

BLAZE

THE SUNWAY UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



THE ACCIDENTAL PROFESSOR

Professor Yeah Kim Leng
*Professor of Economics,
Sunway University Business School*

**PRESERVING
PENANG HOKKIEN**

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Tan Siew Imm, Dr Elizabeth Lee, Professor Graeme Wilkinson, Professor Stephen Hall and Professor Pua Eng Chong at the launch

PRESERVING PENANG HOKKIEN

What do the Malay words “sampan,” “satay” and “buaya” have in common? All were assimilated into our national language from the Hokkien dialect.

This and many more factoids about the cultural history of the dialect can be found in Tan Siew Imm’s first-of-its-kind Penang Hokkien - English Dictionary. With over 12,000 entries, this dictionary is a labour of love which took five years to research and develop.

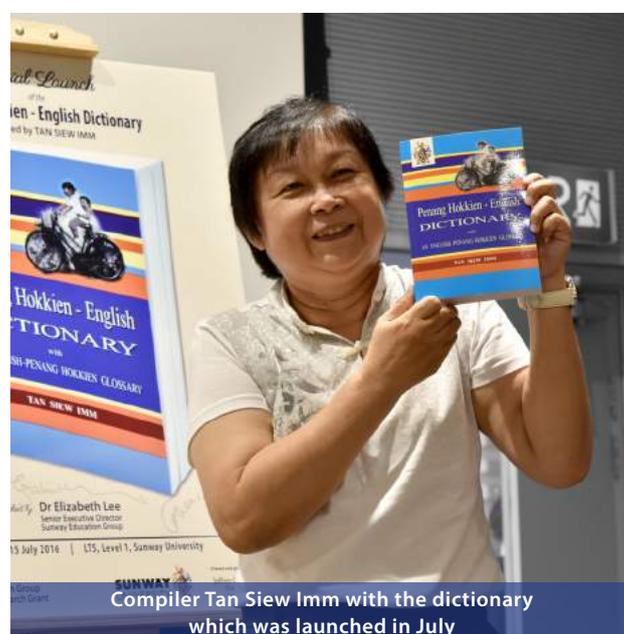
Designed to be user-friendly for both native speakers and learners of the language, the dictionary includes definitions of Hokkien words and phrases in English with a separate glossary of English-Penang Hokkien to help users find Hokkien words.

According to Tan, the growing influence of Mandarin among the various ethnic Chinese groups in Malaysia meant mother tongues like Penang Hokkien faces an uncertain future.

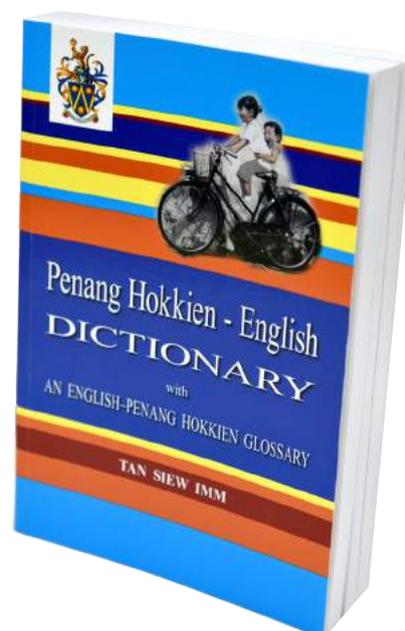
Citing a study of 800 students in 2011, Tan found that of the 42% who do speak Hokkien, seven out of ten only use Hokkien when speaking to their grandparents.

“There is a dire need to preserve many spoken languages, every speaker of oral languages can and should do his or her part,” Tan said.

The dictionary was compiled while Tan was teaching at Sunway’s Centre for English Language Studies. The dictionary is available at Sunway University Campus Bookstore; University Book Store Malaysia and ARECA Books, selling at the price of RM48. **B**



Compiler Tan Siew Imm with the dictionary which was launched in July



THE ACCIDENTAL PROFESSOR

Sunway University Business School's newly appointed professor exemplifies the spirit of exploring new frontiers and constant reinvention.

by **Chua Ern Teck**
photography by **Angeline Teh**

It is 2 pm and Professor Yeah Kim Leng is hunched over his laptop putting the finishing touches to an article he has been working on for some time.

"I'm way past my deadline on this," Yeah says as he closes the lid of his computer to greet me.

"The thing with writing is that there is always not enough time."

Yeah is Professor of Economics at Sunway University Business School. Before making the leap into academia, Yeah was one of the most quoted economists in the country as Group Chief Economist of the RAM Holdings, offering forecasts and analyses on everything from economic policies and developments to corporate performance and financial markets.

Appointed to his current position in May, Yeah recently got the keys to his office. It is sparsely furnished and the bookshelves are still empty. One side of a L-shaped desk hugs the wall while the other faces the door. He works with his back to the window. From the 7th floor of this new state-of-the-art building, Yeah has a view that overlooks the campus' courtyard.

AN UNCONVENTIONAL BEGINNING

Almost four decades ago, it was not apparent that either economics or education would play any part in Yeah's career.

"Upon completing my sixth form, I had this dilemma facing all young people - how to choose one's career paths," Yeah says. "I had wanted to be a pilot, but

unfortunately I failed the physical test because I was told my heart was too small,"

His other interest at the time was the outdoors, and so he applied to study at Universiti Putra Malaysia's newly established Department of Forestry, obtaining a Bachelor's of Science in Forestry.

Thus began Yeah's first calling. He spent three years at Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia as a Forest Planning Officer, followed by a stint at the Sabah Foundation, which needed expertise to devise a long term plan to sustain the state's one million hectare of virgin forest, the equivalent of roughly 1.4 million football fields.

"Even though this was a new frontier in terms of career opportunities at the time, I always had this urge to further my studies," Yeah says. He recalls seeing in a newspaper an advertisement by the Malaysian-American Commission for Educational Exchange (MACEE) appealing for scholarship applicants.

"That was the life changing moment," said Yeah, who after four years in Sabah, applied and was accepted to the MBA programme at the University of Hawaii.

His outstanding results were rewarded by the University with an offer to pursue a PhD. Without any prior training in economics, Yeah went on to complete a doctorate in Agriculture and Resource Economics.

"There are a lot of parallels between a forest's ecosystem and a country's economic system," Yeah says. "The principles are basically the same."





PASSION FOR ECONOMICS

After six years abroad, Yeah returned as an expert in development economics, and promptly took a job at the Institute of Strategic and International Studies, better known as ISIS, a think-tank. It was here that Yeah began making his mark as an economist.

When the World Bank wanted to understand the East Asian economic miracle, Yeah was on the team that wrote the case study on Malaysia. He was also a lead writer for the United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Report on Malaysia.

Yeah's second act took a turn when RAM Holdings approached him to lead a newly created Economics and Market Research Department. Despite not having any training in market economies, Yeah dived head first into the unknown. Reflecting on his 20-year career at RAM reinforces an idea within him.

"The more you know, the more you realise there are so much more you don't know," Yeah says. "We have a finite mind trying to understand an infinite world, so we have to really focus when selecting an area you can contribute to in a meaningful way."

TRANSITIONING TO EDUCATION

Yeah had every intention of retiring after leaving RAM Holdings, but it was a close friend, and fellow Sunway faculty Professor Leong Choon Heng, who persuaded Yeah otherwise.

We left the office and walked across campus to get some coffee when the conversation turned towards what Yeah thought about working in a university.

"It is much easier to criticize the education system but when you are inside you find that problems have solutions," Yeah says. "Challenges present opportunities to make a difference."

At Sunway, Yeah also heads the Economic Studies programme at the Jeffrey Cheah Institute of Southeast Asia. Beyond the university, Yeah is also an external member of Bank Negara Malaysia's Monetary Policy Committee. He was appointed to a two-year term on April 1st, 2015.

Calls from journalists pepper our conversations throughout the afternoon. He knows a few of them well. A call from a television station enquired about the logistics of setting up a camera in his office, while another wanted his comments on how the revised interest rates would affect the nation's household debt.

As we finished our coffee and said our goodbyes, dark clouds that had covered large parts of the sky all day started to pour, blanketing an already gloomy day with a city-wide rain shower.

In parting Yeah said *"This is why I took so long to come home from Hawaii," Yeah said. "The weather there is always sunny and beautiful."*



Sunway University's Faculty of Science and Technology proudly won 5 Silver Medals

INVENTING THE FUTURE

Sunway University teams take the Silver Awards at ITEX 2016

Photochemotherapy to remove eye parasites, antibiotics made of cockroaches, an app for rescue missions, a digital coins counting system and a solution to spectrum scarcity are five inventions from Sunway University which raked Silver Awards at ITEX 2016 in May.

The International Invention & Innovation Exhibition, or ITEX, is one of the largest annual exhibitions of its kind, and serves as a platform for inventors to explore various opportunities for commercialisation.

This year's edition took place at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, with participants from more than 20 countries around Asia and Europe.

The teams from Sunway comprised faculty members and students. Two teams are from the Department of Biological Sciences, while the other three are from the Department of Computing and Information Systems.

The annual event featured 23 invention categories related to innovation or technology that aimed to make daily life more convenient. This year's lineup included over 1,000 inventions.

"Photochemotherapy Against Eye Infections" and "Antibiotics from Cockroaches" were submitted under the Biotechnology, Health and Fitness category.

"Characterising Sound and Force Feedback for Multiple Materials", "Coins Counting System with Online Monitoring" and "Telecommunication Multi-hop Cognitive Radio Networks: The Next Generation Wireless Communication System" were presented under the ICT and Multimedia category. **B**



Telecommunication: Ling Mee Hong, Associate Professor Dr Yau Kok Lim, Dharmidran Anantharsekaran, Syed Aqeel Raza and Mariam Syed



Biotechnology, Health and Fitness:
(Back row) Associate Professor Dr Ruqaiyyah Bano Siddiqui, Farhat Amirali Abjani, Salwa Mansur Ali, Timothy Yu Yee Ong, Professor Naveed Khan
(Front row) Chong Yee Ying, Shareni Jeyamogan, Jenny Loo Jia Yi



ICT and Multimedia: Tan Zhi Zhong and Associate Professor Dr Yap Kian Meng



ICT and Multimedia: Sin Jun Yee, Chow Loh Fern, Associate Professor Dr Yap Kian Meng, Teo Yi Lin and Low Jun Ming

MAKING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS A REALITY

Jeffrey Cheah Foundation supports the establishment of a new centre focused on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Sunway University is establishing the new Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development at its campus, courtesy of a USD 10 million gift from the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation to the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network Association.



Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah with Professor Jeffrey D Sachs in Kuala Lumpur

"This partnership signals the vision of Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah in recognising that sustainable development is the defining challenge of our times."

Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs
 Director of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network
 Special Advisor to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

The Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs, are 17 priorities which all 193 UN member countries adopted as guiding principles for the next 15 years on sustainable development.

"This generous gift by Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah will create and curate the world's best curriculum, academic, and executive programmes on sustainable development.

Importantly, this partnership focuses on the development challenges in Southeast Asia and the best way to address them is by engaging young minds and directing their energies towards the complex challenges and opportunities of the SDGs," Sachs added.

"Countries like Malaysia face unique challenges in combating the threat of climate change while continuing to tackle problems of inclusive development and job creation," said Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah, AO Founding Trustee of the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation and Founding Chancellor of Sunway University.

"With the establishment of the Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, I firmly believe that we have taken an important step in the right direction to develop the global expertise needed to move Malaysia and Asia forward in the

area of sustainable development and to protect and preserve the planet," Cheah said.

The Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development will be a hub for research and policy practice around the SDGs, creating world-class programmes to train a new generation of students, practitioners and policy leaders and develop linkages with major Malaysian universities and universities around the world.

"The Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development will be a hub to deepen technical knowledge and to systematically integrate knowledge across the disciplines in order to create world-class programmes that train students, practitioners and policy leaders to achieve the SDGs," said Professor Woo Wing Thye, a Harvard educated economist who has been named the Director of the Center. He is also the President of Jeffrey Cheah Institute of Southeast Asia. **B**

BREAKING DOGMAS

TEDxSunwayUniversity Club recently held its third talk



The Krokodiloes performed at the TEDxSunwayUniversity talk

The third edition of Sunway University's annual TEDx talks took place on June 29th with four presentations on the theme - Breaking the Dogma.

The Harvard Krokodiloes, Harvard University's oldest a cappella group, got the ball rolling by sharing a brief history of the all male group before breaking into a short performance, singing music from the Great American Songbook.

Next was Cedric Tan, a sixth generation descendent Baba from Malacca who is currently researching Baba Nyonya culture in Malaysia and Singapore. As people who have a history of adopting different cultures and making it theirs, Tan examined whether Straits Born Chinese are Chinese at all.

The third speaker, Dr Adelina Tang, spoke about how developments in the field of artificial intelligence, or AI, are quickly catching up with the portrayal of AI in science fiction. Dr Tang, a senior lecturer at Sunway's Faculty of Science and Technology, said whereas the Turing Test asked almost 70 years ago whether "can machines think?", today the question is "are we still in charge?"

Concluding the TEDx presentations was Monash University Malaysia's Associate Professor Dr Andrew Ng, who wasted no time sharing his research in Southeast Asian horror stories by telling a few. In analysing the role of women in horror movies across the region, Ng showed how - if we look beyond the horror - representations of women actually mirror real life. **B**



Cedric Tan shared some cultural practices of the Baba and Nyonya with students at Sunway University



Dr Adelina Tang talked about artificial intelligence



Dr Andrew Ng discussed the representation of women in horror films



6 YEARS ON, DCLA FIRMLY ESTABLISHES ITS PRESENCE

by *Dr Wong Kok Keong*

The Department of Communication and Liberal Arts (DCLA) turned six years old recently. Founded in mid-2010 to offer the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Communication, the department's pioneer class of 13 students in 2011 has grown by more than 20 fold to 270 students today.

Housed within Sunway University's Faculty of Arts, the current programme chair of the BA (Hons) Communication, Dr Wong Kok Keong said one of the department's strengths is its 14 member-strong faculty, which started with just three full time staff. This means full-time lecturers teach almost all subjects in the curriculum.

In addition to teaching and holding student-consultation hours, faculty members also serve as academic mentors to students. They meet with their assigned mentees at least twice every semester over lunch or coffee.

Envisioned by a former head of department to assist students facing any academic difficulties as well as to guide students in charting their careers' paths, Dr Wong is making sure this mentor programme continues in order to foster a nurturing environment for students to succeed.

"We define success as more than just acquiring knowledge and skills," said Dr Wong. "It is about arming

them with effective communication and incisive critical thinking abilities that Malaysian employers seek but often lament to be lacking among fresh graduates."

A centrepiece of the DCLA's programme is its industry placement component, which is enabled by its close ties with corporate partners in advertising, public relations and corporate communications. Going through an internship in a real world setting allows students to test their abilities in the workforce, gaining an edge as well as invaluable experience over their peers.

"I was lucky to have the chance to work on a few projects at Maxis and I got to learn something new every day. I was able to apply what I learned from my classes at the Department of Communications and Liberal Arts at Sunway University," said Khor Siew Boon, who graduated last year after a 12-week internship at Maxis, a telecommunication corporation.

"Critical thinking, confident and intellectually curious, these are attributes that define DCLA graduates of Sunway University," said Dr Wong. "Securing employment immediately upon the completion of an internship or earning a little higher than the fresh graduate salary scale are not uncommon amongst the department's graduates."

A WORLD-CLASS DEGREE AT SUNWAY

Students at Sunway University can now choose to complete the final two years of their Bachelor of Science in Economics, Business Economics or Actuarial Science at the University of East Anglia (UEA), thanks to a memorandum of cooperation between the two universities.

This memorandum enables Sunway students to pursue degree programmes at UEA, ranked among the United Kingdom's top 15 universities once they fulfil admission criteria set by the university.

"With the memorandum, undergraduate students will also benefit from engaging with real-world business problems, with teaching conducted by professional actuaries and strong industrial links with relevant business organisations in the UK," said Professor Graeme Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor of Sunway University.

"At UEA, we deliver quality degree programmes that will allow our graduates to thrive in an ever changing global environment. That is our goal but it cannot be achieved alone," said Professor David Richardson, Vice-Chancellor of the University of East Anglia.



Professor David Richardson and Professor Graeme Wilkinson



Dr Angela Lee Siew Hoong, Professor Peter Heard and Professor Graeme Wilkinson of Sunway University with Sheikh Manzoor Ghani, Lee Mun Loong and Khor Swee Kweng of SAS Malaysia

A CUTTING EDGE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN SUNWAY AND SAS

Students pursuing an undergraduate degree in business analytics at Sunway University will now graduate with a Joint Certificate in Big Data with Advanced Techniques in Data Science, as a result of the collaboration between Sunway and SAS Malaysia.

While common in the United States and Europe, an industry-linked certificate like this is the first of its kind in Malaysia.

The Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Information Systems (Business Analytics) is a new programme focusing on data mining, business intelligence, knowledge management, as well as social media and big data analytics.

"With analytics skill and industry recognition, graduates can look forward to better employment opportunities," said Dr Angela Lee Siew Hoong, who leads the programme and is a Senior Lecturer at Sunway's Faculty of Science and Technology.

Graduates of this three-year honours degree, validated by Lancaster University, will receive two scrolls, one from Sunway and another from Lancaster, which has one of the best computer science programmes in the world. **B**



GRADUATION CEREMONY OF MANY FIRSTS



Nicole Tan Siew Wen, the valedictorian giving her speech



Alyssa Ding Yen Lyn with her parents



Dr Angela Lee Siew Hoong with her family

The 2016 Sunway University commencement celebrated many milestones, conferring its first ever postgraduate degrees as well as graduating its inaugural class of the Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Actuarial Studies. In total, 174 diplomas, 347 undergraduate degrees, two Masters and one Doctorate were awarded.

Dr Angela Lee Siew Hoong, who received a Doctor of Philosophy in Computing, is the first ever PhD graduate from Sunway, where she is a senior lecturer at the Department of Computing and Information Systems.

Also charting their own trailblazing paths are Isabel Yee Pinn Tsin and Alyssa Ding Yen Lyn, who are the first Master's degree holders from Sunway, graduating with a Master of Science in Life Sciences and a Master of Science in Psychology, respectively.

Yee is currently a Research Fellow at the Research Centre for Biomedical Studies, while Ding is a lecturer at the Centre for American Education.

Among the Bachelor degree recipients were the inaugural class from the Centre for Actuarial Studies, Applied Finance and Statistics, who graduated with the Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Actuarial Studies.

This year's Valedictorian, Nicole Tan Siew Wen who graduated with the Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Psychology, is the first valedictorian from the Psychology Department.

Professor Graeme Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor of Sunway University congratulated the graduates on their achievement.

"You have reached one of the most important milestones in your lives, as you graduate from university you can justly take pride in your personal achievement," said Professor Wilkinson. *"You will now be taking the next steps in your journey of life, a long journey. By graduating from university, you have prepared yourselves to succeed in today's knowledge-based globalised economy."*



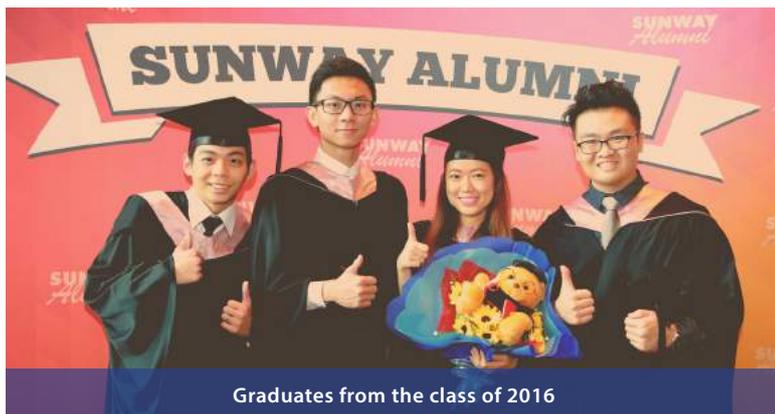
Isabel Yee Pinn Tsin, Alyssa Ding Yen Lyn and Dr Angela Lee Siew Hoong

"No matter where you come from, think big, have confidence and dream your wildest dreams..."

Professor Graeme Wilkinson,
Vice-Chancellor, Sunway University



Dr Elizabeth Lee with the graduates after the ceremony



Graduates from the class of 2016

He further encouraged them to take inspiration from Sunway alumni and Chancellor Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah.

"No matter where you come from, think big, have confidence and dream your wildest dreams. Some of them will come to fruition and be grateful for those that do," said Professor Wilkinson. "Keep an open mind, look for opportunities and recognise them when they appear to you."

"There is still the moment of unpredictability, life is like that. But above all use your brains, use your wisdom and always be open to new ideas and fortune will probably smile on you," Professor Wilkinson says, citing the University's motto "*Fortuna Eruditis Favet*", which means fortune favours the prepared mind.

The session concluded with a speech by 22-year old valedictorian Nicole, who is working at a multidisciplinary centre for individuals with special needs. In her speech on behalf of her fellow graduates, she thanked the families, friends and everyone at

Sunway, especially the lecturers, for their support.

"As we step forward, in whichever field you have chosen to pursue, I hope you persevere with persistence. Never let the doubt of others make you question your decision," said Nicole. "My passion lies in helping people with special needs. Working with children with disabilities, I am reminded every day of just how easily we take our abilities and the opportunities we have been given for granted."

"If you have been lucky enough to find a passion of your own, I urge you to take the time and effort to work on it even if it is challenging," Nicole concluded.

At the ceremony held at Sunway Resort Hotel & Spa, 19 graduates were awarded the Jeffrey Cheah Scholastic Award. The award comprised a certificate and a RM2,000 cheque, and was given to those who have consistently maintained outstanding academic results throughout their studies at Sunway University. **B**



First batch of students graduating with the BSc (Hons) in Actuarial Studies



Nicole Tan Siew Wen with her parents



Nursyahira bt Abd Rahim received the Jeffrey Cheah Scholastic Award



Attendees listening to keynote speaker, Ms Ho Yoke Ping

Sunway University hosted Bournemouth University's (BU) first ever global Festival of Learning

Now in its fourth year in the United Kingdom, the annual BU Festival of Learning took it up a notch this year and went global with festivals running simultaneously in UK, China and Malaysia. Sunway University played host to the Malaysian stage and gathered the minds from the hospitality, culinary and tourism industries.

"Bournemouth University's very first Global Festival of Learning is an exciting showcase and celebration of our education, research and practice in collaboration with our international partners."

*Dr Sonal Minocha,
Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Global Engagement,
Bournemouth University*

Throughout this one-day Festival of Learning, students had the opportunity to attend parallel sessions on Hospitality, Tourism,

Emerging Issues, Food and Beverage, and Sport facilitated by academicians from BU and Sunway. Attendees sat in for a satay with spicy peanut sauce cooking demonstration by Centre of Tourism, Hospitality and Culinary Management's (CTHCM) Chef Soon Pau Voon; visited the Delegates Gallery and Market Place for posters, arts and crafts exhibition by students from the CTHCM, and the Department of Art and Design.

"With tourism being an economic driver in Malaysia and a huge industry globally, the industry presents plenty of job opportunities globally for hospitality and tourism graduates. Here at Sunway University, graduates are nurtured to fit into the global context," said Professor Graeme Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, Sunway University during his welcome address.

By establishing Bournemouth University's Festival of Learning in Malaysia, Professor John Vinney, Vice-Chancellor of Bournemouth University hopes to create opportunities to further enhance and develop partnerships between the institutions in education and research plus connect the local, national and global communities via their practice networks. **B**



Visitors trying their hand with the kolam, a South Indian style of painting using rice flour



A student explaining her research to a visitor at the poster exhibition

EVERY DEVELOPER'S DREAM

Diploma in IT student won a scholarship to attend the Apple Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC)

Just as wizards dream of attending Hogwarts, developers dream of going to WWDC. This was the case of Sunway University's Diploma in Information Technology student, Chan Jin Hong.

Every year, thousands of developers gather in San Francisco for Apple's WWDC, a 5-day event led by Apple experts and engineers. While each ticket is priced at USD 1,599, they are hard to come by as they are distributed via a lottery system. On the other hand, Apple also offers scholarships to young and bright students to attend WWDC.

As luck may have it, the 19 year-old won the scholarship.

"Attending the WWDC conference is an important experience for all iOS developers, especially the labs sessions, where participants have the opportunity to talk to the Apple engineers in a collaborative group setting," said Chan who had applied for the scholarship for the first time.

Chan had the privilege to meet with many experienced Apple engineers, including one of the Apple design awards winner and a Siri backend engineer. But nothing topped meeting with Tim Cook, the CEO of Apple and Chan even got his signature on his iPhone.

In order to qualify for WWDC Scholarships, applicants have to submit an app they developed that demonstrates creative use of Apple technologies and runs on an Apple platform.

It took Chan one month to develop the app – Six Degrees, for submission along with another app - Pense, which he developed for his final year project in his diploma programme.

Chan's interest in programming started when he joined a 5-day iOS programming crash course organised by Sunway University back in 2015. His interest grew further when he passed the interview and was selected to join 9 other students in a 1 month iOS development course organised by the Apptivity Lab.

"The more I learned about iOS development, the more possibilities I discovered and my interest for it grew." **B**



Chan at the WWDC Scholarship Orientation



Chan was among the 350 scholars selected globally to attend the WWDC 2016

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY VISITS

First ever visit of the Dean of Lancaster University Management School to Sunway University

by **Cirami Mastura Drahaman**
photography by **Raja Amirul Azizi Raja Amir**

Professor Angus Laing, the Dean of Lancaster University Management School (LUMS) visited Sunway University for the first time in June 2016 which marks a milestone for the relationship between the two universities. The two day visit was packed with discussion along with Dr David Simm, Director of the International Partnership at Lancaster University, Professor Steve Williams, Dean of Sunway University Business School and Professor Graeme Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor of Sunway University.

Topics discussed included strengthening ties between Sunway University Business School and Lancaster University Management School with a range of collaborative proposals including research and development. A possible organisation of an annual conference hosted by the Business Schools of the two universities was also discussed. The parties reviewed the possibility of visiting scholars between the two universities.

Some of the proposed collaborative programmes between Lancaster University Management School and Sunway University Business School should come to fruition by the first quarter of 2017.



Professor Steve Williams welcoming Professor Angus Laing to Sunway University



Professor Furmston delivering the talk on Formation of Contracts to the Malaysian Bar Council

PROFESSOR FURMSTON AT THE MALAYSIAN BAR COUNCIL

by **Cirami Mastura Drahaman**
photography by **Sri Bala Murugan Gogula Nathan**

Professor for Contract Law at Sunway University Centre for Commercial Law and Justice, Michael Furmston was recently invited to deliver a talk at the Malaysian Bar Council for their Continuing Professional Development Programme.

The topics included the basic principles in relation to contract, offer and acceptance, auctions and tenders, certainty and completeness, conditional contracts, letters of intent, duty to negotiate in good faith, pre contractual liability and promissory estoppel.

The talk by Professor Furmston is part of the Centre for Commercial Law and Justice's plans to foster professional development and engagement with the profession. There are future plans to work with the Malaysian Bar to help develop niche areas that elicit Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points for lawyers in practise.

Professor Furmston is known as an author and editor of the renowned contract law text, Cheshire, Fifoot and Furmston and has over a span of 40 years written many books and articles. Professor Furmston was also named as one of the "Ten Great Law Teachers" in the United Kingdom by the London Times in October 2007.



Krokodiloes with the organising committee

SINGING IN THE DARK

Giving light to Dialogue in the Dark with two evenings of song by the Harvard Krokodiloes

Harvard University's oldest a cappella group, the Harvard Krokodiloes was back in Malaysia for the second year to put together two evenings of song, the Concert in the Dark and the Cuisine Theatre in the Dark. In collaboration with Dialogue in the Dark (DiD), Sunway Education Group hosted the twelve Harvard undergraduates group for the Malaysian leg of their 2016 World Tour.

CONCERT IN THE DARK

With the help of visually impaired guides, guests for the evening were ushered into a carefully constructed dark hall. The hall came to life when the Krokodiloes or better known as the Kroks initiated the concert with their unique brand of a capella harmony. Singing songs from the Great American Song Book, the twelve Kroks started the evening's musical journey with their signature arrangements of House of Blue Lights followed by Runaway Sue. The Concert was made memorable as the Kroks could not rely on visual cues to break into songs. Being in the dark, they had to depend on their other senses to enhance their singing voices for the night.

CUISINE THEATRE IN THE DARK

Guests enjoyed a fine-dining meal while being serenaded by the Kroks all in complete darkness. The repertoire of evergreen hits sung that evening included I've Got You Under My Skin and Barbara Ann.

DIALOGUE FOR THE BLIND

For DiD, the collaboration with Harvard Krokodiloes was an opportunity to initiate a dialogue with hopes that it would last beyond the two evenings. All proceeds from both the Concert in the Dark and Cuisine Theatre in Dark were donated to DiD.

To start the ball rolling in raising additional funds for DiD, Puan Sri Datin Seri Dr Susan Cheah, EXCO Member of Sunway Group donated AUD 2,000 while Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah, Founder and Chairman of Sunway Group pledged another RM10,000. By end of the evening, a total sum of RM60,000 worth of experiential



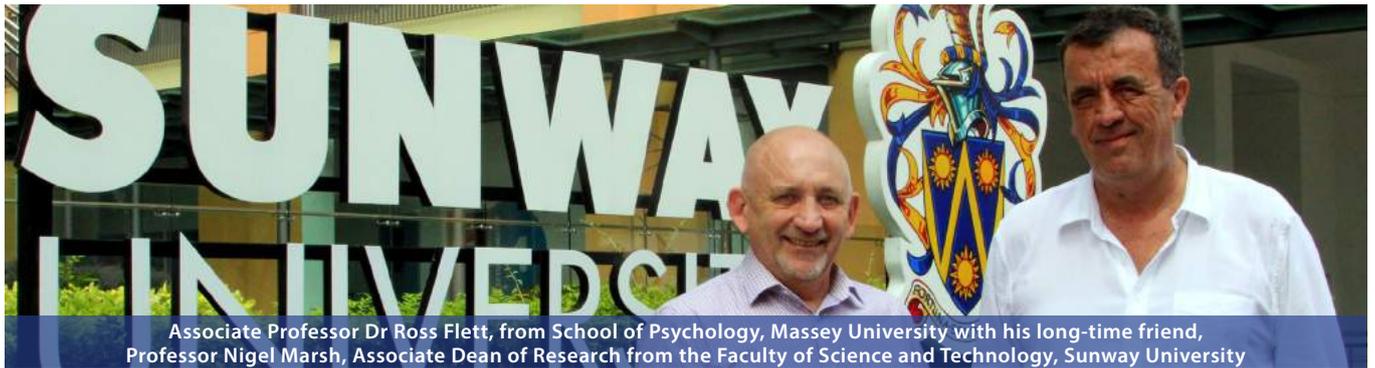
Dr Elizabeth Lee (middle) with the Harvard Krokodiloes

tours with DiD was pledged on top of the RM60,000 collected from the sale of tables.

The Cuisine Theatre in the Dark was made possible by individuals and organisations who bought dinner tables all in the name of charity. They were Tan Sri Dato' Dr Ramon Navaratnam; Ms Irene Chen; Yayasan Tan Sri Lee Shin Cheng; Blu Water Studio; Kajang Rocks; DBS Bank; Priority One; Nottingham University Malaysia; Kenanga Investment Group; Harvard Club of Malaysia; Monash University Malaysia; Sunway Group business units which include Sunway Treasury; Sunway Medical Centre; Sunway Paving Solutions; Sunway Shopping Malls; Sunway Resort Hotel & Spa; Sunway Marketing; Sunway Property and Sunway Education Group.

Dialogue in the Dark, a social enterprise, have set up their office in Sunway University supported by the Sunway Institute for Social Entrepreneurship to bring to light the struggles of the blind. **B**

MASSEY UNIVERSITY DON ENJOYS COLLABORATING WITH SUNWAY PSYCHOLOGY STAFF



Associate Professor Dr Ross Flett, from School of Psychology, Massey University with his long-time friend, Professor Nigel Marsh, Associate Dean of Research from the Faculty of Science and Technology, Sunway University

by **Nigel Marsh**

photography by **Dr Alvin Ng Lai Oon**

Dr Ross Flett recently completed his third research visit to Sunway University. The adjunct member of the Faculty of Science and Technology had previously visited Sunway in 2013 and 2015. He is the Deputy Head of the School of Psychology at Massey University, New Zealand. Massey University is a large multi-campus university with 35,000 students. Professor Flett has been working with Professor Nigel Marsh on a number of writing projects during his visits while engaging in research-related conversations with Sunway Psychology staff.

Professor Flett has made three presentations during his previous visits to Sunway University. The presentations have been made available at Massey Research Online. Interested staff can contact Professor Marsh for details on how to obtain them.

"Sunway's Department of Psychology is smaller than the one I'm used to at Massey University which has over 100 staff. But I really enjoyed the energy of the staff here. They are very committed to research excellence and I get a sense of unity among them to strive for great things. I have absolutely no doubt that they will indeed reach new heights and continue to expand their presence on the global academic stage. I look forward to possible research collaborations and wish them the very best for the future."

*Associate Professor Dr Ross Flett
Deputy Head, School of Psychology, Massey University*

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY DEVELOPMENT



Dr Fisher and Dr Coker with the participants of the clinical psychology supervision workshop, supported by Professor Nigel Marsh and Associate Professor Dr Alvin Ng from the Department of Psychology

by **Dr Alvin Ng Lai Oon**

The University of East Anglia (UEA) sponsored a full-day workshop for clinical psychologists in Malaysia which was supported by the Malaysian Society of Clinical Psychology. It was a workshop on Good Practice in Clinical Psychology Supervision. Clinical trainers from UEA, Dr Sian Coker and Dr Paul Fisher trained 19 participants who are mostly clinical psychologists working in Malaysia. Given the lack of senior clinical supervisors and supervisory training in this country, UEA has offered to provide this workshop as part of a human resource investment in its internationalisation exercise.

UEA has a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sunway University's Department of Psychology where the



Dr Sian Coker presenting on the Doctor of Clinical Psychology Programme at UEA

former provides opportunities for psychology graduates to further their Doctor of Clinical Psychology Programme at UEA. Malaysia has been chosen as a partner given the MoU with Sunway University and SOLS24/7 Malaysia / SHIELD, an NGO that provides social welfare and mental health services to marginalised communities.

In a separate event, Dr Coker and Dr Fisher gave a talk to psychology students on pursuing clinical psychology at UEA. They explained how the UK mental health system works with regards to the training and practice of clinical psychology. The UEA clinical psychology programme has an internationalisation component that allows its trainees to be placed overseas during their third year of clinical training.

GRADUATE INTERVIEW DAY

photography by **Teo Li Anne**



Graduating students who are at the end of their studies are getting ready to embark on a new journey. The one that requires them to be self-sufficient, independent and most importantly, to secure a job.

In order to get a head start in their next phase of life, Sunway University organised an on campus Graduate Interview Day in June. It was designed to help students connect with their employer of choice and possibly secure a placement before they toss their graduation mortarboard up in the air.

The Graduate Interview Day successfully attracted 160 final year students. Over 150 interview sessions were held during the day.

Among the employers present were the usual veterans like Pricewater-house Cooper (PwC),

BDO, Deloitte and Unilever. The event received continuous support from Sunway Group and KPMG. Other employers included Shell, Public Bank, Schlumberger, SJ Grant Thornton and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The Graduate Interview Day received a warm welcome from both students and employers, with many commending the good effort in assisting students, giving them a head start before graduating.

Fellow students who are on the verge of graduation and have yet to begin their job hunt, fret not! The Graduate Interview Day will be a recurring event happening twice a year, once in June and again in October. Interested students can get more information at the Student Services Department. **B**

JET CHAN: CONTINUOUS LEARNING

WHAT'S YOUR SUNWAY STORY?

I started my journey with Cambridge A-Levels at Sunway where I took Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics and Accounting back in 2006. Then I joined the first ever batch of BSc (Honours) Accounting and Finance in 2007, with only nine of us!

That degree has led me to where I am today, Chicago, United States.

WHAT DO YOU DO NOW?

I am currently in Corporate Audit Staff, a leadership programme at General Electric Company (GE). We rotate every four months to a new assignment, in a new location/business. In some assignments, I perform financial/compliance audit to provide assurance on the controls of processes which drives financial accuracy. In others, I provide advisory support. Some of the projects I have done include ERP implementation, driving more accurate and simplified inter-company billing processes, and streamlining reserves booking processes.

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN POSTED SINCE JOINING GE?

China (*Shanghai, Beijing, Qinhuangdao, Chongqing*)

Japan (*Tokyo*)

Singapore

Thailand (*Bangkok*)

United States (*Pennsylvania, Ohio, Georgia, Connecticut, Illinois, Wisconsin*)

I'M SURE TRAVELLING FOR WORK IS NOT ALL GLITZ AND GLAMOUR. OR IS IT?

Not really, no. Flying to US takes at least 24 hours (including transit). If I'm lucky, I get to fly on Business. But most of the time I fly on Economy. The biggest challenge is being away from my family. I've missed a lot of their life events (i.e. birthdays, weddings). However, I still make it a point to be home during Chinese New Year, even if it's only for 3 days.

WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER MOST ABOUT YOUR UNIVERSITY DAYS?

It has to be the 2-week campus visit at Lancaster University. I was chosen to represent Sunway to be part of a 6-member delegation. That was my first time travelling outside of Asia! I had a fantastic time exploring the campus. Then we visited York, Manchester and London!

But the proudest moment was when I was informed by Mrs Lim Tiew Ming and Dr Khatijah that I am the 2010 Valedictorian for Sunway University. That was a remarkable cherry on the cake to end what was already a memorable 4.5 years of my Sunway experience. I could not have made it without some of the impactful lecturers and leaders in A-Levels (Ms Helen, Mr Goh), Bachelor of Accounting and Finance (Dr Foo) and Student Services (Ms Lee Siok Ping, Mr Eugene Chang, Mr Ken Teh). I could not have made it if it wasn't for my uncle providing financial assistance in my A-Levels. And I certainly could not have made it if it wasn't for my parents' support in every way.

IF YOU HAD TO PICK ONE MOMENT THAT WAS THE TRUE START OF YOUR SUNWAY JOURNEY, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

It has to be when I joined the Student Council in 2008. By combining both elements of studying and extracurricular activities, Sunway has shaped my personality in becoming the leader I am today. You can just be a student in Sunway and get by. But there are tonnes of opportunities to gain experience outside of the lecture halls, and Student Services Department is a great enabler for that.

DO YOU THINK IT WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT IF YOU WERE NOT OFFERED A SCHOLARSHIP AND HOW SO?

I was in Monash University for half a semester. Being offered the Chancellors Scholarship in Sunway University definitely helped set me up for success. Through this, I managed to be active in Student Council where I was fortunate to be appointed as President in 2008. If I didn't walk down this path, I can't imagine how my life would have turned out!

KNOWING WHAT YOU KNOW NOW, WHAT WOULD YOU TELL YOURSELF BEFORE YOU ENTERED COLLEGE?

I would advise myself to pick up more IT knowledge & skills (i.e. coding, design, statistics) in college. Companies are embracing technology and analytics more today. Gone are the days where being proficient in Microsoft Word/Excel/PowerPoint would suffice in giving you a competitive advantage.

WHAT SKILLS SHOULD YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY DEVELOP?

COMMUNICATION - You can be intellectually and technically smart (input knowledge), but if you are unable to articulate your thoughts clearly (output), your work will not be as impactful. This is definitely true working in a multinational company as there are a lot of talents with great communication skills from countries with education systems that advocate thought-sharing (US, UK).

EFFICIENCY - Once you are out of university, life doesn't get easier. In most cases, you will have tonnes of work to do especially at the beginning of your career. To be honest, I am a lazy person. I like to complete my deliverables by cutting corners but with the same expected output quality. You have to figure out a way to be efficient with your laptop and your time.

Several tips:

1. Learn shortcuts in Microsoft software, you will be amazed by how much time is saved by not using the mouse
2. Block calendars for your own tasks, otherwise you will be swarmed with meetings
3. Check e-mail every 15 to 30 mins instead of treating it like an instant messaging, otherwise you will be constantly distracted.

CONTINUOUS LEARNING - Once you have entered the workforce, it is very easy for you to be complacent and stop learning. But unfortunately, learning does not stop!

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF STUDENTS?

We are living in a world that changes rapidly. What we have learnt today may not be significant in three years later. Therefore, we have to be informed on the latest technologies/trends at all times and be relevant. **B**



PURSUING A FUTURE A PERSPECTIVE FROM

photography by *Dr Alvin Ng Lai Oon, Darren Boo & Yannik Fernando*

ALYSSA DING

"If you're not willing to learn, no one can help you. If you are determined to learn, no one can stop you."

I completed my BSc (Hons) Psychology in Sunway University in 2012, whereafter I decided to continue with my master's degree, also at Sunway University, mainly due to the generous student resources provided by the University. My master's research was focused on decision making where I investigated the various factors that could influence decision choices such as framing, individual cognition, and personality among Malaysian students. I had a very fruitful learning experience and I am grateful to my supervisor, Associate Professor Dr Lin Mei-Hua for her generosity in sharing her knowledge, skills, and experience. Her support throughout my whole MSc journey was invaluable. I am currently in the midst of discussing my research study with my supervisor for publication.

Upon completion of my Masters degree, I was offered a few jobs in different industries, including a quantitative analyst position in an MNC, as well as a programme facilitator in a cancer-support foundation. But I took up the offer from Sunway University as a Psychology Lecturer in the Centre of American Education due to my inclination and strong belief in the importance of quality education. It is my innate desire to play an instrumental role in the field of education. That being said, I aspire to contribute continuously to the field of psychology by inspiring other students. In addition, I hope to extend the field of Psychology, especially in Malaysia, by pursuing my PhD in due time so that new knowledge can be fostered while I'm developing my personal skills and furthering my interest.

To all aspiring psychologists—students and graduates, the journey is tough, but DO NOT let the vision you have for your life disappear when things are difficult: have FAITH. Keep the horizon of a better tomorrow in mind, and rise with ENTHUSIASM every day — the outcome will definitely be meaningful and rewarding.



Darren Boo (from right), Tara Thiagarajan
with other research assistants

ALUMNI ON THE MOVE: PSYCHOLOGY: FROM THE ALUMNI

Greetings! I'm Tara. Your friendly neighbourhood Milo addict-cum-aspiring psychologist! When I enrolled for the Psychology programme at Sunway University, I wasn't sure whether I would really enjoy studying this field for three years. Thankfully, my doubts were clarified because I grew more fascinated about the different areas Psychology had to offer. After graduating in October 2015, I started working as a research assistant for Dr Lin Mei-Hua in the Department of Psychology and needless to say, I'm learning even more about Industrial and Organisational (I/O) Psychology, one area of Psychology in which I am keenly interested. Despite this, I'm still not 100 percent sure what I'm going to study for my master's degree just yet as I am also interested in Social Psychology. I am also curious about gender and racial roles and stereotypes - how they are formed and how they affect the way we perceive the world around us. I believe that with thorough research into these social issues, we could perhaps one day, find a way to build a more fair and just society. I think the most important lessons I've learned from my three years in Sunway University's Psychology degree programme is that we should always look for evidence that is substantial and that we should not immediately take something we hear as gospel truth without first looking it up to make sure that there is some validity to it. Finally, I also learned that knowledge is there for those who seek it. Expecting to be spoon-fed might help you pass tests but you will not go that far in the long-run if you are content with only knowing the bare minimum. All in all, my experience in Sunway's Psychology programme helped me discover my interests, make good friends with quirky people, and it also helped me learn a lot about not only myself, but the people around me.

TARA THIAGARAJAN



DARREN BOO



I have always wondered how my life would turn out if I hadn't pursued Psychology. Coming from a humble town of Taiping, I had always wanted to contribute to the society and constantly thinking of how I could make myself useful to others. Thus, I thought medicine would help me fulfil that hunger. After a series of unexpected events, I managed to secure The Star Education Fund to pursue BSc (Hons) in Psychology at Sunway. My mindset at that time was to go in, learn up ways that I could help people. For example, through subjects like theories of counselling and abnormal psychology. And start rolling. But that one important thing the course had taught me is how can I be a better person. Not to mention, how can I read other people's minds (*Just kidding!*)! In addition to serving a term in Sunway University Student Council and Peer Counselling Volunteers as well as interning at Rekindle Therapy, I realised that we have to first develop ourselves before we can start reaching out to others unconditionally. On top of that, how to help people effectively! This is where the Bachelor of Science comes into the picture. We were consistently encouraged to question the system, treatments and competency of current practitioners (*shoutout to Associate Professor Dr Alvin Ng*). This is also where research caught my interest. Therefore right after my graduation, I was grateful that Associate Professor Dr Lin Mei Hua accepted my application to take on the role as her research assistant under the field of Industrial and Organisational Psychology. There are more things to learn and many meaningful days to come at Sunway. Life is full of surprises, so make every minute worthwhile. Cheers!



IF YOU CAN'T CREATE THE QUESTION, HOW CAN YOU RESEARCH THE ANSWER?

Cockroaches have been thriving for almost 300 million years.
At Sunway, we're researching why and how this unique creature
can help enhance the lives of today's generation.

With his research featured in documentaries and published on news channels like the BBC, CNN,
New York Times, CNBC and The Los Angeles Times, Professor Naveed Khan, Head of Biological
Sciences at Sunway University has rapidly become the world authority on the subject.

Visit university.sunway.edu.my for the full story.



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