

BLAZE

THE SUNWAY UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



IT IS A CAREER, NOT A HOBBY

Chef Patrick Siau
*Centre for Tourism, Hospitality and
Culinary Management*

**BRAIN-EATING
AMOEBAE**

Page 3

**NEUROSCIENCE
BREAKTHROUGH**

Page 16

**INTERNSHIP FAIR
2016**

Page 19

CONTENTS

COVER STORY

- 4 Chef Patrick Siau:
It is a Career, Not a Hobby

HALLMARK

- 3 Brain-Eating Amoebae
14 Touch it, Feel it: In the Virtual World
16 Neuroscience Breakthrough
17 Data Science Champs

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

- 7 Migrant Workers' Rights in Malaysia
12 RM56 million Boost from Jeffrey Cheah
Foundation to Impact Lives
15 E-Waste Campaign

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

- 8 International Conference on Visual Systems and
Multimedia in Malaysia
11 Sunway University Inks Two MoUs

STUDENT AFFAIRS

- 10 Lancaster Students Visit Malaysia
18 A Walk Down Memory Lane
19 Internship Fair 2016

ALUMNI PROFILE

- 20 Fennie Lee: The Way Forward
22 Sumitra Visvanathan: A Twinning Success Story



Jeffrey Cheah Foundation Royal Patron

Duli Yang Maha Mulia
Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah Alhaj
ibni Almarhum Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Alhaj,
Sultan of the State of Selangor and All Its Dependencies

Jeffrey Cheah Foundation Trustees

Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah, AO
Yang Amat Mulia Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin ibni Tuanku Muhriz
Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Dr Lin See-Yan
Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Dr R. V. Navaratnam
Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Razman M. Hashim
Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye
Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Rainer Althoff
Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Zarinah Anwar
Yang Berbahagia Dato' Sri Idris Jala
Professor Wang Gungwu
Professor Richard Graeme Larkins, AO

Editor-in-Chief:

Professor Harold Thwaites

Editorial Team:

Katherine Kee
Cirami Matsura Drahaman
Preeti Nair
Sue-Ann Chia
Tan May Ling

Advisors

Patrick McVeigh
Jerrine Koay

Photographer

Chin Chee Ken

Layout & Design

Angeline Teh

Printer

Gloverin
19-05, The Pinnacle, Block B, 19th Floor,
Jalan Lagoon Timur,
Bandar Sunway, 47500, Selangor Darul Ehsan

Address

Sunway University
No. 5, Jalan Universiti,
Bandar Sunway, 47500, Selangor Darul Ehsan

Follow Us

 facebook.com/SunwayUniversity

 SunwayU

Recycle

when you have finished with this publication

Write to Us

If you enjoy the stories in **BLAZE**, please send
your comments to pr@sunway.edu.my.



Prior the book launch, Professor Naveed Khan conducted an informative session entitled "Brain-eating Amoebae: An Emerging Problem for the Community with Fatal Consequences"

BRAIN-EATING AMOEBAE

Earlier this year, a waterpark in the American state of North Carolina shut down its rafting activities after a teenager died of a brain infection caused by the amoebae *Naegleria fowleri*.

"The 'brain-eating amoebae' invade the nervous system via the nose, when contaminated water is deeply inhaled, and slowly creeps up into the brain tissue where it causes severe haemorrhage and inflammation resulting in widespread brain tissue destruction," said Professor Naveed Khan, Head (Academic) of the Department of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science and Technology (FST) at Sunway University.

According to Professor Khan, who was speaking at the launch of the book "Brain-eating Amoebae: Biology and Pathogenesis of *Naegleria fowleri*," the amoebae is common in lakes, rivers and springs. Furthermore, it is disturbing that even though the majority of cases are identified early, patients still die within days due to lack of available therapies.

The book is co-written by Professor Khan, with Associate Professor Dr Ruqaiyyah Bano Siddiqui, also of the Department of Biological Sciences at Sunway University, as well as Ibne Karim M. Ali and Jennifer R. Cope of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta, USA. **B**



Professor Graeme Wilkinson, Professor Naveed Khan, Associate Professor Dr Ruqaiyyah Bano Siddiqui and Professor Peter Heard, Provost and Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology



Prior the book launch, Professor Naveed Khan conducted an informative session entitled "Brain-eating Amoebae: An Emerging Problem for the Community with Fatal Consequences"

IT IS A CAREER, NOT A HOBBY

photography by *Chef Patrick Siau*

Chef Patrick Siau Chi Yin leads a team of five chefs at the Centre for Tourism, Hospitality and Culinary Management at Sunway University. Born in Tawau, Sabah, the youngest child in the family would often spend his childhood frequenting the market and helping his mother in the kitchen. Having started cooking at the age of 12, he fondly remembers his first dish – fried eggs. It was the love of exploring food ingredients and cooking that lead him towards a life of culinary arts.

BECOMING A CHEF

Despite having a keen interest in cooking, the first objection came from his own father, citing the poor job prospect of a cook and an uncertain future. Patrick did not give up his dreams and managed to convince his father otherwise, and he left for Kuala Lumpur shortly after to further his study.

In college, Patrick excelled as one of the top students. He graduated with a French Higher Diploma, with a specialisation in Cuisine, Food and Beverage Management. Trained in classical French cuisine, he further honed his skills in Italian cuisine during his internship. During weekends he would help the banqueting section, one of his favourites due to the fast pace and mass quantity food production. His hard work caught the eye of the hotel's executive chef, who later offered Patrick a job at the hotel.

COMPETITION LIFE

Patrick was encouraged by his chef to participate in the *Jeunes Chefs Rôtisseurs* Competition, the competition

for young chefs to showcase their talents and skills. Despite having little competition experience, Patrick's skills and strategy won him the 1st Runner-Up position. The adrenaline rush, the discipline and the challenge of a competition push Patrick further into his career. Patrick continued his competition journey, where in 2004 he was crowned the Champion of the La Classic Grand Prix – Best Chef in Malaysia.

Patrick's career continued with a short stint in France. He staged at the *Les Jardins des Sens*, a Three-Michelin Starred restaurant owned and run by the Pourcel brothers in Montpellier.

"The attitude and respect of the French chefs towards their crafts was eye opening. It gave me an understanding of what it means to be a three-star Michelin restaurant."

Three Michelin stars was awarded to a restaurant "worth a journey." It does not only focus on the cuisine, but also on the service - down to the linens, crockeries and silver ware. The food ingredients used showcased the *terroir* of the land. Every single food ingredient has its own story, how it was grown, how it was harvested and how it was transformed to a dish on the plate by the chefs.

In France, Patrick trained under Chef Jean-François Arnaud, MOF 2000, one of the best craftsmen in France in the art of pastry. Under the tutelage of Jean-François, Patrick was introduced to the art of sugar, which began a new chapter of his career.



SUIWAY
UNIVERSITY
PATRICK



Patrick was crowned again as Champion in the 2006 edition of La Classic Grand Prix, and he was then selected to represent Malaysia as part of National Culinary Team. Patrick shifted his focus to the art of pastry. His hard work paid off when he was selected as the Team Captain for the Malaysia Pastry Team to the Asian Pastry Cup in 2010, where Team Malaysia won 2nd Runner-Up and Best Plated Dessert. In 2011, he led the team to the crème de la crème of the world pastry competition – the prestigious World Pastry Cup in Lyon, France. Patrick's career was in highlight again when he was crowned the Most Outstanding Pastry Chef at the Penang Battle of the Chefs 2013.

ACADEMIA LIFE

Patrick continued his education and joined academia in 2003 as a chef-lecturer in a local private institution, completing his Bachelor's Degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management. From the hustle and bustle of managing a restaurant to the patience and dedication required to command a classroom, it was initially a difficult process for Patrick to adjust, having to balance his studies and career. Patrick joined Sunway University in 2009. The culinary components of the diploma and degree programmes were redeveloped and new programmes were offered through the Diploma in Culinary Arts and Bachelors of Science (Hons) in Culinary Management.

"In the restaurant business, profit drives everything. You

tend to leave out staff development. However, in the education industry, it is about guiding and creating the next generation of chefs. My focus is now on students' development and pedagogy to ensure they are ready for the food and service industry."

"In academia, cooking or pastry making are not the only focus of culinary arts. Other aspects include theoretical knowledge which we apply to the Outcome-Based Education."

MANAGING STUDENTS' EXPECTATION

At education fairs, Patrick would always advise prospective students that "being a chef is a career, and not a hobby."

"It is a lifelong commitment and the most important aspect of the career is passion."

*Chef Patrick Siau,
Centre for Tourism, Hospitality and Culinary
Management*



Panel Discussion - Seated from left to right, Sivaranjani, Vaneezha, Dobby Chew, Adrian Pereira and Surendra Ananth.

MIGRANT WORKERS' RIGHTS IN MALAYSIA

by **Cirami Mastura Drahaman**

photography by **Vijayganesh Pullikutthyayanar**

Malaysia has a long way to go in recognising even some of the basic needs of her migrant workers, that is the unanimous conclusion of a panel discussion on migrant workers' rights that took place at Sunway University.

The panel consisted of Surendra Ananth of the Malaysian Bar Council, Sivaranjani of the Oppressed Peoples Network, or JERIT, Adrian Pereira of the North South Initiative and Vaneezha of the Women's Aid Organisation, or WAO.

Speakers lamented the fact that basic rights such as minimum working hours, minimum pay and the provision of a safe working environment are lacking, even though these rights are guaranteed under existing laws, and Malaysia has ratified a number of International Labour Organisation treaties.

Moreover, the speakers agreed that because these laws are not consistently enforced by the authorities, it does not empower migrant workers to lodge complaints, leaving them vulnerable to their employers' abuse.

Moderated by Dobby Chew, the Documentation and Monitoring Co-ordinator at Suara Rakyat Malaysia (SUARAM), and a Sunway University alumnus, the forum on "Workers and Human Rights: An Unexpected Surprise" was organised by the Centre for Commercial Law and Justice in collaboration with SUARAM, Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM), The Malaysian Bar Council, and Lawyers for Liberty.



What is DV?

...use of power that usually happens when one of the couple / person (commonly man) tries to control his partner

...when conflicts or arguments happens

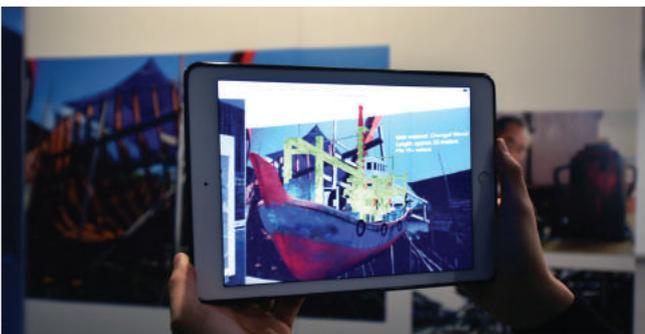
...led by actions that threaten safety and disturbs the couple / person's wellbeing

...violence can ruin family life and relationships

Vaneezha talking about domestic violence



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VIRTUAL SYSTEMS AND MULTIMEDIA IN MALAYSIA



Audience can view a 3D model of the traditional boat on their tablet by displaying it in front of the photography on the wall



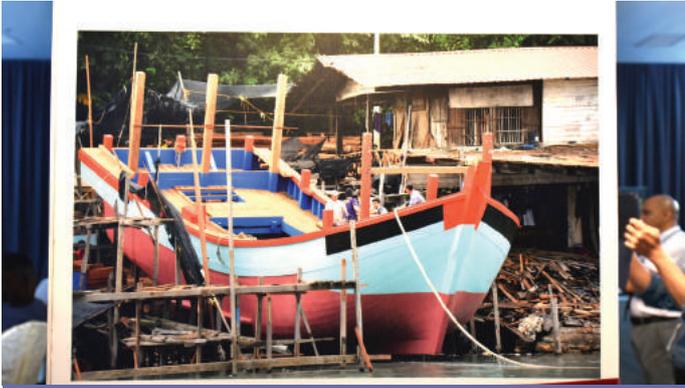
Professor Graeme Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor of Sunway University uses a tablet to explore the Hainan Boatbuilder of Pangkor Island exhibition during the launch ceremony

Sunway University Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Science and Technology, jointly organised the 22nd International Conference on Virtual Systems and Multimedia (VSMM) 2016 held for the first time in Kuala Lumpur from October 17-21, 2016.

Themed “Transdisciplinary, Transmedia, Transformation,” the conference had a strong focus on research-creation applications for virtual systems, multimedia, digital arts and technology, digital cultural heritage and on the preservation, knowledge mobilization and the practical exhibition of such endeavours.

Prior to, and throughout the five-day conference two exhibitions showcased the use of cutting-edge digital technology to preserve cultural heritage. The first was “The Hainan Boatbuilder of Pangkor Island”, and the second “Pure Land Augmented Reality edition of Cave 220 of the Mogao Grottoes at Dunhuang in China.”

The exhibition on traditional boatbuilding was the culmination of a six-month project by the Centre for Research Creation in Digital Media (CRCDM). It was designed by four Sunway University staff; Professor Harold Thwaites, Conference Chair, Dean of Faculty of Arts and Head of CRCDM, Delas Santano, Human Esmaeili, and See Zi Siang, the key researchers from the Centre.



Each image on the wall contained different information



A 3D printer was brought in during "The Hainan Boatbuilder of Pangkor Island" exhibition



Professor Harold Thwaites with students from Lancaster University exploring the "cave"



Visiting the exhibition (from left) Professor Pua Eng Chong, Deputy Vice-Chancellor; Dr Elizabeth Lee; Professor Peter Heard, Provost and Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology; and Professor Thwaites, Dean of the Faculty of Arts

It digitally captured the livelihood and craft of Goh Book Keong, the Hainan boat builder of Pangkor Island, using photogrammetry, HD video, 360-degree technology and augmented reality to create a rich narrative archive and immersive visitor experience.

Goh, who has been in the boatbuilding industry for 40 years, narrates the process of his craft in a twelve-minute multi-image experience. Mr Goh is the only Hainan master boatbuilder, among the five remaining traditional boatbuilders on the island.

In the other exhibition, a virtual cave lies within a room of 5.5 metres in length, 5.8 metres wide and 3.5 metres tall. The Pure Land Augmented Reality edition of Cave 220 of the Mogao Grottoes at Dunhuang in China was developed by Professor Sarah Kenderdine of University of New South Wales and Professor Jeffrey Shaw from City University in Hong Kong in collaboration with Dunhuang Academy in China.

For the first time in Malaysia this installation gave visitors the chance to virtually experience one cave among the "Caves of The Thousand Buddhas" through the use of an iPad Augmented Reality immersive viewing application.

A UNESCO World Heritage site, the Mogao Grottoes lie at the crossroads of two major trade routes along the ancient Silk Road. Out of a total of about 750 caves, 492 have 45,000 square

metres of mural paintings on them. Additionally, 2,000 painted sculptures were hewn into the rock face by Buddhist monks as shrines, repositories and places of reflection.

Historically, the actual Cave 220 served as a private temple for a local family called Zhai who built the cave in 642 AD and maintained it for over 280 years until 925 AD. It is now permanently closed to the public in order to preserve the paintings within.

During the conference researchers from all over the world presented their latest work, including the six keynote talks by Professor Sarah Kenderdine, Director of EPIC and iGLAM, University of New South Wales; Professor Vincent Gaffney, Anniversary Chair in Landscape Archaeology, University of Bradford; Professor Mark Billinghurst, Human Computer Interaction, University of South Australia; Dr Michael Smith, Visual Computing Architect and Director, Intel Corporation; Professor Lizbeth Goodman, Chair of Creative Technology Innovation, University College Dublin; and Canadian Nancie J. Wight, WILD! Photographer.

Some of the topics they delivered were, Data Sculpting and Deep Mapping: New Paradigms in Omnidirectional Virtual Reality, Using Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality to Create Empathetic Experiences and Sensors Everywhere, The Internet of Things in New Media, among others. **B**



LANCASTER STUDENTS VISIT MALAYSIA

by **Sue-Ann Chia Yui Quan**
 photography by **Student Services Department**

For the sixth year running, students from Lancaster University participated in the Sunway Cultural Exchange programme and spent three weeks experiencing first hand the best of what Malaysia is about.

They visited social enterprises - MySkills Foundation, Dignity for Children Foundation, Pit Stop Community Café, Reading Bus and Dialogue in the Dark - to volunteer and speak to the founders.

At the Pit Stop Community Café, participants volunteered one evening to prepare and serve food to the homeless, distributing new clothes and sandals in the process too.

With Reading Bus, they conducted an English Camp for primary school children in the town of Ijok. They learned about village life and, along with students from Sunway University, spent their time painting batik, making kites, watching fireflies and catching fish with their bare hands with their respective foster families, building life-long friendships in the process.

This year, Sunway University also welcomed several members of the Lancaster University badminton team. They participated in the cultural exchange programme and played friendly matches with the Sunway badminton team. Lancaster's team captain Adam Stewart marvelled at the number of badminton halls available in the vicinity.

All in all, Lancaster University's participants delighted in the diversity of Sunway, the hospitality of Malaysians, and the amazing variety of food available.



Batu Caves – Participants visiting Batu Caves as part of the “Religions in Malaysia” Day



Ijok – Participants with the children of Ijok during the English Camp



Pit Stop – Participants at Pit Stop Community Café, serving food to street friends



Sunway Education Group's Senior Executive Director Dr Elizabeth Lee, Sunway Group's Chief Executive Officer for Education and Healthcare Division Dr Lee Weng Keng, Hitachi Asia (M) Sdn Bhd Managing Director Shinichi Sakai and Hitachi Asia General Manager Chew Huat Seng

SUNWAY UNIVERSITY INKS TWO MoUs

Sunway University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hitachi to promote sustainable development and another with Macquarie University to give students an additional pathway to transfer to an established Australian institution.

Under the MoU with Hitachi Asia (M) Sdn Bhd, Sunway University will save energy consumption by 845 Megawatt Hour (mWh), using clean energy through a chilled water pipe system which will connect both the university's and Sunway College's building.

The project, which started on November 11 and is due to be completed within 5 months, will shut down the inefficient

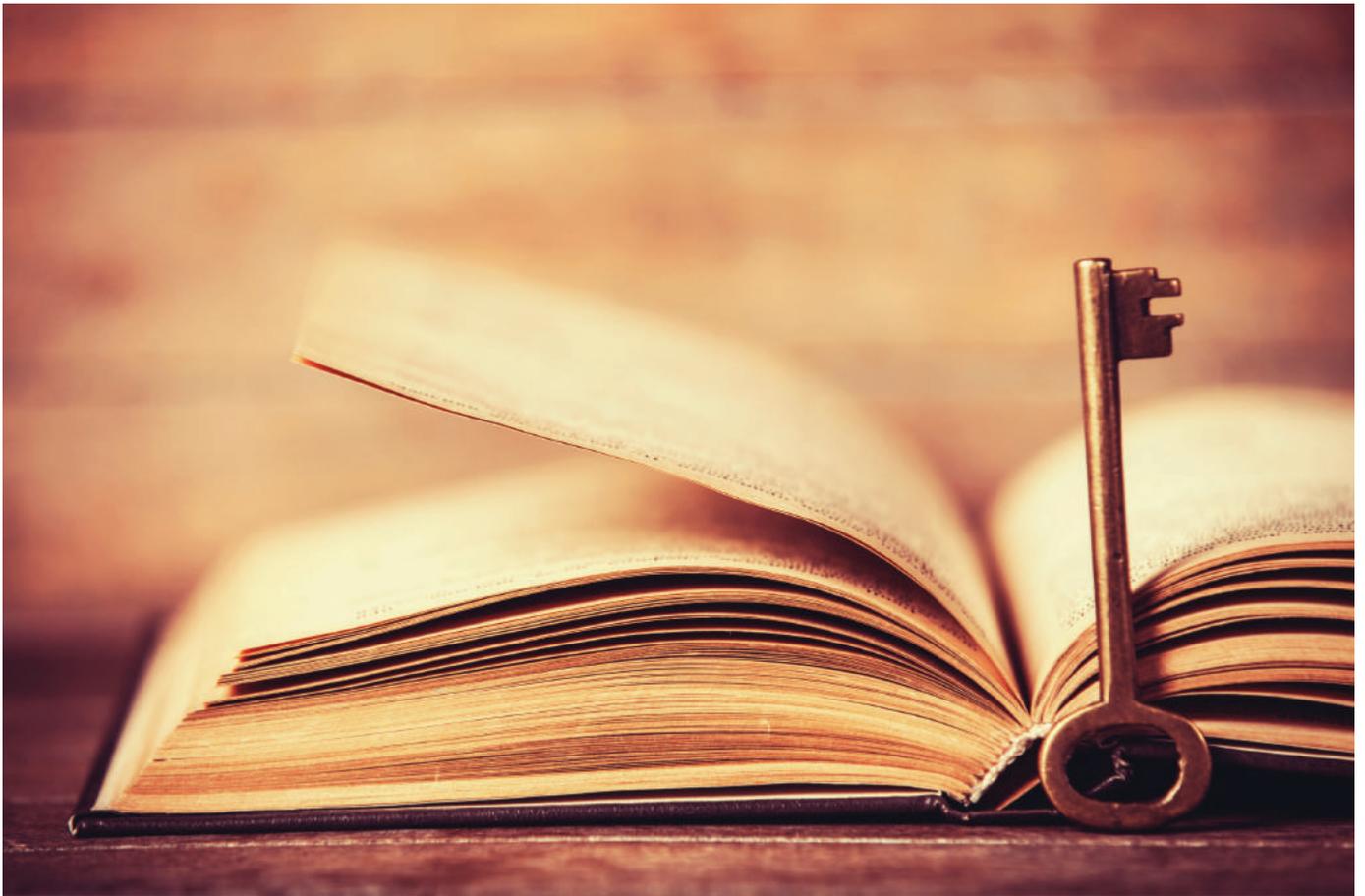
college chiller system and lower the electricity bill, which is charged based on Kilowatt Hour (kWh) usage.

Earlier in September, Sunway University also inked an MoU with Macquarie University, Australia. The agreement paves the way for students who have completed their first year of BSc (Hons) Actuarial Studies at Sunway University for entry into the second year of the Bachelor of Actuarial Studies at Macquarie University.

Under this agreement, both institutions will be working together in areas of staff exchange, joint research activities, joint conferences, exchange of academic materials and information as well as student mobility. **B**



Sunway University's International Office Manager Aileen Lam, Macquarie University's South East Asia Regional Director Ian Sebastian and Department of Applied Finance and Actuarial Studies Acting Head Professor David Pitt, Sunway University's Vice-Chancellor Professor Graeme Wilkinson, Centre for Actuarial Studies, Applied Finance and Statistics Head Professor Ho Chee Kit and University Placement Senior Executive Jo Anne Chu



RM56 MILLION BOOST FROM JEFFREY CHEAH FOUNDATION TO IMPACT LIVES

"The scholarships you have earned are the keys that open the doors to this world of exciting possibilities."

*Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah, AO,
Founding Trustee
Jeffrey Cheah Foundation*

Around 4,000 deserving youths benefited from a total of RM56 million worth of scholarships, the highest annual disbursement in the history of the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation (JCF) to date, at the recent JCF Scholarship and Awards ceremony held at Jeffrey Cheah Hall, Sunway University.

The JCF Scholarships and Awards Ceremony is a platform to recognise the accomplishment of those who excel in academics, sports, music and extra-curricular activities.

Among the awards and scholarships given by the JCF were need-based scholarships, merit-based scholarships, and scholarships awarded for talents in the arts and sports. The Jeffrey Cheah Travel Grants for Southeast Asia Studies at Harvard University were also awarded at this ceremony.

Chief Secretary to the Government of Malaysia Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa, who witnessed the ceremony, said in his speech that scholarships and bursaries offered by private sectors such as the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation complement initiatives by the Government to ensure talented students who excel in their studies have the best opportunities to further their education and contribute to future talent pool.



Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin ibni Tuanku Muhriz, Board of Trustees, Jeffrey Cheah Foundation and Lee Siok Ping, Director of Student Services Department, Sunway Education Group with recipients of the Sunway ECA Achievers and Sports Awards



Chief Secretary to the Government of Malaysia, Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa and Founding Trustee of the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation, Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah AO with recipients of the Chancellors Scholarship.

Since 1997, the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation has awarded approximately RM270 million worth of scholarships to 28,000 deserving young Malaysians.

In his address to scholarship recipients, Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah, AO, Founding Trustee of the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation, said that “the pursuit of excellence brings in its wake its own rewards. The scholarships you have earned are the keys that open the doors to this world of exciting possibilities.”

He encouraged other leaders to take the opportunity to create similar models to benefit deserving and bright students, while imploring the recipients to maximise this opportunity given to them to impact society for the better.

Education being dear to his heart, Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah has pledged to disburse RM1 billion in scholarships during his lifetime, adding that he would also like to dedicate more time in the areas of philanthropy and sustainability.

Scholarships that were awarded included the Jeffrey Cheah Entrance Scholarship, The Chancellor’s Scholarship of Sunway University and Lancaster University, Sunway Excellence Scholarship, Sunway University Postgraduate by Research Scholarship, The Jeffrey Cheah Travel Grants for Southeast Asia Studies at Harvard University, Sunway Sports Scholarship, Sunway Music Talent Scholarship, Jeffrey Cheah Scholastic

Award, Sunway ECA Achievers & Sports Award and Yayasan Peneraju Pendidikan Bumiputera.

Other need-based scholarships included the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation Community Scholarship, Jeffrey Cheah Foundation Scholarship, Nanyang Tertiary Education Fund, Sin Chew Daily Education Fund, SUN-MAPCU Scholarship Scheme, Sunway-Berita Harian Scholarship and The Star Education Fund.

For more information about the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation and learn about its work for quality education, visit www.jeffreycheah.foundation. **B**



Puan Sri Dr Susan Cheah, Exco Member of Sunway Group and Lee Siok Ping with recipients of Sunway University-Berita Harian Scholarship



Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa, Tan Sri Mohamad Zabidi Zainal, Dato’ P. Kamalanathan and the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation Trustees Tan Sri Dr Lin See-Yan, Tan Sri Razman Hashim, Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah AO, Tan Sri Rainer Althoff, Tunku Zain Al-’ Abidin and Tan Sri Dr R.V. Navaratnam with recipients of the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation Community Scholarship.

TOUCH IT, FEEL IT IN THE VIRTUAL WORLD

"It is crucial that we find ways to help this underprivileged group to enhance their virtual experience."

*Associate Professor Dr Yap Kian Meng,
Department of Computing and Information Systems,
Sunway University*



A new finding is on the way to assist the visually impaired to enjoy virtual experience

Associate Professor Dr Yap Kian Meng from the Department of Computing and Information Systems received a research grant from the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission's (MCMC) Networked Media Research Collaboration Programme 2016.

The grant is worth RM163,516 which was received by Dr Yap together with the Centre for American Education lecturer Alyssa Ding Yen Lyn and Research Assistant Soh Mei Ling for their research titled "Touch it and Feel it? Modelling of 3D Haptic-Audio Virtual Objects to Counter Internet Browsing Limitations for Visually Impaired People".

"It is a known fact that visually-impaired people have great difficulties when accessing the internet. However, very little has been done to address the issue especially in the area of haptic research using haptic-audio feedback interaction in a virtual environment," said Dr Yap.

Haptic helps to recreate the sense of touch by applying forces, vibrations or motions to the user. Dr Yap is hopeful that the findings will trigger future research on ways visually impaired individuals can access online information, ways to interact with others and alternative social supports.

Asked on what inspired him to focus on this area of research, he said: "For one of our master projects, we worked with the visually impaired from a school for the blind in Klang. The people we worked with showed keen interest when we presented some of the applications. Their interest made our team to venture into the research further."

Some of the projects Dr Yap is currently working on include a GBP15,000 Sunway University-Lancaster University Small Grant Scheme titled "Dynabraille" and Sunway University sponsored research project titled "Receipt Scanning System" among others. **B**



Dr Elizabeth Lee, Senior Executive Director of Sunway Education Group launching the e-Waste Disposal Campaign

E-WASTE CAMPAIGN

The volume of e-Waste produced globally is expected to rise to 50 million metric tonnes by 2018. In view of this, the Sunway Education Group (SEG) officially launched its annual initiative, the e-Waste Disposal Campaign in October.

Improper disposal of e-waste leads to possible health hazards as e-waste contains hazardous chemical components such as lead and mercury. This will eventually contaminate groundwater and create dangerous consequences to the environment and people.

“This campaign is not just about recycling, but also about adopting a green way of thinking. The Sunway Education Group has embedded the concept into its purchasing decision by evaluating its power consumption, stand-by power, materials of the equipment used, energy style compliance of equipment and ways it can be discarded,” said Tony Lee, Director of IT Services, SEG during the opening speech.

He added that this decision has reduced power consumption by a factor of three.

E-Waste collection bins have been placed throughout the campus. Staff and students can discard their unwanted electronic gadgets such as mobile phones, battery chargers and other electronic components in the bins.



Students helping out to load the truck

“Since we started in 2012, we have collected a total of 19,000 kilogrammes of e-Waste and about 150 kilogrammes of light tubes,” said Tony.

The collected e-Waste will be properly disposed of by a Department of Environment (DOE) certified vendor, Meriahtek, which advocates and supports a cleaner and greener environment. **B**



NEUROSCIENCE BREAKTHROUGH

Armed with a Fundamental Research Grant that she recently obtained, Dr Yong Min Hooi of Sunway University is ready to make a breakthrough in the field of developmental neuroscience research.

“Most people have a general idea when we use the word ‘empathy’. We observe kindness and selfless acts towards other people, animals, and social causes. This selfless or kind act is perceived as a behavioural empathic response. An example of an empathic response in the body is that some of us feel stressed when seeing another person crying. While the actions are physically happening in real time, we are unclear on what is happening in our bodily systems and specifically, in the brain,” said Dr Yong.

Dr Yong hopes that this project will provide insight on our social functioning skills from a developmental neuroscience perspective; when infants first develop the skill, and later in life when older adults start losing the ability.

When asked how project will impact the community or society in general, she said: “The outcomes from this study have an implication on how we view the overall health and wellbeing across the human lifespan. Particularly, this project’s contribution may reflect in our understanding of a typical children with social functioning deficits such as Autism, and Attention Deficit

Hyperactivity Disorder”.

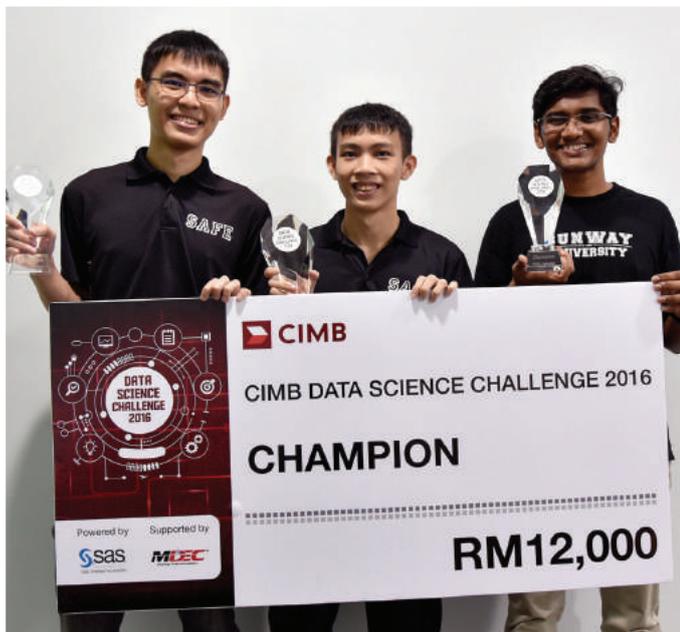
She also hopes that the findings will translate into new methods for the detection of social functioning deficits much earlier than those in current use. This will allow children and practitioners to start therapy much sooner with an increased probability of alleviating some of the symptoms.

Dr Yong is currently working together with Professor Ted Ruffman of University of Otago and Associate Professor Dr Alexandre Schaefer from Monash University Malaysia, who jointly developed the framework for the research. Other collaborators on the grant are Associate Professor Dr Rozainee Khairuddin from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Professor Nigel Marsh and Chee Kwan Foong from Sunway University.

“Their expertise on the subject matter, from participants to techniques, is helpful and having them on board not only benefits the study, but also the entire Sunway community. Both staff and students would be able to learn new research skills and techniques,” she said.

Dr Yong is currently teaching subjects such as Biological Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, and Sensation and Perception. She is also supervising projects of two MSc in Psychology students, and eight undergraduates, all in the field of empathy and emotions. **B**

DATA SCIENCE CHAMPS



From left: Shaun Loong Mun Fai, Cheah Jun Yitt and Ashten Avinash Anthony

24 HOUR CHALLENGE

8AM - The team arrived at the venue in Cyberjaya.

10AM - All teams were briefed and given a pen-drive containing a standard data set of 10000 customers. Basically, the objective of the competition was to build a model to predict what product a customer with various variables will purchase next. The model was to be able to predict if the customer was most likely to get a credit card, personal loan or fixed deposit.

4PM - We cleaned the data and it was ready for modelling.

6PM - We were stuck on the modelling part, the results were not as expected. We argued a lot on finding a solution and decided to seek help and sacrifice one of our Golden Tickets. After the mentor answered our questions, we attempted the modelling from scratch and got better results, realising that we missed out on certain important steps.

12AM - After numerous attempts, trial and error, fixing and correcting, we got our final output answer and started to document our process flow, the SAS code and scripts by commenting on what we have done.

3AM - We completed the documentation, so the remaining time was spent preparing for the presentation.

Team DatActuary of Sunway University emerged as champions at the CIMB Data Science Challenge 2016 organised by the CIMB Group. The team comprised of Cheah Jun Yitt, Shaun Loong Mun Fai and Ashten Avinash Anthony are all currently pursuing the BSc (Hons) Actuarial Studies at Sunway University. For 2 days, the team competed against 51 other teams and in 24 hours only slept for an hour.

TEAM FORMATION

Cheah, the team leader found out about the competition through the Sunway Analytics Society (Sunway SAS). He was attracted to the opportunity to learn the Statistical Analysis System (SAS) for free which is worth RM8,800. He then invited Loong who invited Ashten which completed the Team DatActuary. The team had only a month to prepare for the competition.

"In the final week, we realised we couldn't finish the materials in time so we split up and learned separate materials so that at least one of us knew a particular part of the e-learning. We also tried to familiarise ourselves with the SAS programme prior to the competition", explained Shaun.

LEARNING

The team learned a lot during the challenge. Ashten found it fun working in a team.

"We helped each other out many times, delegating work efficiently which made things easier. The most difficult part was trying not to quit especially after working around the clock. We really had to push ourselves to keep going, to try every possibility."

For Cheah, "There were ups and downs. Throughout we argued when we were stuck; cheered in joy when we completed the task. Undeniably, working as a team is essential for great progress, I learnt a lot to accept others' opinions, and to suggest positively and provide feedback during discussion among the team members."

Shaun found it quite an enjoyable experience. "I've never competed in a contest that runs for 24 hours non-stop. The rigorous project made me feel that what we were doing is advanced stuff and adds value to the banking industry. Despite being deprived of sleep, my two good friends kept me company throughout the night, which kept me going."

Cheah found the statistics-related subjects like Introduction to Probability and Introduction to Statistics that he took in the BSc (Hons) Actuarial Studies programme is by far most relevant knowledge that is essential in the competition. **B**



A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE

It was a walk down memory lane for 42 alumni of Sunway University's Faculty of Science and Technology as they reunited with staff and final year students in a fun-filled gathering. The evening was full of laughter and nostalgic moments where most of the alumni were seen rekindling old friendships, exchanging life's experiences and sharing past memories.

"We are incredibly proud of you. Today's alumni dinner is one of the most powerful ways to build your network and your career. In time, you will become the person who will be helping your fellow successors to get jobs and scholarships," said Department of Psychology Head Professor Hew Gill.

He also reaffirmed the university's motto, *Fortuna Eruditus Favet*, which translates to fortune favours the prepared mind.

"In line with the motto, I hope Sunway University has prepared you well. Each of you are like stars that shine brightly and you must shine in whatever you are doing," said Professor Gill.

Alumnus, Alfred Lim Chee Keong who is currently doing a doctorate degree in Psychology at the University of Nottingham, Malaysia enjoyed meeting and striking up interesting conversations with his old friends and fellow batch mates.

"The most fun part is actually meeting up with my lecturers. It has been very nostalgic. If time allows, I would like to collaborate with my ex-lecturers on research projects," he added.

Another alumna, Sarah Ruth Low, who is currently a nurse at Sunway Medical Centre shared that the nursing programme provided at Sunway University has shaped her well for the industry.

"This is a good platform to make new friends and build rapport. At the same time, we could also exchange ideas," said Sarah.

Calvin Goh Bok Sun was proud of his fellow classmates' achievements as a whole.

"I believe the programme equipped us well with the skills and abilities to perform in our careers. I also believe that I can collaborate with my fellow seniors, especially in the field of neuroscience research and information technology graduates for the design of new technology in research," added Calvin.

Calvin who completed the BSc (Hons) Biology with Psychology is looking forward to continue his Masters in the field of Antimicrobial Research in the quest of finding new antibiotics for the medical industry.

Thaneshvaran Dharmananda, who completed the Bsc (Hons) Psychology said the reunion dinner served as a platform where the alumni can look for different avenues to explore.

Working as a Management Executive at Sunway Lagoon, he said, "I call myself Sunway University's advocate because I completed my AUSMAT at Sunway College before continuing my degree in Psychology and I am currently working for a company under the Sunway Group. Sunway University as a whole is a good place to be where one could learn. The university has the right mix of people as well," he added.

Sunway University's Faculty of Science and Technology values its alumni and plans to have this reunion as an annual affair. **B**



SmileAsean.com - one of the SMEs participated in the Internship Fair 2016



Internship Fair 2016 at Sunway University

INTERNSHIP FAIR 2016

The fair was a platform for over 60 big, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to recruit industry-ready Sunway University students as interns



Teh Delima Alangsyah

Around 400 students from various programmes visited the fair to scout for internship opportunities. Teh Delima Alangsyah, an Accounting and Finance student found the internship fair fruitful because she attended five interviews during the event.

“The internship fair is particularly useful for those who have not gotten a placement for their internship. I managed to secure interviews with companies such as Maybank and Hong Leong Bank,” said Teh.

Another student Christopher Wong Zhi Yi lauded Sunway University’s effort in helping students find internship opportunities.

“From this fair, I got to know that Malaysia houses not only big companies but also reputable small and medium-sized enterprises. Even though I was a bit anxious in the beginning, I slowly picked up the pace and it was fine after that,” Christopher said.

The Accounting and Finance student said he had interview opportunities with KPMG, Maybank and Public Bank.

SmileAsean.com, one of the SMEs stationed at the fair said that Sunway University students are industry-ready.

“So far, we have interviewed six students for internship. Out of the six students, five turned out to be employable,” said Stephen Ho, Business Development Manager of SmileAsean.com. **B**



Christopher Wong Zhi Yi



FENNIE LEE

THE WAY FORWARD

The 22 year old graduated with BSc (Hons) in Computer Science at Sunway University last year. The valedictorian received a Scholastic Award for the programme of her degree at Sunway University.

FIRST STEP INTO ICT

Her fascination with Information and Communication Technology (ICT) was sowed during her secondary school days at Penang Chinese Girls' High School. That was when she realised that "In the future, everybody needs IT". Fennie saw past the stereotype of it being a male dominated world because of her teacher who was a woman, was capable of creating her own library and co-curriculum system for the entire school. Fennie was further encouraged because of her results for SPM and she took the plunge into the world of ICT.

PROBLEM SOLVING

During her time in the BSc (Hons) in Computer Science, what she found most interesting was problem solving.

"A simple or complex problem requires a combination of analytical, logical and critical thinking, and the organisation of different parts of a programme to communicate to each other. It is just like an organisation with employers and employees, where each is assigned to work on what they are best in and when needed the job delegation to the right candidate. But without communication, there is no transparency and without transparency the organisation cannot function. Thus, developing a solution is like

building an organisation, certain processes needs to be procedural, while others requires synchronisation, and all requires communication”, Fennie explained.

At Sunway, Fennie had the opportunity to collaborate with three other lecturers from the Faculty of Science and Technology. Their invention entitled ‘A Better Way to GOTO’ earned them a silver award in the I.C.T and Multimedia category in the International Invention, Innovation and Technology Exhibition (ITEX) 2015.

“The journey was a valuable experience. And that time I haven’t even taken the examination for the iOS certification yet. I felt it was an achievement. I believe an exam is about a one time performance, which is vague to conclude that a person is not good if the result is not great. In the end, given time to polish, everyone can shine in their own way”, she explained.

BEYOND ACADEMICS

Fennie was active in extra-curricular activities where she was a member of the Sunway University Toastmasters’ Club and Sunway Student Volunteers, Assistant Creativity Manager of the Statistical Analytics Systems (SAS) Club and Senior Peer Leader in the Peer Assisted Learning Program (PALP). She believed that her out-of-classroom activities helped improve her leadership, problem solving and communication skills which enabled her to be more effective and productive when communicating and working with people from diverse backgrounds.

“Sunway University is the place where I grew the most. Throughout the entire journey, from the classroom experience inside and out. All the skills I learned - both technical and interpersonal, a combination of my personality and interest towards design, is a balanced blend that has allowed me to pursue my career as a UI/ UX designer in a global company, to take up global user experience and design projects, collaborating in a global scale.”

Fennie is currently working as a UI/IX Designer at Hilti Asia IT Services (HAITS), global IT support for Hilti. Her responsibilities include performing user behavioural and usability studies, providing conceptual ideas on various User Experience topics, designing User Interface and logos, as well as front-end web development.

MESSAGE FOR THE FUTURE GENERATION

“If you are constantly thinking of the buzzwords of ‘creation’, ‘innovation’ and ‘evolution’, and wanting to get involved in that world – Computer Science is the pathway to go.”

During the programme, students will be exposed to various programming languages and typically on object-oriented design. Fennie further explained that students also get to experience different focus subjects such as Artificial Intelligence and Computational Intelligence, Digital Image Processing and Computer Vision, Software Engineering and Software Architecture, Human Computer Interaction and all other required fundamentals such as Computer Organisation, Database and Computer Networks.

The BSc (Hons) in Computer Science at Sunway University equips students with sufficient knowledge and hands-on skills that will allow them to venture further, including analytical, problem solving, algorithmic, modelling, solution design and development skills. With such a wide range of skill sets they will be open to more pathways for the future.

Of course in exploring more possibilities, the Faculty of Science and Technology will support and encourage students to participate in various competitions, hackathons, conferences, talks, events, and even some given an opportunity to be a research assistant.

“One has to keep abreast with in the latest tech news, expand their network, meet more talents and learn new skills outside the classroom. At the end of the day, what differentiates one from others is the determination to constantly learn and you have to be passionate,” explained Fennie quoting Ralph Waldo Emerson ‘Nothing great is ever achieved without enthusiasm’. **B**



SUMITRA VISVANATHAN

A Twinning Success Story



"THINK FREELY AND INDEPENDENTLY. DON'T FORCE YOURSELF TO CONFORM TO EXPECTATIONS OF YOU THAT YOU MAY NOT WISH FOR YOURSELF."



SHARE YOUR SUNWAY JOURNEY WITH US

I joined Sunway College in October 1987 as part of the first twinning degree programme in Malaysia. At Sunway, I did the first year of the Bachelor of Laws (LLB) until June 1988, and went on to complete the second and third year in Leicester University. I graduated (Second Upper) in July 1990 and went to serve for a year in Leicester University Student Union as Vice President, a student activist position to which I was elected by the Leicester University student body.

WHAT DO YOU DO NOW?

I am the Executive Director of Women's Aid Organisation, which is a non-profit organisation dedicated to working for positive social change in gender equality and the elimination of violence against women and girls.

RECALL A MOMENT WHEN YOU WERE STUDYING AT SUNWAY

A significant moment was the publication of a law journal that we started as first year students. I believe it was called the Sunway-Leicester Law Review. It was a product of student collaboration and creativity and certainly the first opportunity for us to demonstrate publicly, our legal prowess and mettle. It was a wonderful high for us. I was also the very proud recipient of the Sunway-Leicester Scholarship, which recognised academic achievement and contributions towards extra-curricular student activities.

HOW WAS LEICESTER UNIVERSITY THEN?

It was a wonderful experience. We went in as second year students but there was certainly a great deal of anticipation and warmth on the part of the faculty to receive us. It was an eye-opener experience. We were encouraged for the first time for many of us to speak up, to be independent thinkers and to not be afraid of differences of opinion or approaches. I am still in touch with my coursemates today!

HOW DID YOU SELECT YOUR CURRENT PATH IN LIFE, WITH A LAW BACKGROUND?

Law is my chosen field not because I wanted to practise as an Advocate and Solicitor. But it had always been my intention to use the law to advocate for greater and better protection for marginalised communities. The great advantage of a law degree is that it refines the thinking process, refines the ability to articulate ideas and thoughts and gives the student great facility for fine and structured analysis.

KNOWING WHAT YOU KNOW NOW, WHAT WOULD YOU TELL YOURSELF BEFORE YOUR SUNWAY JOURNEY?

In hindsight, I am glad that I didn't just focus on academic pursuits but was actively involved in student activities. I thoroughly maximised the opportunities to engage in student activism, eventually being elected to the Leicester University Student Union and also as a representative for the National Union of Overseas Students in the UK. It was a great experience

**“ALWAYS BRING CREATIVITY IN WORD,
DEED AND THOUGHT INTO YOUR LIFE.
UNLESS YOU DO, YOU WILL FIND IT
HARD TO LIVE A RICH AND MEANINGFUL
LIFE.”**

being exposed to activism from that time. I did not only learn the value of community engagement, of advocating for what you believe in and of being principled and ethical. I also acquired skills like public speaking, running campaigns, administering projects, and many more.

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

It was the first day of being in a well resourced and well-appointed physical environment. Back then, Sunway College was in Jalan Selangor in PJ. However, there was so much effort put into creating the campus environment, including lecture facilities, the wonderful library and the rich student life. That set the tone for the rest of my degree education.

IN WHAT WAY HAS YOUR JOURNEY AT SUNWAY IMPACTED YOUR LIFE AND FUTURE?

By having that exposure to extra-curricular activities, my worldview developed into directions that were so meaningful to me as a person and in my work. It was during my degree that I refined further and deepened my knowledge in refugee law, that then facilitated my eventual 16-year career around the globe with the UN's Refugee Agency.

WOULD IT HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT IF YOU WERE NOT OFFERED THE SCHOLARSHIP?

If I had not been offered the scholarship, I would likely have not studied law. I think my life direction would have been generally similar, but I would likely have not found the path towards learning refugee law, doing a dissertation in the subject, then subsequently, on the strength of this, to work for UNHCR.

WHAT MESSAGE DO YOU HAVE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF SUNWAYIANS?

Be yourself, pace yourself and always live for the present moment. **B**

**“BE
YOURSELF,
PACE
YOURSELF
AND ALWAYS
LIVE FOR
THE PRESENT
MOMENT.”**



SUNWAY UNIVERSITY



FOR



TEACHING



EMPLOYABILITY



FACILITIES

BE A STAR WITH US



+603 7491 8622



INFO@SUNWAY.EDU.MY



UNIVERSITY.SUNWAY.EDU.MY

SUNWAY UNIVERSITY DU 025(B)
A member of the Sunway Education Group

Scholarships awarded in excess of
RM **270 million**
jeffreycheah.foundation

Jeffrey Cheah Foundation
Nurturing the Seeds of Wisdom