Towering giant
Chong Kok Foo
LCB-Qualified chefs
is published four times a year. The name was selected by popular choice by the students themselves to represent a progressive Sunway College, an institution owned and governed by the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation. Since its inception in 1986, Sunway College has always been a leading private institution of higher learning, and it is forever escalating into the next level of excellence. UPP or UPP stands for “Uniquely Purposeful Programmes”.

Cover Story
10 Towering Giant

Hallmarks
3 Chong Kok Foo
6 Pursuing their dreams
7 LCB-qualified Chefs
12 Sunway Ausmat Students Clinch 2nd Place in 2013 Mooting Workshop and Competition

Alumni
8 Going to Oxford
9 Catching up with Reshmonu
15 Alumni with a Heart of Gold
16 Accounting The Key in Her Corporate Ladder CLIMB

Happenings
13 All Cheers for Sin Min
14 Shadowing Xandra Ooi

Social Responsibility
18 All In a Day’s Work

Food
19 Fresh and Wholesome Meals
CHONG KOKFoo
Grand Teacher & Mentor to Many

If there is a word that describes Chong Kok Foo aptly, it will be a word that does not exist in any dictionary. It will be ‘Grandteacher.’

If anything, Chong’s 52 years as a teacher, qualifies him for that title. He has taught at least two generations – where a father and son had been his students – and in many ways, he is a teaching expert who can turn Chemistry into an interesting subject for his students at Sunway College.

CHONG was a Chemistry teacher at the Methodist Boys Secondary School in Kuala Lumpur 33 years ago. He had also taught Elizabeth Lee, Senior Executive Director of Sunway Education Group and Jane Poh, Sunway’s Director of Branding and Administrator of the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation.

At 73, Chong is not about to call it quits. Still mentally alert, and physically fit, he continues teaching Chemistry for the A-Level programme at Sunway College—something which he has done with great diligence, since July 1996 when he first joined Sunway.

“As a lecturer, we often ask ourselves, ‘What is it that we get at the end of our career?’ The answer is simple. First, it is the satisfaction of being able to guide and coach our students, especially the average students, to achieve good grades. Secondly, it is to develop their characters. Besides getting an academic qualification, this is also just as important – developing one’s humility and tolerance towards others in life.”

To his students, Chong always reminds them that being Asians, they have to keep their Asian values. “One of it,” he adds, “is to show respect to our parents. How? There is no way we can ever repay our parents with money, but as students, we can, by studying hard and getting good grades.”
Hallmarks

Making an Impact
Some of the students, for example, Sarah Zulaikha said that she was initially apprehensive about Chemistry when she first joined Sunway. After some encouragement, she completed her A-Level with high distinction in all her subjects and went on to study Medicine at Cambridge University on a government scholarship in 2006. She has since graduated.

Another of Chong’s favourite student, Nazleen Soraya binti Mohammad Gowdh also came to him when she started her A-Level then, saying that she was afraid to do Chemistry because at school, she had very little opportunity to carry out chemistry experiments. In the end, she was one of the top students in 2003 and she qualified for Medicine at Bristol University. She, too has since graduated.

Indonesian student, Christine Anggun Putri came to see Chong in the first month with the A-Level and said that Chemistry was too difficult for her. Chong encouraged her, “Don’t worry! Just persevere!” In the end, she scored 3A’s, and she, too, went to Bristol to do Medicine.

“When students join Sunway’s A-Level programme, they are sometimes afraid. They do not realise that it is quite easy to do well in A-Level, provided that they are prepared to work hard and learn to manage time well.

A Dear Teacher to Many
Pulling out a stack of old letters and ‘Thank You’ cards sent to him over the years, Chong says, “These are my treasures in life.”
Lim Phang Boon, from class of 94, wrote: “Thank you for helping me achieve that A in Chemistry, and truthfully speaking, I definitely wouldn’t have been able to score 5 A’s without your guidance.”

Even parents wrote. Dr. Samad Solbai, father to Sarah Zulaikha, wrote to Elizabeth Lee: “The tribute should be yours and to Sunway University College for having such a great group of dedicated teachers. I must admit that I do not know any of them personally, except of course the Chemistry teacher, Mr Chong (whom I met manning the table marked “A-Level Program” when I visited Sunway nearly two years ago). Sarah often talked about him, too. He sounded like an ‘institution’ synonymous with devotion and dedication to the teaching profession. I sometimes have the impression that “when Mr Chong is around, even the chemicals have to behave themselves!”

We have to guide them. Not just teach, but guide them. Most of them eventually do well,” Chong adds, giving the example of another student, Lew Ken Jean, who successfully applied to do dentistry at Hong Kong University.

“Many students do not realize that Hong Kong University is, in fact, one of the top universities in Asia and Ken Jean was given a 50 percent scholarship to do dentistry. Another girl, Kua Wei Nie also received a 50 percent scholarship from Hong Kong University to study medicine,” Chong says.

One of his students (now, a graduate), Jacintha Tagal from the June 2007 A-Levels cohort, was a recipient of Harvard University Full Scholarship. Jacintha has since graduated, and started teaching in a government school under the Teach for Malaysia programme.

A teacher’s life is not just teaching in the classroom. By taking charge of extra-curricular activities, he comes into close contact with his students and gets to know them better in order to guide them in pursuing their future careers. In 1970, Chong’s chemistry students in MBKL, under his guidance, took part in the first All Malaysian Science Exhibition sponsored by Esso, and won the Overall Prize.

Chong teaches his students not to fear Chemistry
Half-A-Century as The Teacher
Reflecting his years of being a teacher, Chong could only say, “A teacher’s life is interesting. To make the subject interesting to the students is something that I am still learning even now.”

Fermentation, for example, can be a boring subject, but when Chong Kok Foo taught it to the A-Level students, he just walked into the class and asked a question: “How many of you have heard of Arak Syamsu?” He then went on to talk about the abuse of alcohol, before he introduced how alcohol is produced through a simple fermentation process. A simple experiment follows, where students prepared some yeast solution to pour into rice pulut.

“How many of you have heard of Arak Syamsu?”

“After a few days, students get to smell the ethanol produced from the fermentation process. To make a subject interesting, we do not always go straight into the subject, but sometimes, we talk about real life,” Chong elaborates.

Teaching as a career for Chong did not mean there had to be an ‘arm’s length’ maintained between students and teachers. He sings karaoke-style in both English and Mandarin during the A-Level Graduation Night. “Sometimes, I put on a Qigong performance for the students and they just love it. During Chinese New Year, I have always invited the students to my house to celebrate. That’s the life of a teacher to me,” he smiles.

These days, besides teaching, the former boy of the Methodist Boys School Kuala Lumpur (1946-1956) is also involved in Chinese Wushu and Qigong (Yeh Fei Qigong from Sung Dynasty which helps develop inner strength and Wuqi from Shaolin) regularly to keep himself fit. Three years ago, he managed to climb the Great Wall of China at the age of 70.

Chong Kok Foo believes he will continue teaching as long as he has the energy to do so effectively. “Teaching is in my blood,” he quips. up
CHONG Wen Yen was top student in Sunway’s Foundation in Arts (January 2012) intake, scoring an aggregate of 91.25 percent, while Priscilla Edna Moreira from the March intake scored 86.10 percent.

Both top students received the Special Award of Achievement from Elizabeth Lee, Senior Executive Director of Sunway Education Group, in recognition for their outstanding academic performance.

In her speech, Elizabeth advised the 255 FIA graduates, who recently completed the home-grown pre-university programme at Sunway to never give up midway, when they pursue their further education. “Always have faith in your abilities, be guided by your values and never lose sight of your goals,” she said.

In her speech, Ruma Lopes, Programme Director of FIA urged the graduates to return to Sunway to share insights on how teachers can further enrich the learning experience of future FIA students. “Your teachers have nothing but good words to say about you,” she said. “You know your place in this changing world. I know all of you are exceptionally capable students and we want to see you move on to our Sunway programmes.”

A total of 160 students also received the Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr Jeffrey Cheah Continuing Scholarship, a scholarship offered to all high-achieving Sunway pre-university, foundation and diploma students progressing into undergraduate programmes at Sunway University.

Three other students, Jefferd Tan Quan Sheng, Tham Kar Kei and Keith Siah Kien Yoong also received the Appreciation Award for their outstanding contributions towards extra-curricular activities in the FIA programme.

Student representative of the January 2012 cohort, Jefferd Tan Quan Sheng, said in his speech, “Always remember that we are from FIA and we are proud to graduate from this programme.”

Another student representative of the March 2012 intake, Benedict Shii Chuan-Kiat said that there was so much that he had learnt throughout this programme. “I did not know about the world around me,” he admitted. “But through these enrichment subjects and projects, we have learnt everything.” Benedict was also a recipient of the Special Award of Achievement for the March intake.
LCB-QUALIFIED CHEFS

PAPER qualification goes a long way especially when one seeks to climb the corporate ladder. This is one reason that motivated 35 individuals, who received their certificates from the Sunway Le Cordon Bleu (LCB) Institute of Culinary Arts during a recent graduation ceremony.

Touted to be one of the world’s Le Cordon Bleu centres for culinary education and the only one in Malaysia, the Sunway LCB Institute of Culinary Arts presented 12 certificates for Patisserie and 23 for Cuisine.

Of the 23, five achieved the final Level 3 certificates for cuisine, which entitled them to the prestigious Diplôme from Le Cordon Bleu International – the Diplôme De Commissaire Cuisinier. The proud five were Filippitzis Konstantinos from Greece; Kelvin, Sutono and Jonathan Widi Cahaya from Indonesia; and Yeap Sher Leen from Malaysia. Jonathan Widi was Best Student in his class and he received the Bechamel Bear for this achievement.

Presenting the certificates and diplomas to the aspiring chefs were Chef Franck Bruwier, Technical Director and Cuisine Chef Instructor, and Chef Thierry Lerallu, Head Pastry Chef and Patisserie Chef Instructor of Sunway Le Cordon Bleu.

Together with Chef Fabrice Renaudin, Cuisine Chef Instructor, the three chef lecturers taught the programmes in English and have been instrumental in providing the teaching and learning environment that have enriched the students and enabled them to acquire a deep understanding of culinary techniques and gastronomy.

Le Cordon Bleu’s focus on French culinary techniques and knowledge equips students to meet the expectations of well-travelled and well-read consumers who have developed a demanding palate for fine food. The Sunway Le Cordon Bleu Institute of Culinary Arts started in 2010 and is a joint-venture partnership with Le Cordon Bleu, one of the world’s most respected schools of gastronomy founded in 1895 in Paris, France.

Among the Certifat D’Assistant de Patisserie recipients was local celebrity singer, Datuk Ahmad Fazley Yaakob, who was also voted Celebrity Masterchef Malaysia champion 2012.

The proud diploma holders. From left: Filippitzis Konstantinos, Kelvin, Chef Franck Bruwier, Yeap Sher Leen, Sutono and Jonathan Widi Cahyadi
GOING TO OXFORD

It is always encouraging to learn how Sunway College’s A-Level students are doing overseas. Oh Yue Jin, who scored 4 A’s in the June 2012 examinations says he is having an exciting and enriching experience studying at Oxford University.

**BEING** an Oxford student pursuing a degree in Biological Science, Oh Yue Jin has exquisite experiences, which could be the “redefining moments” in his life.

Oxford University is the oldest university in the English-speaking world. Being the second-oldest surviving university in the world after the University of Bologna in Italy, Oxford has nearly 850 years of rich traditions.

The former A-Level student of Sunway College shares some of the many intellectually enriching experiences he has been fortunate to experience while studying at Oxford University. Among his favourite is attending lectures by renowned experts in the field of research, discussing intellectually stimulating topics with tutors who have written numerous papers on a particular subject, attending weekly talks by famous intellectual figures such as Richard Dawkins and Lord Krebs and engaging in intelligent debates and discussions with enthusiastic peers.

Yue Jin also notes that his lecturers at Oxford are always eager and keen to share their knowledge or avail themselves for consultation. “Students are taught on the basis that they have no familiarity with a subject matter, although a certain foundation of knowledge from previous years of study is expected,” he elaborates. “This, to me, is a refreshing learning experience that has become fun and exciting. Lecturers also aim to inspire students by providing insights into current pioneering research with regard to a topic of interest through additional reading materials that can be found in libraries, the internet and from their own experiences. This has broadened my knowledge in Biology and consistently cultivated my passion for the subject I am studying.”

Despite life revolving heavily around academia, Yue Jin says that there is always the opportunity to indulge oneself in various extra-curricular or recreational activities. “The university has every conceivable club and society; fencing, cricket, gliding, underwater hockey, reading and wine tasting, to name some. Concerts are held regularly during the term for music enthusiasts,” he writes. “If one knows how to manage time wisely, there is opportunity to engage in hobbies and relaxation and still do well academically. After all, all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy!”
CATCHING UP WITH RESHMONU

Soaring high and being as successful as he is today, Reshmonu keeps both feet on the ground. This is what 153 students from both Sunway University and Sunway College learnt from their fellow alumnus when they met the Malaysian R&B singer-songwriter recently as he recalled his days of youth in the campus.

Unlike some, Reshmonu knew how to keep his head from getting too big, adding that it was how his attitudes and opportunities in life paved the pathway towards his dreams.

With four albums and a handful of awards under his belt, Reshmonu is ready for bigger challenges in his career. The 36-year-old leaves for Philadelphia to work with Beanz on a new album in the first week of May. Beanz has worked with top-notch singers like Katy Perry, Britney Spears, Shakira, Missy Elliot and Chris Brown.

"About a month ago, my team and I were discussing how we had already done the rounds in Asia and that maybe it was time to look further. So, we sent out emails to a group of international production houses and top producers,"

According to Reshmonu, the team was prepping him for the big awards season next year. "That's all I can say for the moment," he said, adding that the new album is scheduled for release early next year.

The singer prides himself on wanting to help other upcoming local singers get the same opportunities and exposure that he has been given. "I want to create a bridge between the mainstream music industry in the United States and here or in this region. That is my goal," he said. "I'm a Malaysian boy and this is a Malaysian journey."

After the talk, three Sunway College students were lucky enough to snag an autographed copy each of his debut album, 'Monumental'.

THE former A-Level student who pursued his dream as a Sound Engineer graduated and stepped into the frontline as he discovered the musical realms as he chased his ultimate dream. He told the students seated before him that he was once just a student like them but to never forget to dream big and live that dream. He added that it was important to remain humble in his ways as that was going to get him far in life."

Reshmonu was nominated for seven awards for the annual AIM Awards in 2003, three of which he had won. His big win made him the star of the night and catapulted him to fame as well as his career in the music industry. "I remember very vividly being swarmed by the press afterwards and I looked at my wife so overwhelmingly and said, this is just the beginning," he quipped. 

Unlike some, Reshmonu knew how to keep his head from getting too big, adding that it was how his attitudes and opportunities in life paved the pathway towards his dreams.

With four albums and a handful of awards under his belt, Reshmonu is ready for bigger challenges in his career. The 36-year-old leaves for Philadelphia to work with Beanz on a new album in the first week of May. Beanz has worked with top-notch singers like Katy Perry, Britney Spears, Shakira, Missy Elliot and Chris Brown.

"About a month ago, my team and I were discussing how we had already done the rounds in Asia and that maybe it was time to look further. So, we sent out emails to a group of international production houses and top producers,"

According to Reshmonu, the team was prepping him for the big awards season next year. "That's all I can say for the moment," he said, adding that the new album is scheduled for release early next year.

The singer prides himself on wanting to help other upcoming local singers get the same opportunities and exposure that he has been given. "I want to create a bridge between the mainstream music industry in the United States and here or in this region. That is my goal," he said. "I'm a Malaysian boy and this is a Malaysian journey."

After the talk, three Sunway College students were lucky enough to snag an autographed copy each of his debut album, 'Monumental'.

One of the lucky recipients of Reshmonu’s autographed copy of ‘Monumental’
John Futa is no stranger to Sunway College’s staff and students. His name will soon be remembered as a pioneer in recruiting international students to join its CIMP programme at Sunway.
SOON to be missed, John Futa will not be returning to Sunway for another term. For those who have worked with him, or been his students, there is always a tinge of sadness.

However, the good news is that, John Futa says he will have plans to visit Malaysia with his wife, Pat, every year. “We have lots of friends in Malaysia and we will plan to make Malaysia a yearly vacation stop, as we have done in all the years since 2000 when I first left Malaysia,” he says.

The Programme Director of the Canadian International Matriculation Programme (CIMP) is finishing his present two-year contract, just as he turns 75 in July this year. On August 31, he and his wife will be celebrating their Golden Anniversary with their two children, who are already in their forties, and their three granddaughters. This time, when he returns to Canada, it will no longer be the hustles and bustles of Toronto where he and Pat had spent most of their married life, but a new home in Midland, Ontario, a smaller town about 150km north of Toronto.

Futa, who is also the current Principal of Sunway International School (SIS), has been in and out of Malaysia since July 1997, when he first joined as the Director of Programme for CIMP at Sunway College. There were only slightly over 300 students in CIMP. When he subsequently left Sunway College in July 2000, the number had doubled to 600. “By spreading our wings and making inroads with international students, we were able to not only market our programme locally, but abroad,” he says. “I would like to think that I was one of the pioneers at the College in taking in foreign students.”

Throughout the years since he left Sunway, he remained connected to the College and for several years served as the Canadian agent responsible for hiring expat Canadians for the CIMP. “My second stint here in July 2010 was for one year, as a stopgap measure while the Administration looked for and hired a new Director of Programme/Principal. However, when the newly hired DOP/Principal left after one year, I was asked to return,” he elaborates.

Now that he will be entering into his retirement and taking life easy, Futa shares his heartfelt sentiments of Sunway: “I sincerely enjoy what I do at Sunway. If I may say, I think I perform the job very well, but it is not fun being away from my wife and family. My wife is unable to be with me because of commitments at home, and it is also unfair for her to be alone in Canada. As for my plans for the future, I guess it’s to live out the balance of my life in Canada with my wife and family – I owe it to them and I look forward to it!”

**Good Reminiscences**

One thing about Sunway CIMP students that impresses him the most is students who respect their teachers and work hard to be successful.

Prior to joining Sunway in 1997, Futa’s career in education in the public sector had spanned over 37 years. He had been an elementary and secondary school teacher, besides also being the in-school leader – Department Head, VP and Principal in Secondary Schools. “Moving on, I had been a Supervisory Officer and Superintendent at the Ontario Ministry of Education and a Superintendent of Schools in a larger Metropolitan Toronto School Board, before retiring in 1995,” he elaborates.

One observation he makes of Sunway students: “As schools in the West (in my case, Toronto, Ontario) become less academic with more emphasis on social problems, the life of a teacher gets more difficult. Over here at Sunway, students respect their teachers and they work hard to achieve high results. Coupled with the desire to become involved in extracurricular activities, we have a very nice combination that makes for a good school! This has a very positive effect on the teachers. The staff are filled with energy and enjoy what they are doing with the students. In all, it is a win-win situation for both students and staff.”

His one piece of advice which he often shared with graduating CIMP/SIS students will now and forever ring true for those who have known and loved him as the John Futa of Sunway College, “Live your life in such a way that you could always contribute to the betterment of others. When you were born, you were crying and everyone around you were smiling; now, the onus is on you to live your life in such a way that when you die, everyone around you is crying, and you are smiling.”

As for John and Pat Futa, the decision to come to Malaysia is indeed a move that neither of them will ever regret.
ONE of two teams representing Sunway College’s Australian Matriculation Programme (AUSMAT) obtained 2nd place in the Bond University Mooting Workshop and Competition in Kuala Lumpur recently. The winning team comprising of Qistina Zainir, Connie Yong Yung Jing and Sean Low Shan-An were surprised at their win despite it being their first time participating in the moot challenge.

“It was a whole new experience for us as it broadened our minds and challenged our abilities,” shared Qistina. “Although nerve-wrecking and thoroughly time-consuming, the experience was completely fulfilling,” quipped the students.

The other AUSMAT team comprised of Grace Seen Li Zhen, Simren Kaur Gill and Adrian Yong Xiao Bin. Although they did not win, the students related the experience as worthwhile as they learnt how to devote and manage their time, read and understand what was needed for the challenge and tested their boundaries.

The competition served as an avenue for students to practice advocacy, problem-solving and negotiation skills in a courtroom environment. Students were required to act as appellants or respondents to a civil case between two siblings, a 12-year old brother who ran into his 18-year old mentally impaired sister with a car. Based on this case, they prepared their case to acting judge of the competition, Bond University Clinical Associate Professor, Kathy Atkins, who examined the students based on documentation, presentation and a question and answer session.

Organised by Bond University, Australia, this workshop and competition taught students in Kuala Lumpur the art of mooting and provided them with an opportunity to build on their confidence and put their ideas and thoughts into words in the hopes of furnishing them with a unique learning environment and exposure that will better enhance their educational experience.
SMJK Sin Min emerged champion and second runners-up in the sixth edition of Sunway College’s A-Level Math and Logic Challenge.

Its team members, Khong Yi Kye and Lim Ye Ang were pleasantly surprised when the results were announced. Yi Kye was also part of a team that emerged national champion for the National Science Challenge 2012.

“Whatever it is, we attributed our success to our teacher, Tan Bak Chuan, who was dedicated and committed throughout our preparations for this competition. He gave us the moral support and many reference books. Since we are from Kedah, Teacher Tan is the one who has chaperoned us here,” said Yi Kye, adding that both he and Ye Ang felt the pressure especially in Round 2, as they were racing against time to produce an answer.

“The competition this year attracted many participants from all over Malaysia who were equally good,” said Ye Ang. Both Yi Kye and Ye Ang will be walking away with full Sunway A-Level bursaries for each, individual trophies, certificates of commendation, a challenge trophy and RM 500 cash. Both trophy and cash were for the school. The first runners-up team members each received Sunway A-Level bursaries, individual trophies, certificates of commendation and RM 300 cash for the school while the second runners-up walked away with Sunway A-Level bursaries, individual trophies, certificates of commendation and RM 200 cash for their school.

Hoo Zhi Yee and Justin Lim Kai Ze from SMK Tinggi Kluang Johor won first runners-up while Theam Wing Chun and Teoh Yen Fu from SMJK Sin Min were second runners-up. Khong Yi Kye, Justin Lim Kai Ze, Lim Ye Ang, Theam Wing Chun and Hoo Zhi Yee were also individual winners.

According to Carol Wong, Director of the A-Level Programme of Sunway College, the competition was organised by Sunway A-Level Math Department. “This year, there were 184 teams from 97 schools with a total of 366 participants,” she said. “The participants came from schools all over Malaysia including Penang, Johor, Kedah, Perak, Negeri Sembilan, Melaka, Pahang and the Klang Valley.”

Addressing the students, she said: “You are here today because your school and teachers have handpicked you to be here today. Regardless of the outcome, you are all winners!”
Happenings

SHADOWING XANDRIA FOR A DAY

Three of Sunway College’s students were invited to shadow a Sunway alumna, Xandria Ooi for a day. Stephanie Chow Jia Mun, currently enrolled in Victoria University’s (VU) Bachelor of Business twinning degree programme, writes ….

WHAT a surprise it was receiving an email from Xandria Ooi of Capital FM saying that I was selected to shadow her for a day!

Xandria who was a former student of Sunway College’s Canadian International Matriculation Programme (CIMP) gave us a talk at Sunway College a week before.

On that day itself, the feeling of excitement overtook my sleepiness as I headed down to the radio station at Tropicana City Tower, Petaling Jaya to meet with Jessica Yong Siow Jin and Joanna Wong Mei Minh, who were also selected for the shadowing. Joanna is a fellow student in the VU Bachelor of Business twinning degree programme, while Jessica is currently doing her Bachelor of Science in Psychology at Sunway University.

A friendly intern, Lee Ting greeted us downstairs to guide us up to the studio.

We then explored the studio and found an ‘On Air’ poster greeting us!

While Xandria and Joanne Kam were still on air, we bumped into JJ from Red FM.

Around 7.45am, we were invited to Capital FM’s studio where Xandria and Joanne were prepping Tony Eusoff for a segment titled ‘Talk of the Town’.

It was really interesting as we got to see how things work around the studio – the calls, the editing, and the discussions they had on answering questions from the callers. It was obvious that being able to work fast and being alert was required in this job as the radio deejays had to multitask and work swiftly as calls came in at the same time! I would like to think that this was the best part of the day! Time flew by in the studio and soon it was 10am where the show ended and Xandria headed to the salon to get her hair fixed for an event organised by Haagen-Dazs at Bangsar Village Two. We decided to grab a quick lunch at Three Little Pigs and the Bad Wolf.

We shadowed Xandria as she went for the launch of the new salted caramel ice-cream organised by Haagen-Dazs. The event started out with celebrities competing to produce their own ‘ice-cream’! It wasn’t easy as the contestants were given only 10 minutes to complete their design. While Xandria had a hectic day, we enjoyed shadowing her. Overall, it was a memorable experience and I have learnt much from it, thanks to Xandria and also her mum, Aunty Susan! Besides sharing her experiences, Xandria gave us a lot of advice. Two that struck a chord were, ‘Personality is really important, be it the workplace or at college’ and ‘Be creative in what you do. Apply them in your presentations or at work’.

And that summed up the day! Thank You Sunway and Xandria Ooi for giving us a chance to explore the career of a radio DJ and host. The shadowing was an initiative by the Sunway Student Services Department in conjunction with ‘Get Hired’, a career fair held at Sunway Campus.
IN an effort to raise the aspirations of urban impoverished youth, alumni of the Sunway Education Group have decided to mentor secondary school students.

The education that they received at both Sunway University and Sunway College has made them caring citizens with a heart of gold. Although they have left the institutions where they were once students, two alumni have come out with a special mentoring project known as My First Graduate.

Initiated by Jacintha Tagal and her co-director, Christopher Tan, the duo saw the need of students at SMK Segambut, who are lacking in role models and opportunities to learn more about universities. “Most of their parents are blue-collar workers,” she said. “Thus, they are not able to advise their children on university options and career paths, when the time comes.”

With that in mind, she and Christopher then went to the drawing board, and worked out a mentor-mentee scheme. “This is where students of both Sunway University and Sunway College can assist the secondary school students by advising and coaching them, so that their aspirations may be raised and they may be encouraged to become university graduates,” he said. “Eventually, we hope to see that they break the poverty cycle.”

A Teach for Malaysia fellow and Project Director, Jacintha is a Harvard graduate, who did her A-Level at Sunway College, while Christopher did his ACCA at Sunway College. Both of them have stable careers in their respective fields, but when they saw the need, they responded to it with a heart of gold.

The aspiring graduates from SMK Segambut with Sunway University and Sunway College Resource Buddies
BDO, the fifth largest network of accounting firm in the world, is expanding aggressively to a number of countries in the South East Asian region. Playing a key role to drive the expansion programme is none other than the Executive Director of BDO Malaysia, an alumna of Sunway College herself, Elaine Hong.
Alumni

ELAINE Hong is a pioneer in every sense of the word.

When she did her A-Level at Sunway College in 1992, she was among the first batch of students who were based in Wisma Yan in PJ State. Later, when the existing building of the College was completed, she became a pioneer batch of students who were relocated to Bandar Sunway. “In those days, it was like the White House. The entire Sunway College was just one building painted white in the middle of a large compound,” she says.

Upon completing her A-Level, she pursued her ACCA programme in 1994, also a pioneer in the batch of 15 students when Sunway-TES kickstarted.

After graduating with ACCA, she worked for four years in audit, starting with Coopers & Lybrand which later became known as PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC). She had a brief stint at Reckitt & Colman, before joining Sunway College as Assistant Director of Sunway-TES for professional qualifications.

She was headhunted to join ICAEW when an office was set up in Kuala Lumpur. “I had literally no office back then when we first started in 2006,” she recalls. “I was also the first employee to join the ICAEW outside of the United Kingdom.”

Two years later, she was given the opportunity to join BDO as Director of Corporate Office reporting to the Managing Partner, where she was involved in change management and driving out new strategies under the then new management. She is now mainly involved in business development. “My job is mainly to assist the Managing Partner of BDO Malaysia who is also the Regional Senior Partner for BDO in ASEAN to set up or further strengthen BDO offices in emerging economies such as Vietnam, Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia,” she says.

“That’s another pioneering job I have gotten myself into!” she laughs. “I find fulfillment in going to a place where no one has ventured before, and there, I can try to make a difference. When I look back, I realise that my strength lies in setting the foundations that others can build upon for the continued success of the organisation.”

The Right Qualification

Hong attributes her career success to her father. “When I was younger, I wanted to become anything from a motorsport racing champion to a geisha. Even during my A-Level, I was still uncertain about my career path. Accounting had never crossed my mind. It was my Dad who guided me to take up accounting,” she says. “He saw that the accounting profession was recession-proof, which was an important factor as there was talk of a recession hitting the country.”

“I understood my Dad’s intentions for me. I wanted an international qualification that could get me a job, irrespective of the recession.”

True enough, despite the Asian Financial Crisis in 1997/8, Hong was able to get a good job in audit with Coopers & Lybrand very soon after completing her ACCA. “Dad was absolutely right,” she says. “He has always wanted to give us a good education, and this is one of his biggest achievements. He has given my two other younger siblings and I good education. My sister is legally trained and working in an international bank in Hong Kong; my brother is doing well in an international outfit in Australia.”

The secret to her success is her willingness to learn new things. “We must not be afraid of working hard,” the 39-year-old former girl of Sekolah Menengah Damansara Jaya says. “At the same time, we must be willing to learn new things. Life is an ongoing learning process. Even till now, I am still learning new things. Learning never ceases. It goes way beyond the classroom.”

Currently, Hong also serves as Head of Regional Secretariat of BDO ASEAN and member of BDO’s International HR and Development Committee representing ASEAN, China, Hong Kong and Taiwan. She says she has always enjoyed her student life at Sunway campus. “It was the best time of my life,” she reminisces. “The people (both peers and mentors) were the ones who helped to mould me into what I am today. Thank you, Sunway alumni, friends and lecturers!”
ALL IN A DAY’S WORK

THE students arrived at 7am in front of the parsonage, an old wooden bungalow at Jalan Mohet in the older section of Klang town. They had very little idea what to expect, but a ready pair of hands to put to work.

Met by Andrew Ng, the coordinator for UNHCR Refugees work in Klang, they were given a briefing about the work done to help the migrants from countries like Myanmar, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

“There are currently an estimated 100,000 refugees registered under UNHCR in Malaysia,” said Ng. “Another 100,000 refugees are asylum seekers. Being a social concern group, we are extending our help to meet the basic needs of these marginalised groups, especially their children, who may not have the privilege of receiving any form of education, while their parents are waiting to be relocated to a third country.”

Ng explained how they managed to rent the parsonage for a token sum. Once refurbished, it will be used as an administrative office for the school for migrant kids. “We are also using this place as a library so that the children can have a place they can hang out in, during the afternoons, instead of loitering around the streets,” he said. “There will be computers, books and other games for them to occupy themselves with.”

Work began at 10am, when 11 students from the Sunway Volunteer Society (SVS), led by Mark Simon Dawson, coordinator of SVS, started putting a fresh coat of paint on the inside walls of the building.

According to a Business Management student, Wong Xuey Sin, the outing was just awesome. “It was tiring but it was fulfilling to learn that our efforts were worthwhile as the refugees now have a better place to store things,” she said.

American Degree Transfer Programme (ADTP) student, Koh Su Yen said the event was extraordinarily special for her. “We, who are accustomed to the city life, seldom get the opportunity to volunteer in such an event,” she said. “Besides volunteering myself to create a more comfortable environment for the kids, I did enjoy myself with the other SVS members and our leader, Mark Dawson during the painting session.”

First Year Accounting & Finance student, Samantha Lim said this was her first volunteer activity after she joined the SVS. “Apart from making new friends with the other SVS members, I am happy that we worked together to provide a better home for the refugees!” she said.

Another student from Canadian International Matriculation Programme (CIMP), Kevin O’Connor said that he has gained some good insights into the plight of the underprivileged. “Painting the house for the refugees gave me a clearer insight on the living conditions of the less fortunate and made me feel really good for contributing to this project. Giving back to the community is a valuable lesson, and I really enjoyed working with the team, creating new bonds and achieving a goal.”

Dawson said he was personally impressed with the hard work of all those involved in the painting job. “I hope that this will be the beginning of a long and fruitful partnership between Sunway Education Group, SVS and the refugee work in Klang,” he said.
FRESH AND WHOLESOME MEALS

The Le Cordon Bleu-trained chef is herself a connoisseur who prefers her food to be fresh. UP chats with her to learn more about the way she likes her food to be served....

FRESH and wholesome are two key words in Alina Hew’s vocabulary, since she started cooking at the age of 12. Her Hakka grandmother had taught her how to prepare fresh and wholesome Hakka dishes since young.

“Since then, I have always loved cooking,” she quips. “Before setting up Café Madeleine, I was baking from home. I was also doing catering for private functions.”

Her passion in cooking has taken her a long way in the food business. She is gearing herself up to launch a new chain of Café Madeleine in other parts of the country, similar to the one she currently operates at Sunway Campus just beside the Sunway Le Cordon Bleu Institute of Culinary Arts.

Till today, Alina still practices what her grandmother had taught her. “Food must be eaten fresh,” she recalls. “In the food business, it is important to always use fresh ingredients when preparing a dish. That’s why our Western cuisines are prepared without any preservatives. Fresh food tastes better!”

Her signature dish, “Chicken Bravo” is prepared using fresh chicken delivered from the wet market daily. “We do not use frozen chicken,” she said. “For the sauce, we stew the tomatoes, then, blend our signature pesto mix to perfection. The dish is basically a whole chicken leg grilled and served with ratatouille and fries, and comes with two side dishes that differ from a day to day basis to ensure that the meal is wholesome and balanced.”

This is one secret the former girl from Assunta Convent says has helped her business. Another reason why her food is fresh is because she prepares her own pasta sauces for her aglio olio, pesto, pomodoro, carbonara and bolognese, instead of using pre-packed sauces which have preservatives.

Her pizza is made from a thin crusted base - Madeleine style, with fresh basil, and served with pizza sauce, tomatoes and herbs.

If you have not tried her “Teacher’s Pet”, you should! “This is one of our most popular takeaway sandwiches,” she says. “Our ‘Cheesy Toasties’ sandwiches, which is Panini grilled with turkey ham and mushrooms, and blended with lots of cheese (both Cheddar and Mozzarella), is highly recommended for someone who loves cheese.”

Café Madeleine is open to the public as well, from Mondays to Fridays, at 8am to 6pm, and open from 11am to 3pm on Saturdays.

OPPORTUNITY TO WIN FABULOUS MEAL COUPONS FROM CAFE MADELEINE:

The next time you eat anything at Café Madeleine, remember to take photographs of the dishes and post it on http://www.facebook.com/ cafemadeleine.sunway. Within the month of July, Alina will pick the best 10 photographs to reward with a special home cooked meal that your friends will not get to enjoy just yet. UP
SUNWAY PRE-U

AUSTRALIAN MATRICULATION

27% scored ATAR 90 – 99
52% scored ATAR 80 and above

(ATAR: Australian Tertiary Rank)

CAMBRIDGE GCE A-LEVEL

100% pass rate
45% straight A*/As

CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL MATRICULATION PROGRAMME

44% scored 80% and above

MONASH UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION YEAR

94% direct entry into Monash University

SUNWAY FOUNDATION IN ARTS

Over 50% qualified for Tan Sri Dato’ Seri Dr. Jeffrey Cheah Continuing Scholarship

Based on 2012 results

sunway.edu.my/college/pre-u