

blaze

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SUNWAY
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE



for the love
of art

Awesome threesome
puts Malaysia on
world map

Manchester Business School
Worldwide unveils its new
centre at Sunway
University College

Student greenies make
ecological footprints and help
Jeevan Childrens Home

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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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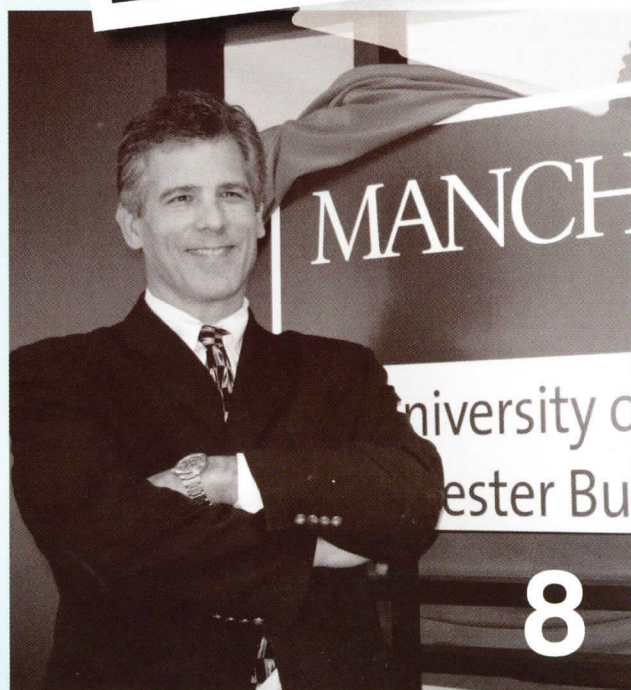
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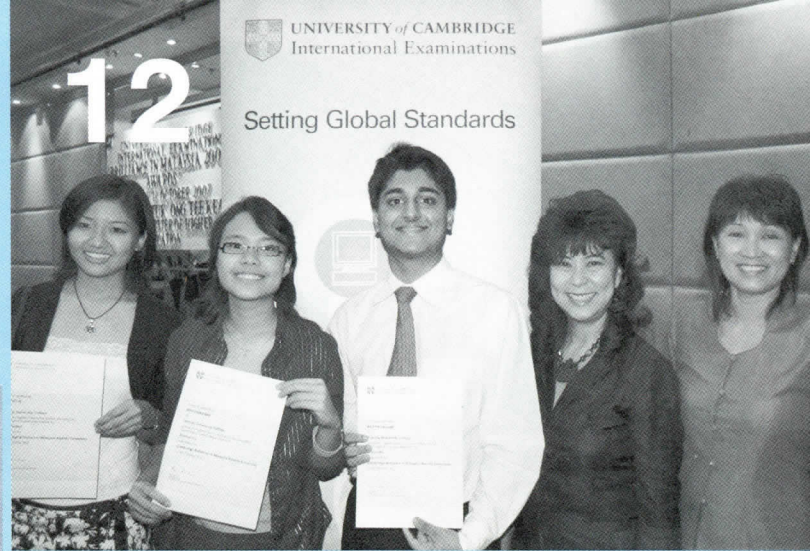
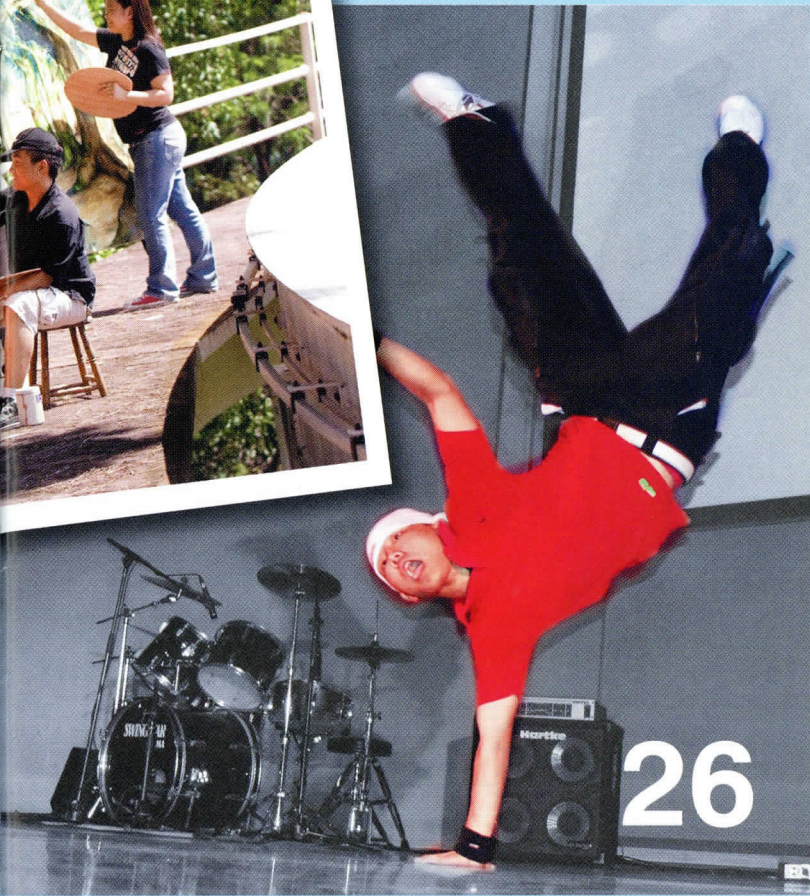
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for the love of art

“Every artist dips his brush into his own soul, and paints his own nature into his pictures” – Henry Ward Beecher

Sunway University College has taken an unconventional route to offer a range of Art & Design courses that will definitely create some colour and waves in the rather scholarly environment of Sunway's campus.

The Department of Art and Design is made up of former lecturers of a well-known Art & Design institution established in 1996 which was acquired by the Sunway Education Group in 2005 and re-vamped to become an exciting new division of Sunway University College. The department offers the Diploma in Graphic & Multimedia

Design, Diploma in Interior Design and the Diploma in Fine Art. Each programme takes 2 and a-half years to complete and includes an internship of 2-4 months. After completion of the course, graduates may opt to attend one year of intensive study for a degree with universities in the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand.

Students from the Department of Art & Design working on a "kolam" for the Pyramid Shopping Centre during last year's Deepavali festival.



The Diploma in Graphic & Multimedia Design, the most popular of the three programmes, panders to the needs of the very savvy MTV generation. "The Multimedia specialist is very much in demand nowadays and the students will learn how to use the relevant software that will enable them to have a high control of their creativity" said Helena Chin, Head of the Department of Art & Design. After students receive a solid foundation in the programme, the road ahead offers many career paths ranging from advertising, design, publication, packaging and photography.

The Diploma in Interior Design taps students' visualisation, problem-solving and communication skills. They are trained to "see" in conceptual design and to test if their designs can be built. Contrary to what people think, interior designers learn about structure and

foundation enabling them to dramatically change interiors. Like architects, their work is governed by the law and regulations of the industry.

A student of the Diploma in Fine Art will be able to master the different techniques, skills and media for individual expression by the end of the course. Students study art history, art appreciation and how to critique art. The career opportunities for fine art graduates are numerous and include work as a gallery artist, curator, illustrator, display artist, art restorer and muralist.

"Recently the public's perception of art courses has changed. Students with good grades in the SPM are applying to study Art & Design programmes in addition to the traditionally regarded courses like pre-university programmes" said Helena. One of the benefits of

studying Art & Design at Sunway is the small, personalised classes where students are taught in a nurturing environment. "The lecturers know the students and their strengths. This is advantageous to the students especially during their placements for internships, as the students will be appropriately matched to companies and they would reap the maximum benefits of the work experience" added Helena.

Students have opportunities for real life work experience including working with the community in projects such as kolams during Deepavali or murals for schools. In their second year, students are encouraged to take part in art competitions and to work on small-scale industrial projects. This provides skills such as learning to listen to a client, how to cost and bill a client for work and coming up with the design itself.

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Lim Chui Yong (left) proudly shows off her award winning watercolour with Helena Chin (right) during the presentation ceremony.



continued from page 5

Some of the recent awards won was by Lim Chui Yong, a second year Graphic & Multimedia Design students who bagged 2nd prize in the water colour category in the Tanjong Heritage Art Competition 2007 by Tanjong Public Limited Company. In 2005, a Diploma in Graphic and Multimedia student, Ng Kar Chun won a Gold Kancil Student Award by the Association of Accredited Advertising Agents, Malaysia.

"A lot of what we teach in the Department of Art & Design is according to the current market demands and needs" said Helena. Furthermore, a good number of lecturers are part-time and work in the industry which helps to keep students updated.

"With the small classes, students work better and harder which is really what we are aiming for – students who are passionate will have the drive to succeed in a subject that they love" shared Helena.



Far from creepy creatures

For some of us, the sight of a palm-sized furry spider is enough to send us packing, reeling in disgust and horror. But Randy Chuah and Elson Tan are out to prove that spiders or more specifically, tarantulas are fascinating creatures, make great pets and have been unfairly misconstrued as “evil” and “dangerous”.



Chuah is the President of the Malaysian Tarantula Society (MTS) which he founded in 2005 with his buddy Elson. They were both at Sunway University College's Open Day with the mission of educating students about tarantulas. "What the Society seeks to do is to promote an enthusiasm for tarantulas and educate the public in the hope of conserving the tarantulas" he said. Chuah was a former Canadian International Matriculation Programme (CIMP) student of Sunway University College and is now pursuing his first year in Electrical & Electronics Engineering at Monash University in the Sunway campus.

Chuah's fascination for the eight legged crawlers began as a child when he saw he different coloured spiders in pet shops in Penang. From that day on, he began collecting the different species and now owns a room full of tarantulas in terrariums. He points out that the number of spiders he has varies from a few hundred to a few thousand depending on the number of spiderlings hatched. His rationale for breeding them is based on the fact that the survival rate of spiderlings in the wild is a mere 15%. Chuah wants to encourage responsible and controlled captive breeding amongst members of the MTS. Like the breeding of pedigree pets, Chuah has bred spiders with other spiders owned by society members to maintain purity.

Chuah started with a collection he bought from pet shops. The MTS discourages the exploitation of tarantulas from the wild and therefore no disturbance is made to the habitat of spiders when the group members go on field trips. The Society hopes that others won't do the same.

"Tarantulas are easy to keep as pets" Randy enthuses. They are quiet animals requiring surprisingly little maintenance and have no detectable odor. "They come in a variety of shapes and striking colours" said Chuah. "They need to be fed two times a week on live insects such as crickets which is very affordable" he added. Being exoskeletal, they shed their exoskeleton when they grow, in a two-and-a-half hour moulting process, releasing their "old" selves in one piece very similar to how humans would change their clothes.

Unfortunately most people in our advanced society have a lack of knowledge about tarantulas and a misconception that they are a menace to humans. "For this reason, the Society seeks to encourage their members to learn more about the habitat and lifestyle of tarantulas and the activities it organises so that we may have a renewed respect for these animals" said Chuah.



Should you wish to find out more, visit www.mtsociety.com



Professor Michael Luger in front of the freshly unveiled Manchester Business School sign at the new centre at Sunway.

Manchester Business School Worldwide unveils its new centre at Sunway University College

Manchester Business School Worldwide, one of the most prestigious educational bodies globally launched its new Manchester Business School (MBS) Malaysia Centre at Sunway University College recently.

MBS Malaysia Centre offers world-class part time Master of Business Administration programmes (MBA) to corporate executives and the courses are uniquely designed to cater to the realistic demands of the business world today. MBS is focused on two groups: financial managers & finance professionals and engineering business managers.

Professor Michael Luger, Dean of MBS in University of Manchester shared on the trends Business Schools are headed towards in Asia and how MBS provides practical courses to develop the next generation of global business leaders.

"We aim to train experienced people in business, where students are typically about 34 or 35 years old and have six years of working experience. These are



Left to right: Professor Michael Luger; Professor Jarlath Ronayne, Vice-Chancellor, Sunway University College; Dr Marie Aimee Tourres; Mr Gabriel Lee, Director, SE Asia Centre and Nigel Banister, Chief Executive Officer, MBSW.

the people who need world-class training to give their best to the company" he told reporters after the launch.

Professor Luger shared also that MBS is able to provide a wide range of campus based programmes and are able to recognise the appropriateness of providing post experience via the part time route. MBS has maintained its position as 22nd in the Financial Times ranking of the world's leading business schools (as at January 2008) and is constantly ranked as one of the top fifteen business schools in Europe.

The Head of MBSW MBA Programme at Sunway University College, Dr Marie-Aimée Tourres shared that the institution has gathered international students from Thailand, South Korea, India and Indonesia in the engineering business manager courses.

The world renowned MBS was first established in Malaysia in 2006 and has two intakes a year. Its newly launched MBS Malaysia Centre currently has 114 students. MBS has a major presence in Hong Kong, Singapore, Dubai, Brazil, Russia and Jamaica.



Prof Michael Luger (left) accepts a token of appreciation from Dr Marie-Aimée Tourres, Head of the MBSW MBA Programme at Sunway.

Awesome threesome puts Malaysia on world map

Three Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) students at Sunway-TES, the financial courses division of Sunway University College astounded everyone with what they did in the June 2007 examinations.



That top of the world feeling : Left to right : Tan Yong Chen (gold), Choong Woon Wei (silver), Deputy Prime Minister YAB Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib Tun Abdul Razak and Lim Li Yin (silver).

The trio each achieved total scores for the three final papers that surpassed those among all the world's candidates. For this feat they were honoured as World Affiliates.

"Never before has Sunway-TES had students achieve this distinctive placing which is also a first for Malaysia" said Teo Ee Sing, Executive Director of Sunway-TES. Sunway-TES has consistently produced World Prize winners for ACCA since 1996 but here is where the similarity ends. World Prize winners are those who top the world's candidates for particular subjects. For the three students, they surpassed the world's candidates in their overall marks. The students received their awards from Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib Tun Abdul Razak, Deputy Prime Minister during a special ceremony held in their honour. The three are Tan Yong Chen, gold winner, and Choong Woon Wei and Lim Li Yin, who both tied jointly to win silver. Lam Sook Khan won bronze but was slightly short of receiving the World Affiliate ranking.

Tan Yong Chen has a string of world and Malaysian prizes under her belt. "I am excited and happy to get this recognition and it was due to the support and encouragement from parents, thorough teaching by caring lecturers, friends and the good learning environment at Sunway-TES" said Yong Chen. Yong Chen was also ACCA Malaysian Prize winner for two subjects, Paper 3.5 and Paper 3.6.

Choong Woon Wei, said "I am delighted, surprised and happy and certainly never imagined this".

Lim Li Yin enthused "My friends, family and of course the fantastic lecturers helped me in this achievement". Li Yin was also ACCA World Prize winner for Paper 3.7. She was resplendent in a shimmering blue saree during the graduation as her way of saying "thank you" to her favourite lecturers Ms P. Geetha and Ms Chandrika Menon.

Sunway-TES as a tuition provider of the ACCA has been achieving dramatic successes – consistently producing high achievers who have seized World Prizes and Malaysian Prizes. As at June 2007, Sunway-TES produced 11 World Prize winners and 102 Malaysian Prize winners for ACCA.

Sunway-TES received from ACCA, an award of the highest recognition, the Premier Plus Status in 2003, the first of such an award in the world outside Europe. In September 2007, Sunway-TES was one of the first approved institutions in Malaysia to be awarded the Approved Learning Partner – Student Tuition, Platinum Status.

The ACCA at Sunway University College has a remarkable pedigree of being a world renowned professional qualification which was first introduced in the United Kingdom in 1904. Today, ACCA has 296,000 students and 115,000 members in 170 countries with offices and centres in nearly 80 countries.

Sunway-TES also offers the Certified Accounting Technician (CAT), mentoring support for ACCA students to fast track to the B.Sc (Hons) in Applied Accounting offered by Oxford Brookes University and the Associate Chartered Accountant (ACA) qualification by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW).

Sharpening skills for university & career success



Tshek Zen (right) receiving a Sunway Subject Award for physics from Mr David Wood, CEO Curriculum Council, Australia while his teacher, Mr Pathmanathan (left) looks on.



Hui Ling (right) receiving her Sunway Subject Award in Accounting from David Wood, CEO Curriculum Council, Australia.

The Australian Matriculation (AUSMAT) has had a long standing relationship with Sunway since 1988. This Year 12 programme comes under the purview of the Curriculum Council of Western Australia, on behalf of the Government of Western Australia. A key strength of AUSMAT lies in the fact that 80% of the programme is application-based to promote and develop critical thinking.

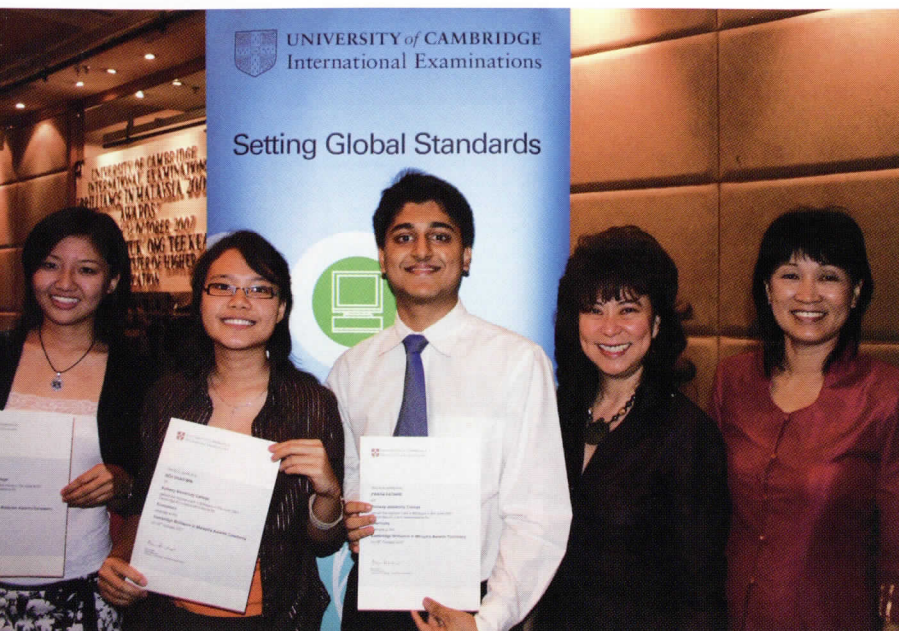
"World issues, global changes and responsible citizenship are some examples of topics brought into classroom learning, where students are encouraged to exchange ideas and articulate their view-points" said Mrs Ruma Lopes, Director of AUSMAT at Sunway. The emphasis on critical thinking, reflection and problem-solving equips students with the learning skills for university and career success. AUSMAT's unique scoring system allows students to optimize their marks through calculating the best 4 or best 5 subjects. The higher score of the TER can be used for university entrance.

Last year, 9 students achieved a TER propelling them to the top 2% of the 20,000 AUSMAT students worldwide in Vietnam, China, Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia. Lee Fei Yee had

the highest TER of 99.75 among AUSMAT students worldwide for Chemistry and Biology. Second was Koh Tshek Zen (TER of 99.25) and third was Chin Hui Ling with a TER of 98.4. Hui Ling was top in Accounting worldwide and earned a distinction in the BEWA Accounting Quiz open to students worldwide. Last year, 54% of Sunway's AUSMAT students achieved

a TER of 85 and above. Fei Yee will read Pharmacy at Monash University, Clayton campus.

Mr. David Wood, Chief Executive Officer of the Curriculum Council announced at the AUSMAT Awards Ceremony Night, some major reforms in the AUSMAT programme that will value-add and contribute towards more student-centred learning. AUSMAT will now cater more towards the interests and learning needs of students. The new courses will be introduced in 2008 and will be interesting, current and relevant to young people. "This will enhance the vibrancy of AUSMAT further and prepare students for a fast-changing and complex world" said Mrs Ruma.



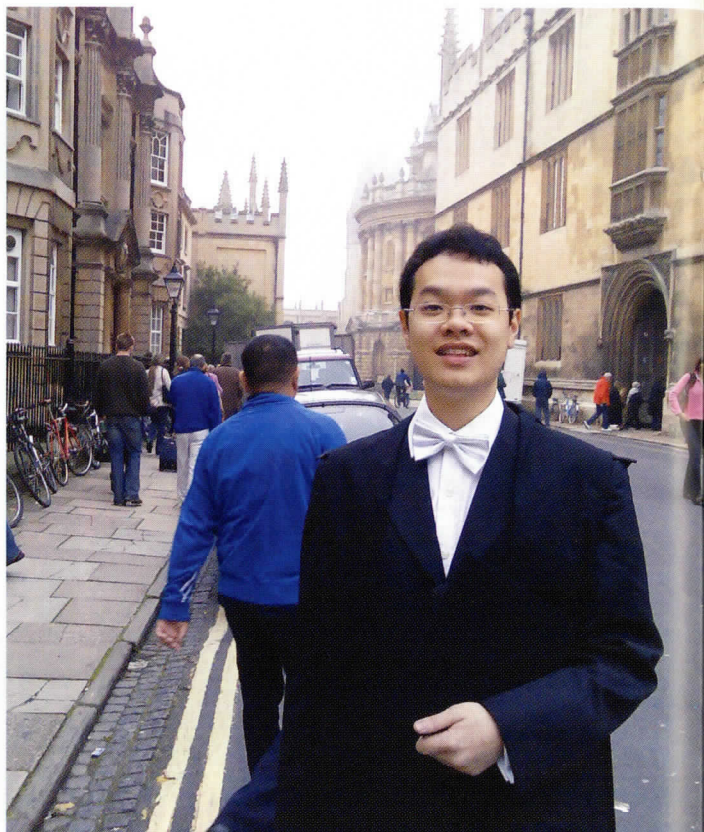
Making Sunway University College proud. Left to right, Whit Ni, Shao Min and Parth with Elizabeth Lee, Executive Director of Sunway University College and Dr Wong Yoke Chen, Director of A-Level Programme at Sunway.

Sunway A-Level students shine at home and abroad

Sunway University College A-Level students who claimed the Cambridge Brilliance in Malaysia Awards by the University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) for their AS Level Examinations in June 2007, as predicted, did well for their A-Level examinations in November recently. Au Su Anne, Ng Whit Ni and Parth Partak scored 5 A's each including General Paper. Ng Whit Ni was Top in the World for Mathematics (AS Level Examination) and Parth Partak was Top in Malaysia for Chemistry (AS Level Examination). Beh Shao Min claimed Top in Malaysia award for Economics at AS-Level, scored 4 A's. Another 9 students had 4 A's each and another 8 had 3 A's each.

Ng Whit Ni, who had received two achievement awards 'Most Outstanding Student' and the 'Best Student in Mathematics' from the Sunway A-Level Programme plans to pursue actuarial studies in Australia.

Parth Partak from New Delhi has applied to top U.S universities Stanford, MIT, Caltech and Carnegie Mellon and hopes to do computer science or computer engineering. Beh Shao Min is keen to read economics. She has applied to Cambridge University and UK and Australian universities.



Shining On at Oxford: Qu Hsueh Ming is pursuing Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Oxford University.

The Sunway A-Levels has traditionally maintained an extremely high overall passing rate, and in the recent examinations, it was 98%. The pass rates for each subject remained high and for Further Math and Accounting, the pass rate was 100%. In the past, nine of Sunway's A-Level students achieved CIE awards and these were in the years 1998, 1999, 2003, 2004 and 2006.

Sunway A-Levels graduates have consistently gained admission into top universities and colleges. Recently, Jacintha Tagal was awarded a full scholarship at Harvard University to read a four year liberal arts programme, valued at RM800,000. Her counterpart, Xander Chong Tze Siang entered Oxford University to read Biochemistry. Qu Hsueh Ming, from the January 2005 intake is reading Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Oxford University.



Professor Rodger Lea.



Training for lecturers: Sunway academics who attended a CELT workshop with their lecturers from CELT - Dr Tony Luxon (3rd from left), Ms Ali Cooper (next to him) and Ms Susan Armitage (3rd from right). Prof Leong is in the centre (front row).

Dynamic partnership

Lancaster University plays the important role of validating Sunway's honours degrees since both institutions sealed an Affiliation Agreement in 2006, especially in the areas of curriculum design, teaching and learning. The honours degrees offered are Bachelor of Science (Honours) degrees in Accounting & Finance, Business Management, Business Studies, Psychology, International Hospitality Management, International Tourism Management, Information Systems, Information Technology and Multimedia Systems. Graduates will receive one degree but two scrolls, one from Lancaster University and one from Sunway University College.

Academic interactions

The curriculum of all the honours degree courses have been validated by Lancaster. Sunway is in a post-validation stage as Lancaster Course Consultants continue to conduct annual reviews of the dual degrees. They oversee the different Schools at Sunway, visiting 2 to 3 times a year to observe teaching, interact with staff and facilitate workshops on how to set assignments and exam questions. "We have had to comply with the exam standards of LU which not only assures that the quality of our exams are comparable to that of LU but also helps to single out high and average achievers" said Professor Leong Yin Ching, Academic Advisor, Sunway University College. When average students are identified they are guided towards enrichment classes. "In the course of all the interaction, there is mutual benefit between the academics of Sunway and the Course Consultants" said Professor Jarlath Ronayne, Vice-Chancellor, Sunway University College.

Staff training

The partnership is not all one way as Sunway has provided support with the setting up of the Academic Quality & Strategic Planning Unit, a Teaching and Learning Unit and providing staff training schemes. An example of this was when the Centre for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (CELT) of Lancaster University recently conducted two workshop sessions on pedagogy for lecturers of Sunway leading to the Certificate of Academic Practice. "Sunway is also encouraging its staff to keep themselves current by pursuing post-graduate qualifications if they have not done any recently" said Professor Leong.

In its endeavour to become a full-fledged university, Sunway University College has partnered Lancaster University (LU), a Top-20 British University to raise its academic standing.

Bringing best practices to Sunway

Faculty members of Lancaster University are encouraged to spend a sabbatical or a part of it at Sunway for research and teaching purposes. Professor Rodger Lea, a visiting research fellow at Lancaster University who did his doctoral in computer science at Lancaster University is attached to the School of Computer Technology at Sunway for a year currently to help Sunway build on its research and post-graduate programmes. His role at Sunway is similar to his role at Lancaster which is to bring research out to the real world. Apart from identifying new research areas and starting up research projects, Professor Lea is looking at the kinds of skills that staff need to bring them up to world standard and he is helping to recruit staff with a more research bias which would help Sunway complement its traditional teaching focus. He has engaged the staff with presentations and started reading groups among them. "We need to look at why what we are doing is important. With this, we can leapfrog the competition by figuring out where the trends are going" said Professor Lea.

Professor Lea is an Adjunct Professor of the University of British Columbia and has had 15 years of industrial research experience as Vice-President and Director of Sony's US distributed lab in San Jose, California.

Future developments

Students in any of the Lancaster validated honours degree courses will be able to spend a semester of their studies at Lancaster University under the soon to be introduced Student Study Abroad Scheme.

"Sunway's affiliation with Lancaster University is an equal and dynamic partnership" said Professor Lea. "Sunway students benefit from an established education system and at the same time, Lancaster University is able to interact with the world and benefit by learning how to operate in a more competitive environment as is found here in Malaysia" explained Professor Lea.



Wayang kulit – kept up with the times?

By Khazmen Shamia (Khaz)

Student of Department of Performance + Media,
Sunway University College

If you were from the Department of Performance + Media, you would know that at the end of every semester, we students have to put up a performance which basically serves to show what we've learned so far and also to end the semester with a bang.

It was close to the end of February and we had just finished our classes for the semester and all that was left was to put up our performance. We had been studying Traditional Malaysian Theatre that semester and we had been training in wayang kulit for six weeks under the guidance of master dalang Pak Nasir Yusoff.

It was the day before our performance and I was spreading the word and trying to get people to come and watch the show. As I walked around I saw a group of my friends playing football. I went up to them and told them that my course mates and I would be performing wayang kulit tomorrow and that it was absolutely free!

"Ala.. Wayang Kulit.. That one stupid lah", I heard one of them say. The others laughed in agreement and not-so-kindly turned down my invitation.

Needless to say, I was offended and angry at what they had said. They were a bunch of spoiled urban kids who had never seen a wayang kulit performance before and they were calling it stupid? Who were they to judge something that they knew nothing about?

I was about to give them a piece of my mind when I suddenly realised that I myself had made a similar mistake. Before I began this course, I had always thought of traditional theatre as being 'old' and 'not contemporary' and 'unable to keep up with modern times'. But now, after getting a taste of what traditional theatre is about, I can confidently say that traditional theatre is actually very contemporary and it can definitely keep up with modern times. All over the world, traditional theatre is still practiced to this day, so how then can one say it is not contemporary?

And for example, in the wayang kulit performance, some of the things that the

characters say and do are up to date. The puppeteer, or more fondly known as 'Tok Dalang', is allowed to improvise and he will sometimes make comments about politicians, or music icons, or current issues that are happening in the society. This just proves that traditional theatre can keep up with the times.

Another point that can be brought up is that nowadays when art practitioners are looking for new ideas, they actually look to traditional theatre for inspiration and ideas. Lots of elements of traditional theatre can actually be found in new and modern styles of performance. So in a sense, traditional theatre not only keeps up with modern times, but it also gives birth to 'new' and 'modern' concepts that make up contemporary and modern theatre.

As for wayang kulit, I always looked at it as something that was very 'Malay'. It looked fun to me but I was too afraid to give it a chance, because I was afraid that people would think of me as very 'Malay'. Which is actually quite funny because I am actually half Malay! My mother is British but my dad is Malay, so



Khaz is standing on the right, back row with the "geduk". Pak Nasir Yusoff is seated in front (3rd from left).

I'm actually half Malay. But my lifestyle and the way I am is just so not Malay that nobody would even think that I'm half Malay. I've always been that way,

But you might wonder, now that I have given wayang kulit a chance, now that I have let wayang kulit 'into my system', does this mean that I am now more intact with my Malay side?

Well, the answer is yes and no. Yes because I now understand what wayang kulit is all about and I have not only been lucky enough to watch it, but also to perform it for others! I feel that I have sort of gone back in time and discovered something that belongs to my long-forgotten culture. So in that sense, yes, I feel more intact with my Malay side. But no because I feel that wayang kulit speaks a universal language. Even though the language that wayang kulit is delivered in is Malay, I feel that it can also speak to those who cannot speak Malay. Wayang kulit is a universal language, just like any form of art, be it a

painting or a sculpture, or a dance or a theatre performance.

Now, if my 'friends' had only come to watch the wayang kulit performance, they would have had a jolly good time and they would also see that wayang kulit is not 'stupid' after all. If any of you reading this have a chance to go and watch a wayang kulit performance, or even any traditional theatre performance, I strongly suggest that you seize the opportunity to do so! Don't let the false impression that traditional theatre is 'uncool' stand in your way. You will never know how you feel about it til you go and watch it. So the next time that my P+M department puts on any performances, I expect to see all of you there!

Khaz played the "geduk" (drum) during the recent Wayang Kulit performance at Sunway University College.



Students who made a mark



Koh Jen Li (left) receiving her Sunway University College Sports Scholarship Award from Mr Lee Weng Keng (right).



Left, Lee Ming Hao, received a Tan Sri Dato' Seri (Dr.) Jeffrey Cheah Scholastic Award from Puan Sri Datin Seri (Dr.) Susan Cheah, EXCO Member, the Sunway Group for his excellent VU B.Bus results and involvement in ECA.

534 Sunway students were presented with various scholarships amounting to RM 2.5 million during a ceremony held recently. The amount came from the Sunway Education Trust, a fund set up by Sunway in 1997 with an altruistic purpose of providing financial assistance to deserving students every year. A total of RM 30.4 million has been distributed so far to 3,500 students. Sunway University College is the only private higher education institution in Malaysia which operates under a Trust.

"Sunway's Founder Tan Sri Dato' Seri (Dr.) Jeffrey Cheah is a firm believer that scholarships are a way of encouraging and motivating outstanding students so that they may be leaders and worthy members of our community" said Ms Elizabeth Lee, Executive Director, Sunway University College. The scholarships in particular honours students who balance studies with activities outside the classroom

The most prestigious category, the Tan Sri Dato' Seri (Dr.) Jeffrey Cheah Scholastic Award of RM2,000 each is given to outstanding students who shine academically in their studies at Sunway. Among them, Lee Ming Hao, was an obvious choice. Ming Hao, who completed the Victoria University '3+0' Bachelor of Business, scored 17 High Distinctions and topped the world (across all VU campuses) in four subjects, Microeconomic Principles, Business Law, Management Accounting

and Corporate Law. Ming Hao was also active in extra-curricular activities, as President of the Sunway Student Council in 2005 and the VU Business Club. He has just graduated and is currently employed at ECM Libra as a Management Associate.

The Sunway University College Sports Scholarship recognised national and state sportspersons studying at Sunway. One of the students who received the prestigious scholarship was Koh Jen Li, who represented Malaysia in Taekwondo.

Koh Jen Li recently completed her Monash University Foundation Year under the scholarship that covered half her tuition fees and is now studying at Monash University, Sunway campus. Apart from being in the Taekwondo National Junior Squad, Jen Li represented Malaysia in the Netherlands, Kazakhstan, Korea, Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia. She won many medals

internationally including a Gold in the 9th Southern Thailand Taekwondo Championship 2006, Silver in the 7th ASEAN Taekwondo Federation Championship 2004, Gold in the 4th Korea Open Chuncheon International Taekwondo Championships 2003, Bronze in the 2nd Asian Junior Taekwondo Championships 2003 and Gold in the 2nd International Clubs Invitational Taekwondo Championship 1997.

Jen Li took up the sport at the tender age of 5 years in 1994 and attained her first poom for the Junior Black Belt at the age of 8 years. She attained her 2nd and 3rd pooms at the age of 11 and 13 years respectively. Jen Li has been listed in the Malaysia Book of Records since 26th March 2003 as the "Youngest to Achieve the Highest Level for the Taekwondo Junior Black Belt". Jen Li is also a marathon runner and participated in the Ambank Kuala Lumpur International Marathon 2006.

Not surprisingly, Jen Li emerged the Gold winner of the Malaysia Association of Private Colleges and Universities (MAPCU) Taekwondo Competition 2007 in Free Sparring (Female Open, Featherweight). She was also the MAPCU Taekwondo Organising Secretary for the championship which was held at Sunway University College.



Foundations for trust

By Dr Teoh Hsien-Jin

Not long ago, I watched one of my students coming face-to-face with a hamster for the first time. As she leaned forwards, looking curiously at the hamster, she smiled and seemed to say, "Hi, can we be friends?" In response, the cute little brown and white hamster leaned forward, wiggled his nose, and looked at her with big brown eyes, as if to say "If you are nice to me, I will be nice to you!"

It was a scene of peace where two species were meeting for the first time, intending to understand each other. Later on, the student wanted to pick up the hamster. There was no other ulterior motive, just the simple need to hold and look. The hamster must have sensed this and slowly climbed onto the palm of her hand, and stood up on his hind legs and gazed at her. In this manner, a bond of trust was established between animal and human being.

Trust is one of the basic social behaviours that we need to cultivate. Pets, by nature, look to their owners to provide companionship and care for them. In return, they are loyal companions who trust that their owners would not hurt them. This trust can be betrayed if people begin to hurt the pet. The pet in turn will subsequently learn to be wary of people, and will be constantly preparing to defend itself by retaliating. A vicious cycle soon emerges.

The process of developing trust between pet and his owner is similar to that between two humans. Fostering trust begins with a genuine intention to understand another person. It is the simplest criteria for developing bonds between people, which results in goodwill. Trust is such an important fundamental foundation for social interaction, so much so that opportunities exist to develop it everyday.

Goodwill often begins between friends and family. When this does not occur, trust breaks down, and relationships disintegrate. Simple acts of kindness, words of encouragement and praise, and keeping to promises helps build trust between people. When people seek to exploit one another for personal gain, hatred and resentment grows, trust breaks down and in a crisis everyone would selfishly guard their own interests.

Between human beings, the foundations of trust are built by spending quality time with one another. This means taking a genuine interest in those around you, and accepting them and their feelings without judging them. Resentment begins when you constantly dominate the relationship, and keep talking about yourself. Eventually your friends would begin to feel stifled, and keep away from you. Soon, the feelings of those who trusted you to notice and consider their feelings, fades. At that point, the attention that you had, and took for granted, becomes a painful memory.

Trust maintains the university community. People need to trust the university staff to organise and run daily affairs effectively,

and to ensure that the university will not fall into chaos. When rumours are rife with the short fallings of university administrators and lecturers, scepticism emerges and trust in the university begins to fade. Developing a spirit of openness by clarifying, rather than continue to listen to rumours, helps to increase the level of trust within the university.

When young lives are placed in the care of lecturers, the students trust the lecturers to help them acquire skills, and not traumatise them. When the lecturers begin to degrade their students, this bond of trust between student and lecturers is broken, and faith in the university is lost. This also works in the opposite direction. Lecturers trust that students would show respect and demonstrate a willingness to learn. When students repeatedly behave in the opposite manner, lecturers try to take steps to understand the student, and when this fails, the lecturer has to refer the student for external professional assistance.

There are many other places within which trust is needed. Whilst driving, we try our best to trust the other drivers on the road to not endanger our lives. Perhaps the aggressive behaviours of some drivers, and motor cyclists, to turn roads into potential killing fields, only reflects the erosion of trust in fast paced societies.

We do not often talk about having faith in ourselves, and to be able to trust ourselves to get our work completed. This is reinforced when people tend to only notice each other's weaknesses and to highlight these to them. It is the rare person who goes out of his or her way to notice others' strengths and positive traits, and endeavours to praise and encourage them. Doing so raises one's self-esteem, and encourages trust in one's abilities.

When trust breaks down, friendships collapse. Do not sit back and be a passive observer. As members of this community, we need to play our part to ensure that all that we have invested in does not fall to ruin. Lying within our good selves are the cornerstones for building bridges of trust for the future.

Dr Teoh Hsien-Jin is a Clinical Psychologist and is the Head of the School of Health and Natural Sciences, Sunway University College. The Department of Psychology is one of the departments under the purview of the School.

Sunway's tourney a smashing success

Shuttlers from universities and colleges played several tight matches in the Finnex-Sunway Badminton Open Tournament held over two weekends early this year. Hosted and organized for the first time by Sunway University College's Badminton Club, 185 shuttlers from more than 20 institutions signed up for the Tournament with half of all the participants from Sunway University College.



"The Sunway University College Badminton Club has been active in recent years. Many students took part in the Sunway Closed Tournament in July last year and this Open Tournament is a chance for more of our players to compete" said Club President, Jasmine Tee, a former Selangor Junior player. Off court, Jasmine is pursuing the ACCA, a professional accounting qualification at Sunway University College.

One of the players sponsored by Finnex came into the spotlight during the tournament, top seeded Eric Ten of Universiti Malaya (UM) was beaten by Leonard Ng of Taylor's in the Men's Singles. However, Eric emerged as one of the Men's Doubles champions with his team mate, Mok Chuang Chin. The Men's Singles title went to Fuan Keen Vai of Taylor's.

The women shuttlers of Sunway proved they could put up a good fight as Jasmine Tee became the Women's Singles champion and Kavita Kayaroganam and Emily, from Indonesia were second runners-up in the Women's Doubles category.



Puan Sri Susan and Dr Goh declare the Tournament open.

Jasmine Tee and Fuan Keen Vai were the Mixed Doubles champions while Kong Sei Key and Tania Teoh of UM were the victors in the Women's Doubles.

"All in all, the tournament was fun and the students had a chance to be exposed to better players" said Jasmine. The only drawback in the tournament was that there were not enough women fielded. The winners took home a total of RM3,300 in prize money donated by Club Patron, Puan Sri Datin Seri (Dr.) Susan Cheah, EXCO Member of the Sunway Group. Finnex was the official shuttlecocks sponsor. Other sponsors included Celebrity Fitness, Eagle Games and CCM Pharmaceuticals who provided gifts and prizes for participants and winners.

The tournament adviser was Dr Goh Cheng Teik who declared the Tournament open with Puan Sri Susan Cheah.

Tania Teoh (left), Kong Sei Key (centre) and Ms Lee Siok Ping (left).





Jasmine Tee (left) with Lee Siok Ping (right).



Left to right, Jasmine, Kavita and Emily.



Fuan Kee Vai (left) with Lee Siok Ping.



A group of players with Puan Sri Susan and Dr Goh.



Eric Ten (left), Mok Chuang Chin (centre) and Ms Lee Siok Ping, Director of Student Services Department.

Student greenies make ecological footprints and help Jeevan Childrens Home

The students of the American Degree Transfer Program (ADTP) of Sunway University College reached out to the community in two socially relevant events recently.

Some 50 ADTP students and their lecturers participated in the Ecological Footprint Workshop which was jointly organised with the Environmental Protection Society of Malaysia (EPMS) at the Rumah Amal Cahaya Tengku Ampuan Rahimah (RACTAR) in Subang Jaya.

The residents of the RACTAR Home for orphans (all females) aged between 7 and 20 years were treated to a talk by Mr Randolph Jeremiah of the EPMS followed by a workshop engaging the youth and children in a discussion about the resources needed for the production of everyday materials. Mr Mano Maniam, President of EPSM was also present.

The workshop concluded with a tree-planting activity in the grounds of RACTAR. "The aim of the workshop was to create environmental awareness in our community" said Dr Uthaya Raman, one of the lecturers of the ADTP who coordinated the event. "We hope that the tree planting will encourage the community to think about the importance of trees and play their part in conserving the environment" added Dr Uthaya.

During another occasion of the American Week held from 22 to 26 October to celebrate the 20 year anniversary of Sunway's partnership with Western Michigan University, the ADTP students raised a total of RM1,000 from food and game stalls organised by them. The cheque of RM1,000 was presented to Jeevan Childrens Home in Klang, a Home which cares for orphaned children and youth between the ages of 5 and 16.

The program also donated new bookshelves and books gathered from the students and staff to set up a mini-library within the Home. An anonymous sponsor donated six computers and computer tables which were installed by the ADTP students and staff in the mini-library. 8 student committee members have been involved either in helping in the set-up or in visiting the Home.

The ADTP is hoping to fill the mini-library at Jeevan Children Home with more books. Any contribution of educational or fictional books is most welcome. Please contact Ms Jo Anne of the ADTP at 74918622 Extn 8361 and you may send these items to her at Sunway University College.



The Jeevan Home children excited over their new computers.

HAPPENINGS



The students and RACTAR residents had an enjoyable time.



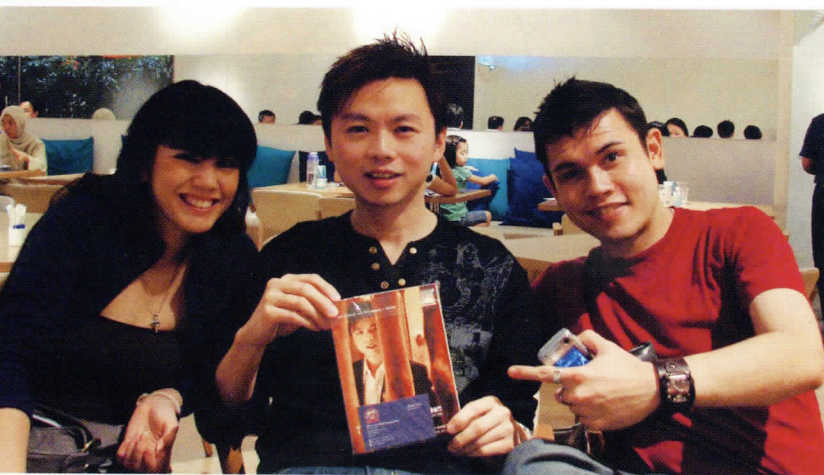
The student "greenies" did their part for the environment as the RACTAR residents looked on.

Randolph Jeremiah (far left), Ray Sundram (kneeling) of the EPSM and lecturers Dr Uthaya Raman (extreme right) and Dr Ratna Malar (behind her) of the ADTP with some of the ADTP students and RACTAR residents.



Brian John Yim, music producer with a mission

Brian John Yim does not appear to be your typical Gospel singer burning up the pews in foot-stomping and soulful vocals but delivers songs dedicated to his faith, nonetheless. His latest album "The Time has Come" is brimming with contemporary numbers all written by him over the years, and just released on the market.



Left to right: Vincent Chong's Manager, Vanessa Chong (who is Vince's sister), Brian and Vince with Brian's CD.

The album features "Here I Am" which was aired in Brazil and will be translated into Portuguese. Brian shares duets with Juwita Suwito, Malaysian Idol coach and Vincent Chong, Akademi Fantasia champion while Joanne Yeoh, an acclaimed Malaysian violinist accompanies him on a track. This is Brian's second album and is co-produced by Abraham Tee who was a judge on the popular Astro Talent Quest show.

A devout Christian, who owns his own recording company, BYMC Enterprise, Brian is also a music producer. He plunged into the music business not just from his love of singing but in wanting to interact with, motivate and inspire others to realise their own dreams of becoming musicians, singers and song writers.

"I began singing and performing from the age of four and I yearned to do music after my SPM. However, my dreams of being a singer were dashed as my mother wanted me to pursue

something more academic so I took up a business degree from the American Degree Transfer Program at Sunway University College" said Brian.

Brian graduated in 1998 with a Bachelor of Business Administration Summa Cum Laude (First Class Honours) from Haworth Business School at Western Michigan University (WMU), Sunway's twinning partner. His CGPA was 3.94. Being an effervescent person, Brian made many contributions at WMU including acting as a Resident Advisor at Bigelow Hall, winning the Volunteer Service Contest in 1995-1996 and at the same time managing to get into the National Dean's List in 1995 (which was rare for a foreign student) and every year on the University's Dean's List during his studies.

In 2000, Brian obtained a scholarship to pursue an MBA at the Phoenix International University in New Zealand and graduated with distinction and as the class valedictorian. "If I have the chance to pursue a PhD or a doctorate, I would go for it, to gain a sense of accomplishment" said Brian.

With all his qualifications and achievements, Brian knows he can do more with his gift of singing which he believes is God given.

"I see many hidden talents among our youth. I feel they lack guidance and direction and that is why I am on a mission to educate our young people" said Brian. "I run workshops on song writing and lyric writing but don't just teach the nuts and bolts of lyrics and verses but how to make a lyric memorable and how to develop melodies" shared Brian. He feels that his efforts are the keys to improving the quality of music in the local industry particularly in non-mainstream genres.

Having performed at numerous events such as for corporates, charity and international organisations, including at the 1994 ASEAN Symposium Collaboration hosted by former Prime Minister, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamed and at the glitzy inauguration of His Majesty Tuanku Ja'afar, the Yang Di Pertuan Agong in 1994, Brian has been fortunate to rub shoulders with many outstanding personalities. Last year, Deputy Finance Minister of Malaysia, Dato' (Dr) Ng Yen Yen nominated Brian for the Most Outstanding Young Malaysian Award for his contributions to the local community.

Brian John Yim welcomes enquiries from students and the public who may be interested in attending his song writing workshops or any other musical activities and events. His email is brian@bymc-enterprise.com and you may browse his website, www.bymc-enterprise.com for more information.

Brian with his friend Fish Leong (left).



Brian (right) with Juwita (left) making waves on stage during a concert.



Brian (in red shirt) with students who attended one of his workshops.

Are you a former Sunway student?
If you wish to join the Sunway University College Alumni and enjoy privileges such as being able to access the Alumni Portal, please register at <http://alumni.sunway.edu.my> or call 03-74918622.

Kristy sets her sights on becoming a teacher

At a recent graduation ceremony for the Canadian International Matriculation Programme (CIMP), a pre-University programme at Sunway, valedictorian Kristy Tan Wei Shia, 19, not only endeared herself to everyone with her smile but impressed with her atypical career choice, to be a secondary school teacher.

The seeds for this inclination were planted when Kristy had to guide a Youth Group in her church one day. "I realised that I enjoyed the classroom environment and I like the challenge of making teaching fun in the pursuit of helping people better themselves" said Kristy.

Kristy will soon be making her way to Australia to pursue a degree in Secondary School Teaching. She is planning to teach English and the Social Sciences. For Kristy, the CIMP teachers have been an inspiration to her decision to become a teacher. "During my time in the CIMP, I came to appreciate and applaud the work of a teacher and I have learnt that education encompasses more than academic excellence" said Kristy.

Kristy had this advice for her peers in her valedictorian speech, "I challenge you to challenge what Bernard Shaw once wrote, 'Youth is wasted on the young' by looking forward and intentionally choosing to live your life every day. Don't let anybody look down on you just because you are young but in your youth, seize its courage, its vigour and its spunk to do amazing things. Each one of us is capable of that as it's not so much the size of the deed that counts as it is the heart from which it comes."

Another student, Jodhi Putra Atmaja from Indonesia received the Tan Sri Dato' Seri (Dr.) Jeffrey Cheah Award and was nominated for the Governor General's Academic Medal. Jodhi's results stood tall amongst others and he also received four subject awards in Geometry & Discrete Math, Chemistry, Physics and Introductory Calculus. Not surprisingly, Jodhi has set his sights on pursuing a degree in Aerospace Engineering.



Kristy at her alma mater.

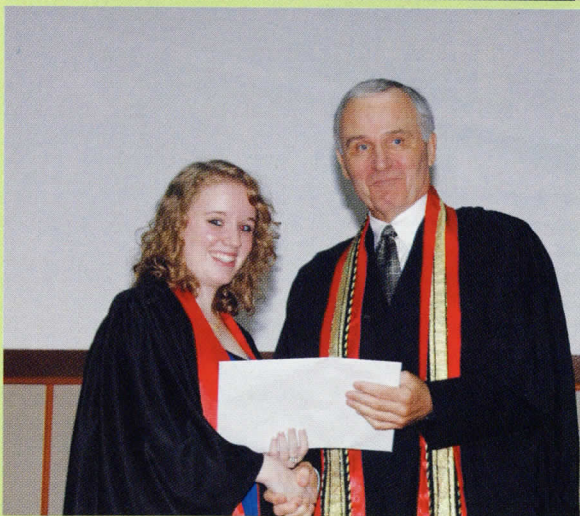
Cheryl Ann Robinson, who hails from Calgary, Canada, received the Programme Award and a Subject Award for World Issues. Cheryl, who slips easily into a Malaysian accent when speaking with locals, has been living in Malaysia for the past seven years with her family. Cheryl intends to pursue Political Science and has applied to Dalhousie University in Canada.

The ceremony was graced by Mr Bez Babakhani, Counsellor, Political, Economic and Public Affairs, Canadian High Commission.



Kristy with Elizabeth Ford (right), one of her teachers who inspired her.

Jodhi Putra Atmaja (left) receives his award from Mr Bez Babakhani of the Canadian High Commission.



Cheryl Ann Robinson (left) receives her award from Mr. Terry Boucher, Director of the CIMB.

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Rapping the night away to cool bands

The School of Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure Management students of Sunway University College successfully executed a charity concert entitled 'Sound of Miracles'.

This concert was one of the events held as part of the students' course requirements and part of the CSR activities for the School. Fundraising activities started about two months before the concert and a total of RM3,000 was raised and donated to Generating Opportunities for Learning Disabled or GOLD; an association that manages the Special Education Programme for students with learning difficulties at SMK Bandar Sunway. GOLD was identified earlier as the organisation that would receive all proceeds from ongoing activities raised by the School.

Approximately 400 enthusiastic students attended the concert at the Multi Purpose Hall, Sunway University College. The theme of 'Traffic Light Party' decided by the students, allowed the concert goers to have some fun and mingle with each other.

The concert opened up with a spectacular performance by a fire dancer who enthralled the crowd. Coupled with the magnificent lighting and decoration set-up, the opening act

was a great start. Following that, a line-up of local bands such as Curtis Blues, Jazh Disciples (a hardcore rock band that got the crowd jumping to their music), Dose 2 was an upcoming hip hop rapper duo who came complete with their own DJ and BTBL band. There were dance routines and more. These performers did their part for charity as all of them had performed without charging fees to the student organisers. A million thanks to them on behalf of GOLD.

Among the other activities during the night were lucky draws with attractive prizes and mini games in between the performance sets which had the crowd staying until the end of the event.

Towards the end of the night, the students and the crowd went home tired but satisfied. The concert was a fitting end of another successful practical for the Events Management students.

The hip audience had a cool time.

