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Going places

A touch of the gentle giant

Proudly a Sunway alumnus

Sunway Flair-tending competition 2010

A note from Eka



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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.

Advisor :
Elizabeth Lee

Editorial Team :
Jerrine Koay (Editor)
Jacqueline Muriel Lim (Sub-Editor & Writer)

Publisher :
Sunway University College

Concept + Design :
Yong & Ng Consulting

Should you have comments, kindly contact:

The Public Relations Department
Sunway University College
Tel: 603-74918622
blaze@sunway.edu.my
www.sunway.edu.my

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Printer:

Ocean Transfer (M) Sdn Bhd

Other educational institutions and services under the Sunway Education Group:

Sunway College Johor Bahru
Tel: 607-359 6880
infojb@sunway.edu.my
www.sunway.edu.my/jb

Sunway College Ipoh
Tel: 605-545 4398
infoipoh@sunway.edu.my
www.sunway.edu.my/ipoh

Sunway College Kuching
Tel: (6082) 232780/236666
info@swck.edu.my
www.sunwaycollegekuching.edu.my

Sunway International School
Tel: 603-7491 8622
infosis@sunway.edu.my
www.sis.sunway.edu.my

Monash University Sunway
Campus Malaysia
Tel: 603-5514 6000
info@monash.edu.my
www.monash.edu.my



Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine
Tel: 603-5514 6000
info@monash.edu.my
www.monash.edu.my

Sunway-TES
Tel: 603-74918622
info@sunway.edu.my
www.sunway.edu.my

Shanghai Sunway Financial Training Co Ltd
Tel: (8621) 585 24899
info@sunway-tes.cn
www.sunway-tes.cn

Sunway International Business & Management
Tel: 603-5880 7356/60
info@sunway.edu.my
www.sunway.edu.my/sibm

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On the cover (left to right): Chancellor's Scholars Chang Mei Yan, Chan Yung Mun and Joyce Oo



Going places

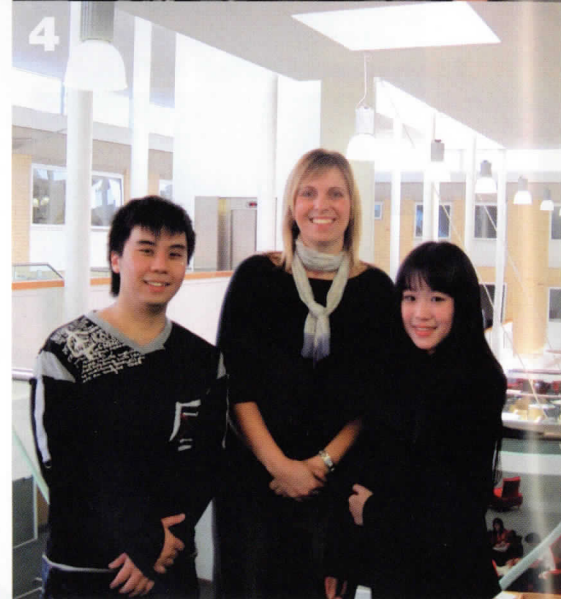
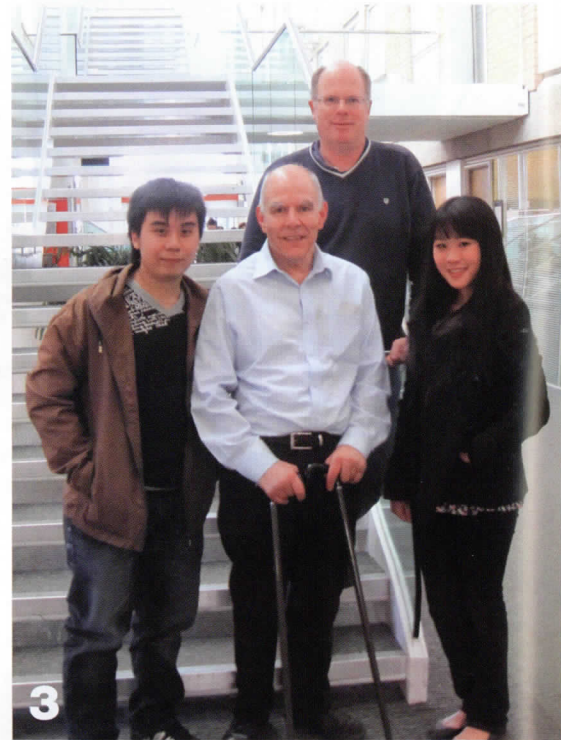
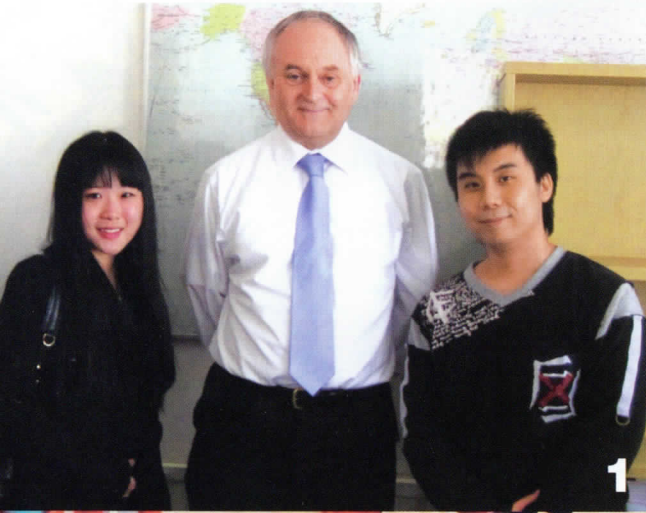
Six Sunway students, including three Chancellor's Scholars, visited Lancaster University in UK on a study tour from March 6 to 20 this year.

The three Chancellor's Scholars were Jet Chan Yung Mun, Chang Mei Yan and Joyce Oo Pui Yee, while the other three students from the Department of Psychology were Cheah Renn Zhern, Cassie Kok Kwee Tze and Lee Ai Suan. Together, they visited Lancaster City, Lake District, York, Manchester City and Glasgow.

The two-week tour of Lancaster University was the result of on-going affiliation between Sunway University College and Lancaster University, where graduates of the Sunway-Lancaster programmes will eventually be receiving two scrolls from both respected universities. The Chancellors' Scholarship was, in fact, named after the Chancellors of both institutions, namely Tan Sri Dr. Jeffrey Cheah and Sir Chris Bonnington.

They also met up with the Sunway delegation at Lancaster House Hotel, among whom were Professor Robert Bignall (Vice-Chancellor), Elizabeth Lee (Executive Director), Associate Professor Dr Teoh Hsien-Jin, Associate Professor Dr Foo Yin Fah and Woo Pei Jun. They had time to take a group portrait near the fireplace and had wonderful dinner at The Sandeman's Bar.

A mesmerized Chang Mei Yan from the Department of Psychology, School of Health and Natural Sciences, managed to capture the enthusiasm of the students when she wrote about the trip in her report to motivate more students to aspire to become Chancellors' scholars – and win a trip to Lancaster University.



1 From left, Joyce Oo, John O'Hanlon (Head of Accounting & Finance Department, Lancaster University) and Jet Chan Yung Mun.

2 Volunteering at Willow Lane Primary School.

3 Professor John Mackness (centre) with Mr Tis, a lecturer (behind)

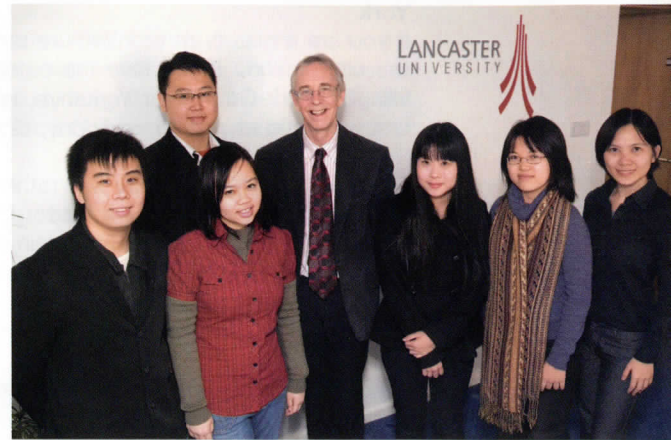
4 With Radka Newton, International Partnerships Manager, LUMS

Lancaster City

You will be enchanted by Lancaster, a historic city, which provides a unique level of contemporary cultural activity. The city has preserved many of its historical architectures such as the Lancaster Castle, the Priory Church of St. Mary and the Edwardian Ashton Memorial.

A statue of Queen Victoria stands at Windsor. At Dalton Square, several statues of famous Lancashire figures such as Charles Darwin and William the Conqueror were displayed. The Lune Millennium Bridge is a cable-stayed footbridge which spans the River Lune in Lancaster, the hub for business and trading (similar to Malacca Straits) in the 18th century.

After a whole day's tour, much to our shock, we found that most cafés were closed by 3pm. We were fortunate to find one place still open, where we ended up having our lunch – Penny's Café at Penny Street.



Our students with Professor Bob McKinlay, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Lancaster University (centre)



Chan Yung Mun and Joyce Oo

Here, we met a few friendly customers who initiated a conversation by asking where we were from, and our purpose of visiting Lancaster. Miscommunication was bound to arise as we could not understand the Northern England slang where they pronounced 'study' as 'studdy' and 'bus' being pronounced as 'boos.'

On our way home, our last culture shock was when the bus driver refused to reply, despite us telling him that we had missed the Alexandra underpass station. Later, we recalled that according to British regulations, bus drivers who talk to passengers while driving are in breach of law and could be fined. Lancaster City is a perfect place for a city break -- its residents were friendly and it is so full of history.

Lake District

Our trip to the Lake District was on Wednesday, 10th March 2010. Mal Thorpe took us to the Lake District, which was located about 45 minutes drive from Lancaster University.

The Lake District offers a popular and stunning countryside view, not only for tourists but it is also well-known among the Lancashire community. The Windermere Lake Cruise which runs between Bowness and Ambleside provides a spectacular view of the beautiful coastline.



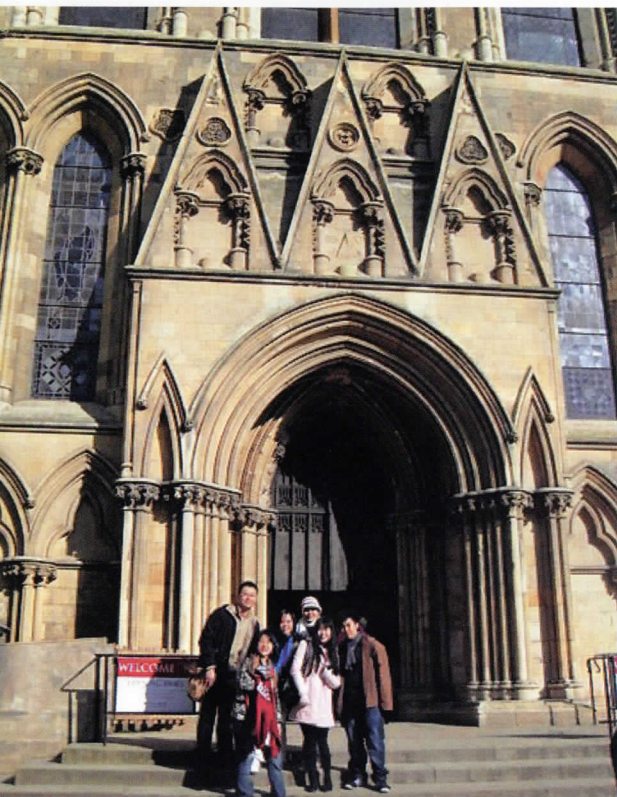
During the cruise from Bowness to Ambleside, we managed to capture the beautiful, tranquil scenery with our cameras. The scenery was beautiful, postcard-perfect indeed! There were friendly swans at the coastline of Bowness which were protected. We were intrigued by the breathtaking view of Lake Windermere. It certainly offers an amazing gateway from the stress and hassles in city life!

From left: Yung Mun, Mei Yan, Ai Suan, Joyce, Renn Zhern and Kwee Tze at the Lake District

York

If you are a history or architecture buff, it's not hard to fall in love with the city of York. If you love the outdoors, pastoral scenery and small villages, York County, or Yorkshire, is the place to visit. We spent our first weekend at York, from Friday, 12th March to Sunday, 14th March.

The ride to the York County was rather messy as the platform for transit was not stated in the board, according to the ticket reservation. As a result, we had to board the next train without seat reservation. When we finally arrived at York at 5pm, we collected tourist information brochures at the railway station before heading to Elmbank Hotel, Mount which was about 15 minutes walk away from the station.



At York Minster

On the second day, we visited York Minster. The tallest building in York, it was also the largest medieval gothic cathedral in Northern Europe built between 1220 and 1472. The York Underpass also enabled us to enter an underground museum known as the Crypt.

Next, we headed to JORVIK Viking Centre to travel back over 1000 years on time machine to explore the history of the Vikings. We explored the Market Street and the Shambles, which was the ancient Medieval Street, before heading towards York Dungeon.

York Dungeon offered intriguing fun ways to explore the dark side of York's history, with live actor shows and other special effects. Next, we visited the Clifford Tower which offered panoramic views of York.

At York Castle Museum, we were immediately transported into the Victorian age which was famous for its collections of costumes, textiles and social history. At sunset, we took photographs of the panoramic view from Micklegate Bar, touted as York's famous Walls Walk. After dinner at PunchBowl Bar, we joined "The Ghost Detective Tour" where our ghost detective guided us through time to experience classic and fun Yorkshire ghost stories.

We also visited the National Railway Museum, home to the UK national rail collection. After shopping at the Market Street, we headed home. York is definitely a tourist-friendly town to visit, and I have learnt a lot about the history of medieval town.



On a ghost tour in York

Manchester City

As soon as we arrived at Manchester City, a friend of ours met us at the Piccadilly Station. Our first pit stop was Old Trafford (officially known as the Theatre of Dreams), an all-seater football stadium and the home of Manchester United. We joined a tour of the museum which displayed trophies and history of Manchester United. The stadium manager took us for a tour into the stadium, player's changing room, player's lounge and to the Munich Tunnel. Some of us managed to grab MU souvenirs from the Megastore.

Craving for Chinese food, we headed for lunch at Tai Wu Cantonese Restaurant, where we had dim sum and eat-all-you-can Cantonese buffet for only £5.40. Next, it was a short tour around Chinatown, where we spent the whole evening shopping at Primark. Although it was a tiring day, by the time we got back, we had a great day! Manchester City, dubbed the UK City with the largest Chinese population, provided a glimpse into city life in the UK.



At The Old Trafford

Glasgow

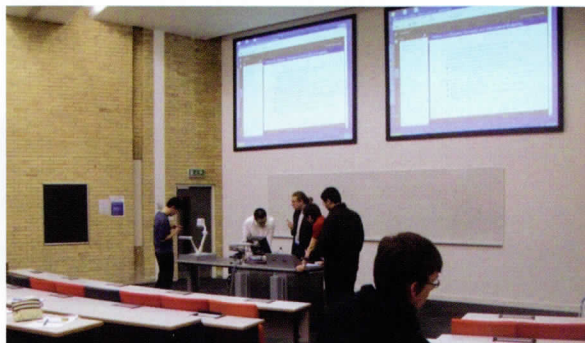
The train from Lancaster to Glasgow Central Station took about two hours. Two friends brought us to the shopping street and told us that Glasgow is the second largest shopping hub in UK, after Oxford Street in London. After shopping and lunch, we headed to the Glasgow Cathedral, a truly magnificent architecture. On our way there, we passed by the oldest house in Glasgow as well as St Nicholas's Garden. As it was raining, most of our time was spent shopping in Glasgow.

Jet Chan Yun Mun wrote about the experience that he and Joyce Oo, had when attending classes at Lancaster University:

Joyce and I attended five lectures in total including one Psychology subject. Our first lecture of International Financial Markets was at Faraday Lecture Theatre by Dr. Kevin Aretz, who spoke on 'Domestic and International Capital Budgeting'.

The second lecture was on Investments, this time, at Bowland Main Lecture Theatre by Dr. James Huang, whose topic was 'Emerging Markets'. He spoke about the patterns and trends of different markets from countries around the world such as United States, United Kingdom, Japan and China using statistical analysis.

Our third lecture was on Financial Statement Analysis at Bowland Main Lecture Theatre. Dr. Zhan Gao's topic was 'Discount Models' where he used data of hypermarket Tesco for his analysis.



International Financial Markets in Faraday Lecture Theatre

We also attended the lecture on Financial Accounting 2 at IENS Biology Lecture Theatre. The topic taught by Dr. Gilad Livne was "Earnings Management" which focused on earnings manipulations by managers and explored the potential explanations of such manipulations.

The lecture Forensic Psychology, focusing on "Linguistic Analysis", explored the study of language structure and its meaning. The reason why Joyce and I attended this lecture with our Psychology mates was to explore a subject that was totally out of our field of study.

Nothing could have captured the excitement of the entire trip except for the writing of Joyce Oo, who wrote her conclusion in her report:

I am truly appreciative that we were given the chance to see much of UK, as both a student and a tourist. This trip was eye-opening for me. To be able to live in a campus for two whole weeks made it feel a lot more like home than just another holiday.

I was not expecting a lot from the trip. Prior to leaving for Lancaster University, it felt a bit more of an obligation and a chore, because I knew we had to attend many a number of meetings pre-arranged for us, whether we liked it or not. However, I was pleasantly surprised, because I truly enjoyed all the activities planned for us. I would like to say that this trip would not have been possible without Sunway University College, and I would like to extend my gratitude to the management of both universities, especially Preeti Nair and Jane Atkinson, who coordinated the whole trip for us.

Within the course of two weeks, I experienced so many new things. I felt like I had a chance to get a glimpse of how studying abroad would be have been if I had chosen to study overseas. Most importantly, we had the chance to tour the most beautiful and exciting places, and meet so many people along the way.

It was overall a very fulfilling and enriching experience, and I thoroughly enjoyed the trip. It was beyond what I had expected or dared to imagine.

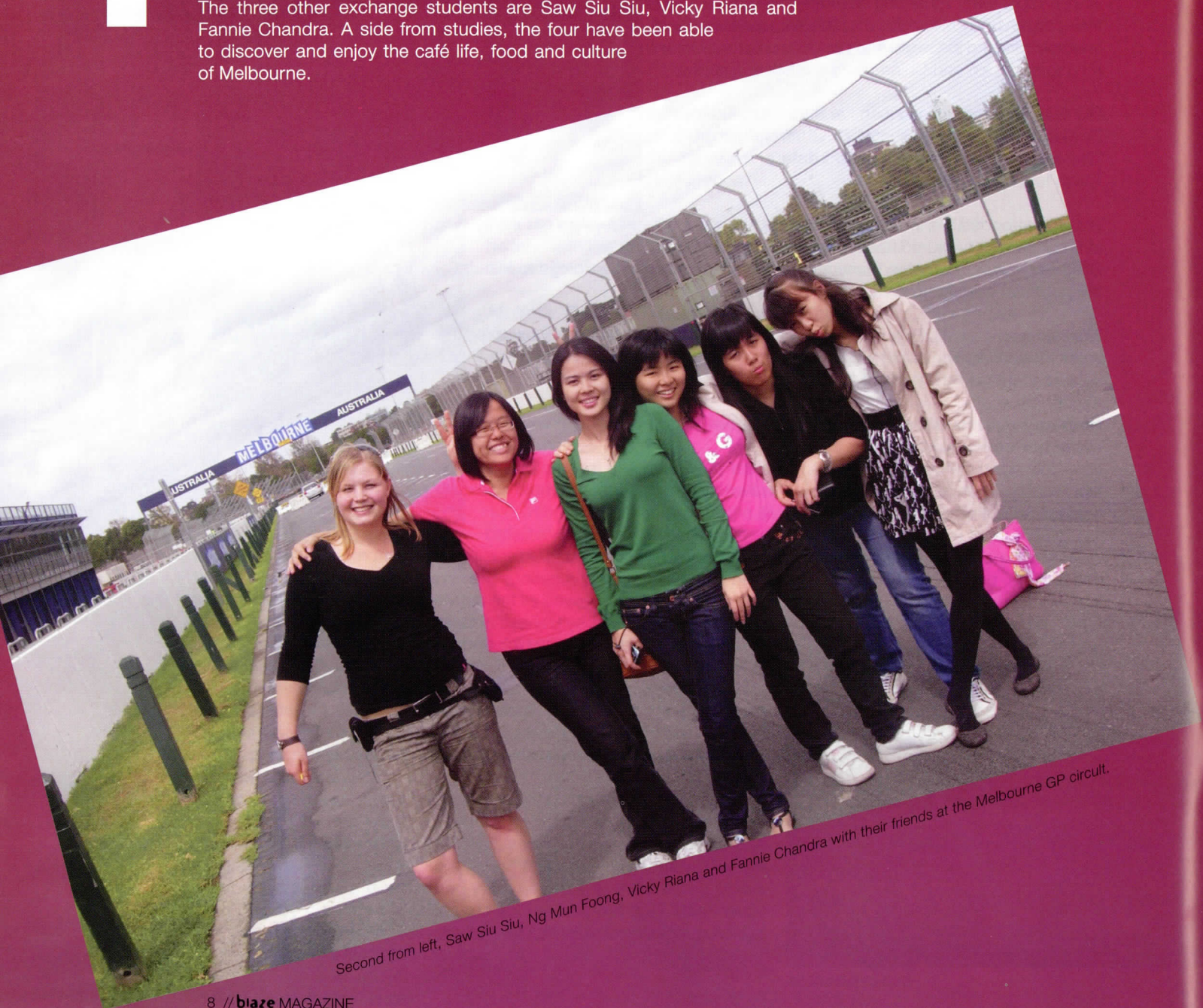
Hallmarks

Sunway students Down Under

Four Victoria University (VU) Bachelor of Business twinning programme students of Sunway University College are attending a semester of their programme in VU, Melbourne, Australia. For the first time, these exchange students were each given a grant of AUD5,000 by VU Australia that covered airfare, accommodation and other expenses relating to their studies. The programme at Sunway University College is identical to the one at VU in Melbourne.

According to one of the students, Ng Mun Foong "I must say that it has been a great three months and now, the semester has almost come to an end. I feel that I have gained a lifetime of experience. I have gained a new found confidence and I learnt more about myself and the world around me. Stepping out of my comfort zone in Malaysia was a great decision and I thank Victoria University for selecting me. I am now ready to embrace the future with a brand new frame of mind and with broader horizons.

The three other exchange students are Saw Siu Siu, Vicky Riana and Fannie Chandra. A side from studies, the four have been able to discover and enjoy the café life, food and culture of Melbourne.



Second from left, Saw Siu Siu, Ng Mun Foong, Vicky Riana and Fannie Chandra with their friends at the Melbourne GP circuit.



ADTP's recent transfer students and Dean's List recipients

Kudos to Sunway ADTP students

Thirty-six students received their Dean's List certificates and will be transferring to the United States later this year.

Thirteen of these students achieved Summa Cum Laude (GPA of 3.9 to 4.0). For the first time, 12 Sunway's American Degree Transfer Program (ADTP) students secured the Western Michigan University Haenicke Scholarship. Each student received varying amounts ranging from USD 2,000 (RM6,600) to USD 14,000 (RM46,000) per annum, based on their CGPA to transfer for further studies in WMU.

Other students, Tan Pei Song, John New and Andrew Adudu were offered UMKC Community College Scholarships to study at University of Missouri Kansas City (UMKC), each valued at USD 10,370 (RM34,200).

Andrew Adudu also secured a scholarship to the Florida Institute of Technology together with his classmate, Omer Altuncu. Ricky, an Indonesian student, received a scholarship from University of Central Oklahoma, while students, Amanda Lee, Vineeta Tan and Catherine Koh were each accorded the Presidential Award for International Transfer excellence for Fall 2010, worth USD 7,000 (RM23,000) per annum from Iowa State University.

John Siah Say Yeong received a scholarship from Illinois Institute of Technology to pursue a major in Chemical Engineering. The scholarship, valued at USD12,000 (RM36,000) made an exhilarated Siah, who said his experience pursuing the ADTP at Sunway is not just about studying.

"I learnt how to be more confident," he quipped. "It taught me how to approach other individuals and to work as a team. These skills will help me prepare to face the future. The lecturers are also friendly and helpful. Their creative teaching skills have enhanced my understanding towards the subjects."

The ADTP Dean's List and Completion Award presentation ceremony for the August through December 2009 semester was held at the poolside area on campus recently.

Special Interview

New DVC to lead the way in research

A distinguished scholar and researcher with an academic background in Computer Science, Professor David Ngo has been appointed as the foundation Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Higher Degrees) at Sunway University College (Sunway) since June 7.

This new appointment is in line with the objectives set out in Sunway's Strategic Plan and Research Management Plan. The primary role as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Higher Degrees) is to provide effective leadership to improve the quality, impact, and productivity of research and research training in the University.

The Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Higher Degrees) includes a Research Office to support and facilitate the development of research, and a Higher Degrees directorate to facilitate the development of and provide quality assurance oversight for higher degrees at Sunway. **blaze** conducted a brief interview with him recently.



Sunway's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Higher Degrees), Professor David Ngo

Q: What are the roles that you will be playing as the new DVC? How do you plan to execute it?

A: "My primary role is to provide effective leadership to improve the quality, impact, and productivity of research and research training in the University.

"The tripartite function of Research Office is to facilitate (1) research into multidisciplinary, niche, high-impact, and commercial-valued areas; (2) development of proof-of-concept to bridge the gap between design and product; and (3) commercialisation of intellectual property that has high novelty, inventiveness and industrial applicability.

"The Research Office also manages the Sunway Academic Journal, which has over the years,

provided a quality platform for researchers to disseminate high-impact scientific information to the community. It has been indexed and abstracted in ProQuest, a recognition of our scientific standards. We want to further increase the visibility, accessibility, readership and quality of the journal.

"We are well positioned to deliver quality education, particularly in view of the partnerships we have with world-class institutions. Ongoing dialogues with outstanding experts from Harvard Business School, MIT Sloan School of Management, among others, will continue to provide ideas and suggestions for continuous improvement of our programs.

"Forging Effective Partnerships: We are also eager to broaden our partnerships with local and international organisations, industry and government bodies, from which we have benefited enormously through community and consultancy projects by faculty members, professional and industrial training for students, and industrial advisory panels of schools."

Q: What are your future directions in spearheading research?

A: *"Opportunity:* A world-class university seeks opportunity to forge networking with other premier research institutions of higher learning. Our international collaboration has been fruitful. We will continue to strengthen existing research networks and promote new research collaboration with top institutions of the world.

"Research: Excellence in terms of publications, patents and citations is the hallmark of a world-class university. Since the inception of the University College five years ago, our academic staff have contributed significantly to a rich research portfolio in various disciplines.

"We wish to expand on these capabilities to create new innovations in humanised technology and business, making technology products and business models niche and relevant.

"We will adopt publication strategies for enhancing our citation score, a major criterion of university ranking. We will focus on the most current development in the subject area, write high quality papers, publish in the right journals, and cooperate with other research groups.

"Drive: Lead scholars are the life blood of a world-class university. Under the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation, we will continue to award scholarships and research grants to worthy talent in various fields of study, and support institutional development.

"New initiatives that we will ask the Foundation to support include professorial chairs and associated research teams, centres of excellence and research institutes, proof-of-concept centres and technology oriented start-up companies, postdoctoral and visiting fellowships, and postgraduate scholarships to attract and develop top research talent.

"Grant Awards: Sunway provides the Internal Research Grant Scheme to give researchers funds to further support and develop their research program, and enhance the probability of receiving external funds like MOSTI's eScience Fund.

"We are fully committed to build a strong research culture at Sunway, so that it will fulfil its vision of becoming a first-class university. This is achievable as long as we remain relevant, innovative and entrepreneurial."



Fang receiving the MUFY Excellence Award from Mr Lee Weng Keng (left), CEO, Education & Healthcare Division, the Sunway Group at an awards ceremony held recently

Another excellent scorer

Fang Li Hung of Sunway University College recently emerged as the top student with the highest total score, beating all other students doing the same pre-university programme, MUFY in Australia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Malaysia.

Fang received the Monash University Foundation Year (MUFY) Excellence Award for achieving the highest total score worldwide.

This is the tenth time that Sunway students have been conferred this award out of the 12 times that the award has been given.

Other students from Fang's cohort also won 22 subject awards, which were presented to candidates who obtained the highest score in a particular subject among all providers of the programme.

From this year's class, 28 students achieved outstanding results that qualified them for the Monash Entrance Scholarships, while over 360 students received the MUFY Certificate for successful completion of the programme.



The champion team from Tshung Tshin Secondary School, Kota Kinabalu (right) and runner-up team from Chong Hwa Independent High School, K.L. (left)

Accounting quiz for the second consecutive year

The idea of a nationwide accounting competition started, when ACCA (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) and Sunway TES signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2008 to collaborate in providing students at Chinese Independent Schools with the opportunity to study for the CAT qualification.

The awards were presented to the winners after the Grand Final by Deputy Higher Education Minister, Dr Hou Kok Chung, who also gave away awards to 19 achievers from Sunway TES who scored highest marks in Malaysia for various papers at the recent ACCA and CAT examinations.

"The country requires 79,000 accountants by the year 2020 to fulfill the country's inspiration to be a fully developed nation," he said.

Introduced last year, the accounting quiz aimed at promoting interest in the field of accountancy and finance among the Chinese-language school students.

President ACCA Malaysia, Datuk Mohd Nasir Ahmad added that he hopes the competition will help the professional body to increase awareness on the CAT High Flyers Scheme, a programme launched in 2009, which allows students from Chinese Independent High Schools to pursue the Certified Accounting Technician (CAT) qualification (foundation programme by ACCA) alongside their UEC examinations.

Added Datuk Mohd Nasir: "The CAT High Fliers Scheme has been successfully implemented at Chung Hua Middle School No. 4 in Kuching. Both ACCA and Sunway TES hope that more schools will implement the programme nationwide."

The accounting quiz competition is opened to all Senior Middle 2 and Senior Middle 3 accounting students. This year, a total of 35 schools and 2,722 students have participated in this competition; which included 21 schools and 2,068 students from Peninsular Malaysia and 14 schools and 654 students from East Malaysia.

Executive Director of Sunway-TES, Teo Ee Sing said the number of participating schools from Sabah and Sarawak has increased by 44% compared to last year.

For the love of animals

By Tan Juan & Hooi Sin Yee

In this article, both A-Levels students, Tan Juan and Hooi Sin Yee write about what they learnt through their involvement in extra-curricular activities....

The bumping of the bus created an almost hypnotic rhythm as we travelled across the rough roads. Restless murmurs could be heard all over, an air of excitement and impatience filled the moving vehicle as we approached our destination. After what seemed like an eternity, the bus came to a halt, and we almost leapt out of our seats in our eagerness to begin our volunteering work at Furry Friends Farm.

It was indeed, an uncommon sight that we laid our eyes upon. The big sign, 'Beware of Dogs,' and the long metal fence were enough to intimidate any newcomer. Standing at the main entrance, waiting patiently for our arrival, was our very kind host, Ms. Sabrina Yeap, who single-handedly manages Furry Friends Farm.

We began by unloading the goods and donations which we had brought with us - dog food, rice, dewormers, brooms and detergent. (As part of our charity project, we, the A-Level Student Council, had decided to organize a trip to Furry Friends Farm in order to give our four-legged companions a helping hand.)

After we finished unloading, Ms. Sabrina led us to the cattery where they provide shelter for abandoned felines which looked like a five-star luxury hotel for these animals with scatter cushions, carpets, baskets, scratching posts, specially for these cats! At first sight, we thought they looked healthy and well-fed. However, upon closer inspection, we noticed that many of the cats had old injuries and wounds - some of them had missing tails, others walked with a perpetual limp, some of them even had to be locked up in cages to prevent them from injuring the other cats as they had become extremely aggressive after being constantly abused by their former owners.

Ms. Sabrina then briefed us on what we could do. We split up into several groups, some of us volunteered to help with the cats, whereas the rest of us were guided by Ms. Sabrina to the back entrance, where brick walls of about one and a half meters high separated us from the outer compound.



As soon as we stepped into the open air compound, our eardrums were assailed by a cacophony of barking dogs that were extremely excited by the sight of so many new faces. Having being briefed by Ms. Sabrina what to expect, we advanced with trepidation towards the dogs. After sniffing us thoroughly, the dogs came at us eagerly and welcomed us with a barrage of licks. Our hearts bled when we saw the pitiful state the dogs were in. Some were covered in sores and cuts, others had missing limbs and some were so scrawny that their skin appeared to be stretched over a skeletal frame. When we tried to approach some of them, they fled from us. They clearly had been severely traumatized in the past. The environment they were living in stank to high heaven. The smell was a choking mixture of urine and excrement – somewhat reminiscent of public toilets. Nevertheless, compassion helped us overcome whatever nausea we felt.

We washed dog bowls, realigned cages, washed the floor, and cleaned up the cages. Using high pressure hoses, we sprayed away the grime and drool, scrubbed away stubborn stains. We also used bricks to elevate and reposition some of the cages under the watchful eye of its occupants. However, the most enjoyable part by far was bathing the puppies. We rinsed the puppies using enzyme water so that their coats would be glossy and clean and let them out under the sun to dry. All of us, the girls especially, were cooing over their adorable faces as we cleaned them. We were also pleasantly surprised when Dr Wong Yoke Chen, our program director, gamely lent us a hand in washing the dogs. Ms Irma, Ms Ann-Ann & Ms Ida also helped alongside us, soiling their hands with washing bowls and cleaning the cages.

Next came feeding time. Upon hearing the rustle of food bags, the dogs could clearly sense that their lunch time was near. Excitement began to build up, and wherever we went, a horde of dogs would follow. We fed the puppies first, followed by the older dogs. When we poured out the food, they ravenously devoured every single scrap. In the mad rush for food, fights broke out between the dogs, and some dogs tried to exert dominance over the others in order to eat first. But Ms Sabrina just had to 'shush' them, and they meekly stopped fighting. She is without doubt the Alpha female in their pack!

At the end of the day, we were all tired as dogs (pardon the pun!) but we were filled with a sense of achievement. We believe that even though they are animals, they have feelings too. We are all part of God's creation. If we wouldn't hesitate a moment to help out a friend in need, why then do we hesitate to care for Man's Best Friends?



A mesmerising Nobel Laureate

With a title like "Helicobacter Before and After the Nobel Prize" one can hardly imagine a talk to be entertaining, only when the speaker is none other than Nobel Laureate, Professor Barry Marshall from University of Western Australia.

Speaking at the Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah Distinguished Speakers Series recently, Professor Marshall had his audience in stitches. Kau Siew Yoon, a member of the audience, shared "He injected so much humour and skill into a very serious subject making it very interesting and educational. I was most impressed"

The Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah Distinguished Speakers Series, which started in 1997, is a series of free talks that are held as a platform for lifelong learning and intellectual discourse for the benefit of the community.

Earlier, Professor Marshall attended a luncheon, jointly hosted by AUSMAT (Western Australian Year 12) at Sunway University College and the University of Western Australia. Also at the luncheon were two other UWA academics, Professor Carmen Lawrence, former Western Australia Premier and former Australia Federal Health Minister and Professor Kadambot Siddique, Chair in Agriculture and Director UWA Institute of Agriculture.



Professor Barry Marshall (2nd from right) chatted with students



They were at Sunway to make their presentations during the 'Science for the Future Festival' which was held after the lunch. The talks were well attended by a group of top science students from Sunway's Pre-University programmes,

In 2005, Professor Barry Marshall and J. Robin Warren were awarded the Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine, in recognition of their 1982 discovery of the *Helicobacter pylori*, a bacterium which is known to cause one of the most common ailments to mankind: peptic ulcers.

The students from AUSMAT were joined by other students from MUFY (Monash University Foundation Year), A-Levels and CIMP (Canadian International Matriculation Programme).

The students spent an eventful afternoon of stimulating dialogue with Professor Barry Marshall. "The questions from the students were deep and insightful and we really wanted the students to be inspired from their meeting with a Nobel Laureate," said Mrs Ruma Lopes, Director of AUSMAT at Sunway. "I think Professor Marshall was able to connect well with the students and he certainly was an inspiration."

AUSMAT at Sunway and Western Australian Universities have been working closely to find ways to create interesting platforms for intellectual development of students. The objective of the 'Science for the Future Festival' was to engage and involve young people to think of solutions for the future.

The Festival had a format that was an exciting and engaging mix of talk show, audio visual and science experiments, hosted by Science Communicator, Sarah Lau and Director, Siemens Science Experience, Dr. Joanne Castelli. The Festival was open to the public.

A true sportswoman

Canadian International Matriculation Programme (CIMP) student, Jacqueline Jenelee Sijore represented Malaysia recently at the World Youth Bowling Championships 2010 in Tali Bowl, Helsinki, Finland.

Sijore, 18, who hails from Sawarak, managed to garner a bronze in the team event together with her compatriots who were picked from all around the country.



"We have been practising for one month before leaving for Helsinki, Finland," she said, adding that she and her team used to practise a lot at the Sunway Megalanes at Sunway Pyramid.

The former student of SMK Batu Lintang said she had loved bowling since joining the bowling club in her primary school. "From there, some local coaches were eyeing on us and we were then picked for their training programme," she said. "And yes, my family did wish me luck before I left for the tournament."



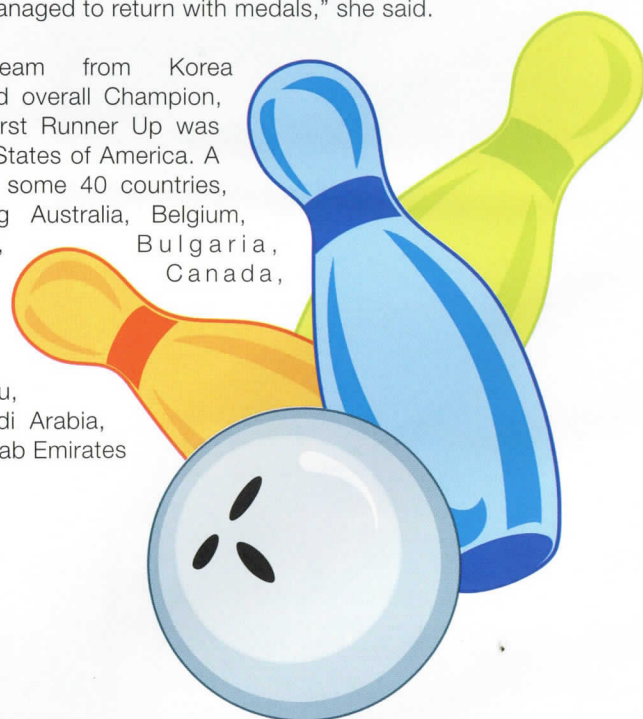
Jacqueline (extreme left)

An avid bowler for the past eight years, Sijore said it was a great experience to represent Malaysia in bowling, sponsored by the Malaysian Tenpin Congress and The National Sports Council.

"Although it was disappointing to lose to Singapore in the semi-finals, at least the whole team managed to return with medals," she said.

The team from Korea emerged overall Champion, while First Runner Up was United States of America. A total of some 40 countries, including Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada,

Columbia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, England, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Israel, Kazakhstan, Korea, Kuwait, Latvia, Macau, China, Mexico, Nicaragua, Norway, Philippines, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Scotland, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, United Arab Emirates and Venezuela, participated in the tournament,



Happenings

A touch of the gentle giant

An educational trip to the Kuala Gandah Elephant Sanctuary (KGES) managed to raise RM1,000 for the Sanctuary. A small amount was also donated to the Che Wong Orang Asli Village, located just outside the KGES entrance.

Themed, "Ele-Friendly Ride", although the event was organised as part of a fundraising effort to fulfil their coursework, seven students from the Diploma in Events Management at Sunway's School of Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure Management found the experience truly enriching.

"We worked hard because we wanted to make the event a success," said one of them, Tung Yu Chung. "We had to liaise with KGES from the onset. Then, we put all our efforts to market and sell the tickets and merchandise to raise funds, and finally, we also had to look for sponsorships."

Thanks to the sponsors, the cost of the trip was partly paid for by Celebrity Fitness and Pemanis. The one-day event allowed some 25 participants to learn more about the conservation and rehabilitation of elephants at KGES.

They enjoyed feeding and bathing the elephants, besides also getting a ride on the elephants.



Farisha Faisal, the lecturer in charge of the Diploma programme, said that the event had enabled the students to gain experience in different aspects of Events Production Operations module.

"What I believe my students treasure the most, is the experience involved in organising events, from planning to execution, as well as looking into the operational and logistics aspects of events management," she said.



Trying a hand at the blowpipe



Sunway Flair-tending competition 2010

They had to prepare two mocktails, one that was fixed by the organiser, Tequila Sunrise, and another something of their own creation. Within five minutes, they had to perform the flair and convince the judges that they were the best of the best.

Held at the Energy Hub on June 4, the Sunway Flair-tending Competition 2010 was organised by the SHTLM Club. The competition saw 16 students currently doing the hospitality programme, pushing the boundaries of flair-tending using their unique individual styles that are both practical, yet challenging.

According to its organising advisor and lecturer, Daniel Chong, the competition is set in this manner to mirror a true working situation that all flair bartenders face every day. "It encourages working flair as an effective and positive form of entertainment while also including the accuracy and mixology abilities of the competitor," he said.

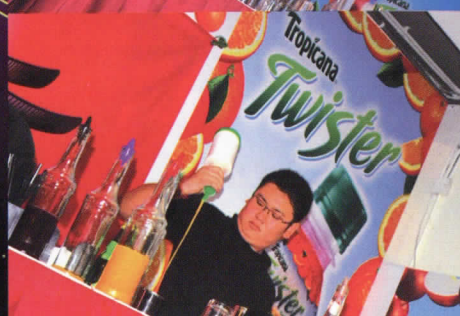
The winners were picked based on a number of judging criteria: taste, aroma, presentation, pouring accuracy, speed and flaring skills. The judges included National Champion in Cocktail competition FHM2009, Chong Yi Shawn, who is Restaurant Team Leader at Hilton KL, and multi award winning bartender, Azlan Akhbar, currently an assistant restaurant manager at Sunway Lagoon Resort Hotel.

Men's category

- 1st : Gan Zheng Roy
- 1st runner up : Ervandi
- 2nd runner up : Nelson Lim Eng Siang

Women's category

- 1st : Thong Pui Jing
- 1st runner up : Sofia Binti Ab Manaf
- 2nd runner up : Nguyen Thi Bich Hang



From Busan with love

Three more Sunway students tell their story of living and studying in Busan, Korea....

Busan is known to most Malaysians as the official host city for the 2002 Asian Games. As the second largest city after Seoul in Korea, Busan (formerly spelled as Pusan) is the home to the world's largest department store, the Shinsegae Centum City.



Jun Haw (extreme right) and Melissa (2nd from right)

Soon, in 2013, it will have a 110-floor, 510m-supertall Lotte Super Tower, which is slated to become the world's third tallest building in 2013, after Burj Khalifa in Dubai and 1World Trade Center in New York City.

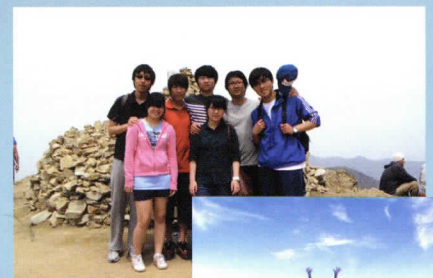
The beauty of Busan is something which three of Sunway's students have had the opportunity to enjoy, as they were on a cultural exchange programme for one year at Silla University.

Lee Jun Haw, who is completing his Diploma in Event Management in Aug 2011), wrote from Busan: "It is my first time abroad. It was hard at first, as we could not speak the language. We had to find our way around. Eventually, we picked up the language and learnt about Korean culture. The weather is good and I really like their high Internet speed there."

Another student, Melissa Hsu, who is in her First Year of Bachelor of Science (Honours) Multimedia Systems, said she was happy to be given the opportunity to travel. "I learnt a lot personally including a language!" she said. "I made a lot of new friends and I still keep in touch with them. It was an amazing experience."

Both Lee and Hsu have picked up some basic Korean language, and they have also learnt to sing a few Korean songs.

The third student, Diana Lim Yar Sze has since left to work in Dubai upon graduating recently with a Bachelor of Business (Accounting) from Victoria University, Melbourne.



For more information, check their blog:
<http://sunwayatsilla.blogspot.com/>

An innovative solution

Features

A research team from the School of Computer Technology (SCT), Sunway University College has come up with an innovative solution that cuts down unnecessary waiting for the Sunway Shuttle buses that ply the Sunway Integrated Resort City.

The team, comprising students, Henni Ismail, Newsha Nosrati and Nicholas Mbaria Kariuki Maina, had assisted in this project during their 3-month internship with the SCT.

Project chief architect, Henni completed a Diploma in Information Technology, while Newsha from Iran has completed a Bachelor of Information Systems (Hons) and Nicholas of Kenya has also completed his Diploma in Information Engineering, all from the SCT.

"It is good that we can help others using such an application. I hope more students will use the system so that they can plan their trips with greater accuracy" – Newsha



From left: Lecturer, Daniel Leow, Terence Le Grange with students, Newsha Nosrati and Nicholas Mbaria

The team used GPS data over an open framework of web services and a graphic display system to determine the exact location of the buses in real time, represented by the bus icons on a public display electronic screen.

The system also provides further information such as estimated arrival times at a stop. A user can choose to interact with the system via SMS, Bluetooth or the web from their mobile phone to a number displayed on the screen. A survey conducted during the research found that 82% of all respondents prefer to have arrival data available on their mobile phones.

Currently, the public display screens are located at the Sun-U Residence Guard House, the Staff Public Ubiquitous Display (SPUD) (which has a touch screen interaction) at the SCT and the plasma TVs (which can be requested by SMS) in the concourse area.

This facility is the research project of SCT lecturers, Terence Le Grange, Daniel Leow and Lyon Laxman. The project comes under public display research in the areas of human computer interaction and ubiquitous computing. This research has been funded by an internal grant by Sunway University College.

The Sunway Shuttle bus system is a free service provided by the Sunway Group which makes multiple round trips from 7 am to 9.30 pm around the Sunway Integrated Resort City. It makes nine stops including at Monash University, Sunway Medical Centre, Sunway Resort and Spa, Sunway Lagoon Theme Park and Sunway Pyramid Mall.

A complete route is approximately 6.5 km and the frequency of the bus is every 25 minutes. The average time differs depending on traffic conditions and the weather. Heavy rain and traffic are the major causes of delay.



Green Frenzy at CIMP on World Earth Day

"Recycling is *Sexy*" and "I'm Addicted to *Green*".

These were the two slogans creatively printed on canvas bag, produced by the students in Environment and Resource Management, a module taught in the Canadian International Matriculation Programme (CIMP) at Sunway University College.

The event held in conjunction with World Earth Day was aimed at promoting the usage of canvas bags on campus and to create awareness of the harmful effect of plastic bags to the environment. It was also aimed at reducing the use of plastic bags on-campus.

The CIMP Programme Director then, John Futa was very pleased with the initiative undertaken by the students. "The students wanted to make a change, and nowhere is a better place to begin than right here at Sunway University College," he said.

Student project leader, Shauna Tay was also very delighted with the success of the project. "I hope that more education institutions in Malaysia will do the same to create awareness for environmental conservation."

Decked in uniformed T-shirts, which also carried the same designs, they sold the canvas bags all across the campus.

A total of 600 canvas bags, priced at just RM3 each, were sold out before the end of the day!

Corporate sponsors

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- High Commission of Canada,
- TO Office Furniture Sdn Bhd,
- SWM Environment Sdn Bhd,
- Star Card Access Systems Sdn Bhd
- Maxgize Sdn. Bhd.



Proudly a Sunway alumnus

Brian Lee is a true blue Sunway alumnus all the way.



Lee receiving the Sportsman Award at Scholarship & Award Ceremony. Seen in the photograph is Elizabeth Lee is the Executive Director of Sunway University College

Upon completing his Monash University Foundation Year, he decided to join the Victoria University (VU) Bachelor of Business twinning degree programme at Sunway University College, and graduated in 2004. After a brief stint working with Victoria Music Centre as an outlet manager for his family's business, he started his Victoria University MBA programme in 2005 and graduated in February 2007.

Enterprising

Together with his childhood friends, they were involved in the initial setting up of Fullhouse Lifestyle and Cafe in NZX, Ara Damansara and now, it has expanded to Sunway Pyramid, Sunway Giza and Jalan Yap Kwan Seng.

The 28-year-old city boy from Kuala Lumpur is now their Marketing Director, overseeing the marketing strategies for the restaurant



Fullhouse
Lifestyle Store and Cafe

Fullhouse Lifestyle Store & Cafe Logo

The very thought of Sunway brings back the nostalgia as a student. "During my years doing the VU Bachelor of Business programme, majoring in Marketing and International Trade, I truly enjoyed the programme," he said. "Some of my favourite lecturers included Mrs. Lim Tiew Ming, Ms. Irene Teoh, Mr. Zain Augustin, Mr. Jason Cheok and Ms. Ida Ngui."

One of his most memorable moments was when he completed an assignment (which had a one and a half month deadline) in one week. "I can still remember the look of extreme surprise on my lecturer, Jason Cheok's face," he laughed.

A National Youth Bowler before he entered university, Lee was also very active in bowling and represented Sunway in many competitions and emerged as a top bowler in four MAPCU bowling championships in 2001, 2003, 2004 and 2005. In 2003, he was awarded Sunway's Sportsman of the Year.



Lee showing his trophy and medals after winning the Inter-program and MAPCU Inter-College Bowling Tournament in 2001

**MASTER OF
BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION**
FACULTY OF BUSINESS AND LAW

A heart for charity

Lee is also involved in charity work. As the Youth & Business Director of Junior Chamber International Kuala Lumpur (JCiKL), he has organised many charitable activities such as Health & Happiness Festival, where he managed to raise RM30,000 for single mothers and abused women; Loving Malaysia Charity Walk Hunt, which raised RM5,000 for Spastic Centre; the Kids4Kids Charity Concert, held at Sunway University College recently, where a total of RM11,700 was collected for an orphanage home.

His most memorable charity is celebrating his birthday with Praise Emmanuel Children's Home, where he asked all of his friends not to buy gifts but instead requested for cash which was used for fund raising. With that one gesture alone, he managed to raise RM1,530 for the home. This event was attended by the Executive Director of Sunway University College, Elizabeth Lee.

For a mentor, Lee chose the Foundation Chancellor of Sunway University College as his hero. "I am greatly inspired by Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah's philanthropy myself," he admitted. He is currently the external advisor for the Sunway University College Young Entrepreneur Society (YES), where he mentors young students.

His motto, "Never give up in life. When there is strong wind, some people build walls, others build windmills."



Puan Sri Datin Seri Dr Susan Cheah (left), Tan Sri Dato Seri Dr Jeffrey Cheah (centre) and Lee



Kevin Tey

Not just classroom learning

Kevin Tey, 18, who used to serve in the Editorial Board when he was a student at SMK Sri Permata in SS3, Petaling Jaya, is excited about running as president of the Student Council in the next semester.

The CIMP student, who said he found his involvement in extracurricular activities, helped him to relax from his studies. "I spent one month with the Basketball Club and currently, I am a member of the Sunway ECHO as a photographer," he said. "The clubs and societies help me to develop the soft skills that I need to be ready for employment."

Fellow student, 18-year-old Soo Choon Kit, said he is actively playing as a defender with the CIMP American Flag Football Club. "After the classes in the morning, I don't want to waste time," he said. "I like to do something worthwhile and relaxing." The former boy of SMK Batu Unjur, Klang is also a member of the CIMP Choir.

Chua Vi Vern, who is currently doing his Year One joint degree in Bachelor of Accounting and Finance (Honours) is a committee member of Sunway Young Entrepreneur Society (YES). Since joining the society, he said he has confronted many real-life scenarios in making decisions for the club. "I also learnt the importance of team building and building relationships with different people with the other committee members," he said.

Asked if he would recommend others to join Clubs and Societies, he gave an affirmative answer!

"All degree holders would have graduated from the University and obtained the same degree at the end of the course," he explained. "However, while still studying, students should improve their employability by participating in extra-curricular activities, differentiating them from other ordinary students. Being actively involved will also help improve our soft skills, identify our career interests and goals, gain work experience and apply classroom learning to the real world. I believe that with all the skills and knowledge I gain from the extra-curricular activities, I will be a better employee in future."

However, not everyone is excited about extra-curricular activities. Students like 20-year-old Galaletsang Mooletsi from Botswana, who is currently pursuing her Victoria University Bachelor of Business (Honours), majoring in Marketing and International Trade, said she is not the extra-curricular type. "I rather concentrate on my school work. At the end of the day, I am just too tired to do anything," she quipped.

While she agrees that there is a lot to learn from being involved in extracurricular activities, she said her priority is to finish her education here in Malaysia.

Hailing from Korea, CIMP student, Oh Na Eun, 18, said she used to be involved in clubs and societies. "I used to participate in the Math Club," she said. "However, now, I attend Mandarin classes after the CIMP classes. There are a lot of assignments to complete for my course. Besides, I don't find anything interesting about the extra-curricular activities."

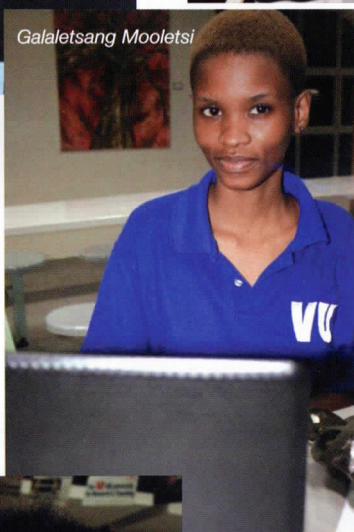
Here is an opportunity for you to share with the **blaze** what you learn from being involved in clubs and societies. Send your feedback and a photograph of yourself (of no less than 200KB file size) to blaze@sunway.edu.my. We will publish your comments in the next issue of **blaze** if we find it interesting.



Chua Vi Vern



Oh Na Eun



Galaletsang Mooletsi



Soo Choon Kit

A Malaysianised Dimitriy

Dimitriy Sinkov has become so "Malaysianised" that, even in the way he speaks, he is like any local person.

"Aya...! This one so easy wei! Char Kuey Teow, Maggi goreng telur, Roti canai, roti planta, roti john, siew yoke, chap fan," he bursts out in laughter, when asked what food he likes best.

"Alamak, doesn't 100PLUS count?" he quips. "Why? I simply love it. I can't eat a meal without a tin of 100PLUS."

The 21-year-old, whose family came from Kirovograd in Ukraine, first arrived in Malaysia in 1995, when he was only five years old. Both his parents are working in Malaysia. His mother is coaching National Artistic Gymnastics Team, while his father is a boxing coach for the Federal Territory.



Sinkov (left) with his parents

"Ever since, I have spent most of my life here – growing up," he says. "I don't really feel much about the exotic nature of Malaysia, everything seems just so normal to me."

Eating in the mamak stall, for example, is no longer a culture shock for him. He understands why people dress up so lightly in this part of the world. "It's very hot over here. Seriously, my first impression of Kuala Lumpur was why it is so hot over here!"

The only son in the family, Sinkov's fascination is with the number of huge shopping malls such as the MidValley Megamall, Pavilion and Times Square, to name a few. "In my hometown, we don't have anything like this," he says. "Not even anything close to what is here in Kuala Lumpur. Even in the capital of Ukraine, there aren't that many shopping malls."

He is particularly fascinated with how beautiful Kuala Lumpur looks from the 'ground' at night, especially near Pavilion and KLCC.

A Year 2 student, currently pursuing his Bachelor of Science (Honours) in International Hospitality Management at Sunway University College, Sinkov says he hopes to find a job immediately after he graduates next year. "I do not think I want to continue with my Masters programme," he says. "I want to get out to look for a job."

Adapting to student life at Sunway was initially not easy for this Selangor State swimmer. "I did not have any friends from high school, who joined the same programme with me, nor did they go to Sunway," he says, in retrospect. "However, it did not take long before I was able to find a group of friends within my class to hang out with. Neither did I find it difficult to blend into the local culture."

Since then, he has found many friends at Sunway from all over the world, including Mauritius, India, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Canada and of course Malaysia.

A note from Eka



From left: Edwin Mulawadi, Carter Ng, Chew Suet Mei, Eka and Kok Yin Fan

Dear Lecturers and Friends,

Four years ago, when I was preparing to travel to Malaysia to further my education, I was not the only one anxious but my parents, too, were worried about my well-being.

However, I want to say that all things are possible when we have faith and the perseverance to press on in life. Although I have been diagnosed with Ehler's-Danlos Syndrome from young, a condition which has led to the weakening of my muscles, I have always wanted to challenge the impossible things in life.

Neither my physical limitations nor the wheelchair has prevented me from being living like any ordinary person.

With the help of my lecturers and course mates, I have successfully completed the Victoria University Bachelor of Business twinning programme here at Sunway University College.

I want to specially thank four other course mates in my class assignment group for Distribution Management/Applied Economics project, namely Hew Suet Mei, Kok Yin Fan, Edwin Mulawadi and Carter Ng Tong Hao. They have become part of my life, as we were in the same assignment group since our first year. Without fail, we had met regularly to discuss our assignments.

Most importantly, I wish to thank the special people with the Australian University Programme (AUP) who have taken into consideration my conditions and allowed me to have extra time to answer my examination papers. With my conditions, I can only manage with a slower pace.

When I return back to Indonesia, I promise I will never forget all of you!

Eka Diah Gun Herwanti

HEAR WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT EKA:

Greeja Hemalata De Silva, Acting Head of the AUP:

"I was impressed by her drive and determination. Eka made the effort and did what the rest of her course mates did. Apart from that, she is also well-behaved, conscientious and did what was expected without complaining or fussing. In teaching Eka I must say that we have all learnt a lot from her. In her own quiet way, she has touched our lives and imparted important values to all who have come into contact with her. She may be small in stature, but she can definitely hold her head high and walk tall. Undoubtedly Eka has left an indelible impression on all of us."

Hew Suet Mei, a course mate of Eka from Sabah:

"Eka does her share of the work in the group and we value her contribution. She is very independent but we all try to help her as much as possible. Whenever we are not studying together, Eka and I would chat online on a range of topics and at times, meet for lunch at the cafeteria."

Jason Cheok, a lecturer who has taught Eka:

"It's great to have Eka as a student. She has never missed my lectures. I think Eka is a living testimony of a great learning spirit to the other students and despite her disadvantages, she is hard working and performs well above average for her academic records."



poached egg, asparagus, baked tomato with hollandaise sauce

POACHED EGG, ASPARAGUS BAKED TOMATO with HOLLANDAISE sauce

(4 servings)

Poached Egg

8 eggs
300ml white vinegar

Baked Tomato

500g tomato
5g thyme
2 cloves garlic, peeled and finely chop
10ml olive oil

Hollandaise Sauce

2 egg yolks
200g butter, clarified
30ml water
1/2 lemon, juiced

Others

400g asparagus
100g mix greens
5g chive

Bring a pot of water to simmer with vinegar and add in one egg at a time. Once the egg white is coagulated, turn it over. When the egg is cooked, remove and refresh in ice bath.

Cut the tomato to half, season with thyme, garlic, salt and pepper. Bake in the oven at 180°C for 20 minutes or until soft.

Peel, blanch and sauté the asparagus.

Whisk the egg yolk and water under low heat till sabayon stage. Remove from heat, slowly emulsified with clarified butter. Season with lemon juice, salt and pepper.

Serve immediately.



Yummy treats on sale at **theDeli**

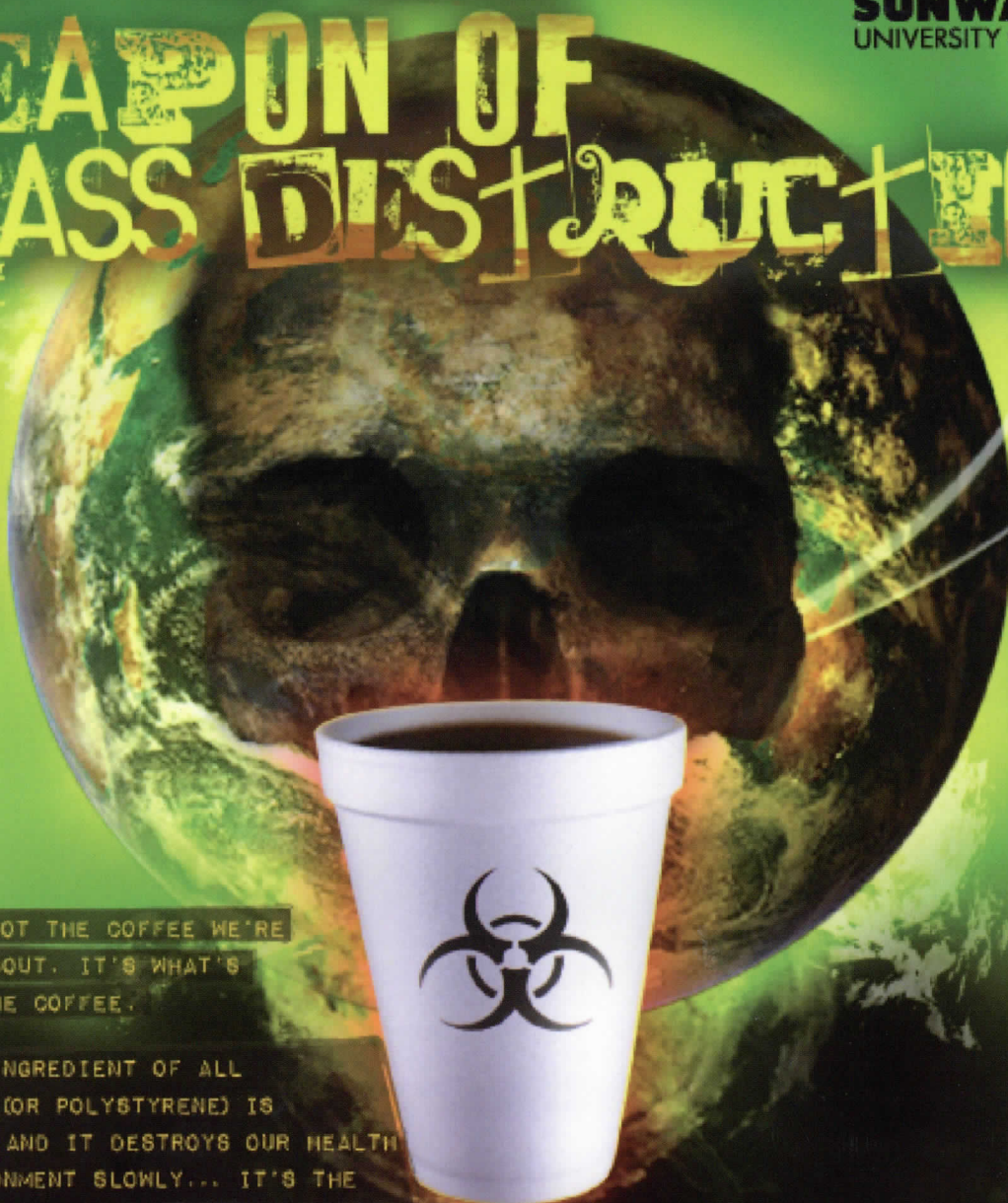
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THANKS FOR YOUR COOPERATION!

