

blaze

SUNWAY
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE



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Thinking green always
Oh, what a feeling!
More than able
Students remember Yasmin
Fond ties with Sunway
Crime buster now an avid artist
A chat with Xandria
A bigger role for Juliana



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blaze is published four times a year. The name 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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Some people may associate the Year of the Tiger with significant changes and dynamic commotion, but we believe 2010 will be yet another year of roaring success for our staff and students.

Constructing more state-of-the-art buildings is just a part of our plans towards a full university status; the other area of emphasis would be our staff development through workshops conducted by the Centre Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (CELT). Our one objective is to produce well-rounded graduates who are highly employable.

It is therefore always heartening to learn that all our hard work over the years have produced the cream of the crop. Our students, including the first batch of students in our home-grown Foundation in Arts, have also performed very well. With a good education, many of our alumni have gone on to achieve greater things in life, some of whose stories you will be able to read in this edition of **blaze**.

For this reason, we are determined to strive even harder to provide the most conducive learning environment for our students, where they can be expected to excel in their studies. In our pursuit for academic excellence, the needs of the physically-challenged community have not been overlooked.

We also welcome our alumni back to visit us at Sunway and suggest how we can further improve ourselves.

With this, let us join hands to make 2010 a bumper year for Sunway University College!

Elizabeth Lee



Thinking green always



BCA GREEN MARK

Malaysia has joined the 'green building' movement, when it launched the Green Building Index (GBI) certification in April last year. The brainchild of the Malaysian Institute of Architects (PAM) and the Association of Consulting Engineers Malaysia (ACEM), it acts as the main green rating tool for both residential and non-residential buildings.

Together with other developed countries such as Britain (with its Breeam), USA (Leed), Japan (Casbee), Australia (Greenstar), and Singapore (Greenmark), the industry is estimated to be worth USD60 billion (RM214 billion) worldwide.

Changes in terms of design and construction have to be made to improve energy efficiency, indoor environment quality and sustainable site planning and management to conform to the World Green Building Council standards.

On a local scale, a number of multinational corporations have incorporated sustainability and energy efficiency as their corporate policy. This is where they can leverage on the current trends and sentiments to market their buildings as green or environmentally-friendly buildings.

The Sunway story

In fact, for many years, Sunway students have been known to be green activists, seeking ways they can protect the environment. They realize that if nothing is done to protect Mother Earth, the outcome could be disastrous within the next generation.

Likewise, the management of Sunway University College has also taken proactive steps to plant more trees on its compound and encourage recycling by offering separate bins that help to segregate recyclable paper and plastic materials from other wastes.

As Sunway continues to experience phenomenal growth since its establishment in 1987, with a current enrolment of 9,000 students, more buildings have to be constructed to provide a conducive learning environment for students in both undergraduate and post-graduate programmes. Along with this, Sunway is taking the lead in constructing new buildings that comply with the GBI standards.



Green buildings

After the completion of the East Building in November last year, another piece of modern architecture is in the offing. This double-storey exquisitely-designed glass building, which is environmentally friendly, will allow refreshing natural lighting to enter the building. Once completed in October this year, it will house the International Students Office and International Education Centre (IEC).

Styled after Harvard, the Sunway's Graduate School building, which is scheduled for completion by June 2011, will have a landscaped breakout courtyard, pre-function areas, discussion and lecture rooms, and will be the focus point for Harvard alumni to conduct their conferences, programmes and events.

Another building designed with the Green Mark Singapore and Green Building Index Certification in mind and scheduled for completion by end 2013 is a 12-storey new academic block with over 550,000 square feet, and a multilevel basement car park consisting of about 1,000 parking bays, below the soccer field. The environmental friendly design and concept in construction incorporates energy and water efficiency. It also includes innovation for good natural lighting and ventilation systems for a sustainable green environment.

Phase 2 Campus Expansion has also been drawn up beyond 2018, to include among others a 5,000 seat auditorium and a multi-purpose sports complex. These buildings will also incorporate Sunway's long-term commitment to its green policy.

The on-going construction within the campus is timely, as Sunway anticipates to be accorded a full-fledged "University" status soon.

A clarion call

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Robert J. Bignall, in one of his recent messages, said he hoped the international community through the pivotal United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen will seriously address the risk to humanity of global warming and dangerous climate change.

"Studies have shown that global warming is not slowing down and that the past ten years since 2000 have been the warmest decade in the modern world," he said. "If nothing is done to ultimately reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide levels to below 350 parts per million, the results could be disastrous."

For example, he pointed out, the Maldives, an island paradise comprising some 1,200 islands, is already experiencing a sea level rise of up to 0.9 cm a year and may become totally submerged if nothing is done to reduce global warming.

Ahmed Muzhid



An art exhibition, themed climatic change and featuring Sunway's graduate in Diploma of Fine Arts, Amir Ali was organized by Gloria Jean's Coffees at Sunway Pyramid. This, Professor Bignall observed, is the efforts of one man to communicate his thoughts and emotions at a community level, with the intention to change human behaviors to prevent a worldwide disaster caused by global warming (see the article on Amir Ali, in this edition of **blaze**).

"It is my hope that you come away from this exhibition resolved to reduce carbon emissions at a person level through lifestyle changes, by supporting the preservation of our forests, looking at alternative sources of energy and decreasing waste," Professor Bignall said. "A widespread commitment to such measures would help to slow the impending and irreversible damage to our earth resulting from global warming and climate change."



Amir Ali with one of his paintings

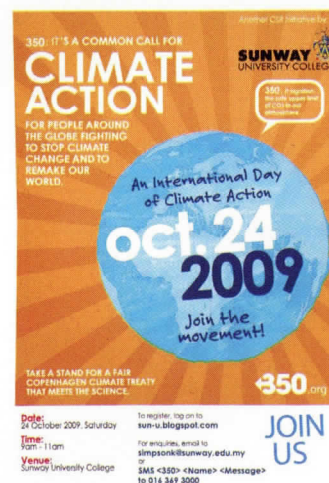
350

What is encouraging is that during an event organised by the public relations department of Sunway (see accompanying story), students from different countries made their views known.

Don Lin from Taiwan proved that young people in his generation do care about the environment. "Sometimes our parents and politicians say youths just do not worry that much about global warming. I think we have proven—around the world—that there is no issue we care more about."

Nigerian, Ubong Akpaso said: "350 has become a symbol of this new youth climate movement here and around the world. I'm glad that Sunway University College is organising this great event and I hope there will be greater awareness among Sunway students and more participation from them."

Hailing from the beautiful Maldives, Ahmed Muzhid said that if more damage is done to the planet Earth, his country and other island countries will be greatly affected. "I will lose my country and home," he said.



Cover Story

Hard facts

If about 75% of the annual increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide is due to the burning of fossil fuels, Malaysians can do a lot by changing their habit of driving to work. It is said that in 2007, we had an estimated 800 million Motor Vehicles around the globe. Motor vehicles (cars, trucks, buses, and scooters) account for 80% of all transport-related energy use. Students and staff should work out a car pool system or look for alternative public transport system, including cycling to college, especially those who are living nearby.

"At the same time, we have to start using less energy (such as turning off the airconditioners if there is no one in the building) or look for other forms of renewable energy," urged Sunway's senior public relations executive, Jacqueline Muriel Lim. "Every effort has to be taken by each and every one of us. Collectively, we are responsible for the future of our planet and our Government needs to seriously look into using renewable sources of energy, hydro and solar power being two examples."

On a larger scale, the Selangor State Government recently launched the "No Plastics Campaign" as part of its commitment to educate people to bring their eco-bags when going shopping, an initiative which Sunway students have already started some time ago. With more young people bringing their own eco-bags, it becomes trendy, and eventually, a whole community can be convinced to adopt this good habit of reducing plastic wastes.

Then, there is the preservation of our rainforests, which are being destroyed for timber, excess trees which are not needed, are then burned, causing tons of carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere. The resulting smoke and embers from this wasteful practice takes carbon levels in the air to a higher level. These carbon molecules interact with other chemicals in the air to produce a greenhouse effect. One sure way to reduce the need to cut down trees is to look at recycling and reducing wastes. Why do we need to keep changing our furniture, if it can still be used?

Changes in land use occur when forests are converted from wild agricultural plantations to rangelands, which eventually turn into farmed agricultural land, and finally into urban areas. And other patterns of land degradation - such as deforestation, overgrazing, overcultivation, desertification and salinization - reduce the net uptake of carbon dioxide, increasing green house effect, which causes global temperature to increase. Many of us have been complaining about the heat, but a fact is that 1998 was the warmest year on record. For the next 3 years, each year was second only to 1998. Then in 2005, the pattern broke - it equaled 1998.

Scientists say that if this trend continues, it will cause sea levels to rise and will change the amount and pattern of precipitation, probably including expansion of subtropical deserts. Warming is expected to be strongest in the Arctic and would be associated with continuing retreat of glaciers, permafrost and sea ice. Other likely effects include increases in the intensity of extreme weather events, species extinctions, and changes in agricultural yields. Warming and related changes will vary from region to region around the globe.



Keeping cool for climate change

Some 40 students from Sunway University College found a great way to make a statement in conjunction with last year's International Day of Climate Action.

The students, mainly from the Victoria University Bachelor of Business twinning programme, with international students from Taiwan, Nigeria, Indonesia and the much-affected Republic of the Maldives, converged poolside and made the 350 pledge while doing the dance mob moves to the chant "I say - It's hot in here".

The Sunway 350 Survival Pool Party (held on October 24, 2009) saw students joining citizens, scientists and world leaders in 177 countries who took to nearby streets, mountains, parks, and reefs on the same day to demand strong action on climate change, in what was the most participative day of environmental action in the planet's history.

Its organiser, Simpson Khoo, said they decided to soak in the pool and form the '350' human formation after the call for action from the President of the Maldives, Mohamed Nasheed, who held an official cabinet meeting in an unusual location – underwater - on 17 October 2009.

Khoo, Sunway's Public Relations Executive, is also a youth climate activist from Malaysian Youth Climate Justice Network (www.mycjn.org).

More than 4,400 rallies and events took place, which centred on the number 350. This was to draw attention to 350 parts per million (ppm), which an overwhelming number of scientists now insist is the safe upper limit for carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.



Nurshaheera (left), a national fencer, with Elizabeth Lee



Ronald Soo (left) and Regina Choo

Saluting exceptional, well-rounded students

Another RM2 million in scholarships have been awarded through the Sunway Education Trust Fund to 285 recipients in November last year, making it a total of RM50 million given away since 1997.

In May last year, Sunway awarded a total of RM3.1 million in scholarships to 785 students.

At the scholarship ceremony in November, awards were given based on five categories that spanned academic achievement, sports and extra-curricular activities (ECAs).

Bachelor of Science (Hons) Accounting and Finance student, Lee Ker Ching and Bachelor of Science (Hons) Psychology undergraduate, Vanessa Ong Shu Yi won the Chancellors Scholarship awards, a high profile scholarship funded by both Sunway and Lancaster University to encourage academic achievement in the Sunway developed honours degree programmes.

"I was given many opportunities to further improve myself as we were given freedom and flexibility to be creative when organizing events. The skills I have learnt would help me as I can use them later in my career." - Ronald Soo Ki-Meng

For the ECA category, the Sunway CIMB ECA Achievers scholarship was offered in collaboration with CIMB Bank Berhad. Two of the recipients were Ronald Soo Ki-Meng, an ACCA student, Director of the Sunway Student Council 2009 and President of the Swimming Club, and Regina Choo Jia Ling, a VU business student and Deputy President of the Sunway University College Student Council 2009.

The Sunway University College Sports Scholarship was presented to 17 students, who have been active in sports at the state or national level.

One of the recipients was Accounting & Finance (Hons) student, Nurshaheera Shazny Binti Mohd Zaini, a national fencer.

The Sunway University College-CIMB Sportsman Award recipient was Abdulhalim Abdullahi Liman, an Information Systems (Hons) student who is Captain of the Sunway football and futsal teams while the Sportswoman award went to Nur Hidayah Binti Adam, an ACCA student, national bowler and President of the Sunway Bowling Club.



Cambridge Outstanding Achiever Award winners. From left: Oh Coyin, Ng Hui Sin, Thong Ming Sen and Sarah Chew



Oh Coyin with two prestigious Cambridge Outstanding Awards



Sarah Chew Jiak Sian (left) with her Psychology lecturer, Ida Ngui

Oh, what a feeling!

Sunway University College A-Level student, Oh Coyin emerged as top student, bagging two most prestigious Cambridge Outstanding Achiever Awards last year – one for being Top in Malaysia, AS Level award for Biology, and the second for being Top in the World, AS Level for Physics.

Oh's fellow student, Sarah Chew Jiak Sian also bagged the Top in the World, AS Level for Psychology, while two other students, Ng Hui Sin and Thong Ming Sen clinched Top in Malaysia, AS Level awards for Accounting and Law subjects, respectively.

The awards were based on the A-Level examinations they sat in June 2009. Their score was the highest in each subject category, measured against other students who sat the examination locally and worldwide.

According to the Head of Pre-University Studies, Cheng Mien Wee, Sunway University College has an established tradition of academic excellence.

"Since 1998, Sunway's A-Level students have been recipients of these Cambridge Outstanding Achiever Top Student awards by the University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE). In the past CIE June and November examinations, our overall pass rates were consistently above 97.5% with at least 27% of our students achieving 3A grades or more," she said.

Due to its excellent track record as a provider for the A-Levels, Sunway University College has earned the status of a Cambridge International Fellowship Centre and is one of about 40 Fellowship Centres in the world from among more than 1,100 Cambridge centres worldwide.



FIA'S top student Wong Hur Beng (left) with Elizabeth Lee

AUSMAT's Manisharaj (left) with Mrs Ruma Lopes

Gail Taylor (left) with AUSMAT's Sudharsan

AUSMAT and FIA success stories

Two Sunway AUSMAT students were recently awarded Certificates of Distinction by the Curriculum Council, Western Australia.

Manisharaj Kaur Pannu was awarded the Certificate of Distinction for Chemistry (with a score of 100) and Sudharsan Thiruvengadam received the Certificate of Distinction for English (Advanced Paper) in the Year 12 curriculum of Western Australia examination.

Manisharaj and Sudharsan had the highest scores for their subjects in the whole state of Western Australia. Manisharaj, who will be pursuing Law and Commerce at the University of New South Wales, Australia also emerged as the top student in AUSMAT at Sunway, based on her results. Sudharsan says he will be studying Aerospace Engineering at the Australian National University (ANU), Australia.

Gail Taylor, Consultant Principal, Curriculum Council who attended the awards night in Sunway, congratulated the students who received their Certificates of Distinction.

Meanwhile, Wong Hur Beng topped the class from an inaugural batch of 66 students in Sunway's Foundation in Arts (FIA) programme. Leong Ji Kin was picked as the student representative of the 2009 graduating class.

The FIA is the academic stepping stone to Sunway's honours degree programmes validated by Lancaster University. The Sunway-developed FIA programme lays a strong academic foundation in literacy and numeracy enhanced by enrichment subjects that broaden a student's understanding of the world.

Of the batch, 50 students are continuing their studies in the Lancaster-validated undergraduate programmes at Sunway. Half of them received the Tan Sri Dato' Seri (Dr) Jeffrey Cheah Continuing Scholarship awarded by Sunway University College, to enable the students to enjoy a substantial cost savings in their tuition fees. The rest of the students are going to Monash University (both in Malaysia and Australia), Victoria University twinning programme at Sunway and other private universities in the Klang Valley.



Grateful for blessings

Smiling warmly and dressed in a dark suit with her mane of long hair tamed neatly into place, her successful demeanour masks the bitter roots of life that Candy Lee Pik Shin once tasted as a child.

Coming from a poor family with her grandma as her closest relative, Lee never dreamt of going to university. "My initial plan was to work while studying part time," she said.

After she learnt about the Tun Omar Ong Yoke Lin Community scholarship through Malaysian Care, the rest was history.

She joined Sunway in 2003 to pursue CAT under the scholarship. "I was overjoyed and thrilled at being given the chance to finally further my studies," she recalled.

Later, with another scholarship under the Sunway Education Trust Fund, Lee managed to continue pursuing her ACCA.

Today, her business card suggests that she is now a "Personal Financial Consultant - Wealth" with the OCBC Bank. As passionate as she was with her studies, Lee said of her job: "It's very hands-on. I get to meet people and I enjoy it. It is a bit related to accounting and studying in the ACCA programme in Sunway has definitely helped me. I have made many friends in the course of my studies. I still keep in touch with them in my spare time."

She said that her English has improved tremendously, especially with having to communicate with her best friend, Valerie Yee. Having a hostel roommate from China helped her Mandarin as well.

"I wish to share with others that being successful does not depend on your background. From the bottom of my heart, I want to say thank you to everyone who helped me in my life. I extend my deepest gratitude and appreciation to them. At the same time, I will never forget my roots and where I came from." - Candy Lee



Dr. Tony Luxon (second from left) with Cheong Sau Kuan (left), Woo Pei Jun (second from right) and Associate Professor Teoh Hsien-Jin

Keeping on par

Five Sunway academic staff are keeping on par with their colleagues in the United Kingdom.

They received their Certificate in Academic Practice (CAP) Module One, which makes them eligible to become Associate Fellows of Higher Education Academy in the U.K.

According to Dr Tony Luxon, who presented the certificates, it was an impressive achievement considering that the staff achieved this while teaching and carrying out research, simultaneously.

In his capacity as Continuing Professional Development Advisor, Dr. Luxon and his colleagues from the Centre Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (CELT) of Lancaster University recently conducted the workshops at Sunway.

The Certificate in Academic Practice is awarded by Lancaster University to academic staff who attended workshops in the

Developing Higher Education Practice (DHEP), a programme which is accredited and recognised by both UK-based Higher Education Academy (HEA) and the Staff Educational Development Association (SEDA).

The recipients of the award were Associate Professor Dr. Teoh Hsien-Jin, Cheong Sau Kuan, Woo Pei Jun (from the Psychology Department), Dr. Marie-Aimee Tourres (Head of the Manchester Business School Worldwide programme at Sunway) and Dr. Stanley Yeow (former Head of the Victoria University MBA programme at Sunway).

Another 17 staff have also completed the DHEP. The completion rate of staff members who attended the workshops, compares favourably with staff at Lancaster University.

Ensuring Quality

The partnership between Sunway University College and Lancaster University has enabled Sunway's degrees to be recognised internationally.

Acting as the mentor university, Lancaster University ensures that the quality of Sunway's awards is subjected to stringent and formal criteria, ensuring Sunway's degrees are on par with other world-class universities.

Lancaster University's course consultants have been visiting Sunway regularly after course validation to monitor and improve programme quality.

One of the quality improvement measures involves the Centre for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (CELT) of Lancaster University, which helps to develop Sunway staff in the area of teaching and learning. It is now part of an ongoing staff development programme at Sunway.

An unforgettable lunch

In our September 2009 edition of **blaze**, we carried a competition, "Nothing Fishy", sponsored by Revenue Valley Sdn Bhd, which owns and operates The Manhattan Fish Market, Tony Roma's and TOKYO.g restaurants.

Eight Sunway students who participated in the competition were selected to have a casual lunch with its Group Managing Director, George Ang.

Ang, a Sunway University College alumnus and a well-known entrepreneur, took the opportunity to share about his experience as an international businessman. From a humble beginning working part time as a Pizza Hut delivery boy while studying at the old Sunway College in PJ New Town, Ang went on to start his own business.

This was the beginning of his eventual phenomenal career rise in the Food & Beverage business. Soon, his company began to grow bigger and today it has hit an annual turnover of around RM100 million a year.

Ang, who completed his AUSMAT pre-university studies and First Year undergraduate studies at the then Sunway College in 1991, later went on to University of Western Australia where he completed his Bachelor of Commerce (majoring in Finance & Accounting) in 1993. Ang was invited as a guest Entrepreneur Speaker at Sunway recently.

The students who were invited to lunch with Ang were from ACCA, Victoria University twinning degree in business at Sunway, Business Management (Hons) and Psychology (Hons) degrees validated by Lancaster University. The lunch was at Tony Roma's restaurant at Sunway Pyramid.



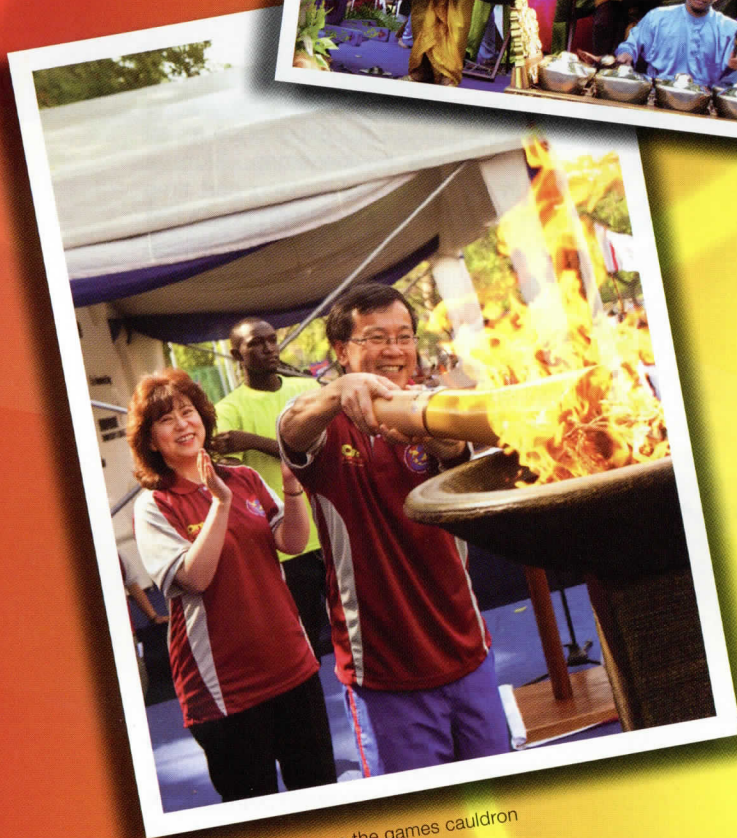
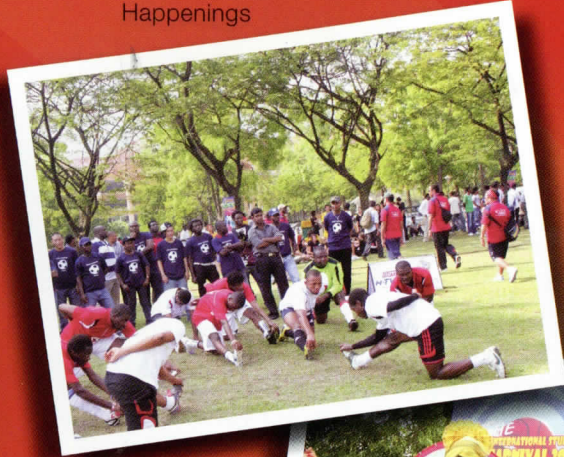
What they say about their personal encounter with George Ang

"I think the lunch was awesome! I was amazed by Mr Ang's fondness in sharing his secret recipe for his success. It was certainly a wonderful experience that a student could have" - Chang Mei Yan, B.Sc (Hons) Psychology.

"The lunch was inspiring and knowledge enhancing especially when George shared his philosophy and experience in managing his business regionally" - Heri Gunawan from Indonesia, B.Sc (Hons) Business Management.

"George Ang is a great and ambitious entrepreneur. He enlightened us on how to be successful in business and he's keen in knowing other people's opinion which makes him a great leader" - Seah Chuying, ACCA.

"It is quite rare for students to have this kind of learning opportunity. He has been successful in motivating us students to learn more. The food was superb and the conversation was really a mind blowing experience" - Karin Nathasa from Indonesia, B.Bus Victoria University twinning programme at Sunway.



Y.B. Dr Hou lighting up the games cauldron



Platform for friendship and understanding

When torch bearer, Nigerian, Abdulhalim Abdullahim Liman, passed the flame to Guest-of-Honour, Dr. Hou Kok Chung, the atmosphere was similar to that of a mini Olympics.

There was silence as the International Student Carnival 09 – Sports Festival was officially launched.

Dr. Hou, in his capacity as Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Malaysia said that he hopes

to encourage team building, goodwill as well sportsmanship, regardless of nationality, race or religion.

A total of 1,500 international students from 55 institutions of higher learning, from both the private and public sector as far as Sabah, Perlis, Johor and Melaka took part in the event, jointly organised with the Ministry of Higher Education and co-hosted by Sunway University College.

Legenda College emerged as champion of the Male 3-on-3 basketball while the Female 3-on-3 basketball was won by Limkokwing University of Creative Technology.

Meanwhile, in the Tug of War, the male and female team champions were from Limkokwing University of Creative Technology and Universiti Sains Malaysia, respectively. In the futsal section, open to males only, the champion was Goon Institute.

This Sport Festival, Which which is part of the International Student Carnival, has been held annually since 2007 and is a platform for students to get together in one spirit of international understanding and friendship.

The introduction that almost stole the show

In an unprecedented and unusual twist since the Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah Distinguished Speakers Series (TSJCDSS) talk was launched in 1997, the moderator of a talk in October 2009 was the man himself.

Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr Jeffrey Cheah took time off to attend to the scintillating talk on "Singapore Airlines: The Early Years" by Dr Cheong Choong Kong.

The former CEO of Singapore Airlines (SIA) gave an insight into how SIA achieved record profitability and zero debt, even during the Asian economic crisis.

Describing Tan Sri as a soft-spoken, low-key and humble benefactor, coordinator of the TSJCDSS and a member of the Board of Sunway University College, Dr Goh Cheng Teik saw it fit to say a few words: "Here is someone with a rare talent of being able to discern what can be value-added to a particular land resource. Give him a wasteland and he will know how to transform it, using all the latest tools, gadgets and technologies available, figuratively speaking, into a land flowing with milk and honey. Yet, it is indeed an honour for our distinguished guest speaker to have Tan Sri in the audience."

Distinguished speaker, Dr Cheong, who is also the Chairman of OCBC Singapore, said that, when he first joined SIA, there were many odds that he had to overcome to achieve the phenomenal success.

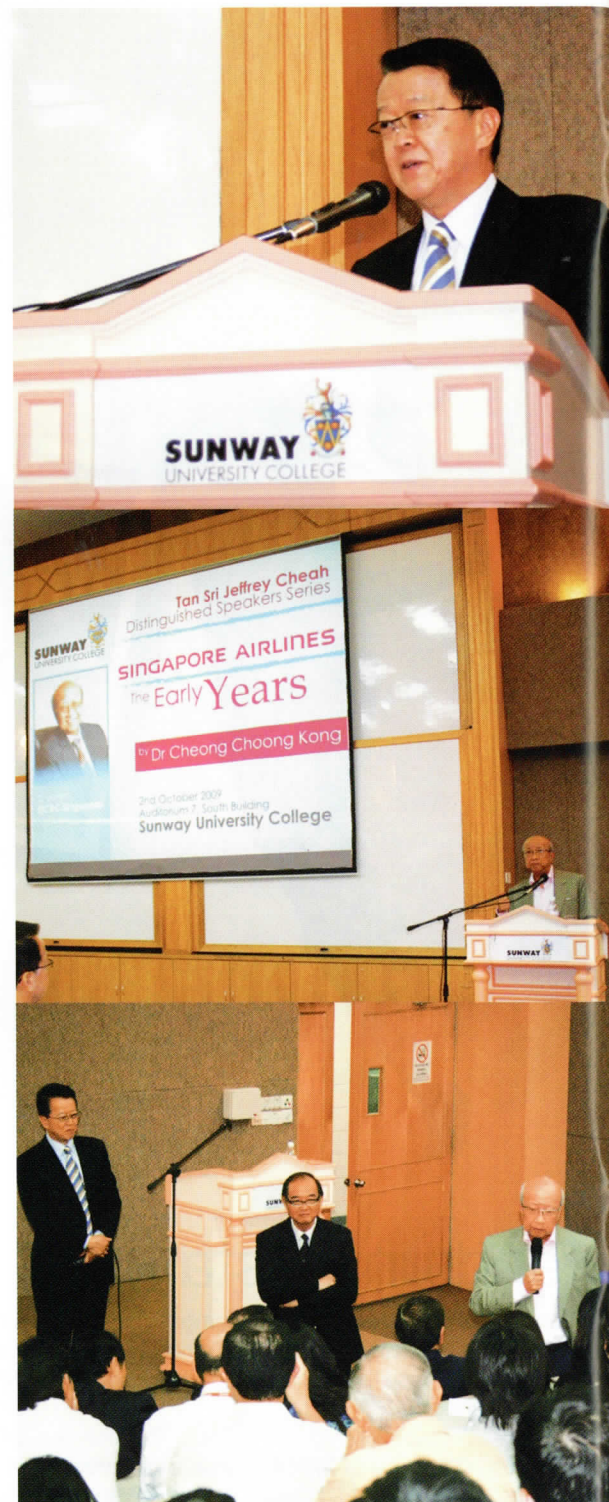
"There was no secret formula," he admitted. "We won the battle because we have the right people who believe in customer service as the cornerstone of SIA. This has turned SIA into a profitable airline, and we have become one of the largest airlines in the world today."

The company also invested in training, executive development and introduced measures to maintain a high staff retention rate. Its other strengths were its image and ability to innovate, stay competitive and to become self-sufficient.

Dr Cheong, a former Malaysian, holds a PhD in Mathematics from the Australian National University.

About the TSJCDSS:

The Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah Distinguished Speakers Series started out as talks by distinguished international scholars who were invited to speak at Sunway University College since 1997. Over the years, the subject matter of the lecture series evolved to meet public interest. Therefore, in line with the Government's call for lifelong learning, the Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah Distinguished Speakers Series is a CSR effort open to the community and is a platform for lively intellectual discourses and learning benefitting both students and working adults.



Tan Sri Dr. Jeffrey Cheah (left) with Dr. Goh Cheng Teik (centre) and Dr. Cheong Choong Kong (right)



VU students (left to right): Vicky Riana, Fannie Chandra and Ng Mun Foong (receiving the bonus from Professor Robert Bignall on behalf of VU Australia); Saw Siu Siu (right) and Mustafa Yurukoff (second from right).

Australian bound VU students get bonus

Four students in the Victoria University (VU) Bachelor of Business twinning programme at Sunway University College have just left for their mother campus in Melbourne, Australia in the middle of February 2010 to do a semester (about 5 months) of their studies in VU Australia.

What the four did not expect was that they were each given a grant of AUD5,000 by VU Australia to cover airfare, accommodation and other expenses relating to their studies.

Saw Siu Siu, who is Malaysian, said she was elated to receive this grant. "We currently pay the equivalent in Malaysian ringgit for our fees and now all our expenses are taken care of by VU Australia with this special grant," she said.

Ng Mun Foong, a fellow Malaysian, said they were already excited to find out the difference between studying the VU programme in Sunway and in Australia. "We plan also to participate in all the activities and learn more about Australian culture," she said.

The other two Australian-bound students were Vicky Riana and Fannie Chandra, from Indonesia.

An Australian student, Mustafa Yurukoff, a Third Year business student from VU Australia was an exchange student doing the reverse, studying a semester at Sunway. He has just returned to Melbourne, Australia.

Mustafa, who sat for four subject examinations here, described his stint at Sunway as the best time of his life. "I love Malaysia and the people are friendly," he said. "I like the warm weather. It felt like a home away from home. The lecturers are also friendly and approachable. I have made a lot of friends here and they made my experience here worthwhile."

Workshop boosts students' knowledge of wine

Nothing goes better with food than a glass of wine, but what wine?

In an enlightening four-hour workshop, some 30 participants, including students from the School of Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure Management at Sunway University College were able to see their food and wine pairing theories learnt earlier, being put into practice.

The Food and Wine Pairing Workshop was organised by its degree students, followed by a six-course dinner at its dining training restaurant prepared by the diploma students. This experiential learning is one of the school's strategies to produce employable graduates.

F & B Coordinator, Daniel Chong presented fascinating facts about wines as well as explaining the theory behind food and wine pairing.

"I hope participants will now use the right jargon, when talking about wines so that they can impress customers and recommend an appropriate wine to go with a meal," he said.

The workshop offered a tasting of six different wines of different grape varieties and from different parts of the world, old world as well as new. To ensure neutrality, the wines were specially purchased by the School, and not sponsored.

The spectacular six-course dinner had dishes that utilised both Asian spices and herbs to enable the participants to see how wines could be paired with spicy dishes. The dinner which featured pigeon with Szechuan pepper, Alaskan crab soup, cod fish with "daun kaduk" and lamb curry were beautifully accompanied by wines selected by Chong, who has an Advanced Level Wine Trainer Certificate from the Wine and Spirit Education Trust (WSET), U.K.





Standing (left to right) : Ling Mee Hong (lecturer), Angela Lee (lecturer), Tan Siew Ling (SAS Manager Academic Program), Foong Cheng Ho, Han Yian Ting, Lim Vi Kiat, Ang Jiun Long.
Sitting (left to right) Jeric Yuen, Au Yong Chee Han and Yeo Ee Fong

From scratch to runners-up

Four Sunway undergraduates from the School of Computer Technology (SCT) clinched the first runner-up position in the SAS Programming Competition 2009, jointly organised by SAS Malaysia and UiTM.

Two of its three teams fielded managed to beat 9 other teams in the competition to reach the final round of the competition.

The team, comprising Jeric Yuen Juin Keat, Au Yong Chee Hau, Yeo Ee Fong and Han Yian Ting, won 1st runner-up in the competition and received RM500 cash, certificates and a plaque.

Jeric Yuen, a Third Year Bachelor (Hons) information Systems student, who led the team said although the finals of the competition was a close fight, it was a good exposure for them.

"I think we did well considering it was a new language for us. We had to attend additional classes, once a week, outside of our regular classes just to prepare for the competition," he said.

The other team which was placed second runner-up was made up of Foong Cheng Ho, Ang Jiun Long and Lim Vi Kiat. Sunway's teams were coached and guided by SCT academic staff, Angela Lee and Ling Mee Hong.



First runner up winners (left to right) Yeo Ee Fong, Au Yong Chee Han, Jeric Yuen and Han Yian Ting with their prizes



Left to right: Paul Linus Andrews, Mustafa M.I. Mustafa (workshop coordinator), Maziar Daghighi Masouleh, DSP Zaleha Binti Md. Jais (Selangor Contingent Police), Datuk Muhammad Fuad Bin Talib (Exco MCPF Selangor), Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam, Ryan Connolly and Associate Professor Teoh Hsien-Jin.



Crime prevention

A one-day workshop on "Psychological Crime Issues in the Modern World" was held in November last year to expose students to issues on personal safety, commercial, cyber and organised crime so they may gain a better insight on crime prevention.

Jointly organised by Sunway University College, the Malaysian Crime Prevention Foundation (MCPF), Selangor Chapter and the Royal Malaysian Police (Selangor Contingent), the workshop attracted 240 students from a number of tertiary institutions.

Ryan Connolly of Team Cymru Asia spoke on "Preventing Cybercrime"

followed by Sunway's academics, Associate Professor Teoh Hsien-Jin on "Organised Crime and Terrorism" and Paul Linus Andrews on "Current Perspectives on the Law and Commercial Crime Prevention".

The floor was livened by an open forum themed, "Creating Safer Cities", chaired by Sunway's recent Psychology graduate, Maziar

Daghighi Masouleh. Students took full advantage of the workshop to ask pertinent questions and share their views.

A Wall Mural drawing session and Police Booths were the peripheral activities of the workshop.

More than able

Hailing from Jakarta, Eka Diah Gun Hernanti, 21 is more able than most people despite being wheelchair bound.

With assistance from her cousin, Tatik Fatimah, Eka finds her way around Sunway to attend class. Facilities, she described, are friendly for the physically challenged; if not, there is always a way around it.

She is currently pursuing her final Year Bachelor of Business twinning programme with Victoria University at Sunway University College.

Having lived in Malaysia for the past three years since she started doing her CIMP (Canadian International Matriculation Programme) at Sunway, she finds her lecturers and classmates very helpful. "All of them are very kind to me," she commented. "Friends have always lent a helping hand; they do not see me as someone different and they are ever willing to push me around whenever Tatik is busy or tired."

Her favourite food is the roti canai, especially when it is served with the curry that comes with it. "I enjoy Malaysian food," she said. "On most of the days, Tatik cooks excellent soto, semur, bakso and occasionally, spaghetti."

Eka's disability started ten years ago when she was 12 years old as a result of side effects from surgery she had in Australia. That, however, has never dampened her spirit to be a successful business woman someday. "Life must go on," she said, adding that it is always helpful to have facilities that are suited for the physically challenged.

Getting around Sunway

"When you are on a wheelchair, and you enter the lifts by yourself, you need buttons that are low," she explained. "I am happy that most of the lifts in Sunway have low buttons."

Although in the South Building, buttons are high, the management has installed a new lift with low buttons. There are currently wheelchair friendly lifts that service the South Building and North Building.

Everywhere around there are ramps that enable a wheelchair to move about easily. At every floor, there are toilets with railings that help the physically-challenged person manage. "I must say that the toilets are clean and easy to move around; the lecture theatres are also excellent for wheelchair-bound students like me," she said. "Almost every corner of Sunway is accessible."

The Tun Hussein Onn Library is two levels and there are no lifts in between, but with some helpful library staff, Eka finds a special arrangement for her to enter the Library through another door. She may find it harder to manoeuvre around the computer laboratory in the South Building because of the lack of space but the Sunway University College management has informed that the computers in the Multimedia Zone of the Library and the computer lab CL2 in the North Building are wheelchair accessible.

Overall, Eka is happy with the facilities at Sunway. Even the Lagoon View Condominium, where she is staying, is just a short distance away. "The campus environment is very conducive for studies. My mother's friend has children who have studied here," she said. "Now, my 19-year-old younger brother is studying in the CIMP at Sunway."



Eka and her cousin, Tatik

A chat with Xandria Ooi

Xandria Ooi, 26, graduated from the Canadian International Matriculation Programme (CIMP) in 2001. She returned recently to give a talk to students on her newly-launched book, 'Xandria Ooi – Love, Work and Everything in Between'.

Why did you choose to do CIMP?

CIMP was the perfect choice as the structure of the course resembles the ones at University, with a focus on course work, presentations and group assignments as well as examinations.

Why did you choose Sunway?

Because of the ample carpark space and the fact that the toilets had toilet paper! Hahaha seriously, I was vastly impressed by the campus and really liked the Director of CIMP back then – Mr. Terry Boucher. He was an inspiration and a friend as well as a teacher.

Were you still working part time when you were studying here at Sunway? What were you working as? How did you cope with your studies and work at the same time?

I was involved in the BRATs programme at The Star publication, which was a young journalist programme. I juggled studies and all my extracurricular activities quite well, simply because I was enjoying the experience. I didn't need to go clubbing or to the movies to have fun. I had fun in school and at work!

How did you spend your leisure when you were a student? Where was your favourite hang-out?

I spent all my leisure time participating in activities in the BRATs programme (drama, jungle trekking, hosting an internet radio show) and helping organise events for the Sunway Student Council. My favourite hang out was college, honest!

What is that one thing you miss so much about when you were a student?

The long summer breaks!

What subject did you enjoy the most? Who was the lecturer then? What's so special about that class or the lecturer?

World Issues in CIMP. My lecturer was Mr. Anderson and he was extremely kind. What made that class so special was that I was the top scorer for the term. It was rewarding!

What is your advice to students who are currently studying at Sunway?

Make college fun and remember to enjoy whatever it is that you're doing.

Briefly, can you share with us what you have in mind for 2010?

I have just been appointed the ambassador/spokesperson of Kose and will be representing the popular Japanese brand for 2010. It's a huge honour and I am very proud to be representing Malaysia. My production company, XO Productions, is currently working with the Institut Darul Ridzuan (IDR) of Perak to produce a television travel show to promote Perak.

On a personal note, I am getting married this year, so there are lots to be done!



Xandria with Student Services Director Lee Siok Ping

Fond ties with Sunway

Mention ginger leaves and Sunway, and his eyes just brighten up. One which he has spent several years researching on, leading to his PhD in October last year, while the other is where he still feels nostalgic about.

Eric Chan Wei Chiang, who obtained the Ontario Secondary School Diploma at Sunway University College after his Canadian International Matriculation Programme (CIMP) in 2000, says he still feels nostalgic when walking the corridors of Sunway.

Chan shares one-year stint at Sunway: "Doing my CIMP was an important milestone in my entire education. The programme transformed me from a mediocre student in high school to become the best Honours Student, and the first PhD graduate from the School of Science, Monash University Sunway Campus."

In his opinion, CIMP places more emphasis on continuous evaluation of coursework and projects than on examinations. "With a balance of science and art subjects in the syllabus, the class environment was conducive for learning, liberal and non-restrictive," he adds.

"We were encouraged to express our views in class and trained to conduct research projects, followed by documentation and presentation of findings," he recalls. "This is why I still have I have fond memories of doing CIMP. My brother Aaron and cousin Li Li also obtained their CIMP diplomas from Sunway in 2002 and 2003, respectively."

On his PhD work on ginger leaves, Chan explains: "Leaves of *Etlingera elatior* have strong antioxidant, antibacterial and skin-whitening properties. A protocol to produce a standardised extract of chlorogenic acid (CGA) from leaves of the torch ginger or kantan has been developed. Its CGA content is almost two-fold that of commercial extracts from honeysuckle flowers. Currently, an agricultural waste with no economic value, leaves of kantan have great potential to be developed into useful natural preservatives and herbal products."

From his ginger research, Eric has published six papers in international refereed journals as the first author. He has also presented his findings at international ginger symposia held in Singapore (2006) and China (2009).

Last year, Chan won the Consolation Prize of the Merck Young Scientist Award (MYSA) 2009 Chromatography Category. He is a Life Member for Academic Excellence, Monash University Chapter of the Golden Key International Honour Society since 2002, and a Member of the International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems (ISME) since 2008. Currently, he is lecturing Analytical Chemistry to Second Year Food Science and Nutrition Students at a local institution of higher learning.

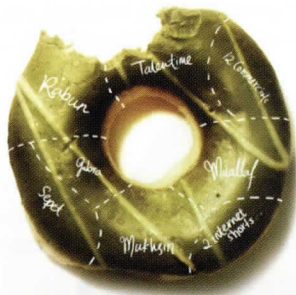


Happenings

Students remember Yasmin

Amir Muhammad's latest book is simply titled "Yasmin Ahmad's Films".

YASMIN AHMAD'S FILMS



Amir Muhammad

When Amir decided to launch his book recently, Sunway University College was a natural choice for Amir, as it was here that his friend, the late Yasmin spoke to students in May 2009 on "What makes Yasmin Yasmin?"

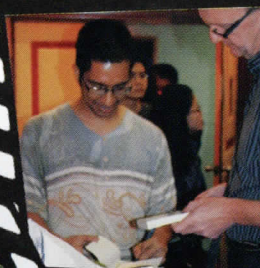
Students enjoyed her memorable and captivating talk on the state of film-making in Malaysia, overcoming cultural barriers and her inspiration for her films. In just two months after that, Yasmin shocked the nation when she suddenly passed away.

Amir relived the memory of Yasmin at the book launch event when he spoke to students about his book that analyses her six feature length films, Rabun, Sepet, Gubra, Mukhsin, Muallaf and Talentime, as well as several of her popular commercials.

The book has been described as "chatty and informative" and is a tribute to one of Malaysia's most amazing daughters.

Sharifah Amani, the actress who played "Orked" in one of Yasmin's films, declared Amir's book officially launched.

All the royalties from the sale of first edition of "Yasmin Ahmad's Films" will be donated to the Mercy-Yasmin Fund for Children.



Crime buster now an avid artist

Maldivian, Amir Ali, 39, was a scene crime officer with the Police Forensics Department in his country before joining Sunway in 2007.

Married to Nazima, Amir, who has an 11-year-old son, Mahin, has completed his Diploma in Fine Arts at Sunway, is hoping that the sculpture, oil painting and sketching that he learns in class, will come in handy when he eventually pursues his Master of Science in Forensic Arts in New Zealand.

A former musician in his younger days, Amir explains to **blaze** why he chose the diploma programme. "Fine art is an important foundation for someone pursuing medical art and forensic art. A good example of forensic art is the composite sketch, face reconstruction and aging progress."



A very unusual choice, he names Leonardo da Vinci as his hero. "To me, he was more than an artist. He was a genius, a scientist as well as a great philosopher. His painting and illustrations are still used in medical art today."

A greenie, Amir's paintings are mainly about the tragic tsunami which hit his country. His paintings stole the limelight during an art exhibition sponsored by Gloria Jeans at Sunway Pyramid. As most of the country's 2,500 islands are located at sea level, its population of 350,000 people are constantly vulnerable to natural disasters caused by global warming.

While he was with the police force, he had worked with the Disaster Victim Management Service as a forensic officer for eight months, where most of his time was involved in collecting bodies and identifying their relatives.

Having experienced the tsunami disaster in 2006, Amir has strong views about global warming. "I want Malaysians to remember to keep the country green. Do not destroy Mother Nature," he advises.

Beautiful Maldives

The Maldivian Students Association of Sunway held a Photo Exhibition on the Maldives at Sunway University College last year with the help of the High Commission of the Republic of Maldives.

Its president and a student then, Amir Ali said, it was proud moment for Maldivian students to be closely involved in such an event.

"We enjoyed every minute of it and surprisingly some students only came to hear about the Maldives from this exhibition," he said. "I hope that more people will think of visiting this island nation."



The stunning photographs that showcased the Maldives' natural beauty were provided by the High Commission, whose High Commissioner to Malaysia, His Excellency, Mohamad Zaki also took time to grace the occasion.

There are around 109 Maldivian students at Sunway University College and most of them belong to the Maldivian Students Association of Sunway. About 30% of the total Sunway student population of over 9,000, are international coming from over 80 different countries.



Gan Soon Bing (left) and Susan Phua, Graphic and Multimedia lecturer

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Gan Soon Bing, a graduate of the Diploma in Graphics and Multimedia at Sunway, who won the Tanjong Heritage art competition two times in a row.

In 2008, he bagged the first prize in the watercolour category in the same competition for his pointillism rendition of a Chinese temple.

In 2009, he won the second prize for his uniquely angled pencil drawing of fishermen in Port Dickson in the charcoal/pencil category. Gan completed his Diploma in Graphic and Multimedia Design in October last year and is now working with an advertising agency.

Congratulations, once again, and we wish you every success in your future undertakings!

MOVIES

KAMI The Movie	- 2008
HOOPERZ	- 2010
ADIK MANJA Returns	- 2010

TELEMOVIES

Puaka Topeng Putih @ Astro Ria	- 2009
Cinta Lelong @ Astro Ria	- 2009
2nd Hand Henfon @ Astro Ria	- 2009

TV HOSTING

Ezone @ Astro Ria	- 2001-02
Majalah Moral @ TVIQ	- 2004
Remaja @ TV3	- 2005-08
Bintang Kecil Raya @TV9	- 2007
Sampai Hello	
NewYear 2008 @ TV3	- 2007
AksiGerek @ MediaCorp Singapore (Suria TV & RTM)	- 2008
Gadis Melayu Season 2 @ TV9	- 2009

A bigger role for Juliana

Actress and TV host, Juliana Sophie Evans, 20, aspires to be back in the broadcasting industry as a TV host, and eventually to direct films one day.

When met at Sunway's foyer, she told **blaze**: "Yes, I am still into acting, and testing how far I can go as an actress. However, my main passion is hosting."

Evans, who is currently pursuing her American Degree Transfer Programme with Sunway, says she is learning to juggle between work and study. "I won't let my work clash with my study or class schedule," she adds. "Education is still number one for me and my family."

During the semester, she works only on weekends, while concentrating mainly on her studies during the week. "If it is a short semester, I would take fewer subjects, so that I can take up more acting or hosting roles," she says. "Semester break is the time I fill up with work."

In her spare time, she mainly hangs out with friends. "Friends are very important to me," she quips. "No matter how busy I am, I would always find time to hang out and catch up on things with my good friends. I enjoy surfing the Internet, and apart from that, I also love doing outdoor activities, sports, playing pool and watching movies."

Right after her ADTP at Sunway, she hopes to continue her studies at the San Francisco State University. "I have a friend who graduated in mass communications from there. I heard that it's a really good place to study. There are a lot of opportunities there."

On why she chose Sunway, she replies, with a smile: "I picked Sunway because it is nearer to home. It's a lot easier as I stay in Shah Alam, and I drive to campus. Plus, I don't have to go through the traffic jam! The lecturers here are great, and the students are overwhelmingly friendly."



Sunway University College's international students were the centre of attention during the launch of Sunway Towers (formerly Wisma Denmark) in Jalan Ampang recently. The well-known building was officially opened by the mayor of Kuala Lumpur City Hall, Datuk Ahmad Fuad Ismail.

Eight female students donned their national costumes and played the role of ushers for the event. Their presence underlined Sunway University College as one of the major facilities in the integrated resort city of Sunway.

Sabeeha Mohamed Rafiki Ibrahi Sadi, one of the students from Kenya, who is pursuing the Bachelor of Accounting & Finance, said she was fascinated to learn about the cultures and costumes of different nationalities.

Also attending the launch was the Chairman of the Sunway Group and Chancellor of Sunway University College, Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr. Jeffrey Cheah, who said that the Sunway Group is venturing their projects into areas out of Bandar Sunway.

The students were also joined by staff of Sunway Pyramid Shopping Mall, who were dressed in Malaysian ethnic costumes.