

blaze


SUNWAY
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

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Research in Sunway
Right attitude
Immortalizing species
Open Day
Blackout for Earth
"I can cook!"

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2009
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blaze

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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On the cover : Ms Woo Pei Jun, lecturer with the Department of Psychology and Buster, the department's rabbit



From the Executive Director's Desk



No effort is spared in turning Sunway University College into a place where scholars from all over the world come together to acquire a reputable university degree.

By actively promoting our brand of education overseas, we have managed to reverse the trend. Where 20 years ago, majority of our students flock overseas to acquire a degree, today, international students from over 70 countries around the world are coming to Sunway to pursue their higher education.

Besides focusing on recruiting international students, Sunway has also set up an International Student Office, a one-stop centre which assists international students to adapt to life in a foreign country through orientation programmes and access to student welfare services as well as counselling, if necessary.

As an institution, we are also constantly striving to maintain good relationships with embassies and high commissions. Ambassadors and High Commissioners have attended events organised by our Association of International Students and other societies in Sunway. One of these was the 'Beats of Peace Indian Cultural Night', where we encourage the exchange of cultural values.

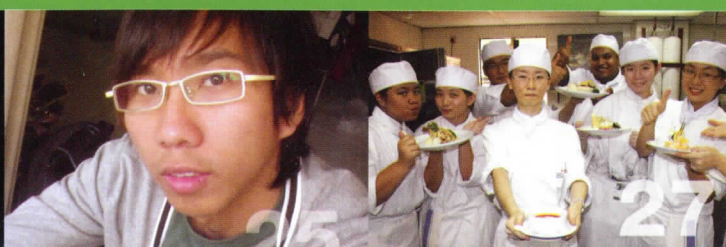
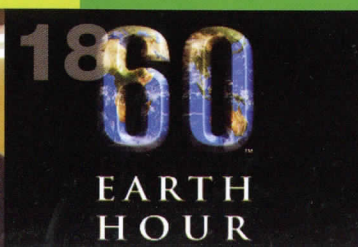
Sunway has spawned partnerships abroad. An example is the Shanghai Sunway Financial Training Company Ltd, which is a joint-venture company between Sunway-TES and a company in China. It officially opened in March 2008 and a license was granted for it to operate financial training courses in Pudong District, Shanghai. The company also offers the ICAEW ACA course.

Two important milestone collaborations with Star College of Harbin Normal University and Nanning College for Vocational Technology in China have allowed China students to transfer to Sunway-TES programmes, at Sunway and Sunway College, Ipoh specifically.

With all these collaborations, we want our students to experience an international education while studying here at Sunway. In the course of their studies, we hope that they will also learn to network with other local students. It is hoped that the friendships they have established while studying at Sunway will go a long way!

Let us continue to strive to make Sunway the preferred institution for both our Malaysian and International students.

Elizabeth Lee
Executive Director



Cover Story

Research in Sunway



Associate Professor Dr. Teoh Hsien-Jin with a set of Beatrix Potter's books

Beatrix Potter's series of children's books has become a subject much talked about amongst psychology students, since Associate Professor Dr. Teoh Hsien-Jin, Head of School of Health and Natural Sciences, invited him to Sunway.

Peter Rabbit was the topic of a whole discussion when Dr. Teoh, a Consultant Psychologist himself, gave a research presentation on the topic, "A Psychological Perspective on Peter Rabbit."

According to Dr. Teoh, since Peter Rabbit made his debut wearing his bright blue jacket and a little pair of brown shoes in *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* in 1902, the whole Peter Rabbit series has sold more than 151 million copies in 35 languages. The Peter Rabbit stories originated in the Lake District, Cumbria, located very close to Lancaster University.

"One day, Mrs. Rabbit goes to the bakery, leaving Peter and his sisters, Flopsy, Mopsy, and Cottontail to play and gather berries in the forest," Dr. Teoh read from one of Beatrix Porter's books to a packed lecture theatre. "Disobeying his mother's orders, Peter sneaks into Mr. McGregor's garden and eats as many vegetables as he can before Mr. McGregor spots him and chases him around.

"Eventually, Peter manages to escape, but not before losing his jacket and his shoes, which Mr. McGregor uses for his new scarecrow. He is famously remembered by some as being in fear of Mrs. McGregor putting him 'in a pie'."

Importance of Research

While Peter Rabbit may excite the imagination of many children who have grown up loving him, the truth is, for a psychologist like Dr. Teoh, there is so much to learn from the classical children's series of Peter Rabbit's tales about child psychology. "The success of Peter Rabbit as a series never ceases to enthuse me. As psychologists, we are interested to research into reasons why it is so successful. This is precisely the job of an academic: to discover new things, and to investigate problems," he explains. "Research is also a process of organised thinking and analysis in a scientific manner. It helps us to discern the truth from rumours or assumptions."

A lot of Dr. Teoh's research focuses on the mental health of children and teenagers, and in various other areas of interest which are often used by students and other researchers to support their studies, or as parts of government policy, or to explain social phenomena.

Despite a hectic schedule as a School Head, Dr. Teoh's time is divided between teaching (40%), research work (10%) and administration (50%).

Among some of his major research work include: "National Mental Health Morbidity levels"; "Teenagers Mental Health, Children and family factors"; "Pain Management; Chronic Obesity; Mental Health Stigma, Delinquency and Crime". In all, Dr. Teoh has published 41 scientific papers. He has also authored or co-authored with other researchers 43 books. He has also written about 146 articles in newspapers and magazines besides also presenting technical papers in more than 86 National and International conferences.

"At university level, it is important that we spend time in doing research," Dr. Teoh continues. "Research activities demonstrate that knowledge is being generated within the university. When it is incorporated into the academic course work, it is an indication that the students are learning to understand and solve problems in a systematic manner using specified scientific principles."

In his research, Dr. Teoh involves both his students and colleagues in different aspects of the work. "It is part of the learning process for my students. It makes them think and teaches them to be organized, and to analyze in a more introspective manner. They are involved as data collectors, data analysts, and at a higher level, some of them may become co-authors for papers."

In October last year, the students were involved in producing a research publication in conjunction with Sunway's Second Academic Symposium 2008, where the focus was on the theme: "Influencing Society through Psychological Research."

Psychology students at Sunway are involved in research undertaken as a group (and supervised) in Year 1 and Year 2. In Year 3, they undertake research on their own supervised by psychology lecturers. Through research, students are taught how to link theory to the real world. The research exercise also provides a deeper understanding and knowledge of their subjects. Some of the interesting research projects that were carried out include topics such as "Do Opposites Attract?" and "Body Shape Preference in Romantic Partner".

Left to right: Students Lee Chen See, Tan Wan Ting and Cassie Kok with their psychology lecturers Dr Priyadarshini Srinivasan (2nd from left) and Grace Yap (3rd from left)





Associate Professor
Dr. Ray Langenbach

Better Insights

Associate Professor in the Department of Performance + Media, Dr. Ray Langenbach opines that research is what moves pedagogy and universities forward.

"Research is the heart of university education. Without it, we can only have second rate teaching. Looking at the history of education, teaching and research have always gone hand-in-hand. Without research there cannot be effective teaching, and without teaching, research loses its motivation and self-critical edge. It is through the act of communication that research is refined through critical reflexivity. The academy has traditionally been the site of ethical and humanist engagement with knowledge cultures."

R&D, he adds, represents the cutting edge of any particular field, opening new territory to knowledge acquisition. "By the time the students are in their professional lives, that material which is the R&D of their lecturers today will be the historical ground on which they stand tomorrow. Institutions (and lecturers) who have no time to research are doomed to uncritically repeat the past. If I am not able to continually educate myself in my field, can I expect to be an effective model and relevant information disseminator for the next generation?"

In the Department of Performance + Media, he observes, most of the staff are active professionals in the field and teach part-time. This allows the students exposure to important 'players' in their chosen field, and to see how they work. It also allows the students rapid entry into professional productions and companies through their lecturers. In other words, what is being called 'research' actually becomes the entry-point into employment.

"Research has to go beyond this. In the field of performance and media, research is essential to developing better performances, scripts and films. In order to be an effective actor, for example, a student must grapple with what it means to represent another's culture, that is, his or her life, character, way of holding the body, and beliefs. So, understanding how subjectivity is formed and expressed in daily life is fundamental to the arts of performance."

In his own case, Dr. Langenbach says that he is an active performance artist and moving-image artist on the one hand, and observer, theorist, critic and curator on the other. His writing and practice straddles Visual Arts, Cultural Studies, and Performance Studies, with speciality on Asian modern and contemporary art.

"My career is perhaps unusual for its sustained crosscultural engagements in the Australasia region for the past 20 years. I currently divide my year between Europe and Asia, holding professorships

in Finland and at Sunway. When in Finland, I present seminars on art theory and art history for Doctoral Students in the Post-Graduate Studies department of the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts, and at the Finnish Theatre Academy I present a seminar on Critical Writing for Doctoral Students, and a Performance Studies seminar for both Doctoral and Masters Students. I also supervise PhD dissertations in Finland and Australia."

Dr. Langenbach's artistic work has varied over his career, including kinetics, light sculpture and installation, wearable technologies, video and performance art. In recent years his focus has been in the moving image, and the construction of virtual avatars in written narrative and performance.

"The performance work is rhetorical and often polemical, bringing literature, theory and physical acts together. Over the past 20 years I have also developed a Southeast Asian moving-image archive of performance art, theatre and social performance (elections, demonstrations, everyday life). The Archive has received grants from funding bodies in Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur/Singapore and Amsterdam. I have digitized 1000 hours of documentation from 1988-2008, and have now begun editing, annotating and preparing the materials for public access."

Finally, effective research in a university setting, in his view, must extend into the classroom, where the lecturer can serve as a model for the students' aspirations. Ideally, she constantly experiments with new ways of delivering information or techniques, and keeps one eye on economic trends, so the curriculum remains relevant to the changing pragmatic needs of each generation of students.

"Taking risks and experimenting with knowledge in the classroom provides an exciting dialogue-based 'learning environment' of the sort theorized by Seymour Papert, the co-founder of the MIT Artificial Intelligence Lab, and the philosophers Ivan Illich and Paulo Freire among others. I rarely live up to these standards in my own teaching, but this is the horizon of my aspirations," he elaborates.

When Rey Buono established the School of Performance + Media (now the Department of Performance + Media, headed by Leow Puay Tin), he asked Langenbach to help him design a media component. "The point was to create a curriculum which allowed our graduates to enter into multiple industries: theatre, film, television, writing, among others. This flexibility in the curriculum, and the balance between professional content development and technical skills is what allows our students to move effectively into the economy after graduation, or to move on to further study abroad."

Postgraduate Research

Head of the School of Computer Technology (SCT), Associate Professor Dr Lim Tong Ming says since the establishment of the core InfoLab21, his department has been working closely with Lancaster University's Department of Computing and Communications to pursue their internal research initiatives more aggressively.

InfoLab21 is an initiative by Lancaster University to establish a world class centre of excellence for research development and commercialization of information and communication technology.

"We have received a seed grant of RM350 000 to conduct nine different research projects in various SCT areas," he said. "This is a good start for SCT." Some of the research projects currently underway by lecturers are Mike Ong's "Mobile Computing and Coverage Algorithms" and Terence Le Grange's "User interaction with large public displays."

Dr. Lim adds that there will be more postgraduate programmes introduced which emphasize on research, with its first two new programmes, M.Sc. in Mobile Systems and M.Sc. in Computer Science by Research, having been recently approved by the Ministry of Higher Education.

"Sunway is gearing towards being a more research oriented institution," enthuses Dr. Lim. "We have staff from Lancaster University, who make monthly visits to Sunway to assist in the various ongoing research programmes here."

The School will also introduce three new postgraduate degree programmes namely M.Sc. in Information Systems by Research, M.Sc. in Information Systems by coursework and a PhD in Computer and Information Systems. "We will be ready to run our first Ph.D programme by beginning of next year," he adds.

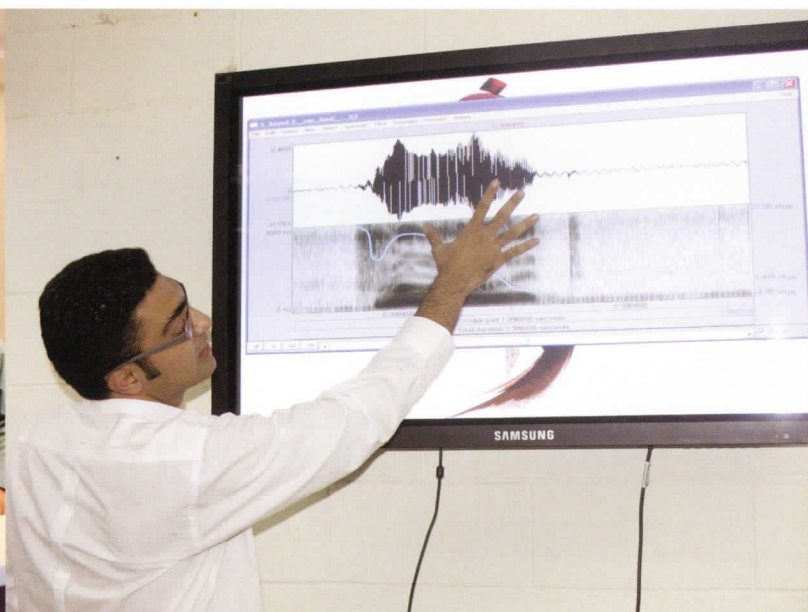
If summary, what all three lecturers are saying is that at the university level, one cannot help but pursue areas of research interest. So, Peter Rabbit's presence in Sunway isn't just about marketing gimmicks. It is about some serious research by psychologists like Dr. Teoh, whom Blaze has invited to briefly share his reasons for being interested in a topic like Peter Rabbit.



Associate Professor Dr. Lim Tong Ming



SCT teaching assistants who are doing a Lancaster University validated masters degree at Sunway



Ahmed Mustafa, an SCT researcher, explaining his research work

Why Peter Rabbit might interest psychologists

By Associate Professor Dr. Teoh Hsien-Jin

Can you imagine going out of your way to print a book that fits comfortably into a child's hands, and has pictures that are attractive enough to mesmerise young minds? That is certainly what Beatrix Potter, author of "The Tale of Peter Rabbit", set out to do!

The Peter Rabbit stories are remembered by, and continue to bring warm familiar feelings, to generations of people. For these reasons, psychologists are keen to understand what the fascination with these tales is all about. Perhaps, it might be about knowing how children understand, remember and feel comfortable with the stories and accompanying imagery.

Developmental Psychologists might tell you that the stories have appeal because they include familiar metaphors that are akin to meeting an old friend. Furthermore, the images of animals in clothes appeal to children's make-believe worlds. As there are few words per page, reading and remembering is easy.

Insights into English culture, and general social values, run through stories which follow traditional plots. There are rewards for good behaviours, and punishments for cruelty. Hopefully, more positive behaviours might be emulated by young impressionable minds.

For the young child, the animal characters in human clothes are also identifiable in terms of the occupations they represent. As each illustration portrays a story, young readers understand the outcome, which can be quite satisfying for young children with limited vocabulary. Furthermore, the clear expressions that are detailed in the characters faces, allow young eyes to capture the emotions portrayed.

From a cross-cultural perspective, the "Tale of Peter Rabbit" is fascinating as it has been translated into 35 languages. In trying to impart the story, translators have endeavoured to substitute some of the names of objects with locally recognisable equivalents. For the researcher delving into the area of cultural differences, deciphering the different translations is a subtle treasure trove of ethnic descriptions.



Bumper crop on Dean's List



Front row (left to right) : Foo Kok Seong, Jolene Khor, Cathleen Fuller, Joash Atkinson, Sean Lwe Leslie Weera.
Back row(L-R) : Sumitha Ganesharatnam, Head ADTP at Sunway, Assoc. Prof. Sushi Datta-Sandhu from WMU, James Kingsley Lucky, Ajanthan Asokan and Kesvick Tan

Kesvick Tan, who had a near perfect GPA of 3.96, is one of nine students who were recognized as Summa Cum Laudes for the August to December 2008 semester for their excellent scores

As a student with the Sunway University College American Degree Transfer Program, Tan is planning to transfer to University of Michigan in the winter of 2009 to read aeronautical engineering.

"The experience of studying in the ADTP at Sunway has helped me to be consistent as every test counts toward the final score," he said. "This is why one cannot afford to slack. It was a love-hate situation but I was glad to overcome it."

Tan was in fact one of 39 students who found themselves on the Dean's List recently. To be on the list, students must achieve a GPA of 3.5 to 4.0 in the August to December 2008 semester. Most of these students will be transferring to Western Michigan University (WMU), Sunway's twinning partner of 21 years while a good number of students are choosing to transfer to other universities in the U.S or Canada.

Among the universities picked by the students are Purdue University, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; Indiana University and Drake University in the U.S as well as University of Waterloo, University of Alberta and McGill University in Canada.

The program which has been offered at Sunway University College since 1987 provides two years of study before students transfer their credits to US universities to continue for another two years towards an American degree.

Cathleen Fuller, Manager of International Degree and Articulation Partnerships, Western Michigan University gave away the certificates on behalf of the dean.



Kesego (right) receiving her winning trip to Melbourne from Professor Elizabeth Harman (left), Vice-Chancellor and President of Victoria University.

Student wins discovery trip to Melbourne

A stunned student from Botswana cried tears of joy when she found that she had the winning raffle for a return air ticket to Melbourne sponsored by Victoria University (VU), Australia.

Kesego Elizabeth Poomore is the lucky student in the first year of the Bachelor of Business twinning programme with Victoria University at Sunway University College. "This is the first time I have won anything and I am so excited," said Kesego.

As a guest of VU, her prize includes three night's accommodation, a guided VU campus tour and a Metlink pass to help her enjoy the delights of Melbourne. Kesego will also get to dine with the VU Chancellor, Hon. Justice Frank Vincent and the VUI crew.

One of the conditions of accepting the prize is that Kesego will need to write an essay about her visit which may be used by Victoria University to be shared with other students. Look out for the September issue of **blaze**.

Victoria University is one of Australia's largest universities with over 52,000 students and 3,500 staff of more than 90 nationalities. It has a strong local and international presence with a large offshore teaching programme.

Right attitude

Lim Hui Xian from Sunway scored 16 High Distinctions and 6 Distinctions and is among the top students for the VU Bachelor of Business twinning programme at Victoria University campuses in Australia and worldwide.

The Victoria University graduate, who majored in Accounting and Banking & Finance, attributes her success to the lecturers she had at Sunway. "This is what I have worked hard for. I believe if you are willing to put in effort and strive for success, you will be able to make it. And not to forget, our VU lecturers are really good in delivery and being very helpful and dedicated all the time. Most of them are would actually have extra classes for us right before our exam to guide us on our revision and ways to tackle the exam questions. I am really thankful for having such wonderful lecturers," she tells **blaze**.

Currently an Associate with PricewaterhouseCoopers, Lim's advice to other students: "Put in your effort and be determined, if you wish to excel in your life. Never feel shy to ask questions during the lectures and last but not least, have a balance between study and play! One must have the right attitude in everything that one does."

Her parents, Mr and Mrs Lim Sin Mook, were also at the convocation held recently to celebrate their daughter's achievement.

Another outstanding student from the same class, Racheal Louis Vincent attained 14 High Distinctions and 6 Distinctions. Racheal is currently pursuing a Masters in International Business at Monash University, Sunway campus.

The Victoria University graduation conferred undergraduate and postgraduate degrees to its offshore and international students from 5 faculties spanning the disciplines of the arts, education, health, engineering and science. The occasion was graced by its Chancellor, Hon. Justice Frank Vincent, the Deputy Chancellor, Commissioner Dianne Foggo and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Elizabeth Harmon.

Dr Foo Yin Fah, Head of the Australian Universities Programme, Sunway University College also announced that a new syllabus for Victoria University's Bachelor of Business at Sunway University College will be launched this year. The new programme is in response to a survey conducted in 2006, when the Faculty conducted a review of their Bachelor of Business curriculum.

New elements

The review incorporated a survey among the business community, alumni and academics on their perception of the Bachelor of Business programme. The results of the survey revealed that business graduates are expected to demonstrate flexibility, adaptability and a willingness to respond to change in the current volatile economic environment.

The stakeholders felt that a business degree should develop the personal and professional attributes of the student to add value beyond specific technical and academic knowledge.

The new business degree rolls out a syllabus incorporating a Business Learning Experience Project which spans over the three years of the business degree. The Project has three Professional Development (PD) units that are undertaken in each year.

In the first year, the PD unit introduces students to the business and academic environment to help them discover the personal attributes that are necessary for success. The students then



Lim Hui Xian with her parents



Hui Xian with Dr Foo Yin Fah (left)



Hui Xian with one of her lecturers, Ms. Greeja.

undertake a project and problem centred approach to learning that is supported by industry practitioners and mentors in the second year. This enables students to develop the necessary personal and professional attributes required in the business environment.

In the final year, the students demonstrate their professional practice and leadership qualities in the implementation of a business project.

Dr Foo added that the PD units are designed to assist students to develop holistically through the attainment of soft skills such as critical thinking, problem solving and decision making as well as enhanced academic literacy and research skills.

"With this, we hope to nurture employable and competent graduates equipped with skills highly valued by employers especially in this uncertain economic climate," he said.

Open Day

The mood was electric.

The moment the visitors walked towards the foyer, they were greeted by Christopher Daniel, a friend of Sunway University College, and his 10-foot-long Burmese python.

The python along with a preserved crocodile specimen from the Science Lab were part of a display by the Department of Science and Engineering Resources.

Hotel Management student, Darren Lee Kar Hoe demonstrated his flare bar tending skills, while nursing students were giving free blood pressure checks to visitors.

Fine Art student, Chin Ee-Yen was seen doing an art demonstration, while her fellow student, Kenry Tang showcased his spontaneous art done in 30 minutes.

The Sunway University College Resident Ensemble added to the atmosphere with its ensemble music.

At the Roof Top Theatre, the Department of Performance + Media also put up a stage performance featuring, "You Don't Know Me: Four Short Plays."

Every department, school and faculty was represented by staff and students, who took the opportunity to meet potential Sunway students and their parents, who came for course counselling.

Did you miss it? Check out the newspapers for Sunway's next Open Day!

Facts & Figures

Date: 14 & 15 March 2009 (Sat & Sun)
Time: 9am – 5pm
Number of visitors: 3000



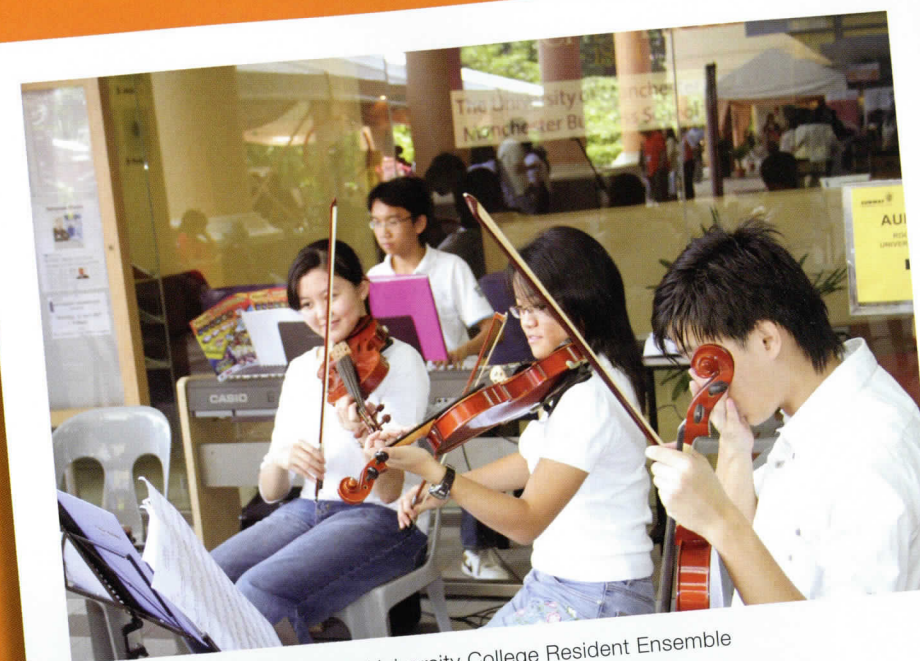
English language lecturer, Jennifer Rathabai



Preserved crocodile specimen from the Science Lab



Fine Art student Chin Ee-Yen doing an art



Sunway University College Resident Ensemble



Kenry Tang with his spontaneous art done in 30 minutes



Course counselling



Free blood pressure checks by nursing students



Christopher Daniel with his Burmese python



Hotel Management student Darren showing his flare bar tending skills



Immortalising species

Taxidermy is an art of mounting or reproducing dead animals for display or for other sources of study.

According to Dr. K. A. Sagathevan., Head of Science and Engineering Resources at Sunway University College, the technique itself requires a lot of time and patience to develop the skills. "The taxidermist will improve the art as he works on it over the years," he explains.

For academic purposes, it is also a good way for students to learn about the anatomy of animals as they work alongside Rajagopal Sinnasamy, a biology laboratory technician, who is also an experienced taxidermist himself.

"Mr. Gopal will walk through the animal's internal-anatomy with the student volunteers to give them firsthand experience learning the biology of the animals from inside out, as they help him remove the organs, tissues and eyes of the dead animals," explains Dr. Saga. "This makes teaching of biology more interesting at Sunway."

Meanwhile, students also learn how to preserve the animals' remains for future reference. "Taxidermy is very useful especially when we talk about near extinct or exotic animals," Dr. Saga adds.

"For example, if you see an ant-eater killed by the roadside, you can bring it to us, and we will see what we can do to preserve it. Not many people have seen an ant-eater close, therefore, we can exhibit the mounted or stuffed anteater after we have preserved the carcass; otherwise, the dead animal will decompose and that would be the end of it."

However, Dr. Saga would not suggest that people preserve their own pets. "From experience, taxidermists have learnt that a lot of emotions are involved when it comes to preserving someone's pets. It's better that when the pet dies that it be buried away for good," he says. "Otherwise, the owner may be overwhelmed by sadness every time she sees the mounting."

In Sunway's biology laboratory, there is a wide collection of local bats specimen, a sugar glider, hamsters, squirrels, and a crocodile, which once belonged to Sunway Wildlife Park.

Adds Dr. Saga: "A taxidermist's skills are very important. If you don't do it well, the fur will drop or the mounting may not look like the real thing. Most taxidermists will never teach you their trade secrets, but generally, the inside skin is treated with borax powder."

There are two types of preservation – the wet preservation, where the dead body is immersed in formalin, and dry preservation, where the whole body or parts such as teeth or bones are treated and stored for teaching purposes. "Taxidermy is a dry preservation technique, where the animal carcass is preserved and mounted to look very real," says Dr. Saga.

As a result of the hard work by taxidermists, we have a number of museums of natural history around the world, which help to preserve some wild animals for the sake of public viewing. Care to be a taxidermist, anyone?



1 Initial Autopsy conducted by Dr. Vellayan, the vet and his team from Sunway Lagoon Wildlife Park.



2 The intestines are being removed.



3 The specimen being worked on in the cold room at Sunway University College. Mr. Gopal (trained taxidermist and laboratory staff), guiding the students to do the skinning of the crocodile.



4 The students are carefully removing the fat and muscles of crocodile without damaging the skin.



5 The students and Mr. Gopal working on the crocodile



6 The skinning is almost complete. The skin is stretched out to make skinning easier.



7 Removing the brain through the opening at the spinal column.



8 Applying chemicals to the inside of the skin to preserve it.



9 The wrapping up helps to keep the skin from drying up and becoming stiff.



10 The crocodile is stuffed with coconut husk.



11 The skin is then sewed up



12 Finally, the preserved crocodile is then air dried.

Would you like to S.U.B?



Cool!

It even identifies itself as 'the very unofficial and extremely informal blog of Sunway University College where anything goes!'

Now, for once, students and staff can blog on this site with anything under the sunny sky of Sunway University College.

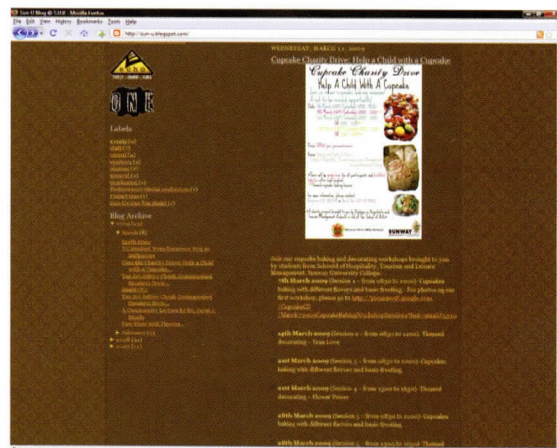
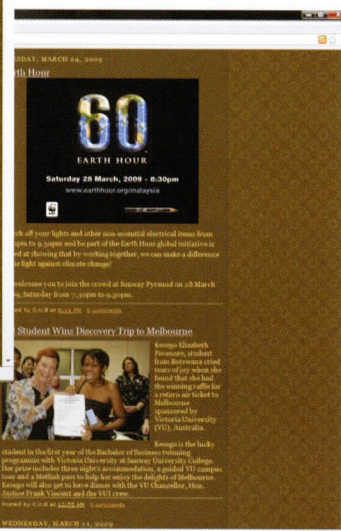
If you think it's just for some fun, it's in fact more than that! From one visit to the site, you can find anything from floral arrangement and Culinary Arts Award 2008 to the more serious topics like "DNA and its Importance in Forensic Science" by Dr. Dwight E. Adams in the Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah Distinguished Speakers Series.

The best part is Sun-U Blog (also known as S.U.B.) welcomes contributions from all students, staff and alumni of Sunway University College. It is interactive, and to be a contributor, there is an email address to write to.

So, why not just **CLICK! CLICK!** on

<http://sun-u.blogspot.com/>

to check it out yourself?



Industry exposure

Nehemiah Walls everywhere, but what goes on behind these walls is as good a guess as yours and mine.

According to Sumitha Ganesharatnam, Head of the American Degree Transfer Programme (ADTP), what better way there is to expose students to the industry than to invite the experts from the industry to give talks?

"For this reason, we invited the Senior General Manager of Reinforced Soils Sdn. Bhd, Ir. Tan Cheng Chong to give an introduction to the concept of reinforced soils, a technology which is used in his company's patented Nehemiah Walls," she said.

Tan's one-hour lecture focused on the engineering concept behind these walls that one sees in highways and housing projects, covering principles, construction and applications of the Nehemiah Wall.

"Applications include retaining walls for commercial development, residential development, flyovers, bridge abutment and slope repairs, river wall and marine wall," he said.

The honeycomb-shaped concrete panels are prefabricated at the yard with good quality control, and provide maintenance-free and cost-effective retaining walls. "For a six-metre wall height, the saving is about 30 per cent compared to the conventional method of using reinforced concrete," he said.

Speed of construction is another important factor when using the concrete panels. "This is important especially when we are working on busy highways or doing restoration work on slopes that have failed due to a landslide," he said. "We can easily build 300 square metres of the retaining wall in one week."

A total of 20 Engineering Statistics students in their Second Year, including their lecturer, S. Selvaretnam, attended Tan's lecture.

"As a lecturer, I see such talks as relevant to students' appreciation of the industrial application of engineering knowledge. They learn how to apply what they study in my class," said Selvaretnam.



Journey to the east



Wong Chee Ming was looking set to pursue his undergraduate degree programme in the West when he enrolled to do his Canadian International Matriculation Programme (CIMP) at Sunway in June 1998, but then circumstances changed when the Asian Financial crisis hit; instead, he is now happily pursuing his Master of Business Administration at one of China's top MBA schools.

After completing the matriculation programme a year later, although he had to give up every hope he had to pursue his degree abroad due to the financial crisis, Chee Ming wasn't the kind who would give up easily. He enrolled himself with a local private university and graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration in 2002.

"I decided to work in China after graduating because I was thinking of the opportunity to work and live in another country just for the experience. As a fresh graduate, it was a great experience for me," he tells **blaze**.

Good Memories

Reflecting back to his one year stint at Sunway, Chee Ming says he has many good memories. One thing that stands out the most about the CIMP programme, however, is that the programme was designed to help him discover himself and whatever talents he never realised he had. It was never designed to assess "me" based on the academic content.

"CIMP is assessed based on projects and course work. Through all the assignments, I began to discover who I was. Two topics which I found specifically very helpful were on Modern Western Civilization and Families in Society, where I had to prepare class presentations."

Two lecturers in particular have made an impact on his life. One of them is Don Mah, a lecturer in Modern Western Civilization. The other was a Malaysian lecturer who taught him Families in Society, whom unfortunately Chee Ming is unable to recall her name.

Compared to other pre-university programmes that he had done, he eventually realized that CIMP conducted at Sunway was a great choice. In his own words, he says: "It's the best for me!"

In the span of past ten years, Chee Ming's career has taken him on a journey to the East – to countries like China and Bangladesh, -- where he has accumulated invaluable working experience with a number of organisations including PD Enterprise Ltd, an Australian-Hong Kong-based company with a manufacturing base in Guangdong; M Webster Holdings Pty Ltd in Shanghai, which owns various leading fashion labels in Australia, such as Jigsaw, David Lawrence, Marcos, Morrissey; a brief stint in Bangladesh with Hop Lun Ltd, a Hong Kong-based company in garment business for six months; and Fuji Crystal Manufacturing Ltd, a Hong Kong-based glass manufacturing company.

Currently, he is pursuing his MBA with Cheung Kong Graduate School of Business in Shanghai, China, where he has lived and worked since 2002.

His advice to other CIMP students:
"Yes, I can!
Everything is possible."

Flower power

A bouquet of red roses often used during Valentine's Day is a symbol of romance and love. And pink is the color of youth, joy and gentility; pink flowers, they say, charm us with innocence and sweetness.

What about purple, yellow and white flowers? Purple flowers send a message of pride, dignity and admiration, while a yellow floral arrangement symbolizes new beginnings, happiness and friendship. White flowers convey elegance and reverence with a timeless grace all its own.

The next time you walk to a lady friend and hand her a beautiful bouquet of flowers, say it with a sincere smile, "I appreciate your friendship." Unless you are being cheeky and use the wrong colour of flowers, you will almost immediately get a smile back. That's flower power!

Yet, how many people take time to learn about floral arrangement especially when a workshop is within one's reach?

Ask Christina Edward, one of the participants at the workshop on floral arrangement.

"This workshop is so interesting for those who have no clue about flower arranging," she told **blaze**, enthusiastically. "The facilitator provided great tips. Floral arrangement is after all not as difficult as one thinks. I can't wait to use what I have learnt to help my friends and relatives decorate for weddings and parties."

Some 20 ladies participated in the workshop held at Sunway University College. It is one of many ongoing workshops organized for the community by the Department of Art & Design with the objective of creating interest in the visual arts and to share knowledge of techniques of this nature with the public. There are also workshops on Basic Drawing & Painting and Basic Pottery.

So, you missed it, after all!

Make sure you don't miss any of future workshops. Register now with Sammy at sammy@sunway.edu.my or visit <http://sun-u.blogspot.com> for latest information





EARTH HOUR

Saturday 28 March, 2009 - 8:30pm

www.earthhour.org/malaysia



Blackout for Earth

If mankind continues to waste the Earth's resources, the consequences would be a total blackout like that on Earth Day global event on March 28 at Sunway Pyramid – and many other places around the world where young people love to meet!

The older generation never gave a thought to the way how they have used up the numerous resources that once belonged to this beautiful planet. It's time for the younger generation to take cognizance of the fact that life cannot go on the way it has been, if we do not take stock of our natural resources and start conserving them.

Over 300 Sunway University College students, including international students from Korea, China, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Botswana, Nigeria, Mauritius, Maldives, Pakistan and India, joined other young people around the world to celebrate Earth Day.

Sharp at 8.30 pm, the lights went out. People were carrying nothing but little candles, but the fun was still there as everyone, wearing the Earth Hour T-shirts, showed their solidarity for Mother Earth. Led by Benjamin Lin, a staff of Sunway University College and Sunway Idol finalist, the song, "Heal the World" was sung. The atmosphere was simply electric, as young people now knew how they could play their part to heal the Earth, once raped by Mankind.

Joining them in the Earth Hour were Subang Jaya State Assemblyman, YB Hannah Yeoh and Sunway Group's EXCO, Puan Sri Datin Seri Dr. Susan Cheah.

In the words of Nicole Lee, one of the students, the event was a reminder for her to save the Earth. "I hope that through all our individual efforts we can try and save the world together," she told **biaze**.

In conjunction with Earth Hour, a Green Fair booth was also set up by the students at Sunway Pyramid to sell handmade greeting cards and book marks made from recycled paper and stone paper weights. The items were made by G.O.L.D, the special class of learning disabled students in SMK Bandar Sunway.



Gastronomical trails of our international students

What is that one thing that enthuse our international students? Food, of course!

Their biggest comfort is that Malaysia is a food haven for them. As they have discovered, some of the best food stalls are quite affordable – and within a short walking distance away!

blaze selected four international students – Frederic Lorenzen (Germany), Andrew I. Adudu (Nigeria), Rabika Gul Hassan (Pakistan) and Bat-Ireedui JanJin (Mongolia) – and took them to Rock Café, to find out what turns them on. They were allowed to tell us what they enjoy the most from any of these stalls.

Guess what they say?

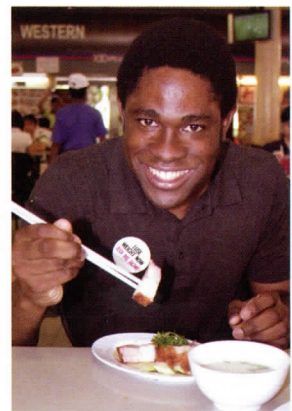


"I eat anything Chinese, Indian or Malay, depending on my mood. There is such a wide variety of good food here in Asia. I prefer Asian food more than Western food because I have been living here in this part of the world for almost nine years. When I am here for a long time, I may occasionally crave for Western food once in a while, but when I return to Europe, I cannot survive without Asian food."

Frederic Lorenzen
Germany
First Year Bachelor of
Psychology

"Hmm, what's my favourite? The roasted chicken and roasted pork, of course! This guy at Tai Ka Lok Hong Kong Roasted Special makes one of the best dishes in town. So yummy! It is simply delicious."

"My other His favourite food is the Mutton Parattal and the Cabbage Parattal from the Indian Curry stall. It's irresistible. The way Shanta prepares the vegetables here is also very different from how vegetables are cooked in my country. I like it spicy. Yes, you can bet, I am going to miss not only my Malaysian friends, but the food as well when I continue my education in America next year."



Andrew I. Adudu
Nigeria
American Degree
Transfer Programme

"I agree with Andrew. I also enjoy Tai Ka Lok Hong Kong roasted and steamed chicken. I don't get this back in Pakistan. Maybe, the stall operator can teach me how to prepare the roasted chicken. I will enjoy this for the rest of my life when I return home to my country."

Rabika Gul Hassan
Pakistan
American Degree Transfer
Programme



"Talking about spicy food, we have that in Mongolia, but there is nothing compared to the Indian curry here. Maybe, it is Shanta's cooking that makes it different. I don't know. Maybe, someday, Shanta can come over to Mongolia to set up an Indian curry restaurant. I would be her regular customer since now I already frequently visit her Indian Curry stall at Rock Café, because I just love the spicy food here..."

Bat-Ireedui JanJin
Mongolia
American Degree Transfer
Programme

Now, let's see what three of the stall operators have to say about their food:



Stall operator, 40-year-old Alex Sin Wai Meng shares the secret of his roasted pork. "It comes from his grandfather, who used to live in Guangzhou before shifting to Hong Kong. "We use five spice powder, pepper and salt to season for five hours before grilling it for one hour to make it crispy. I have been doing this for the past 13 years in a restaurant in Chinatown in London," he explains. Alex returned to Malaysia in 2007.



The Fish Paste Noodle stall is operated by Daniel Yeoh, who helps out his Mother to sell the fish head noodles. Excellent food here for you to check out!

Indian Curry's cook and proprietor, Shanta Govindapallai, 45, whose stall opens from as early as 6am through 11 pm every day of the week says: "We serve different types of Parattal cooked with dry spices from Mutton, to Cabbage and Long Beans. Ours is a mixture of food from different parts of India." On Fridays, Santha's specialties are served – the Payasam, an Indian dessert made of Sago and Santan, and Rasam, which is basically a soup made from Assam Jawa and spices.



Coffee break with Taymour

Hi, I am Taymour Hag from Djibouti and I am an executive in the IT Department at Sunway University College. If you don't know, Djibouti is located in East Africa precisely on the horn of Africa. It is an Arabic nation and a former French Colony.



I first arrived in Malaysia in 2004, and enrolled myself with Sunway University College in the then School of Information Technology and Multimedia. I graduated with a degree in network computing in early 2007. I really believe that fate brought me here. Three years later, I am now walking the same corridors but this time as a member of Sunway staff. It's a great feeling.

During the weekends I practice my martial arts in karate, tae kwon do, wushu, kung fu, muay thai, wing chun and jeet kune do. I enjoy doing these and have been practising them since I was 5 years old. They have been with me everywhere that I have been in France, U.A.E, Iran, Singapore and Thailand. I also like swimming, reading and watching movies set in historical periods.

I do travel around Malaysia one weekend in a month. I'll seek out a place where I don't know anyone and explore the place at my own pace. It is a real adventure ey!

Working with Sunway University College which is part of the Sunway Group, has been a great opportunity. It definitely adds value and weight to my CV.

I like the environment where I am working in; people are professional and the organisation is set to an international standard. I hope to see myself reaching my real potential as I grow with the Sunway Group.

When work gets too heavy with a lot of deadlines around the corner, there is nothing better for me to do than to have a cup of coffee. It relaxes me and helps me reload more ideas. Un café avec moi??

I have a motto which has kept me going. Here it is:

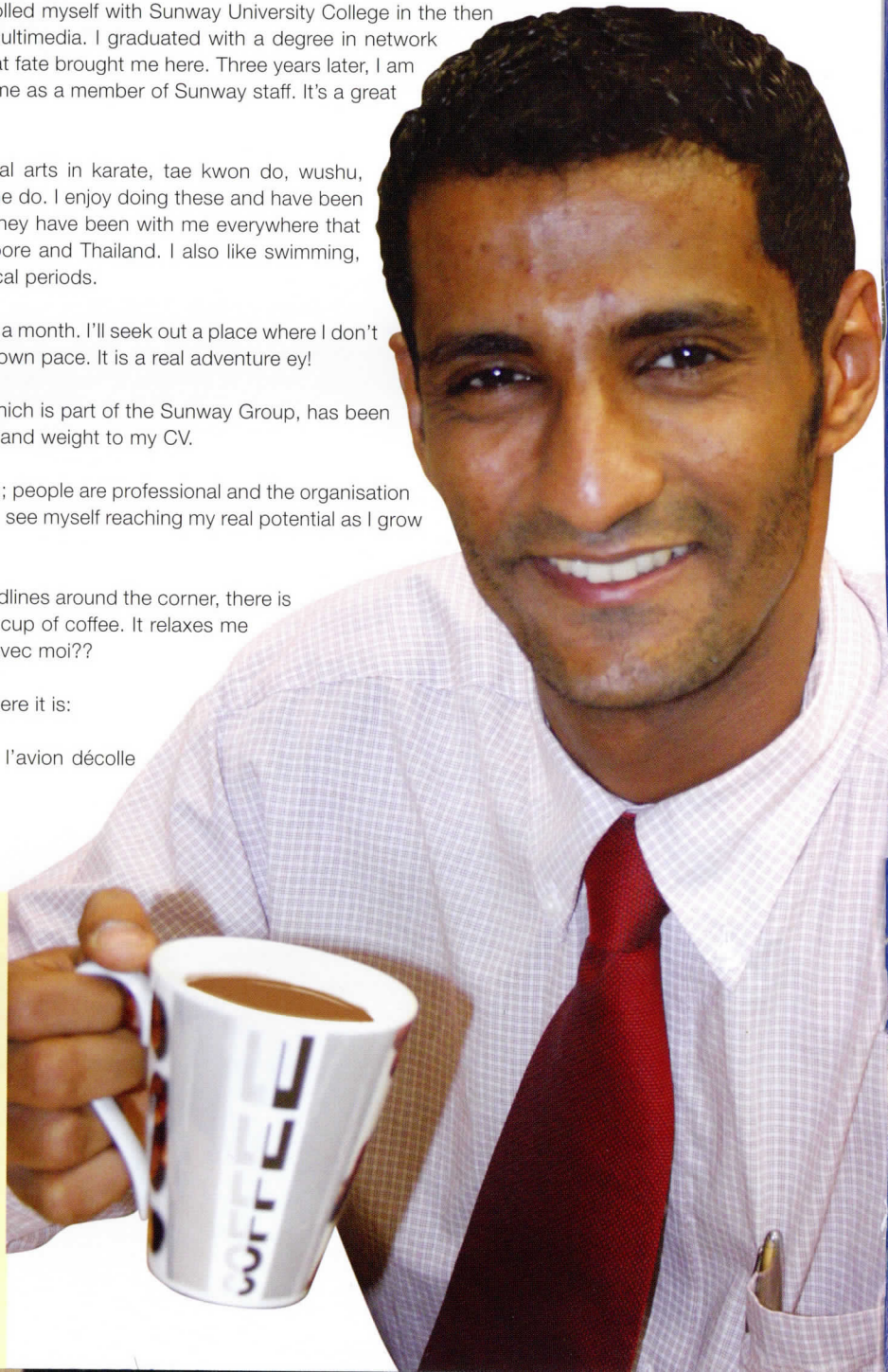
Quand tout va contre toi, Rappel toi que l'avion décolle contre le vent et non pas avec!

Which means :

"When everything goes against you, remember that the plan takes off against the wind and not with it!"

تيمور حاخ

Taymour Hag

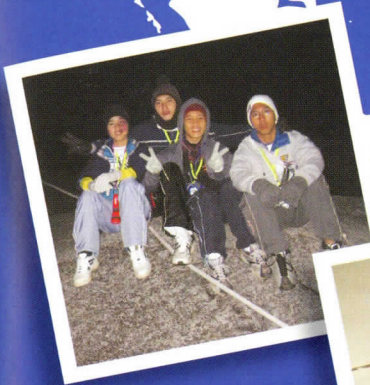


Tarakan,
Kalimantan Timur

Kuala Lumpur

Indonesia

Jakarta



Sylvino loves Malaysia

The next time you meet Sylvino Susilo Triarto Lo on campus, ask him what food fascinates him the most.

The 20-year-old lad from Tarakan in Kalimantan Timur, Indonesia may not give you an instant answer, but he may reply: "Buy me some Cheese Naan. I can't really explain why I like it so much, but all I can say is: 'Hmmm, it's delicious!'"

Currently pursuing a business degree with Victoria University, Sylvino joined Sunway University College in March 2006 after completing his SPM at Sabah Chinese High School in Tawau, Sabah.

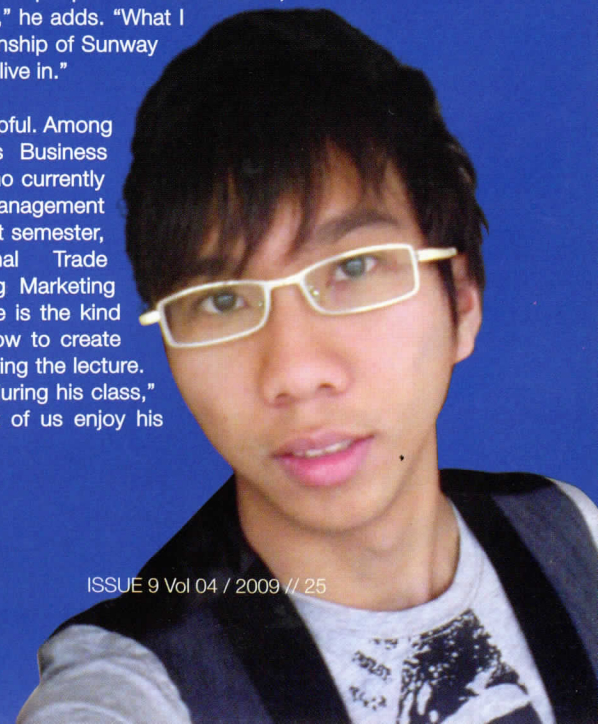
Since coming to study in Malaysia, Sylvino says he has fallen in love with the country. "The road system is modern and well planned. The people are friendly, and I hope to get to know more Malaysian friends," he tells **b1aze**.

Upon finishing his degree programme end of this year, Sylvino hopes to work in Malaysia for a while, or return to Indonesia where he will be expected to help his parents' business.

Having lived and studied in Sabah, Sylvino's favourite tourist destination is Mount Kinabalu. Together with his friends, they have managed to climb the tallest mountain in South East Asia in November 2004. "It was a challenging task, but we made it!" he quips.

With two elder brothers and one younger brother, Sylvino enjoys the people he meets on campus. "Sunway has a lot of foreigners. We have such a diverse culture here that it's good that we learn to appreciate people of other cultures, while we are still studying," he adds. "What I like particularly of the township of Sunway is that it is a safe place to live in."

Lecturers are also very helpful. Among his favourite lecturers is Business lecturer, Jason Cheok, who currently teaches Distribution Management and Operations; in the last semester, he taught International Trade Practices and Advertising Marketing and Channel. "For me, he is the kind of lecturer who knows how to create a relaxing atmosphere during the lecture. We are never tensed up during his class," Sylvino elaborates. "Most of us enjoy his class."



On being Safe N' Secure



Marc (left) takes it all in his stride during the workshop



Victor (left) demonstrating during the workshop

The next time you think of bullying a female student from Sunway University College, be warned! You may end up with a blue black eye and some broken bones, thanks to a self-defense workshop for female students conducted by black belt martial artist, Victor Ooi.

It's hard to tell who among the 35 students who turned up for the day-long workshop who may use her body as a weapon in an unexpected threatening situation. It could be that petite girl sitting next to you, who looks rather harmless.

"The body is a powerful weapon," explained Ooi. "This includes slapping the opponent, and learning how to use the knees and elbows for self-defence."

Ooi also imparted other practical self-defense tips which could be used when a girl finds herself in a danger situation. During the round table discussion, the issue of date rape was also raised for discussion.

The one-day workshop, initiated by Marc-André Plouffe, a lecturer in the Canadian International Matriculation Programme, with the help of his two colleagues, Sumathy Ramasamy and Yvonne Woi, was aimed at creating awareness and to teach practical self-defense techniques and skills that may be required on and off campus.

CIMP student Nadia Tan said that it was an interesting workshop. "One never knows when something bad will happen and I am now more conscious about people around me," she said. "I am now more careful to survey the situation around me to avoid dodgy people or situations."

Marc-André Plouffe added: "We really hope that this workshop has benefited our female students, by making them more aware of their personal safety when going about their usual activities therefore allowing them to feel more secure and confident when on their own."





PARIS-BREST

For this round of "I CAN COOK" series, chefs-to-be, Lew Wye Yon, 19 of Subang Jaya and Kim Yae Ji, 17, from Korea share their secret recipe to make Paris-Brest, a mouth-watering pastry dessert.



Lew Wye Yon
Semester 2
Diploma in Hotel Management

Kim Yae Ji
Semester 2
Diploma in Hotel Management

RECIPE

Ingredients:

21 gm	Milk
11 gm	Butter
0.2 gm	Salt
16 gm	Flour
2	Eggs

Garnish:

Whipped cream
Any desired fruits

Method of preparation:

- 1 Combine the milk, butter and salt in a saucepan. Bring the mixture to a boil.
- 2 Remove the pan from heat and add flour at once. Stir quickly.
- 3 Return the pan to moderate heat and stir vigorously until the dough forms a ball and pulls away from the sides of the pan.
- 4 Transfer the dough to a mixer. Mix at a low speed until dough has cooled slightly, which is still very warm but not too hard to touch.
- 5 At medium speed, beat in the eggs a little at a time.
- 6 When all eggs are absorbed, the paste is ready to use
- 7 Line a sheet pan with parchment paper.
- 8 Fit a pastry bag with a plain tube. Pipe a ring of the paste 2.5cm thick just inside the drawn circle.
- 9 Egg wash the paste circles.
- 10 Bake at 215°C for 5 minutes. Lower the heat to 190°C and continue baking until well browned.
- 11 When cool, cut a slice from the top of each puff. Fill with whipped cream or pastry cream or other desired filling, using a pastry bag with tube.
- 12 Replace the tops, garnish with fruits and dust with icing sugar.



The fine dining training restaurant, the **Dining Room@Sunway**, is open to the public. Reservations can be made at 74918622 Extn: 8510. The restaurant is open for lunch (12 noon to 2 pm) every Tuesday to Friday during the semesters. Tuesdays and Wednesdays are a la carte menu and Thursdays and Fridays are table d'hôte (set lunch). Enquiries on the menu can be made when calling.