ON WINGS OF HOPE
may wishes come true
for a bright future
The Sunway Education Group

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Sunway Education Group

Sunway College, one of the pioneers of twinning programmes providers in Malaysia offers a curriculum identical to Victoria University (VU) Melbourne, Australia. By studying in Sunway College, Malaysians can enjoy substantial cost savings in acquiring a reputable Australian degree, without having to leave home.

To provide a true Australian learning experience, the Burst Mode or Block Teaching has academic staff from VU Australia visit this offshore campus (Sunway College) to exchange ideas on their teaching experience with the academic team here and personally teach students within the VU Bachelor of Business programme.

Kathy Michael, Steven Wdowik and Dr Maxwell Winchester were the most recent visitors from VU Melbourne.

During their block teaching stint here, they taught the modules of Management Accounting, Credit & Lending Decisions and Marketing. They also took time to benchmark the quality of the VU programme delivery standards plus plan and implement the latest teaching strategies and methodologies already tested and delivered in Australia.

Michael and Wdowik introduced and rolled out “virtual office hours” of Sunway College. Utilising web, audio, video, instant messaging, shared interactive whiteboard and social networking, the innovative programme enables international offshore students to consult with lecturers in virtual classrooms outside of lectures and tutorials.

“There was a bit of disconnect before virtual office hours as offshore students had no contact with Melbourne staff other than our visits and via emails,” said Michael. “With the virtual office hours, dates and times are scheduled to give students opportunities to hop online and engage with the Australian Unit Office Coordinators about coursework from wherever they are. This is a real improvement in the quality of their educational experience as students feel more connected with the entire VU programme.”

Aside from teaching the Marketing module, Dr Winchester, Discipline Leader of the Bachelor of Business (Marketing) was here to discuss the plan to move away from conventional delivery of 2-hour lecture and 1-hour tutorial in the Marketing module with Greeja Hemalata De Silva, Sunway College’s Head of the VU Bachelor of Business Programme.

In Melbourne, the 3-hour seminar tool has been used effectively to cover a lecture topic and get the students to stop and immediately reflect on the topic, instead of waiting to test their understanding in tutorials in the following week. Under the seminar teaching method, the group of students is about 40 to 50 students in a group. Smaller than lectures but bigger than tutorials, students get an enhanced learning experience with higher retention of learning content, better attendance rate and improved relationship between lecturers and students. With a teaching experience of more than 25 years, Dr Winchester believes the greatest reward of teaching is watching students grow and making a difference in their lives.

Dr Winchester confides that Sunway is one of his favourite offshore campuses. The students have a better command of the English Language and knowledge at the right level of study. They are very well educated, dedicated in their studies and the students perform very well in assignments and exams,” said Dr Winchester.

With the Sunway-VU staff highly committed and involved in delivering the same standards of teaching like the VU Melbourne campus, the block teaching shifts have been effective in ensuring the syllabi, assignments, tests and examinations maintain the quality of teaching. The VU Melbourne lecturers on the block teaching visits have been very satisfied with the Sunway College VU students and lecturers. They often spend time with the local lecturers discussing teaching materials and methodology, moderate marking as well as doing joint research.

Steven Wdowik, Kathy Michael, Greeja Hemalata De Silva and Dr Maxwell Winchester
At the recent 49th Commencement Ceremony for the Canadian International Matriculation Programme (CIMP), Director of Pre-University Studies Cheng Mien Wee thanked all the parents for their support and for sharing their children with Sunway. Upon Cheng’s request, the CIMP graduates stood up to give their parents a rousing round of applause.

Sharing the excitement and celebration on the day with a total of 211 graduates were Puan Sri Datin Seri (Dr) Susan Cheah, EXCO member of the Sunway Group; Her Excellency Judith St. George, High Commissioner for Canada; Dr Lee Weng Keng, Chief Executive Officer, Education and Healthcare Division, Sunway Group and Professor Graeme Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor of Sunway University.

Present to receive her Ontario Secondary School Diploma was Tan Kai Chen who achieved overall highest average of 98.33% winning four awards for Biology, Business Leadership: Management Fundamentals, Chemistry and Mathematics of Data Management. Kai Chen also received the Tan Sri Dato’ Seri Dr Jeffrey Cheah Entrance Scholarship, the Tan Sri Dato’ Seri Dr Jeffrey Cheah Scholastic Award and was nominated for the 2015-2016 Governor General’s Medal for Academic Achievement.

At the ceremony, eighty students were recognised for their efforts in community service with nineteen of them receiving the Diamond Award for contributing more than 100 hours of community service. The Community Service Award was bestowed upon Na Khai Yee for volunteering a total of three-hundred and forty hours for a good cause.

Highlighting stories of the students’ contribution, Cheng mentioned the students had raised a total of RM71,521 in the past year for charity with RM60,000 given in support of cancer research in Malaysia, RM4,893 for refugee efforts and RM1,440 for the Selangor Cheshire Home.

“In helping to deliver miracle baby Kee Sun Way at Sunway Pyramid, the selfless act from Farhana Mohd Fadzli and Wee Tai May from CIMP together with Shirley Lee of the Sunway International School has shown us their actions speak a lot about education and the kind of people they will become,” commented Cheng.

In his valedictorian address, Shaza Rae Selvarajoo paid tribute to all their parents as CIMP was a good experience. In living their lives and doing their best with the very best of lecturers and strangers, CIMP taught the students the importance of unity in their events and causes.

WORKING ON NATION BUILDING TOGETHER

Having joined the same intake in CATand ACCA, both Melissa Tan Hui Ying and Kenneth Koh Chun Hong met in Sunway and are now in their third year of marriage.

Earning herself the Jeffrey Cheah Entrance Scholarship, Melissa served as the Vice President of Sunway TES’s Student ACCA Committee (SAC) as well as the Head Usher for Sunway Christian Fellowship. She learnt to manage events and projects, picking up exposure in working with teams, dealing with management, meeting new friends and people. Also an entry Level Jeffrey Cheah scholar and Sunway TES ACCA scholar, Kenneth served as cell group leader with Sunway Monash Christian Fellowship.

For Melissa, she made lifelong friends who have helped her grow into the person she is now. Kenneth too has made lifelong friends who are passionate for the right things and who continue to inspire him till today.

Workwise, Melissa’s time in Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PwC) has equipped her with the ability to think in a structured manner and deliver on tasks whether work-related or outside of work. It was also the place where she has met great bosses who took the time to coach, mentor and believed in her enough to give her leadership opportunities to grow and develop confidence. As a result, she hopes to be able to mentor others as well. For Kenneth, PwC was a great learning platform and a good stepping stone to greater opportunities in his career.

Both Melissa and Kenneth are passionate about nation building. The strategic thinker who cares about progress and national impact in a big way, Kenneth’s work has allowed him to influence change with his key clients. Melissa is more into the details where she works with individuals (mainly youth and young adults) to help them grow and empower them to pursue their passions and goals. Their work requires them to deal with individuals, young and old and whenever given the opportunity, they try to change perceptions through their characters, professional work and ethical conduct.

Both Melissa and Kenneth hope to be part of the generation that changes the course of our nation and bring positive growth and progress.

Melissa is now working with Malaysia Airlines Ground Handling Services, contributing her efforts to support the restructuring of Malaysia’s national icon and Kenneth is now working for McKinsey & Co., giving him the opportunity to work with key public companies that impact the Rakyat.

RECOGNISING ACADEMICS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE AT GRADUATION

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BUILDING A BRIGHT FUTURE UPON A STRONG FOUNDATION OF LEARNING

A Gamuda Scholarship Award 2015 recipient, Janesh Nathan is currently pursuing a 3-year Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting) and is in his first year at Monash University Malaysia.

Recalling his time in the A-Level programme, Janesh finds it the most interesting segment of the A-Level examination was the application of theory to real world situations leading most students to search for additional information beyond books to attain a deeper understanding and apply it practically.

Finding the programme to be fantastic, Janesh feels his time spent here has made him a more matured person and has taught him to comprehend complex problems through a systematic thought process. With dedicated lecturers who are committed to ensuring their students are well equipped to handle examinations and succeed in their future, Janesh believes a strong foundation laid in A-Level is advantageous for his future undertakings.

Citing economics as his favourite subject, Janesh was “Fascinated by the world’s financial markets and the capital markets, my economics lecturer and mentor, Miss Cherilyn Low always encouraged me to pursue my dreams plus provided support through consultations after classes.” Even today, Janesh continues to enjoy a helping hand from Miss Low whenever he encounters a tough problem in his current university studies for Economics.

For Janesh, the A-Level at Sunway College is not just textbooks and classrooms. Students are encouraged to participate in out of class-room activities where they get to explore and learn valuable skills such as communication and teamwork. Active in extra-curricular activities, Janesh was President of the A-Level Student Council (ALSCO). The best part of being ALSCO President was being able to work together with an outstanding student council body, comprising the most dedicated and hardworking individuals he has ever met. As a group, we successfully organised some of the biggest events in the A-Level programme, like the Halloween Haunted Maze.

Overall, my time at Sunway College really provided me the opportunity to explore leadership and team working skills through active involvement in various extra-curricular activities.

“{}The friends and lecturers I met during my A-Levels will always be an important part of my life, even though we have taken on different paths in life,” says Janesh Nathan.

THRIVING IN SPITE OF LIFE’S CHALLENGES

23-year old Raymond Aw has gone through much in his young life. Having lost his father to liver failure in October 2014 followed by his stepmother’s stroke two weeks later, Raymond is now working part time to support his younger brother’s higher education.

Raymond knew for a fact the STPM qualification is insufficient for his survival in today’s competitive world. Determined to change his life, Raymond decided to pursue a professional degree. As he searched for a place to study, he learnt of the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation Community Scholarship at Sunway - a full scholarship programme which covers successful candidates’ tuition fees, accommodation, books and monthly allowance.

Remembering the stress of the application and selection process as being very stringent, Raymond was relieved to secure the scholarship. At that point in time, his parents were still around to share in his joy at receiving a shot to improve his life.

“I am forever thankful for the scholarship and education which I am receiving. I hope to be able to contribute back to Sunway, the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation and ultimately the community and society in every way I can,” said Raymond.

The former secretary of the Sunway Business and Investment Society (SBIS), Raymond has participated in and supported activities on campus like the Harvard Asia Leadership Conference, LEAP Employability Training Programme, the SBIS Forum and the Harvard Krokodiloes Charity Dinner held at Sunway Resort Hotel and Spa.

Raymond and his younger brother have a biological mother, a divorcee with three daughters to support on her own. With her working two jobs, Raymond cannot bear to see her suffer the additional burden of his younger brother and himself so he has assured her he would support his younger brother and himself. For him, the home cooked meals from his mother during their monthly visits are often the best gift they can ask for.

To create a better future for his brother and himself, Raymond hopes to focus on excelling in his studies, juggling part-time work and full-time study with some time for extra-curricular activities.
SECOND TIME RUNNING - TOP IN THE WORLD & TOP IN MALAYSIA

For the second year running, Sunway College took home thirty five out of the 175 awards at the Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards. Twenty six Sunway College students received Top in the World Awards, nine took home Top in Malaysia and one student took home an award for Best Across 4 Cambridge International AS levels.

From Penang, the Dee family came to celebrate Dee Ying Ling’s Top in Malaysia for AS level Chemistry. Her parents Dee Chang Gin and Tan Sew Kim supported her choice of Sunway College. A Kementerian Pelajaran Malaysia (KPM) scholar, Ying Ling could choose her preferred college and having surveyed a few colleges in Selangor, the family were immediately attracted and assured by the campus security plus amenities that included bus transportation were safely and conveniently accessible via canopy walkways.

Another KPM scholar, Kan Chang Yu took home the Best Across 4 Cambridge International AS Level Award. Having decided upon dentistry as his next step, Chang Yu is grateful for his time spent in Sunway College, the support and guidance of friends and lecturers. Accompanied by his parents, Kan Seng Fook and Yap Lee Chu, Chang Yu is ecstatic to receive the award and is motivated by this win to keep on learning and working hard.

Former International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) winner, gold medalist Anzo Teh Zhao Yang and silver medalist Khong Yi Kye achieved Top in the World respectively for AS level Mathematics and A-Level Further Mathematics. Sharing a housing unit at Sunway Montash Residence (SMR), Anzo and five of his housemates, Lim Yi Heng, Tan Hong Bin, Brian King Chew San, Tan Xue Heng and Kan Chang Yu received outstanding awards for AS level in different categories from CIE. Yi Heng, Hong Bin and Brian King received Top in the World in Mathematics, Xue Heng received Top in Malaysia in Biology. Their other two housemates, Zeno Lee and Kho Hou Yong performed consistently well in their A-Level.

Deputy Minister of Education YB Chong Sin Woon graced the CIE awards ceremony. Cheng Mien Wee, Director of Sunway College’s Pre-University Studies and lecturers were on hand to celebrate the students’ achievements. Proud of the outstanding performances of the students and their consistency, Cheng commended the lecturers for being the key to the students’ successes.

PASSIONATE ABOUT HER STUDIES AND GUZHENG

18-year old Shireen Chin Mei Yee previously of Kuen Cheng High School joined the Australian Matriculation (AUSMAT) programme in January 2015. Having picked AUSMAT for the funny and passionate lecturers, she loves the idea of meeting different people in every class and trying to practice good time management to cope with exams and assignments. Having good transportation and great facilities at Sunway College also helped her with her decision to do AUSMAT.

A Jeffrey Cheah Entrance Scholarship recipient, Shireen is in AUSMAT to discover her dreams and achieve success in her life. When not busy with her studies and examinations, Shireen dedicates an hour or two a day to playing the guzheng. A string instrument, the guzheng melody is played by plucking the strings with the fingernails. The artificial fingernails Shireen uses are made of turtle shell and taped to her fingers using long strips of plasters.

Having picked up the guzheng more than five years ago based on her mother’s love for the instrument and encouragement, Shireen finds the guzheng gives her many opportunities to express her feelings through the traditional music she plays on the instrument.

Shireen loves performing in front of an audience as she gets to see how the audience reacts to her performance. Finding performance more exciting than playing at home, Shireen has performed at Child Aid Asia 2015 in the Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre (KLPAC) with four other guzheng players. She is proud to have finally played on stage for her AUSMAT friends and teachers at the AUSMAT Talentime and Sunway Education Group Teachers Appreciation Day.

According to Shireen, not many people know what the guzheng is and this has made her love for the instrument grow as she can play however she wants to. Sharing her love of music with others has Shireen joining the Yi Xiang Ler Chinese Orchestra outside of college. Being a member of this orchestra has enabled Shireen to perform at dinners, shopping malls during the Chinese New Year celebrations and all types of events, including some charity events.

With several upcoming performances lined up, Shireen is terrified at the thought of solo guzheng performances but is up for the challenge as going solo on the guzheng is more interesting.

Shireen performing at the AUSMAT Talentime.
CELEBRATIONS SWING INTO PLACE FOR THE YEAR OF THE MONKEY

About eighty committee members, helpers and advisors from the Chinese Independent Schools Alumni Club (CISA Club) had started prep work for this event in November 2015. A platform for the interaction and communication of students from Chinese independent schools, CISA’s main aim is to provide peer support to those new to Sunway and those who are far from home. Chew Cai Yi, President of the CISA Club and her team members had to explore and approach the various performance teams and vendors for the event. Up to a week before the event, many of the students stayed late to help with the preparations by contributing time and effort to make the event a success.

The members of the 24 Festive Drum and Lion Dance troupes comprising Sunway students had to practice and juggle their schedules to ensure the critical success of their performances on the day. When not performing as a key member of the 24 Festive Drum troupe, Han Boon Sew, the ex-President of the CISA Club, pursues the Australian University Programme at Sunway College.

Performances throughout the day included a Dragon Dance by Chung Hua Independent High School, Diabolo (sometimes known as the Chinese yoyo) by Kwang Hua Private High School, Taekwondo by the Sunway Taekwondo Club and Cheerleading by the Sunway Cheerleading Club.

The Chinese Independent School Alumni Club (CISA) of Sunway University welcomed the Lunar New Year into being with an all-day long celebration worthy of the Year of the Monkey.

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Adding to the festivities of this auspicious occasion were the Lion Dance performance and special appearance of the God of Prosperity. The occasion was made merrier by a bazaar with various stalls selling food, drinks, clothes, jewellery, well wishes and a Chinese calligraphy booth.

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EXPOSURE TO LIFE THROUGH VICTORIA UNIVERSITY

During her four years in Sunway, from doing a Diploma in Event Management to a Bachelor Degree in Marketing and International Trade, 22-year old Lim Shu Ling from Klang has learnt a lot through exposure to different kinds of experiences. For Shu Ling, college is the time for her to clarify and learn how to achieve her goals.

Due to complete her Victoria University (VU) Bachelor Degree in Marketing and International Trade in December 2016, Shu Ling has spent her time juggling roles as President of the VU Business Club (VUBC) executing VU Night; as one of the teaching assistants in the Asia Leadership Trek Conference 2016 and the assistant project manager and treasurer for “Run for Her Life” event in October 2013. She learnt teamwork is really important in an event, where everyone plays their role accordingly and help others when done with their tasks. She learnt to communicate with other team members and understand their situation in order to resolve any situation that arises.

For Shu Ling, the most memorable time in VU is the Business Challenge subject of Professional Development which preps VU students for the workplace environment. Although students may ‘suffer’ a lot when taking this subject, the subject really helps the students develop maturity, understanding and social skills. In VUBC, Shu Ling and her friends work hard, play hard, laugh together, cry together, bond with each other and develop a strong relationship that makes them a family.

Having done her surveys before joining Sunway and choosing the VU programme, Shu Ling finds the most challenging part of VU is in coping with different subjects at any point in time. When it comes to group discussion, she often has to make new friends again for different subjects and it is a challenge for students to meet at the same time as everyone has a different timetable.

For Shu Ling, Sunway has helped her to develop into a better person. Upon completing her studies in VU, she is very much into the idea of a holiday working experience in another country and understanding the other country’s culture. She is also considering getting a Masters degree from Sunway after working for a few years.

LEARNING THROUGH TEACHING - MOTTO FROM A HARVARD BOOK PRIZE WINNER

Finding time to volunteer while on a packed schedule can be a challenge but 18-year old Canadian International Matriculation Programme (CIMP) student Lok Huey Ning believes it all comes down to time management. An average academic achievement of 90% and above is required for a Harvard Book Prize Award candidate.

In her interview for the Harvard Book Award, she was asked about who she is as a person, her interests, ambitions and opinions. In her personal statement, Huey Ning wrote about a personal experience which affects her current outlook in life, her ambition and the reason behind it. Winning the Award made her feel honoured, grateful as Huey Ning believes this achievement is only a small scheme in the big map of life. In the end it’s the daily behaviour and personality which determines her overall confidence. Her advice to future Harvard Prize Book Award candidate is “Just be yourself!” as she always believed in being honest to oneself.

Hailing from Petaling Jaya from a family of four, Huey Ning enjoys playing the piano, jogging, reading and counts Mark Haddon as one of her favourite authors.  Huey Ning’s choice of CIMP was due to its 70/30 split for coursework and examinations. She wanted to try something new and different from high school. CIMP appealed to her preference for learning and doing assignments consistently versus cramming for a big exam, regurgitating facts and forgetting them after. Receiving a partial scholarship under the Sunway Special Scholarship was also a big motivator.

Huey Ning attributes her study method to understanding the subject matter instead of memorising. She utilises this method in her tutoring of CIMP students who need help about 3 days in a week. Tutoring for Huey Ning provides her with training as she needs to explain concepts to the others and understand which area of study challenges them the most.

For Huey Ning, chasing deadlines for assignments has been the most challenging so far, requiring efforts in good time management. Having passionate and enthusiastic teachers at CIMP make all the difference as the teachers are a joy to learn from, offering their time outside of class to help students. The programme with its emphasis on speaking out has nurtured her innate curiosity and inquisitiveness. Beyond CIMP, Huey Ning will be continuing her studies abroad. She will be pursuing further studies in Strategic Finance at Minerva Schools at KGI, California in the United States of America.
TEA PARTY CELEBRATES THE BEACONS OF THE FUTURE

“For doing a great job, we are here to congratulate our students, parents and teachers,” said Dr Elizabeth Lee, Senior Executive Director of Sunway Education Group and Sunway University at the recent tea party celebration for those who took the November 2015 Cambridge examinations. The A-Level students of Sunway College achieved a 100% passing rate and a record 65% achieved straight As (3A’s) and above.

Dr Elizabeth urged the students to make the right choice to do something positive to influence the future for they in the current generation will carry the beacon into the future. From the November 2015 cohort, six are heading off to University of Cambridge and two to University of Oxford to pursue studies in Engineering, Biochemical Engineering, Mathematics and Law.

Among those present were Serina Chia, who scored 4A* in Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Psychology. Having won the Top in Malaysia award for AS-Level Psychology in the June 2015 examination, she intends to further her studies in the United States. Reflecting on her experience, she advices future A-Level students to not be afraid of straying from the norm when it comes to subject options.

“Whenever I wanted to take Psychology, a lot of people discouraged me. My parents weren’t really supportive but as I progressed and did well throughout the programme, they gradually accepted and supported my decision. It was a good choice as I learnt a lot from the subject,” said Chia.

4A* student Kiar Cher Shen aims to pursue biochemistry in Stanford University, and mentioned having received four offers from universities in the UK, which includes University College London, University of Bristol, University of Bath and King’s College. Present at the celebration were both his parents. “Living away from home for a year and half has made our son more independent, and we are very proud and happy with his achievement. We will support his decision if he wishes to continue his study overseas,” said Kiar’s mother, Lim Ser Gek.

Thanussan Sundaramoorthy from Puchong, decided to pursue the A-Level at Sunway College after receiving good comments from his elder sister, who did the same programme here. A Kementerian Pendidikan Malaysia (KPM) bursary recipient, Thanussan confided the teachers are good and supportive, and the environment, together with the facilities in Sunway is good for studying. His decision to stay on campus helped him focus more on his studies too, as it was easier to form study groups and there were less distractions.

Anshad Malik chose Sunway College for its reputation in delivering a high percentage of straight As in the A-Level programme. Hoping to be among the top scorers, Anshad achieved 3A* in Mathematics, 2A in Economics and Further Mathematics, and B for Physics. Having received offers from University of Southampton and Heriot-Watt University, Anshad explained it was a steep transition from SPM to A-Level, but help and guidance from his teachers and peers made his studies an enjoyable one.

Offered in Sunway College for more than two decades, the Cambridge GCE A-Level Programme has been holding tea parties to celebrate the students’ excellent results of consistently achieving a pass rate of 98% and above.

ACHIEVING SUCCESS WITH THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION (WACE) 2015

Much joy and excitement greeted guests like Dr Lee Weng Keng, Chief Executive Officer, Education and Healthcare Division, Sunway Group, lecturers, proud parents and friends who came from near and far to celebrate the achievements in the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) 2015 examinations.

The Australian Matriculation (AUSMAT) Achievement and Appreciation Awards Ceremony 2016 had around 99.5 percent of the cohort eligible for entry into some of the best universities around the world. Six Sunway College students achieved above ATAR 99 with one hundred and eighty-three students achieving ATAR 90 and above. Fourteen of the cohort who achieved an ATAR of 98 and above qualified for the Monash High Achiever Scholarship while 27 percent became eligible for the Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah Continuing Scholarship. Students who opt for the Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah Continuing Scholarship will enjoy a 75 percent tuition fee waiver for studies at Sunway University.

The top 3 students who achieved the highest ATAR in the WACE 2015 were awarded book prizes sponsored by the Australian National University. Tribute was given to the student mentors who volunteered their time to help their peers with their studies.

Dr Elizabeth Lee, Senior Executive Director of the Sunway Education Group and Sunway University reminded the graduating students to get back up and keep going when faced with challenges and pitfalls. “As many people believe and have invested in helping you succeed, so it is up to you to take advantage of what you have been given for the journey ahead,” said Dr Elizabeth.

Together with 19-year old Ng Li Ling who was awarded for her outstanding achievement in Accounting and Finance, 4 students in total received the Special Certificate of Distinction. The Certificate is awarded to candidates within the top 0.5 percent in the world who sit for the examination. Having achieved ATAR 99.30, Li Ling feels great for she had exceeded her own expectations. Very satisfied with her achievement, Li Ling is happy all her hard work has paid off. Her mother, Mrs Ng said the whole family was very proud of Li Ling’s achievement and will fully support her in her further studies.

Having aimed high but unsure of success, Priscilla Faith Lim Qin Yun was honestly surprised to meet her target and achieve an ATAR of 99.40. Veanna Lee Qin Ying who achieved ATAR 99.10 wonders if a bit more effort would have achieved her a higher ATAR but confides that the AUSMAT has taught her to work hard for what she wants.

The largest and longest running provider of the AUSMAT (Australian Year 12) programme in Malaysia and with the School Curriculum and Standard Authority (SCSA) as its partner, Sunway College continuously ensures standards of the AUSMAT programme is consistent to that of schools in Western Australian.
MOVERS & SHAKERS

GRADUATING MUFY WITH I'M STILL LEARNING

In a celebration of hard work, commitment and resilience, close to 600 students graduated from the Monash University Foundation Year (MUFY) with relief, pride and excitement. Ready to begin the next stage of their world class university education, Lee Thye Cheong, Director of MUFY at Sunway College Kuala Lumpur asked the graduates to seize every opportunity to learn not only from textbooks, lectures, tutorials, friends, experiences and challenging situations but also to learn from mistakes made as mistakes often propel new heights of achievement.

Highlights for the year’s graduating class included the impressive Wall Street investment savvy Tan Shao Qian and Chai Li Kean whose team emerged champion, winning the Grand Prize at the Monash Business Investment Challenge beating 27 other teams. Another group of students took part in a meaningful experience by journeying into a life without sight in support of Dialogue in the Dark, a global social enterprise which raises awareness and understanding of people without sight. The annual fund-raising MUFY ‘SHARITY’ Day this year featured a remarkable variety of food, games and the ‘Class of Horror’, a haunted maze which had horror seekers paying a handsome fee to be scared out of their wits.

Academically, MUFY continues to shine as Sunway College KL clinched the MUFY Excellence Award for achieving the Highest Total Score in eight subjects among global MUFY providers in Australia, China, Malaysia, Indonesia and Sri Lanka. MUFY students at Sunway College KL came out tops and swept 16 out of 22 MUFY Subject Awards. Thirty nine students scored an average 89% to become eligible for a Monash University Malaysia Scholarship.

On behalf of the graduating class, valedictorian and leader of the MUFY Student Council Daniel Chandy Samuel thanked his peers, parents and lecturers for their support throughout the year. Comparing MUFY lecturers to the Waze application programme, Daniel said the lecturers guided and helped them to get to where they had to be. “Often they are traffic lights that stop us when we are running wild, out of control. At times, they are like mechanics, fixing up the students, making sure we are in tip-top shape,” added Daniel.

In his message to his fellow graduates, Daniel asked them to fight for what they believe in, to never settle for any less and to make their lives count for something for the preciousness of life lies in the fact it does not last forever.

STARS OF AUSMAT REIGN

In her address to the Stars of Australian Matriculation (AUSMAT) on their Awards night, Dr Elizabeth Lee, Senior Executive Director of the Sunway Education Group and Sunway University asked the graduates to make their own future, take action and be the active hero of their own lives.

After months of hard work in AUSMAT, the celebration that night began with academic achievement awards. Recipient of the Shield of Excellence for 2015, William Khoo Swee Keong commented that he planned his schedule daily and making daily goals helped him balance his time well. Surprised but deeply grateful to know he had made an impact in this programme, the President of the AUSMAT Student Council said this win would have never been possible without God as well as the support from AUSMAT lecturers and friends particularly members of the student council.

As the multiple award winner for the evening, Ng Li Ling received the High Academic Achievement Award, two subject awards for Chemistry and Mathematics 3AB plus a certificate for winning the silver medal in the Kangaroo Math Competition. The High Academic Achievement Award was awarded to Li Ling for achieving overall highest Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) score based on the best four subjects in the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) school-based assessments. A pleasant surprise for Li Ling, the Award gave her confidence a boost and is a strong motivator for her to continue working hard. Her time at AUSMAT has made Li Ling many new friends, and taught her to adapt and persevere.

Certificates were presented to merit students for their participation in mathematic competitions like the Euclid Contest, Kangaroo Math Competition (KMC) and Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC). Sunway AUSMAT students bagged top awards in the competitions; three for the Euclid Contest with five earning distinctions in the AMC. For the KMC, students won two gold, eight silver and eleven bronze medals in total. Best Subject Award winners received book prizes from several Australian universities and an iPad each from Monash University Malaysia. Part of the celebration that night included members of the AUSMAT student council being recognised for their collaborative efforts in planning the Teacher’s Appreciation Day, Talenteime and I-Care Day.

Vanitha Satchithanadan, Director of AUSMAT at Sunway College took this opportunity to wish all AUSMAT students a fulfilling journey ahead.
FACE TO FACE

LEARNING IS MORE THAN TEXTBOOKS

Currently undergoing his internship as part of his Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Communications, Bryan Lim Seng Wei is the youngest child of a former Canadian International Matriculation Programme (CIMP) lecturer in Sunway College Kuala Lumpur. Bryan had his start in the Sunway College in Foundation in Arts (FIA) and was focused solely on academics then. The most challenging component was fitting in and getting to know people the first few months in a new environment. The most interesting component of his time turned out to be the nature of assignments given, which encouraged him to develop open thinking and creativity.

FIA offered him a conducive learning environment with dedicated lecturers where Bryan discovered that learning is more than textbooks. Experiences in FIA like the Talentime taught him to get together with others, work hard and have fun. For Bryan, learning is better with an element of fun or enjoyment. Having completed FIA with an average score of 79.4%, Bryan was determined to work even harder in his undergraduate studies.

For his next move in academics, the mixture of finances, curiosity, and interest in the subjects offered had him choosing to start his undergraduate studies in August 2013. Deciding to pursue a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Communications at Sunway University after the FIA, Bryan’s second year had him participating as an executive in the Sunway University Student Council (SUSC). Motivated by the idea of making positive changes for students’ welfare, Bryan got to know a lot of great people doing great things and has come out of the experience a better person.

As he knows that things progressively get harder, he is very much looking forward to starting work. Stepping into the next three decades of his life with plans to make big changes in whichever industry he finds himself in, Bryan is prepared to work towards making those changes and find joy in doing so.

For future students of FIA, Bryan asks that they find ways to keep themselves in high spirits, look for the silver lining, know that you cannot please everyone (not even yourself sometimes) and all will be fine. For Bryan, having an open mind was the most important takeaway he took from his time in FIA.

A THESIS IS NEVER DONE

From the Monash University Foundation Year (MUFY) programme at Sunway College in 2010 to Monash University Malaysia in 2011 till now, Alex Lee Kae Lun has been busy exploring the world of education from a research perspective. Now waiting for his PhD application, Alex has started teaching undergraduates in Finance and working as the treasurer for the Monash University Postgraduate Association, the student council for postgraduates.

His PhD thesis is within the area of banking regulations but differs from his Honours thesis of Housing Bubble, Affordability and Credit Risk: A Malaysian Perspective. His Honours thesis was presented recently in October last year at the 11th Asian Academy of Management International Conference 2015.

To Alex, his work-life as a PhD student is not much different from that of an Honours student. There is time for afternoon tea breaks to discuss all sorts of stuff, not just research; time to go for short food-trips and then back to work. Some, like Alex have teaching to conduct.

As a first-time research student during his Honours year, Alex was tasked with preparing six literature reviews of about two-thousand five hundred words each, three qualitative studies assignments including his first research poster and interview of his research life and three quantitative studies task, with one exam. Alex worked seven days a week on a nine-hour schedule in the Honours Room, with his head buried in piles of research journals. The biggest challenge for him was the twenty-thousand word thesis which got more creative with flavour as feedback came from supervisors and research peers. The need to be updated with the latest development in the housing market, new lending guidelines from Bank Negara and new government policies for affordable housing had his thesis evolving to the point where he was trying to squeeze words within the word count limit.

Although it was a tough journey, Alex’s biggest take-away from the Honours program is the importance of very strict time management to enable quality task completion within the time frame.

For future students of Sunway, Alex gives this advice, “There is a lot to learn outside of books. Tertiary education is the time to discover who you are and work to become who you want to be.”
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