

BLAZE

THE SUNWAY UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



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Professor Steve Williams, Dean of SUBS (left) and Arumugam Muthusamy, Manager of Alumni Relations and Student Professional Development (right) with the keynote speakers Christina Foo and Muhammad Shahmi Shahidan

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR BUSINESS SCHOOL STUDENTS

by **Arumugam Muthusamy**
 photograph by **Raja Amirul Azizi Raja Amir**

Sunway University Business School (SUBS) launched the Student Professional Development Programme on January 12. With the aim of creating industry awareness, building confidence and improving personal interactions among the school's students, the programme focuses on three components - experiential learning, leadership development and communication skills.

It offers a comprehensive overview of resume writing, presentation skills and job placement along with workshops where students practise interviewing, networking and business etiquette.

Students are required to complete six modules within one semester, where the modules are presented through in-class and out-of-class experience.

Some of the modules students will undertake include Public Speaking, Career Fair Preparation and Professional Image.

SUBS will work closely with the Centre for English Language Studies, Sunway Student LIFE, SUBS Industry Advisory Board (IAB), Sunway Alumni, industry employers, academicians and administrative staff.

Upon completion of the programmes, students will receive a certificate and have a chance to be selected as one of ten Student Professional Development High Achiever.



Muhammad Shahmi Shahidan, alumnus from SUBS, Class of 2015 delivered the keynote speech about Public Speaking/Presentation



Arumugam Muthusamy delivered the opening speech

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF PROGRESS



by **Chua Ern Teck**

From a student population of less than 1,000, Sunway College has grown over the years into a group of 16 entities under the Sunway Education Group with a student population of over 26,000.

Sunway Education Group is owned and governed by the not-for-profit Jeffrey Cheah Foundation (JCF), one of the region's largest education-focused social enterprise.

The JCF is founded on the fundamental premise of giving back to society. Through the Foundation, operating surpluses are used for scholarships and research grants ensuring that sustainable quality education is a priority. To date, a total of RM270 million has been disbursed for scholarships to thousands of deserving students based on academic achievement, sports, talent and need.



Official opening of Sunway College in Petaling Jaya. It is the first institution that offered twinning programmes in Malaysia

1987

Sunway College moved into their new home in Bandar Sunway, a sprawling 22-acre campus

1992

Official opening of the Sunway College campus in Bandar Sunway

1993

Establishment of the Sunway Education Trust Fund

1997

Official opening of Sunway College Ipoh

2003

2004

Sunway College was conferred the University College status by the Ministry of Higher Education, and upgraded to Sunway University College

2006

- MoU between Sunway University College and Lancaster University, a Top 10 UK university, marking a partnership
- Graduates receive two scrolls for their degree, one from Sunway University College and one from Lancaster University

2007

Official opening of Sunway College Johor Bahru.

2008

- First cohort of graduates with dual degrees from Sunway University College and Lancaster University
- Classes at the Sunway International School (SIS) begin. SIS is the only international school in Malaysia offering the secondary school curriculum of the Ontario Ministry of Education, Canada. The School offers Grades 7 to 11
- Launch of Sunway College Kuching

2010

- Launch of the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation, replacing its predecessor the Sunway Education Trust Fund, which was set up in 1997
- Sunway achieved an EXCELLENT rating in the first official ranking system for universities and university colleges in Malaysia, the SETARA 2009 by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA)
- Partnered Le Cordon Bleu International to validate Sunway University's hospitality management and culinary management degrees



2011

- Sunway University College was officially instated as a university by the Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia, and renamed Sunway University
- With the upgrade of Sunway University, Sunway College was re-registered and formed as a separate institution to provide pre-university, twinning and professional courses
- Sunway University and Sunway College are owned and governed by the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation

2013

- A generous donation from the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation to Harvard University opens up two-way flow of scholars between Harvard and the Sunway Education Group
- Establish of two Jeffrey Cheah Professorships of Southeast Asian Studies – the Jeffrey Cheah Professor and the Jeffrey Cheah Visiting Professor - as well as the Jeffrey Cheah Fellowship and the Jeffrey Cheah Travel Grants at Harvard University

2014

- The contribution to Harvard University also led to the establishment of the Jeffrey Cheah Institute on Southeast Asia (JCI) at Sunway University
- An agreement was signed between Jeffrey Cheah Foundation and Gonville & Caius College, University of Cambridge which led to the appointment of two Jeffrey Cheah Professorial Fellows
- Jeffrey Cheah Foundation and University of Oxford signed statement of intent to collaborate on academic and cultural projects
- Sunway University hosted the 4th Southeast Asian Studies Symposium in March 2015. The first time it was held outside Oxford



2015

- Sunway University moved into new 12-storey building equipped with cutting edge academic facilities, including a state-of-the-art auditorium and modern lecture halls with conducive breakout rooms
- The Sunway Campus Library, previously known as the Tun Hussein Onn Library, has a total floor area of 72,000 sq ft spread over three floors, with more than 1,000 seats
- The JCI in collaboration with the Harvard University Asia Center organised the conference on "Southeast Asia Explores Sustainable Development: Coping with Socio-Economic Difficulties, Big Power Rivalry and Climate Change" at Harvard University
- Harvard Medical School enters into a unique collaboration with the Sunway Healthcare Services Group and Sunway University to promote specialised medical education
- Sunway Education Group signs agreement with Brasenose College, University of Oxford which led to the appointment of two professors of the University of Oxford, who are Fellows of Brasenose were named as Jeffrey Cheah Professorial Fellows. In addition, a Jeffrey Cheah Scholar-in-Residence programme has been introduced



2016

- Official launch of the Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development at Sunway University
- The Center will create and deliver the world's best academic and executive programmes on sustainable development



2017

- First cohort of the Harvard Medical School - Southeast Asia Leadership Program (HMS-SEAL) at Sunway University
- Three faculties of Sunway University were reorganised into six schools:
 - ∞ School of Arts
 - ∞ School of Hospitality
 - ∞ School of Mathematical Sciences
 - ∞ School of Science and Technology
 - ∞ Sunway University Business School
 - ∞ School of Interdisciplinary Studies
- Launch of Sunway International School, Iskandar
- SIS attained International Baccalaureate (IB) World School status in 2017 and will be offering the IB Diploma programme

SUNWAY UNIVERSITY

Formed by Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah, AO with the belief and understanding that quality higher education is vital to the progress of the country, this belief and understanding still holds true to this day. Sunway University, together with 15 other institutions forms the Sunway Education Group.

Opportunities abound for recipients at Sunway University as Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah believes education leads to better futures and lives for the recipients and also for our nation.

Sunway University, with the motto "*Fortuna Eruditis Favet*" which translates to fortune favours the prepared minds, is an established household name among private higher education institutions in Malaysia. Led by Vice-Chancellor Professor Graeme Wilkinson the University continues to work closely in partnership and collaboration with world-class institutions to promote Malaysia as an international education and research hub.

TRAVEL GRANTS FOR HARVARD AND SUNWAY SCHOLARS



During his visit to Sunway University, Munjed Murad delivered a lecture titled 'Islamic Metaphysics and the Book of Nature'



Munjed Murad with Joyce Tang, Director of Jeffrey Cheah Institute on Southeast Asia after the lecture



Munjed Murad giving a lecture at Sunway University



Students meet up with Munjed Murad for an informative lunch discussion

During the summer of 2016, Munjed Murad, a Harvard University researcher and recipient of the Jeffrey Cheah Travel Grant, visited Southeast Asia to deepen his study on Islamic metaphysics.

"I sought to fill a lacuna that I had intuited in surveys of the Islamic intellectual landscape, sensing that this region had been given scant attention," Murad said of his purpose in visiting Southeast Asia. "My research at Harvard needed an informed view on the subject of my study, of which expositors are few."

Murad visited Malaysia and Indonesia during his time in Southeast Asia last year. In Malaysia, Munjed met with Islamic scholars and delivered a lecture titled "Islamic Metaphysics and the Book of Nature" at Sunway University.

In Indonesia, Murad interviewed Muhammad Baqir extensively, as well as attended all five of his weekly classes at the Paramadina Institute.

Reviewing the result of his research during that summer, Murad discovered a profound exposition of Islamic

metaphysics that is hidden from the Islamic world by a veil that portrays Southeast Asia as a receiver, and not a producer, of intellectual insights.

"This was an opportunity to engage a primary source outside of texts, and my work cannot be the same after it," Murad said of the grant. "I learned of a new branch to the main school of metaphysics that the Islamic world has produced, as well as an Islamic cosmology that is not only indigenous to Southeast Asia, but seemingly endemic."

Established in 2013, the Jeffrey Cheah Travel Grants aim to advance Southeast Asia-focussed teaching and research by connecting Harvard University staff and students with those from Sunway University and Monash University Malaysia. It also supports Southeast Asian scholars who wish to travel to Harvard University.

For more information of the Jeffrey Cheah Travel Grants, and how to apply, visit <http://jci.edu.my/jeffrey-cheah-travel-grants/>



SCHOOL OF ARTS

A NEW HOME ON LEVEL 9



Student Centre



Video Editing Lab

by *Professor Harold Thwaites*

As a School in one of the excellent universities in Malaysia, the School of Arts (SOA) currently comprises three departments: the Department of Communication & Liberal Arts, the Department of Art & Design and the Department of Performance & Media.

Collectively, these departments offer a collection of dynamic diploma and degree programmes from a variety of disciplines ranging from corporate communication, advertising design, PR project management, to graphic and multimedia design, and performing arts and media production. In addition, SOA provides students an excellent academic environment to hone their creativity, critical thinking and communication skills, with the dedicated support from our highly qualified lecturers and administrative staff.

In December of 2016, the School moved into its new purpose built home on Level 9 of the Sunway University building. Many hours of planning and discussion resulted in a custom designed suite of teaching, learning and research spaces for the entire range of SOA programmes. Design Studios, a Shooting Studio, a DigiCap Lab, Music Practice rooms, a Keyboard Lab, a Collaboratory, Film and Music Editing Labs, a Student Centre and much more are now being used by students in all of our programmes.

The administrative offices of SAO are grouped together in the east wing of Level 9, comprised of the HODs, admin support staff, Dean and Associate Dean's offices, with a shared meeting room. Academic staff offices present a new open airy look and feel, with glass walls, plentiful natural light and semi-industrial finishes. The "Pantry", staff community space welcomes visitors as they enter this section of the School.

The SOA Design Studios are flexible creative teaching spaces that allow the staff and students to reconfigure the rooms according to the needs of each class. Equipped with round tables on wheels that can be easily moved, students are shifting the conventional seating plans of classrooms into their own more dynamic arrangements. The three design studios are expandable with operable walls that can merge the three separate rooms into two or into one very large open space for special events and showcases as needed throughout the year.

The new space includes a suite of 12 Music Practice rooms are devoted to the SOA music programmes wherein students can practice their skills, be it strings, piano, brass, vocal or even drums. These in combination with the Keyboard Lab and Music Editing Lab ground the curriculum in excellent teaching and learning resources. The Music and Sound Production Studios are found on Level 5 as they were constructed in 2015.

The Video Editing Lab is adjacent to the Music Editing lab and separated with an operable wall that opens to expand these two MAC based Labs as needed. For students in film and cinema courses, works are screened in The Screening Room, which is fitted with surround sound, a 4K video projector, and can seat 25 people.

The Digicap Lab is an open photography and digital production space for all forms of image capture and post-production work. It is equipped with flexible lighting gear, camera equipment and a computer workstation for image checking and processing.

Additionally, the Shooting Studio on Level 1 is a high volume space with a green-screen and a second white-screen shooting stage for video and still image production. Lighting grids are motorised, accompanied by facilities for real-time monitoring and projection of results.

Finally, Level 9 also houses the Centre for Research-Creation in Digital Media (CRCDM). CRCDM seeks to be a cornerstone for transformative digital, experimental and transdisciplinary practice, transcultural collaboration, metadesign and educational change to advance Sunway University onto the global new media-scape. The Centre is an open concept workshop/lab configuration that allows for interaction with students by being an experimental showcase for research-creation. It includes a library of over 250 books, periodicals, articles, and a DVD and historical multimedia collection for SOA staff and students access.



Shooting Studio



Screening Room



Digicap Lab



Sound Studio

Across the hall from the CRCDM lab is an innovative Collaboratory. This sci-fi looking room is fitted with five HDMI inputs sourced to five 4K outputs for image and sound. Here one digital source can be presented across five screens or five sources can be sent to the five individual screens simultaneously, thus creating a truly experimental collaborative working environment.

Without a doubt, the School of Arts is expanding strategically to become a leader in twenty-first century communication, media, performance, music and creative arts education in Malaysia.

*And that sweet city with her dreaming spires
She needs not June for beauty's heightening
Thyrsis, Matthew Arnold (1865)*

AN OXFORD SOJOURN

Professor Jarlath Ronayne, AM, is the first Jeffrey Cheah Scholar-in-Residence at Brasenose College, University of Oxford. He writes about Oxford and his experience there.

by **Professor Jarlath Ronayne, AM, Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah Distinguished Professor**

THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

First-time visitors to Oxford will often ask “Where is the University?” The answer is, of course, “It is all around you.” The thirty eight Colleges, which, together with the academic and administrative departments, centres, laboratories, libraries and museums, make up the University of Oxford, are scattered throughout the city.

But if one were to ask where the core University buildings are, then the answer undoubtedly would be “they are in the medieval centre of the city, in and around Radcliffe Square”. The Square is dominated by the Radcliffe Camera and St Mary's, the University Church. Whenever the University of Oxford itself is the subject of a story, it is usually the domed Radcliffe Camera that is used to represent it, much in the way the Eiffel Tower is used to represent Paris.

Built between 1737 and 1749 by the Trustees of John Radcliffe's Will, the Camera (meaning a vaulted room) was intended to be a medical library. In 1861 it was 'lent' by the Trustees to the Bodleian Library to serve as a reading room. In 1927, it was bequeathed to the University and still serves as a splendid Bodleian reading room.

On the North side of Radcliffe Square is the Old Bodleian Library situated in the 15th century quadrangle of the Old Schools, and adjacent to this are the Sheldonian Theatre (1740), and the Clarendon Building (1730), where the Vice-Chancellor has her offices.

On the South side of the Square is St Mary's, the University Church, whose spire, dates from 1320. So, around Radcliffe Square are the iconic buildings of the University of Oxford, but there are also two Colleges, which front on to the Square, at the very centre of the University. These are All Souls College and Brasenose College.

THE COLLEGES

The Colleges play a central role in the University of Oxford. They are self-governing, financially independent communities, headed variously by a Provost, Principal, Master, Warden, Mistress or President, and comprise the head and varying numbers of Fellows. All academic staff have to belong to a College; Colleges are represented on all key University committees; and, until relatively recent times, the Vice-Chancellor of the University was chosen from amongst the Heads of the Colleges.

BRASENOSE COLLEGE

Brasenose College was founded in 1509 by Sir Philip Sutton and William Smith, the Bishop of Lincoln. The strange name derives from a brass door knocker in the shape of a lion's head with a ring through the nose, which adorned the main door of the predecessor King's Hall. The doorknocker was removed to Stamford in 1334 when there was an exodus of scholars from persecution in Oxford. It was recovered in 1890 when the College purchased the house in Stamford where it was displayed.

In 2015 Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah, AO, signed an agreement with the Principal and Fellows of Brasenose College whereby two Fellows of the College, who are University Professors, are named the Jeffrey Cheah Professorial Fellows and are required to visit Sunway for one week each year.

JEFFREY CHEAH SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAMME

In addition to the establishment of the Jeffrey Cheah Professorial Fellows, a Jeffrey Cheah Scholar-in-Residence programme was established in perpetuity whereby two members of academic staff or senior postgraduates from Sunway Education Group could study or engage in research and other scholarly activities in Oxford for four weeks while resident in Brasenose.

In 2016 I was very fortunate to be chosen as the first Jeffrey Cheah Scholar at Brasenose College, being in Residence from 5th September until 5th October 2016.

MY RESEARCH

My present work, advanced through my four-week residency in Brasenose, concerns the election of Dr T N Mitchell as the first Catholic in 400 years to be appointed as Provost of the University of Dublin (Trinity College). Trinity was founded in 1592 by Cambridge and Oxford dons with the authority of a charter of England's Queen Elizabeth I, to act as post-Reformation institution with a "protestant" atmosphere. Ireland, then, and now, is a staunchly Catholic country, but it was not until 1869 that all restrictions by Trinity on Catholics attending the University were removed. When that happened, the Catholic bishops placed a ban on Catholics attending Trinity which was only removed in 1970.

Ironically, Mitchell had great difficulties with the (mainly Catholic) Irish Government who wanted to expunge TCD's Elizabethan Charter during his provostship. My work in Oxford involved completing all the referencing for a book on Mitchell's provostship, sourcing 19th century government reports and Royal commissions on the "Irish University Question", and consulting constitutional experts on claims (which I reject), that a Catholic cleric, Michael Moore, was appointed as provost by the deposed King James II in 1689.

A WELCOMING COMMUNITY

I arrived in Brasenose on a very warm September day and took up residence in Old Quad, which dates from the Foundation. I was warmly welcomed by the Principal John Bowers and 'inducted' into the College by Dr Liz Miller and her amazing staff in the Development Office.

The Radcliffe Camera was framed in the window of my rooms, reminding me of the purpose of my visit; an email address was quickly provided, and a Brasenose "Bod Card" gave me access to the Bodleian Libraries (as well as discounts in the town!). In the face of a very intimidating system, the librarians could not have been more helpful.



Professor Jarlath Ronayne, AM, working on his research at Oxford



Professor Jarlath with Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah, AO, Dr Liz Miller, Director of Alumni Relations and Development, Brasenose College and Professor Nick Rawlins, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Development and External Affairs), University of Oxford

When coming into residence there is an immediate feeling of being in a welcoming community. Referring to me informally as 'Cheah Scholar', there was instant recognition of the role. I was continuously introduced to Fellows who gathered in the Fellows dining room for lunch each weekday.

During my tenure there were two major events that were well celebrated. The first was Oxford achieving the number one spot in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings; and the second was the winning of the 2016 Nobel Prize for Physics by Michael Kosterlitz, an alumnus of Brasenose College, University of Oxford, who graduated with DPhil in 1969.

AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE

The Jeffrey Cheah Scholar-in-Residence programme, through the generosity of the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation and Sunway University, offers to Sunway academics and postgraduates an opportunity to reside in an ancient and prestigious College at the very centre of the University of Oxford; to work in the great libraries and laboratories; and to explore the beauty of the city of dreaming spires. I am privileged to have been able to take part, and I admire the vision of Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah, AO, who has made this prestigious link with the University of Oxford possible.



LEADING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Dato' Sri Najib Tun Razak officiating the launch of the Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development, flanked by Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah, AO, (middle), Professor Tan Sri Zakri (first from right) and Sunway University Vice-Chancellor Professor Graeme Wilkinson (first from left)

Malaysia established itself as a leader in the global effort to promote sustainable development with the official launch of the Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development at Sunway University.

Prime Minister Dato' Sri Najib Tun Razak officially launched the centre, the first of its kind in Asia, in December 2016. In his speech, the Prime Minister commended the centre for taking a leading role in supporting the government in advancing these goals.

The centre is a catalytic move to mobilise comprehensive collaboration, especially among Southeast Asian nations, to achieve the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Professor Jeffrey Sachs, who is the Chairman of the Center, said that the launch of the Center will be an important part of the world's drive towards achieving the SDGs.

Founding Trustee of the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation and Founding Chancellor of Sunway University, Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah, AO, said "the realisation of these goals is not the sole responsibility of governments. It requires the commitment of all sectors of society - the private sector, academia, civil society groups and, of course, every single individual."

The Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development at Sunway University is the result of a gift of USD 10 million from the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation, Malaysia's largest education-focused social enterprise.



Choir performance during the launching ceremony



Prime Minister Dato' Sri Najib Tun Razak delivering his speech during the ceremony

The SDGs continue the work of the Millennium Development Goals, which focused on ending extreme poverty, hunger and preventable disease. The SDGs will continue the fight against extreme poverty, while adding the challenges of ensuring more equitable development and environmental sustainability, especially in the key goal of mitigating the dangers of human-induced climate change.

In conjunction with the launch, an inaugural conference was held featuring five keynote addresses by sustainability experts.

Professor Sachs, who is also the Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University asked "What Does Sustainable Development Really Mean?" The Science Advisor to the Prime Minister Professor Tan Sri Zakri Abdul Hamid then spoke about "Walking the Talk on Implementing the SDGs: A Case for Malaysia and South-East Asia."

Daniel Schrag, the Sturgis Hooper Professor of Geology at Harvard University, covered "Climate Change and Sustainable Development: Opportunities for the Developing World," while Professor Angelo Riccaboni, Chair of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network Assembly, focused on "Food Systems for Sustainable Development: Innovations are Needed."

Closing the conference was Professor Xue Lan, a member of United Nations University Council and Dean of the School of Public Policy and Management at Tsinghua University, discussed "Policy Challenges in Implementing Sustainable Development Goals." **B**



Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah, AO, with Professor Jeffrey Sachs



The conference and launch of the Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development



Professor Dato' Woo Wing Thye, Director of the Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development delivering his welcoming speech

1 HONORARY DOCTORATE 9 MASTERS 170 DIPLOMAS 348 DEGREES



"Yours is a very fortunate generation. The educational opportunities available today are better than at any time in the past. The range of skills that you have been trained for is certainly much greater than when I was a student. That is very exciting and I am sure all of you have benefitted from that."

Emeritus Professor Wang Gungwu

Emeritus Professor Wang Gungwu reminisced about his past as he was being conferred the Doctor of Letters *Honoris Causa* at the Sunway University January 2017 graduation ceremony that was held at the Sunway Resort Hotel and Spa. Aside from the Honorary Doctorate, a total 170 diplomas, 348 degrees, and 9 masters were conferred.

Professor Wang who is a prominent historian on Asia was awarded the Honorary Doctorate for his outstanding service as a distinguished scholar, contributions to the development of higher education in Malaysia, and trustee of the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation.

Born in Indonesia, Professor Wang was raised in Ipoh in the then British Malaya and lived under the Dutch and British colonial administration, the Japanese occupation, and the newly independent countries of Malaysia and Singapore. With his enriched experience, he has studied and written on the history and civilisation of China and Southeast Asia and on the history of the Chinese diaspora in Southeast Asia.

Professor Graeme Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor of Sunway University in his message took the

opportunity to congratulate the graduating cohort. "Graduating from university is a huge achievement and is the culmination of hard work and study. You can all breathe a huge sigh of relief that the exams are over and now you can look forward to the benefits that your new qualification from our university brings.

You will now be an accomplished thinker and able to make your mark on the world. Remember that whatever your chosen career path from here onwards, be faithful to the core values that have been adopted by the Sunway Group: be humble, always strive to be excellent, and always act with complete integrity."

The session concluded with a speech by valedictorian Thilageswaran Vijayan who shared his experience coping with working at multiple jobs and his studies. He graduated with a first class BSc (Hons) in Computer Science.

Neville Hew Lie Wie who graduated with a first class BSc (Hons) Business Management caught his father by surprise. Hew Yun Sim, Assistant General Manager, Facility Management at Sunway PFM Sdn Bhd was very proud



Neville Hew Lie Wie with his parents Hew Yun Sim and Ng Jau Win



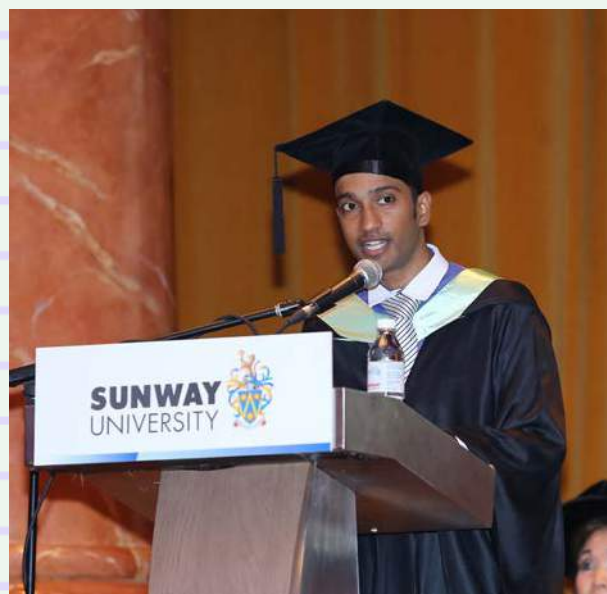
Graduates of Actuarial Studies programme

and touched by his son's achievement, citing it as his best 55th birthday present.

Among the graduates present that day were Choy Le Roy and Dinesh Krishnan from the first cohort of the Master of Business Administration (MBA) programme at Sunway University validated by Lancaster University.

Professor Andrew Atherton, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Lancaster University was present to confer the University of Lancaster scrolls to the graduating students from the Communication, Computing, Psychology, Bio-Science and Business disciplines for the honours degree programmes by Sunway University, validated by Lancaster University.

The Jeffrey Cheah Scholastic Award comprising of a certificate and RM2,000 cheque was awarded to 19 graduates who have consistently maintained outstanding academic results throughout their studies. **B**



EXCERPTS FROM VALEDICTORIAN SPEECH BY THILAGESWARAN VIJAYAN

"For the past 3 years, I would come to University, finish my classes and go to work. I'd only reach home at 11pm or later. If I had assignments, I would come to University after work and spend sleepless nights finishing it up. On average I had less than 4 hours of sleep a day. I survived. I would like to share a few messages with my fellow graduates that may be relevant for future undertakings.

First, if you make mistakes, learn to forgive yourself. No forgiveness is more important than your own. It will give you the strength to take responsibility for your actions.

Second, stop comparing yourself with others. We all grew up in different circumstances, we have different worries. Competition is important for growth, but overdoing it is akin to poisoning your self-esteem. Instead, compete with yourself and improve yourself at your own pace.

Lastly, the results on that paper that you will be holding at the end of today means nothing. Your degree does not dictate who you are. Your experience and your journey does. It becomes pointless if you have a first class honours but a third class attitude. Your personality, your passion, your compassion and your attitude brings a lot more to the table than your results. It has worked for me and I hope that it will work for you too."

WORLD-CLASS SPEAKERS

Jeffrey Cheah Distinguished Speaker Series (JCDSS) is a platform for intellectual discourse and lifelong learning. This series is one of many activities which Sunway University has embarked on to boost its social responsibility efforts.

COMPUTER SIMULATION OF MATERIALS IN EXTREME ENVIRONMENTS



Professor Mark Wilson

Jeffrey Cheah Professorial Fellow, Brasenose College
Professor of Chemistry in the Physical and Theoretical Chemistry Laboratory
Department of Chemistry, University of Oxford

Professor Mark Wilson graduated from the University of Oxford in 1991 and obtained his DPhil in 1994, working on many-body effects in condensed ionic systems. He was awarded the Harrison Memorial Medal for excellence in physical chemistry by the Royal Society of Chemistry in 1998. He is presently developing a number of computer modelling programmes. During his lecture, he discussed how simulation models and strategies have been developed to address problems, demonstrating how different problems are often interrelated.

WHAT DOES GENERAL SECRETARY XI JINPING DREAM ABOUT?

Professor Anthony Saich

Director, Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation,
Harvard Kennedy School,
Harvard University

Professor Anthony Saich is a Daewoo Professor of International Affairs at Harvard University, teaching courses on comparative political institutions, democratic governance and transitional economies with a focus on China. During the lecture, he evaluated the policy directions since Xi Jinping took over the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party. The talk concluded by outlining some possible scenarios for China's future development and their consequences.



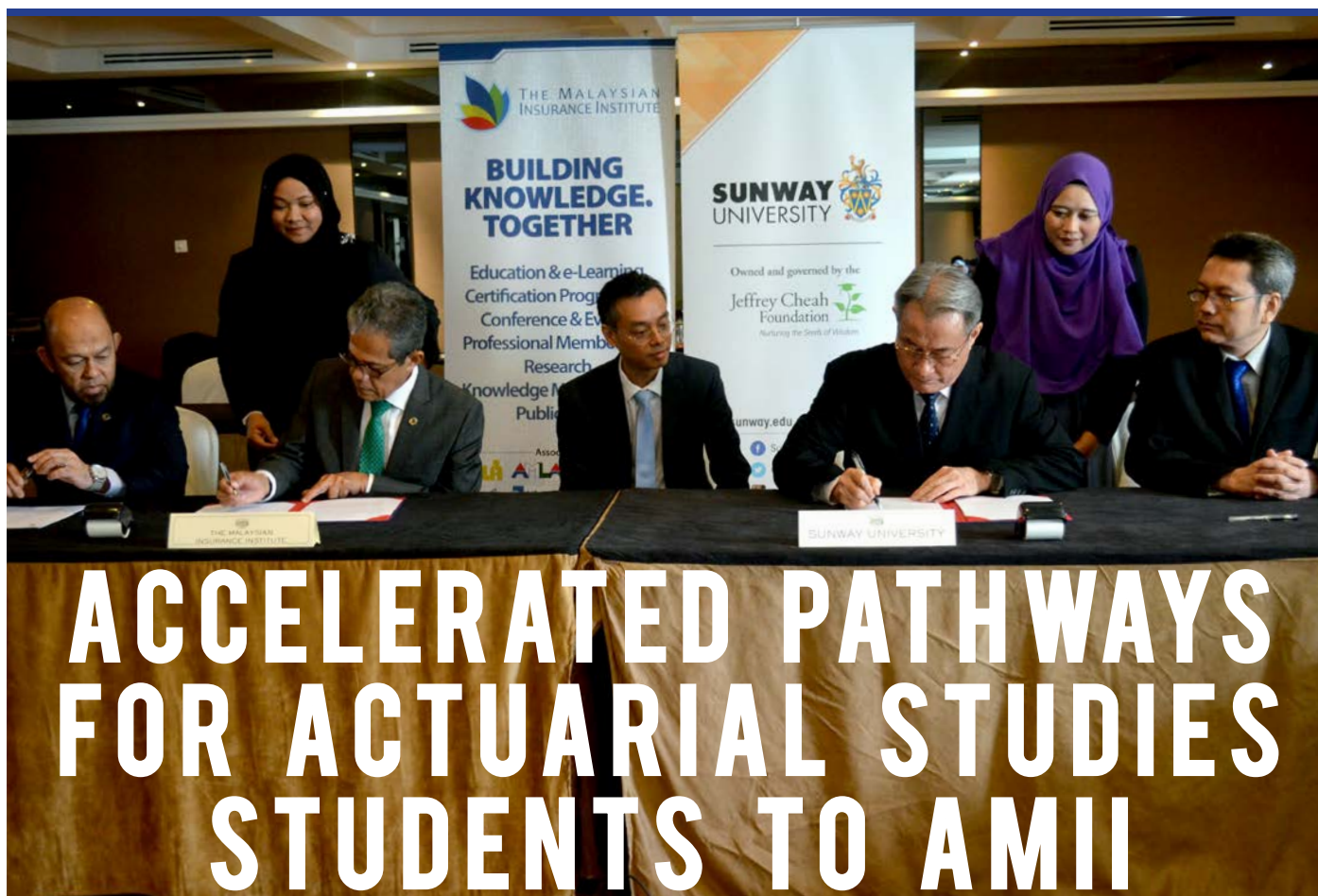
LEADERSHIP FOR A FRACTURED WORLD



Professor Dean Williams

Faculty Member, Center for Public Leadership,
Harvard Kennedy School,
Harvard University

Professor Dean Williams has served as the Chief Advisor to the President of Madagascar, leading one of the most innovative development reforms in Africa. He also led major change processes, facilitated leadership development initiatives and conducted extensive research with governments, corporations, or educational systems in various countries including India, Australia, Japan, Nigeria, Brunei, Columbia and the United States. In this lecture, Professor Williams shared on how to cross boundaries, build bridges and lead change in today's fractured world. **B**



ACCELERATED PATHWAYS FOR ACTUARIAL STUDIES STUDENTS TO AMII

Students of the BSc (Hons) Actuarial Studies at Sunway University can now gain entry into the Malaysian Insurance Institute (MII) professional course - the Associateship of the Malaysian Insurance Institute (AMII) through an accelerated pathway.

This was made possible through a Memorandum of Agreement signed late last year between Sunway University and MII. Under the agreement, Actuarial Studies students are eligible for exemptions of up to 11 AMII modules, out of 14 in total, with the possibility of completing the remaining modules within the 3-year degree. This is a unique opportunity for students to obtain a Bachelor's Degree and then professional qualification upon graduation.

"Sunway University is the first private higher educational institution to tie-up with MII in a bid to provide Actuarial Studies students an accelerated pathway with the most number of paper exemptions given in obtaining the AMII qualification," said Professor Ho Chee Kit, Dean of the School of Mathematical Sciences at Sunway University.

"I wish to thank Sunway University for this opportunity and I am certain this collaboration will definitely add value to the university," said Dato Syed Moheeb bin Syed Kamarulzaman, who is the Chief Executive Officer of MII. **B**



Dato' Syed Moheeb bin Syed Kamarulzaman, Hashim Harun, Chairman of MII, Yoon Yew Khuen, Director of Insurance Development of Bank Negara Malaysia, Professor Pua Eng Chong, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Sunway University and Professor Ho Chee Kit

NASI LEMAK KIMBAP

The product that won Sunway University F&B Entrepreneurship Challenge 2016

Fancy a Nasi Lemak infused Kimbap? Team Daebak 814 Enterprise took home the title as champions for the Sunway University Food and Beverage Entrepreneurship Challenge 2016. The theme was "Online Food Business". The deal was that participating students from the School of Hospitality had four months to develop their product, set up their companies and generate sales.

The winning team, Daebak 814 Enterprise comprised of Lavender Chia, Jeremy Lam, Nguyen Hoang Oanh, Sim Jiseon and Pham Thi Ngoc Anh.

"Nasi Lemak Kimbap is the combination of two traditional dishes from Malaysia and Korea. We created our own recipe through extensive R&D on various ingredients. Every meal comes prepared in a handy box and delivered by our group members within the campus", explained Jeremy who is pursuing the BSc (Hons) in International Hospitality Management.

Running a business is never easy. "We faced challenges; financially as we do not have a strong accounting and finance background, negative feedback from customers at the start, and conflicts amongst ourselves. However, the toughest was the mental and physical stress. We had to meet very early in the morning everyday to prepare our 'Kimbap' fresh. As classes start at 8.30am, we have to finish everything before 8.00am", explained

Lavender of the BSc (Hons) in International Hospitality Management programme.

First runner-up was Macaronlogy Ventures. Teoh Zhi Hau and his team, comprised of Hilda Chow, Joel Yong, Sheryl Wang and Marianty Chen are proud to be the first group of people in Malaysia to come out with macarons made with zero artificial ingredients.

Coming in 2nd Runner-Up was '5 Minds Enterprise' which was made up of Gan Tick Mun Natassia, Subattra Kanesan, Tham Carmen, Lee Tze Meng and Kenjiro Shinno. Their company product was 'Shang Tea', a blended home-made tea."

The students were assessed by a panel of judges comprised of Jeffred Tham, Founder of Thai Syok; George Ang, CEO of Manhattan Fish Market; Cyrus Chin, Founder of Bravo Events & Entertainment and Nigel Leong, Founder of Negative Signature. The groups were assessed on Entrepreneurial Spirit, Financial Performance, Strategic Direction, Innovation and Influence towards the Community.

The competition is the brainchild of Dr Daniel Chong who hopes to turn it into an annual event.

"The best way to learn entrepreneurship is to start one. Running a real business venture helps our students realise the importance of innovation, risk management, financial control, continuous improvement, joy of entrepreneurship and business integrity." **B**



Team Daebak 814 Enterprise



Team Macaronlogy Ventures

SUNWAY'S FIRST PHD

A PERSON WITH A PHD QUALIFICATION CAN SOAR LIKE AN EAGLE IN THE SKY, EQUIPPED WITH STRONG KNOWLEDGE AND ANALYTICAL SKILLS.



Dr Angela Lee Siew Hoong is the first to graduate from Sunway University's Doctor of Philosophy in Computing programme. Through the research programme, she hopes to be a better researcher who is able to bring new research outcomes for the various problems faced by our nation and the world.

Dr Lee, who is currently Senior Lecturer and Chair of the Business Analytics programme in the School of Science and Technology loves taking her research into the classroom. "I love sharing the findings of my research and how it relates to real life cases with my students," she said. She added that another aspect of this was to relate the students to new areas of knowledge sharing, for example, text mining, and sentiment analysis as well as techniques to new knowledge discovery. Dr Lee has been teaching for about 16 years and is passionate about it.

"Teaching was what I wanted to do for years. When I see my students achieve high grades, I feel contented. Helping students learn and acquire knowledge actually motivates me to go further in the teaching profession. My research investigates the knowledge sharing tools acceptance with the presence of role of affect in the organisation." **B**

AND MASTERS

Isabel Yee Pinn Tsin completed her MSc in Life Sciences with a Distinction at Sunway University last year. She was awarded the Jeffrey Cheah Scholastic Award for achieving outstanding academic results and is Sunway University's first MSc in Life Sciences graduate.

Isabel joined Sunway College in 2012 as a lecturer and is currently a research fellow at the Research Centre of Biomedical Sciences in the area of Medical Virology at Sunway University. She first became interested in this area of research as she became aware of the massive loss of young lives during large outbreaks of hand, foot and mouth disease in Malaysia. However, it was no easy feat for Isabel who is married to juggle between a full time job and doing part-time research.

The MSc in Life Sciences programme at Sunway University provides students like Isabel, the opportunity to conduct original research, which extends the frontiers of knowledge in a specialised area of one's choice in Life Sciences.

Graduates of the programme will be equipped with advanced knowledge and training in research methods, which will enable them to apply their knowledge and skills as researchers, practitioners and administrators in various fields of life sciences, and assist them in obtaining employment in areas of education, health and the biopharmaceutical industry. **B**





SUNWAY MENTORING PROGRAMME

Mentoring is a mutual way of learning. For students who are at the crossroads of completing education, figuring out their professional career and engaging with the community, mentoring could not be any more useful to help students gain a better picture of life after school. Not only that, students gain a confidant to bounce ideas and encouragements.

The Sunway Mentoring Programme is a 6-month mentoring programme, designed to groom Sunway University's students into highly sought-after graduates. The programme was developed in 2013 by the Sunway Career Services and the Sunway Alumni Relations team.

For Castrine Tan, the mentoring programme at Sunway gave her the opportunity to meet, share and learn knowledge that guided her to adapt better in the working world.

"My mentor, Lenny, always shares her working experience with me. Knowing how to deal with people is an important knowledge that I think all of us should have in order to survive in the complicated working world. Through my mentor, I realised that teamwork is an important value that creates all successful deals and thus, a successful career."

Now a consultant, Castrine who graduated with a BSc (Hons) Accounting and Finance degree expressed her appreciation to her mentor who guided her during her time at Sunway University.

"Our meetings did not end after the programme, we just met up and updated each other about our own progress recently. I am glad that the Sunway Mentoring Programme creates this mutual learning relationship where mentor and mentee can learn and grow together."



Castrine Tan

She also encourages more Sunway University students to participate in the programme and seize the opportunity to enjoy limitless experience with their mentor.

Each year, the mentoring programme has 2 cohorts, aiming to equip students with core competencies in the workplace, such as professionalism, work ethics, managing people, attitude and aptitude. The mentees are students from a variety of programmes including accounting, banking and finance, marketing, information technology and psychology, whereas mentors comprise of Sunway Alumni with at least 3 years corporate experience and currently employed at a Senior Executive position or higher.

A total of 4 sessions are conducted within the span of 6 months, which begin with an orientation session between mentors and mentees on campus. Subsequently three independent meetings are held between mentor and mentee. **B**



Dr Elizabeth Lee, Professor Graeme Wilkinson and Lee Siok Ping



The alumni posing with Samson during the gathering



Dr Elizabeth Lee, Lee Siok Ping and Professor Graeme Wilkinson with some of the alumni

ALUMNI HOMECOMING HIGH TEA



Sunway University recently hosted an Alumni Homecoming High Tea and welcomed its newest members to the alumni community. Now in its 5th year, the event created an opportunity for the young alumni to meet up with their friends, classmates and lecturers.

Themed “Superheroes”, more than 100 alumni turned up for the event where most of them seized the moment to take photos at the superhero-comic-themed photo booth, catch up with their friends and lecturers, click away while posing with Samson in his graduation gown, and indulge in the high tea.

Each year, the event takes on a different theme and previous themes included “Soaring to New Heights” and “Build Your Own Pathway”. The theme “Superheroes” is reflective of the many graduates reaching their full potential and becoming superheroes in their own rights.

To officially celebrate the achievements of our latest graduates, Dr Elizabeth Lee, Senior Executive Director of Sunway Education Group and Sunway University proposed a meaningful toast. Also present there were Professor Graeme Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor of Sunway University and Lee Siok Ping, Director of Student LIFE.

As part of the event, Professor Wilkinson reminded the young graduates on the importance of staying in touch with their alma mater as they would be able to gain a lot from being part of the larger Sunway community.

The evening was filled with laughter and enjoyment. Topping it off, the alumni did not go home empty handed. They each received a special T-shirt customised specifically for their graduation. **B**

LANCASTER EXPERIENCE WITH KEE BEE YING

Klang native Kee Bee Ying is currently pursuing an MSc in International Business and Strategy at Lancaster University. She completed her BSc (Hons) Accounting and Finance at Sunway University in December 2015, graduating with a First Class Honours degree.

The MSc in International Business and Strategy at Lancaster is a demanding programme that combines the global perspective of international business with the up-to-date strategic thinking required to develop and defend competitive advantage and implement effective organisational designs.



“For those of us from Sunway, the adjustment is a lot easier as our undergraduate experience prepares us well for the Lancaster experience. The level of teaching and learning is similar and the foundation in SUBS exposes us to reading journals and being critical with our reading and expressing our views”



"Students here are generally aware of the importance of active participation in extracurricular activities or volunteering services. Just like my experience in Sunway, you can also find a variety of clubs and societies and you are free to join as many as you can, so long as you can juggle your academic and activities well."

TELL US ABOUT YOUR APPLICATION JOURNEY

It was only in late May 2016 that I decided to pursue a Master's degree in the UK. I knew I would be qualified for an alumni discount if I chose to go to Lancaster University but I also applied to other universities as they offered similar courses.

As this was a last minute decision, the whole application process was a frenzy of preparing all the important documents such as passport, personal statement, CV, and academic references, among others, but I managed to make it on time.

Approximately a month later, I was offered a place for the course I applied to! However, the desire to save money urged me to ask for scholarships and I found out about Departmental Bursary available at Lancaster. A Skype interview was swiftly arranged between me and the Programme Director and after a week, I was pleased to learn that I was awarded an Academic Excellence Scholarship!

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO DO THIS AS OPPOSED TO CONTINUING WITH AN ACCOUNTING PATHWAY?

Upon completing my internship and entering the final year of my undergraduate degree, I realised I am more interested in consulting, strategising and corporate development. In addition, I didn't really enjoy studying accounting, audit or even taxation. I am grateful that KPMG KL offered me an internship in its Advisory Department and it is here that I discovered my work preference even though I was there for only three months.

Also, the BCG case study and networking event further confirmed my future career pathway as I realised I was drawn to management consulting. The final piece in the puzzle was when I undertook the Strategic Management module during my final semester in SUBS. Every lecture was eye-opening and interesting and so I knew that is what I wanted to pursue.

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES IN LEARNING AND TEACHING BETWEEN YOUR EXPERIENCES AT SUNWAY AND NOW HERE IN LANCASTER?

In Sunway, students would attend lectures, workshops and tutorials for their undergraduate degree. However, I only have lectures to attend here which felt a bit strange in the beginning. Lecturers would expect you to do some pre-

reading and expect discussions during class. As I have only lectures, there is a lot of self-learning time but with the modules I have on hand, the self-learning time is actually not really sufficient so it is very important to study smart. The coursework amount is heavy and I have examinations in early January so there goes my Christmas break!

For those of us from Sunway, the adjustment is a lot easier as our undergraduate experience prepares us well for the Lancaster experience. The level of teaching and learning is similar and the foundation in SUBS exposes us to reading journals and being critical with our reading and expressing our views.

HOW IS YOUR EXPERIENCE LIVING AND STUDYING IN LANCASTER?

Unlike London, Manchester or any other big cities in the UK, Lancaster is just a town but you are able to get everything you need here. The environment is more conducive for learning but for those who prefer city life, you can head to Manchester on weekends as it is only an hour's journey from Lancaster via bus or train.

People here are very polite and friendly so I never worry about feeling awkward. Students here are generally aware of the importance of active participation in extracurricular activities or volunteering services. Just like my experience in Sunway, you can also find a variety of clubs and societies and you are free to join as many as you can, so long as you can juggle your academic and activities well.

Apart from that, Lancaster students know when and how to enjoy themselves but they do not neglect their studies. They focus on studies or activities during weekdays but on Friday night, students would hang out at the campus bar or head to town to destress.

If you have the opportunity and are able to pursue a Master's degree, PLEASE GO! This is especially for those who would like to venture to a different field (like me), or to specialise in certain areas, or to have a more in-depth knowledge about your preferred career. There are bursaries available for alumni and you can also try for other awards if you do well. **B**



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