

blaze

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To Korea with love

Culinary arts achievers

Grooming talents

Carving a name for themselves

Befriending refugees



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Nurturing the Seeds of Wisdom



September 1-10, 2011



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Nurturing the Seeds of Wisdom

blaze

blaze is published four times a year. The name was selected as it signifies Sunway University achievements in recent years. Sunway University, owned and governed by the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation, 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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Contents

Cover Story

4 To Korea with love

25th Anniversary

8 A celebrated milestone in Sunway University's continuous growth

Hallmarks

7 Culinary arts achievers
10 Carving a name for themselves
11 Grooming talents

Social Responsibility

12 Reaching out
15 Befriending refugees

Happenings

13 A 'wow' event

Sport

16 The match is on

Alumni

14 Releasing her single soon

Coming up soon

THE 1st

NOT QUITE RIGHT COMPETITION 2012

The upside down, the odd, the terbalik, the tak kena!

We are looking for video entries that capture the surprising, the exciting, the unexpected, the liddat-oso-can!

Download your entry form at www.sunway.edu.my/dpm

Your video should be:

- from one minute (shortest) to seven minutes (longest)
- submitted in .mov / .mp4 / .wmv format
- of reasonably good video and audio quality

Deadline: 16 March 2012

Rules and regulations

- You can take part if you are between 16-20 years old on 16 March 2012 (the closing date of the competition). If you are 16-17 years old, parental/guardian consent is required.
- Your entry can be in any genre, such as drama, animation, music video, documentary, etc.
- You can use any language. Please provide English subtitles if the dialogue or narration is not in English.
- Your entry must be original and made specifically for the 1st 'Not Quite Right' Competition 2012. It should be free of copyright infringement. It should be your own creation and not be made with professional assistance.
- All entries must be accompanied by a completed and signed entry form. You can download this form at www.sunway.edu.my/dpm. Note that only one name should appear on the entry form (although you may give your friends to help out).
- The Department of Performance & Media reserves the right to disqualify any entry if it determines a good faith that the entry has not followed these rules, or if the participant's participation in the competition or receipt of prize would violate any applicable law.
- The Jury's decisions are final.
- Drop off or post your DVD, with a completed entry form, to:
The 1st 'Not Quite Right' Competition 2012
Department of Performance & Media
Sunway University
5 Jalan Universiti, Bandar Sunway,
46150 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia.
- Your video and entry form must arrive by 16 March 2012 to be considered for the competition.
- All entries will not be returned.
- Any changes and updates to the rules and regulations of this competition will be posted on www.sunway.edu.my/dpm. Please visit the site from time to time for the latest updates.
- Winners will be notified by email and phone.
- All assets submitted may be used for promotional purposes by the Department of Performance & Media, Sunway University but strictly not for monetary or commercial exploitation.

This competition is organised by the Department of Performance & Media Sunway University

PRIZES

1st Prize: **RM 2,500**
2nd Prize: **RM 1,750**
3rd Prize: **RM 1,000**
Jury Special Award: **RM 500**

SUNWAY UNIVERSITY

Organised and governed by the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation
Honoring the legacy of leaders

Message by the Executive Director,
Sunway Education Group

In the twinkling of an eye, we are now 25 years old!

It seems like just yesterday that I joined Sunway Education Group, but as I look back, I can only marvel how the Group has expanded from being just a college located in Petaling Jaya New Town, to what it is today – one of the biggest private education groups in the country, comprising the flagship Sunway University, Sunway College and several of its branches, an international school and our joint-venture partnership Branch Campus of Monash University in Malaysia.



Our reputation as a university has attracted both local and international students from over 90 countries around the world. Indeed, we have grown by leaps and bounds and this 25th Anniversary will definitely be special and exciting with the unveiling of the Graduate Centre and a new Sunway International School building. Also lined up are academic activities which will develop our lecturers and keep them abreast with recent developments in their field as well as events relating to new developments and for students, past and present.

As a university, we have also expanded our range of programmes, covering various disciplines of study, including business, computer science, the arts and sciences, as well as professional qualifications that help to prepare our students for their careers ahead.

Suffice to say that, over the years, we have also produced many award-winning students, who have done exceptionally well in their studies as well as in sports. It will take an entire book, if we were to just compile the names of each one of them and tell their success stories. This is a tribute to our dedicated and hardworking academic staff.

It is worth mentioning here that Sunway University and its predecessor, Sunway College were set up as institutions that put people first. To the Founder of the Sunway Group, Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr. Jeffrey Cheah AO, education extends far beyond the business realm. The success of the Sunway Education Group in contributing to education means much more than rankings, enrolment numbers and even profits. The Jeffrey Cheah Foundation operates as a revolving fund, where the profits from the education group are ploughed back again into the institutions or given back to society in the form of scholarships.

Through the auspices of the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation, over 11,000 deserving students have benefitted in the form of scholarships and awards amounting to RM80 million as at 2011. These students have been given access to education which they would otherwise have been denied and with it, transformation of life that comes with the solid foundation of an education.

This is the legacy which Tan Sri himself hopes to leave behind for the future generation. We are therefore very privileged in the first 25 years of history to have known the man behind the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation.

I wish to quote here the words of Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah: "I aspire to inspire before I expire." May this be our motivation in life, as we enter into the next 25 years of our existence!

Elizabeth Lee



To Korea with love

Ten B.Sc (Hons) Information Systems degree students left for Korea on August 31 last year for an 11-day study tour. Group leader, Justin Lim Renn Aun has the story

As soon as we touched down at Incheon Airport in South Korea, our Korean hosts, Jason Kang and Dragon, welcomed us. They were very friendly and helpful throughout our stay in Korea.

Daelim University College, located in the city of Anyang, an hour's drive from the airport, is surrounded by lush greeneries and gardens. The first person we met was Professor Kang, the Director of Global Language Institute. After an orientation, we were treated to a delicious meal of 'bulgogi', a Korean dish consisting of marinated barbecued beef or chicken.

Day 2

We attended our first Korean class. A batch of local students joined in the class and we had the opportunity to interact and communicate with each other to build up camaraderie. It was fun talking to them.

Next, we attended a class on Mobile Environment where the lecturer provided us with up-to-date data and information on the current mobile environment. After class, a very caring teacher assistant, Miss Binna Park, brought us to Time Square, a huge shopping mall, where we shopped the whole day.



Day 3

After a day packed with Korean language classes, we proceeded for lunch at one of the gardens in Daelim University with the lecturer. Then, off we went to one of the many tourist attractions in Korea – the Cheonggyecheon stream, which runs across the city centre of Seoul to the Hangang River and features 22 uniquely themed bridges.

Day 4

Jason and Dragon brought us to the Korean Folk Village, an outdoor folk museum, where we could experience traditional Korean lifestyle. After lunch, we were free to do sight-seeing at the folk village, before Jason and Dragon sent us back to college. As it was still early, we decided to head to InsaDong where there was endless supply of local food and traditional tea, including the delicious ddeokbokki.

Day 5

Miss Park and Dragon took us to Everland, Korea's best theme park.

Everland is also touted to be the fourth best in the world. Although I have a fear of heights, I couldn't resist the temptation to try the rides in the theme park. Some of my friends chickened out, but a few of us took on the challenge and had a great time. We also were fortunate to take a ride in Safari World. Next, Miss Park brought us to a place for dinner where they serve delicious BBQ buffet. After dinner, my friend, Sothy and I headed off to Dongdaemun, while the others were too tired and headed back. Dongdaemun is a large area packed with small shops and big malls. Both of us headed to Doota shopping mall to do some window shopping. We did not get many things as most of the fashion apparel were catered for women. However, it was a great place to look around.

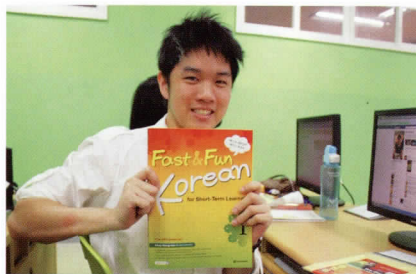


Day 6

It was back to our classes. This time we attended a class on data mining. This lecturer taught us about market basket analysis and pattern analysis in an interesting way. We were required to create a shopping mall floor plan which would attract customers and create a higher customer purchase by arranging goods and products which could go well together. But the best part of this class is that, we were to work in groups with another batch of Korean students. Therefore, each of us partnered a local student and conducted our task together. It was a little hard to communicate with them but we were still able to present a good shopping mall floor plan. The next class was about access control and logic programming. The lecturer introduced us to content centric networking. It was a



little complicated however, the lecturer was very enthusiastic as he provided us with a few journals and explained the contents to us. To our surprise, at the end of the class, we were given an 8 gig pen drive as a gift. As soon as our class ended, we headed out to Ttukseom Resort where we witnessed a magnificent night view of Hangang River and Seoul City. We sat down, relaxed and embraced the beauty of the sight after going through a day filled with classes.



Day 7

At *Bosingak*, we participated in the bell ringing ceremony, a special event where we rang the giant bell. According to our guide, the president of Korea will strike the bell during the New Year celebration. We then visited a Buddhist temple and also one of Korea's most historical places, the *Gyeongbokgung* Palace, where we witnessed the changing of the guard during the opening and closing of the Palace Gates. We took two hours touring the area and managed to cover half the palace.

After the palace, we headed towards Namsam Tower, which is also popularly known as the iconic Seoul Tower. Here, Koreans placed their wishes in locks and hung them along the stretch of wall or on trees. The view from a cable car up the mountain was simply spectacular. However, it could not beat the majestic night view from the tower.

Next, we went to Myeong-Dong, one of Korea's trendiest street shopping haven. While purchasing souvenirs here, we lost track of time.





Day 8

Another Korean language class. We tried to catch up with our studies, but our minds were preoccupied with more places to visit. We decided to watch 'JUMP', a performance which brings martial arts together with comedy, which set us in stitches. The entire plot was non-verbal; we had no problem understanding the show. We had such a great laugh.

Day 9

Our last day at Daelim. We were prepared to share our experience of being exchange students in Korea. Speaking in the Korean language was a huge challenge, but we took time getting the sentences correct. One thing for sure: having Professor Kang there made us feel tensed!



Somehow, we managed to give a good presentation. Each of us was presented with a certificate and souvenir from Daelim University College. We also prepared gifts for the lecturers, Professor Kang, Miss Binna Park, Jason and Dragon who took good care of us during our stay.

We gave our lecturers a big warm hug. The pictures we took with them will remain as sweet memories for many years to come.

Day 10

Our last day in Korea. We headed out to Namdaemun, an open air market, for some last minute street shopping. It is supposed to have Korea's best selection of merchandises. After lunch, we hopped over to E-Mart where we could get some local food to bring home. At 8.40pm, we gathered at the dorm lobby, where Jason and Dragon picked and sent us to the airport.



We love you, Korea!

I have learned a lot throughout this study tour. This exchange programme has really benefited all of us. We have learnt the local culture and the Korean language. We enjoyed the classes and the places that we have visited. For this rare opportunity, I would really like to thank Sunway University, Professor Kang, lecturers and staff for their warm hospitality and generosity. If I were to have another chance, I definitely would like to experience Korea again.



Culinary arts achievers

Six students, including their lecturer, from the School of Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure Management (SHTLM), Sunway University, recently bagged awards at the Culinairé Malaysia 2011.

Each student had to create an international recipe and showcase their creations to a panel of judges.

Phuah Ng Kit and Shireen Tan, who competed in the cocktail competition, each took home a silver medal, while Jessica Chang and Natasha Mohd Yusof participated in the Mocktail category and won a bronze medal each.

Another two students, Michelle Tan and Tan Vi June who participated in the Fruit Flambé category took home a bronze medal each.

The Culinairé Malaysia 2011 is the region's largest culinary food and beverage service competition that is held in conjunction with FHM 2011. It is held to set a benchmark on culinary, food and beverage related service standards in the Malaysian Hospitality industry.

Chef-cum-lecturer of the School, Chong Wei Tzeh won the bronze medal for the Malaysia Pastry Cup category.



Home, a creation by Jessica Chang



Bambu, a creation by Natasha Mohd Yusof



Back row (from left): Tan Vi Jun, Michelle Tan, Chong Wei Tzeh, Daniel Chong, Shireen Tan
Front row: Natasha Mohd Yusof and Jessica Chang

Tan Vi June

Vi June identified his ingredients but had a hard time figuring out the best combination and blend.

In this competition, he used rockmelon, peanut sauce, curry powder and turmeric for his recipe. He was very nervous but throughout the competition found a flow to perform. He is determined to enter future competitions.

His advice to future students interested in entering a competition: "No matter how bad you think you are, you should go for it because you will never know how you fare."

Natasha Mohd Yusof

Her winning recipe was "Bambu", which means bamboo in Italian. The recipe was inspired by a 3 course meal, appetizer, entrée and dessert. She added a combination of coffee and balsamic vinegar to give a sour and acidic taste for the appetizer and used a Soursoop blend with passion fruit syrup and lemon juice for the second layer as the main course. Natasha used green tea and syrup for a sweet finishing. The three layers combined into a green white and brown appearance giving a very Japanese feel as expressed by its name, Bambu.

Jessica Chang

Jessica's "Home" was an inspiration derived from her mother and her hometown in Sarawak. As Sarawak is famous for the harvest festival, Jessica opted for a grainy blend by adding barley to espresso syrup. "Home" was popular amongst her male friends. Despite having a short time to prepare, she was very comfortable during the performance. She advises future competitors: "Dare to step out of your comfort zone and you will realise your potential."

Shireen Tan

She won the silver medal in the cocktail competition by inventing a drink that reflected her motto in life, "Dare to be different".

She cleverly put together a combination of flavours that gave the drink a bitter sweet sensation which she calls, Monhistoire. In French, it simply means, "My Story".

"I used granulated coffee and Guinness stout to give it a bitter taste and finished off with a fruity flavour for the base for an acquired taste of sweetness. The whole experience was an eye-opener to me. You see competitors in a different light and learn new skills besides meeting people from different industries," she says.

Daniel Chong, Lecturer.

As a lecturer in F&B related subjects, Chong has assisted the students in their preparations before the competition. "I felt very happy and proud of the students for their dedication, commitment and courage in participating in such a mega competition, where they needed to compete with hotel professionals," he said. "It is not about what medals they obtained but the achievement they had gained from this competition."

Michelle Tan

Cleverly, she combined sour plum with apple cider vinegar, cempedak juice and puree with dry shrimp and Osmanthus flower powder to give the dish a sweet, sour and salty taste. The dish was called "Eclipse" because of the combination of colours that produces an eclipse effect. Michelle says: "The most important factor is confidence and learning how to sell your products. To succeed - you have to be your own marketing person."



Artist's impression of Sunway University's new building

A celebrated milestone in Sunway University's continuous growth

Historians writing about the first 25 years of Sunway University in 2037 would have to look back at this historic moment on January 20 – the ground-breaking ceremony by Minister of Higher Education, YB Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin.

It marked another significant milestone in the history of Sunway University.

Costing RM350 million, the construction of Sunway University's new 12-storey

building above an underground car park, which is due for completion in 2014, is a show of the Sunway Education Group's commitment to caring for its community of students and staff, ensuring its facilities meet the changing needs of its growing population with the provision of top-notch, integrated facilities on campus.

The building will have an environmentally-friendly design with energy and water-saving features as

well as ample natural lighting and a ventilation system that will promote sustainability and a greener environment. It will house state-of-the-art facilities such as a wine laboratory and a learning commons.

"This will cater to the needs of our undergraduate and graduate students, when we hit 9,000, from our current student population of over 4,000" said Sunway Education Group executive director, Elizabeth Lee.

12 Storeys, 2 Basement Levels and a Mezzanine Floor

Completion date: end of 2014

Floor Areas (sq ft)

- 880,000 sq ft - Tower Block
- 380,000 sq ft - 2-Level Basement Carpark
- 1,100 Car Parking bays
- Underground tunnel linked to Monash University
- Total built-up 1.26 million sq ft.

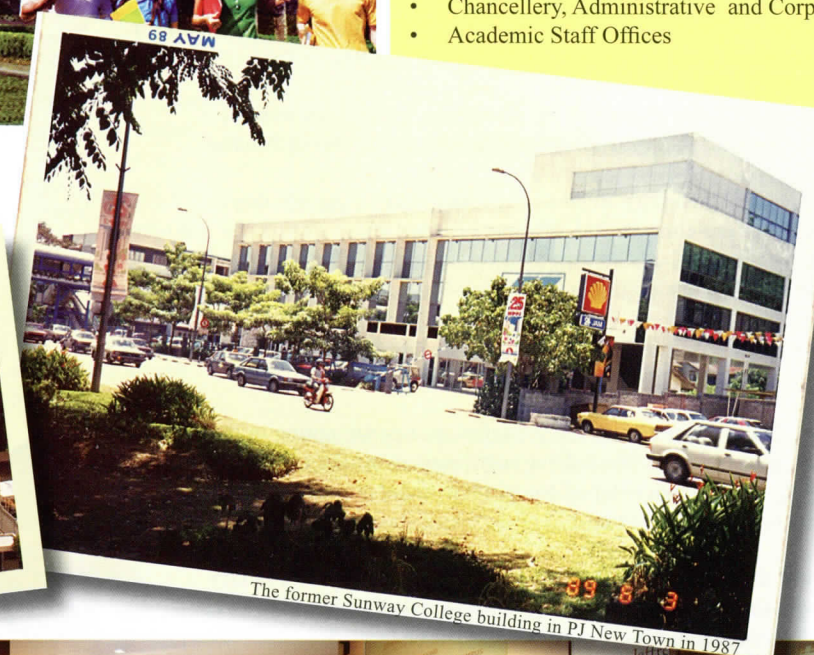
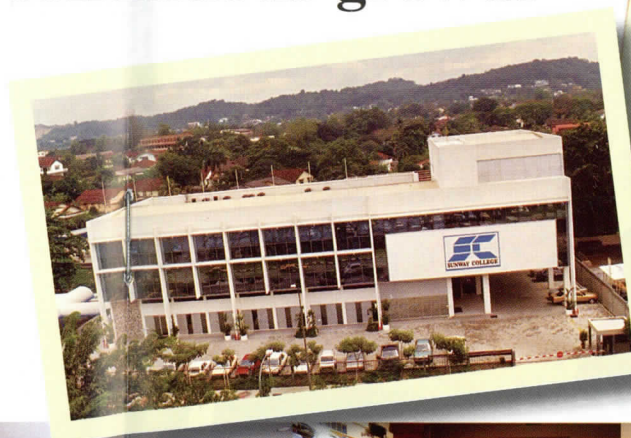
Expansion to cater for up to 9,000 students

State-of-the-Art Learning Areas/Facilities

- 3-storey Learning Commons (for 1,100 students) and Tun Hussein Onn Library
- 6 Lecture Theatres (100 seats each)
- 2 Auditoriums (285 seats each)
- 1 Auditorium (450 seats)
- 2 Mini-theatres – tiered seating (80 seats each)
- 4 Seminar rooms (60 seats each)
- 120 classrooms (30-60 seats each)
- 20 Computer Laboratories
- 10 Science Laboratories
- 6 Kitchens
- 2 Training Restaurants
- 1 Wine Laboratory
- Art Gallery
- Cafeteria

Support Areas

- Chancellery, Administrative and Corporate Offices
- Academic Staff Offices



The former Sunway College building in PJ New Town in 1987



Chermaine Poo on site for the live cross-over telecast



Live telecast of the ground-breaking to the Multipurpose Hall



Students greeting the arrival of the Minister of Higher Education at the foyer of Sunway campus



The Guest-of-honour being accompanied by Tan Sri Dr. Jeffrey Cheah



The Minister meeting with student leaders



The Minister interacting with Sunway students



The Minister chatting with students who were having their lunch



The Minister and Tan Sri Dr. Jeffrey Cheah after the digital signing of the Groundbreaking plaque



A painting of the new building is presented to the Minister



From left to right: Yap Wan Li, Deric Yee Seng Kit and Sonia Lim Suan Li, SUBS's Bachelor of Science (Hons) Accounting and Finance students

Carving a name for themselves

Despite being 'newbies' in the competition, Derick Yee, Sonia Lim and Yap Wan Li emerged champion during the national level Investment Quiz Competition 2011, organised by Permodalan Nasional Berhad (PNB).

This is the first time in 11 years that a private institution (IPTS) has won the competition, which was held this year at Universiti Sains Malaysia in Penang.

Representing the Sunway University Business School (SUBS), the trio displayed strength and character throughout the competition, beating 32 other teams during the semi-finals and landing themselves in the finals against three other teams. They achieved the most number of diagonal and horizontal strikes and boxes during the competition.

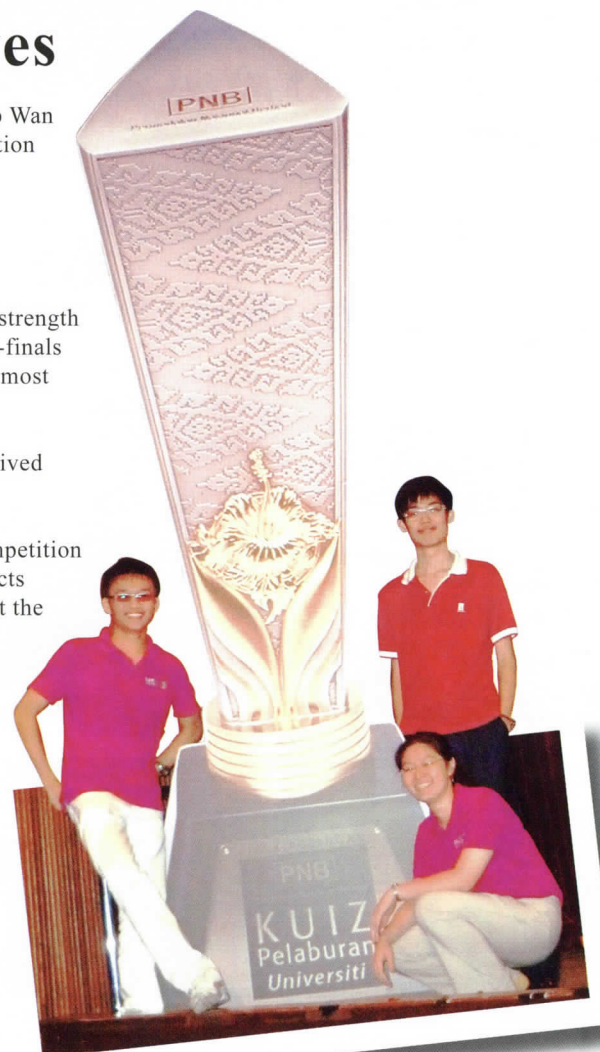
The prize was a cash of RM 5,000 for their alma mater, and the students also received Amanah Saham Gemilang units worth RM1,000 each.

In an interview with **blaze**, Wan Li said the experience of participating in the competition was both memorable and fruitful. "We did not only learn about the technical aspects of financial knowledge but also developed sound investment strategies throughout the competition as we progressed," he said.

"As we truly enjoyed the competition, winning the game became a secondary objective. It was with this mindset that we managed to pull through the semi-finals and eventually won competition. Knowledge is essential, but skills like teamwork and strategising your game is equally important too."

Participating in the competition was a big challenge. While the competition was on, all three students were, in fact, preparing for their final examination. They ensured they remained calm and collected throughout the competition.

The competition was part of PNB's aim to promote awareness and educate university students on the relationship between risks and return in long-term investments.





Team Lotus members (from 3rd from left to right), Ngan Kah Ling, Wong Jing Mun Rachel, Tan Ka Yen Madeline and Afrizal Aizat, with Michael Reyes of Money Tree and Valerie Lim of Maybank

Grooming talents

Team Lotus walked away with RM2,000 cash and a chance to work with Maybank.

Team leader, Ngan Kah Ling said Team Lotus did not expect to beat seven other teams from Sunway University in the finals, to win the grand prize of RM2,000.

"Of course, we were exhilarated!" she quipped. "This was least expected, but we have definitely learnt a lot from participating in the competition."

Ngan and her team members, who emerged champion at the recent Sunway BIS-Maybank MoneyTree Ideas Exchange (MIX), will now have a chance to work with Maybank upon their graduation.

Other winners:

- Best Video category was won by Team G04. They took home a cash prize of RM500.
- Most Popular Team award was won by Team Investissuer. The award came along with a cash prize of RM200.

In the competition, teams of budding entrepreneurs had 3.5 minutes to pitch business solutions to real-life business challenges to a panel of judges.

Each team, comprising four students had to prepare a 2-page executive summary and a 90-second promotional video of their solution in advance.

"The competition was definitely very challenging," said Koo Yan Jing, vice-president of the organising committee. "I have learnt that proper planning is definitely crucial to ensure all avenues are covered. Furthermore, one must listen actively to opinions and feedback provided by the team."

According to the Vice-Chancellor of Sunway University, Professor Robert Bignall, the competition provided a platform for participating students to apply and make use of all that they have studied, leveraging both what they have learnt in their classrooms with softer skills to find solutions to real-life business scenarios.

"I am proud of the students of the Sunway Business and Investment Society, who organised this challenge," he said. "Sunway University has contributed to empowering our students not only with textbook knowledge but also with a practical understanding of business which will put them in good stead after they graduate and move on to be productive members of the working world."

The event, initiated and organised by MoneyTree, was hosted by the Sunway Business and Investment Society (BIS), a student society and sponsored by Maybank. MIX provides a platform for enterprising undergraduates to sharpen their "intangible skills" - gaining exposure, experience and building on skillsets required to be market-ready graduates.

Reaching out

In big cities like Kuala Lumpur, we are never short of street people. They are homeless, and without a job, they have no money to buy food.

Most of them survive on leftover food from restaurants. Humans as they are, these street people are sometimes treated like animals. They live in wild concrete urban jungle, with just a pair of pants and a shirt.

Moved by what they saw, a group of 32 students from the School of Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure Management at Sunway University planned and organised a community project to raise funds to help Reach Out Malaysia with their cause.

The project kicked off with a fund raising food fair, which raked in more than RM7,000. What gave them a more lasting impression was what they saw on the streets.

It was the moment of truth when the students were taken to a place under the bridge. As they drove around the city of Kuala Lumpur with other Reach Out volunteers to distribute food to the homeless, they were surprised to see families living under the dark bridge. Their vision was limited to only one candle per family to illuminate the darkness.

A man was seen fanning his sick wife lying on the hard concrete, trying to comfort her to sleep. He shook the hand of the student and thanked the student who gave him a packet of food.

"It was very heartbreaking to see the homeless trying to survive in a materialistic world," said Sonia Lim, a student volunteer. "They have nothing but a blanket, a candle, and some recycled items. When I was distributing the food to them, I asked myself many questions: How can they survive with that? What happens to them when it rains? How are they going to get food? Where do they go if they need to shower? All sort of questions were left unanswered in our minds."

Project team leader, Nelson Lim said although the community project he had helped to organise was part of the requirements in their Diploma in Hotel Management and Diploma in Tourism Management, it not only provided real life experience for the students but also gave them a sobering view of Kuala Lumpur's poverty and the value of humanitarian aid.

"It was definitely a night to remember for all of us," he said. "We have seen the dark side of the world and they are aware of poverty around Malaysia. The students are determined to help to fight poverty and this programme is just the first step."

Reach Out Malaysia is a voluntary organisation that runs programmes to assist over 1,200 homeless people weekly in Kuala Lumpur. The organisation, founded by Peter and Fexaa Nicoll, aims to raise awareness on urban and rural poverty.



Students distributing food to the homeless



Pete Nicoll, briefing the Sunway students



Students distributing food to the homeless



A “wow” event

It was, indeed, as the tagline – “A Spellbound Enchanted Evening with Wonderful Performances” – suggests, a dinner which left the guests feeling entertained, judging from the wide smiles on their faces.

The theme of the event was inspired by the film, *Burlesque* (2010), which was directed by Steven Antin and starred Christina Aguilera and Cher.

The evening was spiced up by the performances done by Viva Vertical, a professional dancing group which specialises in pole dancing. Adding to the charm of the evening was MIX FM’s Ryan de Alwis, who appeared as the emcee for the themed dinner.

Organised by a team of 15 students from the School of Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure Management (SHTLM), Sunway University, the event raised RM4,000 for World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Malaysia.

Supervising the event, Head of Food and Beverage, Daniel Chong said the charity dinner facilitated students to put operation management theories into practice, from conceptualisation to execution. It was carried out as part of the Bachelor of Science (Hons) International Hospitality Management students’ assignment.

Anisha Chai, who helms SHTLM, said she was impressed with the performance. “It is a meaningful activity as it was not only fulfilling the academic requirements but a community responsibility project as well,” she said.

Among the guests who were present, were the Executive Director of Sunway Education Group, Elizabeth Lee and Youth Outreach Executive from WWF Malaysia, Brandon Liu.

Themed dinners like this are held at SHTLM’s training restaurant during the month of July and November every year. Students plan, organise and execute these dinners. The students prepared the dinner in the newly-renovated kitchen which was done in accordance with Le Cordon Bleu’s specifications.



Elizabeth Lee (centre) presenting the cheque to WWF-Malaysia’s Brandon Liu (left) as a representative from Viva Vertical (right) looks on

Releasing her single soon

Aisya Hasnaa Umaruddin is working on releasing her single soon.

The 22-year-old alumna of Sunway University, who graduated in October 2011 with a Diploma in Performing Arts, says that she spends most of her spare time these days working on the album. "Jazz being my main genre, the songs will most probably be pop or slow jazz, and will be recorded in English," she says.

"It won't be that soon," she laughs. "I am just in the midst of the pre-production. This would usually take a couple of months to complete. However, do look out for my single in about a month's time."

Currently, employed as a resident performer at a Cabaret restaurant owned by Datin Seri Tiara Jacquelina, Tapis Rouge, Aisya sings – and does a little bit of dancing and acting – for a living.

"The job has given me a whole lot of experiences," she says. "It also allows me to experiment with some of the things that I have learnt on stage."

In fact, from young, Aisya has been very passionate about performing on stage or in public. "After my first exposure to and my involvement in musical theatre at Sri Cempaka, my passion grew for Performance Arts, especially in musical theatre," she adds.

Hoping to launch her first mini album soon, she hopes to establish a name for herself as a singer and a performer.

Besides furthering her studies in the Performing Arts, there are also plans to set up her own academy of performing arts, teaching children who are interested to learn the skills of a performer. "I have always known that Performing Arts would be my forte. My passion is in this field," she says. "And I have loved every moment of it."

On why she chose Sunway University, Aisya was quick to respond: "It's because the course covers everything one needs to know about the performing arts. I am also intrigued by the lecturers Sunway has."

Aisya Hasnaa



Briefly...

Q. What are your favourite movies?

A. Some of my favorite movies are Breakfast at Tiffany's, Star Wars, Lord of the Rings, The Godfather Trilogy, Shawshank Redemption, Across The Universe, Charlie Chaplin's Modern Times and a lot more actually..

Q. Who is your favourite singer?

A. Right now I would have to say Beyonce and Adele, but I also like the all-time favourites like The Beatles, Queen, Bette Midler, Michael Jackson and a few others.

Q. Do you play any musical instrument?

A. Unfortunately, I don't. But I do wish to start learning the piano soon.

Q. Which is the latest book that you have read?

A. The latest book that I have read (still reading it actually) is called, An Actor Prepares by Constantin Stanislavsky. I actually read it, when I was in Sunway for one of our classes, but I find it even more useful now, as I am able to analyse and apply the skills in my work. The book is a guide for any actor (or even any sort of performer) on how to prepare oneself, from pre-production to post-production. To me, it is one of the best books for an actor/performer to read and understand the mechanics of not only a performance, but the human body, the imagination and even the subconscious side of the performer.

Q. Which NGO do you support? Why?

A. I support an organisation called 'Orphan Care'. It is an organisation that aims to give every orphan and abandoned child an equal opportunity to feel loved and cared for in the security of a family. Their tagline is "Every child needs a family." I support this organisation because I too believe that every kid deserves a chance to grow normally with the love of a family. This is one of the ways we would secure the future of the youth.



Befriending refugees

One of 14 Peer Counselling Volunteers joined a BPRM Indoor Games Competition recently. This is what she has learnt from the one-day event...

Money cannot buy life and there is nothing like spending time with people who share your passion. This is what I discovered as a student volunteer at the Indoor Games Competition, held at the Methodist College Kuala Lumpur.



By Violet Ng
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The event was jointly organised by the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM), UNHCR, Malaysian Care, 16 Myanmar education centres and four student clubs of Methodist College, namely Leo Club, Christian Fellowship, Strategem Club and Photography Club.

A total of 80 students (14 students were from Sunway's B.Sc (Hons) Psychology) volunteered their time, playing roles as referees and conducting educational games aimed at giving the children of Myanmar refugees in Malaysia some fun time.

I was initially reluctant to participate in the event, because there were too many questions that flashed across my mind: How would the kids behave? Would they be obedient? Would they be friendly? Or, would they be rude in their ways?

Some of them have gone through trauma in life. Due to the political turmoil in Myanmar, they have lost nearly everything including their parents. For them, there is only one hope to start a new life in a new country. While they are in transit here in Malaysia, there is no reason why they cannot have some fun that other children of their age enjoy.

As I look back, I can only say how blessed I am. Having siblings, and being able to literally "go crazy" with them – yet still being able to enjoy the presence of my parents and other adults in my family – is something that these refugee children would never be able to do.

What the other Peer Counselling Volunteers said:

Jessica Foong: "I guess I have learnt how to work with Myanmar children. Communicating with them in English was tough, but there were a few older children who were willing to help me translate the instructions of the games from English to Burmese. In communicating with these children, I have learnt that gesture was very important, especially in cases where verbal communication was not possible."

Billy Yong: "I have learnt to be more responsible as I never knew that supervising a game needed so much of care and patience."

Winnie Ong Hui Dzing: "I enjoy getting to know the kids, although the time spent was short. We feel helpless when we think about the uncertainty these children will be facing in their future."

Evelyn Lum: "There's just so much to learn about one's dedication and willingness to sacrifice, to share, to love, to care. Although there were some communication barriers as the younger children could hardly understand English, the teachers were really helpful in translating our instructions to the children. The smile on their faces showed that the visit was worth our time."

The dynamic talent of the Sunway Cricket team is proven once again, as they were handpicked to play in a series of matches against the Malaysian National Cricket team.

The team is known for their reputation for advancing into the final round of each tournament organised by various State Cricket Associations.

The Chairman of the Malaysian Cricket Association (MCA) was personally impressed by Sunway's track record for Year 2011, and decided to offer them an opportunity to participate in a five match series with the national team, in preparation for their upcoming 2012 ICC World Cricket League Division Five tournament that will take place in Singapore in February.

The Sunway team is mainly made up of international students from countries such as Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and India, who are currently pursuing their studies at Sunway. The first match of five in the series started at the home of the Malaysian National Cricket team, Kinrara Cricket Academy, Kinrara Oval in Puchong recently.

Despite playing with their second squad, the Sunway players performed extremely well against the illustrious opposition. These students exercised time management skills, as they were busy training for the match and also preparing for their exams. During the match, Sunway's bowler, Sohail Khan took four Malaysian wickets while Ziaul Alam Rony, Sunway's batsman, contributed to many scoring shots, including the 5 sixes in one over during the match.

Team Captain and American Degree Transfer Programme (ADTP) student, Ziaul Alam Rony said that the experience playing against the Malaysian National Team was simply thrilling. "I did not have my first squad for the match, but we tried our best to play decent cricket against them and put up a good fight," he said.

Rony conceded that there were some things to work on, if Sunway were to defeat the national team in the upcoming games. "In my opinion, our bowlers bowled a good line and the fielding was superb; however, we lacked strategy and confidence in batting. We hope to improve once the full squad returns. I believe we will make a positive comeback in the upcoming matches."

A Sunway Cricket player in action during the match



The match is on



The Sunway Cricket and the Malaysian National Cricket players shaking hands after the match



The Sunway Cricket Club is made up of

Ziaul Alam Rony (captain), Azizullah Tanno (vice-captain), Ibrahim Khalil (wicket keeper), Atiqur Rahman Polash, Faisal Hasan, Mohammad Anwar, Ahmed Mubin, Sabbir Hossain, Tarek Aziz, Sobuj Sarkar, Maruf Hasan, Sohail Khan, Mohammad Sowkat, Ahmed Zaif, Md. Wakif.