

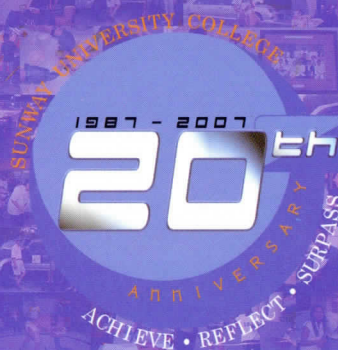
# blaze

20TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE (1987 - 2007)

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**SUNWAY**  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE



## A Triumph in the Cause for Education

## Toasts to Sunway by Sunway Alumni

## Clicking with Kid Chan

## Community Carnival a Celebration Hit

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# blaze

**20TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE (1987 - 2007)**

Explanatory notes: "**Blaze**" was selected as its name signifies Sunway University College's burst of achievements in recent years. Sunway University College is a 'trailblazer' in the area of excellence in education pursued with a flaming passion in the hearts of its staff and students.

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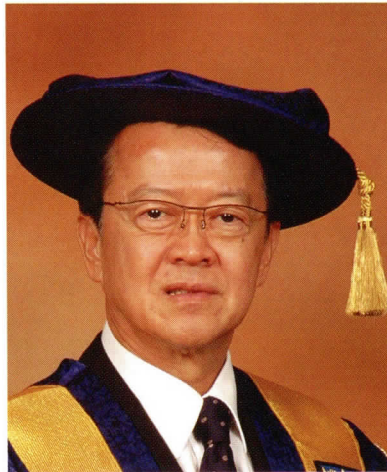
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# Message by Founder, Sunway University College



**Education has always been a matter close to my heart. Coming from humble beginnings, it was the opportunity I received to further my studies that helped widen my horizons and made me what I am today. Until now, I am truly grateful for that important gift from my parents, the gift of education.**

As the Sunway Group grew from strength to strength over the years, I felt compelled to give others the chance to better themselves through education too. My dream of setting up an educational institution was finally realised in 1987.

This year Sunway University College, which first opened its doors as Sunway College, will be twenty years old. In those two decades, we have grown and achieved much. The quality of our education is respected both at home and abroad. Our student population is made up of more than 60 different nationalities from around the world. We have exceptional teaching staff, each a respected member of the academic community. And we still continue to touch the lives of all who pass through our halls in pursuit of the best education available.

Most men do not live to see their dreams realised. Hopefully those who have will dream new dreams to keep them going. From here, a bright future lies before us. One day I hope to see Sunway University College become a full-fledged university, independent and respected not only as a provider of quality education but as premier private university of equal standing to Harvard, Oxford or Cambridge University.

I would like to thank the team at Sunway University College. Without their dedication and diligence, Sunway would never reach the soaring heights of success it has today. Allow me to remind you that Sunway University College has no encumbrances as expected in the business sense due to the nature of it being under a Trust, "The Sunway Education Trust". Sunway is free to serve solely for the betterment of students who seek knowledge and a more purposeful life.

We have run the marathon beautifully in the first lap. Here's to another twenty years as we renew and continually push the limits that will bring Sunway University College to an even higher plane in the realm of world class education.

Thank you and my best wishes to all.

**Tan Sri Dato' Seri (Dr) Jeffrey Cheah**  
Founder and Chancellor, Sunway University College





# A Triumph in the Cause for Education

In the 20th anniversary of Sunway University College, it is fair to say that the existence and phenomenal growth of this institution can be attributed to one person, Tan Sri Dato' Seri (Dr) Jeffrey Cheah. Tan Sri, as he is fondly referred to, was a property man who started out with a tin mining company. As a person who was given the chance to attend university, Tan Sri valued education. During his foray into education, some people at that time unfairly speculated that it must be because he foresaw the business potential of tertiary education, but he proved them wrong.

Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam summed it up succinctly, "It wasn't purely a business venture. You have to understand Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah's passion for education. He got to where he is today from the education he received early on in life. And he wants to give others the opportunity to do same."

Sunway opened its doors in 1987 at a time when Malaysia was dragging itself out of a bad recession. The struggling college set a target for an intake of 500 students, but only 200 students enrolled initially in a small premise at Petaling Jaya State.

Sunway College started during a recession when the economy was barely in recovery and it was in the red. "We lost money for many years. I knew that if I didn't support it, it would be a

as the United Kingdom. The Vice Chancellor of Curtin University, Pro Vice Chancellor of Leicester University as well as the Deputy President of Western Michigan University came to Malaysia to discuss the possibility of twinning programmes.

At first the foreign universities couldn't see how twinning could work, but finally they were convinced. They checked Sunway's credibility and the first twinning programmes were started in 1987. The pioneering twinning courses at Sunway paved the way for other private institutions of higher education to start their own twinning programmes.

As Datuk Razman said "Being first is good, but it is the quality of education that Sunway University College provides that matters."

In the early days, the main obstacle was educating the public on benefits of enrolling in a twinning programme. Parents were concerned that their children would not get the same degree and they were concerned that it would not be recognised. "The Vice Chancellor of Monash informed parents of this and Tun Hussein Onn, Malaysia's third Prime Minister who was then Chairman of the Board, came out in the press conference to reinforce this point," commented Tan Sri Jeffrey.

The next step was getting the programmes accepted by the general public, especially the students.

"We talked to the press and informed them that the students will get exactly the same degree as if they had studied full time in the parent university" said Tan Sri. The painstaking work of setting the ground work paid off and Sunway soon saw more students enrolling until it outgrew its premises and moved to its present site in Bandar Sunway.

The 22 acre campus in the township of Bandar Sunway offered the best in academic, sporting and accommodation facilities costing RM120 million was opened in 1993 by Malaysia's former Prime Minister, YAB Tun Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad.

The quality that Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah had developed and the commitment he demonstrated soon led to in 1996, to Sunway University College showing a profit. At this juncture,



**"Sunway has a strong academic team and its partnership with Lancaster is progressing well"**  
Tan Sri Dato' Seri (Dr.)  
Jeffrey Cheah

big blow to our credibility. There was no way we could close it down as we could not play around with people's education," remarked Tan Sri Jeffrey of those old days.

The repercussions for emphasizing quality in education were immense. Even before the institution was opened, talks had commenced with universities in Australia, the US as well





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Sunway University  
College provides that  
matters”**

**Datuk Razman M. Hashim**

and by 1997 Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah materialised his vision of contributing to society through education by immediately placing the profitable institution under the Sunway Education Trust.

The Trust chaired by Tun Dato' Seri Omar Ong Yoke Lin allowed for all surpluses from the institution to be ploughed back for scholarships and other benefits to students. The Trust currently owns 100 percent of Sunway University College and 71 percent of Monash University, Sunway Campus. Today the Trust has given out a staggering 37 million to deserving students enabling them to gain an education and to pursue their dreams.

With the institution under a Trust, Tan Sri Jeffrey essentially freed Sunway University College from the worries of running the institution from the point of view of not having to pay shareholders.

Inspired by John Harvard, founder of Harvard College, who bequeathed his entire library and a sum of money to the college in 1638, Tan Sri Jeffrey hoped the Sunway Education Trust would provide immeasurable returns in educating good students so that they may make an impact on society.

“People started donating to the Harvard Trust and today it is a powerhouse in the world of education. This was what inspired me” said Tan Sri.

Today the Trust is in investment mode and has contributed to the rocketing growth of Sunway. Millions of ringgit has gone into the Tun Hussein Onn Library at Sunway which is the only library in Malaysia with ISO certification. Sunway University College continues to produce top students every year, very often beating students worldwide.

Sunway's strong academic team and its partnership with Lancaster University is progressing well. It has strengthened its academic offerings and Tan Sri trusts implicitly the quality of Sunway's home grown degrees.

The private education industry is volatile and institutions have to cope with many challenges. There are changes in national educational policies and changes in public perception and preferences. Even the economy has an effect on the educational scene.

Sunway University College has been able to stay ahead in the game and has constantly been ready for change when there were road blocks in the path to its destination. “The main issue is that our students should get a good education and able to realize their academic goals and contribute to nation building” said Tan Sri.

“I would like Sunway University College to become a full-fledged university, independent and strong, one of the apex universities in the country. Who knows, maybe in the future there will be a chance of collaboration with a public university and this partnership could put Malaysian education on the world map” says Tan Sri Jeffrey.

The institution is most fortunate to have as its Founder, a man who has ensured its financial integrity by placing it under a Trust so that the staff would have a mandate to take care of his legacy and bring the institution to an even higher level on the world's education arena.

**“It wasn't purely a  
business venture. You  
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Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah's  
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got to where he is today  
from the education he  
received”**

**Tan Sri Dato' (Dr) Ramon  
Navaratnam**



*Blaze would like to thank Tan Sri Dato' Seri (Dr.) Jeffrey Cheah the Founder and Chancellor of Sunway University College and Chairman of the Sunway Group; Datuk Razman M. Hashim, Pro-Chancellor of Sunway University College and Deputy Chairman of Sunway Group and Tan Sri Dato' (Dr) Ramon Navaratnam, Pro-Chancellor of Sunway University College and Group Corporate Advisor, for obliging with their comments in an exclusive roundtable interview.*



# A Bright Journey Ahead

Elizabeth Lee remembers the old location well when she joined Sunway College in 1992. "The PJ State 'campus' was a building that spawned classrooms above a Proton showroom and a petrol station" recalled Ms Lee "We could only fit a few hundred students but here was where we started pioneering twinning and developing our twinning programmes. It was an exciting time in the education landscape of Malaysia" she said.

In 1993, Sunway College moved to the current campus at Bandar Sunway. "Back then, it seemed to be in the middle of nowhere. The nearest landmark was Guinness Brewery on the Federal Highway". There were no trees and Sunway was a huge white building. "The students called it the 'white palace in the desert'" she reminisced.

## A Sense of Pride

It was here that Ms Lee felt a sense of pride as the new campus represented potential and capacity and she felt ready and committed to steer the institution on to greater things. The beginning was indeed fraught with challenges and difficulties. "There were frequent electricity trips and parents had difficulty finding their way among the less developed areas to the college then" she said.

## Beginnings of a Trust

To add to this, a recession was looming and overhead expenses were increasing. Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah often visited the campus, and despite the challenges was against increasing fees. "Tan Sri simply did not want to put off students" said Ms Lee. One day during a walkabout with Ms Lee in March 1993, Tan Sri asked her what the student numbers were and Ms Lee mentioned a number and was pleased to announce that if they continue at this rate, they would see a small profit exceeding breakeven that year.

Tan Sri replied "I'm glad the college is able to stand on its own feet but I intend to place this institution under a Trust". "Tan Sri assured us that he would

support the institution in any situation, we just needed to do a good job". To this Ms Lee added "He was more interested how many lives of students he was touching"

The self-sustaining Trust has enabled the management staff of Sunway to enjoy greater satisfaction in their positions.

Mr Lee Weng Keng said "It is the principle and the spirit of it. You know you are doing it for the betterment of a future generation. Hence we became more focused and dedicated to spending money wisely and appropriately".

## An Altruistic Institution

Today, the Trust has given 3,500 individuals scholarships at Sunway and the opportunity to dramatically change their lives. The scholarships are given based on equity and merit. One of the scholarships is the community scholarship for the needy. Working with Malaysian Care, the Students Services Department takes these scholars under their care providing book allowances, accommodation and even mentoring support and counselling. "Just so these students can feel good about themselves" said Ms Lee.

"We are not just an educational institution, the Trust has enabled us to contribute to society as well as developing our students to be ready for the real world through our Students Services Department" said Mr Lee Weng Keng. Plans have also been put in place to ensure the university not only educates but educates well.



Ms Elizabeth Lee

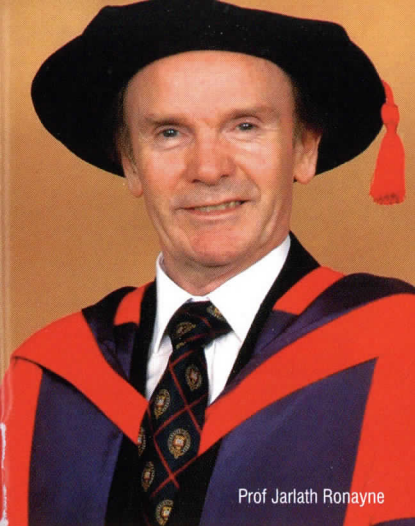
## Educating Well

Shortly after becoming a University College, a top-level "International Search Committee" was set-up to facilitate the appointment of an eminent academic as the founding Vice-Chancellor. The International Search Committee was headed by Professor Wang Gungwu, former Vice-Chancellor of University of Hong Kong and National University of Singapore, and other prominent members include Sir David Williams, former Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University, Professor Jarlath Ronayne, former Vice-Chancellor of Victoria University in Melbourne, Professor Ezra Vogel, a Henry Ford II Research Professor at Harvard University, Dr Goh Cheng Teik, Cambridge Foundation Board member, Dato' Chew Chee Kin, President of Sunway Group, Mr Lee Weng Keng and Ms Elizabeth Lee. Professor Jarlath Ronayne was subsequently invited to come on board as a Director to bring invaluable insights to in the upgrading of a college to university status. Prof Ronayne was later appointed as Vice-Chancellor in May 2007.

"In the transition from college to university, Sunway was teaching the degrees of other universities" said Prof Ronayne. "Staff in a university environment, had to be subjected to more stringent and formal criteria".

In October 2004, the Irish professor announced to the Board that Sunway needed a good quality university to be a mentor so that its degrees would be acceptable in the world". From here onwards, Sunway looked to Lancaster





Prof Jarlath Ronayne



Mr Lee Weng Keng



## FEATURES

University (LU), a top 20 British University and top 10 in research, to affiliate with. "It was an incredible dream run" said Prof Ronayne "After convincing LU of our high standards and capability, they agreed" he added.

LU has shown great support in their involvement with Sunway. Every month, LU sends someone to Sunway including course consultants. "They have put me on their Senate and we have their Vice-Chancellor on our Academic Board and we have two adjunct professors from the University of Malaya with us". At that point, Sunway set up a Quality Assurance and Strategic Planning Unit and appointed a Director of Academic Affairs, Dr Leong Yin Ching.

"The standing of our own homegrown courses, currently in business and related areas, computer technology, international hospitality and tourism management, and psychology; has been enhanced and enriched with the collaboration of Lancaster University" said Dr Leong.

"The offer of a joint degree by Sunway and Lancaster provides our graduates with good employment opportunities and pathways to postgraduate studies nationally and internationally" added Dr Leong.

### Future Developments

In terms of the mix of degrees available at Sunway, Prof Ronayne sees a future in expanding its computing degrees. "A visiting professor from LU, Professor Roger Lee will be here for a year to develop this further" said Prof Ronayne.

The other fields that Prof Ronayne sees a potential for growth is in the Health & Natural Sciences. Nursing programmes will be offered soon. Within the Sunway Group, Sunway Medical Centre is interested to collaborate with us so that

we may offer courses in optometry. This is timely as LU has just established a Faculty of Health Sciences. Other possible growth areas are in pharmacy, physiotherapy and speech therapy which will complement the medical degree offered by Sunway's neighbour, Monash University. Prof Ronayne acknowledges the dilemma of private universities which have the great challenge of figuring out the changing needs of the market, but these are the areas he predicts for the future of Sunway.

At the moment, Prof Ronayne is more concerned with the business of maintaining teaching standards in the University College. "A measure of this is to ensure that our first class honours students may be fully acceptable in any Ivy League or top university in the UK or Australia". "We also need to reduce the prejudice in the public's mind that foreign validated degrees in Malaysia are inferior" he added.

### Maintaining Standards

Prof Ronayne is quick to emphasize that this can be done with constant monitoring and moderation on the progress of Sunway's students. "It is most important to maintain the quality of our teaching and we should do all we can to encourage our academics to be high fliers and even to become consultants in industry" he said.

Prof also reiterated the importance of maintaining our facilities and standards of teaching including teaching in English which are vital if Sunway aspires to become a world class university. "At the moment, I don't think we are ready for research as we need to concentrate on having outstanding teaching" he said.

"The next step is to play the world game and get a full university status" said Prof Ronayne with a determined look in the eyes.

Like Prof Ronayne, Ms Elizabeth Lee and Mr Lee Weng Keng are nonetheless upbeat about the future. "We aim to have a student population of 16,000 by 2010," said Lee. But of course, to achieve this, the courses offered must be expanded. At the moment about 30% of its 7,000 students come from around the globe, from over 60 countries. "We need to continue to make Sunway more attractive to international students by having programmes with international appeal" said Ms Lee. Ms Lee agrees that this is the main catalyst for success.

"Ensuring that our facilities are constantly updated is part of the overall quality educational experience" said Ms Lee. Through this Sunway will be assuring that its students can achieve their academic dreams. "More important, our teaching staff need to espouse a philosophy of caring, preparing and nurturing the next generation" continued Ms Lee. She emphasized that this should be done with commitment and pride.

"We want Sunway to be an academic home, we are looking after the academic hopes and dreams of the children of parents and we treat the students as if they were our own children" said Ms Lee.

### World Class Education

"We have proved that we are capable of helping students on to the next step in life and we ourselves should move into the next realm in the quest for world-class education", emphasized Ms Lee "And become a Harvard of the East in time to come" she added with a smile.

Blaze would like to thank Ms Elizabeth Lee, Executive Director of Sunway University College and the Sunway Education Group, Professor Jarlath Ronayne, Vice-Chancellor, Sunway University College and Mr Lee Weng Keng, CEO, Education & Healthcare Division, the Sunway Group for their comments which were used in this article.





## 20 Evolving Years with Western Michigan University

As partnerships go, not many institutions have the privilege of enjoying a 20 year relationship. Western Michigan University (WMU) saw Sunway grow from a fledgling college in 1987 to what it is today. Sunway was WMU's first transnational education twinning partner. In the early days WMU and Sunway worked very closely together. The Resident Directors from 1987 were all from WMU and it was only in 2004 when the Director (now called the Head) was locally recruited by Sunway. We were the only institution in Malaysia to have a Resident Director from an American University.



"There were six different WMU Resident Directors serving terms of about two years each" recalled Cheah Seong Leang who has been a lecturer with the American Degree Transfer Program (ADTP) (formerly the WMU Twinning program) since 1989. The majors offered then were only in business, computer science and engineering but students had the advantage of smaller class sizes and transferred to WMU in Kalamazoo after a year of studies at Sunway.

"Professor Dr Richard Pippen had two terms and served a total of eight years (1993-1997 and 2000-2004) as Resident Director and was instrumental in extending the program into a "2 + 2" mode of study. He successfully obtained LAN approval for the Science, Engineering, Business Administration and Communications majors" said Cheah. "He was also a very approachable Resident Director and everyone remembers him well" added Cheah.

"We've really had a special relationship" said Dr Liew Yoke Ying, Head of the American Degree Program (ADTP) at

Sunway University College. "WMU continues to give fantastic support and guidance" she added. WMU staffs regularly visit and assist Sunway whether it is for its Open Day or to brief lecturers about the latest developments. "They also provide us with textbooks for our library and faculty. Our examination papers are sent to WMU for moderation and students are given guaranteed transfer of their academic results when they meet the requirements, to WMU" said Dr Liew.

In recent years, students expect more choice from local universities. Due to stiffer competition from other local universities Sunway has had to provide more options for students. "The ADTP has evolved with the times and in tandem with the growth of Sunway from a college to a university" said Dr Liew.

Dr Liew emphasizes that Sunway is proud to have a partner like Western Michigan University. "We promote WMU but a small percentage of students (about 20-30% depending on semesters) decide not to enjoy the twinning benefits and





transfer to other US universities" said Dr Liew. "We cannot stop students making that decision and whether we like it or not, the American system has an in built flexibility for students based on merit and equitability" added Dr Liew.

Deserving students have always been recognized at the Dean's List Honorees Ceremony of each intake. This has been practiced since 1990. Scholarship Awards introduced in the nineties by WMU were given to the top 3 students in every semester.

This year, four of Sunway's ADTP students won the prestigious and inaugural Presidential Scholarships awarded by WMU, valued at USD8,000 per year. Two top students, Yenni Chen and Lee Pei Li were selected from the pool of all WMU twinning partners and another two, Mohammed Arafatul Islam and Ng Sue-Lynn, from the pool of all WMU's international students. WMU recently announced that Presidential Scholarships will be extended to 2008-2009. Another piece of good news is that tuition fees for international students have been frozen allowing students to pay the same rates as in 2006/2007.

WMU's strength lies in their highly rated business, engineering and biomedical science programmes. It is also one of 102 public universities placed in the highest category of "Doctoral/ Research Universities" by the Carnegie Foundation. "A former student of ours is continuing with a Masters at WMU to

read cultural anthropology" said Dr Liew. This really shows the diversity of majors that can be pursued at post graduate level. It's College of Aviation is currently ranked number 2 in the U.S after Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. WMU's engineering programme enjoys an excellent reputation with state of the art facilities within a new industrial park. WMU is ranked 19 out of the 50 top undergraduate engineering programs in the US by U.S News. A student may also opt to transfer to other majors not offered by Sunway.

**"We've really had a special relationship" said Dr Liew Yoke Ying, Head of the American Degree Program (ADTP) at Sunway University College.**

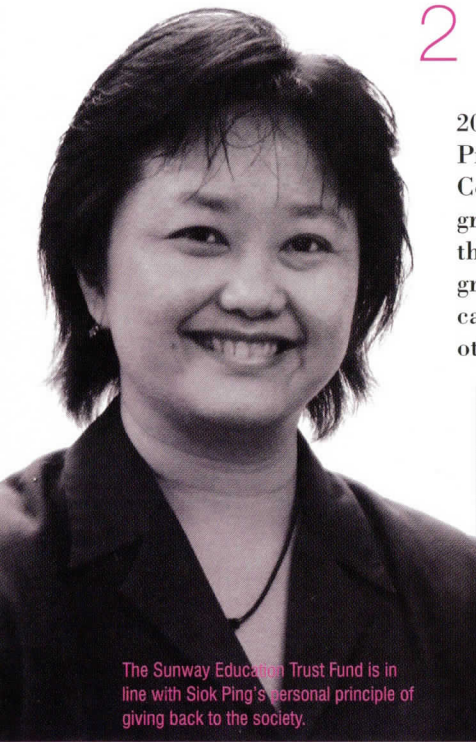
55% of the students in the ADTP at Sunway are international and come from over 30 countries. The diverse mix of cultures within this global village at the ADTP at Sunway certainly enriches the learning experience. Field trips are another hallmark of the ADTP. "Students have had the chance to make many interesting trips, some with community work such as the Langkawi poverty project in collaboration with the MCA and making monthly visits to clean up the Leprosy Centre in Sungai Buloh" said

Cheah. Students visited a fishing village in Kampong Koh in Sitiawan, stayed with the orang asli in Bukit Lagong, went caving in the Dark Caves and watched fireflies in Kuala Selangor. "The students even reached the peak of Mt Kinabalu in 1994!" said Cheah. "Nowadays the students make field trips that are more educational and related to their subjects" added Cheah.

During its American Week from 22 October to 26 October in conjunction with the 20th anniversary of the partnership of Sunway and Western Michigan University, a host of activities were held. There were luncheon talks by Dr Timothy Greene, Dean, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, WMU and Douglas McLean, the Malaysia Managing Director GE Aviation Services, a leading global American company and representatives from the US Embassy. An Academic Forum by ADTP students on "The United States in Pacific Asia : prospects in the 21st Century" facilitated by Dr Anindita Dasgupta, exhibitions by the Lincoln Center and history of WMU twinning partnership and a special exhibition on Famous Americans from the fields of Motion Pictures, Entertainment, Business/Entrepreneurship and Sports. On the lighter side, ADTP students came dressed in their scariest Halloween best and ran food and game stalls in the fun fair. All proceeds from American Week were channeled to the Jeevan Childrens Home in Klang.



## 2 persons x 20 years



The Sunway Education Trust Fund is in line with Siok Ping's personal principle of giving back to the society.

20 years ago, a sweet young thing named Lee Siok Ping came on board the newly established Sunway College as a student counselor. "As Sunway College grew, I too grew with it," she said. Now, she oversees the entire Student Services Department which had grown to further include student development, career exploration and preparation, sports and other services rendered to Sunway students.



Ming predicts that Sunway will be educating the next generation of our current students.



In the twenty years Siok Ping had been with Sunway, she admits that she had many opportunities to further her career in other institutions, but she believed that the grass is greener on this side. "When the institution was put into a Trust Fund, I was glad that I had remained with Sunway because it was in line with my own values," she added "No matter what career path I take, it has to contribute to the society."

Head of the Australian University Programme, Lim Tiew Ming, said in her trademark straight-forward manner, "Many of us, including me, joined Sunway College in 1987 to tide us over during the economic downturn. When times took a turn for the better, many of my colleagues left to rejoin the corporate world."

"I was lecturing Accounting and found that teaching had many rewards. So I decided to stay on. Some of my ex-colleagues is surprised that I'm still in Sunway till this day, but I assure them I'm not society's deadwood! Sunway College, now Sunway University College, had expanded so drastically since and is still expanding!"

"I believe the old Sunway College building in PJ New Town has been taken

over by a nursing school" said Siok Ping "That building was so small that we had to take over a few shop lots nearby to accommodate the expanding number of students."

Ming recalled, "One day, not long after we first moved into this building at Bandar Sunway, Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah was walking around the new building and chanced upon a group of us lecturers. He asked, 'Are you all happy with this building?' Of course we were! He then added, 'Your challenge now is to expand student numbers to fill up all this space!'"

It was an exciting challenge for Siok Ping, Ming and their colleagues. Through hard work and sincerity in providing quality education, they increased the student numbers until Sunway campus currently do not have much space to spare.

"We have grown so many folds over in student numbers!" Siok Ping said. From the initial cozy number of 200, Sunway University College had ballooned to over 7000 students.

"During the early days, we had a very close teacher-student relationship because there were so few of us," Ming

reminisced. "I remember there was a student who was studying overseas and his girlfriend who was in Malaysia decided to break up with him. He took it very badly and the University actually called me to tell me. He even wrote to me, 'Dear Mrs Lim, It is 3am in the morning and I cannot sleep....' (email had yet to be introduced to the masses)."

"I quickly wrote back to him and his friends, asking them to look out for him. You can imagine how anxious I was. It didn't help that snail mail takes so long to reach overseas! His friends actually found him crying outdoors in the cold of winter!"

Years later he came to visit me, transformed into a successful person, which was very good to know."

Ming foresees that the present students they will send their future progeny to be educated here like they were. "We will be teaching generation borne by this generation and so on," she said.

Siok Ping added, "With good inter-department teamwork, we will accelerate forward to continuously surpass ourselves."



# Sunway University College Launches 20th Anniversary

Sunway University College is moving forward in time when it unveiled its 20th anniversary logo and tagline: Achieve, Reflect, Surpass. These three action-oriented words highlighted Sunway's year-long celebrations throughout year.



Professor Jarlath Ronayne (left), Vice-Chancellor of Sunway University College and Ms Elizabeth Lee (right), Executive Director of Sunway University College, launched the New Chapter of Sunway University College.



Students from the Department of Performance + Media presented the tagline: Achieve, Reflect, Surpass.



Sunway University College, having achieved much in the past 20 years, took this anniversary as an opportunity to reflect on its successes and to carefully contemplate how to surpass itself in the future. Essentially, the spirit embraced during the anniversary is continuous improvement.

Ms. Elizabeth Lee, the Executive Director, and Professor Jarlath Ronayne, the Vice-Chancellor of Sunway University College, unveiled the anniversary logo and tagline during the Launching Ceremony in January 2007.

The launch device - a giant book - was developed by Chee Kok Ban, a student from Sunway's Art & Design Department.

A short abstract interpretation of the tagline was then presented by students of Sunway's Department of Performance and Media. The audience was surprised yet delighted when the bold students transgressed the boundaries of the stage and mingled amongst them. While repeatedly chanting "Achieve", "Reflect" and "Surpass" in a mesmerizing manner, the individual students used various body gestures and movements to depict how they each interpreted the meaning of the words.

The Launch kick started the year-long celebrations which included the Treasure Hunt in April, Community Carnival in May and the Gala Dinner in October.

# Achieve, Reflect, Surpass



# The Hunt That Brought Back Old Memories and Built New Ones

They filled up their cars' tanks, stocked up on snacks, armed themselves with dictionaries, and drove into the unknown with prepared minds. It was the Treasure Hunt commemorating the 20th Anniversary of Sunway University College. 120 enthusiastic staff, spouses, former and present students clambered into 32 cars and revved off to Sunway, Kota Damansara and Section 14, Petaling Jaya.



The four-hour hunt took participants on a chase to find answers to cryptic clues. The answers were related to food, musical instruments or restaurants and had the participants cracking their heads and squabbling over the clues. The good humoured competitors took it in their stride, some resorting to calling their friends and relatives but always keeping their cool as they got their clues worked out.

One of the participants, Mahesh Biaspal, who is a lecturer for the Monash University Foundation Year programme at Sunway shared "It was the first time for me and it was really exciting. Just from being in the exercise, I realized that there are many ways of looking at something and many eyes look at things differently which all added a dimension of fun to the hunt"

The first place winners were Sunway alumni, Cheok Why Leong and Elaine Cheong, a husband and wife team who met while studying the American Degree Transfer Programme at Sunway in 1995. Cheok did electrical engineering and Cheong read telecommunications management. They both live in Penang.

Cheong said "It was an honour for us to win the first Treasure Hunt organised by Sunway University College. It brought back memories and it was really fun to see some of our old friends. I hope to keep in touch with the University College through the alumni and look forward to joining future alumni activities". Cheok added "It was a well-organised event and we had a fabulous time. We will definitely come back if there is another hunt coming up". The duo bagged RM3,000 in prize money for their first effort at participating as a couple.

In second place were Sunway staff Francis Ng, Thinakaran Venugopal, Helen Tan and spouse of Francis, Joanne Kon. The third place went to Lim Kok Yuan, Tan In Lunn, Adrian Tan and Kamini, all former students of the ACCA accounting qualification at Sunway University College. They won RM2,000 and RM1,000 respectively.

The hunt ended with a sumptuous buffet at Sunway University College which allowed the hunters to gather, relax and enjoy a time of bonding. Elizabeth Lee, Executive Director of Sunway University College and the Sunway Education Group said "The hunt was an excellent ice breaker and more so for our ALUMNI members to reminisce and renew old friendships with each other.









# 20 Years of Accolades & Achievements

1998



Tan Sri Dato' Seri (Dr) Jeffrey Cheah (right) with the former Prime Minister of Malaysia Tun Mahathir Mohamad who officially opened Sunway College in 1993.



The launch of the Sunway College Trust on 13th November 1997, witnessed by Dato' Seri Haji Mohd Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, the Hon. Minister of Education (second from left).



Mr Lee Weng Keng receiving the MS ISO 9001:2000 certificate from Dato' Mohamed Ariffin Haji Aton, President of SIRIM Berhad (left).



The ACCA Premier Plus Status Award presented by My Tay Kay Luan (left) Head, ACCA Malaysia to Mr Lee Weng Keng who collected it on behalf of Sunway TES.



Tan Sri Dato' Seri Musa B. Mohamad, Minister for Education (left) presenting the largest Enrolment of International Students Award 2003 to Tan Sri Dato' Seri (Dr) Jeffrey Cheah.



Sunway TES appointed as approved training provider for the ICAEW ACA programme. Witnessed by Dato Siti Hadzar Mohd Ismail, Advisor to Ministry of Finance (3rd from right). Left to right, Mr Lee Weng Keng, Tan Sri Dato' (Dr.) Ramon Navaratnam, Mr Paul Druckman, President ICAEW and Dato' N.K Jasani, Chairman ICAEW-Malaysia Chapter.



Dato' Shafie bin Haji Mohd Salleh, the then Higher Education Minister (right) handing the approval letter for University College status to Tan Sri Dato' Seri (Dr.) Jeffrey Cheah.



The High Commissioner of Canada, H.E David G. Summers (left) watched as Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz (centre) presented the GOLD Award for Industry Excellence in education to the Executive Director of Sunway University College, Elizabeth Lee.



Excellence in International Student Enrolment award 2005 presented by Dato' Seri Dr Hj. Shafie Bin Hj. Mohd Salleh (left), Minister of Higher Education to Dr Khatijah Khalid, Registrar, Sunway University College.



Datuk Razman M Hashim, Pro-Chancellor of Sunway University College (centre) and Elizabeth Lee, Executive Director (2nd from right) receiving the Export Excellence Award 2001 from Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz, the Minister for International Trade & Industry (2nd from left).

Mrs Gillian Ball (left), President of ACCA, presents the certificate of Approval as a Platinum Approved Learning Partner to Mr Teo Ee Sing, Executive Director of Sunway TES Sdn Bhd.



The signing of the affiliation agreement was marked with the exchange of plaques. Left: Prof Paul Wellings, Ronayne and right, Prof Paul Wellings, both the Vice Chancellors of Sunway and Lancaster respectively.



Tan Sri Dato' Seri (Dr.) Jeffrey Cheah being robed at the Installation Ceremony witnessed by Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah Alhaj, Sultan of Selangor.



The Sunway University College coat of arms was unveiled during the Installation Ceremony.



Sir David Williams, Emeritus Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge gave a talk under the Distinguished Speakers Series at Sunway.

## List of Milestones and Accolades of Sunway University College

**1987** – Sunway College in PJ State opened by the late Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Alhaj ibni Almarhum Sultan Hisamuddin Alam Shah.

**1993** – Sunway College moved to Bandar Sunway, the present campus. Opened by YAB Tun Dato' Seri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, the then Prime Minister of Malaysia

**1997** – The Sunway Education Trust was set up.

**1999** – Sunway achieved MSC Status.

**2001** – National Industry Export Excellence Award by the Ministry of International Trade & Industry.

**2003** – ISO 9001:2000 certification achieved by Tun Hussein Onn Library at Sunway.

**2003** – Premier Plus Status Award by ACCA, UK to Sunway TES, Sunway's financial Courses arm.

**2003** – Highest Enrolment of Foreign Students Award by the Private Education Department

**2003** – Sunway College, Ipoh opened.

**2004** – Sunway College, Johor Bahru opened.

**2004** – Launch of the Sunway Academic Journal.

**2004** – Sunway TES appointed approved training partner for ICAEW ACA programme. It is the only one in the Asia Pacific Region.

**2004** – Sunway was conferred University College status by the Ministry of Higher Education.

**2005** – Excellence in International Student Enrolment Award (University Category) by The Ministry of Higher Education.

**2005** – MATRADE Excellence Award for Services by the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

**2006** – GOLD Award for Industry Excellence in Education by the Malaysia Canada Business Council.

**2006** – Wonder student Chew Shee Ghee won first place in the world for taxation paper in the Professional Stage of the ICAEW ACA.

**2006** – MoU for the affiliation was signed between Sunway and Lancaster University.

**2006** – Sunway became accredited partner to offer the Manchester Business School Worldwide MBA programmes in Malaysia.

**2006** – Tan Sri Dato' Seri (Dr.) Jeffrey Cheah was installed as Foundation Chancellor of Sunway University College in the presence of His Royal Highness, the Sultan of Selangor.

**2007** – Launch of the Bachelor in Accounting and Finance Honours Degree Programme.

**2007** – Platinum Approved Learning Partner Award by ACCA, UK to Sunway TES.





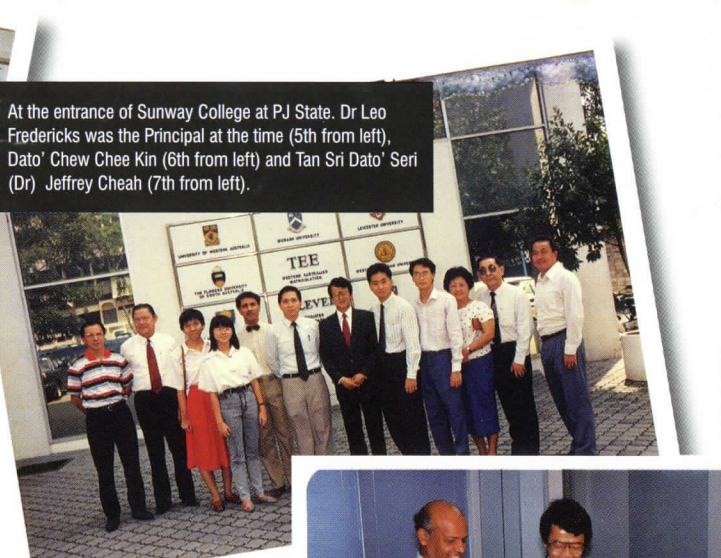
The Education Minister in 1996, Datuk Seri Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak (7th from right) visited Sunway.



An Academic Board meeting in 1995. The Chairman at that time was Tan Sri Musa Hitam (4th from left, seated)



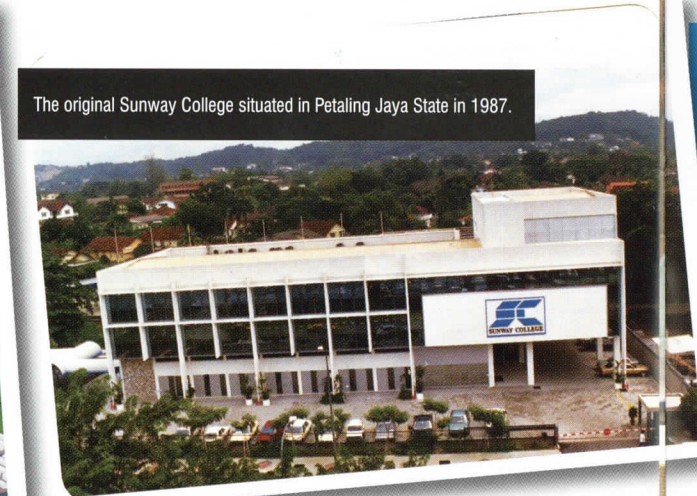
Rt. Hon. John Patten MP the British Secretary-of-State for Education (4th from left, front row) and his delegation during a visit in 1994.



At the entrance of Sunway College at PJ State. Dr Leo Fredericks was the Principal at the time (5th from left), Dato' Chew Chee Kin (6th from left) and Tan Sri Dato' Seri (Dr) Jeffrey Cheah (7th from left).



Tan Sri Dato' Seri (Dr) Jeffrey Cheah showing Tun Mahathir a model of Sunway campus during its official opening.



The original Sunway College situated in Petaling Jaya State in 1987.

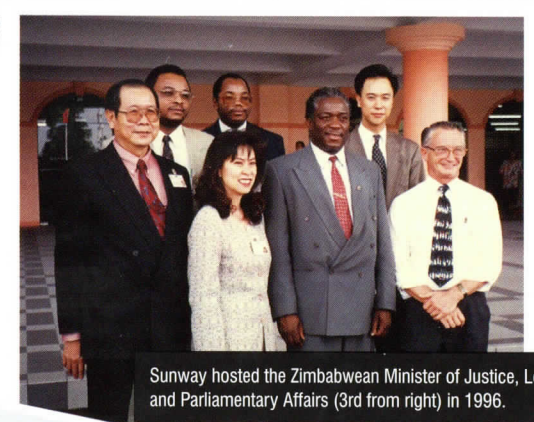
# Walking Down Memory Lane



A certificate presentation in 1990. Tan Sri Dato' Seri (Dr) Jeffrey Cheah gave the certificates.



Sunway College's first anniversary in 1988. the event was officiated by Datuk Mohd Hussein Bin Ahmad (left), Director of Education, Selangor.



Sunway hosted the Zimbabwean Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs (3rd from right) in 1996.



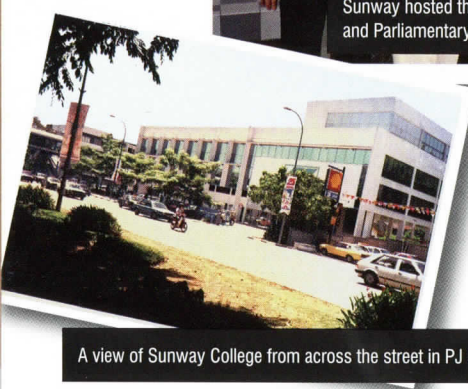
A graduation ceremony at Sunway College in 2002. The Guest of Honour was the British High Commissioner to Malaysia, HE Bruce Cleghorn (centre).



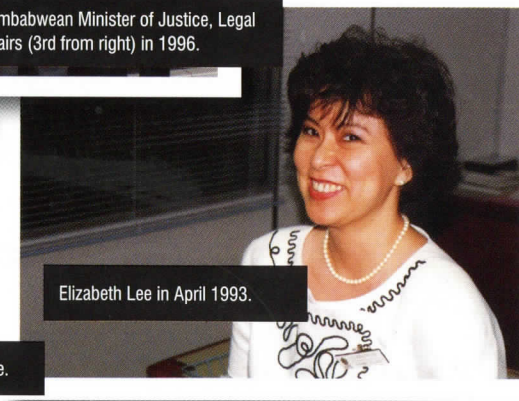
During the official opening in 1993. Tan Sri Musa Hitam (left) and Tun Mahathir Mohamad (centre).



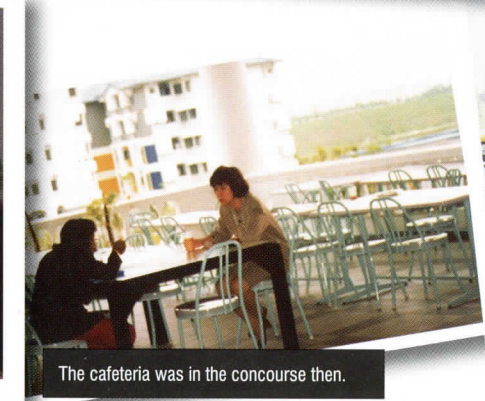
The Hon. Mr Bob Rae, Premier of Ontario (right) with Elizabeth Lee during his visit to Sunway in 1994.



A view of Sunway College from across the street in PJ State.



Elizabeth Lee in April 1993.



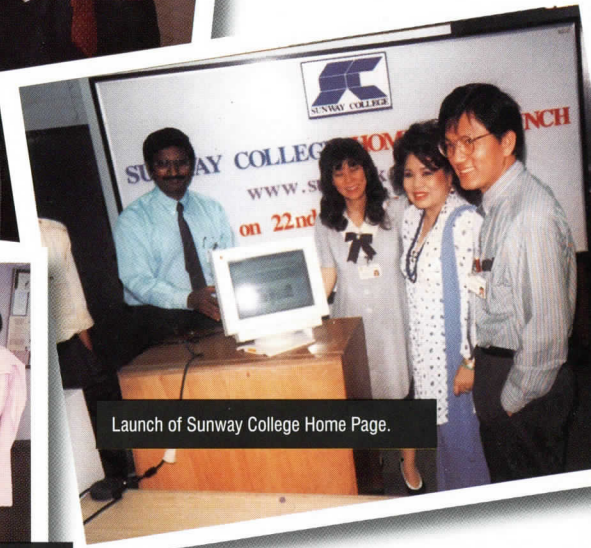
The cafeteria was in the concourse then.



Tan Sri Dato' Seri (Dr) Jeffrey Cheah (4th from right) and Elizabeth Lee (2nd from left) welcomed the delegation from the Multimedia Development Corporation in 1997.



A SASA function had a guest, Puan Sri Datin Seri (Dr) Susan Cheah cutting the cake.



Launch of Sunway College Home Page.



# To Sunway with Love – Toasts from Sunway Alumni



"I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Sunway University College for making quality tertiary education available and more accessible to all Malaysians. Sunway equipped me and my friends with valuable knowledge, skills and leadership qualities. My humble wish is for this dynamic university to continue and shine for the next 200 years and beyond. Sunway Pasti Boleh!"

Chua Teck Boon, President, Victoria University Alumni Malaysia and Marketing Manager, Sai Kee Coffee. Victoria University Bachelor of Business, class of 1999.



"Dear Sunway University College congratulations on turning 20! I first met you in 2004 and we had a short fling. That's when new friendships were born, knowledge was broadened and freedom was first tasted. Though that journey traversed will now only be a distant memory, I want you to know that those moments will be cherished. All the best and thank you"

Tan Hai Liang, Canadian International Matriculation Programme 2004 (Currently running an F & B business and in final year of Bachelor in Business & Commerce at Monash University, Sunway Campus)

"I have spent a happening 2.5 years in the School of Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure Management at Sunway University College! Level 5 of Monash Building was the place where I have had interesting classes, learning from fun lecturers and meeting my best friend! Proud to have graduated from Sunway University College and am sure that there will be a lot more happening in another 20 years to come! SUNWAY UNIVERSITY COLLEGE RULES!"

Zoe Tan Jen Theng, Diploma in Hospitality & Tourism Management 2003. Event Services Manager, Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.



"I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Sunway College (as it was known then). Most notable were the unique characters who were our lecturers. Each had their own idiosyncrasies and some entertained our class so much that studying didn't seem at all like a chore. Those lecturers really made it a happy experience for me.

I'd like for Sunway University College to add to that warm, fuzzy yet high quality learning experience. While the quality of the teaching is unequivocal, perhaps there could be more areas and activities for students to hang out and be creative in between regular classes. I've always liked the idea of a campus radio station, run by and for students! I think music is undoubtedly an integral part of student life."

Evan Cheah, General Manager of Sunway Holdings Incorporated Bhd. Read Australian Matriculation (AusMat) in 1996. A teacher remembers him for being top student in Discrete Math for his class!

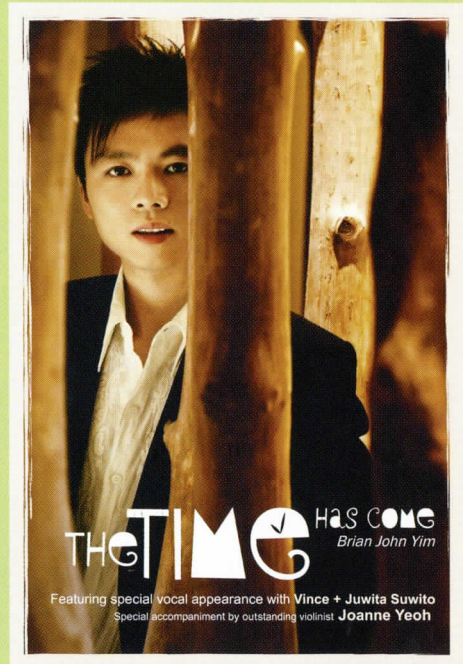
*Photograph of Evan Cheah not available.*





"My years with Sunway had been fun. My philosophy in life has been - to leave a legacy and impact the next generation. One of the legacies I had left in the WMU program at Sunway was the founding of the Leo Club which was one of the most active clubs at that time. If I have a time machine, I would definitely go back to my years at Sunway and thank all my lecturers and professors who had taught me. I would also wish to thank all my peers through whom I had acquired my strong leadership and interpersonal skills."

Brian John Yim (right), Founder & Recording Artiste of BYMC Label American Degree Transfer Program (WMU Twinning Program), 1992 - 1994



"I knew I would have lots of fun at Sunway College (former name of Sunway University college) in PJ State when I registered in December 1988. We were a small class in a huge college sharing lecture rooms with 9 other programs. Studying, homework and assignments were the easy part of college life, it was leaving to the USA that was depressing. We had so much fun. Best days of my life. Today Sunway University College is super-huge, super facilitated and super cool. But one thing stays the same, "If you expect to party, do expect to work hard. Graduating is easy but leaving behind the best days of your life is hard. So enjoy every moment here at Sunway University College" .... Happy Birthday Sunway University College!!!"

Sherman Xavier (top)  
Group 7, ADTP (WMU Twinning Program), Jan 1989 - Aug1990  
Husband to a wife I met in Group 8.  
Bachelor of Arts (1992) (Broadcasting, TV & Film)  
Film Director/Creative Director/Owner/ Owner  
WINTV Sdn Bhd, EVT Media Werks Sdn Bhd, Cinematographer Sdn Bhd, Planet Cinema Sdn Bhd.



"Going through college life in Sunway has been great for me. It was a place where I met my best friends and learnt to do things to the best of my abilities. The lecturers there were always sincere and worked hard to develop their students. Life in college/university is about discovering oneself and Sunway with its great facilities and balanced education system is definitely the best place for this".

Hor Kwok Hong, Corporate Auditor, General Electric (currently based in GE, New Delhi), did A-Levels in 2000 and Victoria University Bachelor of Business in 2001.



"Happy 20th Birthday Sunway! You have come a long way from my classes on top of the petrol station in PJ State to where you are now. May you continue to flourish and bloom in the years to come and many thanks for providing the first few stepping stones in my career."

Elaine Hong,  
Head of Malaysia,  
Learning & Professional Development,  
The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW).  
A-Levels 1992, ACCA 1994-1997.



## 20TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL FEATURE

I would like to congratulate Sunway College (as it was formerly known) on her 20th Anniversary. Studying in Sunway was an experience that will never fade from my mind. It was not only great but superb. It began from the admin staff, and then lecturers and friends. The rapport built will never end. The lecturers were very helpful to all of us especially during our "down" moments.

As for the environment, it had the most pleasant surroundings which made all of us comfortable. I believe that to be of utmost importance as all students should have peaceful and well maintained surroundings.

Not to forget the facilities provided. Sunway provided different courses for everyone and these were always updated with the latest trends in its facilities. Sunway had it all. I would like to thank Sunway, for making my life what it is now.

Joyce Wong  
Assistant Conventions & Events Manager  
One World Hotel  
Diploma in Hospitality & Tourism Management 1999



"My journey towards obtaining a degree started in Sunway College (as it was known then). Enrolled myself in Engineering in Sunway and graduated with Electrical Engineering degree from Western Michigan University (WMU). I still clearly remember the good old times, from the first day I stepped into Sunway and onwards till the last day when I transferred to WMU in Aug '05. There were so many fond memories, from attending classes, playing our favorite game - badminton at the courtyard of our hostel and meeting new people not only from around the country but also from other countries around the globe. These are the things I treasure most.

It is not all studies in Sunway. We studied hard and played hard as well. I thoroughly enjoyed the few trips I took with staff and fellow students. Among others were the trips to Mt. Kinabalu, Sabah and also Taman Negara, Pahang. I also participated in a community program organised by Sunway to Sitiawan, Perak. Although my time in Sunway was short, I had a memorable 20 months of my life.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Sunway University College on its 20th Anniversary. Here's hoping that Sunway continues to be the leading higher education institution for years to come. Congrats!"

Cheok Wye Leong,  
Senior Product Development Engineer  
OSRAM Opto Semiconductors (M) Sdn Bhd  
American Degree Transfer Program, January 2004 – August 2005





"It's been almost 2 years since I graduated from Sunway University College and initially when I was contacted by the institution, it was as if it was a reunion with a long lost friend, one whom I was not aware had been around for the past 20 years in my life. Just like the norm, when things are around we tend to take them for granted, it's when they are missing that we start to notice something special. Looking back, my experience with Sunway (back then it was Sunway College) was definitely filled with joy and tears, the type which you could only

have with a very close friend. I recall vividly every moment, especially my first day in the college which incidentally was the first day I would come to know of Elizabeth Lee and the School of IT, Telecommunications and Multimedia (Now known as the School of Computer Technology) primarily due to my orange blonde dyed hair. I was trying to stand out from the crowd and indeed I got what I wanted.

It was only at a later stage that I got to know from my lecturers and coordinators that they were all expecting me to be a nightmare to deal with from day one with expectations of a rebellious teenager, one who skips class and most probably ends up with grades so bad that no high-school kid could do better with. Well, I couldn't blame them for having reservations about me because people do judge a book by its cover as first impressions always counts.

However, despite all that, it appeared as though I was being treated the same as every student would be treated. Lecturers still answered every question I have, addressed every doubt I have and advised on every aspect they possibly could. I got to know many close friends. I joined clubs and societies like every other student, and had the opportunity to hold key positions in them. I even got through my exams with excellent results, most probably offering relief and surprise to my lecturers and coordinators due to my outlook!

All my experiences proved that every student in the college regardless of age, race or even appearance for that matter, was given the same level of privileges, the best that the college could offer in terms of its lecturers, facilities and resources. Everything else was dependent on the individual to prove themselves but it was comforting to know that if you ever fall someone would be there to catch you. From my first hopeful day of beginning a new chapter in my life, right up to the day of graduation which marked the initial point of my career, Sunway was there for me, giving me an excellent education, memories I will never forget and friends whom I have grown so close with that they seem more like relatives. As it progresses through its journey surpassing its 20th year in existence, I am certain that it will offer many others what it has offered to me before, if not better. I take this opportunity to congratulate it on its 20th anniversary and I wish it Godspeed in all of its future undertakings."

Victor Chin Mou Long, Honours Degree in Computer Science 2003-2005. Solutions Consultant & SMART Management Trainee, Sunway Business Applications.



"The best year of my life so far, has got to be college! Making the decision to take up the Canadian International Matriculation Program (CIMP) at Sunway College (as it was then known as) was the best call I have ever made. I believe that there is a chain reaction to everything – if CIMP and Sunway had not provided so much support, taught me so generously and had such faith in me, I will not be where I am today with my career.

I would like to wish a huge thank you to the student council and advisors of Sunway, especially Ms. Adelene Goh for her encouragement and for giving me the opportunity to learn. And to the best teacher of all times, Mr. Terry Boucher, who had never once faltered in his faith in me. His presence in my life in the short span of time had made more impact than he would ever know.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart, Sunway has given me one year of memories to last a lifetime. I hope you will continue to touch the lives of others, as you have touched mine. Happy 20th Birthday!"

Xandria Ooi, CIMP 2001, TV Host, Journalist and Emcee

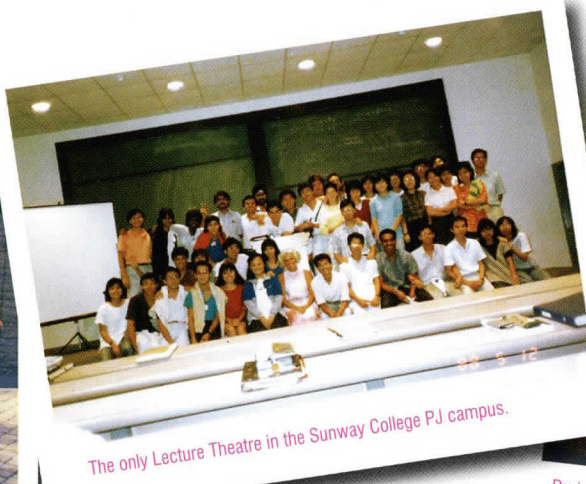


## "It's Been 20 Years?!"

It's hard to imagine how Sunway College was back when big shoulder pads and walkmans were 'cool'. *Blaze* caught up with an alumnus from the pioneering batch of the institution that existed since 1987.



The students gathered for a group photo after the Run around PJ New Town as part of their orientation. Unknown to Selva (back row, 6th person from right) then, his wife-to-be, Anita, is standing a mere few feet away (back row, 7th from left).



The only Lecture Theatre in the Sunway College PJ campus.



During the first orientation ever held by Sunway College, Selva strutted his stuff in the fashion show.

"It's been 20 years?!" Selva Kumar exclaimed when *Blaze* sought him out for an interview. Time had flown for the first president of the Sunway Student Council as life after graduation had brought him through many life and career milestones.

Then, Sunway College offered a Bachelor of Business twinning course with Curtin University of Technology. "I knew I wanted to further my education in Australia, and Sunway was the only institution at that time to offer a twinning programme with an Australian university," Selva explained his choice to study at such a new institution at that time "And of course the money saved from undergoing a twinning programme was a major factor that determined my choice."

Life after graduation had seen him through a diverse career path that traversed through fields of marketing, advertising, property development and developing new businesses. He even helped set up Nilai College, claiming that having studied in Sunway's campus environment helped him in that project. "What better person than one who had

experienced an actual campus environment from the point of view of a student?"

For now, Selva has settled into the training and consultancy business, where he trains individuals in developing their productivity and quality. "When one reaches a senior position in his or her career, it's just a natural progression that the job begins to deal a lot with people and I find myself being drawn to this position."

Selva mused over how over time, the scale of things have changed. "Back when Sunway campus was still housed in the small PJ New Town building, it was considered big! It had a proper campus when other institutions operated out of shop lots."

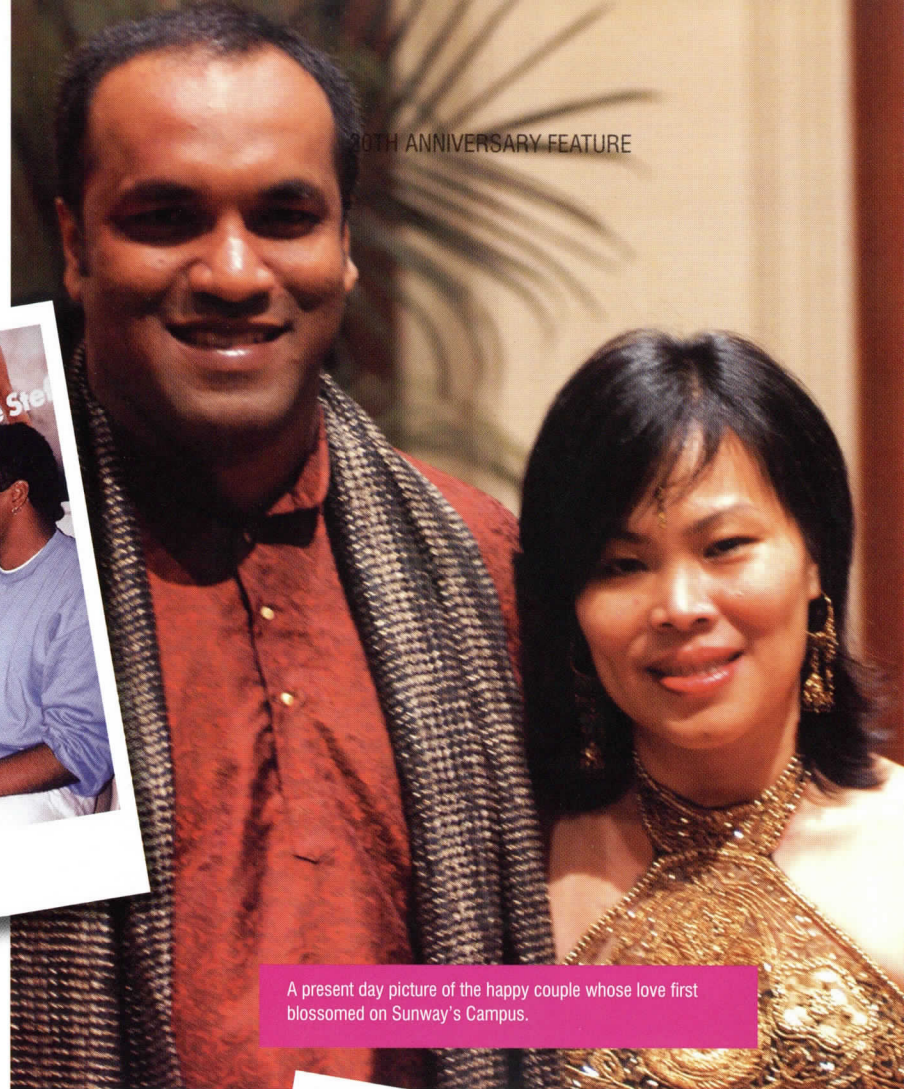
"I had only 50 coursemates," he continued. That number made up a quarter of the whole Sunway student population in the early years. Sunway College later had to rent nearby shop lots to accommodate the growing number of students before shifting to the 22 acre campus in Bandar Sunway.

**"Even the lecturers treated us like young children, and were extremely concerned about our needs. They were more like guardians disguised as educators."**





Selva (first from right) and Anita (2nd from left) during the visit by Sunway College staff in Australia.



A present day picture of the happy couple whose love first blossomed on Sunway's Campus.

"I remember the founder of Sunway College, Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah, and Puan Sri Susan Cheah was very involved with the students and the College," Selva recalled. No doubt Tan Sri Jeffrey would have 'spoiled' the pioneering batch like they were his firstborn. "I was the President of the student body, and whenever I approached him for funds to do this and that, he never refused!" Selva chuckled. "The events we organised then is nothing to shout about compared to the elaborate ones students throw today. But back then we were so few in numbers that we were very close knit."

"Even the lecturers treated us like young children, and were extremely concerned about our needs. They were more like guardians disguised as educators."

After doing a bit of snooping around Sunway University College, **Blaze** found a senior personnel of the Student Administration Department who remembers Selva well.

"Oh! Big Selva!" the staff recalled. There were many Selvas who studied in Sunway and apparently they were distinguished by their physical traits. "Yes, I remember him. He dated his coursemate – Anita Wan – and later married her!"

Ah...not only were minds developed and networks built in Sunway, it was also a nurturing place for young romance.

"Anita and I have two children now, aged 11 and six," Selva divulged. "And Anita actually works in SunCity!"

"My life has always been very closely knitted with Sunway. I studied at Sunway College, met my wife there, our first property was in Sunway Court, my wife now works in SunCity's property investment division, my parents live in Bandar Sunway...."

**Blaze** certainly hopes that Selva and his family will remain close to Sunway. Perhaps, the institution will get to educate his children and they in turn will continue the story where their father left off.



(Seated, from left to right) Staff of Sunway College - Dr Goh Cheng Teik, Leo Frederick, the then Principal of Sunway College, and Dato Chew Chee Kin - visits the Sunway students in Australia. Selva is standing, in the blue sweater.



# The Sweat and Toil Behind the Scenes

It's hard to imagine how Sunway College was back when big shoulder pads and walkmans were 'cool'. *Blaze* caught up with an alumnus from the pioneering batch of the institution that existed since 1987.

**Elisa Dass**  
Senior Executive in the Student Service Department



**What were your responsibilities in the 20th Anniversary Celebration?**

I am the Chairperson of the overall Celebration, Chairperson for the Treasure Hunt and Gala Dinner.

Basically, I make sure everything WORKS!

**What were the challenges you faced?**

PARTICIPATION! Getting participation for the Treasure Hunt was difficult.

I had to really use publicity - anywhere, everywhere, that's the key. I also had help from the Director of Programmes and Alumni coordinators to encourage students and alumni to participate.

Deciding on a theme for the Gala Dinner was tough as everyone had different ideas, from Animal Prints to Ancient Greek to Wacky Saturday. Ideas ran wild, with some members suggesting that the guests come in loin clothes to wearing different colored socks with funky hair. There were so much we could do with each theme and each of it had something fun about them.

Eventually, we unanimously decided on "Surpass Like Stars", in line with the theme for the 20th Anniversary - Achieve. Reflect. Surpass. With that, we can have a glamorous night showing off the Stars of Sunway (ie YOU & ME)!

**Did anything funny happen throughout the course of organising this event?**

EVERY meeting was funny. Jokes and NOISE were coming from the advisors\*

of the committee - the seasoned ones, instead of the supposedly young energetic ones.

There were always something to laugh at/about during meetings and it's amazing to find out how YOUNG these advisors really are at heart!

**Describe the team you worked with.**

VOLTRON! (in the spirit of Transformers and childhood cartoons). Each of us had our individual strengths and creativity. All of us could work independently yet, as a team, we fitted together, played our roles well, and achieved more when we put our heads and effort together.

As the chairperson, I didn't need to worry about any one's work, as all were reliable and responsible. They were willing soldiers.

*\*Note: At the first meeting, it was declared and immediately enforced that all committee members above the age of forty would automatically be given the role of advisors. It has to be added that the members who made that decision were the ones above forty.*

**Maheshchandar Biaspal**  
Lecturer in the Monash University Foundation Year Programme

**What were your responsibilities in the 20th Anniversary Celebration?**

I was asked to take charge of the Gala Dinner Performances, Sound and Lighting.

**What were the challenges you faced?**

Nothing actually, just managing time. Currently, I have 10 billion things to do, yet I've 23 hours more to spare.

**What did you learn from organising the event?**

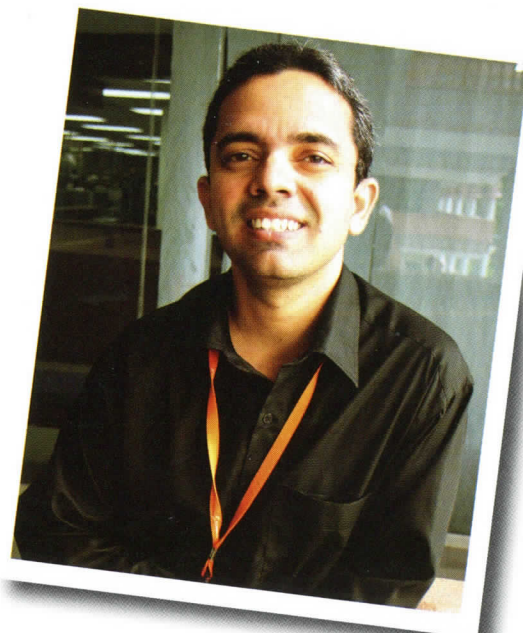
More women than men are interested in organising events.

**Did anything funny or weird happen throughout the course of organising this event?**

I had this funny weird feeling that I will be asked this. Memorable? Hmm... working with 10 beautiful ladies...every man's dream assignment.

**Describe the team you worked with.**

I am sure we were all committed to this project although I must confess that I had so much fun that I did not realise that the event was in fact around the corner...aarrggggggggg.







**Wanni Kan**  
Student of the Canadian  
International  
Matriculation Programme

**What were/are your responsibilities in the 20th Anniversary Celebration?**

I was one of the group leaders for the Community Carnival kid's activities. My group was in charge of coming up and improvising the game for the Kids' Hunt game segment. As group leader, part of my responsibilities was to send out the word to my group members on meeting date, time, location and agenda. On the day itself, I was to supervise my group members carry out their responsibilities, check on the registration of participants, co-host the game, record the marks of participants and help with cleaning up. About two days later, I submitted in the names of my group members to ensure that they are rewarded with their community hours by teacher-in-charge, Miss Rohani.

**What was the biggest challenge you faced?**

I personally think that getting all group members to come for the meetings as well as getting their cooperation during the meetings can be quite a challenge. To overcome that, I try to select as many reliable (that I know) group members as possible and will usually e-mail them at least three days

ahead. During discussions, I will brief all of them and divide them to smaller groups so that it is easier to see to them. I also establish a friendship with all of them to build up the sense of belonging. On the day itself, there were some participants (kids in the game) that canceled their participation. Thankfully there were other kids around whose parents readily allowed (all thanks to Miss Rohani's help as well) them to replace the missing participants.

**What did you learn from organising the event?**

I learned plenty of things by just helping to organizing the event. Firstly, I learnt about the strategies of group work and the value of responsibilities. In order to ensure that everything goes on well, everyone needs to have a commitment. It really helped me improve now that I am in my new semester and I have plenty of group work.

**Did anything memorable happen throughout the course of organising this event?**

I had the opportunity to meet new friends. Besides that, I learned a lot on organizing things as well as how to communicate with the public and little kids in general.

**Describe the team you worked with.**

I thankfully worked with a team of committed and nice people (ranging from fellow students, lecturers and non-academic Sunway staff). When there is a meeting, majority of my fellow students came and sometimes, they even brought more friends to join the team. When it came to work, all of them worked and I am really proud of them.

**Rohani Mohamad**  
Lecturer in the Canadian  
International Matriculation  
Programme

**What were/are your responsibilities in the 20th Anniversary Celebration?**

I was leading the team that handled the Kids Activities for the Community Carnival 2007.

**What was the biggest challenge you faced?**

Space/location. Our team consisted of three mothers (including myself) and we had several concerns with regards to kids' safety etc. Despite the fact that space/location constraints had made us revamp our planning a few times, we had lots of good fun on that day.

**What did you learn from organising the event?**

It's an event that I can say "been there, done that"...anything new? I suppose being an academic staff enables me to have a greater access to 'human resources' - my students. Techniques that I use in managing groups for class

work were modified & applied to manage the teams. What I'm so glad to know is that the team members were learning so much from their participation.

As far as the organising committee is concerned, I learnt that the event gave a great opportunity to academic and administrative staff to work together. I wish that it was done more often to expand and utilize each department's strengths and increase learning opportunities so that we can improve our weaknesses.

**Did anything memorable happen throughout the course of organising this event?**

The three stooges - Haslinda, Greeja & Me - sat under the bamboo tree, behind the old hostel building (now about 75% refurbished), on a Sunday morning - conducting our meeting.

Dealing with students was interesting. The gathering of student volunteer in the Multi Purpose Hall was hilarious. I was unexpectedly swamped by about 100 students (excellent turn out!)

simultaneously.

Quickly I advertised for team leader positions. We had few meetings after that with the team leaders (they are all excellent people). Many of the volunteers actually applied to really play with the kids. Some of them thought that changing diapers were part of the package...

**Describe the type of team you worked with.**

I had two other teachers working with me. We were assisted by about 100 students and a total of 466 hours of work was put in for planning, designing games, wrapping gifts, all the way until our clean-up crew wrapped up every thing from the foyer. Excellent team work!





OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

## Clicking with Kid

*Jacqueline M. Lim got to know the real Kid Chan and how he found his niche in the world of photography.*

Meeting Kid Chan who today is probably the most acclaimed wedding photojournalist in Malaysia, I was a little apprehensive about photographing him but soon put at ease when we talked about Kid Chan, the former Sunway student. "That was twelve years ago in 1995 when I was in the Canadian Matriculation Programme" he said. "Back then Sunway was quaint, cozy and we all knew the Canadian teachers well. Mr Rex Sharman who was programme director and Mr Dobson were terrific. Ms McKeegan brought life to history and English Literature. I just plunged into the role of a fun-loving and sometimes cheeky student" he recalled.

Photographing the photographer. Kid Chan at his alma mater recently.

A teacher, Shirlee Curtis remembered Kid for bringing so much spirit into the class and indeed he must have stirred up lessons on more than one occasion.

As a child Kid always liked photographs. It was not until he went to university in Western Australia that Kid got started as an amateur shutterbug. "I saw myself as a high flying corporate executive and that was why I did a degree in international business". On his return to Malaysia, he worked with a prominent business leader of an education group. After two years, he began to pine for a change. Photography was one medium that allowed him freedom of artistic expression.

Kid Chan joined his family's business in a photography studio called Portrait One. This was followed by a short training stint at a commercial studio, Studio 88, and the rest is as they say, history.

With his trusted Nikon in hand, Kid stumbled into wedding photography by chance. "I started out as a fashion and commercial photographer. That was where the money was". But soon, high profile clients began asking him to take wedding photographs for their son's or daughters. "It was hard to say no to them" he said.

Refusing to be a photographer to take instructions, Kid took a journalistic approach to photographing weddings. He locked the emotions of the day into

# alumni

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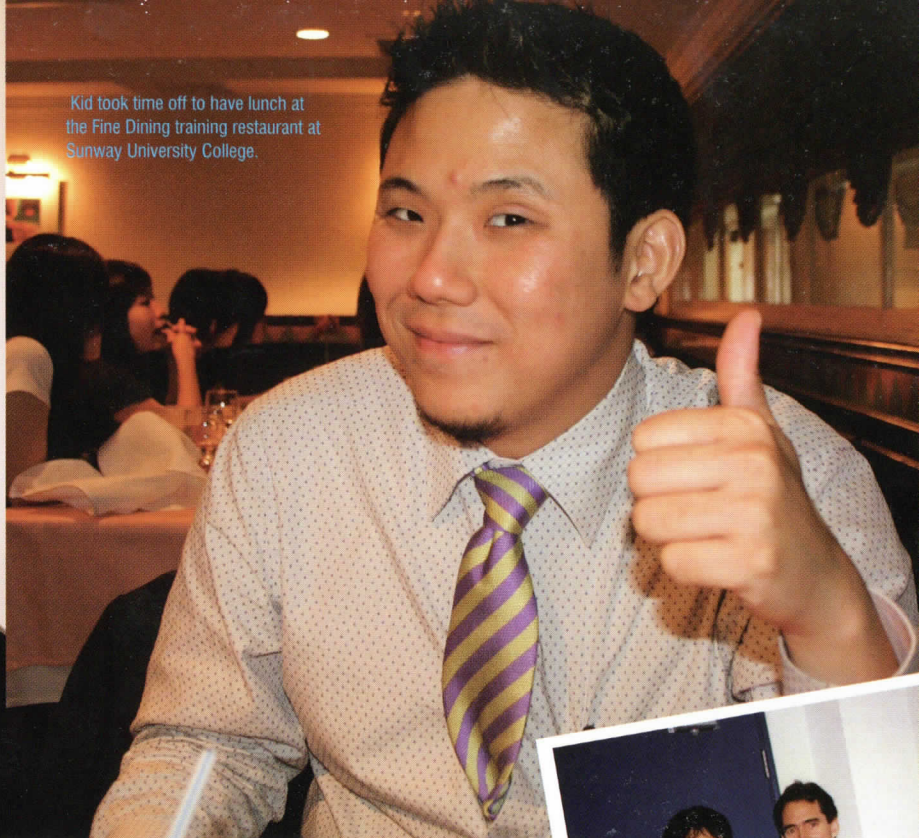
- ☐ Talks/Workshops      Topics: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Networking Hi-Teas  
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☐ Others: \_\_\_\_\_







Kid Chan came back to visit Elizabeth Lee, (right) Executive Director of Sunway University College.



Kid took time off to have lunch at the Fine Dining training restaurant at Sunway University College.

his frames. "It is a pictorial story of the bride and grooms big day rather than the staged "mock cheque and handshake" pictures" he explained.

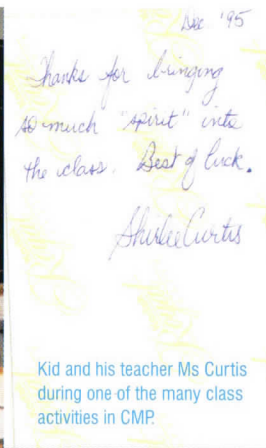
Kid watches every move in a wedding with a keen eye in the hope of stealing a poignant or candid moment from the main players of the day. The Kuala Lumpur born and bred photographer's stunning images won him much admiration as it allowed bride and groom to own a truly memorable record of their special day.

Needless to say, Kid, 29 was the first Malaysian admitted as a member of the prestigious American-based Wedding Photojournalist Association (WPJA) in 2005.

Some of his high powered assignments have included the fairy tale weddings of Siti Nurhaliza and Datuk Khalid Jiwa, Mohamed Ridzuan (son of second finance Minister, Tan Sri Mohamed Yakcop) and Ezrin Suraya, Jeslina Hashim and Dion Rais Vercoe, YM Tunku Myra and James Iskandar Jaafar Greaves. Kid was voted one of the

"100 People in Asia You Must Know" by Malaysia Tatler magazine and has been featured in the Edge, New Straits Times, Pesona Pengantin, Harian Metro and Prestige magazine.

A self-confessed people person, Kid admits he still gets an adrenaline rush when he is photographing a wedding.



Kid and his teacher Ms Curtis during one of the many class activities in CMP.

"All weddings are different and special and I always look forward to the next assignment"

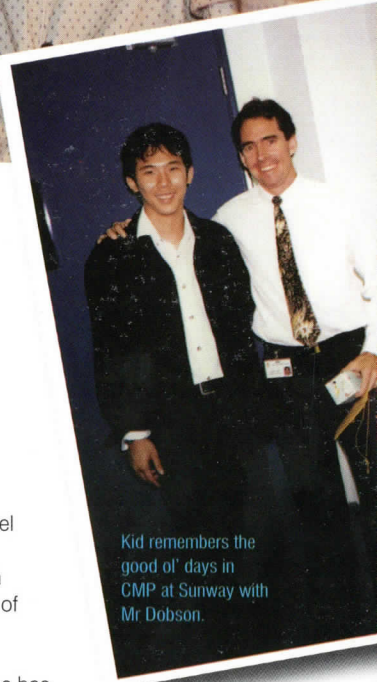
Not surprisingly (there is a trend among our alumni) Kid's wife Shirlyn Lim is also a fellow Sunway alumni. "She did A-Levels at Sunway and is a chartered accountant. She looks after our accounts" he said proudly. They

have two daughters, Faith (two and a half years) and Adira (six months).

Kid currently has five photographers assisting him in KidChan Studio. He has plans to develop photography short classes for busy professionals on weekends in the near future. Time permitting, Kid dabbles occasionally in travel photography for relaxation. His jaunts have brought him to capture the streetscapes of Penang and London.

Kid humbly professes that he has not reached the level of success he wants just yet. But this proud Sunway alumnus words of advice to young people planning to get into photography is "To practice, be patient and seize any opportunity you can get"

He shared his personal motto which is "Work hard, work smart and party hard" he said rather matter of factly. Obviously this has worked for him within and around his work. No kid-ding.



Kid remembers the good ol' days in CMP at Sunway with Mr Dobson.

Are you a former student? If you wish to join the Sunway University College Alumni and enjoy privileges please register at <http://alumni.sunway.edu.my>, call 03-74918622 and ask for Adeline/Elisa (Extn: 8021) or Vincent (Extn: 8069) or fill up form attached and submit completed form to staff of Sunway (if attending the Gala Dinner).