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CLICK! 4.0 – ADDRESSING SOCIAL ISSUES

A nationwide social entrepreneurship camp and programme targeted at 14 to 16 year old high school students. CLICK!4.0 was organised by the US Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, LifeChamp Sdn Bhd, the Malaysian-American Alumni Partnership (MAAP), and supported by Yayasan Khazanah, the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and Sunway Education Group. With the participation of more than 200 students from 400 rural and suburban schools across Malaysia, these students under the guidance of Fulbright English teaching assistants, Teach for Malaysia fellows and the Department of State exchange programme alumni, attended a three-day camp to learn the basics of social entrepreneurship, how to build a social business, improving leadership and English language skills.

Students in the programme were encouraged to work on projects to help solve social issues in their communities. They were then required to implement their projects in their respective communities for a period of eight weeks.

The Grand Finals held at Sunway University had six teams pitch their initiatives to a panel of judges. “In this 21st century, you are better connected and informed due to the digital and social revolution. Much hope is placed on your shoulders to be socially more responsible; for you are at the forefront of change and innovation. Given the opportunity, you, our young people can be a driving force in creating positive change in our communities, nation, and probably the world. Given the space, encouragement and opportunity, you are capable of designing solutions to many daily challenges. Through the many projects thought up and executed through this competition, I am heartened to see, and note most of your projects were to benefit your more deserving classmates in your school or community. Looking through your various projects, I see all of you seeking effective solutions to real problems”, said Dr Elizabeth Lee, Senior Executive Director of Sunway University and Sunway Education Group.

The third and second prize-winning teams came from SMK Maran, Pahang and SM Puan Aimin Kemaman, Terengganu and won partial scholarships from Sunway College and Sunway University. The members of Funky Fresh Masters of the Universe comprising Angeline Jafari, Rozanne Jeyanti Rajendran, Munez Mc Govern, Philip Johnson, Prince De Macqueen Wheatley and Muah Fahman Fizl Mohd Mohlar from SMK Siburan, Sarawak beat five other teams in the Grand Finals of CLICK! 4.0. They won themselves full scholarships to pursue further studies in one of any of the Pre-University programmes at Sunway College or the Sunway University American Degree Transfer Program.

Their project addressed a critical social issue in their community – the participation of youths in illegal drug racing where many end up injured or killed. By providing a platform for youths to productively spend time in the performing arts, participating in singing and dancing with a series of concerts, where they perform for their peers and members of the community. The project drew support not only from members of their community but the police department as well.

Edgara Kogan, Deputy Chief of Mission of the US Embassy in Kuala Lumpur was impressed observing the students’ accomplishments at the CLICK!4.0 event. With so much potential to grow, Mr. Kogan was delighted to be part of this enterprise stating this is just the beginning.
TIPS AND TRICKS FOR ADMISSION INTO UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Admission to the University of Oxford is not impossible but can be difficult. As the world improves on connectivity, one of the world’s leading universities has become more accessible via the internet and face-to-face. The Oxford University Malaysia Club Outreach (OUMC), the official union of Malaysian students at the University of Oxford, is reaching out to enable more prospective Malaysian students to gain admission.

Dr Anne Muller, Senior Tutor and Tutor for Admissions and Graduates, St Anne’s College, plus a few current Oxford students pursuing studies in Biochemistry, Chemistry, Economics, Engineering, Law, Psychology, Philosophy, and Mathematics shared the how-to’s and their experience in gaining entry into the University of Oxford. From the assessment process to providing effective responses to interview questions, the recently held OUMC Outreach Seminar at Sunway College was an opportunity to learn more about the University of Oxford.

Ng Wei Lam, Outreach Director of OUMC currently pursuing a Bachelor degree in Biochemistry is of the opinion Oxford is an amazing place. You will be walking the very same streets as JRR Tolkien, going into Nobel Prize winning laboratories where scientists came up with their discoveries. If you are into architecture, you will be walking pass castles that look like Harry Potter’s school, and you get to dine in plus live in them as well.

Dr. Anne Muller commented people always think of Oxford as “I just can’t do anything else but academic work.” “We at the University of Oxford encourage you to find your academic balance and other stuff. That is why the student selection is a painstaking process whereby the individuals are chosen by tutors for the subjects you love. We stand by you when things get tough, we sustain you in your degree programme which is fundamentally your passion, and we develop skills in you. Not all Oxford students are geniuses. They are strong academic students who are prepared to work for the subjects they love. These are the focused individuals we are looking for.”
MONASH I.T. INNOVATION CHALLENGE

In conjunction with the 1st International Symposium on the Frontiers in Intelligent Medicine (FIM), Monash University Malaysia designed a technology challenge for the young minds of Malaysia. The Monash I.T. Innovation Challenge aimed to bring together innovation and technology to create intelligent applications that can ease pain for loved ones or create lifestyle helpers that provide advice on food, exercise and health-related matters.

The three main winners of the Monash I.T. innovation challenge, all from the Monash University Foundation Year (MUFIY) programme of Sunway College came up with ideas for autistic eyeglasses, glucose monitoring and general health monitoring.

The first prize of RM5,000 went to Team ForSight comprising Robert Kim Chung Sik, Christian Bethany Felix and Nikitha Sivasangaran. The three team members submitted Adilova, a pair of spectacles for autistic patients. The smart eye glasses interprets user’s pulse rate, brain activity and pupil dilation to determine threats that autistic patients experience.

An idea for glucose monitoring via a project called Insulive won second prize. The team comprising Rohit Suresh, John Palaad and Alman bin Adam won RM3,000 for their intelligent and bloodless glucose monitoring system which has a user-friendly interface paired with comprehensive systems for monitoring food intake and medication dosage. This system is accompanied by “Second Breath”, an innovative breathalyser which enables non-intrusive bloodless glucose monitoring.

Team 360 comprising Yap Shoon Yee, Cheng Hsiu Quan, Niki Tan Pei Yee and Benedict Low won the third prize of RM1,000. The application utilizes nano robots to provide real-time monitoring of a patient’s health. This HealthCare Monitor uses a wristwatch to transmit data collection. Statistics, health diagnosis and an automatic distress signal are some of the uses of the HealthCare Monitor.

HARVARD PRIZE BOOK AWARDS FOUR

From the 13 full time pre-university students shortlisted for the prestigious Harvard Prize Book Award, Khair Hui Yi (A-Levels), Hannah Raisma Jambunathan (Canadian International Matriculation Programme), Gates Tan & Tan Qin Ee (Canadian International Matriculation Programme) and No Kha Yee (Year 11, Sunway International School) were the winners of the Harvard Prize Book Award.

During the interview with the Harvard Club of Malaysia panel of judges, the finalists were assessed based on social, intellectual and ethical aspects. The stringent selection process required the shortlisted candidates to maintain a consistent academic achievement average of 95%, plus exhibit an exceptional contribution and engagement in community service.

In her speech to the winners of the Harvard Prize Book Awards, Dr Elizabeth Lee, Senior Executive Director of the Sunway Education Group hoped “This prize will serve as further motivation for you to aim for scholastic and personal excellence. You have strived to do your very best and that represents the true spirit of our teaching here at Sunway. Let’s continue to raise the bar of our scholastic excellence standards and have your future peers aspire to reach higher.”

The winners each received RM2,000.00 cash prize, a copy of the Harvard Prize Book, an internship opportunity in the Harvard Club of Malaysia throughout the duration of study at Sunway College and a certificate endorsed by the Harvard Club of Malaysia.

Present at the Harvard Prize Book Award Ceremony was Tan Sri Dato’ Dr Lin See Yan, President of the Harvard Club of Malaysia who spoke to the students on Harvard, American Education and the British Education.
LEVERAGING AGAINST THE ODDS

An aspiring actuary, A-Levels alumni Tommy Hoo Yi Yaw is excited to begin his 4-year bachelor and master degree in Economics and Statistics at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Offered a full scholarship covering tuition, living expenses and a round-trip airfare, Tommy wishes to share his thoughts on applying for scholarships.

Tommy scored 3A’s in Economics, Mathematics, Physics and 1B in Further Mathematics in the November 2013 Cambridge A-level Examinations and had applied for more than 10 scholarships, attended over 20 interviews and group assessments. Having received plenty of rejections, Tommy believes one should never give up as all those rejections helped prepare him for this scholarship.

His scholarship application experience inspired his Youth Leadership Academy project, a 12-week project based leadership development programme organised by McKinsey & Company Malaysia. Working together with 4 other team mates within the programme, they created a website featuring success stories of scholarship recipients in Malaysia. As Tommy explains it, “Many people underestimate the complexities and difficulties of scholarship applications. Looking for information on the Internet can be stressful. This social entrepreneurship project offers solutions to aspiring Malaysian scholars as our website serves as a one-stop learning centre to provide tips and tricks of scholarship applications.”

“The good response from the website has resulted in 40 stories so far. I am happy to see the project coming to a close and the website is now accessible via www.scholarst.com.” Aside the success of their work, the process has been enlightening as the team met up with McKinsey consultants and CEOs of Maybank, Teach for Malaysia and Bank Negara to seek advice for their project.

Tommy believed his time at Sunway College helped shape much of his interpersonal, teamwork and leadership skills needed for applications to universities, scholarships and the Youth Leadership Academy project. An International Student Ambassador at Sunway College and a black belt in Taekwondo, he believes interpersonal qualities are as important as academic excellence. This has helped to equip him with the skills to mingle with people of diverse backgrounds, in getting ready for his future, Tommy has in mind to take various Actuarial professional examination papers whilst pursuing his degree.

TEA FOR A LEVELS TOP SCORERS

Held recently to celebrate the accomplishments of the June 2014 A-Level exams. The tea gathered together A-Level top scorers and returning alumni from top universities. Having been offered a placement in Jesus College, University of Oxford for October to pursue Mechanical Engineering, Henry Lee Min Rong scored 4A’s in Further Mathematics, Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry. A cheerful person and articulate, Lee is of the opinion self-motivation and independent study in A-Level is a fast track to top universities.

Proud of her son’s 3A’s in Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics, Chan Kim Thong watched Wong Jia Wei evolve from being shy to an independent, outspoken and confident person with the help of the Sunway’s Toastmasters Club. She believes the study environment in Sunway encourages the development of young minds. Using the WhatsApp platform to create a Q&A group for the students as the exams grew near, Madam Chan highlighted this as an example of how the A-Level lecturers went the extra mile for students.

Returning A-Level alumni, Liew Zi Qing and Feiza Tay were on hand to share their experiences with the current A-Level top scorers. Liew, who was back interning in Human Resources at Sunway Construction Sdn Bhd has completed his first year of Engineering at University of Cambridge. He believes that his Sunway learning had shaped him and continues to guide him with his studies in Cambridge.
EMPOWERING THE FUTURE
TRAINING FUTURE LEADERS @ MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Traveling to the Lion City for the Model United Nations (MUN) Conference in United World College of South East Asia (UWCSEA), the 18 members of the Sunway International School/Canadian Matriculation Programme Model United Nations (SS/CIMP MUN) Club attended a three-day conference from September 25 to September 28 this year.

The first day saw the gathering of young minds from Singapore schools and the only foreign delegation, the SS/CIMP MUN Club. United into the various committees of Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Human Rights Council (UNHRC), Disarmament, Political, Environmental, International Court of Justice (ICJ), World Health Organization (WHO) and the Security Council (UNSC), the students began their debates on their issues of concern within their committees. The debates continued on the second day and on the third day, a General Assembly was called for the committees to meet and vote on the resolutions.

The MUN may be a simulated conference but the role-play opportunity enabled students to debate on world issues, gain knowledge on the countries they were representing and improve their public speaking skills and linguistic abilities. Brendan Narancaki, the accompanying SS teacher of Dramatic Arts and History was proud of how the students of SS/CIMP MUN Club handled the debates at the conference as the quality of debate at UWC MUN was very high.

Mark Auger, the accompanying CIMP lecturer who teaches English and Writers Craft at CIMP was of the opinion the students will go far in life as they were able to debate world issues in a professional manner.

Lydia Cheah and Amanda Selvarajah (SS/CIMP MUN Club secretary generals)
“Coming back to UWC for a second round was really fulfilling. The high standard of debate and delegates was just as we remembered. It was good to be challenged and to see our other members really push themselves out of their comfort zone. The great thing about international conferences is the diversity and the scope of the MUN community. This was an exciting opportunity to discuss world issues with people from around the world and to be surrounded by people as passionate as ourselves. In our committee, the level of commitment and investment that everyone made in preparing for their topics was apparent.”

Fatiz Halder (CIMP, Second Semester student)
“Before the conference in Singapore, I had gone for three conferences, but I have never seen debates of this calibre. Shunned and a bit intimidated by the level of finesse the other delegates possessed, I felt like a beginner again. The confidence and unscripted speeches made me realize I have so much more to improve on. Joining MUN Club would be a good decision I made as I have learnt so much in a short time. Sitting in the Security Council as a representative of Togo was a great experience!”

Pav Pavithran (SIS, Grade 10)
“My first official conference, the world of MUN was a real eye opener. I made a lot of new friends there, who have a lot of experience with MUN, which in turn helped me lot. It was a great conference!”

RECIPE FOR FUN - THE STUDENT COUNCIL

Voting in a new student council every semester, the students of CIMP are looking to creating a fun place with spunky, motivated, talented and creative people. All events from big to small, students and staff love to get involved, from bowling nights to Spirit Week (theme dressing day such as pyjamas, nerd, cultural attire) to Talent Nights (music, dance and comedy), the spirit of camaraderie is alive and well. Dodgeball and futsal tournaments are fiercely competitive and keep CIMP students fit and active.

This year, they had an elaborate Halloween Homecoming Party where a King, Queen, Princess and Prince were selected as the crowd ate, mingled and danced.
EDUCATION FOR ALL

By working with the Pintar Foundation of Malaysia to adopt a school, three objectives within the Ontario Curriculum were met. Financial literacy, community service and “paying it forward” was realized when Sunway’s CIMP adopted SK Kampung Java as a sister school with permission from the Ministry of Education in Malaysia.

The students and lecturers from CIMP worked hard to raise funds for the 829 students from SK Taman Jawa with the selling of hats and mugs and collection of funds from CIMP classes. A total of RM8,430 was contributed recently. Because of these activities, the student body and the community within CIMP have an increased awareness of the need to create better education opportunities for the primary school students of SK Kampung Jawa.

In giving a hand up to these students, the CIMP choir intends to give basic singing lessons and future plans include a gently used book drive, used clothing and a no-pet-friendly food drive amongst others. With the help of the teachers in SK Kampung Jawa, a programme for most improved academic performance, most improved attendance and most improved behaviour amongst the students are some of the initiatives CIMP intends to carry out.

Since 2011, CIMP has raised more than RM37,000 for a variety of charities including the Cancer Society of Malaysia, Kiwanis Down Syndrome Foundation, SPICA, and The Philippines Typhoon Effort. By May 2015, CIMP intends to raise an additional RM12,000 in funds for the sister school, SK Kampung Jawa as providing more educational opportunities will create a better society for all.

Aside from logging in hours of community service as part of learning outside the classroom, CIMP students have the opportunity to develop important values such as cross-cultural understanding and social responsibility. Through interaction within the PINTAR community, students from CIMP and SK Kampung Jawa now have the opportunity to network and enhance their interpersonal skills.

Believing that education should be for ALL, the lecturers and students of CIMP are planning to collaborate further to help the students of SK Kampung Jawa. Some ideas include water bottles, beach towels and cooler bags so they can be more for the community.

Q&A WITH SUNWAY SWIM CHAMPION, YAP LIVVY

Currently enrolled in CIMP, 18-year old Yap Livvy took some time out from swimming practice and studies to share her thoughts and snippets of her life on campus.

The social work component of CIMP was the reason Livvy chose CIMP. The practical exposure offered by the lecturers of CIMP helps her to understand and remember the lectures given. With lots of clubs and societies offered within the extra-curricular activities, Livvy would have the opportunity to improve her social skills and expand her social circle.

Since she was 5, Livvy has been a swimmer and in the early stages of her competitive training, she would spend 10 to 13 hours training every week, in prepping for the Malawi Inter-University championship for both individual and team events. Livvy has invested in weekly training of 8 to 10 hours. In her debut for Sunway at the Malaysia in June, Livvy won 1 team gold, 1 individual silver and 2 individual bronze. Striving to maintain her winning streak in the Sunway swim team, Livvy was quite satisfied with her performance in a field which included some of the top inter-university swimmers.

At the time of this interview, she was looking forward to the coming MAPCU competition on 27 September 2014 at the National Aquatic Centre in Bukit Jalil followed by the National Inter Club Swimming Championship i.e. the President Cup in mid-November 2014.

When not swimming for Sunway, Livvy plays catch up with her college assignments and course work in CIMP. She intends to complete a degree programme and then become a business entrepreneur or return to her love of swimming as a coach, like her father. Citing Chinese novels! Tan You Bin as her role model, Livvy is inspired by the fact this successful novelist overcame his speech impediments by focusing on his speaking and reading skills in spite of being laughed at by his peers in his youth. During her free time, Livvy relaxes by listening to music, reading magazines and novels.

TEN RECEIVE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE BEL SCHOLARSHIPS

In July and August recently, University of Adelaide represented by Lawrence Abein, the Dean of Business and Edwin Leow, Faculty of Professions International Manager held one-to-one sessions with Sunway College students. These in-person scholarship interviews were held to select the ten who will be awarded the prestigious Business, Economics and Law (BEL) Scholarships.

Valued at AUD8,000, Goh Ching Ying, Chong Chun Seng, Santhiya Kamalalingam, Tan Jiu Fang, Gillian, Teo, Kimberly San, Lim Wei Wen, Ong Lee Rui, Chu Way Shen and Lee Cho Ching were the ten Australian Multicultural Programme (AUSMAT) students chosen to receive the BEL scholarships this year.

As Dean of Business at University of Adelaide, Abein is of the opinion that both Malaysia and Australia have a strong commitment to higher education and the development of its workforce. By providing students with more international opportunities to study, cultural understanding and economic development is fostered in the Asia Pacific region. “We are proud to work closely with Sunway College to encourage study in Australia and initiate other forms of educational partnership such as educational materials, conferences, study visits and scholarships.”

At the same ceremony, the Destination Adelaide Roadshow competition attracted over 400 students. The winner Ziana Fillimonova from Kazakhstan receive an iPad mini from Melissa Tan, representative of the University of South Australia.
NELSON MANDELA DAY

Hall 2, Graduate Centre at Sunway University was the stage for Nelson Mandela Day early this year. Organised by the students of Foundation in Arts (FIA), this initiative was to encourage the young to take action and inspire change the world for the better. The baton of leadership is about making a positive difference so each youth was to heed the call to simply do good every day. Nelson Mandela’s legacy would live on.

Inspired by the global Nelson Mandela International Day created to honour Madiba on his day of birth, 18 July, the students invited His Excellency, Thamaana Masiuku from the South African High Commission Malaysia to share his thoughts on “Youth-Building Blocks of a Nation” those present included 80 students from 3 different intakes of the Foundation in Arts (FIA) program, FIA lecturers, Deputy Director of FIA, Suzana binil Ahmad Ramli and Director, Ruma Lopes.

SMK USJ13 STUDENTS ACE MIA-SUNWAY TES ACCOUNTING QUIZ

Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA)-Sunway TES Accounting Quiz 2014 began in April with the participation of almost 1,000 teams comprising of more than 3,500 students from schools across Malaysia. Ten teams competed in the finals held at Sunway College and three teams emerged winners of scholarships worth more than RM200,000 to further their accounting studies at Sunway TES.

Team Leaf from SMK USJ 13 came out third followed by Revenue of SMK Revenue of SMK Bandar Puchong Jaya (A) in second. Elite of 13 from SMK USJ 13 was the first prize winner and the winning team leader, Liaw Chia Yong said the quiz is a wonderful experience, stressful but worth it as the other team members, Huang Sue Fuen, Ching Wen Ning and Janice Kung Shu En and himself truly enjoy accountancy as the concepts are interesting and easy to understand. We worked hard and were well prepared for the final. Our parents, teachers and friends have been very supportive.

In the presence of the guests of honour including Tun Haji Anuar Abdul Hamid (Senior Vice President of Accounting and Art Division from the Ministry of Education); Ho Foong Moi, (CEO of the Malaysian Institute of Accountants); Dr. Elizabeth Lee, Senior Executive Director of Sunway University and Sunway Education Group hoped to encourage students to leverage their knowledge in accounting to gain experience, knowledge and strength to prepare themselves for dealing with the challenges of life in or out of the accounting and finance industry.

This event was sponsored by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), BDO, Crowe Horwath, Deloitte, Ernst & Young, Gow & Tan, Kharuddin Hasyufdeen & Rad (KHR), PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PwC) and Sathin Consulting Group.

TEA FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVERS @ AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY PROGRAMME

Gregea Hermalata Da Silva, Head of the Australian University Programme (AUP) and Uma Devi Utaraj, a lecturer were on hand to celebrate the success of the outstanding achievers of the programme before the start of the last semester of AUP.

Among those present for the tea were the champions and third runner up winners of the HELP-Queensland University of Technology (QUT) business study competition. All HELP-QUT participants were given the Singapore Bus Service (SBS) Transit case study where they had to work in teams to develop solutions to improve the organisation’s performance.

The team of champions comprising Cheah Jia Ling, Ong Lee Yan, Sam Chue Zhao Hui and Saw Sher Ying proposed the use of live GPS bus tracking system which reports on bus locations to provide passengers accurate arrival and departure information plus the use of mobile applications to enable passengers to select and book their preferred bus stop to get on a bus.

The third runner up team made up of Chia Yune Lyn, Natasha Yap Pei Ling, Kang Phak Wa and Yee Pui Ye proposed foldable seats to increase bus capacity and the use of special bus lanes similar to Sunway’s Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) on elevated tracks in order to avoid heavy traffic.

The top scorers in the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) examinations, Amanda Yong Poh Yoke and Choi Chuan Wei each received a cheque of RM500 from CPA Australia. Chal acknowledged the sincere guidance of the lecturers in achieving this milestone.

A veteran of the recent Maybank Go Ahead Challenge, Indonesian Dayang Melati was part of the Avengers team that came in second runner up. Modeled after the Apprentice reality show, the 7-day intensive international business case competition had Dayang play the roles of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer. Dayang described the event as stressful, yet exciting for it tests endurance, intelligence and passion through the use of business case analysis, treasure hunts, riddles and other tasks. At one point in time, the Avengers team had to complete the missions simultaneously at the airport and catch a flight to Indonesia to continue the Challenge.

The unique learning and teaching environment at AUP has steered the students towards their achievements. The toughness of the Business Learning Experience Project has proved most helpful in assisting the AUP students in developing business plans, prototypes, models and projects. Cultivating interactive team-based learning and improving their creative competencies in communication, critical thinking, problem solving and soft skills for the business world, these outstanding achievers were thankful to have chosen the right degree programme.
RAISING AWARENESS FOR UNITED VOICE ON I-CARE DAY

Organised by the Australian Motticulture (AUSMAT) programme, the annual I-Care Day was a success due to the combined efforts of all AUSMAT students and lecturers. Having opted to raise social awareness for United Voice this year, funds were raised via two major events, the charity drive and the treasure hunt.

A self-advocacy group, United Voice, is led by persons with learning disabilities and counts people with Down Syndrome, autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and cerebral palsy as members. United Voice aims to empower their members by teaching them living skills so they can lead independent lives.

“There was so much excitement on I-Care Day, and it was inspiring to see everyone excited and passionate in their efforts to raise money for United Voices”, said Vanitha Satchithananadan, Director of AUSMAT.

At the charity drive, each AUSMAT class was assigned a booth to carry out food sales or games on I-Care Day. Held for the first time ever in the history of I-Care Day, the treasure hunt was a roaring success as “the students with lecturers Svasaranyaa Sivasathilingam and Piyadiashini Poianiappan came up with something new and different. Students and lecturers had a lot of fun so we might plan another for next year”, said Vanitha.

“Here in Sunway College, we aim to provide a holistic education for our students, combining learning with social contributions. On I-Care Day, students get to put into practice business models and marketing techniques learnt in the classroom”, adds Vanitha.

Stephen Choong, President of AUSMAT Student Council had a great collective experience as each class worked hard together to raise funds for United Voice. The efforts on I-Care Day saw the AUSMAT programme handing over a cheque for RM17,000 to representatives from United Voice - Yeong Moh Foong, Lead Coordinator, Lim Mei Chan, Committee Member and Janet Poh Chai Hoon.

REACHING OUT WITH EPIC HOMES

A Big 4 financial auditor, Loh Jon Ming formerly of the CAT/ACCA programme embraced his social responsibilities with EPIC Homes. In his own words, he mentioned that his heart was never far from volunteering at EPIC even when he was busy trying to rigorously learn about the corporate working environment at one of the Big Four firms.

He started out helping EPIC with their accounts and finance, but very soon he began to devote many weekends and weeknights to ensure their funds were utilised wisely and reported transparently. To Loh, auditing is one of the strongest career foundations to build upon, “If you know what you want to get out of it, you can continue your career in any other industry with the analytical and project-management skills you pick up along the audit path to help you tackle real-world problems wherever you go.

Life is meant to be evaluated as every step taken along the path of life is a chapter you happen to be living in. By keeping our options open and continuously questioning the why and what of our actions, we can live a meaningful life.”

Loh chose to start building homes with EPIC Homes for the Orang Asli as approximately 82% of all Orang Asli live in unsafe housing conditions and 31% are extremely poor. To date, over 600 builders who are ordinary people have built homes in just 3 days for 24 Orang Asli families together with EPIC Homes. “In the future, this platform we are creating for these builders, other non-governmental organisations(NGOs) and the Orang Asli themselves can bring better the urban and rural population so we may all be able to build a deeper relationship with those who need help and find out the causes of their challenges.”

Loh realized he felt richly rewarded when his skills and knowledge were used in EPIC Homes to work with NGOs, sponsors and the government. Working with people from different walks of life, different industries and different belief systems gave Loh a much broader picture of what life wants and what life has to offer.
APPRECIATING EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

At the recent Teaching Appreciation Day, the Sunway Education Group University paid tribute to its academic team from Sunway College and Sunway University. At Our Passion, The Future-themed event, the teachers were honoured for their dedication and contributions towards the various institutions.

In accepting the Excellence in Teaching Award, 17-year teaching veteran Santhi Suppliah from the Australian Matriculation (AUSMA) programme thanked her students for coming into her life and walking this journey with her. The most important people in Santhi’s life have shown her life’s purpose and have been the best nurses who inspired, moulded, defined and refined her. Receiving the award has assured her she had made the right choices in life and that she is on the right track.

A Senior Lecturer with Sunway College for 17 years, Santhi teaches in AUSMAT and on special assignments, she teaches the Foundation in Arts (FIA), Monash University Foundation Year (MUFY) of Sunway College and the Psychology Department of Sunway University. In answer to what she liked most about being in Sunway, Santhi commented, “Here, I discovered my purpose in life, the biggest turning point. Here at Sunway, I always have the freedom to be whom I choose to be. With ample opportunities to grow, Sunway has been a platform for life-long learning for the students and for everyone who wants to learn. Without even realising I have been here for so many years, this has kept me going throughout all those memorable years.”

In her mission to make a difference, Santhi took on additional responsibilities including initiating the AUSMA Academic Student Mentor system, successfully exploring the international market for AUSMA in Maldives and as the AUSMA international mentor, having served as the AUSMA’s programme counselor, she was the Head of the Secretariat for the 1st and 2nd Pre-Congress Conference and in 2014, she was the Head of the Secretariat for both the January Asia Leadership Trek and the August Asia Leadership Conference and Camp. As Head of the Secretariat, she guided the student leaders and volunteers from the various faculties of Sunway Education Group.

Santhi’s award comes with a return air ticket and paid accommodation for her to visit any institution of her choice to further enhance her teaching methods. With plans to go to Harvard University, Santhi thinks the opportunity to work closely with the Harvard graduates and undergraduates in The Asia Leadership Trek, Conference and Camp has sparked her interest to learn more at this world class university.

The most memorable moment that puts a smile in Santhi’s heart was when a first-year student pursuing medicine in the Melbourne University in 2007 surprised her with a call on Teacher’s Day on May 16 and has continued to do so every year. Even though her mobile number changed, he still managed to send a Teacher’s Day message to her through the program director’s mobile number.

An avid reader, Santhi’s favourite book “Thought Power” by Swami Sivananda teaches one to control their minds, enhance concentration and focus one’s thoughts. For her, “Teaching is the best profession in the world, knowing you have been chosen to make a difference in others’ lives is more than what you could ask for, Teaching is a right given to teachers to nurture the students from every aspect of life, not just knowledge from books but beyond that.” Having the greatest opportunity to teach her students about life with a personal touch, it is Santhi’s hope teachers incorporate life in their teaching as much as they can because this will take their students to greater heights in life more than their scores and grades.

SUNWAY’S MUFY STUDENTS TAKE TO THE STREETS

“Think of how far we’ve come. People are we’ve come. People are we’ve come. People are..." Shariyvnng Ong,

Ong together with thirteen students and six lecturers from the Monash University Foundation Year (MUFY) programme of Sunway College participated in the Global Street Mission (GSM) Outreach Feeding Program at Jalan Chow Kit, Kuala Lumpur. GSM is a non-governmental organisation that reaches out to the down-and-out and marginalised community in Chow Kit.

There, students had a first-hand experience in understanding the needs of the underprivileged as they were assigned to serve dinner and engage with members of the street community. Though initially a little uncomfortable, the students quickly eased into their roles and interacted freely with the street community.

“Through the distribution of food, I noticed that a lot of them are very shy. Maybe at some point, they were ordinary people like us but the fact that they became what they are now really tugged at my heartstrings. So I hope that Sunway can provide more opportunities like this for students to see for themselves and respond to these very real needs within our community”, said Robert Kim.

Aside from lending a helping hand to the cause, members of the MUFY Student Council, students and lecturers had earlier raised funds for GSM through the annual MUFY “Shariyvnng” Carnival. For one day in September, the Energy Hub at Sunway Campus was abuzz with excitement. The Sunway Education community was treated to an insatiable array of food, drinks, fashion accessories, ornaments, collectibles and fun-filled games. The main highlight of the carnival was the “Water Bucket Challenge”, were several lecturers and students willingly allowed themselves to be doused by their students and managed to raise over a thousand ringgit. A total of ten thousand ringgit was raised through the MUFY “Shariyvnng” Carnival and rather than just forwarding the funds to GSM, the organising committee requested to help out.

“The experience was very meaningful and has certainly increased my knowledge about the real world out there. My eyes have been opened to the rejected people in our community and how they feel – I truly sympathise with them and it shows that not everything in this world is bright and positive. We need to reach out and help them”, says Chan Chun Fai, a representative of the MUFY Student Council.

The annual student-led event provides an opportunity for all MUFY students to interact and work together while raising funds for the underprivileged in the community. Such events help create awareness on the needs of the community while providing an avenue for the students to respond while at the same time, encourage the development of communication, interpersonal, teamwork and leadership skills.

“Shariyvnng Carnival: Water Bucket Challenge”
TRACK RECORD OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

“The flexibility of being able to choose my own subjects allowed me to personalise my Sunway AUSMAT learning experience according to my needs & interests. My advice? Work hard, play hard & it’ll all be worth it!”

Fong Sook Yin
Industrial Design
National University of Singapore, Singapore
Former student of SMK Taman Sea, Petaling Jaya

Australian Matriculation (AUSMAT)
Cambridge GCE A-Level (A-Level)
Canadian International Matriculation Programme (CIMP)
Monash University Foundation Year (MUFY)
Sunway Foundation Programme (FIA, FIST)

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