

BLAZE

THE SUNWAY UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



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Correction: The designation of Professor Harold Thwaites and Dr Chan Nee Nee in the Alternative Media Forum article in Issue 41 was in fact meant to be Professor Harold Thwaites, Dean of School of Arts and Dr Chan Nee Nee, Head of DCLA

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Lose the Blues Campaign Committee with Hannah Yeoh, Dr Elizabeth Lee, Professor Harold Thwaites, and Professor Graeme Wilkinson

'LOSE THE BLUES' CAMPAIGN

"One in four people in this world suffer from depression, and that could be the person next to you."

Tan Jia Min,
Director of 'Lose the Blues'

Launched on campus in April, 'Lose the Blues' is a campaign organised by students of the Public Relations and Corporate Communication specialisations of the Department of Communication and Liberal Arts (DCLA), at Sunway University to raise awareness on depression issues amongst college and university students.

"There has been concerns that depression will be the world's number one disability by the year 2020," said Tan Jia Min, director of 'Lose the Blues' campaign.

Speaking at the conclusion of the campaign, Tan, who is in the second year of the BA (Hons) in Communication programme, realised that many of her peers do not exactly know what depression is and those who are really facing depression often do not feel comfortable or safe to speak out.

The campaign ended in June with a closing ceremony attended by Hannah Yeoh, Speaker of the Selangor State Assembly, as well as staff and students from Sunway University. Pottery making, painting sessions and talks by field experts were held throughout the campaign.

Experts who were invited to speak include Dr Chua Sook Ning from Relate Malaysia, Associate Professor Dr Alvin Ng Lai Oon of the Department of Psychology, Sunway University, and Sunway College alumna Mirosha Somasundram.

Also present at the closing ceremony were Dr Elizabeth Lee, Senior Executive Director of Sunway Education Group and Sunway University, Professor Graeme Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, Sunway University, and Professor Harold Thwaites, Dean, School of Arts, Sunway University. **B**



Tan Jia Min (left) with Dr Elizabeth Lee; Dr Chan Nee Nee, Head of the Department of Communication and Liberal Arts; Professor Harold Thwaites and lecturers at the launch of the Lose the Blues Campaign in April

student

LIFE

LEE SIOK PING

EDUCATION OF THE HEART

by *Chua Ern Teck*

Lee Siok Ping, the Director of Student LIFE, will be celebrating her 30th year at Sunway Education Group next February. Having graduated from University Kebangsaan Malaysia with an honour degree in psychology, she taught at a private college briefly before joining Sunway as a student counsellor.

At the time, working in what was then a one-woman department, Lee also had to help out with the marketing of programmes and assist students from out-of-state to find housing. The building that housed Sunway College at PJ New Town was so small that a few nearby shop lots had to be converted in order to accommodate the rising student population.

From the initial cohort of 200 students in 1988, Sunway's student body today has more than 16,000 students. Lee's team too has grown in parallel to a 40-strong team, six of whom are full-time, licensed counsellors.

"This year we expanded to provide more services to our students. For us at Student LIFE, it is more than just providing services to our students, it is a journey we embark with them from the moment they step into the campus", Lee said. "It covers everything from orientation to preparing them for their careers."

Student LIFE offers a range of support services to help students meet challenges they may experience during the course of their academic year. Lee's team supports her in the eight units under Student LIFE:

- Counselling and Wellness
- Student Leadership and Engagement
- Sports
- Career Services
- Scholarships and Financial Aid
- Alumni Relations
- Cultural Exchange
- Student Support



SCHOLARSHIP, CAREER SERVICES, ALUMNI RELATIONS

Lee administers thirty types of scholarships, each with its own eligibility requirements. The majority of them are allocated to students from disadvantaged backgrounds. One of her greatest joys is the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation Community Scholarship. It is a needs-based award created 15 years ago in partnership with Malaysian CARE, a local non-profit serving under-privileged children.

Past scholarship recipients have included students from orphanages and indigenous communities. When they arrive at Sunway, Lee's counselling team works extra hard to help them adapt to life on campus. Counsellors also collaborate closely with the teaching staff to ensure they get all academic support they need. The scholarship covers tuition, accommodation and allowance for living expenses.

Scholars who have gone on to lead successful lives have been giving back to keep the wheels turning by contributing to their alma mater and the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation where the contribution is utilised to purchase additional reference books for the JCF Community scholars.

Other than scholarships, Lee also believes in nurturing her students to contribute to the community through clubs and societies. There are more than 80 clubs and societies on campus.

"The biggest club at the moment is the Sunway Student Volunteers (SSV)," Lee said. "Members of SSV volunteer their time to help others, which include giving tuition to children at orphanages and much more."



Lee with JCF Community Scholars

To make this a sustainable effort in the long term, student volunteers would make commitments ranging between four and six months before the next cohort takes over. From environment and community to wildlife and health, students are committed to different forms of volunteering every week.

"I'm very proud of them," Lee said.

PURPOSE, HOPE, LOVE

Deep inside the Student LIFE Centre on the ground floor of the north building, Lee works in an office that is calm, serene and immaculately organised. A round table, in yellow, sits in the middle of the room for meetings and discussions. Her brightly lit work space is anchored by a wood-colored corner desk by the window.

Behind her desk are floor-to-ceiling cabinets and shelves. Besides textbooks and ring binders, also visible on her shelf space are framed pictures of colleagues, greeting cards from students as well as an array of momentos accumulated throughout her career. On the opposite wall, also in yellow, hangs three paintings with the words "purpose", "hope" and "love".

"I had this privilege of having my dreams aligned with the founder's dream," said Lee, referring to the vision Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah, AO. "For me to stay here this

long, it must be something that is meaningful to me." Operating as a foundation without the pressure to turn a profit, Sunway Education Group is very much in the business of giving back to society.

"Education should not have a profit-making mindset, but thinking of long term and giving back to community," she said.

Her favourite quote is "the heart of education is the education of the heart," a variation on the Aristotelian adage that - in addition to academic excellence - education should produce individuals who are empathetic and compassionate. With Student LIFE, her mission is to prepare, equip, enhance and empower students. She wants to nurture ethical graduates with integrity who are ready for the workforce.

As someone with a front row seat to the university's growth, Lee is not one for sentimentality, preferring to look forward instead of dwelling on the past.

"It's nice when I get to meet up with old friends who have moved on, but lot of my energy now is spent on developing a succession plan so we continue doing good work," said Lee, who considers the fact that Sunway alumni makes up a quarter of her department's staff as among her proudest achievements.



Lee with the staff from Student LIFE



First row, fourth from left: Dr Sim Tze Ying, Head of Centre for American Education, Professor Peter Heard, Provost, Dr Elizabeth Lee, Senior Executive Director of Sunway Education Group and Sunway University, Professor Peh Suat Cheng, Dean of School of Interdisciplinary Studies, with students and their families

SUNWAY ADTP STUDENTS BAG SCHOLARSHIPS FROM US UNIVERSITIES

The Centre for American Education (CAE) of Sunway University hosted the CAE Summer Awards Ceremony to celebrate the achievements of 53 American Degree Transfer Programme (ADTP) students who have completed the first half of their degree at Sunway University.

Amongst the 53 transferring students, some have been awarded scholarships from their respective universities, including Lim Yuzhe, Kim Li Jie, Aston U Jit Sheng, Sylvester Pua and Farhana Sultana. The awards ceremony also acknowledged 83 students on the Dean's List awards.

Lim Yuzhe, who received the Presidential Scholarship from Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, will continue his studies in electrical and electronics engineering.

"While I am there, I hope to join more clubs and societies related to engineering and robotics," said Lim, who was inspired by Marvel's Iron Man. "At the same time, I will learn to be more independent and become a better leader."

Another electrical and electronics engineering student, Kim Li Jie, will continue his degree at Western Michigan University on the WMU Haenicke Scholarship. Valedictorian Edrea Lee Yian Huay shared that ADTP helped her realise that her journey is not only defined by her resume or transcript.

"Things get tough at times, and it is at these moments that we must hang on tight and keep moving forward," said Edrea who will be transferring to the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where she will be majoring in economics.

Students transferring to their universities of choice in Fall 2017 semester have secured places at various universities in the United States, Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom. **B**



Transferring students for the Fall of 2017 with Dr Elizabeth Lee



St Mary's students listening intently to Hilda Chow Karnhua



Gan Zi Ying showing students how to cream the butter and sugar



Jeremy Lam Tuan Chi demonstrating cutting techniques to the students



Goh Qai Ling supervising the students

GIVING BACK WHILE MAKING GOOD FOOD

Through a community service subject offered at Sunway University, undergraduates from the Bachelor of Science (Honours) in International Hospitality Management and Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Culinary Management at the School of Hospitality can now contribute their expertise to students at St Mary's School in Kuala Lumpur.

Every Tuesday, undergraduates meet the students of St Mary's to teach them how to cook and bake a variety of dishes and pastries.

By utilising knowledge acquired at Sunway to propose solutions for the needs of St Mary's students, the School of Hospitality hopes to nurture the seeds of lifelong learning and instill a sense of civic consciousness among its undergraduates.

Hilda Chow Karnhua, a final year Culinary Management student, has newfound respect for her lecturers after going through the programme. She enjoyed demonstrating to her students what a career in culinary arts would look like, but said she would like to explain things better while carrying out kitchen tasks.

Lavender Chia Hui Shin and Jeremy Lam Tuan Chi, both students of International Hospitality Management, appreciated learning what they could do to impact society beyond the usual event-organising, fundraising and donation collecting. **B**

"The first-hand experience will help students with their focus and enable them to develop fully while at Sunway University," said Jeremy. "We get to pass on our knowledge directly to younger students, and we get the satisfaction of seeing them actually cook a dish successfully."

Jeremy Lam Tuan Chi,
International Hospitality Management
Sunway University

JOURNAL OF CONTRACT LAW CONFERENCE



The presenters together with the participants at the Conference

by *Cirami Mastura Drahaman*
 photograph by *Vijayganesh Pullikutthyayanar*

The Centre for Commercial Law and Justice hosted the internationally renowned Journal of Contract Law Conference 2017 at Sunway University recently. The conference featured distinguished speakers in the area of contract and commercial law practice, including Justice Andrew Phang of the Supreme Court of Singapore, Emeritus Professor John Carter from the University of Sydney, and former High Court judge Tan Sri Dr Visu Sinnadurai.

The conference highlighted the life and work of Professor John Carter, with a presentation by Justice Phang and Associate Professor Goh Yihan from Singapore Management University.

This was followed by Wayne Courtney, an associate professor at the National University of Singapore, who spoke about indemnities and guarantees under the Malaysian Contracts Act with insights from other commonwealth countries.

Professor Michael Furmston from Sunway University Business School (SUBS) focused on the 2016 English Supreme Court decision in the case of *Patel v Mirza* and the implications in terms of the recognition of illegal contracts in England.

Professor Carter's presentation focused on the drafting of termination clauses in today's commercial environment and their legal significance, drawing on case laws from Australia, England and Malaysia.

Glynn Cooper, a partner at Australia's Herbert Smith Freehills, then spoke about the interpretation of contracts from a finance and accounting perspective.

The conference was received well by the audience, who were lawyers and legal professionals from industry and academia. This conference is the first of many law conferences to be hosted by the Centre of Commercial Law and Justice as a precedent has now been set.



Paul Linus Andrews, Head of the Centre for Commercial Law and Justice presenting a token of appreciation to Justice Phang



SUNWAY RESEARCH FELLOW WINS GRANT FOR CANCER RESEARCH

Dr Ronald Teow Sin Yeang, a research fellow at the Sunway Institute for Healthcare Development (SIHD), recently won a RM30,000 grant from the National Cancer Council (MAKNA) to conduct research on colorectal cancer.

The research aims to develop a biomarker which correlates with one of the genetic mutations, KRAS, to refine the current biomarker development for colorectal cancer.

“Molecular diagnostics to detect certain genetic mutations in patient tumour samples play an important role in determining the treatment outcomes,” said Teow, who joined Sunway almost a year ago. “Unfortunately, it has not been emphasised and fully practised in Malaysia, unlike in other developed countries.”

Colorectal cancer is among the three most common cancers in the world. Mortality rate of colorectal cancer is on the rise in Malaysia. Improving the diagnostic technologies for both early detection and treatment response prediction will reduce the overall mortality rate.

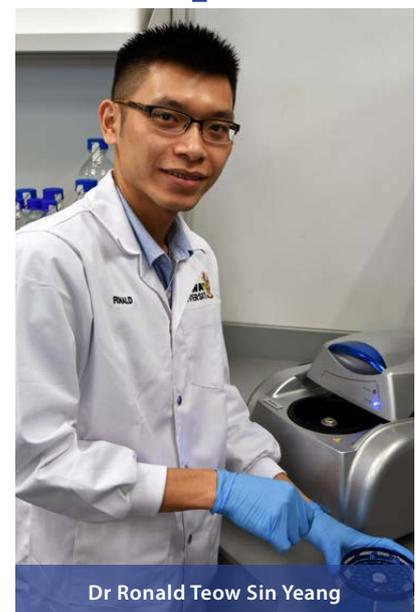
What makes this research unique is that it involves real colorectal cancer tissue samples from Malaysian patients. The award gives Teow two years to complete the project.

“This project will boost the awareness of health screening for early detection of colorectal cancers,” said Teow, who obtained his PhD in molecular virology and oncology from Universiti Sains Malaysia. “It will also highlight the importance of molecular diagnostics of colorectal cancer patients tissues to maximise the treatment effectiveness especially in advanced stage cancers.”

Other than this project, Teow is also working on liver cancer and nasopharyngeal carcinoma research. He is interested at the prognostic biomarker and pathogenesis of cancer-associated Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) in the disease.

His position as a research fellow also requires him to supervise Masters’ students. He is currently guiding a MSc in Life Sciences student, with another one recently joined in August intake.

“I like to do research. I have learned that teaching or sharing research experiences with students is the best way to keep me updated on current knowledge and technology advancement,” said Teow, who graduated with a first-class honours in BSc (Hons) in Biotechnology from University of Sunderland. “This is the reason I always find teaching fascinating and I am open to any experience-sharing talks or possible collaboration.” **B**



Dr Ronald Teow Sin Yeang

BIG DATA PROJECT WINS BEST CAPSTONE AWARD

Yap Jia Yi, a BSc (Hons) Information Systems at Sunway University, won the 2016 Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Systems, Man and Cybernetics (M) Best Capstone Project Award from IEEE SMC (M) for her Capstone Project entitled 'Acceptance of Big Data Technologies and Its Influence Towards Employee's Perception on Job Performance,' an intensive study on the evolving global Big Data trend.

Her project focused on the increase in Information Communication Technology (ICT) acceptance, particularly with Big Data, Internet of things (IoT) and Cloud Computing. With the use of big data technologies, organisations can obtain analysis to help them make decisions at the right time, in the right place and to the right people.

"I chose this research topic because Big Data is an emerging field and I wanted to know how these technologies can help an organisation," said Yap. "It is more than just a project. We were required to gather information from different sources, and analyse the information, training us to be independent and to be able to work under stress and strive for the best results."

The study looked into the acceptance of the Big Data technologies among Small Medium-sized Enterprises (SME) in Malaysia and its influence towards employees' perception on job performance. Started in April, the project took Yap eight months to complete, after many discussions with her supervisor Dr Angela Lee Siew Hoong, Senior Lecturer with the Department of Computing and Information Systems, School of Science and Technology at Sunway University.

For Yap, who currently works at a Malaysian IT Consulting and Outsourcing company as an Associate Consultant, the Capstone project is the most challenging aspect of the BSc (Hons) Information Systems three-year programme.

"The most interesting knowledge I gained from this programme is picking up analytics skills for business intelligence and data mining, two subjects which allowed me to work on real life case projects, giving me the opportunity to experience the whole analytics life cycle," said Yap.

"The Capstone project or the final year project, taken by students in the third year of their degree programme, provides students hands-on experience with a project development life cycle," Dr Lee said. "It also help develop students' ability to analyse a project's requirements, evaluate design options and recommend a design that fulfils users' needs." **B**





VALEDICTORIAN ENCOURAGES ALL TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

“Motivational speaker Tony Robbins believes that knowledge is not power. Instead, knowledge is only potential power. True power comes from what you choose to do with the knowledge at hand, and with such capacity, there’s so much we can do, so much we can look forward to and so much we can contribute to society.”

Bridget Lim Cher Yee,
Valedictorian
Sunway University Graduation Ceremony

Bridget Lim Cher Yee, valedictorian at the Sunway University Graduation Ceremony of July 2017, completed a year in the Foundation in Arts (FIA) programme at Sunway College before moving on to the three-year BA (Hons) in Communication at Sunway University. She sums up her experience at Sunway into two words - worth it - and encouraged her peers to make a difference in the world.

“During my time in Sunway University, I volunteered under The Reading Bus Club, reaching out to underprivileged children and teaching them how to read,” said Lim.

“Teaching a child how to read is not a big gesture, but the feeling I got upon hearing the child read his first English sentence to me was infinitely rewarding. Hearing those words and seeing his smile, I know I have made a lasting impact on this child’s life.”

Lim currently works at KPMG in Employer Branding. She, together with 739 other graduates from the School of Arts, School of Hospitality, School of Science and Technology, Sunway University Business School and the School of Mathematical Sciences, took to the stage to receive their scrolls at the ceremony.



Graduating class from the BSc (Hons) in Actuarial Studies



Lim Teck Ting receiving his Doctor of Philosophy (Business) from Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah AO



Valedictorian Bridget Lim Cher Yee with her parents Theresa Ng and Eric Lim

Amongst those celebrating their success at the ceremony were twins Foo Hui Shee and Foo Hui Sze who both graduated from the BSc (Hons) in Actuarial Studies programme. The two sisters are currently employed as actuarial analysts. Hui Shee and Hui Sze are also alumni of the FIA programme at Sunway College.

Of the graduates who achieved first class honours in various disciplines, 42 percent are alumni of the FIA programme. Nineteen graduates who maintained outstanding academic results throughout their studies received the Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr Jeffrey Cheah Scholastic Award and a RM2,000 cheque.

Professor Steve Bradley, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International) of Lancaster University was present to confer the University of Lancaster scrolls to graduating students from the Communication, Computing, Psychology and Business disciplines for the honours degree programmes by Sunway University, validated by Lancaster University. Professor Amanda Chetwynd, Provost (Student Experience) of Lancaster University delivered the Occasional Address. Also present at the ceremony were Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr Jeffrey Cheah AO, Chancellor of Sunway University, Professor Tan Sri Dato' Dr Lin See-Yan and Tan Sri Dato' Dr Ramon Navaratnam, Pro-Chancellors of Sunway University, and Professor Graeme Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor of Sunway University. **B**



Graduating class from the MBA programme



Twins Foo Hui Shee and Hui Sze (2nd and 3rd from right) with their parents and sister

SUNWAY ILABS PROPEL TECHNOPRENEURSHIP



Unveiling of the Sunway Innovation Labs
(from left) Dato' Chew Chee Kin, Tan Sri Dr Ramon Navaratnam, Matt van Leeuwen, Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah AO, Tan Sri Mohd Irwan Serigar Abdullah and Tan Sri Razman Hashim

Sunway iLabs is the latest addition at Menara Sunway to encourage the development of the startup ecosystem in Malaysia. The launch of Sunway iLabs saw Tan Sri Mohd Irwan Serigar Abdullah, Secretary General of Ministry of Finance and Chairman of Malaysian Global Innovation and Creative Centre (MaGIC) and Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah AO, Founder and Chairman of Sunway Group graced the occasion.

The unique not-for-profit partnership concept will see Sunway University, Sunway Group and Sunway Ventures working together in a triple helix innovation model, which combines the strengths of stakeholders across academia, industry and government within a collaborative space. The aim is to foster entrepreneurship and stimulate market-driven innovations enabling entrepreneurs to scale their business faster. At the Sunway iLabs, students from Sunway University will be able to apply their talent and technical expertise to growth-hack Sunway Group's 12 business units. Sunway Ventures, the venture arm of Sunway Group which was set-up last year to drive the organisation's future growth will fund viable startups that are synergistic to Sunway's businesses.

Sunway iLabs will also sync with the wider start-up ecosystem in Malaysia to enable entrepreneurs to scale their business. Sunway iLabs has already established links with government

bodies such as the Malaysian government agency responsible for overseeing MSC Malaysia implementation, MDeC; Agensi Inovasi Malaysia (AIM)-owned national technology commercialisation platform in collaboration with SME Corporation Malaysia, Platcom Ventures; Malaysian Global Innovation and Creativity Centre (MaGIC), Cradle Fund Sdn Bhd (Cradle) and its official trade association and governing body for Angel Investors and Angel Clubs in Malaysia, Malaysian Angel Business Network.

In addition, Sunway iLabs has also partnered ride-hailing giant, Grab, and Silicon Valley-based entrepreneur camp designers, Young Outliers.

"The fact that Sunway's iLabs is set-up as a non-profit entity demonstrates Sunway's generosity and commitment to the national interest, particularly our drive towards being a top 20 country as outlined in the TN50. MaGIC is pleased to have Sunway iLabs as a partner," commented Tan Sri Mohd Irwan Serigar Abdullah.

Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah AO said that Sunway Group had created Sunway Ventures as its corporate venture capital arm to invest and drive Sunway's competitiveness in the digital space for the decades ahead.



Dr Elizabeth Lee, Dato' Yasmin Mahmood, Evan Cheah, Tan Sri Dr Mohd Irwan Serigar Abdullah, Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah AO, Dr Lee Weng Keng, Ashran Dato' Ghazi, Matt van Leeuwen and Professor Graeme Wilkinson

"iLabs marks the first joint initiative undertaken by Sunway Ventures and Sunway University. It will drive Sunway's growth for the decades ahead and identify sunrise industries for us to invest in. This non-for-profit iLabs will bring together collective talents, financial muscle and deep experience of Sunway University, Sunway Group, and Sunway Ventures in to a single collaborative space to foster entrepreneurship and stimulate market-driven innovations."

**Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah AO,
Founder and Chairman of Sunway Group**



Co-working space in iLabs

40 KOREAN PARTNER UNIVERSITIES



Professor Pua Eng Chong, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Sunway University; Professor Graeme Wilkinson and Dr Elizabeth Lee, Senior Executive Director, Sunway Education Group and Sunway University with Kwang Geun Lee and Sooduck Chang, Vice-Chairman of the Leading University for Start-up Business Association (LUSBA)

Professor Graeme Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor of Sunway University and Kwang Geun Lee, Chairman of the Leading University for Start-up Business Association (LUSBA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) recently. The MoU between Sunway University and LUSBA is to collaborate and exchange insights on the development of acceleration programmes and scientific research for the social and economic benefits of both Malaysia and South Korea. LUSBA, a consultative group of 40 universities is a non-profit organisation which supports and encourage students and entrepreneurs looking to start their own businesses through incubation and acceleration programmes. The MoU will pave the way for the participating universities to have two-way flow of human resources, joint research in areas of entrepreneurship, consult on the development of start-up eco system, build systems, and participate in seminars and academic meetings. **B**



Sunway University top management with members of LUSBA



CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGY AND PREVENTION SEMINAR



Fellows at the seminar exchanging ideas



Datuk Dr Shahnaz Murad, accompanied by Professor Neil Poulter and Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah AO, strikes the gong to launch the 49th Ten-Day International Teaching Seminar on Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology and Prevention

The 49th Ten-Day International Teaching Seminar on Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology and Prevention was held in Malaysia for the very first time. It was hosted by Sunway Medical Centre, Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences at Monash University Malaysia, Sunway University and the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation.

An independent NGO under the umbrella of the World Heart Federation, the International Society for Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology and Prevention (ISCPE) teaching seminars have been held in 38 different countries and nearly 2,000 Fellows have attended the past workshops in venues like Granada (2016) and Fiji (2015).

The seminar was launched by Datuk Dr Shahnaz Murad, Deputy Director-General (Research and Technical Support), Ministry of Health, Malaysia and Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah AO, Founder and Chairman of Sunway Group, Founding Trustee of the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation and Chancellor of Sunway University, at the welcome dinner in June.

The teaching seminar focused on up-skilling physicians and researchers on cardiovascular disease. This year's seminar had 45 Fellows in the programme with participation from 28 countries including the United States, Belgium, China, India, Japan and more.

Professor Darwin Labarthe, Professor of Preventive Medicine, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University, Chicago, said in recent time, the important steps to elevate the importance of Non-Communicable Disease (NCDs), broadly cardiovascular diseases in particular, are on the world health agenda. **B**

“This was no longer simply a matter of health and disease, it is a matter of social and economic development, and sustainability.”

Professor Darwin Labarthe,
Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University



Some of the 30 Stars together with Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah AO, Tan Sri Dr Ramon Navaratnam, Tan Sri Razman Hashim, Dr Lee Weng Keng, Dr Elizabeth Lee, Professor Graeme Wilkinson, Teo Ee Sing, Lee Siok Ping and staff of Sunway Education Group

30 STARS OF SUNWAY

by *Wan Hazrinee Wan Hamidon*

The 30 Stars of Sunway campaign recognises and celebrates the diverse talents and achievements of our alumni community in conjunction with Sunway Education Group's 30 years of educational excellence. For this special occasion, Sunway Education Group had announced 30 outstanding alumni who personifies the institution's tradition as an institution of excellence. These 30 'Stars' are recognised for their significant career or business achievement and exemplary service or for their exceptional contribution to their community and the institution. Congratulations to these outstanding Alumni:

Alphaeus Tan, *Cambridge GCE A-level*

Dr Qu Hsueh Ming, *Cambridge GCE A-level*

Anthony Tan, *Cambridge GCE A-level*

Chow Shenn Kuan, *Australian Matriculation*

Keeran Sivarajah, *Australian Matriculation*

Dr Rona Chandrawati, *Canadian International Matriculation*

Joanne Soo, *Monash University Foundation Year*

Kevin Khaw, *Centre for American Education*

Riad Asmat, *Centre for American Education*

Jack Tan, *Centre for American Education*

Lim Wen Kai, *Foundation in Arts*

Lee Jie Wen, *School of Science and Technology*

Shalini Loganathan, *School of Science and Technology*

Jagadesan Chandra Mohan, *School of Science and Technology*

Mallory Loone Li Mei, *Sunway TES*

Loh Jon Ming, *Sunway TES*

Stephen Lee, *Sunway TES*

Riley, *School of Hospitality*

Daniel Lee, *School of Hospitality*

Tan Wei Ni, *School of Hospitality*

Cyrus Chin, *School of Hospitality*

Shahira Najia, *Sunway University Business School*

Jet Chan, *Sunway University Business School*

Choong Kar Wai, *Sunway University Business School*

Malvin Ong, *VU Undergraduate Programme*

Teck Boon, *VU Undergraduate Programme*

Ricky Liew, *VU MBA*

Adrian Ooi, *Curtin University Twinning Programme*

Alex Ooi, *Monash University Twinning Programme*

George Ang, *University of Western Australia Twinning Programme*

In conjunction with the 30th anniversary, the 30 Stars had a meet and greet session with Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah AO, Chancellor of Sunway University. Also present at the session were Tan Sri Dr Ramon Navaratnam and Tan Sri Razman Hashim, Pro-Chancellor of Sunway University; Dr Lee Weng Keng, Chief Executive Officer, Education and Healthcare Division of Sunway Group; Dr Elizabeth Lee, Senior Executive Director of Sunway Education Group and Sunway University; Professor Graeme Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor of Sunway University; Teo Ee Sing, Executive Director of Sunway College; Lee Siok Ping, Director of StudentLIFE, Sunway Education Group.

EARTH WEEK

Sunway Youth for Sustainable Development (SYSD) was established early this year as a platform for students and members of the Sunway community to take collective action towards sustainable development. In conjunction with United Nations Earth Day, SYSD organised Sunway Earth Week 2017, which comprised of a number of activities on campus to raise awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



COUNCIL OF ALL BEINGS

The Council of All Beings was among the activities during Earth Week where participants took on the role of a natural being or element (i.e. a tree, the sun, animals, etc.) and spoke on why they were the most important to the environment. It was attended by over 40 students including 9 speakers.



THRIVING IN THE DARK

'Thriving in the Dark' was to shed light on the power of individual participation. Conducted entirely in total darkness, the session had participants in groups of four assigned with simple tasks such as to seat themselves in alphabetical order, to assemble a rainbow from wooden blocks, to make tea and tasked to learn the braille alphabet.



SDG WHEEL: ONE PERSON ONE PLEDGE

A total 700 pledges were made. Visitors to the SYSD booth on campus learned about the SDGs and were encouraged to pledge their support. Dr Elizabeth Lee, Senior Executive Director of Sunway Education Group and Sunway University pledged to recycle paper wherever and whenever she can to save trees while Professor Leong Choon Heng, Deputy Director of the Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development, pledged to use less plastic.



COMPOST WORKSHOP

This was the final event for Earth Week. Khor Sue Yee, co-founder of Zero Waste Malaysia conducted a Compost Workshop on campus. Students and members of the community came together and learned to make compost from dry leaves, food scraps and unconventional containers. **B**



GUEST AMERICAN CONCERTS

The School of Arts, Sunway University recently hosted a concert, featuring singers, pianists, flutists, trombonists and composers from universities across the United States. The “Guest American Concerts” was held to celebrate the launch of a new music performance degree by the Sunway University in 2018.

The concert brought together over 10 music professors on the same stage, performing a mix of classical music from the baroque period to the 21st century. The concert included a variety of music, such as “Cape Cod Suite for Flute Duet”, a composition by Dr Kristen Stoner from the University of Florida. Professor Donald Bowyer, Associate Dean of the School of Arts, Sunway University also made an appearance in the concert, performing “The Road Not Taken” with soprano Dr Marika Kyriakos, who is from Arkansas State University. The music is a composition by Professor Bowyer, with the lyrics written by Robert Frost, an American poet.

Other musicians included Dr Paul Dickinson of University of Central Arkansas, Dr George Hess of Sunway University,

Dr Linda Monson of George Mason University, Dr Stefanie Dickinson of University of Central Arkansas, Dr Adam Sovkoplak of Eastern Kentucky University, Dr Richard Steinbach of Briar Cliff University, Dr Liana Valente of Howard University, Dr Alexandra Zacharella of University of Arkansas-Fort Smith and Jeanine Wheeler, a board-certified music therapist at Covenant Children’s Hospital in Texas.

In March 2018, the School of Arts will launch the BA (Hons) Music Performance. This programme focuses Western art music and complements the current BA (Hons) Contemporary Music (Audio Technology) within the growing Department of Performance and Media.

The programme, which emphasises instruments such as strings, piano and voice, also covers history, theory, and all the skills necessary to develop proficiency both as a soloist and as a member of an ensemble.

It also includes entrepreneurial and business skills, audio technology and collaboration with fellow students in this important aspect of the contemporary music practice. **B**



KEVIN KHAW

TURNING PASSION INTO REALITY

Kevin Khaw is currently a Technical Program Manager for the e-commerce team at Nest and prior to that, he was an engineering manager at Google in Silicon Valley. Over the last 10 years, he has seen Google grow from a mid-size company to one of the most vibrant and innovative companies in the world.

Back in Sunway, Kevin was in the Western Michigan University twinning programme and at the same time was a junior squash player for the state of Selangor, who spent much of his time training and playing tournaments around Malaysia.

"I would highly encourage the youth to believe in a cause that benefits the people/society around them. Kindness and empathy towards your fellow Malaysians goes a long way."



PLEASE TELL US MORE ABOUT YOUR CAREER / WORK EXPERIENCE

I am currently the lead Technical Program Manager for the e-commerce team at Nest. Prior to Nest, I worked as a full stack developer at Google for the first six years and spent the last four building out Google's Cloud Computing business. I loved every moment of seeing Google grow over the last 10 years and how much the company invests in making everyone's lives better.

WE HEAR A LOT ABOUT THE CULTURE AT GOOGLE. WHAT IS IT LIKE FIRSTHAND?

Everything is true! Well... most of it. Walk around Googleplex and you would likely feel more of a college vibe than working in a large corporation. Definitely, a great place to be if you are an engineer. I am mostly here for the opportunity to work on stuff that touches billions of people -- but it is hard to not take note of the amazing company benefits. Free food at first-class cafes, gyms, laundry rooms, massage rooms, haircuts, car washes, dry cleaning, commuting shuttles, bowling alleys, nap pods, talks by authors and celebrities, climbing walls -- just about anything an employee might want. Google goes out of its way to take care of its employees and I am very thankful to be part of this great company for the last ten years.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR JOB?

Google is like a playground for engineers. I had the best 10 years of my life and often felt like the luckiest person. I had the chance to work with the smartest people in the world which empowered me to make a difference, solve difficult problems, and learn from the best and brightest in every field. Google's mission is clear and simple. "Organise the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful". It captures the essence of Google's culture to constantly innovate and push technological boundaries. Cloud computing is poised to change information technology as we know it and I am happy to be part of the next wave of technological innovation on the internet.



HOW DID YOU SELECT YOUR CURRENT PATH IN LIFE?

I love science, technology, and building stuff growing up. Engineering was half-accidental since my original choice was to be an architect. Once college started, I focused on computer engineering and pivoted to web development after falling in love with the internet. I pursued my passion!

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

I had a great batch of friends in my course. We all still keep in touch today. More importantly, I had a great group of lecturers that invested in my future. They pushed me to break out of my comfort zone and be a better person both academically and individually as a person. I am still very good friends with all my lecturers!

WHAT SKILLS/KNOWLEDGE DO YOU THINK YOUNG PEOPLE NOWADAYS SHOULD DEVELOP?

It is hard to pinpoint a specific skill. Machine Learning (ML) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) are pretty hot topics these days. More importantly, I would highly encourage the youth to believe in a cause that benefits the people/society around them. Kindness and empathy towards your fellow Malaysians goes a long way.

WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR FREE TIME?

I spent my teenage years playing lots of Squash for Selangor and a big soccer fan. These days, I try to do anything I can to stay away from technology. As you can imagine, it is difficult. Cooking would be the next best thing.

ANY MESSAGE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF SUNWAYIANS?

Pursue your passion and never give up!



JULIAN LEE: STRIVE AND NEVER SETTLE

BSC (HONS) IN BUSINESS STUDIES
GRADUATE TRAINEE, L'OREAL MALAYSIA

I have just started my career with L'Oreal and the biggest challenge now is to understand the beauty industry. But through my journey with Sunway University Business School, it has trained me to always carry an 'all out' attitude when it comes to working professionally. Looking back, my greatest accomplishment at Sunway is graduating with First Class Honours. On a side note, I am proud to set up a company, Bubble Sports MY with my partners from scratch while during our first year of degree. Besides that, joining competitions like L'Oreal Brandstorm and opened up doors to different opportunities which led me to where I am now, L'Oreal Malaysia. I enjoy L'Oreal's working culture and the ever-changing goals for projects the most. Their working culture allows you to approach issues differently and come up with new solutions. As for the ever-changing goals for projects, they keep me on my toes because no two days are the same. To the younger alumni who aspire to follow a similar career path to mine, I have three advice. First is to plan early. If you have a clear direction for your career, start choosing relevant companies to intern and set goals you want to achieve at the end of that internship even before you started. Second is always be curious. Things change so fast on a daily basis and as a marketer, you constantly learn new ways to market your products and stay ahead of others. And lastly, join competitions. Competitions are great sources of experience and it provides plenty of opportunities to network with peers and potential employers.

"But through my journey with Sunway University Business School, it has trained me to always carry an 'all out' attitude when it comes to working professionally."



CHAN EAK-KUAN

BSC (HONS) IN ACTUARIAL STUDIES

I started the BSc (Hons) in Actuarial Studies (BAS) programme thinking that it will be a classroom oriented setting of learning the ins and outs of actuarial science. Little did I know how different and unique my studies are compared to the traditional mindset of learning in a university. Throughout my three years here at Sunway University, the things that I have learnt have been beyond my expectations. While we learn the concepts of our modules in the classroom along with our lecturers, the technical aspects of it are supplemented by our consulting actuaries giving us hands-on experience of the work done in the industry.

Apart from academics, I also had the opportunity to lead the first actuarial and finance students oriented organisation on campus. The chance to lead a student organisation provided a platform for me to gain insights and network within the industry. It has been a fulfilling journey at Sunway University to be able to build my character and provide the same platform for the future generation.

EMELYN LEE

BSC (HONS) IN ACTUARIAL STUDIES

Sunway University stands out from the rest by offering a very well-structured course even though it just established the Actuarial Studies not too long ago. Not only did the three years in Sunway enriched me in terms of knowledge, but it also groomed me into a better person. There were days of pushing and challenging my own limits and there were days where I explored new opportunities, like a new hobby, or a new activity that I had never imagined myself doing.

Sunway did a great job in providing an environment that encourages its students to dare to dream. On top of the environment, what I adore most about Sunway's BAS is the dedicated and caring lecturers who, I believe most of us, if not all, call as friends. My advice to the juniors would be – grab those opportunities to grow, dare to try something new because you never know when you might just discover your own hidden potential. Lastly, a huge thank you to all lecturers who taught and guided me and I will forever be proud to say that I am among the first batch of BAS graduates in Sunway University.





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