

SUNWAY YUAN

Issue 07 | Jan-Feb 2024

The Sunway Campus Magazine



THROWBACK
TO 2023

NEW YEAR,
NEW YOU

THE DRAGON
HUNT

CLUBS &
SOCIETIES

CAMPUS WITH A
CONSCIENCE

#1 PRIVATE
UNIVERSITY IN
ASEAN





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Hello Sunwayians

Sunwayians, can you believe it is already the New Year? Welcome back to the 7th issue of the Sunway campus magazine.

We are thrilled to embark on this new year alongside our cherished Sunwayians. Let us take a moment to commend ourselves for the incredible achievements of the past year, and may the upcoming year bring an abundance of love, luck, and laughter to everyone.

With the beginning of the new year, embrace new challenges and explore undiscovered facets of yourself. Seize this golden opportunity to venture into new experiences, as our cover story highlights a few of the various clubs and societies offered within the college and university. As the #MostHappeningCampus, we have over 90 student leadership bodies, sports, clubs and societies for you to check out.

It is our Sunwayians who are the driving force behind our ability to attain various remarkable and esteemed achievements. Sunway University has been ranked as the #1 Private University in ASEAN for 2024 and secured the top spot in Graduate Employability Rankings in Malaysia for 2024. Your hard work is truly appreciated and makes a significant difference.

Weaving together the threads of renewal, commitment, and the beauty of fresh beginnings, this issue also features the New Year resolutions of our beloved students, a sustainability spotlight on e-Waste, and an inspiring New Year's poem.

Let us warmly embrace the latest addition to our magazine — Sunway International School. Welcome aboard, we are delighted to have you as part of our community to paint a more vibrant picture of Sunway.

As a #CampusWithAConscience, we consistently value hearing the thoughts of various communities as we strive for compassion. With the arrival of the new year, we aim to amplify your voices, and what better platform for it than through the Sunwayian magazine.

For some, New Year's may represent a fresh start, while for others, it can be the comforting continuation of the same cycle. In your wondrous garden, whether you are embarking on a fresh start by sowing a new seed, or persistently caring for and tending to your garden as usual, we will always be rooting for you.

So grab your reusable water bottles, and toast to a year of rejuvenation, where every refill is a step towards a cleaner, greener future. Cheers to a new chapter, blank pages, and endless possibilities.



CAMPUS UPDATES

THROWBACK TO 2023

Local Action for Global Goals 2023



This event showcased Sunway's commitment to inclusivity. Over 50 charities, NGOs, and global brands participated, along with Malaysia's First Sustainable Ambulance. The event also featured pre-loved items, a Book Sharing booth, and a Wishing Wall, fulfilling wishes for 280 children from local orphanages and refugee homes, adding a unique positive dimension to the week's activities.

Trident Games 2023



Trident Games is a biennial sports carnival launched by Sunway Education Group (SEG) Prof. Dato' Dr Elizabeth Lee on March 15, 2023. Last year, the event, which promotes unity among Bandar Sunway communities, welcomed participation from Sunway University, Monash University, Taylor's University, Asia Pacific University, and International Medical University, boasting a total of 439 athletes (390 students and 49 staff) in 14 sporting events.

Jeffrey Cheah Foundation (JCF) Scholarships and Awards Ceremony



RM52 million in scholarships were disbursed to nearly 5,000 deserving students, bringing the total amount of scholarships and grants awarded to RM670 million to date. Royal guest of honour Permaisuri Johor Raja Zarith Sofiah Almarhum Sultan Idris Shah and JCF founder and trustee Tan Sri Dato' Seri Sir Jeffrey Cheah KBE AO presented the scholarships to the recipients at Sunway College.

Class of 2023 Graduation



We applaud our wonderful Class of 2023 graduates for wrapping up a chapter of their lives with us. Your dedication and effort have led you to this moment, and we have no doubt that our Sunway Superstars will continue to achieve greatness in the next phase of their lives. From school to college; college to university, we wish you all the best for the future.

Sunway University Partners with Euroasia Association and Trinity College London



Sunway University has signed Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with Euroasia Association of Performing Arts and Trinity College London. Euroasia aims to develop the classical music scene in Malaysia, enabling talented young musicians to participate in jointly hosted competitions, while Trinity College London is a leading provider of external music examinations. The collaboration means Sunway students will gain a more comprehensive study of music pedagogy.

Community in Action (CIA)

Sunway University announced the launch of its "Community In Action" campaign to promote crime prevention and awareness among students and the broader community. The campaign included various crime prevention and awareness sessions, as well as exhibitions in partnership with the Malaysia Crime Prevention Foundation (MCPF), Royal Malaysia Police (PDRM), National Anti-Drugs Agency (AADK), and other agencies.



Collaborating with Goa Institute of Management

Sunway University and the Goa Institute of Management (GIM), India, signed an MoU to cement the relationship between the institutions further. This MoU was signed with a specific plan to have bespoke immersion programmes at Sunway University and for any future opportunities to collaborate across a range of initiatives.



FCRI Urban Living Lab: Redefining Urban Limits Exhibition



Highlighting arts-related research on urban living spaces, water and plastic, the exhibition served as a forum for stakeholders, including policymakers, practitioners, academics, and the public, to exchange ideas, insights, and best practices. The primary goal was to facilitate the creation of cities that are sustainable, resilient, and inclusive, promoting a collaborative approach to urban development.

SIS Elementary Book Week

Promoting an early love for reading benefits children by enhancing vocabulary, cognitive development, and creativity. Sunway International Schools (SIS) organised the Elementary Book Week to ignite students' interest in reading and encourage lifelong learning, featuring a variety of engaging activities like bonfire night, Teddy Bear picnic, readathon, student costume parade, book scavenger hunt, and more.



The Art Beats Festival 2023



This innovative celebration of art, film, and culture received support from Lancaster University's Global Advancement Fund (GAF), uniting global academics and artists for diverse creative ventures. This festival also solidified 15 years of strong collaboration between Sunway University and Lancaster University, fostering ties between the Lancaster Institute for Contemporary Arts (LICA) and Sunway's School of Arts (SOA).



SIS Career Week 2023

SIS Career Week provided enlightening experiences for students, featuring distinguished panellists sharing diverse careers and insights with middle and high school students. Additionally, elementary students embarked on an educational adventure with a visit to Kidzania, where they explored various occupations in a fun and interactive setting.

Sunway's Got Talent Season 5

Sunway's Got Talent (SGT), an enchanting annual showcase that celebrates and elevates the extraordinary abilities of our students, returned with a resounding comeback for its 5th season this year. From the unwavering dedication of the organising committee to the heartfelt passion of every participant, the enchanting magic of SGT persists and thrives.



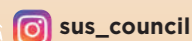
SUNWAY CAMPUS CLUBS AND SOCIETIES



Sunway University Student Council

Sunway University Student Council (SUSC) acts as a bridge between the students and management in addressing students' academic issues, enhancing student engagement, as well as improving students' overall welfare and experience studying here at Sunway University.

So if you are looking to develop and showcase your leadership skills, come join SUSC and make a difference for your student community.



Sunway College Student Council

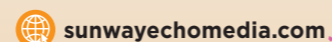
Representing the student community at Sunway College, Sunway College Student Council (SCC) is the recognised channel of communication between the students and the academic and administrative authorities. SCC also engages and initiates projects to give back to the society and make a contribution to charitable organisations.

Come and join SCC to engage with your college community on a deeper level, and work together to create a positive and inclusive environment for all.



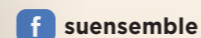
Sunway ECHO Media

Attention to all budding writers and storytellers! Are you passionate about penning down your thoughts, exploring newsworthy topics, and expressing your creativity through words? Echo Media is a creative Student Leadership Body (SLB) and Sunway University's official student newsletter which provides a platform for students to express their creativity through words and language. Do not miss this opportunity to let your voice be echoed.



Sunway University Ensemble

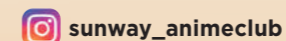
Passionate about creating harmonies and being part of a vibrant musical community? Join the Sunway University Ensemble and become part of a diverse group of talented individuals dedicated to creating memorable musical experiences. Whether you are a seasoned musician or just starting your musical journey, Sunway University Ensemble welcomes all levels and instruments. From classical compositions to modern melodies, we are all here to express our love for music together.



Sunway University Anime Club

こんにちは If you are an anime fan, cosplayer, gamer or Japanese culture lover, Sunway University Anime Club is definitely the right place for you. From movie screenings to discussions of popular anime series like Jujutsu Kaisen and hosting karaoke sessions, this club offers a space to connect, learn, and enjoy anime together.

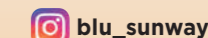
Do not miss out—come and join Sunway University Anime Club for a fantastic anime experience.



Book Lovers United

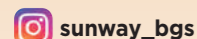
If you are passionate about the written word and would like to share your love for literature with fellow enthusiasts, definitely join Sunway University's Book Lovers United. This is an avenue for bibliophiles and bookworms to engage in thought-provoking discussions and foster a deeper appreciation for the written word.

What are you waiting for? Hurry and sign up to be part of a wonderful community dedicated to exploring the vast world of books.



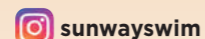
Sunway Board Games Society

If you are someone who loves the thrill of tabletop games, Sunway Board Games Society is right up your alley! From classic board games to modern strategy games and everything in between, Sunway Board Games Society offers a space for game enthusiasts to connect, learn, and have a blast together.



Sunway Swimming Club

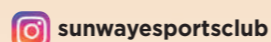
Dive into a world of aquatic adventure with our Sunway Swimming Club! It is all about embracing the joy of swimming, improving our strokes, and fostering a sense of camaraderie among the members. Come and join the club to experience the joy of swimming laps and the excitement of being part of a team that shares your love for the water.



Sunway E-Sports Club

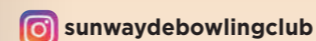
At Sunway E-Sports Club, we are all about enjoying the thrill of gaming, fostering teamwork, and honing our skills in the digital world. Whether you are a seasoned player or just starting your journey into e-sports, this is the ultimate platform to showcase your skills and passion.

Be a member of the club and enjoy an adrenaline-packed experience with a team of friends who are passionate about the digital arena.



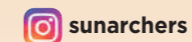
Sunway Bowling Club

Calling all bowling enthusiasts, whether you are a professional or beginner bowler, get ready to lace up your bowling shoes and embark on a bowling adventure together with Sunway Bowling Club. From thrilling games to training sessions, this is a great opportunity for you to improve your bowling skills and roll into a fantastic bowling journey with a bunch of friends together.



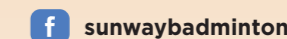
Sunway Archery Club

Sunway Archery Club is the perfect place for archers to learn, grow and enjoy the art of using bows and arrows. Experience the satisfaction of a perfectly released arrow and have an opportunity to meet like-minded individuals who share your passion together. Come join the Archery Club and build friendships that center around this captivating sport!



Sunway Badminton Club

Looking for a smashing good time on the court? Sunway Badminton Club caters to players of varying skill levels, providing opportunities for beginners to learn the fundamentals and offering challenges for more experienced players to enhance their techniques. Join the club to unleash your inner shuttlecock superstar.



This year promises an exciting journey filled with endless possibilities, discoveries, and opportunities. Whether you are returning to continue your academic journey or stepping into this institution for the first time, we would like to extend a warm and enthusiastic greeting to all of you joining our vibrant community here at Sunway campus!

From an array of clubs, societies, and organisations catering to diverse interests, cultural events, sports, and community initiatives, the #MostHappeningCampus guarantees countless ways to immerse yourself and find your niche.

Sunway University Ranks #1 Private University in ASEAN



Sunway University has been ranked the #1 Private University in ASEAN by AppliedHE Private University Ranking ASEAN 2024.

The AppliedHE Public and Private University Ranking ASEAN saw participation from numerous public and private institutions from all across the ASEAN region. This regional ranking system measures key elements which are fundamental to the performance of an education institution as well as aspects most important to students and parents when deciding on their higher education journey. These parameters include the quality of teaching and learning, employability, research and community engagement, all of which Sunway University has excelled consistently in over the years.

In addition to this accolade, Sunway University dominates the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2024 as Malaysia's number one non-government-linked private university. The university improved its league table position by one band, moving from 801-1000 last year to 601-800. Its strong performance extends to subject categories such as Business & Management (#301-400) and Physical Sciences (#601-800).

The University is also ranked by Talentbank as the number one in Graduate Employability among all universities in Malaysia for two consecutive years. Sunway University received 6 Stars Employability Rating in 25 different fields of study including Accounting, Actuarial Science, Engineering, Hospitality Management and many more.

Professor Sibrandes Poppema, President of Sunway University went on to mention, "This remarkable achievement further endorses Sunway University as the top private university across the region. It solidifies our commitment to upholding holistic education and high-quality research which support the discovery, advancement, transmission and application of knowledge that meet the needs of our society and the global community."



AVENUE OF ACHIEVEMENTS

POSKOD 47500 SUNWAY CITY



A Level students dominate in the 2023 Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards Ceremony

The 2023 Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards Ceremony witnessed a staggering total of 23 awards being presented to accomplished students from Sunway College. Sunway College stands as the most successful Cambridge provider in Malaysia, with its students receiving the highest number of awards. The GCE A-Level programme students earned well-deserved honours, including First Place in Malaysia, Top in Malaysia, High Achievement, and the remarkable Top in the World.



SIS Bernice Gan secures two medals in the 12th APAC Championships 2023

Congratulations to Sunway International School's Bernice Gan Yue Thung for her exceptional performance in the 12th Asia Pacific Artistic Swimming (APAC) Championships 2023. Securing 2nd place in the International Duet Free Routines (13-15) category and earning 4th place in the Solo Free Routine is an incredible achievement.



SIS Saif Nordin bags three gold medals in fencing

A massive congratulations to Sunway International School's Saif Nordin for his outstanding performance during the West Java International Fencing Championship 2023. He has set the bar high by securing three gold medals in three categories - Men's Under 14 Foil, Men's Under 16 Foil, and Men's Junior Foil.



Sunway University Leads THE World University Rankings and Graduate Employability

We are immensely honoured to lead the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2024 in Malaysia and securing the #1 spot in Graduate Employability for the second year in a row. Proud to be shaping the future of education in the ASEAN region.



Sunway TES students excel globally for accounting through ACCA

Our students have once again achieved global recognition in the world of accounting through the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and ACCA Foundation in Accountancy (FIA) September 2023 examination sitting. Sunway TES Centre for Accountancy Excellence (CAE) continues to stand as a beacon of excellence, significantly contributing to the growth of the accounting profession in Malaysia.



SHSM students win special recognition at the AFECA Asia MICE Youth Challenge

Sunway University's incredible students from the School of Hospitality and Service Management (SHSM) have won Special Recognition at the AFECA Asia MICE Youth Challenge. Special acknowledgement goes out to Daryl Loh for winning the Most Knowledgeable Award. Kudos to the entire team for their hard work and dedication.

New Year, New You

Sunwayians' Resolutions for a Remarkable 2024

"Our New Year's resolution is to pass the LJM exam."

Sherisse, Jasmine, Emily
(Diploma in Nursing)



"Get fitter, travel the world."

"Have better time management and stop procrastinating."

"I hope I can find a decent and good job. I want to be successful."

"I would like to travel more and complete ACCA in 2024."

Lum Tjun Mun, Vimalan Vicknesh, Muhammad Danial, Mohamed Irfan
(BSc Hons in Accounting & Finance)
(ACCA)



"I hope my exams go well. I want to be a great chef and open my restaurant that will be famous and well-known in the world."

"My goal in 2024 is to meet more new people and make friends, be happy, grow taller, and get better grades."

"In 2024, I would like to ace in every aspect of the culinary arts industry, and I wish to do better than my last semester."

Aidil Azim, Emmanuel Lim, Chan Kah Jun
(Diploma in Culinary Arts)



"To get good grades for the exams and a first class degree."

Tan Jing En, Oh Chien Yi
(BSc Hons in Biomedicine)



"To get a girlfriend in 2024."

"I would like to be a better person in the new year."

"Become healthier, fitter, do good in my studies and have a good relationship."

Raja Zareef, Mohamad Darwisy, Shailendra
(ACCA Foundation in Accountancy)



"My New Year's resolution is to be fit."

"I want to get a girlfriend..."

Darren Yap, Daniel Chin
(BSc Hons in Actuarial Studies)



"To balance my work and studies, and to spend more time with my friends."

Utrraa
(BSc Hons in Digital Film Production)



"We want to survive ACCA."

Arina, Amelia
(ACCA)



"I wish for 2024 to be a happy year with my family and the Malaysian community."

"I hope to be happy in the new year and be delighted with the Malaysian community too."

Tesfaye Fentaw, Dagnachew Nega
(Hospitality and Tourism)



An Eventful Wrap-Up at Sunway International Schools

We have officially entered a new chapter and it is great to see everyone back in full force! Time sure did fly by as we have all been occupied by another eventful year. Even our little friends over at the vibrant and ever-lively Sunway International Schools (SIS) had a memorable 2023. Let us see what these bright little ones have been up to.

Fostering Life-Long Learning Through Reading

Instilling a love of reading at an early age not only allows children to grow their vocabulary skills, but also to improve cognitive development and creativity. In line with this, the Elementary Book Week took place from 9 to 13 October 2023 to spark students' interest in reading and foster life-long learning.



Apart from activities such as a readathon and daily reading sessions, the event was also packed with exciting activities including a student costume parade, book scavenger hunt and many more.

Safe to say that the crowd favourite was the bonfire night, as our lovely students cuddled up in warm blankets, filling themselves with snacks while enjoying a fun storytelling cum sing-along session.

On top of that, students enjoyed an extraordinary lunch with their favourite snacks and soft toys at the Teddy Bear Picnic. Such activities created a fun 'outside of the classroom' environment which allowed students to fully relax and enjoy their reading time.

The one-of-a-kind educational and interactive week was then wrapped up in the most special way; a colourful parade of our students dolled up in their favourite costumes.

Young Malaysian Poets SNaPS™ Up Grand Prizes with Big Voices

Do not underestimate our young friends as time and time again, they have proved to be huge talents packaged in tiny builds. These gifted poets snapped up grand prizes at the annual Sunway National Poetry Slam™ (SNaPS™) that was back for its 9th edition in 2023.

Supported by the Ministry of Education Malaysia (MoE), SNaPS™ aims to encourage spoken word performances among youths from both government and international schools in Malaysia. Spoken word can help students develop into more grounded, self-aware, and empathetic adults



by spurring their creativity, improving their communication, and discovering their voice.

Going by the theme of "Culture", the competition kicked off in July where students from a total of 35 schools across the country, including schools from the Klang Valley area, Ipoh, Kedah, Johor and Sarawak participated.

Dr. Nicholas Lee, Chief Judge and the Head of Centre English Language Studies (CELS) at Sunway University said that poetry can be seen as the essence of good writing as it requires a critical and observant mind to form concrete images and express abstract ideas through words.

Aiden Ting Fu Yu from Sunway City International School took home the title for the **Junior Category** as the first-place winner with Tee Ning Marn from HELP International School and Tan Hui Yin from SMK Bandar Utama Damansara (3) as the second and third place winners respectively with their equally captivating performances.

In the **Senior Category**, Muhammad Haikal Hariz Bin Mohd Azhan from SMK Taman Seri Rampai scored a triumphant win while Nithilaa Devi A/P Suresh Naidu from SMK Assunta liven up the atmosphere, earning her the second place and Wong Wen Fong from Inspiros International School achieving third place with a powerful and moving piece.

Securing the first place for the **Group Category** was the dynamic team The Bare Minimum from SMK Bandar Utama Damansara (3) with a high-spirited piece. HIS Wordsmiths from HELP International School fired up their game and came in second, while ISPoetry from International School @Parkcity's invigorating performance won them the third place.

The **Spirit Award** was presented to SK Taman Tun Dr. Ismail (1) for accumulating the most votes during the grand finals. Sunway City International School on the other hand, successfully bagged the **Helios Award** as the overall champion with the highest total combined scores.



Echo Buzz:

Musings with George Yeo

At the highly anticipated book launch event, 'From Thoughts to Pages: Launch of George Yeo: Musings,' Echo had the honour of interviewing the esteemed Former Foreign Affairs Minister of Singapore, George Yeo. The atmosphere was brimming with intellectual curiosity as we delved into a discussion that transcended the pages of his newly unveiled work. Now, allow us to present the exclusive conversation that encapsulates the essence of his profound insights and reflections.

Q: You have served in various ministries – Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. What strategies did you employ to promote Singapore as a hub for innovation, technology, and education on the global stage?

A: Well, it was about leveraging our strengths while being realistic about our capabilities. We positioned ourselves strategically, recognising the changing trends in information and technology, and focused on areas where we could excel. Knowing how our interests match global advancements helps us navigate and participate effectively in these developments.

Q: What were the most significant leadership challenges you faced during your leadership and how did you address them?

A: One of the major challenges was navigating the fine line between national interest and international relations. It needed a careful touch, involving detailed diplomacy to keep trust and balance without giving up our stance on crucial matters. We worked to align our priorities with global partnerships, making decisions that matched our nation's vision while building cooperative ties with other countries. It meant skillfully navigating through multifaceted geopolitical landscapes, sticking to our stand on key issues, and forming friendly alliances for shared progress and stability.

Q: As Minister of Information, Communications & Art, you liberalised the use of local dialects in Singaporean media. How do you feel about the declining use of dialects in younger generations?

A: Finding the right balance is tricky. We value our cultural heritage but also recognise the need to adapt to the present. Our approach has



been gradual, promoting cultural preservation while acknowledging the trend towards a more standardised language. Realism is key, showing interest in dialects, and allocating resources sensibly – it's a process. Everyone has their preferences, and it's like that with languages too. English is not a must-know, but its widespread use makes it beneficial. Similarly, speaking Tamil may not be easy, but we hope future generations will inherit it naturally over time.

Q: Can you share any personal experiences or anecdotes that highlight the dynamics of the Singapore-Malaysia relationship during your leadership?

A: There were tense moments, especially regarding territorial disputes. However, dialogue and diplomacy played crucial roles. The resolution of these issues often involved intricate negotiations and mutual respect. During a critical negotiation between Singapore and Malaysia, a significant issue came up regarding a railway line. There seemed to be a disagreement concerning the terms of the contract from Singapore's perspective. Despite Singapore insisting there wasn't an issue, a prolonged standoff persisted. I emphasised the need to clarify uncertainties and suggested finding a mutually beneficial solution—a win-win approach. Generosity and fair dealing were key values, seeking a resolution that provided benefits to both parties.

Q: There was a speech you made at the Danube Institute that highlighted the thought of "Family name first" – would you say that the family name [Yeo] comes before the individual for yourself?

A: Both are part of me, and I cannot choose. You may ask, why is it the father's name and not the mother's

name – but that's tradition. If you break the tradition, you stand the risk of being ostracised. For most of us, we may not believe everything in our culture, but we respect it nonetheless.

Q: Do you have any regrets in your career that you wish you could go back and undo now?

A: Others have asked me this question, and I have not had any difficulty thinking through it. When you make a decision, it is with the best information available to you. When you look back, you have new information. I would not have deliberately done something wrong. But you make mistakes. A mistake I made once was: I met an American Secretary of State. She had travelled a long distance, and I knew that. I said "Oh, you must be very tired," and she reacted on the supposition that she looked bad. I shouldn't have said that, and I learned my lesson. I should've said, "I know you've had a long flight, it's amazing how you keep up". It's the little things you learn when you make mistakes.

Q: Today we have witnessed the launch of your new book, Musings. What do you hope to achieve from these books, and is it about your personal legacy or guiding future leaders?

A: It's a mix of everything – it's almost like having a conversation with a good friend. We talk about views, reflections, friends, incidents, mistakes that we've made, funny anecdotes; it makes for an easier read. My approach is, "This is what I think and feel, you don't have to agree, these are my views. I am not trying to force anyone, but I hope they are persuaded – but it's all right if you disagree." It's a lighter approach, it made the writing easier, but it required more embellishment. The more anecdotes, the better. Anecdotes bring the book to life, rather than a series of arguments. The pictures probably help. It's about reminiscing, history, and geography. At times it's a travelogue, sometimes it's sketching the people you've met. It's a freer format than a memoir or an autobiography.



Q: Would you have anything to say to your readers? What do you hope they take away from your book?

A: It's written at the back of the book, actually. I hope they find resonance, and connect to me too, and know that I've experienced the same things before. If there is chemistry between the writer and the reader, then there will be a relationship, an impact. Many people have read the book, and that has touched me greatly because it shows they've resonated with my writing. Sometimes they say, "I, too, have my family history", or "I have had the same problem before" – that's wonderful. That's sharing, right? As the event neared its end, a long line formed to have Mr. George Yeo sign copies of his books. He interacted with an assortment of fans, both young and old, and kept a firm and friendly smile throughout. Even though Yeo has closed the chapter on his political career, he has embarked on an exciting one as a writer, sharing his various experiences with the rest of the world, time and time again.

Written By: Ruby & Ashley
Edited By: Tarini



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS STORIES



My name is Ge Zhang (Michael), a BSc (Hons) in International Hospitality Management student from Johannesburg, South Africa. I was born in China and immigrated with my family to South Africa during my teenage years.

My interest in hospitality and service started since my high school years in South Africa. Driven by this passion, I went on to become a full-time cabin crew member for an airline company. I have learnt and acquired fundamental customer service skills over the course of my nine-year flying career. Supported by this, I wanted to further upskill myself and venture into hospitality management. With this goal in mind, I left my job to pursue my study in international hospitality management.

After much research on academic institutions in Southeast Asia, I found that Sunway University offers well-structured curriculum that aligns with my career goals and interests. The International Hospitality Management degree is recognised world-wide, and students are able to obtain degree credentials from both Sunway University and Le Cordon Bleu, giving them substantial credibility in the competitive hospitality market.

The University provides exceptional facilities and opportunities for students to apply classroom theory works through actual job placements and simulations. Furthermore, we are supported by a team of dedicated lecturers who are committed to providing a high-quality curriculum. Through internship opportunities with prestigious hotel companies, the University has opened doors for me to venture into the hospitality sector. Both in-class learning and off-campus job placements have equipped me with strong theoretical knowledge and practical skills.



Sunway University enjoys an ideal and accessible location at the heart of Sunway City – putting school residences, medical care, transportation hubs and leisure spots all within easy reach for students.

I am truly enjoying my study here in Malaysia. This is a beautiful country blessed with natural sceneries and diverse cultural backgrounds. What I love most about this country is the warmth of the people here. Malaysians are willing to go the extra mile to offer help when needed. This culture of warmth and care is something I truly cherish.

I am really excited to venture into the hospitality industry after graduation, especially hoping to secure a position within a prestigious hotel company. Whether at an operational level or in management, I aim to utilise the knowledge and experience gained through my university programme to excel in hospitality roles and advance my career.

My advice for international students is to embrace and appreciate every moment of your university journey. Whether it is a challenge or a reward, embrace it as an integral part of your journey here. Fill your calendar with diverse activities, explore the world, and connect with people. By the time you reach the end of this university chapter, you will leave with a treasure trove of unforgettable memories. And you will tell yourself: I made the right choice coming here – one that has enriched my perspective and empowered my possibilities.



My name is Yuna Yamamoto, and I am originally from Tokyo, Japan. I have been studying in Malaysia for two years, majoring in BA (Hons) in Communication, at Sunway University.

Since young, I have had this lifelong aspiration to study abroad and immerse myself in language learning. It all started during high school when my parents read some articles on Malaysian universities providing high quality English education that many Japanese universities lack. I spent a lot of time researching on this and realised that Malaysia could give me the learning opportunities and experiences that I have always desired.

What I love most about Sunway University's BA (Hons) in Communication programme, is that it focuses on the cultivation of industry-ready graduates equipped with essential corporate communication and public relations skills that are gained through practical, project-based learning and collaboration with industry experts. The implementation of graphic arts in the Programme also provides me an avenue to express my creativity through arts. Aside from that, we are able to obtain dual degrees from both Lancaster University and Sunway University, which opens doors to diverse career paths and networking opportunities.

Being an international student, I truly appreciate the dynamic and diverse cultural environment that the campus possesses which promotes unique cultural exchange that broadens my perspectives. Living true to the

#CampusWithAConscience spirit, the University prioritises the students' health and well-being, giving us a strong support system through engaging programmes like free therapy sessions and social events.

Living in Malaysia has been a very transformative experience for myself. It was challenging at first as everything was still so unfamiliar and new. However, things began to shift as I started attending classes, meeting people, and making friends. I have come across aspects of life and cultures that I would never have experienced in my own country. Moving here has been one of the most wonderful decisions I have made in my life, and I am forever grateful for the growth and understanding it has given me.

My goal is to become a motivational individual who inspires people by offering unique and creative ideas that represent and reflect a variety of cultures. I want to inspire people to embrace and appreciate diversity. My vision is to contribute to an impact on the world by fostering cultural inclusion and making it an act of connection for every individual.

I would highly recommend students to take this academic opportunity to learn more about cultural diversity. Being open-minded is always needed to understand and communicate. Studying is crucial, but you should not forget to make some time for yourself as well. It is important to take a break and enjoy your experience here.



It's blooming season

Whether for Spring, Chinese New Year or Valentine's Day, flowers play an important role in enhancing the occasion and beautifying the environment. So, why pick fresh flowers when they should be left to bloom, grow, and for people to admire in their natural state.

The Flower Prince, a business owned and run by four Sunway University alumni, provides an alternative to bringing joyous moments with flowers. The Sunway Alumni Relations team spoke with Chua Yun Zhe, Bachelor of Science (Hons) Financial Analysis alumnus and founder of The Flower Prince, to learn more about the team and business.

How has Sunway University's programme equipped you for employment?

All four of our business partners graduated from Sunway Business School and we would say that the programmes provided us with knowledge and skills that made us all-rounded graduates. Practical application would not be possible without a good foundation of theories. We are well-equipped with inventory management knowledge to perform procurement tasks, finance knowledge to plan budgets, marketing knowledge to spot market opportunities and human resources knowledge in recruiting. Without the programmes we completed, we would never be who we are today.

How did you get started in the world of sustainable flowers?

The main founder gathered the partners one day spontaneously after coming up with the idea to start a business and to dive into the flower bouquet market. Just one call lasting less than an hour on Google Meet marked the beginning of The Flower Prince. We chose to begin with soap flowers because we believed that it was a potential niche market to explore. Indeed, we gained a good customer base for our brand during the Valentine's sales, which was our first-ever marketing campaign. The satisfying sales boosted our confidence to continue expanding the business. We were then eager to reach out to bigger markets to increase our business sustainability. We found that crochet flowers match our initial goals to make long-lasting flower bouquets. When we first launched the crochet flowers, it yielded positive results hence now our focus will be on crochet flowers and designing more bouquets that meet the market needs for different occasions.

How did your programme impact you in your current contribution to society?

There is a specific course that taught us business ethics which promotes high integrity in doing business or working in organisations. This knowledge is extremely important to instil ethical thinking and guide every action taken by us in the workplace. In addition, Sunway's effort in promoting the Sustainable Development Goals on campus and blending it seamlessly into every course develops our conscious actions in finding sustainable ways of doing business that would not harm the environment and society. We prefer green products and embrace gender equality. We are also striving to create more job opportunities for our community through our business.

How are your roles in the business segregated?

It is worth mentioning that the partners studied different programmes, including Financial Analysis, Business Management and International Business, all of which equipped us with the essential skills and knowledge to operate our company smoothly. We are mainly separated into two departments. The roles are segregated clearly as each of us have our own specialties. We never have trouble specifying the roles of each partner as it so happens that each of us could contribute evenly and fill in the gaps in the team.

How do you and your team balance between work and friendship?

Some of us may have had moments when we dream of working with friends. The Flower Prince has definitely made this come true for the four of us. As partners, we know our job scope and carry out our parts without procrastination and questioning. As friends, we are easily contactable every day at any second to discuss an idea or share a thought. I cannot recall how many random calls we started at night just to identify the cause of a problem and come up with possible solutions. I believe this is the advantage that our friendship has brought to the business.

How do you incorporate eco-friendly practices into your business?

The crochet flower itself is an eco-friendly product because it is a permanent flower that you can keep as a commemorative decoration at home and in the office. From the start of preparing a crochet flower bouquet to the end stage of delivering it to the customer, you will hardly find plastic waste, harmful chemicals and non-biodegradable materials. We also try to reduce unnecessary wrapping in preparing the parcel like bubble wrap. The knowledge on sustainability learned in the University is deeply embedded in us and forms our belief that the basis of a sustainable business are environmental-friendly practices put in place.

How do you come up with new designs for your crochet flowers?

I would like to thank my partners in the Product and Operation team Chew Chun Liang, Jenny Tan Joo Yi, Yeoh Pei Wen who are also Sunway Business School alumni, for always keeping themselves updated with the latest market trends. We would normally generate new designs based on marketing plans for special celebratory occasions or seasons like graduation. The other source of inspiration comes from our customers when we offer customisation options for them. Currently, we are very much concentrating on seasonal graduation products. Valentine's Day this year marks the first anniversary of our brand, and we are very excited about it. In the long term, we will diversify into more product variety including decorative products like frames, door gifts, baskets or flower bottles.



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

Beginning Anew

Once our digital timers strike twelve, bouquets of stars explode above us — we call them fireworks! *Bunga api!* They burst in kaleidoscopic colours in different shapes and sizes:

Look! Do you not see petals of chrysanths, *kelopak-kelopak bunga kekwa*, windborne seeds of dandelions, *benih bunga dandelion yang dibawa arus angin*, the colours of bougainvilleas, *bunga-bunga kertas yang menyerupai sebuah pelangi?*

Sparks are ignited, sailing, sputtering, soaring in every direction — aimless but perhaps with a purpose to show what beauty looked like on the inside of a canister, surrounded by inactive compounds waiting for the flick of a lighter.

- By: Ivan Ling, Sunway University Press -



CAMPUS WITH A CONSCIENCE: GIVING IS THE SUNWAY SPIRIT

Embracing the festive spirit, the Sunwayian family has united to spread joy and kindness across diverse communities. With great pride, we actively extend our commitment beyond academics, shaping our campus as a caring and compassionate force dedicated to giving back to society.

The enduring embodiment of the #CampusWithAConscience spirit is a testament to the collective generosity and humanity of Sunwayians.

A-Level students spread joy with graduation flowers

The graduating class of A-Level students from Sunway College concluded their special day by extending the celebration to the local community. Four graduates elegantly adorned in their graduation robes visited the PJS7 community hall. The graduates, along with student volunteers, brought along with them a vibrant array of beautiful flowers courtesy of BloomThis.

Wishes come true with our Sunwayian community

The Wishing Wall project was a heart-warming gesture and part of Sunway campus' ongoing Campus with A Conscience initiative to encourage young people to give back and contribute to the surrounding communities. Students from Sunway University and College personally delivered 280 Christmas gifts to children from local orphanages and refugee homes, including Rumah Hope, Rumah Juara and EIShaddai Refugee Learning Centre (ERLC).

A gift of love from Sunway Student Volunteers (SSV)

The Sunway community continues to radiate joy and kindness in the festive glow with this initiative. Shoebox Christmas, a heartwarming annual event by Sunway Student Volunteers (SSV) since 2015, aims to provide educational gifts for children and families from marginalised societies. A total of 800 Shoebox Christmas gifts, along with groceries for 139 families, were delivered to local homes by the student volunteers.

At Your Convenience

Life in Sunway cannot be compared to anywhere else. We have got literally everything in our amazing city. And the one thing that Malaysians cannot live without? Food! Yup, we have a variety of that and it is also super convenient for our Sunwayians to go on a food hunt. Read on to find out more about the convenient stores located literally within a stone's throw.

Disclaimer alert: This article is not a professional food review. We are just here to share more about the convenience stores near Sunway campus, and highlight the range of products, snacks, and essentials typically found in these stores.

myNEWS



First up, we went to myNEWS, located just opposite the campus and perfectly shaded by a big tree.

Apart from the common necessities and variety of snacks you would typically find at a convenience store, one thing that stands out in myNEWS is their range of Maru Kafe delectables. Spoil yourself with their extensive selection, from sandwiches to onigiris, all packed with interesting flavours such as a Tandoori Chicken Onigiri, as well as Japanese-inspired pastries and tasty ready-to-eat meals.

Not only that, whatever type of food you are in the mood for, there is the Maru Hot Snack range and even Maru Hot Pau. Where else can you get such a wide range of delicacies under one roof? Perfect for students to take on-the-go before or after class.

If you just want to grab a quick snack to fill your tummy without having to consider too much, take your pick of fresh daily-baked goodness.



With ample food choices, we need something to wash down all that deliciousness too. Fret not, as Maru Kafe also comes with a self-service coffee machine, so you can fulfill your coffee cravings - minus the long wait.

In terms of facilities, myNEWS provides a hot-water dispenser for those of you who want to prep any cup noodles or hot drinks. There is also a microwave for you to enjoy your bento meals or ready-to-eat meals on the spot. When we say on-the-spot, we mean it literally as there is a dedicated seating area complete with tables and chairs for customers' convenience, combating one hungry mood at a time.

emart24



Up next, we took a few steps to emart24 which is just next door. This also means that Sunwayians can just conveniently cross the road from campus whenever they are in the mood for some Korean delicacies.

Of course, when you are here, expect to find all sorts of Korean snacks, confectionaries, chips, biscuits, you name it. What we are sure to draw your attention though, is the attractive Ramyun Station where can instantly cook your ramyun of choice.

When it comes to Korean ramyun, a popular ingredient that cannot be forgotten is the spicy and chewy tteokbokki. Just speaking of it now makes our mouths water. emart24 serves hot and fresh tteokbokki, whether you prefer it in your ramyun or on its own, the taste is just as amazing either way.



After enjoying some fiery ramyun, quench your thirst and save your taste buds by giving the available ade a try. For those who don't know, an "ade" is actually a slang term for a fruit-flavoured sweet drink though it is more often used as a suffix - an example of this would be a lemonade.

Have as much ice according to your own preference and enjoy the DIY process of making your ade of choice as it can be quite exciting for those who are unfamiliar with the drink.

To further ease your experience, you can also opt to checkout your items yourself at their self-service counters. How cool is that? Their machine accepts several e-Wallet providers as a payment method as well, so this is definitely helpful for students who generally prefer contactless payment.



Similarly, emart24 has a spacious seating area where customers can comfortably dine in at, an environment with overall good and chill vibes. Their self-service corner is also visible and convenient to navigate, equipped with a microwave as well as trash bins.

Family Mart



Sunwayians are definitely the luckiest students, because another one of the most popular convenience store chains amongst youngsters is just two doors away. Family Mart's iconic brand presence can be spotted from far and this time, just opposite the campus as well.

Most would already be familiar with their variety of onigiri, kimbap, sandwiches and bento meals including fried rice and spaghetti just to name a few. If you are ever feeling hungry, just pop over to Family Mart and you are sure to walk out with a happy stomach as they have a microwave prepared and a comfortable seating area as you enjoy the air-conditioning on a typical hot Malaysian day.

Whether or not you are a frequent customer, you surely know of their oden and good news for those who have lower tolerance to spice, a non-spicy broth of the ever-famous oden is also available, so everyone can devour in the refreshing and filling signature item on the menu.

It is always best when we get to customise items to our own likings and that is exactly the case for this too. Take your pick of your favourite snacks from king crab chunk to Korean odeng fish cake cheese tofu.

Looking for something refreshing to quench your thirst? FamiCafe has an extensive offering of exclusive café beverages - from frappé to ice-blended beverages to the crowd-favourite boba tea, you are sure to find one that satisfies your craving.

Another item that Family Mart is renowned for is their ice-cream, more specifically soft serve. If you have yet to, do give their matcha soft serve a try as the creaminess of the matcha goodness melts in your mouth, giving you a unique blend of slightly bitter and sweet flavour profile.

The Journey of e-Waste, from Harm to Harmony



Harmful effects of e-Waste

- Toxic materials could leak into the environment
- It can cause health issues within the community
- Discarded e-Waste are transported to landfill sites
- Non-biodegradable toxic components will accumulate

How is e-Waste processed?

This is the primary step in e-Waste recovery. Typical components process includes segregation, dismantling, destruction, crushing, shredding, magnetic separations and decontamination.

Mechanical Processing Plant



Wastewater Treatment Plant

The plant has continuous monitoring with an auto shut-off system to ensure that the highest environmental management standards are observed in accordance with the local environmental discharge regulations.

The chemical treatment plant handles chemically contaminated waste and coated metals and is function purpose built to provide a full range of precious metal recovery and refining process.

Chemical Plant



Laboratory Analysis Facilities

Fume Scrubber System

Computer-controlled ICP analysing equipment is used to identify metallic and hazardous wastes and determine the optimum processing treatment with sampling and weighting carried out under stringent controlled conditions.

An advanced scrubber system is adopted to provide excellent air pollution control and remove toxic fumes from the exhaust airstream before discharging it into the atmosphere.



Here are the five permanent eWaste bins on campus!



- Sunway University Ground Floor (near East Wing Lifts)
- Sunway College Cafeteria (beside International Office)
- Sunway International School (near Security Office)
- WaterFront Residence Ground Floor (adjacent to management office)
- Sun-U Apartment Ground Floor (adjacent to management office)



Thaipusam’s Honouring of Lord Murugan



As the biggest festival for Hindus after Deepavali, Thaipusam draws millions of devotees worldwide to honour Lord Murugan, the Hindu god of war.

Parvati gifting the ‘Vel’ to Muruga, empowering him to vanquish a formidable demon.

The word “Thaipusam” is a combination of “Thai,” denoting the month in the Tamil calendar when the festival occurs, and “Pusam,” signifying a constellation of three stars. Traditionally observed in January or February, in accordance with the Tamil Almanac calendar, this year’s Thaipusam falls on January 25, 2024.

When Murugan was appointed as the champion of the Devas, his mother Parvati bestowed upon him the vel, a sacred spear crafted from five metals — silver, gold, lead, copper, and iron.

Murugan used the spear in battles against the Asuras, led by the formidable Soorapadman. Engaged in a fierce duel, Soorapadman transformed into a colossal mango tree in an attempt to overpower Murugan and the Devas, who had gained substantial ground.

Significance

For Hindus, Thaipusam is a day dedicated to purifying oneself from sins and seeking repentance for any transgressions in the preceding year. The festival commemorates the triumph of the Hindu God Murugan over the demon Soorapadman. Thus, Thaipusam symbolises the vanquishing of malevolent forces, marking the victory of virtue over vice.

This did not waver Murugan, and he courageously hurled his ‘Vel,’ slashing the tree into two halves, which then transformed into a peacock and a cockerel, thereby defeating Soorapadman and his forces. Murugan chose the peacock as his divine vehicle and embraced the rooster as his sacred banner.

The tale of Lord Murugan

Murugan, the God of war, is regarded as the patron deity of Tamil Nadu for his courage, valour, and divine grace. The story of Lord Murugan holds profound roots in Hindu mythology and varies across different texts and traditions. However, a pivotal tale that connects him to Thaipusam involves Goddess

This is why, on Thaipusam, devotees would pierce metal or iron rods through their cheeks resembling the vel or carry a kavadi (burden), an intricately adorned wooden or steel structure embellished with peacock feathers and other symbols associated with Murugan.



THE DRAGON HUNT

Hey, Sunwayians. Hold on a moment!
Have you all noticed something intriguing?

Guess what? We have discreetly hidden a few dragons
throughout the Sunwayian Magazine.

Discover these secret dragons, share your findings, and you could
be the lucky winner of an RM20 Sunway Originals voucher.

GAME INSTRUCTIONS:

Count the number of dragons scattered throughout the Sunwayian Magazine



Submit your answers and details through this Google Form



Get a chance to win a Sunway Originals voucher worth RM20



SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

February 5, 2024

We will randomly select 15 winners from the correct answers.

Best of luck to everyone! May the dragon-sized fortune smile upon you, not only for this game but also throughout the fiery adventures of 2024!



RAT (2020, 2008, 1996, 1984, 1972, 1960):

Kickstart the new year the right way by exploring new study techniques and setting ambitious goals at our Tun Hussein Onn Sunway Library, the perfect place that is quiet enough for ultimate focus.

OX (2021, 2009, 1997, 1985, 1973, 1961):

Reach niu heights in 2024 by laying a solid foundation for your academic pursuits and cultivating a disciplined approach to learning. Head up to the Rooftop Terrace as the breathtaking view can help you stay resilient when in need of moo-tivation.

TIGER (2010, 1998, 1986, 1974, 1962):

With over 90 societies to join, engage in leadership roles or volunteering opportunities to fuel that roaring enthusiasm while also contributing to your personal growth.

RABBIT (2011, 1999, 1987, 1975, 1963):

Possessing adaptability and embracing new perspectives play key roles in propelling one to success. Sunway Career Services is not only here to help you as you hop into your career journey but to also broaden your horizons in your academic journey as we succeed tu-gether.

DRAGON (2012, 2000, 1988, 1976, 1964): Sunway iLabs is the best place for you to ignite that innovative spirit within you. Dive into cutting-edge research, creative endeavours, or projects that showcase your unique ideas and pave the way for new discoveries.

SNAKE (2013, 2001, 1989, 1977, 1965):

Now that you have made your way here, use your intuition to explore new opportunities and delve deeper into your interests. Trust that being in the No. 1 Private University in ASEAN gears you up with ultimate confidence to slither through your academic path.

HORSE (2014, 2002, 1990, 1978, 1966):

Do not forget to also let your extracurricular passions flourish as you gallop towards success. Take on challenges from over 90 clubs and societies and embrace the adventurous side of your education.

GOAT (2015, 2003, 1991, 1979, 1967):

Seek creative ways to integrate your passions into your academic pursuits for a different outlook in life. Add that special touch, be it pursuing artistic endeavours or engaging in social causes as a Sunway Student Volunteer.

MONKEY (2016, 2004, 1992, 1980, 1968):

Be versatile and swing from one opportunity to another. How? Explore the diverse learning pathways available out there - the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation is here to help nurture chimp-ions like you.

ROOSTER (2017, 2005, 1993, 1981, 1969):

As the early risers who kickstart the morning with an energetic crow, be the first in the game by managing your time effectively and grabbing every opportunity to showcase your eggs-pertise.

DOG (2018, 2006, 1994, 1982, 1970):

When times get ruff, seek guidance from mentors and engage in practical experiences to shed more light on your future career path. We recommend networking actively at our Graduate Centre where you can speak to various peers who might even have the same academic aspirations.

PIG (2019, 2007, 1995, 1983, 1971):

As important as excelling at studies is, this is the year your well-being takes utmost prioritisation in the name of self-care. A proven method is to be close to nature, which you can also do so on campus. Visit our XFarms and immerse yourself in the greens to score that perfect study-life balance.

SUNWAY
UNIVERSITY



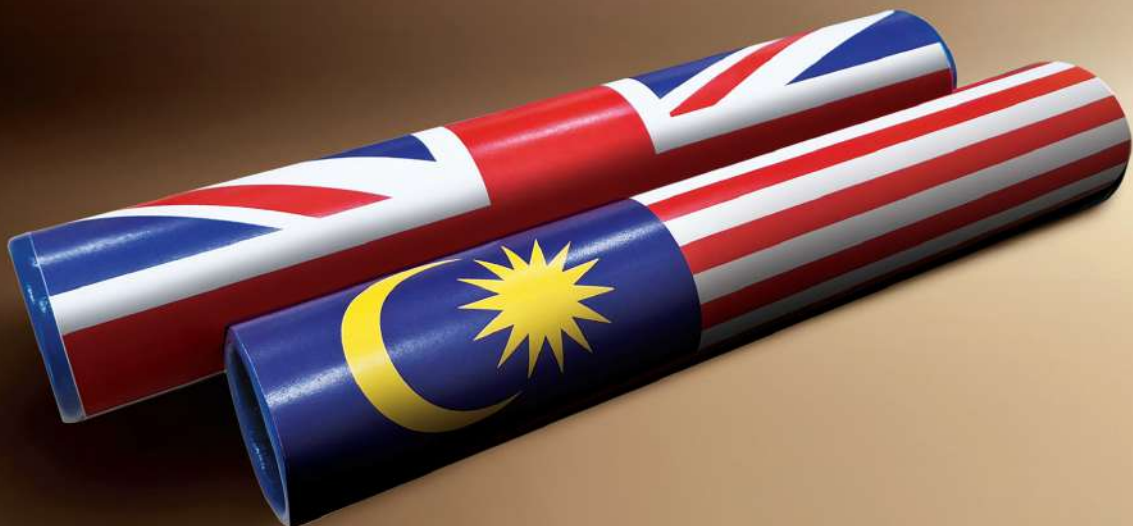
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A CLASS ABOVE

*Higher Education Statistics Agency