



# momentum

A SUNWAY ALUMNI NEWSLETTER • JAN 2012

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## **SPOTLIGHT** on Alumni

Teach. For The Future You Want.  
A Challenge To Make A Difference  
The Stories Behind The Smiles

feature:

# OUR 25 YEARS!

Owned and governed by the

Jeffrey Cheah  
Foundation

Nurturing the Seeds of Wisdom



# momentumpoints

**T**ime has flown by so quickly – it is 2012! With a new year comes new challenges and new joys. As illustrated on the beautifully-designed cover art, we are celebrating our 25th anniversary this year! Stay tuned for all the events that will be coming up.

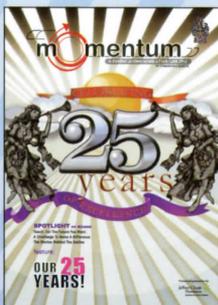
In line with the theme of celebration, this issue celebrates the many ways that this institution and the individuals related to it have made a difference in the lives of others. It is always a joy to share the good works that are being done to impact the broader community.

The programmes we are featuring are from the areas of education, community service, and business. We hope you will find these stories enlightening and informative.

One of the projects we will undertake this year is to highlight alumni success stories that will showcase the 25 years we have been involved in nurturing and educating young minds. We will send out a call for this soon. Keep your eyes peeled for the announcement!

Happy Reading!

Sue-Ann



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*An Introductory Message by Elizabeth Lee, Executive Director, Sunway Education Group*

It is always a privilege for me to pen a few words to our alumni, who are diverse and unique in their aspirations. Quite a few have found their niche in contributing to society to make a difference in the world we live. Shining paragons of this such as Keeran Sivarajah and Joshua Lee are featured in this issue and I cannot say enough how proud I am of their work.

**“ We have grown by leaps and bounds with the establishment of Sunway University and many other achievements. ”**

Individuals like Keeran and Joshua resonate with our thinking and philosophy. To the Founder of the Sunway Group Tan Sri Dato’ Seri Dr. Jeffrey Cheah AO, education extends far beyond the business realm and the success of the Sunway Education Group in contributing to education means much more than rankings, enrolment numbers

and even profits. Over the years, the Sunway Education Group under the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation, has given generously in the form of scholarships and awards amounting to RM80 million to society and accorded more than 11,000 deserving students access to education which they would otherwise have been denied.

Under the auspices of the Foundation, community scholars and recently our SEA games medallists and Sunway sports scholars Katrina Ann Bt Abdul Hadi, Jacqueline Jenelee Sijore and Sin Li Jane; can be recognised and encouraged in their sporting achievement and assured that their education costs are completely covered while they pursue excellence in their sport.

It’s hard to imagine that Sunway College, the first institution of the Sunway Education Group, has now reached the 25 year milestone since it was first established. We have grown by leaps and bounds with the establishment of Sunway University and many other

achievements. This 25th Anniversary will definitely be special and exciting with the unveiling of the Graduate Centre and a new Sunway International School building. Also lined up are academic activities which will develop our lecturers and keep them abreast with recent developments in their field as well as events relating to new developments and students past and present.

Our alumni will soon be aware of a special activity to be held in conjunction with this silver anniversary. It will definitely be a boost for both you and your alma mater so do keep an eye and an ear out for more details coming your way.

Many thanks to the alumni who have worked with us to encourage and inspire our students. We look forward to continue working with you. As we strive to improve, we hope that you our alumni will steadily progress in tandem with us. I wish you a fulfilling year ahead as you reap the benefits of your efforts. Happy 2012!

Thank you and God bless.

**Elizabeth Lee**

## Why **m**omentum

Momentum is the energy that keeps us in motion and allows us to continually move in a specific direction. Naming this magazine Momentum symbolises us taking what we have learned from the past and using that as a force to drive us forward.

As Alumni of Sunway, we hope that you have been able to use the knowledge gained here to propel you to success. It is our sincere wish that Momentum will provide you with much inspiration and enrichment.

We encourage you to contribute your articles, time, and knowledge to keep the momentum going.

**SUNWAY**  
*Alumni*



**T**eaching is not a profession one enters into lightly. Teachers mould the young and impressionable minds that come their way and have the potential to impact their students for better or for worse. Teaching requires passion, compassion, and patience beyond compare. For most people, this is a calling beyond their means. For the Fellows at Teach For Malaysia however, it is an opportunity to make a difference in the next generation of Malaysians. They are truly teaching from the heart.

#### *The concept behind Teach For Malaysia*

Teach For Malaysia is a not-for-profit organisation that is enlisting Malaysia's most promising future leaders in their mission to end education inequity. Those selected to be part of the programme are known as Fellows. Teach For Malaysia Fellows will serve as full-time teachers for two years in high-need schools, and commit to transforming the education outcomes of less-privileged schoolchildren. Teach For Malaysia was officially launched on 24 December, 2010 and began active recruitment soon after.

For 2012, 17 schools were selected to partner with Teach For Malaysia. These schools are some of the highest-need schools in the country, and are located in Kuala Lumpur, Selangor and Negeri Sembilan.

#### *The people who started Teach For Malaysia*

Like all great ventures, it was over a casual discussion that the seeds of Teach For Malaysia were sown. Keeran Sivarajah and his then-colleague Dzameer Dzulkifli were at a mamak stall late one evening in early 2009 when the idea for starting Teach For Malaysia was first discussed.

While the both of them were familiar with the Teach First, UK and Teach For Australia programmes respectively from their university days, it was only after learning of the inspiring success of Teach For India and the extent the model had expanded in other countries

through the Teach For All network, did they begin seriously writing the original business plan for an independent Teach For Malaysia programme in July 2009.

Says Keeran, "My studies in Melbourne reinforced the amazing experience that a quality education can provide and as I began to volunteer as a tutor at a primary school in a seedy Melbourne suburb, I found myself challenging the social injustice that good quality education can only be afforded by privileged communities."

Thus, throughout the last quarter of 2009 and the first half of 2010, Dzameer and Keeran worked with a team of passionate individuals from Teach For All, the Boston Consulting Group and Institut Aminuddin Baki to develop a strong governance and implementation framework for Teach For Malaysia.

A significant milestone was achieved when they secured early-stage support and funding from the national investment arm of the Malaysian government, Khazanah Nasional Berhad, to incubate Teach For Malaysia. Since then, they have been successful in enlisting the support of a dynamic and talented team of individuals as Teach For Malaysia staff, and began aggressively recruiting the pioneering cohort of Teach For Malaysia Fellows.

#### *The Fellows of Teach For Malaysia*

To seek out the best possible candidates, Teach For Malaysia put out the call for driven and exceptional Malaysian students in their final year of studies and young professionals to submit their applications. It was a tedious and painstaking selection process.

At this point in time, 50 Fellows have been selected and they are undergoing intensive training to prepare for their posting to schools in January 2012 to start off the school year.

In examining the profiles of the Fellows, one can see that they are all high achievers, exhibiting tremendous leadership potential. This is central to Teach For Malaysia as their tagline convicts us that "Classrooms Groom Leaders". The 2012 Fellows graduated from prestigious institutions such as Harvard University and University College London, and their field of studies range from Medicine to East Asian Studies. It is admirable and truly a reflection of their beliefs that making a difference in the world matters more than a high-paying job in the corporate world.

Among the Fellows are two Sunway Alumni, Jacintha Tagal and Hawa Othman, and we applaud them for taking on this challenge.

Jacintha shares, "Having been a student all my life, I am convinced that education is the only way to go forward—both as an individual and as a nation. So when I heard that Teach For Malaysia was accepting applications for its first cohort, I knew I had to send in my application. I loved the idea of being placed in a challenging school for the next two years, because I know that where there is a high need, there also will be a high potential for impact... I am excited for all that's ahead, because I am convinced that the Fellows of Teach For Malaysia will impact many, many children in the years to come."



Jacintha (2nd from right), in the midst of training



Fellows at Dialogue Session with DPM

who are highly-qualified and highly-motivated, are placed in high-need schools to bridge the gap.

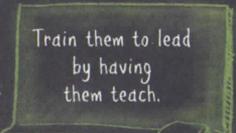
Immersing the next generation of leaders in understanding the root causes of education inequity and having them work hand-in-hand with their schools will give them an accurate perspective to obtain the best solutions to the problems they face. Doing this will not just allow the Fellows to impact the lives of children in high-need communities on a short-term basis, but also in the long run, to serve as advocates for equal opportunity education in Malaysia.

It is Teach for Malaysia's hope that one day, all children in Malaysia will have the opportunity to attain an excellent education. All the best, Teach For Malaysia Fellows!

*\* Information and images adapted from Teach For Malaysia website.*

*Keeran Sivarajah is the Managing Director of Teach For Malaysia, and alumnus of Sunway's Australian Matriculation programme. Jacintha Tagal is an alumnus of our A-Levels programme while Hawa Othman completed the Australian Matriculation programme.*

## HOW THE TEACH FOR MALAYSIA FELLOWSHIP WORKS

1.  Recruit the best of Malaysia's young minds.
2.  Train them to lead by having them teach.
3.  Support them as full-time teachers for two years.
4.  Alumni become driving force to affect social change.

**NO BETTER WAY TO START A PERFECT CAREER**

The Teach For Malaysia Fellowship is supported by a premier range of organisations. They recognise the fact that Fellows are proven leaders. For you, it's an edge over other interviewees. For them, an edge over the competition.



**B**ouquets of flowers, mortar boards, flowing robes, big smiles – these are all hallmarks of a joyous graduation ceremony. Apart from these visible symbols, every graduation also gives us the opportunity to look beyond the ceremony and explore the stories behind the smiling faces. It gives us a chance to share about the hard work and dedication that was put into achieving this major milestone in life.

This is especially true for a group of proud scholars who received the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation Community Scholarship, allowing them to complete their tertiary education at a Sunway Education Group institution. The Community Scholarship provides access to learning for deserving students who are most likely to miss out on an education.

At the recent Sunway University graduation in October, 3 Community Scholars graduated and they were grateful for the scholarship that had a pivotal effect on their lives. They were sisters Doris Lee Wan Yi (a Multimedia & Graphic Design diplomate) and Lucy Lee Yeh Leng (who obtained a Diploma in Information Technology) from Rumah Hope in Paramount Garden, Petaling Jaya and Darren Lee Kar Hoe (Diploma in Hotel Management).

Lucy, the younger of the two sisters, who is currently working with DHL said, "I would

like to thank the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation for giving me the opportunity to study. In addition I would also like to thank the counsellors, who helped me cope with the stress of studies. I will be continuing with my degree in Information Systems in March next year".

Doris shared, "I feel very blessed to be given the opportunity to be a Community Scholar. It was a struggle to be in a university environment in the beginning but the counsellors and lecturers helped me and because of them, I was able to complete my course. I am very grateful to the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation for giving me this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity". Doris is employed with Bertram Marketing as a Graphic Designer.

***" I am very grateful to the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation for giving me this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity "***

In establishing the scholarship, the objective was to give an opportunity to individuals in the community to pursue an education while fulfilling our social responsibility as an education establishment. This scholarship covers the recipients' full tuition fees, accommodation, and book purchases. In addition to financial support, the pastoral care provided by the counselling team and lecturers aid the Community Scholars in their adjustment to university life and the stresses that come with it. There are currently 21 Community Scholars in Sunway University and Sunway College. Thirty scholars have graduated since this scholarship was first awarded in 2002.



Another Community Scholar, Nanthini Ramras, graduated with an ACCA qualification from Sunway College, also in October. Nanthini was recently employed as an Audit Associate with Ernst and Young.

Nanthini and her 3 siblings, who hail from Bahau in Negeri Sembilan, were solely supported by their mother who labours hard at an estate in their hometown. Nanthini said, "The scholarship really helped me to achieve my dream of pursuing an ACCA qualification. Without this scholarship, I don't think I would even be where I am today. I sincerely thank the Foundation for providing me this golden opportunity and Malaysian Care for assisting me in the application process. I'm very proud of what I've managed to achieve in my studies. I put in a lot of hard work to complete all the papers in the first sitting, without repeating any. As this was not an easy course to do, there were a lot of things that I have sacrificed to achieve this."



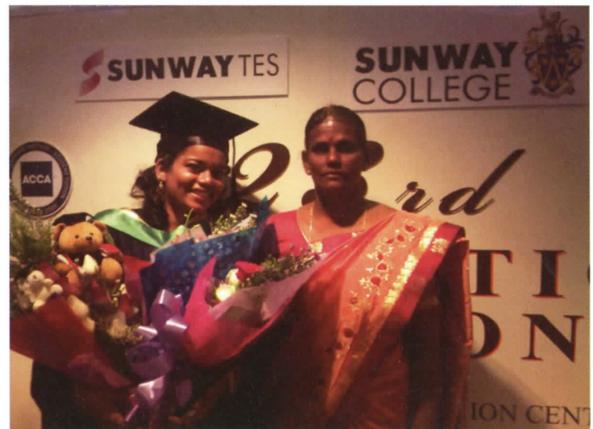
Lucy (left) and Doris proudly showing their scrolls at the ceremony

The skills that these scholars learn and the experiences that they gain here at Sunway take them a long way. Candy Lee, a scholar who graduated in 2010 from the ACCA programme, shares: "Being successful does not depend on your background; this is my story. I came from a poor family whereby after completing high school, getting into university was just a dream. However, the desire for me to further my studies was very strong. My initial plan was to

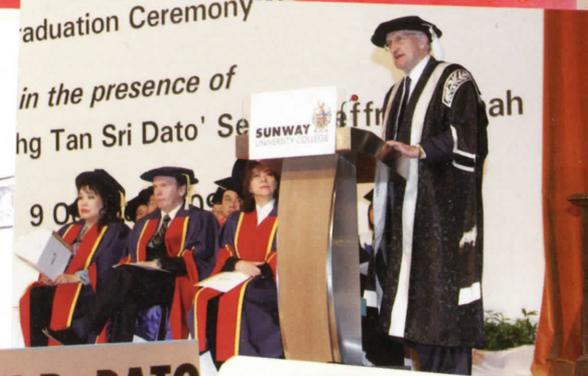
work while studying part-time. Even so, what possible jobs could I get with my lack of qualifications? How much could I earn to support my family and my studies? At that point in time, I was at a crossroads to make a difficult decision on where the road to my future would lead. In 2010, I completed my studies in Sunway, and I am forever grateful for this scholarship, and to those who helped me along the way. I have been proudly working in OCBC Bank for 2 years and was recently promoted to Premier Banking Relationship Manager. I love what I'm doing!"

We warmly welcome these tenacious and dedicated new alumni into our community and wish them the best as they travel along life's journey.

*The Jeffrey Cheah Foundation is a not-for-profit special purpose vehicle established by Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr. Jeffrey Cheah which provides funds for the awarding of scholarships and research grants. To date, RM80 million in scholarships have been awarded since 1997 to 11,000 students who have completed studies or are studying in Sunway Education Group institutions.*



Nanthini (left) with her mother, Kamala Devi A/P Kailasam



# Our 25

We are 25 this year! The Sunway Education Groups and improving lives. This year we will be organising many events to celebrate this achievement and we have you with us!

Don't worry, we'll keep you updated on all the happenings and you can visit us at the Sunway campus. To mark this celebratory and reminiscence occasion, we have put together this photographic collage of the highlights of Sunways 25 years.





# Years

ar 2012 marks  
 th year of nurturing  
 hout the year, we  
 ents to celebrate  
 ould be very glad to

nformed on the  
 n your homecoming  
 t everyone in a  
 t mood, please enjoy  
 showcasing the many  
 eaningful and fun



# CONGRATULATIONS!



"The main reason I completed the readership survey was because I wished to be the lucky one to win the lovely iPad 2, of course! On the other hand, as an alumnus of Sunway University, I also wanted to contribute some of my comments and feedback to help improve the Momentum magazine. Momentum can be considered as a connector that links us to the University with all the latest updates, therefore we will never lose contact with Sunway University – a place that nurtures wisdom and helps us grow."

In the last issue of Momentum, we conducted a readership survey to find out your preferences for the newsletter. Those who responded stood a chance to win an iPad2!

After receiving all the responses, we used a random list generator to determine the winner of this fun new toy. And the iPad2 went to ...

**Raymond Au Yong!**

*Raymond is currently working as an Associate Consultant at Sunway Business Systems Sdn Bhd and he graduated from the School of Computer Technology in 2010.*

## THE STORY SO FAR...

### SUMMARY OF RESULTS

**92.3%** feel that Momentum strengthens their personal connection with the institution

**78%** access the print version while **22%** access the online version

If given a choice, **56%** would opt to read Momentum online, while **44%** still prefer the print version

**83%** of respondents feel that Momentum reminds them of their experiences at the institution

**65%** believe that Momentum provides useful career and networking information

**100%** of respondents would like to continue receiving Momentum

### SUGGESTIONS GIVEN:

- ★ Increasing number of pages
- ★ Increasing number of accompanying photos
- ★ Providing more information on postgraduate programmes
- ★ More information on networking options with other alumni

*p/s: We post many updates to our Facebook page in order to disseminate time-sensitive information. Do visit us there to get the latest news!*

<http://www.facebook.com/OFFICIAL.Sunway.Alumni.Community>