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Sunway’s shining star
-And what helped her achieve both academic and sports excellence

Research has shown that young people who participate in sports may have greater academic performance.

Contrary to the old school of thought, research now suggests that sports and academic performance complement each other. According to Professor Charles Hillman, an associate professor of kinesiology at the University of Illinois, participation in sports helps to support the overall development of the individual.

19 year-old Katrina Ann Abdul Hadi, a Canadian International Matriculation (CIMP) student at Sunway College, despite her hectic training schedule as a swimmer, not only scored four straight A’s in her CIMP examinations but won five glittering gold medals in all the synchronised swimming events at the 26th SEA Games in Palembang, Indonesia this year.

UP team spoke to the young achiever who made Malaysia proud.

As a student at Bukit Jalil Sports School, Katrina had already represented Malaysia at the Commonwealth Games 2010 where she performed solo, and came in fourth and fifth placing, while in the Asian Games in the same year, she performed duet and came in sixth.

Our conclusion is that Katrina has a lot of self-discipline and good time management, which enables her to excel in both sports and her academics.

Self-discipline
Soon to be an Ontario Scholar at her coming graduation, Katrina is an exemplary student, who knows how to keep a fine balance between her academic work and sports. The good thing is that she never had to be in a position where she had to choose.

“As a national synchronised swimmer, I have to discipline myself to spend time studying as well,” she says. “It is not easy, but not impossible.”

At the Sports School, her exams were scheduled usually a week before or a week after a tournament. This taught her to always plan her studies with her training schedule which always includes discussing with her coach, Long Yan from China. “A lot of planning is done before my exams including the CIMP exams,” she quips. “The CIMP is quite flexible and allowed me to balance my studies with training.”
Cover Story

Good time management
She begins her day with a training session from 6.30am to 9.45am. After that, she goes straight to class. In the afternoon, she is back in the pool again to train from 3 pm to 7.30 pm and after that goes home, has a quick dinner, short rest, no TV and just heads straight into her homework. Although physically exhausted by then, she is usually mentally alert. That’s when she continues to do her homework.

This is her timetable six days in a week, Mondays through Saturdays. Most young people at her age would have given up! What drives her is her passion for the sport and the determination to do well in her studies, too.

“Yes, it is not easy having to balance one’s timetable,” she explains. “I have to force myself to do homework at night – sometimes, until 12 pm. I really have to push myself.”

The only thing that she has to forgo is the extra-curricular activities, despite having a strong passion for these activities.

Family support
In the case of Katrina, whose mother is a lecturer in the CIMP at Sunway, was not the only reason why she has excelled in both her academic work and sports. There are many children whose parents are professors in universities, but that alone is not enough for them to excel in both sport and academics.

What stands out in the case of Katrina’s family is that her parents are always encouraging her to do her best in everything she does. Her father, Abdul Hadi and mother, Kimberly Ann Gagnon are always encouraging her to perform well in both areas. “Yes, my parents encourage me a lot,” quips Katrina. “They always do!”

It was, in fact, her parents who made sure she learnt swimming from a young age. She loves to swim. “I guess when I was in my mother’s womb, I was already enjoying swimming,” she laughs.

A former coach of hers recommended her to do synchronised swimming. People were looking for team members who were flexible. At that time, the synchronized swimming team was made up half of swimmers and the other half were gymnasts and rhythmic dancers.

Katrina started synchronized swimming at the age of 12. Before that she was a gymnast.

Swimming started more as a hobby. “No, I never dreamed that I would be a national swimmer,” she says. “It just happened!”. Her younger sister, Farah Ann is a national gymnast. Both my parents were runners in their younger days and my dad played football too. “I guess sport runs in our family”.

It pays off
When Katrina and her team mates, having already delivered golds in the free duet, technical duet, free team and technical team events at the recent SEA Games, performed at their dazzling best in the fifth and final event, they produced a consistent and energetic performance to overwhelm the spectators and judges in the free team combination. Performing to the song ‘Rio de Janeiro’, the team scored 75.363 points to easily win another gold medal.

A delighted Katrina could hardly contain her excitement after helping Malaysia to make a spectacular medal tally. “I came with only a three-gold target in mind and I’ve won five – that’s a real bonus. Right now my priority is to try and qualify for the London Olympics next year but it won’t be easy. My personal target is the 2016 Olympics and, hopefully, I’ll continue swimming until then,” says Katrina.

Katrina and her proud parents, Abdul Hadi and Kim

Katrina (first row, right) with her team members after winning a Gold medal at the recent SEA Games in Palembang, Indonesia
Keeran Sivarajah is an achiever with a passion for the underprivileged.

Few people may know that Keeran, the Co-Founder and Executive Director of Teach for Malaysia, was already involved in tutoring children of African refugees, while he was still studying at university.

An alumnus of Sunway College, Keeran, 26, completed the Australian Matriculation Programme at Sunway before pursuing his Bachelor of Commerce in Finance at the University of Melbourne, Australia. He spent the early part of his career as a management consultant with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), where he gained experience working in performance improvement, change management and corporate responsibility engagements in Malaysia and India.

His experience helped him see the need to start Teach for Malaysia in 2009, an independent organisation that is enlisting Malaysia’s most promising future leaders in its mission to end education inequity.

Besides being Founding Executive Director of Teach for Malaysia, Keeran is also a member on the Institute of Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS) Advisory Panel for Education and a Convenor of Young Corporate Malaysians. The team spoke to him briefly.

What are your future plans?
For the immediate future, I plan to continue working with Teach for Malaysia, and lend value to see this organisation through to a point where it becomes sustainable.

Longer term, I would like to remain within the education sector, and continue to contribute to national development.

What were your childhood dreams? Are you fulfilling any of your childhood dreams?
My earliest ambition was to be a doctor, just like my father. I think the appeal of the profession to me was that I saw it as a career dedicated to helping those in need. My father was deeply loved and appreciated by many of his patients, which to me, seemed extremely fulfilling.

Later on, I saw that many other professions beyond the medical sphere afforded me this opportunity to provide a meaningful service to others in need. In a sense, what I do now fulfills this dream, since Teach for Malaysia aims to reach the most underprivileged segment of our society.

What was your studying experience like in Sunway College?
AUSMAT - and in particular my English classes - engaged me at a very different educational depth that I was accustomed to, and provided me with greater context and perspective.

The challenge to constantly observe, appreciate and critique text, film and other media - at first unconventional - quickly became second-nature and introduced me to a whole new experience in quality education.

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.

What do you do to relax?
I read whenever I can. To relax, I play the piano and have recently developed a keen interest in meditation and practice this as frequently as I can. In between, I spend time with my family and try to spend more time with good friends.

Which is the latest book that you have read? What is the book about?
“Measure for Measure,” a play written by William Shakespeare. The story centers around Angelo, who has been empowered to rule his land, and takes readers on a hilarious – and at times dark – journey of his conquests to enforce his strict standards of morality.
They never expected to be picked as the Harvard Prize Book Winners recently, but Chong Lip Yi, Pauline Ann Loh and Daniel Fong Zhen Yong said they were simply thrilled.

“Honestly, I thought I wouldn’t stand a chance to win,” quipped Chong, when interviewed by UP.

Chong is currently studying AUSMAT at Sunway College.

Loh, a CIMP student, said she felt honoured winning the award. “I am deeply grateful to my family, lecturers and friends who have all contributed to my success.”

An overwhelmed A-levels student, Fong said his limbs were shaking and his heart was racing, when his name was announced.

“I really did not expect to win the prize, as there were many other candidates whom I felt were more qualified to receive the prize,” he said. “Nonetheless, it feels really great winning the prize book, knowing my efforts have indeed been acknowledged.”

All three students received RM 2,000 cash prize each, a copy of the Harvard Prize Book, and an opportunity for internship in the Harvard Club of Malaysia throughout the duration of study at Sunway College and a certificate endorsed by the Harvard Club of Malaysia.

The winners were selected from 12 full-time Pre-University students who have completed at least one semester of study and are a continuing student at Sunway College. They all had an academic achievement in the first semester that was an average of 90% and above, and had demonstrated exceptional contribution and engagement in the community service. The students were assessed by a stringent panel of judges from the Harvard Club of Malaysia, based on an interview covering social, intellectual and ethical aspects.

During the Harvard Prize Book Award Ceremony, Tan Sri Lin See Yan, President of the Harvard Club of Malaysia presented the audience with a 45-minute talk, based on his accumulated perspective over the years on the Harvard Education system. His sharp wit and style left the audience in stitches.

“I can be very convincing, I can tell you that, but people will fall back to their comfort zone, which is the English Education System,” said Tan Sri Lin, when comparing the American Education system to the British Education system.

In regards to the Harvard experience, he shared, “Professors love teaching undergraduates. The students are so bright that the amount of work to do just to prepare the students is enormous.”

He added: “At a tender age of 18 or 19, you hardly know what you want to do. You are transiting from your family into a new social order, leaving behind the comforts of your home. A University has to provide for that and transform you from a kid into an adult. The liberal arts education will teach you how to think critically, give you a sense of history and theory that will empower and enlighten you to have self-confidence. That will guide you towards finding yourself.”

Tan Sri Lin also officiated and launched the Harvard Collection consisting of books authored by Harvard alumni at the Sunway Tun Hussein Onn Library.
What a great honour!

Daniel Roslan was exuberant when he received the membership into the Sunway Golden Key International Honour Society.

The Australian University Programme (AUP) student said he was very proud to be inducted into this esteemed society. “I hope that it will benefit me in my job interviews and future career plans,” he said.

A fellow AUP student, Finola Dwi Mustika said the award acts as a motivation factor for her to continue working hard towards achieving her goals. “It gives me pleasure to know that my work is appreciated and recognised,” she quipped. “I hope this award will give me a bright future.”

Both Daniel and Finola were among one hundred Sunway University students, who have been inducted into the Sunway Golden Key International Honour Society. The cream of the crop of the Sunway AUP students made up 75 per cent of the students, while the remaining students were students from the Sunway University Business School, School of Health and Natural Sciences, as well as the School of Computer Technology who were selected based on their academic standards.

The Golden Key International Honour Society is a global non-profit organisation that recognises and rewards academic achievements in 380 universities around the world.

At the Membership Reception held to embrace the new students into the society, Professor Robert Bignall, Vice-Chancellor of Sunway University said he was proud of the achievement of students of Sunway University. “I hope you will discover your leadership potential and grow with this society and become captains of industries,” he added.

Speaking on behalf of the society, its University Relations Officer Asia Pacific, Susanna Chan said the membership gives recognition to members who have exercised their leadership skills, engaged in community service activities as well as developed networking skills that will enrich their experience.

The local chapter was launched in October 2010 when 120 Sunway University students were initiated into the chapter. The chapter has since conducted various activities including a fundraising that raised RM 1,690 for groceries and 200 t-shirts Rumah Anak-Anak Yatim & Cacat Taman Megah.
Sunway College’s Canadian International Matriculation Programme (CIMP) students managed to raise some funds for the Taman Megah Disabled Children's Home in Petaling Jaya recently.

It was not only the amount raised but their spirit of voluntarism that impressed their principal, John Futa. “It was great that they raised the amount within such a short frame of time, but what comes through clearly to me is the unselfish attitude of our CIMP students, who volunteered their time and energy, to help the underprivileged. This is a strong indication of our commitment to community service,” he said.

The entrepreneurial and management skills of the students from the Business Leadership Management Fundamentals (BLMF) class were put to test, when they were told to develop unique products such as handmade accessories, piggy banks, badges, cultural goods, fresh fruits and delicious baked goods during the two-day charity sale in Sunway College.

With some energy and synergy, they managed to raise RM2,500 in profits within two days which was then presented to the home’s committee member, Tham Thin Yin. “I am very grateful to see such initiative from youths like the CIMP students,” Tham said. “The funds will be extremely useful to cover the needs of our golden children and we thank you for your contribution.”

Product survey is important

Describing her own venture, a BLMF student, Angelina Saw Mei Yi, said she had started conducting surveys before she launched her product. “We analysed people’s responses towards our products to see whether they meet quality standards and customer’s requirements,” she elaborated. “Only after the survey was completed, did we launch our products. By then, everything had to be done with precision to ensure a smooth flow of business.”

Angelina and her group mates were in the “business” of selling accessories such as Lego rings, necklaces and reversible pouches that were handmade to give their customers a sense of nostalgia by adapting something from their childhood into their modern lifestyles.

“Although it was time consuming, we feel good being able to contribute towards the welfare of the disabled children,” Saw said. “The Home needed funds to build a new building in order to accommodate an increasing number of children. Knowing that we have somehow alleviated their burden with our small donation made all our efforts worth it.”

At the cheque presentation ceremony which was held recently, V. Baskar, who is the Administrative Manager of the Home, urged students to also volunteer their time to be with the disabled children and teach them the arts and music.

For more information, contact:
TAMAN MEGAH’S HANDICAPPED AND DISABLED CHILDREN’S HOME
No. 2, Jalan SS24/10, Taman Megah, 47301 Petaling Jaya, Selangor D.E.
Tel No: 603- 78061143 Fax No: 603-78051484
E-mail: pppkctm_4@yahoo.com
Look out for more awesome news as Sunway ages into this inspiring number in 2012!
One Japanese student left Sunway College with a smile on her face.

The exchange student, Makato, was so impressed with young people of her own age that she could no longer contain the joy of having visited Sunway. “I will be bringing back these enjoyable moments to Japan,” she said. “I hope Sunway College will conduct a Student exchange programme between Malaysia and Japan to further expand the understanding of the different cultures in the near future.”

Makato was one of ten students from different universities all over Japan who visited Malaysia for a 3-week stay, in conjunction with a youth training project launched by Tourism Malaysia office in Tokyo. They were selected from a total of 146 applicants to undergo the ‘Look Malaysia Programme’ aimed at fostering goodwill and reviving Japan’s global image, since the Great East Japan earthquake and tsunami on March 11.

Playing host was Sunway College’s Australian University Programme (AUP). Although it was a one-day event, the Japanese students had the chance to experience Malaysian culture first hand.

During the ice breaker session, both Malaysian and Japanese students collaborated in small groups and competed with each other to build the tallest paper tower that was able to hold a 500ml water bottle. This provided an insight to how the Japanese students work collaboratively and also to encourage open interaction. The students also shared what they had learned from each other during this session.

This was followed by a session where the Japanese students were exposed to conversational Bahasa Melayu to assist them during the rest of their stay in Malaysia.

After some scrumptious Malaysian food for lunch, the students were taken on a campus tour followed by an interactive session on “Barriers to Communication”, before being entertained to a talent show put up by the Malaysian students and a mini fashion show of the Malaysian Ethnic Wear. Sunway students and staff wore vibrant traditional outfits that included the baju kebaya, cheong sam, samfu, sari and other costumes.

In return, the Japanese students responded with an enthusiastic rendition of a few famous songs in Japanese as well as a ‘magic show’ with a deck of cards.

At the closing ceremony, these students were presented souvenirs by the Executive Director of Sunway Education Group, Elizabeth Lee and everyone including the Japanese students joined in to sing “Rasa Sayang Eh”.

The Japanese students were esthetically presenting a Japanese song to their hosts.
Going places

Despite having travelled to many places, Muhammad Jalal Udin Hyder Khawari, an exchange student from Victoria University still loves Malaysia.

Better known as “Jay” to his friends, the 25-year-old who has spent one semester (about four months) in Victoria University B.Bus twinning programme at Sunway College, says, since coming here in August this year, he has made many friends.

“It has been an awesome experience being here in Malaysia,” he says. “The people here are lovely and I have made a lot of friends. In building my social environment I have learnt a lot about the diversity of Malaysia with its many races and cultures.”

Because of his looks, many of his friends thought he is Kazakh. Of Afghanistan and Pakistani parentage, Jay migrated alone from Pakistan to Australia when he was 19 and worked for a few years before pursuing his Bachelor of Business at Victoria University, majoring in Banking and Finance. Having spent one semester at Sunway, he says, the course is identical to the one taught in Melbourne, Australia.

“I think the lecturers here are good and they seem to be more involved with their students, which is fantastic,” he elaborates. “The students here are also very lively, with so many activities going on.”

Jay is planning to go backpacking around a few Asean countries like Burma, Cambodia, Thailand and Indonesia in the coming weeks. He will probably be travelling alone.

Before coming to Malaysia, he was an exchange student in the VU programme in Canada and he has visited the U.S and South America. He chose to come to Malaysia because he wanted to learn about the Asian culture and observe the business and financial environment here. An additional factor was everyone here spoke English. “I believe that Asia will be the next economic power,” he says.

Apart from travelling, Jay likes to read. At the moment he is reading two novels, “Catcher in the Rye” by J.D Salinger and “Luka and the Ring of Fire” by Salman Rushdie.
Hallmarks

Strong determination to succeed

If you had spoken to Nanthini Ramras a few years ago, you would have wondered about her future.

Raised by a single mother since her childhood, Nanthini’s success is an inspiration to many young people who thought they would never see the light of a proper tertiary education due to financial constraints.

“My mother took care of the four of us,” said the lass from Bahau, a small town in Negeri Sembilan. “Mother works very hard as a labourer at the Bahau Estate and there was no way for her to afford sending me to Sunway College.”

Her elder sister is married, while her elder brother is working in Johor Baru. With a younger brother currently working and studying in Gombak, Nanthini admitted that there was no way her family could have afforded the fees. “However, I did not give up hope,” she said, although realising that Lady Luck would never come knocking on her door. “We have to go knocking on doors instead; never to ever give up. Eventually, I knew God would open the door and He always has a better plan for us,” she said.

At that time, Nanthini’s cousin was studying at Sunway College. She had told her about the Community Scholarship given by the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation. “She took the form for me, I applied, and thank God, I was offered the scholarship to study ACCA,” she said. “That was like a dream come true. Without it, I would never have been able to pursue the professional qualification to become an accountant. For this, I wish to thank Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah, for his generosity. I also owe it to Malaysian Care for giving me a golden opportunity.”

She has recently completed the ACCA programme and joined Ernst & Young in September this year. “My immediate plan,” she said, “is to continue working as an Audit Associate for the next three years in order to obtain my professional qualification.”

Her advice to young people who are despairing about their future: “If you are really unable to get anything after high school, try to work and study at the same time. There are a lot of courses which can be done on a part-time basis. If you are determined to succeed in life, nothing will be able to stop you. Never quit pursuing your dreams! And, for those who were given the opportunity to receive the Community Scholarship, please use it wisely.”
Sunway Education Group Section of UP

The Sunway Education Group which has its origins in 1986 with the establishment of Sunway College, is a financially self-sustaining entity synonymous with quality education and scholarship founded by the Chairman of the Sunway Group, Tan Sri Dato’ Seri Dr. Jeffrey Cheah, AO. In a span of just 25 years, the Group has grown phenomenally to twelve institutions located in Malaysia and overseas. Among the institutions are Sunway University, Sunway College, Monash University Sunway campus, the Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences and the Sunway International School.

Owned and governed by the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation, the Sunway Education Group is the only group of private education institutions held under a special purpose not-for-profit foundation in Malaysia. This transfer of equity ownership was valued at RM700 million in 2010. To the Founder of the Sunway Group, education extends far beyond the business realm and the success of the Sunway Education Group in contributing to education means much more than rankings and enrolment numbers. Over the years, the Sunway Education Group under the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation, has given generously in the form of scholarships and awards to society and accorded more than 11,000 deserving students, access to education which they otherwise would have been denied.

Guided by the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation’s principles of Quality Education, Giving to Society and A Vision in Perpetuity, the Sunway Education Group is proud to be in a position to give generously to society through education which it views as a vital vehicle that enriches and improves lives.

The Sunway Education Group institutions and services are:

**Sunway University**
Tel: 603-7491 8622
info@sunway.edu.my
sunway.edu.my/university

**Sunway International School**
Tel: 603-7491 8622
info@sunway.edu.my
www.sis.sunway.edu.my

**Monash University Sunway campus**
Tel: 603-5514 6000
info@monash.edu.my
www.monash.edu.my

**Sunway College**
Tel: 603-5638 7176
info@sunway.edu.my
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**Sunway College Johor Bahru**
Tel: 607-359 6880
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**Sunway College Ipoh**
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Tel: 603-5514 6000
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**Sunway Le Cordon Bleu Institute of Culinary Arts**
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Giving back to society

One man’s personal vision of giving back to society through education has enriched thousands of young Malaysians.

When the team asked Tan Sri Dato’ Seri Dr. Jeffrey Cheah what motivated him to set up the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation, he merely replied, “I have always aspired to inspire before I expire.”

A profound answer in few words, but the actions speak louder, considering that over the past 14 years since its inception in 1997, the Foundation, previously known as the Sunway Education Trust Fund, has been perpetuating the cause of giving through education, granting scholarships worth RM80 million to 11,000 deserving Malaysians.

At a Scholarship ceremony held recently, the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation awarded scholarships across 20 categories to a total of 879 students in two separate ceremonies held concurrently at Sunway University and at Monash University Sunway campus. To-date, the Foundation has awarded scholarships to students totaling RM20 million this year, impacting the lives of another 2,423 students.

By giving to those in need, Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah has created a legacy, which he hopes to leave behind to the younger generation. “I have been in business these many years,” he said. “It is good that, through the award of scholarships, we are able to give back to society.”

Education, the catalyst for development

Indeed, the Jeffrey Cheah Scholarships crystallised a timeless commitment of a businessman to benefit young Malaysians, given that education has always been at the heart of Malaysian parents.

Education is capable of transforming a nation’s economy, turning Malaysia into an economic power house in Asia, besides helping the underprivileged to get out of the vicious cycle of poverty.

For this reason, Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah’s tradition and legacy of caring and sharing with the underprivileged will make a big impact on the future generation of Malaysians.

One of the eight recipients of the Tun Dato’ Seri Omar Ong Community Scholarship, Richard Navindran, said that the scholarship has helped him achieve his dream of furthering his tertiary studies. “If it was not for this scholarship, I would not have the means to attend a university, let alone a world-class institution such as Sunway University,” he said.

“The Foundation has sown seeds that will eventually help to build a nation of well-educated Malaysians, regardless of race, religion or creed.

The whole philosophy of giving and caring can be summed up in the words of Founding Trustee of the Foundation, Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah himself, in a speech which was also telecast “live” during the ceremony to the Monash University Sunway Campus:

“Sown with a vision of progress and nurturing the seeds of wisdom, the Foundation yields a legacy of hope, providing deserving individuals access to quality education while driving the development of Malaysia into a regional centre of excellence in tertiary education.”

More information on the Jeffrey Cheah Scholarship Programme, including application forms and criteria for eligibility can be found at the Foundation website at www.jeffreycheahfoundation.com.
A turning point of hope

The Chinese philosopher, Lao-tzu once said, “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.”

The Chinese proverb has become the inspiration behind the Tun Omar Ong Community Scholarship, which is offered by both Sunway University and Sunway College under the auspices of the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation. It is a gift of education targeted at marginalised youth from economically challenging circumstances, including those who live in Charitable Homes and Orphanages due to dire family circumstances.

This scholarship for the needy commenced in 2002, with a non-governmental organisation, Malaysian Care assisting the Sunway Education Group to identify and encourage deserving youth to take the pivotal step to change their lives.

To date, a total of 51 young people have benefited from the Community Scholarship, where 30 of them have graduated and are gainfully employed or contributing to the economy.

The Jeffrey Cheah Foundation is proud to be able to provide an education for these deserving individuals and provide a way back from the precipice of hopelessness.

Recently, the Sunway Education Group invited current and past Community Scholars to a brunch gathering at Sunway. It was organised as a time of sharing and fellowship so that graduate community scholars could speak to current scholars and encourage them in their role as students.

Among the graduates who were present was Suseela Vellasami, who hails from Rumah Keluarga Kami. Suseela was the first Community Scholar to graduate with Bachelor of Science (Hons) Business Information, in 2005. She is currently employed with Quicknet.

The networking event was also attended by the Executive Director of Malaysian Care, Wong Young Soon, representatives from Rumah Juara, Rumah Ozanam and Rumah Kids as well as Sunway staff from the Students Services, the Counselling Unit and the Administrator of the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation who gave their support to the scholars.

Sunway’s qualified counsellors help to guide and mentor the budding community scholars in their new environment to enable them to reach their true potential as smoothly as possible.
They made it, too!

Never left behind in their pursuit of their tertiary education, two sisters from Rumah Hope, Lucy Lee Yeh Leng and Doris Lee Wan Yi earned a university education against all odds, thanks to the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation!

Together with fellow Community Scholar, Darren Lee Kar Hoe, they were recipients of the Tun Omar Ong Community scholarship which was given by the Foundation to provide access to learning and hope to deserving students, who could otherwise not afford any formal tertiary education.

While Darren graduated with a Diploma in Hotel Management, Lucy and Doris received their Diploma in Information Technology and Diploma in Multimedia and Graphic Design from Sunway University, respectively.

Lucy, the younger of the two, who is currently working with DHL, says that she is forever grateful to the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation, which has enabled her to complete her studies. “In addition I would also like to thank the counsellor, who helped me to cope with the stress of studies,” she adds. “I will be starting my degree in Information Systems in March next year which I am looking forward to.”

Doris, now a graphic designer with Bertram Marketing, shares her feelings: “I feel very blessed as a community scholar. It was a struggle in the beginning, but I am happy it is all over now. With the help of counsellors and lecturers I was able to complete my course. My experience at Sunway has been great. It has taught me to communicate with others as well as learn how to be creative.”

At the Sunway University graduation ceremony which was held recently, Darren Lee was unable to attend due to his work commitments.

Unlike most other scholarships, the Community Scholarship of Sunway University does not require the applicant to score good grades. However, the applicant must be living in a charitable home or come from families whose household income is low.

The Jeffrey Cheah Foundation is a not-for-profit special purpose vehicle, which channels funds for scholarships and research grants. To-date RM80 million in scholarships have been awarded to 11,000 students since 1997.
Young but talented

They are young. They are talented.

The enthusiasm and school spirit of these Grade 7 and 8 students of Sunway International School were clearly exhibited, when they took centerstage for two hours to perform at the inaugural SIS School Concert.

Under the directorship of their Performing Arts teachers, Mr. Chris Colby and Mr. David Kort, the teens presented their wholehearted interpretation of “Thriller/Heads Will Roll” and “Good Morning, Baltimore” to rousing applause from the audience, comprising parents, students, friends and staff.
A string ensemble rendition of soundtrack hits, “My Heart Will Go On”, “A Whole New World” and “Stand by Me” even featured teachers, Mr. Vaillancourt and Ms. LeRoy as guest artists! The School Band then closed the show with their version of “Halo” and “November Rain.”

Concert producer, Mr. Narancsik poignantly recorded the School’s dedication for the Daniel Pearl World Music Day, a cause SIS is proud to support that is directed towards using the power of music to reaffirm the commitment and tolerance of humanity.

Mr. Narancsik also acknowledged the hard work that went into the concert production: “We owe it to our students and all who contributed their time and effort to help make the concert a success.”

Proceeds from the concert will be donated to Community One, an organisation that helps to provide education for Myanmar refugees.
Jeffrey Cheah Foundation

Scholarships

&

Awards Presentation

Ceremony 2011