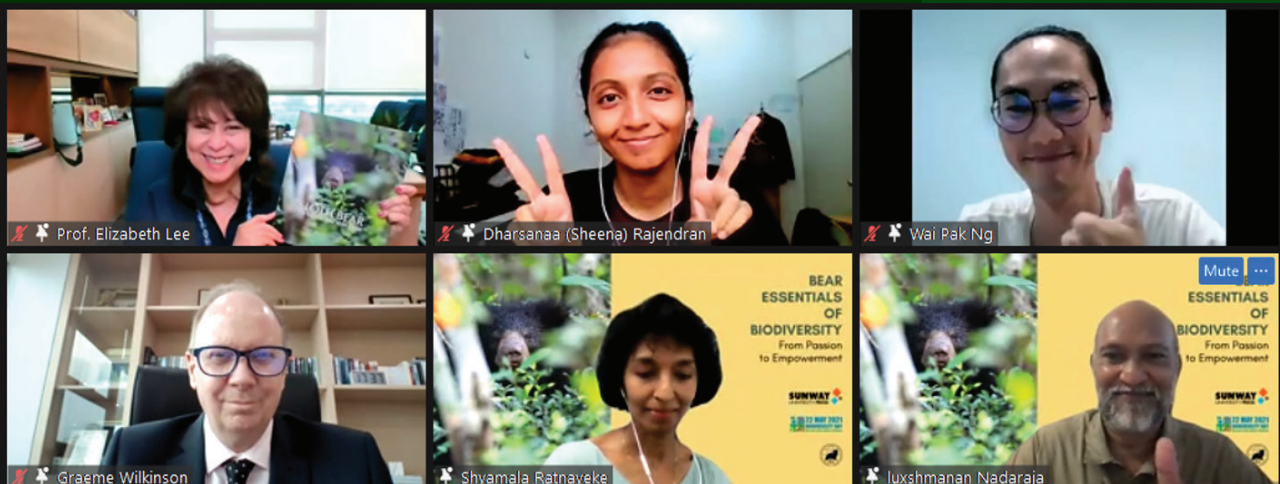
Shyamala Ratnayeke, Luxshmanan Nadaraja

In conjunction with the International Day for Biological Diversity 2021, Sunway University Press (SUP) successfully organised a virtual forum Bear Essentials of Biodiversity: From Passion to Empowerment. The event celebrated biodiversity awareness with a forum discussion on bear and wildlife conservation.

The panellists are Asian bear biologists Dr Shyamala Ratnayeke from Sunway University, Dr Wong Siew Te from Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre, Dr Trishna Dutta from the University of Göttingen and Dr Sandeep Sharma from the University of Göttingen, with the session moderated by Professor Alvin Ng from Sunway University.

“This beautiful book by one of Sunway University’s leading conservation biologists provides a fascinating account of an important bear species of South Asia, namely the Sloth Bear of Sri Lanka. It is an important scientific book that documents for the first time the biology and ecology of the bears as well as some of the challenges arising from human encroachment on their habitats. Consistent with our commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we are proud that our biologists, such as the author Associate Professor Shyamala Ratnayeke, are making an outstanding contribution to SDG 15 – Life on Land through their efforts in researching, documenting and preserving biodiversity,” said Professor Graeme Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor of Sunway University.

“Scientists need to do better at sharing their work with society. This book gave me that golden opportunity. I was absolutely fascinated by sloth bears and I wanted this book to reflect what I had learned about them in words and pictures,” said Dr Shyamala and she promised to engage with bear research for a long time. **B**



Clockwise from top-left: Professor Elizabeth Lee, Dharsanaa Rajendran (winner of a free signed copy), Ng Wai Pak (winner of a free signed copy), Luxshmanan Nadaraja, Dr Shyamala Ratnayeke and Professor Graeme Wilkinson

# “CHEFS SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY” INITIATIVES *by Sunway University Young Chefs Club*

Sunway University Young Chefs Club hosted two “Chefs Social Responsibility” (CSR) initiatives supported by Professional Culinaire Association (PCA) and World Chefs Without Borders (WCWB). The projects aim to further empower Sunway University’s ongoing commitment towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs).

The collaboration with PCA and WCWB addresses SDG 4 – Quality Education by enhancing the learning experience through the transmission of quality culinary education from professional chefs to culinary students in the preparation of quantity food production.



Delivery of bubur lambuk to Food Aid Foundation

## BUBUR LAMBUK PROJECT

During the month of Ramadan, Sunway University Young Chefs Club embraced the spirit of giving with the *Bubur Lambuk* Project.

In addressing SDG 1 – No Poverty and SDG 2 – Zero Hunger, Sunway University Young Chefs Club has prepared a total of 1,500 servings of *bubur lambuk* and delivered to Food Aid Foundation, Scouts Association of Malaysia, Adab Youth Garage, Masjid Seksyen 3 Shah Alam, Sunway University Islamic Society, Sunway Sahabat Society, staff and students from Sunway University and Sunway College. The servings were delivered to the hands of the needy in time for *buka puasa*.

The project was launched with the attendance of Professor Elizabeth Lee, Chief Executive Officer of Sunway Education Group; Chef Yau Kok Keong, Worldchefs President Ambassador Liaison Asia and Vice-Chairman, WCWB; Tn. Ahmad Sabri Saad, Assistant National Chief Scout Commissioner (Scouting Profile), Persekutuan Pengakap Malaysia and Tn. Haji Noor Hashim Ismail, Chief State Scout Commissioner of Selangor, Persekutuan Pengakap Malaysia.

“We hope to spread the love and happiness in the month of Ramadan through the sharing of food,” said Christina Megan Liew, President of Sunway University Young Chefs Club. The partnership with PCA and WCWB also realises the SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals, as Sunway University continues to strengthen ties globally for sustainable growth and development.



From left: Professor Patrick Siau, Tn. Haji Noor Hashim Ismail, Tn. Ahmad Sabri Saad, Professor Elizabeth Lee, Christina Megan Liew and Chef Soon Pau Voon

## NURSES DAY

“Nursing is a very noble profession. They form the very backbone of the whole Healthcare profession,” said Professor Elizabeth Lee, CEO of Sunway Education Group.

In conjunction with International Nurses Day to honour the nurses who have dedicated themselves to fighting the pandemic for over a year as the nation’s frontliners, the young chefs have prepared a total of 1,600 fresh baked cupcakes. The baked goods were sent to the nurses and staff at Sunway Medical Centre, Vaccination Centre at Sunway Pyramid Convention Centre, and the Department of Nursing at School of Medical and Life Sciences, Sunway University. **B**



Young Chefs of Sunway University

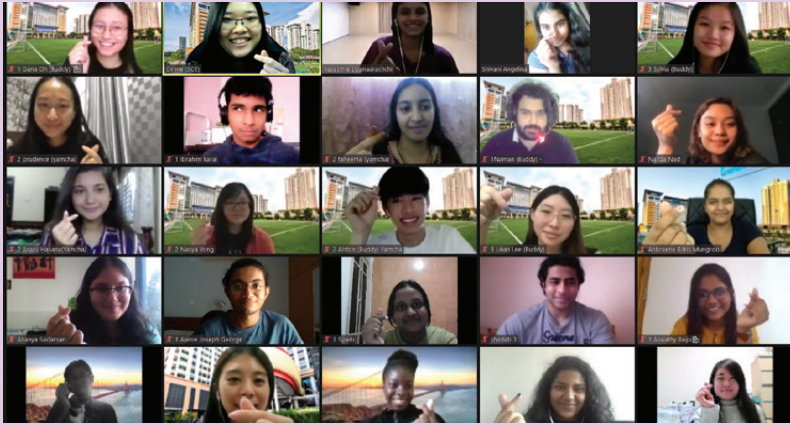


# FIRST STEPS: Sunway & Malaysia

In light of travel restrictions due to the pandemic, the freshmen had to start off their new journey virtually including international students abroad.

To guide and help international students through their first steps in Sunway and Malaysia, the Sunway Cultural Exchange (SCE) team hosted the First Steps: Sunway & Malaysia (First Steps) programme. The programme brought participants through topics such as food, things to pack, places to visit, academic tips and tricks, and more. Participants also met their respective school representatives as well as local buddies for peer-to-peer chats and discussions.

When the travel ban was finally lifted in early 2021 for international students, the SCE team and buddies had the privilege to meet and welcome participants physically – including those from the very first August 2020 batch! Being able to meet friends made over the internet for the past six months was exciting – showing us that friendship knows no boundaries, be it distance or time.



*Lots of love from around the world*

## Meet Benedict

Benedict was a participant in the initial First Steps piloted then as “Sunway: The Virtual Experience 2020”. He was often the first to respond and always a good sport during group activities in the programme. With enthusiasm, he was the first from his batch to land in Malaysia and meet up with Celine from the SCE team, and Krystabel who was a buddy and SCE Ambassador of 2020.



*From left: Celine, Benedict and Krystabel*

## For the love of food



*From left: Yasasmie, Nafisa, Nadiva, Prudence, Tharushie, Naman, Aaron and Jon*

The one topic that is almost everybody’s favourite, Malaysian or not, is FOOD. Food brought the January 2021’s First Steps batch together for a meet up with their local buddies, Naman and Jon. At the mention of a dinner meet up with one participant, more of them followed suit.

## Channelling the inner Malaysian lah!



*From left: Khalil and Refaat*

Although Refaat completed his Foundation year in Sunway, he still took the opportunity to participate in the April 2021’s First Steps programme. Having embraced the Malaysian culture, he would add ‘lah’ at the end of as many sentences as he could. Often, the comedic and expressive characters, Refaat and Khalil, buddy and SCE Ambassador 2021, made plenty of jokes and had funny back and forth conversations during the programme.

# VIP for VIPS

Can't travel? That should not stop us from continuously meeting new people and learning from their culture. Sure, we will not be able to taste the food or smell the air, but interaction in this era can come in many more ways, thanks to the invention of the Internet.

Connecting with us from across the South China Sea is Universitas Tanjungpura (UNTAN) in Pontianak, Indonesia - one of Sunway University's partner universities. To create a platform to promote the partnership and cultural exchange despite travel ban, the Sunway Cultural Exchange (SCE) team of Student LIFE co-hosted the very first Virtual Intercultural Programme (VIP) with UNTAN in March 2021. The programme also showcases the institution and culture of both partners.



UNTAN participants dressed up for performance

In this edition with UNTAN, participants were introduced to Malaysia and Indonesia through sharing sessions by hosts, discussion with peers, performances by participants and a hands-on *teh tarik* activity. The participants also learned from sessions on "Understanding Cultural Diversity" and "Why Cultural Exchange" from both institutions.

We invited alumni of both Sunway and UNTAN who are already in the working world to be part of the "Why Cultural Exchange" panel session. They shared their thoughts on how their exchange experience helped them to grow, develop and gave them a new

perspective on the world. Alumni who shared during the panel session were Sonia Lim (OCBC Bank) and Joel Loh (HealthMetrics) from Sunway University, and Maya Andzelda (Monex Investindo Futures) and Elga Yulindisti from UNTAN.

Not the last of its kind, more VIPs with various partner universities will be conducted throughout 2021 - with the second with Petra Christian University, Indonesia, held in May. We look forward to these opportunities to build stronger connections with our partner universities and allow our students to develop their intercultural communication skills despite the inability to travel.

“Effective, efficient and detailed are the three words to describe our cooperation with Sunway Cultural Exchange (SCE). My team (which consists of student facilitators) and I have sweet memories creating the programme with the SCE team. My team enjoyed working together with Mbak Sue-Ann, Mbak Joey and Mbak Celine. Mbak means *Kakak* (older sister) in Indonesian. The SCE team have taught additional skills to my students - working together as a team while having fun as well.

Helma Malini,  
Manager of International Class and International Affairs,  
Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Tanjungpura



UNTAN participant trying his hand on Teh Tarik

“It has been an immense privilege to participate in VIP, as the lessons I've learnt have been invaluable. Over the course of the programme, I gained meaningful insights regarding Indonesian culture and was also given the opportunity to share the Malaysian culture of which I bear great pride.. It has been a wonderful experience meeting new people whom I am now fortunate enough to refer to as my friends.

Melanie Fernandez,  
Participant



Would you like to be involved in cultural programmes or even co-host one with us? Contact the team at [culturalexchange@sunway.edu.my](mailto:culturalexchange@sunway.edu.my) for more details.

## Follow your PASSION with a POSTGRADUATE CONVERSION degree at Sunway

*Do you think it is  
time for a change?  
Fear not, we have  
awesome news!  
A career switch with a  
postgraduate conversion  
degree that will help you  
land your dream job.*



*Dr Sivakumari, Programme Leader*

### A Postgraduate Conversion Degree

Being at the frontier of a quality education provision, Sunway University has made it possible for many young hearts to follow their dreams with the recent launch of a postgraduate conversion degree. The University believes in lifelong learners not limited to Sunwayians but also any working adult. This also reflects the trend for young graduates to distinguish themselves in a competitive job market by adding a Master's degree to their CV.

A postgraduate conversion degree allows one to switch careers with specialist knowledge that an undergraduate degree has not prepared you for. It allows the student to acquire new knowledge within a shorter time, with intensive classroom learning and personal reflection. The most important aspect of the degree is it does not require prior knowledge or working experience on the subject matter. It brings a challenge to students to learn something new in every module in the programme. The curiosity of learning something new and moving towards a dream job has landed many students in the programme to obtain a job while studying. In addition, the degree provides flexibility for students to determine the track of learning, either an intensive pace of completion with a year or a longer duration of two years. The degree prepares the students to learn at their own pace rather than a rigid completion within a fixed period.

A postgraduate conversion degree has been a popular option for undergraduate students who initially signed up for a Bachelor's degree based on their strength and interest and not so much about having a career in mind. Postgraduate conversion degrees offer another chance to follow their passion into a dream job. Besides the assistance of changing the career path, there are other benefits of pursuing a postgraduate conversion degree, such as:

- The global pandemic has shocked many students who are now left to ponder their diminishing career prospects. According to the Department of Statistics, the unemployment rate in August 2020 was 4.7%, the number of unemployed persons amounting to nearly three-quarters of a million people. The Department also confirmed a higher unemployment rate for the youth in comparison to all adults. The results of the statistics open doors for young students who want to upskill across various disciplines.
- Most postgraduate programmes were designed to recruit students to advance their knowledge in their chosen discipline. Very few postgraduate programmes offer the opportunity for students to switch to other areas. Sunway bridges this gap by offering a Conversion Master's programme for students who have completed any Bachelor's degree to join the programme.
- The Department of Statistics also revealed in April a dip in undergraduate salaries, from RM2,500 in 2019 to RM1,500 in 2020, due to the pandemic effect on the Malaysian employment market. The conversion degree helps uplifts the student to a higher salary whereby Masters graduates were reported still earning in the range of RM5,000 to RM10,000.

### A Postgraduate Conversion Degree at Sunway University - Master of Marketing

Sunway University offers a postgraduate conversion degree in collaboration with Lancaster University for individuals to explore the possibilities. This is in line with the University's mission to nurture all-around individuals and devote themselves to the discovery, advancement, transmission, and application of knowledge that meets the needs of our society and the global community. The conversion degree not only upscales the qualifications of the Sunwayians but also opens doors for new ventures for those who wish to pursue. Students will enjoy a special Alumni discount on joining the programme.



*Master of Marketing Batch 2020 Students*

For more details, please contact the Programme Leader, Dr Sivakumari ([sivakumaris@sunway.edu.my](mailto:sivakumaris@sunway.edu.my))

# IF YOU CAN DREAM IT, SHE CAN MAKE IT



If you could dream up your birthday cake, what would it look like? A bucket of fried chicken? Your favourite shoe brand? Or maybe tacos – because why go for the dull old round or square cake? But wait! You don't have to dream. You just need to check out Karmen's Cupcakery.

Karmen-Ann Mariswamy, BSc (Hons) in Culinary Management alumna, started her business selling simple cakes and cupcakes. What began as a time filler while being at home to tend to family emergencies and looking for a new job eventually grew into something more as orders kept coming in.

With the power of social media and word-of-mouth, Karmen-Ann lets her cakes do the talking to rake in the business business, right from when her family brought her cakes to social events such as birthdays and office parties. Her cake masterpieces were the selling point as orders rippled in from her family's friends and colleagues. And her business was boosted when her Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) cake got featured by an online news portal.

When COVID-19 hit, cancellations were plentiful especially during the first month of lockdown. However, business picked up soon after as deliveries became a norm for people to send gifts, and cakes are great pick-me-ups or to celebrate occasions at home. In March 2021 alone, she produced 24 cakes.

What makes her cakes special are the personal customisations. Customers can request or provide inspiration of a specific item or idea for the cake and Karmen would bounce back ideas to fulfil their requests. She has even made a curry noodle cake with floating chopsticks before.

*"Sometimes while scrolling through Pinterest or Instagram, I find a design and think 'Oh, I know just who would love this cake!'"*

Custom cake designing is not always a piece of cake for her. Karmen once had to turn down a request for a cake in the shape of a burger but with all the ingredients healthy. She also shared her most challenging design – a simple two-tiered buttercream cake for a 21st birthday party. The customer wanted a specific colour and a specific design with the buttercream which she could not replicate. She eventually figured it out and was worried if the customer would like the cake. In the end, she got a phone call immediately after she sent a picture of the finished product. It was the customer screaming with joy as she loved the cake.



Pastry and cake designing was initially not in her career plans. In fact, she hated art as a kid and almost failed her pastry class in college. Her interest sparked when she helped her older sister decorate cakes – her sister also used to sell custom made fondant cakes. Her interest then peaked through a cake decorating module in Sunway. The course provided her with the basic skills which she has relied on. She started enjoying it through her diploma internship at The Westin Kuala Lumpur where she received an offer to work in the pastry department.

*"Once, when I was 15, I had an art teacher told me that a seven-year-old could paint better than me. I would love for her to see my work now."*

Finding happiness in what you do makes a world of difference. Work becomes more than clocking in and out of the office and receiving your salary. When asked about her future plans, Karmen shared that she was happy as she is. She can't go more than two days without baking or decorating a cake and she will want to get back to her cake room and just make something. She is happiest when she is working alone in her baking room with her favourite TV show playing in the background.



Continuing with more words of advice from Karmen, she shares that patience and confidence is important should one decide to be a baker or cake designer. A lot of time and effort is needed to build the skills which will then convert into confidence in yourself. Patience is especially important in cake decorating because it takes time for a design to make sense and come together – the more you rush a cake order, the messier the cake becomes.



*"You have to keep trying different ways to get the cake perfect, not only in your eyes but for your customers as well."* **B**

*Have an alumni story to share? Reach out to the Sunway Alumni Relations team via [alumni@sunway.edu.my](mailto:alumni@sunway.edu.my) as we would love to hear from you!*

# ALUMNI *on the move* >>



**LEONG ZHI YAN (IAN)**  
American Degree Transfer Program (ADTP)  
*Advanced Audio Engineer, Ford Motor Company, USA*

After visiting my cousin in the United States of America, I knew instantly where I wanted to obtain my higher education. I was drawn to the flexibility of a person's academic career in terms of being able to schedule subjects of interest, a semester's course load capacity, and the inclusion of general education subjects to make one an all-rounder. I enrolled in Sunway's ADTP on a Sunway scholarship for slightly over a year and transferred to Western Michigan University to pursue my Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering.

If I had to pick the true start of my Sunway journey, I would pick the beginning of January 2017. This was when I first began taking engineering classes (Statics, Thermodynamics), finalising my transfer to Western Michigan and running as President for the Centre for American Education student committee. Little did I know, those decisions had a strong impact on who I am today. To break it down, engineering classes prepared me mentally for the complexity of such classes as it would only get harder; transferring to Western meant preparing for a whole new journey ahead

of me; running as President sharpened my leadership and communication skills.

In terms of career, I spent two of my summers in the USA as a resident assistant and an intern at Ford which ultimately led to my current position. I am now involved in working on advanced audio projects which develop and implement proof of concept. I do not think I have much to share in terms of major accomplishments in my career, but I would claim that being an engineer in a Fortune 500 company would be my most current accomplishment.

My advice for my juniors: Step out of your comfort zone and use this time to explore. Go and create lifelong memories that you will ponder upon when you are older. If I were to ask the me from four years ago, I would have never imagined the experiences I have had until this day.

**MARCEL CHANG JIE QIN**  
BSc (Hons) Actuarial Studies  
*Actuarial Executive, AXA Affin Life Insurance*

I graduated from a Chinese Independent School in Sabah and decided to pursue Actuarial Studies when I received the scholarship from Sunway University. I was dedicated to becoming an actuary when I took my first professional paper in the Society of Actuaries. It was not an easy task for me to do my regular examinations in university at the same time focus on the professional paper. However, I learned the importance of time management and applied it even after graduation. While on campus, most of my time was spent in the Sunway University Chinese Independent School Alumni Club where I was also President. I met a lot of friends and we even decided to rent a hostel unit together as it was more affordable. We took care of each other daily, and sometimes even cooked and had "family" dinners together. It was heart-warming and we eventually became really close with each other.

It was a difficult time when I was seeking job when the government announced the Movement Control Order in March 2020. I was even forced to terminate my internship contract. Even though I faced unexpectedly challenges during this pandemic, I felt confident about myself as I believed the knowledge and technical skills I learned at Sunway University—especially from the Actuarial Practice course—would be an asset.

Eventually, I received an offer from AXA Affin Life Insurance within a month after graduation. As Actuarial Executive, we face the computer screen most of the time. I always end up tired at the end of the day as most of my work



requires critical thinking. Nevertheless, the satisfaction after finding possible solutions to problems always excites me.

I am proud to have my precious university life in Sunway. My university life did not turn out how I thought it would be, but even more colourful and meaningful than I imagined.



**BERNARD YAP GOON MENG**  
Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Design Communication  
*Freelance Graphic Designer and Illustrator*

I'm really passionate and driven in what I do or what I set out to do, and most of my time is spent on creative ventures. I've always been extremely passionate about art and design from a really young age. Even back in kindergarten, my teachers would always have a hard time getting me to do anything other than drawing, and this didn't stop in primary school nor secondary as well.

My time with Sunway began when I enrolled in the Diploma in Graphic and Multimedia Design. After completing my Diploma programme, I continued with a Degree in Design Communication. Life as a student in Sunway was filled with all sorts of crazy events, stress and chaos, but it was all good.

I've always looked for ways to support myself through my passion for the arts. During my years in primary and secondary school, I would always sell drawings and take up commissions from students around my school, parents of schoolmates and even teachers, as a way to earn money since I did not get allowances from my family. Things really picked up when I made connections while working at a café, and as soon as I started building up my skills through classes in Sunway, I immediately started taking up design jobs from everywhere. I've had opportunities both local and international. Some of my notable design jobs include: Raya festivities for two shopping malls in Malaysia, origami papers for a UK-based company, an Australian badminton team logo, Christmas cards for an international maritime network and multiple designs for McDonald's.

Staying curious helps add a spark in life and if you have goals and wants, cultivate healthy habits and nurture yourself to build yourself towards them. Every little bit counts, and I believe everyone has the potential to achieve greatness.

As one of my favourite quotes from "The Tale of Two Wolves" go, "The wolf you feed is the wolf that grows".

**CHONG E WAY**  
Master of Business Administration  
*Regional Director, QS Quacquarelli Symonds*

The Sunway University Business School (SUBS) has a wide range of postgraduate programmes catering to working professionals who wish to upgrade their knowledge and skills to the next level. One of the reasons why I chose the Master of Business Administration (MBA) programme from SUBS is because of the flexible schedules for classroom and self-study time – which means I was able to balance studies, work and personal life without compromising any of them during the two years.

The faculty members have a good mix of experienced researchers, industrial leaders and great facilitators that cater to all levels of learners. The diversity of faculty members is the strength of SUBS which incorporates cross-cultural learning into the syllabus.

During my course duration, I was involved in several administrative liaison activities with SUBS and Lancaster University Management School (LUMS) to ensure a good learning experience for the Class of 2020. It was pleasant to work with the administrative members of SUBS and LUMS as they were attentive to our needs as working professionals.



As my clients are mainly senior leaders and decision makers, it is important to be able to view things from their strategic perspective. The application of my learning in leadership, strategy and management into my work has received praise from my management team and clients. The MBA programme has definitely helped me succeed in my career and it was truly a wonderful educational experience.

**SUNWAY**  
UNIVERSITY



A CLASS ABOVE

# ENGINEERED FOR SUCCESS

Introducing the inaugural Bachelor of Electronic and Electrical Engineering with Honours from August 2021 onwards.

The launch of The School of Engineering and Technology in 2021 and its new degree programmes in engineering is to coincide with a time of tremendous change and advances in technologies.

With its innovative teaching methodologies, it will equip students with strong technical know-how and benefiting from essential hands-on practical exposure.

The Electronic and Electrical Engineering programme specialises on electrical and electronic equipment, interfaces and communications – providing students with a strong technical knowledge in critical areas such as electronics, communication engineering, power systems, embedded systems, and artificial intelligence to be equipped for the needs in Industrial Revolution 4.0.

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**Bachelor of Electronic and Electrical Engineering with Honours**

JPT/BPP(U)(N/523/6/0317/PA14247)01/28

Sunway University is committed to attain the Board of Engineers Malaysia (BEM) accreditation upon graduation of its first cohort

