

# BLAZE

THE SUNWAY UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



## THE MAN WHO MADE A HERO OUT OF COCKROACHES

Professor Naveed Khan  
*Head of Biological Sciences  
Sunway University*

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# MEET THE MASTERS OF CODE

*The Malaysian team conquered the world stage against 11 other countries*

**F**ive from Malaysia conquered the global stage at Silicon Valley and earned the Masters of Code title at the inaugural MasterCard Global Hackathon Grand Finale on December 5 - 6, 2015. Hackathon is an event where computer programmers and designers collaborate intensively on software and hardware development within a short timeframe.

The Malaysian team comprised Lim Jay Ching, Leonardy Kristianto, Wong Gwen Yi, Daniel Lim Fung Hsing and Chew Kean Ho.

"The 24-hour Grand Final hackathon was a whole new world to the team as it was an extremely intense yet eye-opening competition among the greatest minds across the world with regional winners from 12 different cities," said the 19 year old Jay, a July 2014 graduate from Sunway College's A-Level.

## IT BEGINS WITH ONE SMALL STEP

It started when Jay, the youngest member of the team, met the other three Malaysian teammates through a coding bootcamp to learn Ruby on Rails, a coding framework. After discovering the Masters of Code competition, Jay convinced them to form a team and invited Leonardy who recently graduated from Sunway University's BSc (Hons) Information Technology.

The team's first mission: win the regional competition in Singapore against 120 coders, designers and entrepreneurs.

In March 2015, the team impressed the judges in Singapore with their winning project called One Small Step. It's an app that incorporates elements of education into coding-centric games to address the lack of female representation in the tech world.



From left: Leonardy Kristianto, Chew Kean Ho, Wong Gwen Yi, Daniel Lim, and Lim Jay Ching

## MONEYREMAID: THE PROJECT THAT WOODED SILICON VALLEY

As the regional winner, the team marched onto the global stage at San Francisco. Once again, they did not fail to impress the judges and took home the grand prize of USD100,000 (approx. RM425,000) in seed funding, along with incubation in the MasterCard StartPath Program, six months of mentoring and free payment processing for up to USD250,000 (RM1.06 million) in transactions using Simplify Commerce.

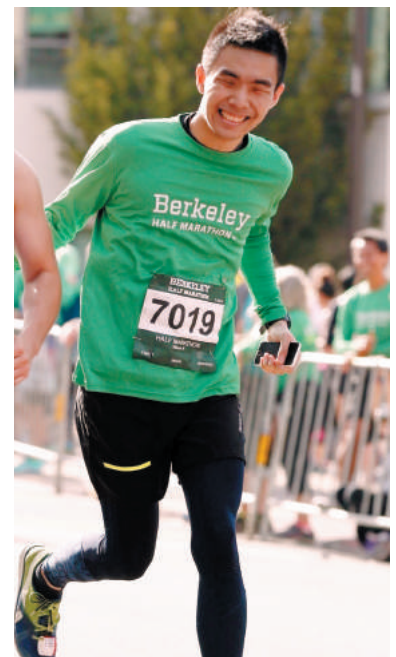
This idea was inspired by the everyday conversation between Daniel and his maid.


**"Our goal is to drive financial literacy and inclusion in Malaysia and the region by helping more than 300,000 migrant domestic workers who are struggling with a lack of financial access and high remittance costs as they send money home to their families," explained Jay.**

Besides the grand prize, the experience was memorable as the team formed international friendships and met MasterCard top guns who judged the final. For Leonardy, the trip was made more interesting as he arrived in San Francisco two weeks before the competition for a half marathon at UC Berkeley.

**"There I met people who work for tech industries in the San Francisco Bay Area such as Google, Tesla, and Uber," recalled Leonardy.**

Sunway University and Sunway College are proud to have nurtured two outstanding Masters of Code. What's next? The duo and their teammates will be having good times reaping what they sowed – their grand prize from MasterCard.



A laboratory microscope is the central focus of the image. It has a white base and a black upper section. A clear glass slide with a yellowish sample is on the stage. The background is a blurred laboratory setting with white shelves and equipment.

# PROFESSOR NAVEED KHAN

## THE MAN WHO MADE A HERO OUT OF COCKROACHES

**T**here's no positive way about our feelings for them. I've not once come across anyone whose eyes glowed at the mention of 'cockroaches'. What's more when we break it down to talking about their *brains*. I'm cringing at the image printed on *mine* of what it ought to look like. We can agree that it is quite unlikely for these scurrying, winged creatures to be a table conversation - unless of course if they are already on the table.

But not with this man. His name is Naveed Khan.

Professor Naveed, Head of Biological Sciences at Sunway University, is known for his research on this reputable pest. His name is synonymous with the insect itself, but not in a negative light. In fact, he might have lifted the dark veils about roaches that we have been misled to believe. If you were to Google search for 'Naveed Khan and Cockroaches' right now, you'll garner at least 50,000 search results. This man might have just made a discovery that will change millions of lives. Yes, you may cringe now. A cockroach's brain may save our lives.

*"We are relatively new to this planet and these species have been here for almost 300 million years,"* stressed Professor Naveed.

We live in a time when we get obsessively hygienic and maybe a little too clean for our own good. Children especially, spend less time playing with dirt. We are constantly being told to wash our hands before eating and to use more antibacterial soaps introduced into the market. We, the *Homosapiens*, are one worried set of species living amongst eight million others on Earth.



the most potent of antibacterial properties, and he eagerly whipped out his laptop to show me the images of its biolope brain. Finally, the mystery of how the roaches' brains look was solved.

#### **AWARD-WINNING RESEARCHER**

"To my surprise, nobody was looking at these species and there's a huge biomass of them all over the world."

"We don't seem to be adjusting to the ecosystem quite well at the moment. We are under the impression that we are the dominant species, but I don't think that's true. We need to somehow adapt ourselves and start respecting other species because they have been able to survive for millions of years. We have to learn to coexist. You know there's this phenomenon where we have to kill the species that are affecting us? I think that's wrong. If we kill it today, there will be another tomorrow."

So naturally, Professor Naveed questioned "How are other species able to protect themselves from superbugs, and yet thrive in those unhygienic environments? We need to learn from them. That is the purpose of our research."

The superbugs that Professor Naveed mentioned are drug-resistant. What this means is, antibiotics can't kill them. At present, more than 17 million people are dying annually from infectious diseases worldwide and worryingly, we have approached a pre-antibiotic era. While testing the hypothesis on cockroaches, Professor Naveed found nine new antibiotic molecules in the brains of cockroaches which kill superbugs deadly to humans such as: MRSA (Methicilin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*) and neuropathogenic *Escherichia coli*.

"It could be ninety molecules if the insects were taken from the gutters. Right now, we are determining protein and DNA sequences which will help us make the molecules synthetically."

The brain of the roaches, that he asserted with passion, possesses

Professor Naveed is a pioneer in the field of animals living in a polluted environment - in search of new antibiotics, and has received numerous accolades and over 50 awards. Last year, he was awarded the prestigious Pakistan Academy of Sciences Gold Medal Award in Biological Sciences and before this, his efforts in research and high productivity were recognised with the Schwenker Award by Johns Hopkins University, USA, National Institute of Health, USA Fellowship Award, Medical Research Society, UK Award, Royal Infirmary Fellowship Award, UK, Best Scientist Award in Biological Sciences by Higher Education Commission, Pakistan among others.

His research has also caught worldwide media attention. Several documentaries were made and published on news channels like the BBC, CNN, New York Times, CNBC and The Los Angeles Times. Furthermore, countries such as France, Sweden, Poland, New Zealand, Norway, Ireland and the UK have been quick to recognise Professor Naveed's achievements, in addition to peer-reviewed journals.

Tracing back on the amount of work that Professor Naveed has achieved, it feels like he has not slept since day one. His CV has more pages than this magazine itself and he has achieved more than 160 peer-reviewed publications, written 6 books, trained 39 graduate research students and has accumulated grant income of more than USD 2 million.

No, he's not a workaholic. Instead, he views his job as part of his lifestyle.



Professor describing the process of dissecting a cockroach



Mystery solved: cockroach brain

Professor Naveed and his wife, Ruqaiyyah Siddiqui

## SCIENCE AS A WAY OF LIFE

For the most of us, science is something inaccessible. It is impossible to understand the information churned out. It's easier to let scientists get on with their lives while we get on with ours. But it wasn't the case with Professor Naveed. He broke down that barrier with his philosophy.

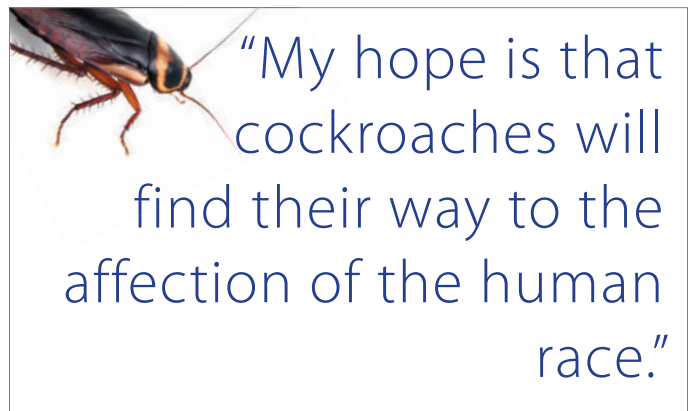
"We often do a science degree to get a job, but to me, it teaches us how to live our lives as an informed citizen and as a rounded individual by solving day to day tasks. It teaches us skills to be a critical and creative thinker, which are important in our routine lives."

Today, Professor Naveed has established a molecular microbiology research group in the area of infectious diseases and antimicrobials at Sunway University. He reminds his students regularly to conduct research relevant to the community and not for the mere sake of being fashionable, for example.

## A FAMILY OF RESEARCHERS

His contagious passion, coupled with his wife, also a scientist at the Sunway University; his two sons, Salahuddin Khan (7 years) , Mohammad Khan (6 years) and Imaan Asadi Khan (1 year) were raised with just as much curiosity as their parents. Professor Khan reminisced on the good old times when he used to chase cockroaches. He was deeply intrigued by how these creatures were capable of escaping death even after losing some of their legs. With that he admitted, "Cockroaches are beautiful."

Professor Naveed met his wife while working at the University of London, where she was also a researcher. When asked about his personal life, he replied, "Science leads the way. It is great to discuss science at home, share ideas, and then come to the



laboratory to test hypotheses. We have so many scientific issues to discuss, we never have any time for marital arguments. Our kids often look at us sheepishly, when we discuss gravitational waves or pathogens. We learn a great deal from each other. Science is best done when we are in a horizontal-enabling environment."

## MALAYSIA IS RICH IN DIVERSITY

Originally from Pakistan, what brought the Professor to Malaysia was the mass diversity we have here - still widely unexplored. He is currently assisting in the setup of a lab at Sunway University and with the availability of such an active facility, Professor Naveed is able to continue his research on local cockroaches - to have newly identified molecules synthesized.

With such an incredible discovery by Professor Naveed, can we as humans change our opinions about cockroaches? Perhaps from now on it can be a table conversation about how they can save our lives.

# SUNWAY UNIVERSITY RECEIVES TOP RATINGS

*Sunway University achieved 5-Star in three categories by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS): Teaching, Employability and Facilities*

**A** testament to its international recognition with an overall rating of Four Stars in the 2015/2016 QS Stars results, Sunway University is now on par with long established international education institutions.

"Emulating the world's top universities, our vision of one day becoming the Harvard of the East now seems to be achievable."

*Professor Graeme Wilkinson,  
Vice-Chancellor of Sunway University*



With Five Stars under its belt for the teaching category, Sunway University now has the same rating as Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and University of Cambridge while for the facilities category, Sunway is comparable with Princeton University, Stanford University, California Institute of Technology, Cornell University and University of Pennsylvania.

In the employability category, Sunway University is rated at the same level as MIT, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore and Australian National University.

"We are indeed very proud of this achievement. It will be a great motivation for us to continue in

our mission to nurture all-round individuals and devote ourselves to the discovery, advancement, transmission and application of knowledge", said Professor Wilkinson.

The QS rating of universities is based on various indicators evaluating universities in the core categories of teaching, research, employability and internationalisation.

Doubling the glory, Sunway University has also recently achieved another global accolade. In the Student Barometer Survey Entry Wave 2015 undertaken by i-graduate, the Sunway Education Group (SEG) including Sunway University achieved high student satisfaction and was ranked No. 1 in Asia for the categories of overall learning experience and employability. This is the second consecutive year that SEG topped the employability category.



# ASEAN AND BEYOND

*Sunway University hosted the first Model ASEAN Meeting with 77 handpicked student delegates from 10 countries*

The first Model ASEAN Meeting, organised by the ASEAN Foundation, was an authentic experience for all of the 77 delegates who took part from 10 ASEAN nations.

“Money may be able to buy a lot of things, but it should never, ever be able to buy another human being.”

Dr Elizabeth Lee, Senior Executive Director of Sunway Education Group and Sunway University quoted US Secretary of State, John Kerry, on the issue of human trafficking during her welcome remarks.

The Meeting focused on the issue of “Trafficking in Persons”, held from 18 to 22 November 2015. It was organised to coincide with the 27th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur.

The delegates from all 10 ASEAN countries were competitively selected for the Meeting. This event was an interactive process where students role-play as senior officials, ministers and leaders of ASEAN with hopes that they understand the process on how regional agreements and cooperation are negotiated. Delegates were assigned



Front row starting 2nd from left: Shahril Azuar Jimin, Elaine Tan, His Excellency Dr AKP. Mochtan, Dr Elizabeth Lee and Maura Barry

to different countries, to allow them an opportunity to learn how decisions made by their national governments affect the decisions on policies at the national and regional levels.

Elaine Tan, Executive Director of the ASEAN Foundation said, “This activity will raise ASEAN awareness among the young people, providing them an avenue for personal enrichment, as well as a better understanding of the benefits of ASEAN, the regional integration process, and their potential to contribute to the ASEAN Community.”

Keynote speaker His Excellency Dr AKP. Mochtan, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for Community and Corporate Affairs, informed the student delegates that at the Meeting, they would just be role-playing but in the future, they may be the person representing their country. His main point for everyone was the learning of the ASEAN way which he stated is the strength and key success factor that brought

ASEAN from its humble beginnings to today. He detailed the ASEAN way into three elements: collective strength, synergy through diversity and the ASEAN centrality, stressing that everyone should champion the spirit of togetherness.

After the opening plenary session was a panel and Q&A session led by distinguished panelists and moderated by Sunway University’s American Degree Transfer Program (ADTP) lecturer, Jaime Yap.

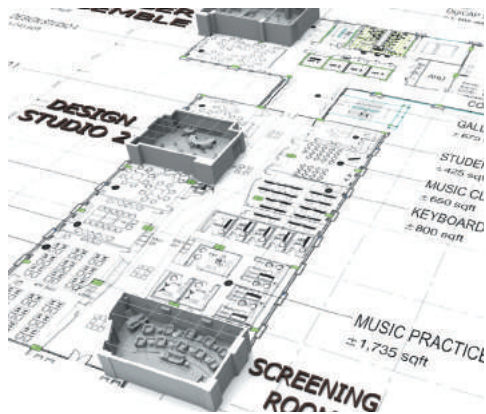
ADTP student Kuan Hui Xin said, “It was an eye opening experience as the issues discussed were serious matters that affect many people around me.”

The Model ASEAN Meeting is an initiative of the ASEAN Foundation supported by the ASEAN – US Partnership for Good Governance, Equitable & Sustainable Development and Security and endorsed by the ASEAN Member States.



# THE FACULTY OF ARTS IS EXPANDING

*Sunway University's Faculty of Arts (FOA) is set to grow bigger and bolder this year with state-of-the-art facilities & two new degree programmes*



The entire faculty will be moving into purpose built spaces at Level Nine of Sunway University's new building later this year. Many hours of planning have resulted in a custom designed suite of teaching, learning and research spaces for the entire range of FOA programmes. Design Studios, a Shooting Studio, DigiCap Lab, Music Performance spaces, a Keyboard Lab, a Collaboratory, Film and Music Editing Labs and much more await students of both the new and current programmes. With new state-of-the-art facilities, the FOA is launching two new stimulating BA (Hons) Degrees.

## BA (Hons) Digital Film Production

Aims to empower versatile creative content producers who are skilled in audio-visual production and its transmedia applications across multiple screens. It mixes storytelling, performance and technology into a vibrant new degree.

Short Film & Documentary Genres   Scriptwriting   Film Scoring   Screen Acting

Post-Production Editing   Entrepreneurship   Internship



## BA (Hons) Contemporary Music (Audio Technology)

Aims to train skillful music producers of contemporary music. It is both a technical and creative degree programme which provides an academically and professionally rigorous education and training in music production using audio technology.

Interdisciplinary Collaborative Projects   Composition   Arrangement   Sound Design

Audio Technology   Entrepreneurship   Internship



Be D'One Challenge: Joel Thum, Chee Chia Ling and Lim Sze Khai awarded Champion for the challenge

# SUBS IN THE LIMELIGHT

*Students from Sunway University Business School (SUBS) made the university proud by winning competitions*

## Be D'One Challenge 2015

BDO Malaysia is a renowned accounting firm, and SUBS students from BSc (Hons) in Accounting and Finance proved their worth by defeating seven other teams. Relentlessly, they also grabbed the best presenter title. The unstoppable team comprised Chee Chia Ling, Joel Thum Wen Jian and Lim Sze Khai.

## CIMA Global Business Challenge 2015

The BDO Challenge team with an additional team member SUBS student William Tan Soo Yoon was also the national champion of CIMA Global Business Challenge 2015. They competed against 26 other teams at the international arena held in Warsaw, Poland, which proved to be a great learning experience for them.

"Through competitions like this, I learnt to work under stress", said Chee, the rose among the thorns.

Her remarks were simultaneously agreed by her fellow teammates, adding that such exposure definitely make their learning experience at Sunway University a memorable one.

## Unilever Future Leaders League Championship

In the Unilever Future Leaders League Championship, Team Eureka emerged as National 1st Runner Up. BSc (Hons) Business Studies students, Loo Jen-Ning and two Accounting & Finance students - Sam Shu Jing and Erin Lim Fei Ying formed Team Eureka.

At the competition, Team Eureka had to analyse and present their findings of a given case study; their business savviness were also put to the test as they were judged according to their marketing campaign proposal which was developed on the spot.

## KPMG Scholarship

KPMG is one of the four largest accounting firms in the world. The newly launched 4SEAS scholarship programme aims to aid South East Asian undergraduate students who are looking to get a head-start in their careers with the company. Only 7 scholarships are offered to Malaysians, out of which five recipients were from SUBS who are pursuing Accounting & Finance. They are Bryan Wong, Lee Seng Zhen, Foo Siew Mun, Ghayathri Asogan and Gan Kei Lun.

The scholarship covers tuition fees worth USD 5,000 per annum, an opportunity to intern for two years with the first year at a local KPMG branch and a second year in any of the KPMG international branches in Thailand, Singapore or Indonesia.



Unilever Future Leaders League Championship: A heartwarming moment for Team Eureka!



Team Eureka: Sam Shu Jing, Loo Jen-Ning and Erin Lim Fei Ying



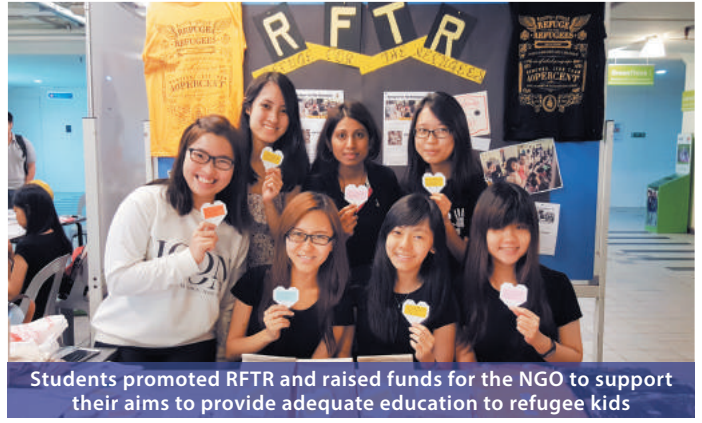
2nd from left: Ghayathri Asogan, Gan Kei Lun, Lee Seng Zhen, Foo Siew Mun & Bryan Wong Yi Jun



5 of the 7 successful KPMG 4SEAS scholarship recipients are from SUBS



SUBS students selling pastries and handicrafts made by the autistic kids of NASOM



Students promoted RFTR and raised funds for the NGO to support their aims to provide adequate education to refugee kids



Baking away at the NASOM Centres



Students organised a series of "Cuisine in the Dark" at Dialogue in the Dark

## CULTIVATING CONSCIOUS LEADERS

In ancient Mesopotamia—you know, the time of King Nebuchadnezzar and the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, that was about 600 BC. But, I am referring to Hammurabi, more than a thousand years before that—if a farmer through negligence caused the death of another, he himself will be put to death. The Code of Hammurabi, which was written on a stone pillar, placed on a farmer the social responsibility not to cause harm to another.

But it wasn't until the 1950s when R. Bowen published the landmark book, *Social Responsibilities of the Businessman* did the idea of CSR take off. Unfortunately today, CSR is seen as an outdated relic with the harsh truth of the current flawed capitalism that reaps profit for two generations at the cost of seven generations.

Therefore, to cultivate a new generation of conscious leaders, SUBS students have a compulsory module called the Community Project. This module is designed to raise the awareness of social responsibility beyond the comfort of their urban bubble and develop empathy. The August 2015 batch of SUBS students surpassed their expectations and made an impact by raising more than 100 light bulbs in support of Lightup Borneo's mission to bring light to rural villages in East Malaysia and RM12,000 of revenue and donations for partnered civil society organisations.

The students worked closely with their partnered organisations

of different causes such as National Autism Society of Malaysia (NASOM), Dialogue in the Dark (DID), Lightup Borneo, Refuge for the Refugees (RFTR) and EduNation.

Besides the Lightup Borneo project, another campaign that stood out was the Cuisine in the Dark in partnership with DID which is a centre that provides experiential tours in total darkness with a visually impaired guide.

This social enterprise is founded by Stevens Chan who faced tragedy at age 40 when he began to gradually lose his sight and was eventually blind after nine operations. Through DID, Stevens hopes that people will learn to discover empathy through the medium of darkness while empowering the visually impaired community. With that vision, SUBS' students organised Cuisine in the Dark campaign that included a 30-minute tour and a three meal course. This campaign garnered a lot of positive response and was sold out for all four days!

There were also other projects including: You Are My Sunshine that promotes handicrafts made by children with autism and volunteering at the Kuala Lumpur Eco Film Festival.

With such an early exposure to different causes for society, we hope to see the rise of a conscious generation who will fix the flawed capitalist system and put priority on the social and environmental currency.

# SUNWAY CEMENTS CLOSE TIES WITH HARVARD AND OXFORD

*Sunway Group Founder, Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah, AO, led a delegation to Harvard University, U.S. and later, to the University of Oxford, U.K. cementing the already close ties*

## OXFORD

DECEMBER 2014

### SEA SYMPOSIUM

A declaration was signed by Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah with the University of Oxford, stating academic and cultural project collaborations between the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation (JCF) and Oxford, which included the 4th Southeast Asian Studies Symposium in March 2015 at Sunway University, held outside University of Oxford for the first time.

*(Read more in Issue 33, page 7)*

The 5th Symposium will be held at the University of Oxford in April 2016, in partnership with Sunway University, themed 'Human and Environmental Welfare in Southeast Asia'.

DECEMBER 2015



### BRASENOSE COLLEGE

In 2015, an agreement was signed in Oxford between Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah and Brasenose College, University of Oxford. The agreement resulted in two professors of the University of Oxford, who are Fellows of Brasenose, to be named as Jeffrey Cheah Professorial Fellows.

Each of the Jeffrey Cheah Professorial Fellows will visit Sunway at least once every year to give lectures and seminars to share their areas of expertise.

This agreement was announced during the Jeffrey Cheah Distinguished Speaker Series lecture by John Bowers QC.

*(See next page on Bowers' lecture entitled Human Rights & Religion)*

## HARVARD

OCTOBER 2015

### SOUTHEAST ASIA EXPLORES SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey officiated the opening of the first ever joint conference at Harvard, which was organised by the Harvard University Asia Centre and Sunway University's Jeffrey Cheah Institute on Southeast Asia.



The conference showcased world leading academicians including Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute, Columbia University; Professor Arthur Kleinman, Victor and William Fung Director, Harvard University Asia Center; and Professor Dwight Perkins, Harold Hitchings Burbank Professor of Political Economy, Emeritus, Harvard University.

### HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

The Harvard visit also registered another milestone achievement with the Harvard Medical School entering into a unique collaboration with the Sunway Healthcare Services Group and Sunway University, to promote specialised medical education to emerging leaders in medicine and healthcare in Malaysia, Southeast Asia, Australasia and other countries in Asia.



Signing between Sunway and the Harvard Medical School

4-PAGE  
SPECIAL  
FEATURE



# Once a **Caian**...

Hawking...50 not out  
5 new names on the Benefactors' Wall  
Caius 255...Magdalen, Oxford 105  
Nobels 13...Oscars 2



In our last issue, we celebrated adding the names of John and Ann Haines and Alice Cheng to the College's Benefactors' Wall. In the 2014-15 academic year, five more names have been added, representing four further million pound donations.

The 36th and youngest major benefactor is someone hitherto unknown to most Caians, **Dr Yvonne Lai Kwan Lui**, a chemical engineer and philanthropist from Hong Kong, who says she is "very honoured to support Stephen Hawking's College."

Yvonne first came to England as a teenager, to study at Canford School in Dorset. She went on to King's College, London, to read Chemistry, hoping to join a family business trading in chemical materials. To this end, she took a PhD in Chemical Engineering and still remembers her supervisor, Professor Carolyn Koh, with enormous gratitude and affection.

The arrival of her daughter Zoe in 2002 interrupted her academic studies, but only briefly. Yvonne credits Zoe with giving her the motivation to complete her PhD (in gas hydrates in the oil industry) in almost record time – two years and nine months.

In her research at King's, Yvonne used the Monte Carlo Simulation method of risk analysis to deduce the structures of complex molecules. This computerised mathematical technique quantifies risk, to improve decision-making. The scientists who developed the atomic bomb were the first to use the technique, which they named after the gambling mecca in Monaco. Yvonne was keen to extend its scientific approach to financial models, so back in Hong Kong, she joined the investment bank, Goldman Sachs.

There is an interesting parallel here with Caius' Director of Development for Principal Gifts, Dr Anne Lyon (2001), who also applied techniques, skills and the formulaic approach she used as a researcher in Chemistry to create a more precise, scientific model for fundraising, to the great benefit of the College.

In 2006, Yvonne spent "a very intensive year learning about financial markets" but then moved back to her family's highly successful real estate business. She realised very quickly that she wanted to do something more with her life: "I felt my family was exceptionally lucky to have such successful businesses and I wanted to give something back."

Her first philanthropic project was building 500 mini-clinics in the Chinese province of Hebei, back in 2005. The small-scale clinics represented a cost-effective way of alleviating the needs of as many people as possible. Over the years, Yvonne developed her political career, and in 2013 she was appointed a member of the Beijing Municipal

Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

The next major call to arms was the catastrophic earthquake in Sichuan province in May 2008. Over 87,000 lives were lost and almost 5 million made homeless – but bare statistics never convey the horror of such an event as clearly as a personal involvement: a number of Zoe's friends from school were visiting Sichuan at the time, on a school trip. Fortunately, they were all unharmed but Yvonne said: "I felt so grateful that Zoe was safe in Hong Kong!" Knowing that many others were less fortunate, she helped to organise part of the massive humanitarian relief operations, both at Sichuan and when

collaboration with the US-based, global environmental organisation, Conservation International, of which Yvonne is on the Board of Directors. The extent and breadth of her philanthropic commitments led to the establishment of the Yvonne L K Lui Foundation in 2013.

The question remains: why Caius? As a committed supporter of environmental causes, Yvonne was invited to attend a United for Wildlife dinner hosted by Prince William in London, prior to his first visit to China. Samir Thapa (1995), the son of Kalyan Thapa (1964), then invited her to visit Caius. For once in an extremely busy life, she had a couple of days to spare. She later explained:

## The Writing



Dan White

another terrible earthquake occurred at Qing Hai in 2010.

Young Zoe's interests have guided the direction of Yvonne's philanthropic work more than once. Yvonne, Zoe and her brother Christopher (born 2010) all started learning ballet from a very early age. Yvonne is Vice-President of the Beijing International Ballet and Choreography Competition and has sponsored the ballet festival for four years with a number of scholarships and prizes.

Marine conservation is another enthusiasm shared by mother and daughter, resulting in an ambitious project to create protection zones around the nations of South East Asia for the Chinese White Dolphin, whose habitat is threatened by water pollution and overfishing of their food supply. Both this and a Green Sea Turtle tracking program were organised in close

'I was very impressed by the College's history, its longstanding commitment to research and its forward-thinking outlook.'

She had never been to Cambridge before this but remembered being captivated by a talk given in 2006 by Professor Stephen Hawking (1965) at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. She was therefore delighted to meet Stephen in person and to sit opposite him at High Table at the dinner to celebrate the first fifty years of his Fellowship in May 2015.

On learning from Anne Lyon of the College's need for support, Yvonne did not hesitate to make a most generous gift. In her view, 'Gonville and Caius has not only a long, rich and interesting past, but a very bright future ahead.' She looks forward to developing a closer association with the College over the years to come.

**A**nother new name on the Benefactors' Wall also hails from the Far East, and he is also establishing a growing connection with the College.

**Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr Jeffrey Cheah AO** from Malaysia has much in common with our second founder, Dr John Caius. Already, Jeffrey has achieved the rare distinction of creating his own town, Bandar Sunway, complete with two large hotels, a major hospital, two universities, a vast shopping mall, a theme park and housing for about 200,000 residents and students.

Jeffrey was installed as a Gonville Fellow Benefactor in the College Chapel in

Born in Pusing in the State of Perak, he graduated in Business Studies from what is now Victoria University in Melbourne. Back in Malaysia, he worked for a short while as an accountant before branching out alone. He found a disused tin mine on an 860-acre site in Petaling Jaya, converted it into a residential and commercial complex and began to realise his vision.

Jeffrey believes in aiming high and is a great admirer of John Harvard. His ambition for Sunway University is for it ultimately to become 'the Harvard of the East'. Accordingly, through the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation, he has endowed the Jeffrey Cheah Chair in South East Asian Studies at the

vital role in Sunway's educational projects. His association with our Master, Sir Alan Fersht (1962), goes back to doing their PhDs in Chemistry at the same time at Lensfield Road. Jarlath was founding Vice-Chancellor of Victoria University, Melbourne, and retired from that post in 2003, to become a Visiting Fellow at Wolfson College, Cambridge, and concurrently a President's Guest at St John's. He then accepted an appointment as Director and later Vice-Chancellor of Sunway University College, as it then was, and guided it through the rigorous process which culminated in its establishment as a full university in January 2011.

Jeffrey Cheah's original aim for Sunway College was to provide much-needed tertiary education places for students in Malaysia, where such places were then in short supply. Originally, Sunway thrived by providing foundation courses to enable students to gain admission to

overseas universities. Later, a number of innovative programmes were instituted with US, UK and Australian universities, whereby students would complete part of their degrees in Malaysia and part overseas. An alliance with Monash University resulted in the establishment of Malaysia's first foreign university branch campus in 1998. A wide range of courses is taught at the Monash Malaysia campus, including medicine, which is delivered at the Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine.

Today, the Sunway and Monash campuses have about 14,000 students. Sunway University offers degrees in Arts, Business, Science & Technology and Hospitality, Tourism & Culinary Management, with a major Centre in South East Asian Studies. There is still an international element, as Sunway's degrees are validated by the University of Lancaster. Sunway University's latest initiative is a School of Music, to be set up in association with Trinity College, Dublin and the Royal Irish Academy of Music.

The initial agreement between Caius and Sunway provides funding for two Professorial Fellowships at the College. The inaugural Professorial Fellows are Professor Kay-Tee Khaw (1991), our world-leading Professor of Gerontology, and Professor John Todd FRS (1980), who is researching Type 1 diabetes, looking for possible genetic causes and treatments. Kay-Tee and John will travel to Malaysia to give annual lectures at Sunway University.

Dr Caius himself, who brought the new science of Anatomy from Italy to Britain, would thoroughly approve of this international sharing of ideas.

# on the Wall...

by Mick Le Moignan (2004)



Yao Liang

November 2014. He was sorry to miss the "Fifty Years a Fellow" celebrations for Stephen Hawking, but he had a pressing prior engagement: the following day the Prime Minister of Malaysia was due to open the new Bus Rapid Transport system, linking the town of Sunway to Kuala Lumpur's Light Rail Transport network – marking the successful completion of a US\$200 million partnership between the Sunway Group and the Malaysian Government.

Jeffrey is the Founder and Chairman of the Sunway Group, an international conglomerate operating mainly in construction and real estate. He feels he has been very fortunate and is passionate about 'giving back to society', especially by raising standards of education. His motto is: 'I aspire to inspire before I expire!'

Harvard of the West, in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The connection with Caius came about as a result of the hugely successful Royal Charity Dinner organised by Caesar Loong (1983) in Kuala Lumpur in April 2012, to raise funding for a College Lectureship in the name of Tun Suffian (1936). Dr Cheng Teik Goh (1973), a member of the Governing Board of Sunway University, called Caesar after that event to say that Sunway might be interested in forming an association with Caius. He put Caesar in touch with Jeffrey Cheah's representative, Professor Jarlath Ronayne, who then worked with Dr Anne Lyon to develop a strategic plan to the benefit of both institutions.

For the last ten years or so, Jarlath, a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin and St John's College, Cambridge, has played a





# JEFFREY CHEAH DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

Jeffrey Cheah Distinguished Speakers Series (JCDSS) surpasses its 10 year mark and continues to give the community and the public an opportunity to listen to outstanding experts on a variety of issues. Serving as 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.



## IS AGEING MODIFIABLE?

PROFESSOR KHAW KAY-TEE  
JEFFREY CHEAH PROFESSORIAL FELLOW  
GONVILLE & CAIUS COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

The ageing of the population is unprecedented in human history and is still continuing. Average life expectancy has doubled in just a century. These changes are so rapid especially in Asia and it also hits our home, Malaysia.

Professor Khaw presented her findings on the potentially modifiable lifestyle and physiological factors which predict good health in later life using examples from the European Prospective Investigation into Cancer & Nutrition. She shared some tips on maintaining a healthy lifestyle: a daily glass of wine, good amount of exercise including healthy walking, avoid smoking and enjoy a controllable amount of stress.

Khaw Kay-tee is a Professor of Clinical Gerontology, University of Cambridge UK and her expertise is in the maintenance of health in later life. She was the first woman to be appointed to chair in clinical medicine in the University of Cambridge in 1989 and was awarded CBE (Commander of the British Empire) in 2003. In 2014 she was designated as Jeffrey Cheah Professorial Fellow in Gonville and Caius College.

## HUMAN RIGHTS AND RELIGION

JOHN BOWERS QC  
PRINCIPAL OF BRASENOSE COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

During his lecture in December 2015, John Bowers addressed the question of whether religion and human rights can coexist. Human rights, Bowers emphasised, are legal rights which are universal, equality-based and inalienable. The paradox of human rights is that it is often about balancing different interests in a complex society.

*"Religion is important to many individuals and is difficult for the law to intervene due to reasons such as the importance of religious belief for believers, the scope of religious belief, religious authority and the faith of the believers."*

Bowers is a leading human rights and employment lawyer. Formerly a member of the Standards Board for England and the Home Office Task Force on Human Rights, he is now an approved counsel for the Equality and Human Rights Commission. A declaration was signed by Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah with Brasenose College, University of Oxford, for academic and cultural project collaborations between the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation and Oxford. Bower's lecture was one of the outcomes of the declaration in addition to the upcoming 5th Symposium which will be held at the University of Oxford in partnership with Sunway University in April 2016.



# ASIA LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2016

*The Sunway Education Group successfully hosted the Asia Leadership Conference for the third year and recently partnered with the Harvard University Asia Centre to bring the Centre for Asia Leadership to Sunway*



## ASIA LEADERSHIP TREK

The Harvard Asia Leadership Trek 2016 saw 30 graduate student delegates (also known as trekkers) embark on a much-anticipated 27-day journey through five Asian countries: China, Singapore, Malaysia, Cambodia and Bangladesh.

The students represented five prestigious schools: Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard Business School, Harvard Graduate School of Education, MIT Sloan School of Management and Tufts University The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

## ASIA LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

During their stopover in Kuala Lumpur, the trekkers facilitated the one-day Asia Leadership Conference 2016 themed "Thriving Asia: When is Asia Set to Become the World's Powerhouse?" which was hosted by the Sunway Education Group.

More than 800 participants comprising young leaders between the ages of 16 and 23 were present at the conference. This was an extraordinary opportunity for the young participants to learn from the Harvard-trained workshop facilitators and local esteemed leaders.

The event kicked off with Samuel Kim, President of the Centre for Asia Leadership, who accentuated the purpose of the trekkers' participation:

"We are really in need of great leaders who are capable and ethical, add a lot of value and will see the world a better and exciting place for all of us. This is more so in Asia given how important this region is becoming in the global marketplace and politics today."

He shared that the Asia Leadership Trek (ALT) started out with the aim to connect talents and to channel the world's best practices to Asia with a common desire to make the world a better place.

Dr Elizabeth Lee, Senior Executive Director of the Sunway Education Group and Sunway University welcomed the conference participants and advised them to not brood on the past in the new year but to embrace the present and look forward to a hopeful tomorrow.





Tan Sri Dr. Jeffrey Cheah with Samuel Kim, President of Centre for Asia Leadership



Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz with Tan Sri Dato' (Dr) Ramon V. Navaratnam and Samuel Kim



Samuel Kim, Teo Ee Sing, Dr Elizabeth Lee, Tan Sri Dato' (Dr) Ramon V. Navaratnam, Puan Sri Datin Seri (Dr) Susan Cheah, Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz, Dr Lee Weng Keng, Professor Graeme Wilkinson & Professor Tan Sri Dr Ghauth Jasmon

Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz, Malaysia's longest serving Minister of International Trade and Industry, delivered the keynote address which was followed by a TED Talk and a forum discussion in the morning session.



Leadership is in you, it's the qualities that you have. Leadership is in every team that you belong to. If you rise above the pack, you are better than the rest, you are a leader.



Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz

She informed the delegates that they can become better than the rest by having more confidence, possess a sense of responsibility and most importantly they need to be a team player. She said the conference is to help further mould the leader in them.

In the afternoon, Yang Amat Mulia Tunku Ali Redhaudin ibni Tuanku Muhriz was the special guest for the 'Dialogue on Leadership in Asia – Insights and Inspirations' session. The conference included various workshops facilitated by the ALT Trekkers and a session on career mentoring and professional development.

#### PLAYING HOST

The hosting of the Asia Leadership Trek for the third year is the result of a strengthened partnership between Harvard University and Sunway.



Full house at the conference

Sunway University recently partnered with the Harvard University Asia Centre to (CAL) bring the Centre for Asia Leadership to Sunway. With CAL based here, the Sunway Education Group hopes to see a greater transfer of knowledge with the inflow of graduates from Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard Business School, Harvard Graduate School of Education, MIT and Stanford University, who will bring with them cutting-edge knowledge and best world practices.

# THANKSGIVING GRADUATION

**T**hanksgiving Day is beyond football, turkey and family reunions here at Sunway University's Centre for American Education (CAE). This important federal holiday in the US saw the graduation for the American Degree Transfer Program (ADTP) students.

On Friday, 27th November 2015, CAE hosted 100 guests including representatives from the US Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, academic staff, students and their proud parents for the Thanksgiving and Awards Ceremony.

From this cohort, 17 students were recognised for having completed the first half of their degrees at Sunway and accepted offers to transfer to various universities in the United States of America, including Western Michigan, Purdue, Arizona State and Iowa State University.



The highlight of the event celebrated outstanding ADTP students from the Dean's List, where 9 were awarded Summa Cum Laude, 11 Magna Cum Laude and 23 Cum Laude. Besides academic excellence, the ceremony paid tribute to CAE's student committee members and sports achievers who excelled at the national and international level in fields like bowling, swimming and ice-skating.

The event was indeed a success and a memorable one for all who took part. With mixed feelings, Reena, on behalf of the ADTP students thanked Sunway University for their enjoyable learning experiences.



## FUEL THE DREAM

CAE celebrated the Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Day with its ADTP staff members and students via a panel discussion on "Exploring Civil and Minority Rights".

MLK is known for his campaigns to end racial segregation on public transport and racial inequality in the US. It is a contagious dream where many of us would like to be judged based on the content of our character than our skin colour.

*"This year, we are celebrating the 30th anniversary of the US federal holiday in honour of Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. Had he not been assassinated and had his health been good, he would be 87 today,"* said Edgard Kagan, Charge d'affaires, US Embassy in Malaysia.

Kagan also added that Dr King had changed the landscape of the US civil rights remarkably in a historically short period of time and that every American is proud of learning his famous 'I have

a dream' speech. His legacy continues to inspire people all over the world today.

Visiting US Fulbright Professor Dr. Brian Wilson, Paul Linus Andrews of Sunway Business School, and Adrian Pereira of the Malaysian NGO North South Institute contributed to the panel discussion. Sunway University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Graeme Wilkinson moderated the group discussion.

*"It really opens up my mind to issues around the world and to things that are happening in the US,"* said Kai Wen Chew, 20, during his first week of the new ADTP semester.

Incidentally, Sunway University has been strongly advocating racial equality and pledged for #SayNoWaytoRacism. Dr Elizabeth Lee, Senior Executive Director of Sunway Education Group and Sunway University lauded the effort of CAE in raising the awareness of equality with the MLK Day celebration.

# LANCASTER UNIVERSITY VISITING SCHOLARS PROGRAMME

*The inaugural visiting scholar, Professor Peter Walker arrived in January 2016*



**P**rofessor Peter Walker is a Reader in Visual Cognition from the Department of Psychology at Lancaster University.

The purpose of the Visiting Scholars programme is to attract senior and productive scholars from Lancaster University to visit Sunway University.

Professor Walker will be writing up his own research, undertaking a joint project with Professor Marsh, and training one of Sunway's recent graduates in the techniques of experimental psychology.

*(See page 23 on Caroline Regina)*

The joint research is about the impact of culture, especially language, on multi-sensory cognition. The multi-cultural context of Malaysia is seen as ideal for this.

This project builds on much of his previous published research, but especially on the work reported in a forthcoming article ("Cross-sensory correspondences and symbolism in spoken and written language", *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*, in press).

This work is concerned with symbolism in language, and promotes the idea that a core set of fundamental cross-sensory associations can support a variety of forms of symbolism, additional to sound symbolism.

Overall the visiting scholars programme has gotten off to a very successful start. The programme is supported by funding from both Lancaster and Sunway Universities, with applicants going through a rigorous screening process involving senior staff of both Lancaster and Sunway.

The programme has obvious benefits to the research culture at Sunway University and it is expected that Professor Walker will be the first of many senior researchers from Lancaster to come and work at Sunway under this programme.

It is hoped that this successful beginning paves the way for Sunway University to reciprocate by sending scholars to Lancaster University for collaborative research, further cementing the partnership between the two institutions.

Lancaster  
University





# SHOEBOX CHRISTMAS

*A small shoebox can have a big impact*



The elves from SSV at the Shoebox workshop



SSV and children with their Christmas Shoeboxes in the long house

The idea of Shoebox Christmas is simple. It began two decades ago, when charities started collecting donations from around the world in the form of gift-filled shoeboxes. These are then distributed by volunteers to needy children in war-torn and famine-stricken countries. Since then, over 124 millions shoeboxes have been delivered.

Admiring this idea, Sunway Student Volunteers (SSV) decided to collaborate with Shoebox Christmas to reach out to the less privileged children from remote villages. Their aim is to draw a smile on the faces of the children and give them hope.

The work began three months before Christmas. Several gift donations and fundraising campaigns were organised in Sunway University and Sunway Pyramid. They received support from all walks of life and even donations from UK and Australia. As a result, SSV successfully collected 528 gifts-filled shoeboxes which far exceeded their target.

Following the shoebox journey, SSV representatives, Joelin, Pui Ling, Kai Sin, Vivien, Agalyah, and Hafeeza made their way to Miri the day after Christmas and distributed over 200



The Sunway Student Volunteers with the 528 gift-filled shoeboxes



The vehicle that was stuck in the mud on the way to Rh Empaga, Miri



Collecting shoebox gifts at Mega Hotel, Miri on 26 Dec 2015

shoeboxes to children in Rh Empaga, Rh Man, Meno and Rh Nipa.

However, it wasn't a smooth sailing excursion but rather an adventure for the volunteers. On their way to Rh Empaga, their vehicle was trapped in mud.

"We had to carry our belongings and the shoeboxes to the village by foot. But this did not demotivate us to spread the spirit of Christmas. We even had the opportunity to "ngajat" with the locals!" recalled the volunteers.

The next day, they distributed more shoeboxes at Rh Man and Penan village in Meno. There were games organised for the children where only the winning team was awarded the prizes. However, they shared their prizes fairly among themselves and returned the extra prizes back to the volunteers. These children definitely won the hearts of the volunteers.

On the last day, the remaining shoeboxes were distributed at Rh Nipa. They then took the opportunity to visit the longest longhouse in the area which had 75 doors! The students also had the privilege to explore the Lambir Hills National Park to reconnect with nature.

"This opportunity to experience their daily life made me realise how blessed we are in terms of living. I was mesmerised by their unity to live together under the same roof with only basic needs. While we, living in the city where everything is accessible to us, have never failed to complain about the petty issues in our daily life. This trip has made me more humble."

- Hafeeza, echoing the thoughts of Pui Ling, Kai Sin and Agalyah



Designed by Freepik



Nicole Lim (Red) winner of a Gold medal in Sukipt Taekwondo



Caroline Chan won 6 golds & 1 silver for Sunway in swimming, breaking two games records



Silver medalists: Table Tennis pairing Lim Jaja and Wendy Lau



Taekwondo medal holders: Tee Zi Yen, Nicole Lim & Kogulavent Kogulaveni



Caroline in action during the Women's 200m Backstroke event

# GO TEAM SUNWAY!

*Sunway has emerged as the top ranked IPTS for the Malaysian Institutes of Higher Education Games (SUKIPT)*



Chan Jie awarded 'Sportsman of SUKIPT 2016'

In 2014 Sunway recorded a fantastic 5th place finish. In 2016, the team went one better, finishing in 4th place overall and ranking as the highest non-public University.

Team Sunway won an outstanding 49 medals in total, smashing their 2014 tally of 22 medals. Two years ago, we won 11 Gold, 7 Silver and 4 Bronze medals. This year, we improved in every category winning 17 Gold, 17 Silver and 15 Bronze medals.

Medals were won across 9 sports in total (Bowling, Swimming, Fencing, Athletics, Judo, Table Tennis, Beach Volleyball, Tennis & Taekwondo), with Golds won in Taekwondo, Tennis, Swimming and Bowling events.

To cap off the amazing results, ACCA student and swimmer Chan Jie was awarded the overall 'Sportsman of SUKIPT 2016' prize after winning 4 Individual Gold medals and 3 Relay Bronze medals. Chan Jie also broke 3 games records in the 50m Butterfly, 50m Freestyle & 100m Freestyle events.

SUKIPT is Malaysia's largest University sports competition and the 2016 edition had 102 institutions and over 6,000 athletes taking part. Contingents came from public universities, private universities, polytechnics, community colleges and 8 overseas universities. The event ran from 25th January to 5th February at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Johor, and had widespread media coverage.



# ALUMNI SWEETHEARTS



*Meet the alumni lovebirds, Patrick Cheok & Elaine Cheong who met at Sunway College before transferring to Western Michigan University. Blaze took the opportunity to find out more about the genesis of their romance, life after university and their obsession for Treasure Hunts.*

## HOW DID IT ALL BEGIN?

**Elaine:** We both stayed in the hostel and a mutual friend introduced me to a group of seniors (Patrick and his friends). We hung out, studied together, played badminton, had meals and did many things in a group. Patrick was (and still is) very old fashioned but this trait made him very endearing. He took very good care of me and made arrangements for me to ease my transfer to WMU.

He used to work in Penang and I was in KL after my graduation. We traveled between KL and Penang frequently until the day we got married. I still remember the day he asked my father for my hand in marriage. I moved up to Penang after our wedding. Five years later, we were blessed with our son and three years later, our daughter.

## WHAT DO YOU DO NOW?

**Patrick:** I work in a multi national company called Cree. Cree is in the general lighting business and produces LED wafers, LED components as well as LED lighting luminaires. The luminaires covers all fixtures such as street lights, stadium lighting, down lights, and even bulbs. What I do is to provide lighting solutions to customers in the Asia Pacific region.

**Elaine:** After graduating from WMU, I returned to Malaysia to work. The first 9 years I was in the banking sector. I then made a move to the insurance industry, specifically in Employee Benefits. Six years on and I'm still in the insurance industry but I'm currently an insurance broker with Marsh Insurance Brokers. My key role is to service companies in my portfolio by providing them with solutions, recommendations and consultation on employee benefits insurance.

## YOU GUYS ARE OBSESSED WITH TREASURE HUNTING. HOW DID IT ALL START?

**Patrick:** An old classmate of mine asked if we were interested to join. As we both loved outdoor activities, we gave it a go. At that time we knew nothing about treasure hunts. When we saw the questions, we totally could not make out what was required as



the answer. We just *tembak* some answers while getting to know what treasure hunting is all about. We were lucky to meet other experienced hunters who encouraged us to improve our "hunting skills". We continued to participate in more hunts and paid what we call "tuition fees" to further improve.

## YOU ALSO WON FIRST PRIZE FOR SUNWAY'S BACK TO SCHOOL-WALK A HUNT!

We were on top of the world when we found out that we won first prize. Expected? Not the least! It has been some time since we last set foot into Sunway College (err, now Sunway University). The last time was during the 1st Treasure Hunt organised by the Alumni team in 2006!

With the new building and so many additions to the campus, we were kind of lost and it felt like 1st time visiting Sunway again. Naturally we felt that the other teams (alumni who were much younger than us) would have the upper hand as they would know the campus better therefore could cover the grounds faster. There were also some games which leveled the playing field. Some teams who may not be so good in solving questions could gain valuable points if they were able to do well at the field. The mixture of questions/games/watching video/looking for murals made it fun and challenging. We were really happy to have won.

## ANY MESSAGE TO YOUR JUNIORS?

We've read about all the wonderful activities organised by Sunway and would certainly encourage our junior and senior alumni to participate. It would be fantastic to stay in touch with our alma mater and we certainly look forward to many more activities to come!

# ANNE BOTTELBERGE



While in Sunway University, I studied BSc (Hons) International Tourism Management and was editor of 'ECHO', Sunway's student newsletter. After completing my undergraduate degree at Sunway University, I opted to go to Belgium to do my masters degree. I did a Master in Global Management at Antwerp Management School. It was a big adjustment to switch from student life in Malaysia to student life in Belgium, but it was still wonderful. Shortly after completing my masters degree, I moved back to Kenya and began my job hunt. Earlier this year I began working at a Kenyan Law firm called Gikera & Vadgama Advocates. Although I had no legal background, I got hired as a Public Relations Associate and about 3 months later, got promoted to Head of PR and Marketing. Luckily for me, all my extra-curricular activities (newsletter editor, sports team, student council and being on the sports committee) during my high school years, bachelor's and master's degrees prepared me for my current job.

# FATHIMA

The best 3 years of my life were my undergraduate years. I landed my first job as soon as I got back home in Sri Lanka and joined a U.S based multinational BPO as a recruitment executive and later was promoted as the Head of Management Recruitment. I worked there for 3 years during which I was working part time as a Psychology lecturer teaching Organizational Psychology at a private institute in Sri Lanka. My next endeavor is to do my Masters in Educational Management and am hoping to complete it in Australia.

Sunway has played a key role in shaping the person I am today, whether it is in giving me the opportunities to flourish, the confidence and encouragement to achieve more and in following my passion both in academics and extracurricular activities.

I am thankful to god and my parents that I got to study in Sunway, away from home learning to become independent, far from all the sympathy and assistance of loved ones. The exposure is indescribable. As an international student, the student life in Sunway is safe, secure, and entertaining. I would be more than happy to become a student representative for students from Saudi and Sri Lanka hoping to study in Sunway.

Last August, I visited Malaysia with my baby and husband. One of the main reasons to tour Malaysia was to share the experience of living in Sunway with my husband. I relived the days of walking on the Canopy Walk, only this time pushing my baby's stroller with my husband by my side instead of my books and laptop. I even brought them to my favorite lunch spot, the café and ate Yong Tau Fu. I was very glad for the opportunity to visit!



# CAROLINE REGINA

My journey with Sunway University began with my Foundation Year and continued for the next three years as I pursued my degree in Psychology. Throughout the years Sunway University has changed dramatically, whilst I too, would like to think that I have changed and matured along with it. The Sunway College I entered, was a very different Sunway from the one I left upon graduation. Likewise, the Caroline who entered Sunway was a very different Caroline from the one who graduated. My alma mater opens an ocean of opportunities to all in academics, as well as co-curricular activities that I thoroughly enjoyed participating in during my time here. Upon graduation, I gave back to my alma mater by conducting personal development classes for foundation and first year students through an initiative pioneered by Leaderonomics titled LEAD 25. For many that would be the end of the story, however, my strong affiliation with the team at Sunway has far from ended. Remarkably, I secured my first job here too ensuring my unbelievable connection with Sunway continues. Currently, I am working as a Research Assistant for Prof. Peter Walker ([See page 17 for more](#)), who is a visiting professor from Lancaster University, and it has been a blast. Working with Peter has not only broadened my understanding of cognitive psychology but has also allowed me to pursue my interests in experimental research.

PS..... & if you would like to participate in our research and gain a better understanding of how scientific research is carried out, please do drop me an email at [carolinep@sunway.edu.my](mailto:carolinep@sunway.edu.my). 😊



# KEILLY LIM

I believe that there is no limit to how much you can learn. Knowledge is something no one can take away from you. Being 23 years old and with only a Diploma, I had to prove myself to many that I could do my job and do it well. It is not easy and there were times when I broke down; but what is life without challenges?

Sunway University gave me the foundation for this. Especially, time management. Juggling between the clashing deadlines for my classes and being Vice President in Sunway University Student Council required discipline and effective time management.

I also believe that being a jack of all trades is better than none. This is especially important in my field of work as a Stage Manager as I need to know all aspects in putting up a show. If I do not know the basics of each department, I will not be able to relate to the problems they are facing. Knowing the basics also helped me not to be easily persuaded. This allows me to foresee future problems. Managing problems is key to avoid unnecessary disagreements.

By being flexible, I am able to immerse myself into many different fields which includes; Finance, Stage Management, Set Dressing, Singing, Acting, Dancing, Prop Making, Front of House, etc.

Self discipline and a strong support system is very important to be bold and to conquer your fears. Always be thankful and appreciative for the people around you, for they have made you who you are. I can go on and on about how Sunway University has moulded me to be who I am today, but nothing beats experiencing it for yourself.

BE BOLD. BE THANKFUL. GIVE BACK

# SUNWAY UNIVERSITY



## 10 outstanding reasons to study at Sunway University

World-class standards as certified by achieving Five Stars in 2015/2016 QS Stars University Ratings for:

- Teaching
- Employability
- Facilities



Graded 5 stars "Excellent" three times in a row in the national quality assessment exercise "SETARA".



A broad range of job focused diplomas and degrees in business, sciences and the arts.



Dual Award Programmes offered with Lancaster University, UK\* - a top 10 UK university in the top 1% of universities worldwide.



Outstanding campus infrastructure within the exciting Sunway Resort City.



A non-profit university - we invest in the quality of our education. We don't pass income to shareholders.



The only University in Malaysia which enjoys collaborations with:



Ranked No. 1 in Asia in the 2015 i-graduate international student survey.



- Learning
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Full honours degrees for just 3 years of study.



Hospitality programmes professionally certified by the world famous "Le Cordon Bleu".



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