

BLAZE

THE SUNWAY UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



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 Recycle



Dato' Chew Chee Kin (sixth from right), Associate Professor Dr Lau Sian Lun (far left), Professor Graeme Wilkinson (fourth from left) and Dr Elizabeth Lee (fifth from left) with guests at the launch of Sunway University's Cyber Security Intelligence Lab

CLOSING CYBERSECURITY SKILLS GAP

One of the nation's Premier Digital Technology Universities, Sunway University launched the Cyber Security Intelligence (CSI) Lab with an investment of RM3 million, aiming to teach and train students in cybersecurity.

Students at the Department of Computing and Information Systems, School of Science and Technology will have the opportunity to experience state-of-the-art intelligent security analytics. The Lab consists of a data centre dedicated for research, network and server infrastructure also runs an industry-grade cybersecurity platform and services.

"With the Lab and the training, our students will be prepared for the challenges and needs in the Industrial Revolution (IR) 4.0 era," said Dr Elizabeth Lee, Chief Executive Officer of Sunway Education Group.

The first Security Operations Centre (SOC) powered by the RSA Security Netwitness® platform in a university in Malaysia, it provides a real-world experience to students, particularly those enrolled in the BSc (Hons) Information Technology (Computer Networking and Security) programme.

SOC is a threat detection and response solution that allows security teams to rapidly detect and respond to any threat, anywhere. It serves as a single, unified platform for all security data; features an advanced analyst workbench for triggering alerts and incidents; and uses machine learning to orchestrate and automate security operations programs end to end.

"Now AI and even quantum computing provide gigantic leaps forward in computing power that malicious individuals could exploit in the future. We need to train, educate and ensure our people are aware of the technological frontiers in cybersecurity," said Professor Graeme Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor of Sunway University.

Dato' Chew Chee Kin, President of the Sunway Group, commented, "Last year, the Malaysia Computer Emergency Response Team (MyCERT) reported more than 10,000 cybersecurity attacks across Malaysia."

"The CSI Lab will allow university students to be trained with the experience and understanding of the challenges ahead, we will be able to prepare a team of young

cybersecurity professional to join the industry and begin their journey in countering this global challenge," he further explained.

"Before today's launch, students were already excited with such a facility on campus, with postings on social media. This is a good motivation, for textbook knowledge alone is not enough, it is the real-life experience that gives students that extra push," said Associate Professor Dr Lau Sian Lun, Associate Dean and Head, Department of Computing and Information Systems.

The University provides the learning experience where students get to witness real incidents and scenarios of cybersecurity threats. Students have the opportunity to learn best practices and utilise advanced platforms, and tools to counter these threats. New modules will be designed and added to existing computing programmes to ensure graduates are equipped with the right skill-sets as well as mind-sets towards a safer inter-connected environment. **B**



Prof Abhi has won many national and international awards; including the National Cancer Research Award, Merdeka Award Grant and World Best Science Communicator. He also sits on many national-level committees such as the National Education Policy Review Committee, Malaysia Research University Committee, Co-Chair of the Transdisciplinary and Long-Term Research Grant Scheme Health Cluster, and many more. He was also recently recognised amongst the top young leaders who are shaping Asia's future (Gen.T) by Tatler.

PROFESSOR ABHI VEERAKUMARASIVAM

APPRECIATING LIFE THROUGH THE SCIENCES

by *Hailey Chung*

Deciphering the known unknowns and discovering the unknown unknowns

Professor Abhimanyu Veerakumarasivam, also fondly known as Prof Abhi is a dreamer and doer. He strives to accomplish everything that he sets out to do so that his dreams become a reality.

While his family well-being is key to his happiness, he derives significant gratification when his students show significant interest in a particular topic after his lectures, or when his research staff and students share some interesting data, or through the reach and influence of his science communication, leadership and policy initiatives.

THE DNA TO HIS BIOLOGICAL WORLD

Abhi describes biological sciences as the study of life and all the interactions that exist within and between living and non-living things. These interactions ranged from that of our genes in our cells to how we and other living organisms interact with our environment.

His specific interest is in improving healthcare. Losing family members due to ill health has been a primary driving force in Abhi's quest to understand medicine and healing.

"We do not truly understand the totality of factors of individual patients that drive the shift from health to disease."

There is still a lot to discover in the practice of medicine. The ability to understand precisely the factors that drive diseases and discover ways to prevent or manage diseases will ultimately improve the way in which we manage patients in the future.

"In 2001, after the first working draft of the human-genome was encoded, we suddenly understood so many things that we never knew before. I was just an undergraduate when this landmark study was published, and it dawned on me that I can dedicate my life to answering the big questions in life; the known unknowns as well as discover things that nobody knew that we did not know; the unknown unknowns. And we can only achieve these through research and robust discourse."

A MICROSCOPIC VIEW OF HIS PASSION

With an impressive body of work, Abhi is truly specialised and driven in his passion for research. His primary research interest is in cancer genetics. His postgraduate training at the University of Cambridge and subsequent efforts in Malaysia had truly shaped the research leader that he has become.

"I am trying to understand if we can identify specific markers that our cells in our body express such as certain proteins or harbour DNA mutations that we can detect or measure in the tumour or in patients' blood to predict disease outcomes and patients' responses to a particular therapy."

For example, if an individual is diagnosed with bladder cancer, they typically undergo invasive examination (endoscopy) every three or six months because there is a high rate of recurrence.

"If the cancer has invaded the bladder muscle layer but not spread to other parts of the body, then typically the whole bladder will be surgically removed. This may result in either death or significant inconvenience."

Abhi believes that by understanding the genes and proteins in the human body, we will be able to better predict the best type of therapy that a cancer patient should undergo. This will ultimately increase the lifespan and improve the quality of life of the patient.

Another research up his lab coat sleeves is a collaboration with researchers at Universiti Putra Malaysia. Decades ago, scientists discovered oncolytic viruses. These viruses have a very high potency to kill cancer cells. Some are found to be 10,000 times more potent in terms of killing a cancer cell as compared to a normal cell.

With the hope of developing certain viruses as cancer vaccines, Abhi and his colleagues are now developing a genetically engineered virus that expresses certain types of genes which will be more potent and safer.



“We just published a paper that shows that it is very potent. Our experiments in mice, show that the treatment with the virus results in significant tumour shrinkage. With more experiments and subsequent trials to be done, we hope that one day we will be able to introduce this form of therapy in clinics.”

Aside from being in the four walls of the laboratory and lecture halls, Abhi also co-chairs the ASEAN Young Scientists Network that represents top young researchers in the ASEAN region and chairs the International Network for Government Science Advice Asia.

“Things like climate change, emerging infectious diseases, rising cancer incidence are global challenges that need urgent addressing. Unfortunately, scientists are not very good at communicating scientific evidence because we spend too much within our own echo chambers. We need to make more effort to make science more accessible and ensure that facts and evidence play a major role in our decision-making processes; at an individual, national and global policy level.”

Abhi engages with various stakeholders to promote science leadership and communication in the country and region. He also advocates for research integrity. He believes that the growing trust deficit in science is symptomatic of the failure of scientists to engage with the people, businesses and policy makers. Also, he believes that because of the pervasive culture of chasing of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that are often used as barometers to assess for promotion, the purpose of science has been hijacked. If scientists are measured merely by the number of papers published or the number of patents granted rather than the actual impact of their work, influence and actions, science will ultimately fail to serve humanity.

“Everyone is chasing individual (often materialistic) dreams, sometimes we forget what our true purpose as human beings are. For example, a scientist who is driven to do science for self-promotion rather than to actually address a particular problem. This is where potential ethical conflicts arise and the scientific enterprise fails to achieve its original purpose.”

Through his various networks, he and his colleagues are conducting various research initiatives; including a regional study to landscape research practices in the region as well



as improving the capacity and trust in science by promoting scientific excellence and responsible conduct of research through the fostering of robust skills training and ethical reflexivity.

REALISING TRUE PURPOSE AT SUNWAY

“Every time I enter Sunway University, I am energised by the dynamic environment it has successfully fostered.”

He is really excited about Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah’s recent investments in building relationships with Oxford and Cambridge; especially in the field of precision medicine and the growing role of Sunway Medical Centre as a healthcare hub in the region.

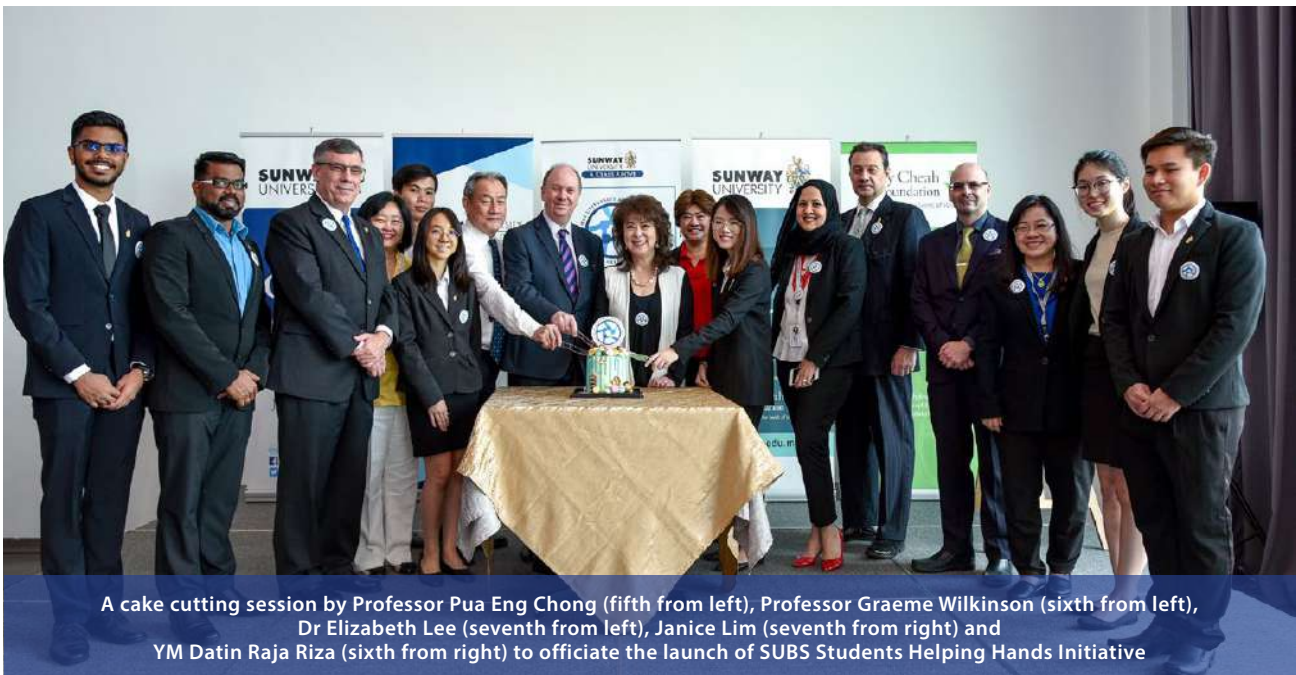
“We have a visionary founder and leader at Sunway Group, who has the resources to match his vision. It is very crucial to maximise opportunities that we have to create shared opportunities. One man has shown that if you dream big enough, your dreams can be a blessing for so many people. Can you imagine if all of us did that, how amazing it would be?”

Abhi believes this is the way grand challenges, like fighting climate change, poverty, and inequalities can be accomplished.

“Science, technology and innovation can help to facilitate; money can make it easier, but if people themselves do not act as agents of change, humanity will fail to progress for good.”

Abhi said he has been very lucky to have had many mentors throughout his life who have shaped his worldview and created opportunities for him. At Sunway, he is blessed to have Dr Elizabeth Lee, the Chief Executive Officer of Sunway Education Group, as his mentor, whose effervescence presence is only matched by her humility, empathy and genuine care for people.

“There is a great emphasis on quality and meaningful education at Sunway University, and I think that comes from Dr Lee’s versatility and passion for education. My goal in education is to make sure that the students I train and nurture will become smarter than me and better humans, whose purpose is greater than their individual ambition.”



A cake cutting session by Professor Pua Eng Chong (fifth from left), Professor Graeme Wilkinson (sixth from left), Dr Elizabeth Lee (seventh from left), Janice Lim (seventh from right) and YM Datin Raja Riza (sixth from right) to officiate the launch of SUBS Students Helping Hands Initiative

"BY STUDENTS, FOR STUDENTS"



Professor Graeme Wilkinson, Dr Elizabeth Lee, and Professor Steve Williams launching the SUBS Students Helping Hands Initiative

"Philanthropy is not only about money, but it also is about using whatever resources you have with you, and put it to good use, preserving a better future for the students."

YM DATIN RAJA RIZA SHAZMIN RAJA BADRUL SHAH
DIRECTOR OF PHILANTHROPY OFFICE

Sunway University Business School (SUBS) collaborated with Sunway University Philanthropy Office to introduce the Students Helping Hands initiative, an effort to assist deserving Sunway University students who are facing financial distress.

The brainchild of a group of students from SUBS, the initiative also serves as a platform for students to help, connect and create awareness among the Sunway community and its alumni on the importance of giving back to the community and society.

Janice Lim Siao Min, chairperson of the initiative shared that there are students who struggle with their daily expenses, causing them to not have proper meals.

Some students have to defer their studies due to financial difficulties. With the core value of 'By Students for Students', the team hopes to create values and positive impact for students in need.

At the launch, Dr Elizabeth Lee, Chief Executive Officer of Sunway Education Group thanked Lim and her team for working to build a brighter future for Sunway students.

"For these children, having food means not only better nutrition and health, but also increased access to education, and it is a strong incentive for the children's families to consistently send them to school," shared Dr Lee.

She further added that the initiative now targets zero hunger, which is in line with Sunway Education Group's commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs).

YM Datin Raja Riza Shazmin Raja Badrul Shah, Director of Philanthropy Office appreciates the support from the various departments involved in the materialisation of the initiative.

The Students Helping Hands will begin accepting applications from students in need of aid from January 2020 onwards. The team also looks to receive funds from individuals and organisations to continuously assist students in need. **B**

SCHOOL OF ARTS OVERSEAS EXPERIENCES IN 2019



Cheok Hymm and Aaron Chieng from the BA (Hons) Digital Film Production programme together with Imran Marshal and Azeem Shah from the BA (Hons) Contemporary Music (Audio Technology) at Honolulu, Hawaii



DAD students getting their Design Workshop certificates in Taipei

The School of Arts is very happy to engage in international activities to nurture our students in becoming global citizens. To that cause, 2019 has been a busy year of overseas trips for students in the School of Arts!

Earlier this year, Communication students, Amanda Li-Anne Gregory, Teh Jeremy, and Shaun Wong spent a semester at Lancaster University in the UK. Academically, the journey abroad encouraged them towards self-directed learning.

They were also exposed to wider social encounters; Wong mingled with the locals by joining the Ultimate Frisbee Club, and Teh made new friendships via attending a church nearby. All of them signed up to be part of the Malaysian

Society, where they met many more students who shared the same background, including the celebration of Chinese New Year.

They came back thoroughly recommending the experience. In Gregory's words, "Get out of your comfort zone, go there, be independent and experience being an adult!"

Another overseas trip — Dr Perline Siek led 15 students for a study trip to Taiwan. The team visited the National Taipei University of Technology, Tatung University, and Taiwan Design Centre.

At Tatung University, the students participated in an intensive design workshop that was well attended by 60 students from China, Malaysia, Taiwan, and Thailand. It aimed to

expose students to new design strategies and to experience new work contexts and situations. It was a fruitful visit with three Sunway University students being awarded the 'Best Design Team'!

After the middle of the year, from July to August, four students from the Department of Film and Performing Arts were awarded paid internships at the 2019 Asia Pacific Dance Festival and Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The students were invited by the Arts Program of the prestigious East-West Center located at the University of Hawaii. The opportunity had empowered these students to carry out a documentary production of dance workshops, interviews and concerts.

The East-West Center is an education and research organisation established by the US Congress in 1960 to strengthen relations and understanding among the peoples and nations of Asia, the Pacific, and the United States.

Later again in October, 12 students from the Department of Art and Design took a seven-day cultural study trip to Korea. Hosted by Daelim University, they were treated to a tour of the beautiful city of Seoul, taking in locations such as Anyang Art Park, Heyri Art Valley, Changyeongung Palace, Bukchon Traditional Cultural Centre and the Ihwa Mural Village.

Last but not least, two Contemporary Music students received scholarships to participate in the "Shanghai Summer School 2019" at the prestigious Shanghai Conservatory of Music. During the summer school, the students got to collaborate with colleagues from the USA, Russia, Indonesia, India and South Korea.

The School of Arts is in awe of the impressively wide-ranging and enriching international experiences that were opened to our students and we could agree and believe that there is more in 2020! **B**

JOURNEY BEYOND BORDERS

It is only the tip of the cultural iceberg when you journey to a foreign land on your own. You taste the food, feel the air, hear the languages, and see the sights - but there is more. Through cultural exchange programmes, you understand the hows and whys. The Sunway Cultural Exchange (SCE) team opens both the channel for Sunway students to venture out to other countries and also for welcoming international students to Malaysia.

The Malaysian Experience (TheME) programme in 2019 was the very first SCE inbound programme to involve universities from three other countries - namely Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

This international group was exposed to Malaysia's unique language - "Manglish", local places of worship, local politics, the local education system and more for three weeks.

The Leadership, Sustainability and Innovation (LSI) programme with Lancaster University gave further opportunities for these students to delve deeper into Malaysian current



The LSI participants went for a religion tour at the Blue Mosque, Shah Alam



Marisha (second from left) at the Great Hall together with participants of the Lancaster Summer Exchange Programme

affairs, hearing from local social enterprises - PichaEats and EPIC Homes, dining in the home of refugee chefs, as well as connecting with *Orang Asli* (indigenous people) in a village.

Academic programmes are also set up for students to meet and socialise with industry players. Running in 2020 are the Actuarial Studies: A Malaysian Perspective programme with mainly American participants, as well as the Psychology and Community Health programme with both Australian and British participants.

Sunway students are also involved as 'buddies' to exchange students. The casual interaction between the 'buddies' and the participants creates a comfortable connection to learn about each other's culture and build friendships.

For Sunway students who endeavour to step out, students can participate in outbound programmes such as Lancaster, Korea or Taiwan summer programmes. In 2019 alone, close to a hundred students participate in the



Bahar (standing second from left) with the participants from TheME visited Thean Hou Temple, Kuala Lumpur

"I've grown so much just by being in the International Cultural Experience programme. It's one thing to know that there are different cultures, but it's eye-opening to discuss these things in class with people from diverse backgrounds."

MARISHA

SCE AMBASSADOR & LANCASTER SUMMER PROGRAMME PARTICIPANT

three-week Sunway Cultural Exchange for three-week programmes. Hear about the experiences at <https://student.sunway.edu.my/services/sunway-cultural-exchange>

For more information, do contact the Sunway Cultural Exchange team at culturalexchange@sunway.edu.my to find out more!

"This programme allowed me to explore Malaysia in a way that no tourist could and I did so many things I never thought I would. The Malaysian Experience is by far one of the best things I have ever done in my life."

BAHAR,

THEME PARTICIPANT

STUDENTS' GLORY IN THE CULINARY FIELD

CULINAIRE MALAYSIA 2019

Coached by Dr Daniel Chong Ka Leong, Karen Lui Koon Ling and Lum Merry, six students from the BSc (Hons) in International Hospitality Management (BIHM) and BSc (Hons) Culinary Management (BCM) programmes were selected through an Inter-School competition before being shortlisted to take part in the Culinaire Malaysia 2019 competition. Winning the Silver medal in Class 37 – Mixology Mocktail was Casey Yong Sheng Xiong from the BIHM programme, which was the highest tier achieved in Class 37 for this year's competition. Inspired by the Kadazan Dusun culture from his hometown Sabah, Yong's creations were a long drink – 'Koginawaan' means my love in Kadazan Dusun language, and a short drink – 'Land Below the Winds' which is a nickname of Sabah. Chen Hui Yee from BIHM received a Bronze medal in Class 37 – Mixology Mocktail; Haw Xin Ni from BIHM received a Diploma medal together with Dinmukhamed Yeleubekov from BCM received a Bronze medal in Class 36 – Mixology Cocktail; while Lee Wei Chuin and Ekaterina Shikhova from BIHM and BCM respectively both received Bronze medals in Class 34 – Fruit Caramelisation for Junior. "We are proud to say that we have four local students from different states of Malaysia and two international students from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan representing



Dr Daniel, Lum Merry, Lee Wei Chuin, Casey Yong, Chen Hui Yee, Haw Xin Ni, Ekaterina, Dinmukhamed, Karen Lui and Professor Marcus Stephenson, Dean of School of Hospitality, Sunway University

Sunway University, Malaysia where they competed with culinary students and professionals from other South-East Asian countries," said Dr Daniel. The students were also grateful for the opportunity, "We researched the flavours, got advice and learnt from the experts to prepare for the competition," said Haw. "Participating in the competition had broadened our perspective on how the hospitality industry operates at the international level," added Yong.

SELANGOR INTERNATIONAL CULINARY CHALLENGE 2019

Students Lee Joe Jye from the Diploma in Culinary Arts, Syabella Sinatra from BCM programme, and Teaching Fellow Chef Yee Suet Rene represented Sunway University at the Selangor International Culinary Challenge 2019. It is a World Association of Chefs' Societies endorsed culinary competition, held as part of the Selangor International Culinary Festival, alongside with the 3rd Selangor International Business Summit 2019. Chef Rene won the Bronze medal in the Professional Chefs Category of Pastry – Entremets (Practical) with Chocolate and Yuzu (citrus) entremets. Having a rich experience in the field of pastry, Chef Rene has been teaching Principle and Technique of Baking and Pastry, Pâtisserie, Viennoiserie and Advance Pastry at Sunway University for five years. Receiving the Most Outstanding Young Pastry Chef Award was Young Chef Syabella Sinatra from Indonesia, where she also won both Gold medal for the Young Chefs Category in Pastry – Plated Dessert and Pastry – Entremets with Chilled Cheesecake Mousse with Sudachi Jelly and Chocolate Mousse with Yuzu Mandarin Jelly respectively. Feeling grateful and motivated, she shared that, "I have become more confident through the competition. I have improved my skills and learned to adapt to work in a different environment. The bits of advice from judges have also prepared me for my future career." Lee who has a passion for cooking participated in the Young Chefs Category in Hot Main Course – Fish, where he won a Gold medal with his Atlantic Trout Roulade and Crab Ravioli dish. He shared that through the Diploma programme,



Syabella, Chef Rene and Joe Jye

he learned proper techniques and skills in culinary and management. Coaching the students for the competition were Professor Patrick Siau Chi Yin, Practice Professor of Culinary Arts, and Chef Chong Wei Tzeh, Teaching Fellow of the School of Hospitality. "We are proud of our students on their achievements. This was their first attempt, they have put in a lot of effort and dedication, and withstand the pressure enforced by the coaches to meet the culinary standard and expectation," shared Chef Chong. "In Sunway University, we have state-of-the-art facilities and a team of experienced chefs which gives the best combination to prepare our students to be industry-ready," shared Professor Siau. **B**



Homer (centre) receiving the 'Excellence in Sustainable Business Transformation Advisory Award' from (from left) Chris Daniel Wong, Vice-President of United Nations Global Compact Network Malaysia; YM Tengku Hishammuddin Zaizi, Royal Patron of the Global Business Leadership Awards; His Excellency Nicolas Dross, Head of Trade and Economic Relations from the European Union Delegation to Malaysia; and Roger Wong, President of Asia Pacific Business Council for Sustainability

EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION ADVISORY

by **Arumugam Muthusamy**,

Manager, Alumni Relations & Student Professional Development, Sunway University Business School

Sunway University Business School's (SUBS) Doctor of Philosophy student, Stephen Thomas Homer won the 'Excellence in Sustainable Business Transformation Advisory' in the Global Business Leadership Awards 2019!

The awards were established via partnerships with the Asia Pacific Business Council for Sustainability and its international partner Global Compact Network Malaysia and the Institute of Sustainability. The criteria for the awards are such that they are aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) as well as the Ten Principles of The United Nations Global impact.

Homer's studies focused on corporate social responsibility

and sustainability, and how it is perceived by the stakeholders.

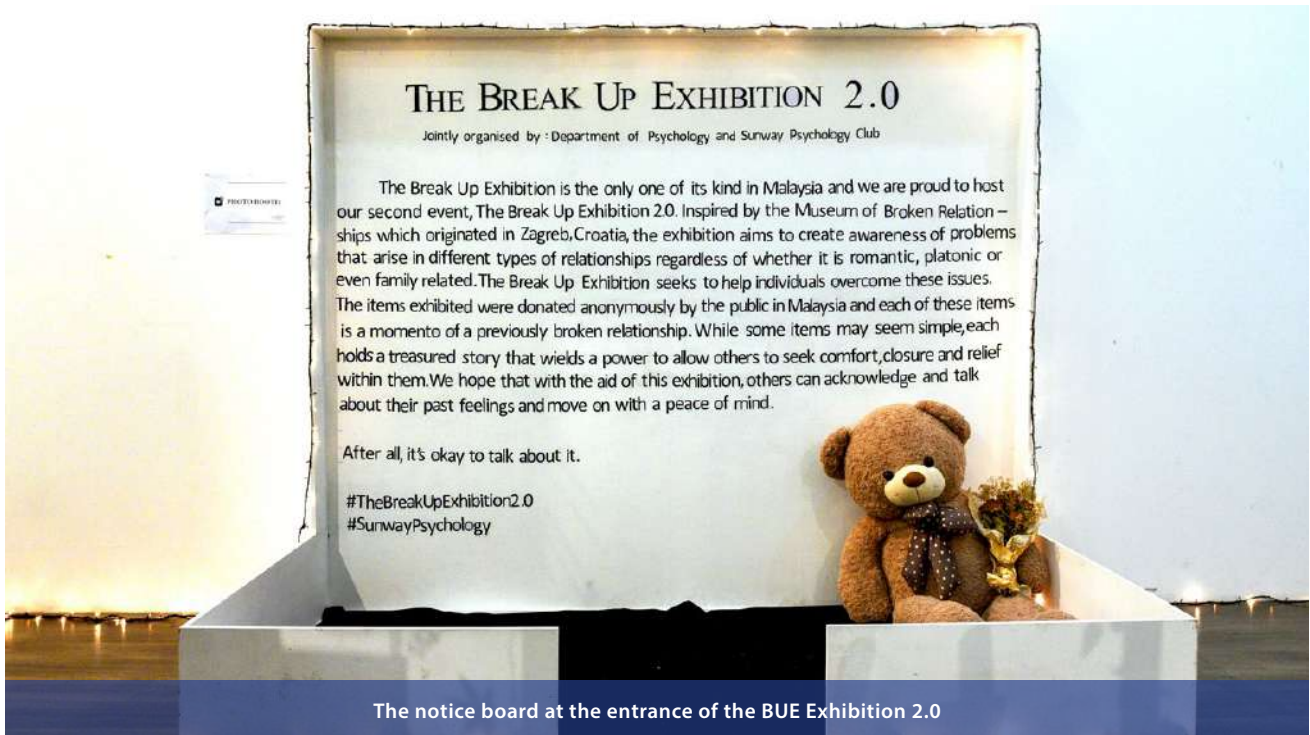
He looked for complementary voluntary positions to enhance his experience and knowledge, even accepting the appointment as a Research Associate for Global Compact Network Malaysia, a local chapter of the University Nations Global Compact, which is an unpaid position.

His payment came in the form of international recognition, the development of a network and a sense of accomplishment.

Homer had various opportunities to support Global Compact Network Malaysia. He was crucial in implementing climate change and human rights enabler programmes and presented at

the launch event to 200 business executives, as well as the members of the government. Apart from that, he also offered technical support by creating much of the events supporting materials, where he took the complex sustainability language and presented it in a format tailored to the events' audience.

More recently, Homer has been taking the stage as a discussion panel moderator for both Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) youth forum and sustainability round table events. For Homer, he is thankful that Sunway University has enabled him to access world-class events. SUBS would like to take this opportunity to congratulate his achievement and his success will always be a role model to other postgraduate students. **B**



The notice board at the entrance of the BUE Exhibition 2.0

BREAK UP AND BREAK THROUGH

The process of breaking free from broken relationships is not easy, and we seek recovery in different ways. Chucking away past gifts is a cathartic release to some, while others lean towards storing it to be reminded of good times.

Inspired by the Museum of Broken Relationships during his visit to Croatia, Lim Meng Zhen, a lecturer at the Department of Psychology initiated and pursued the idea for two years to build a similar exhibition at Sunway University.

Lim shared that relationships are often portrayed as joyful on social media that people are forgetting not all relationships would have happy endings. Unfortunately, most people do not know how to respond when the relationships failed and do not feel comfortable sharing about it openly.

Partnering with Lim, 65 Sunway University students from the Department of Psychology, School of Science and Technology, and members of Sunway Psychology Club worked together in six months to organise a not-for-profit psychology exhibition - The Break Up Exhibition 2.0 (BUE).

It successfully served as an anonymous platform for heartbroken individuals to share their relationship stories using sentimental items as story props. It



Dr Elizabeth Lee together with the lecturers and BUE committee



Professor Graeme Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor of Sunway University, Dr Elizabeth Lee, lecturers and BUE committee

could be stories from romantic relationships, friendships, family feuds or even memories with their dearest pets.

A total of 86 personal items attached to short stories were showcased during the three-day exhibition which attracted 2,300 visitors. A visitor shared about the eye-opening experience, "It is sad to read such stories. It helped me to reflect on my life and how I can improve my current relationships."

Visitors also dedicated their visit as a form of social support for individuals who contributed their stories to the exhibition. "I hope they are completely healed and have moved on from their past experiences. There is so much more to life; so much more joy they have yet to discover."

The exhibition was officiated by Dr Elizabeth Lee, Chief Executive Officer of Sunway Education Group; Associate Professor Dr Alvin Ng Lai Oon, Head of the Department of Psychology, Sunway University, and Cheah Gene Yan, the Organising Chairperson of the Break Up Exhibition 2.0.

During the opening ceremony, Cheah highlighted that breakups are common and it is important to know how to take care of one's emotions and wellbeing when it happens.

Dr Ng found a study done by Harvard University that good relationships contribute significantly to the quality of life.

"Neither your wealth nor your health would give you a good quality of life, but a good relationship with others does," said Dr Ng.

"Through this exhibition, you could see that people survived breakups."

He also stated that this exhibition aims to normalise breakup and the emotional pain associated with it.

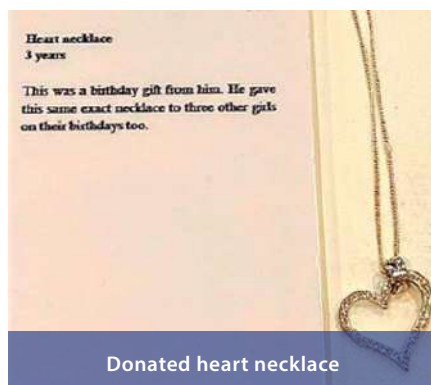
The Break Up Exhibition 2.0 is a message that failed relationships do not only bring tears and sadness but also great life lessons that will mould people into a better version of themselves. **B**



Visitor reading a real-life story contributed by one of the participants



Visitors were reading the story with a beer can



Heart necklace
3 years

This was a birthday gift from him. He gave this same exact necklace to three other girls on their birthdays too.

Donated heart necklace



Janaranson Nagarajah, Yang Berusaha Dr Zaid Omar, Yang Berhormat Michelle Ng, Dr Elizabeth Lee, Lee Siok Ping, Chai Pei Ling, Na Mui Gee and Teh Kean Sing, Head of Student Leadership, Engagement and Sports, Student LIFE, Sunway Education Group and Jayashan Chinatamy (second from left-front row)

RETURN TO LIGHT

In conjunction with the World Suicide Prevention Day, the Ministry of Education (MOE), Sunway University, Monash University, and Taylor's University jointly organised the Return to Light (RTL): A Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Campaign.

The two-day campaign opened to the public was an effort to engage and equip university students throughout Malaysia with the knowledge to conduct proper and healthy self-care as well as supporting their peers in seeking necessary help.

The campaign was launched by Yang Berhormat Michelle Ng, Selangor State Assemblywoman for Subang Jaya together with Yang Berusaha Dr Zaid Omar, Director of Holistic Student Division, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education Malaysia; Dr Elizabeth Lee, Chief Executive Officer, Sunway Education Group; Lee Siok Ping, Director of Student LIFE, Sunway Education Group;

Janaranson Nagarajah, Associate Director, Centre for Future Learning (Student Development), Taylor's University; and Na Mui Gee, Head of Counselling, Health and Wellness Services, Student Life, Monash University.

"Addressing mental health is crucial. We promote mindfulness and well-being not only among our students, but the faculty and staff, and the surrounding community as well," said Dr Lee in her welcoming speech.

"Mental health is a collective responsibility. Everybody has an important role to play," YB Ng included in her keynote speech the statistics given by the Ministry of Health Malaysia, where 10% of the 32 million population have contemplated suicide. The National Health and Morbidity Survey 2015 results showed that 3 in 10 people suffer from some form of mental health issue.

Mental health is said to be the second-largest health problem

affecting Malaysians after heart disease by 2020. As such, the campaign hopes to create a support cycle and safety net to battle against the rising suicide rates and mental health issues among the young.

Jayashan Chinatamy, a first-year student in BSc (Hons) in Psychology, is Sunway University's representative for the organising committee for the campaign.

The president of the Sunway Peer Counselling Volunteers (PCV) shared that, "The collaboration between other universities has allowed us to understand that every university has its kind of sub-culture that consists of students of different values, beliefs and ideas. The ability to look past these differences and compromise in finding common ground is essential in ensuring that the event runs smoothly and ends successfully through effective communication." **B**

WORLD CHANGERS: THE PLASTIC SURGEONS

The plastic pollution in the world is snowballing, so is public awareness and actions taken. The Plastic Surgeons (TPS) from Sunway University Business School (SUBS) presented an excellent case study conquering plastic pollution at the DB-SNU Business Case Competition in Seoul, Korea. Final-year BSc (Hons) Financial Analysis students, Gan Wee Xuan, Lee Zhen Hen, Tan Wei Sheng and first-year BSc (Hons) Global Supply Chain Management student Winnie Yap Shiao Yin were shortlisted as one of the Top 25 teams to compete in the preliminary round and walked away with “The Most Promising Idea” award.

The competition, organised by Seoul National University (SNU) and DB Group, brought together talented young students from a diverse group of universities in Asia-Pacific region to challenge oneself and apply theories learnt in university. Themed “Business and Start-up Cases,” the Plastic Surgeons team, the only representative from Malaysia, submitted a proposal with innovative business ideas.

Every year, 70,000 microplastics are consumed by an average person. Plastic pollution such as greenhouse gas emission, plastic entering the food chain and the impact on wildlife are happening around us. The Plastic Surgeons aimed to address the issues in the current measures such as insufficient regulations, mismanagement of plastic waste, the lack of incentives and the role of corporate polluters. By taking advantage of the rising importance of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), TPS strives to solve plastic pollution within Malaysia, then share its successful practice with fellow Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) members, and eventually make it a global practice.

“We began by looking into the severity of plastic pollution. Recycling industries in developed countries refuse to manage plastic waste due to limited revenue. Therefore, our team decided to diversify the revenue streams of plastic recycling industry by introducing a cutting edge

application, OneBo,” said Gan, the team lead of TPS.

OneBo is an application that is able to revolutionise the plastic waste management in our society, by combining both traditional recycling and modern technology. It has two main functions. It acts as a collection platform which eases the recycling process for customers and an online marketplace.

Prior to travelling to Korea for the competition, TPS joined a series of insightful workshops prepared by SUBS. During these workshops, TPS learnt from professional case writers from Case Writer Association of Malaysia (CWAM) ways of writing a case study. The team heard from successful start-ups like EPIC Homes, PichaEats and Speed Home.

“Their guidance and real-life experiences were helpful for us to develop our business idea,” shared Tan during the interview.

In line with United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) through plastic pollution, TPS identified SDG number 8, Decent Work and Economic Growth; SDG number 9, Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; SDG number 11, Sustainable Cities and Communities; SDG number 13, Climate Action; SDG number 14, Life Below Water and SDG number 15, Life on Land reflecting how these SDGs are related to the case study.

“We joined this competition because we were four different individuals who wanted to push our limits. This competition was the perfect platform as we were able to work on a business idea that benefits the society while gaining International exposure to improve the way we think and work,” said Lee.

The competition was an exciting one amidst the difficulties encountered while preparing the presentation slides. “It was a rare opportunity for us to have the privilege of representing Sunway University and Malaysia to participate in a competition like this,” shared Yap. The earth is what we all have in common. Together, we can make a change. **B**



Tan Wei Sheng, Winnie Yap Shiao Yin,
Gan Wee Xuan and Lee Zhen Hen

SUNWAY UNIVERSITY CHEERLEADING TEAM NAMED CHAMPIONS

“My first impression of cheerleading was just a bunch of girls, maybe a few boys holding pom-poms and a megaphone with an easy routine,” reminisce Yuen How Ping, who is one of the tumbling coaches of Sunway University Cheerleading from the BSc (Hons) Business Studies programme. “Until I joined the cheerleading team, I realised there are different types of stunts and tumbling skills, that can be performed through cheerleading.”

This summer, Sunway University Cheerleading (S.U.C) team representing Malaysia participated in the 2nd Asia University Cheerleading Championship 2019, and was named Champions for the Large Coed Elite Category.

Established in 2014, the team was the first batch of S.U.C to compete in an international competition.

“It was an eye-opening experience. In Korea, the competition was held outdoors in a field. For me, it felt like a performance rather than a competition,” shared Ben Chew Thiam Ming, who did the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) programme at Sunway College, and is also a coach for the junior S.U.C team.

Captain – Cindy Sui Yea Zhen, second year student of BSc (Hons) Accounting and Finance degree, led a team of 12 guys and eight girls including herself to the international competition.

When asked how she managed the group of 19 members of different levels of cheerleading experience, Sui shared that “Conflicts, misunderstanding and miscommunication are inevitable during practices and it is important that as a Captain, I need to understand the situation and manage the disagreements. It was teamwork that brought us together, and everyone contributed to the team’s success.”

The team shared that cheerleading is an addictive sport for them. “We spend a lot of time together during practice and also meals. I guess this is how we build our team spirit. During practice, we always strive to achieve our target or else we would not go home. This is how we motivate ourselves to improve,” shared Chew.

During their trip to Korea, the team visited the Gyeongbokgung Palace, Hongdae and Everland where they experienced wearing the Hanbok – the Korean traditional clothing, and trying out the local street food and snacks. **B**





The group photo of ASymposium

ASYMPOSIUM: ACTUARIAL CONFERENCE

The very first actuarial conference ASymposium was made possible after eight months of preparation, organised by the Sunway Actuarial & Financial Excellence (SAFE). Themed “Pioneering Actuarial Revolution”, this event sought to serve as an extraordinary platform to expose the participants to the technological revolution in the actuarial industry. 10 experienced speakers were invited for keynote sessions, plenary talks and panel sessions. ASymposium also held a Case Study Challenge with its strategic partner, Great Eastern Life Assurance (Malaysia) Berhad.

Professor Ho Chee Kit, Dean of School of Mathematical Sciences (SMS), addressed that the world is full of uncertainties due to the advancement of technology during his welcoming speech. The role of actuary has become more sophisticated now. Hence, he advised the audience to learn, use and share their knowledge in order to cope with the ever-changing environment.

“If you make money, you might not make meaning,” Dr Elizabeth Lee, Chief Executive Officer of Sunway Education Group quoted Guy Kawasaki to remind the audience to avoid letting success and money ruin our lives by staying humble. She urged the audience to be concerned about the issues around them and to make a positive impact within the community.

The symposium continued with keynote sessions, panel sessions and plenary talks. In one of the plenary talks, Nicholas Yeo, founder of Nicholas Actuarial Solutions, gave a talk about the IBNR Robot, an Artificial Intelligence that helps insurance companies complete menial tasks within

seconds. During the question and answer session, many were curious about the issue of unemployment due to the possible implementation of inquired but not responded (IBNR) which then led Yeo to answering, “There are still many tasks that require human judgement which the Artificial Intelligence can not yet achieve.”

The case study challenge was divided into two categories: Life Insurance and General Insurance. Participants were given 10 days to analyse the questions and prepare presentation slides. The slides were submitted to Great Eastern to shortlist the teams during the conference. Six teams for each category competed on the event day by presenting to the panel of judges from Great Eastern.

A total of four teams from BSc (Hons) Actuarial Studies were awarded for the two categories: Life Insurance and General Insurance. The champion for Life Insurance was Team Asperiment, first runner-up was Team Imagination, while Team Angel of Death, was named second runner-up.

“It was really an eye-opening experience for all of us. We learnt beyond the topic given. This includes the development of our soft skills. All in all, we enjoyed ourselves during the process of learning new things while making new friends,” said Team Asperiment, the champion winner.

A big shout out to Great Eastern Life Assurance (Malaysia) Berhad for the collaboration on the case study challenge. The Institute and Faculties of Actuaries (IFoA), Society of Actuaries (SOA) and the Casualty Actuarial Society (CAS) were the main sponsors of ASymposium. **B**



Yang Berhormat Tuan Lim Guan Eng (15th from left), Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah (16th from left) and the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation Board of Trustees together with the scholarship recipients

RM80 MILLION IN SCHOLARSHIPS

Malaysia's only and largest education social enterprise of its kind, the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation (JCF) held its Scholarships and Awards Ceremony 2019 which saw the highest scholarship amount awarded in the history of the Foundation. A total of RM80 million scholarships was disbursed this year to more than 6,000 students.

To-date, JCF has contributed RM482 million in scholarships and growing, along with education grants, and donations to Malaysian schools in an effort to provide access to quality education for all.

Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng who graced the occasion presented for the Sunway University Postgraduate Studentship and Scholarships, The Chancellors Scholarship, Sunway Excellence Scholarship, The Jeffrey Cheah Travel Grants for Southeast Asia Studies at Harvard University, Jeffrey Cheah Foundation-Sunway Group Scholarship and Jeffrey Cheah Foundation Community Scholarship.

"No matter how big the Government's budget is, our efforts alone are not sufficient to establish an entrepreneurial economy. We need the involvement of the private sector through a 4P partnership, which involves close collaboration between the public sector, the private sector, professionals and the people. Help us prepare the future for our young as we prepare the young for the future," he said in his speech.

"The setting up of the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation exemplifies how the private sector can help Malaysia achieve our shared vision through collaboration. I understand that JCF has robust global partnerships with top universities of the world, which will contribute towards the raising of standards of excellence in Malaysia. Such collaboration

in education will help deliver skilled talent we need to bring our country to the next level. Having said that, the Government also appreciates the offering of scholarships. The Government also gives out scholarships and many of them are for overseas study. Unfortunately, this is not within our means currently, but scholarships are being offered for study locally. Those who wish to study overseas, we have to wait until our national situation becomes better. But with better local higher institutions of learning, whether private or public, I believe we can get quality education, and you will be valued by the market and the industry when you graduate," he added.

Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah said that the Foundation's primary mission is to make quality education affordable and accessible to as many Malaysians as possible.

"I believe that a family's limited financial circumstances should not be an obstacle to advancing the education of their children. Apart from making quality education accessible to more deserving Malaysians, the Foundation is committed to advancing knowledge. In the process, we are also enhancing Malaysia's credentials as a regional hub of excellence in education and research. Our active partnership with Cambridge, Harvard and Oxford universities as well as University of California, Berkeley are all part of this mission. We are now in the process of establishing partnerships with MIT in Boston and Peking University in Beijing. We believe in working with the best and learning from the best. My ultimate dream is to establish Sunway University as the 'Harvard or Cambridge of the East.' I accept that this will not happen overnight, perhaps not even in my lifetime. However, what I am doing is laying the foundation for those who follow me to complete the task."



YB Lim receiving a token of appreciation from Tan Sri Dr Cheah

Other awards and scholarships presented during the ceremony were the Jeffrey Cheah Scholastic Award, Sunway ECA Achievers and Sports Awards, Sunway Sports Scholarship, School of Arts Music Scholarship, Sunway University Young Chef Scholarship, Jeffrey Cheah Foundation Scholarship, Sunway-Teach for Malaysia Scholarship, Sunway Education Group-Elena Cooke Education Fund Scholarship, Nanyang Tertiary Education Fund, Sin Chew Daily Education Fund and The Star Education Fund.

This year, the JCF established two new scholarships to study in the area of entrepreneurship which will lead towards the award of The Doctor of Philosophy in Business with the SMM Centre for Nested Entrepreneurship. JCF also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to fund a Chevening – Jeffrey Cheah Foundation scholar for the 2019/20 and 2020/21 academic years pursuing a medical, physical or life sciences related Masters course at either the University of Cambridge, the University of Oxford, or Lancaster University.

The JCF also hosted a fundraising dinner for SJK (C) Chee Wen and raised a total donation of RM 1 million for the school's restoration work and enhancement. JCF also launched the SJK (C) Gunong Hijau's new administrative building with a donation of RM20 million for school upgrades. The Foundation also hosts installations of Jeffrey Cheah Distinguished Speaker Series public talks by world-renowned experts and Nobel laureates that benefit students as well as members of the public. **B**



SUNWAY UNIVERSITY WINS GOLD AGAIN

For the second consecutive year, Sunway University was chosen by Malaysians to receive the Gold Award for the Putra Brand Awards 2019 in the Education and Learning Category. The premier brand awards recognised Sunway University as a trusted and preferred brand in Malaysia, through a robust consumer research methodology developed.

Representing the University to receive the award was Professor Graeme Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor of Sunway University.

The Putra Brand Awards is the only brand awards in the country endorsed by Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) and supported by the Branding Association of Malaysia (BAM), the Malaysian Advertisers Association (MAA), and the Media Specialists Association (MSA). **B**



PASSION FOR PEOPLE

Nestled right outside the side gates of Sunway University is Garage 51, always hustling and bustling with students and staff alike. Co-founding the café is Sunway University's very own Business Management alumnus, **Choong Kar Wai**, at the young age of 24. Together with his brother, they also established CoffeeSociete, Underground Société and Procaffeinating – each with its own unique setting.

The company, to Choong, is not just a food and beverage business. The business grows on the strength of the core culture of people. Putting people first in an organisation, however, also easily becomes the biggest challenge when not everyone thinks the same or shares the same passion.

The success in the establishment then lies in ensuring an environment where trust and cooperation is in place. The brotherhood between Choong and his brother is extended to their colleagues like a band of brothers; leaving no man behind and always watching out and covering for one another.

“To achieve this level of cooperation is not easy, but totally worthwhile.”

Even as Choong won the Leader of the Year Award by the Minister of Entrepreneur Development, Choong mentioned that he owes the success to his team who fought passionately in an ever-challenging industry. With less than a decade's worth of establishment, the company already has under its belt several awards including Top 10 of Malaysia Award, Best Café by Time Out KL, SME & Entrepreneurship Award and Winner of Top 40 under 40 Award by Prestige Malaysia, to name a few.

Choong believes that a leader is one who reads and is constantly hungry for knowledge. Despite his busy schedule, he puts in the time to read and has gone through 21 books in the past year. Maintaining a work-life balance, Choong also allocates time for fitness at least three days a week at the gym and walks his dog over the weekends.

“Most times, it is really difficult to separate distinctively both work and life balance, but I believe it is important to like what you do.”

On multiple occasions, Choong has also returned to Sunway University, working with the Alumni Relations team and Business School to share his experiences with his juniors.

“While in the university, make a lot of friends, study as smart as you can, above all, try to find a need in the world and meet it.”

Staying true to his passion for people, Choong has also shared that he will be launching a new brand. Embarking on a new journey, it is a brand that is not coffee-related but one that will benefit the society and community as a whole. Stay tuned!

PSYCHOLOGY ALUMNA BRAVED THROUGH PERSONAL CHALLENGES TO OBTAIN A MASTER DEGREE IN COUNSELLING

by **Associate Professor Dr Alvin Ng Lai Oon**
Head of Department of Psychology,
School of Science and Technology

CHARESSA CHEE is a true example of determination and resilience. She is an alumna of Foundation in Arts at Sunway College and obtained BSc (Hons) Psychology as part of the 2013 cohort at Sunway University. She then graduated from the Masters in Counselling from HELP University in August 2018, despite significant physical and mental challenges.

Chee is a stroke survivor who has had to live with physical and cognitive deficiency for most of her life after suffering a stroke as a young girl. She is physically slower and walks with a slight limp. She struggles with memory and other executive functioning, as well as physical chronic pain that limits her movements at times. It was no surprise that she fell into depression often, with anxiety that can be incapacitating. Nevertheless, Chee kept going and pushed herself, with tenacity and fortitude to succeed in realising her dream to become a counsellor. Always humble, Chee commented, "It is an honour to be given such opportunities to pursue my studies as I recognise that it is a privilege to be able to reach where I am today."

Chee had a huge interest in psychology ever since she was 16 years old, when she completed the Self-Directed Search Test with her school counsellor. To her surprise then, her test resulted in career suggestions including being a psychologist, social worker and counsellor as the top career choices for her personality. She then enrolled in Sunway University to pursue BSc (Hons) Psychology, crediting her lecturers Associate Professor Dr Alvin Ng and Chee Kwan Foong as strong influences who nurtured her towards counselling. "They told me that my dreams are attainable and they regularly encouraged me to go for it," Chee explained.

"I guess I was quite a stubborn person in a way. I remembered an instance when I was asked to reconsider my decision to study psychology as I was not performing to the required standard of the programme and I said, 'no way'. The fact is that living with a physical and cognitive disability, the world will always be there to tell me that I can't do this and that, so I can't be the one saying 'No!'. I just kept on saying yes and here I am today. I am open about my challenges and actively seek for help with



the university counsellors, friends and my lecturers whenever I needed help. I think this has given me a strong support system and that made it easier to persevere."

Chee recalled that she had very positive experiences at Sunway – at both the foundation and degree programmes: "I think both of these programmes, especially the psychology programme had equipped me with a strong background and offered a good start for jobs relating to psychology. I have also participated in extra-curricular activities during my time at Sunway, extending my social experiences and allowing me to build on other skills. Counsellors at Student LIFE had also assisted me in managing my stress, depression and anxiety in my studies and life in general."

Dr Ng recalls Chee as someone very skilled in communicating her needs to get the social support that facilitated her to achieve her goals in life. He added, "She is a very inspiring individual who should be a role model for students everywhere. She knows what she wants, and she does not allow negativity to get in her way. I am amazed at how humble she is while having the tenacity of the lion, braving through daily pain and other difficulties. She has a way of teaching people about how coping doesn't mean getting rid of physical and mental strain, but to live with them in getting through life."

Chee is currently taking a break while working as a freelance counsellor after obtaining her license to practice from the Lembaga Kaunselor Malaysia (Board of Counsellors of Malaysia). When asked about her plans, she said that she hopes to obtain full-time employment within a hospital setting. Her freelance work sees her facilitating a patient support group that meets once a month for individuals with chronic pain.

Chee hopes to continue learning as she feels there is so much more to discover in life. Professionally, she aspires to work in a palliative care setting as a counsellor, as well as continuing to do her part in advocating for mental health in Malaysia.

DR RODNEY TOH

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
LECTURER, DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT,
SUNWAY UNIVERSITY**

It was at this time at the beginning of 1985 that Malaysia was in a deep recession. On a RM297 salary a month, I was skipping a meal a day to get through, carting loads of cement in a pair of dirty and torn jeans. Later I was hired as a lab technician in a factory and even accustomed to long hours of hard work, I was still mentally restless. I remember one day, I noticed a book at the back windshield of my boss' car - "In Search of Excellence" by Tom Peters and Robert Waterman, a book on how to manage your business. Nelson Mandela wisely said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. The power of education extends beyond the development of skills we need for economic success..." This has a special significance for me and that odd encounter with a book through a car's back windscreen was the beginning of my lifelong journey with books. For the next two decades, my passion was to buy books to read. I eventually graduated from A-Levels, ICSA certificate and MBA all the while holding down a full-time job. Finally, I obtained my PhD in Business from Sunway University on a scholarship from the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation. It was not by accident that I chose Sunway to study my MBA and PhD. My conscious decision was based on the quality of the first-class library. In 2015 when I was offered to teach a class in business ethics, all the pieces in my life finally fell into place. Looking back, I now understand that those three decades was a rehearsal for now. Intellectual pursuit is my calling. Teaching is my career. This is where I find my validation to be, where I find fulfilment, and this is how I impact my world. Thank you, Sunway University, for this opportunity.



VIDYASRI VELLOO

**AMERICAN DEGREE TRANSFER PROGRAM
PRICING ANALYST,
NATIONAL GENERAL INSURANCE**

While I was at Sunway University, I was the President and Treasurer of Center for American Education (CAE) Student Committee and a Student Ambassador of the Asia Leadership Trek and Southeast Asia Study Symposium. I also volunteered at JCharity and went on a fundraising event in India. My best memory was the Asia Leadership Trek, where I met some phenomenal minds from Harvard University and discovered my passion. Having an Actuarial Science background, my career goal was to work in actuarial consulting while being actively involved in philanthropy. My journey began at Sunway University – I met many strong leaders and passionate people who were making a difference in the community. This experience completely changed my outlook on life and the importance of holistic education. I have gained leadership skills, learnt to be vocal, contributed to the community and excelled academically while exploring other fun pursuits like writing and acting in a play. My advice to all students is to explore your time at Sunway as much as possible. There are so many social, professional and leadership activities around campus that will make you discover yourself in new ways. Sunway also has a fresh outlook on holistic learning. It is after all the #MostHappeningCampus.

SUE YAP SOOK HUI

DIPLOMA IN CONVENTIONS AND EVENTS MANAGEMENT MASTER IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

I would describe my time at Sunway University as exciting and dynamic as it has been a great contributor to the development of my personality. Various industrial visits, guest lectures, conferences and corporate projects were organised to enhance students' hands on learning experience. The best thing about the Events Management programme was the opportunity and freedom to come up with innovative ideas and test its practical application. I felt extremely lucky as I was allowed to plan the types of events which interested me the most. The internship opportunity required by the programme also allowed me to gain industrial experience. Thanks to the knowledge and guidance from the dedicated lecturers, I joined the Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts as a Corporate Trainee and, was then promoted to Assistant Event Manager. I took a break from my career to pursue my MBA at Sunway University. The classes were challenging, promoting critical thinking and providing students with every chance to build a robust skill set applicable to many business career paths. The professors provided us with real-world examples of how the concepts we were learning in class were being applied in the business world. My advice to students is that, when you come to university, do not be afraid to venture out and join clubs and societies. You will make lifelong friends. Coming here was the best decision I have made thus far.



DELLA AVERINA

BSC (HONS) ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE LEARNING ACADEMY SPECIALIST, CIMB NIAGA

I graduated as a valedictorian after three enjoyable years as an international student at Sunway University. I was involved in various organisations, including taking up leadership roles with Sunway International Student Ambassadors, AIESEC, Student Council and Sunway Business Investment Society. These experiences sharpened my leadership and interpersonal skills which truly helped me as I subsequently worked in a pretty diverse workforce. I discovered myself as an individual, realising what I would like to pursue in life and how I could contribute to the world. I also recognised my capabilities in managing projects and events. Since then, I have been on a journey of pursuing my new-found passion and dreams. I am thankful for the Jeffrey Cheah Entrance Scholarship which made the three-year experience possible. Upon graduation, I embarked on my career as a Management Trainee in one of the largest private banks in Indonesia, CIMB Niaga, called The Complete Banker. Throughout the first two years, I was exposed to a wide range of roles in the banking industry and was subsequently promoted as one of its youngest managers. I was then assigned to the HR Strategic and Project Management Office, entrusted to manage the Digital Learning Project as well as talent development for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise employees and contributed to the CIMB Niaga's new initiative – Transformation Leadership Journey. To the next generation of Sunwayians, enjoy your time at the university, explore and discover yourself, learn beyond the classrooms, remember to pursue your dreams and passion. Lastly, be the best you can be, so you can contribute as a global citizen.

Complex policy problems require multidisciplinary solutions. In a world with increasingly difficult policy challenges, there is a pressing need for policy specialists who have a combined mastery of theoretical knowledge, technical skills and implementation abilities.



The Jeffrey Cheah Institute on Southeast Asia at Sunway University now offers the Master in Public Policy. The programme aims to enable students to develop practical solutions to real-world policy problems in the region through a multidisciplinary focus in economics, quantitative analysis and public policy management.

This programme prepares students to become changemakers in public policy. Students will be equipped with greater technical capability in economics, quantitative analysis and public policy management to tackle contemporary issues.

Students will learn from leading policy experts, such as Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs (Columbia University); Professor Dwight H. Perkins (Harvard University); Professor Woo Wing Thye (University of California, Davis); Professor Shandre Mugan Thangavelu (University of Adelaide); Professor Wong Chin Huat (Sunway University); and Professor James Chin (University of Tasmania).

Modules include Microeconomics and Macroeconomics for Public Policy; Politics of Public Policy; Urbanisation, Transportation and Regional Growth; and Sustainable Development Policies. The programme will culminate in a Capstone Research Project where students will be able to apply their newly-gained knowledge to solve a real-world policy problem.

The programme offers an inaugural bursary of RM20,000 for the March 2020 cohort. Applications are now open.

For more information, please visit: <http://jci.edu.my/graduate-study/>

