Sapphire & Turquoise
A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

Also Featuring:
Celebrate VU
VU Alumni Dinner
Jom Sembang
MATRADE Visit
Team Building Camp
CSR Soup Kitchen

A newsletter for the staffs and students of the Australian University Programme. Please circulate.
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EDITORIAL BOARD 2012/13

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Warm greetings from the Australian University Programme (AUP). The good news, folks, is that well, the world has not ended (shame on the Doomsday Predictors!) and we are all still in one piece.

We proudly bring to you the 5th issue of VU Voices, in which you get introduced to the many activities and events in the past year where our students played very active roles. Amongst these were a community project entitled “Soup Kitchen” and the visit to MATRADE.

We would also like you to know about the “Jom Sembang” sessions which were aimed at breaking the ice, and at fostering better relationships between staff and students. Also, don’t forget to look out for pictures of the rest of the other bonding activities which included Bowling, Dance Club and Badminton. Do make it a point to join us as we have activities for students from all walks of life.

In this issue you’ll also discover that the students had an AWESOME evening both at VU Night 2012 and also at the VU Alumni Dinner.

Not to be missed is the feature on what our exchange and transferring students to VU Melbourne have to say about their experience Down Under.

By the time you are done, you would have realised that university life at AUP is more than just books, assignments and swotting for exams. It’s a whole new life which is quite unlike any other that you will encounter, which not only shapes you into a better person, but also creates memories which you will treasure for a long, long time.

Let me take this opportunity to wish “Syabas” to the Editorial team and to the faculty and students “Happy New Year – may 2013 bring you all that your heart desires!”

“One looks back with appreciation to brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings. The curriculum is so much necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of the child.”

Carl Jung
Last September, the VUBC team building committee organized a two day-one night leadership camp at Port Dickson. The aim of having this camp was to strengthen the relationship among the VUBC members and to develop their interactive skills. Our club advisors, Ms Lai Chui Yin and Ms Anita Premila, facilitated us throughout the whole camp. Each VUBC member was assigned a camp buddy; this helped us to get to know each other better.

Once we reached our destination, we started with a short game as a warm up activity for fellow members. Members were then put into groups of five for all the activities throughout the whole camp. Each team was also given an egg or “mascot” to protect. Straws and tapes were given to create a protection for the “mascot”.

After lunch, the activities began. Each member in each team took turns to become the leader in the activities which were held both indoor and outdoor as well as on the beach. Each activity had its own challenges, but everyone got through them and had a lot of fun.

After dinner, each group was required to present at the “Night of Stars” and winners were presented with the Oscar award! Next, the members sat in a circle and everyone expressed their feelings and gratitude to one another for efforts put into the club. The night ended with a free-and-easy game session and a sing-a-long session that provided much excitement and laughter.

The next morning, some teams woke up earlier to prepare breakfast for everyone. Later, everyone did their morning exercises and participated in the last activity of the camp. After that, the awards ceremony was held, and the champions of the camp given due recognition. From the team-building camp, everyone learned more about each other and how to improve their leadership skills.
On 3rd September 2012, the Victoria University Business Club committee members gathered at the Assumption Church, Petaling Jaya, to contribute back to society. This time, the community service was joining a soup kitchen and for many of them, it was their first time.

By 9 am, all the committee members had gathered in front of the church. They were greeted by Molly, the organiser of the soup kitchen, and her assistant, Alice. Instructions were given on how to prepare the various types of dishes. Without hesitation, everyone stepped into the kitchen and started work.

Some were in charge of preparing the food which included cooking the rice, cutting the chillies, blending the onions, garlic and radish and peeling the potatoes. Several stronger guys helped to cook the large pots of dishes. For some, it was their first time cooking but they had help from the people in charge. There were other people who were there on a regular basis as well.

At about 11.30am, the members were taught how to pack about 300 lunch packets to be distributed to the lower income families around the neighbourhood. The lunches are usually sponsored by different individuals or communities. Distribution of the lunch packets to Mentari Court and Petaling Utama was carried out by two groups. Those who did not join in the distribution stayed back to clean up the kitchen.

After all the hard work, members were served with the lunch that they had helped to prepare. Savouring the taste of their labour, they felt a certain satisfaction with their contribution. It was indeed an unforgettable experience for everyone. VUBC members learnt it was hard work preparing the food and more importantly, they learnt not to waste food as there are people out there who are really in need.
JOM SEMBANG

Jom Sembang or ‘Let’s Chat’ was organized by AUP and we managed to have two sessions in the semester, both of which were held in August at 4.30pm when no classes were on.

The objective of Jom Sembang was to foster a closer bond between VU students and lecturers and we especially wanted the international students not to feel left out but to feel that they were part of the VU family. Of course, another objective was to make new friends!

Ms Greeja, Head of AUP, lecturers and students were at the Atrium Garden. Students were separated into different groups to chit-chat in a very relaxed way with refreshments provided. As a result, students got to know more about their lecturers and their new friends.

From the feedback, we got to know that the students enjoyed themselves during the ‘Let’s Chat’ session which enabled students to meet new friends and lecturers without any pressure and fear.

Are you interested? Come join VU for our next ‘Let’s Chat’ Session!

On September 19, 2012, VU @ Sunway organized a half-day trip to Menara MATRADE, Kuala Lumpur. The purpose of this visit was to educate students regarding the objectives and role of MATRADE in facilitating and promoting international trade, particularly in exporting Malaysian-made products. Our lecturers, Ms Samantha Liew and Ms Jennifer Choong accompanied us during the trip.

Two administrative representatives from MATRADE gave a presentation on the role and functions of MATRADE. This was followed by tea break. Students were then given a guided tour of the trade exhibition centre which houses all types of Malaysian-made products and services. The group also visited the Trade Museum which provides information on the history of Malaysian trade. Finally, we visited the MATRADE Library which provides all databases and information on international trade. We found the information very useful. We left MATRADE at about 12.30pm.
The VU Alumni Dinner was held on 17th March 2012 by the poolside of Sunway Lagoon Resort and Spa Hotel. This annual event is held to bring together ex-students, guests and friends, and more importantly, to celebrate the success of VU graduates. Many alumni members were present and had the opportunity to update and network with each other.

The night started at 7.30pm with lots of excitement, scrumptious food and drinks, speeches, activities and games. Most of the guests enthusiastically participated in the games as there were prizes to be won. The lucky draw was the most anticipated event. It was definitely an enjoyable night for all the guests who took time off from their busy schedules to spend an evening with their former course mates from university.

The event was a success and everyone had a great bonding time, thanks to the hard work put in by the VU Alumni organising committee, assisted by the Victoria University Business Club committee members.
FEATURED EVENT

Sapphire and Turquoise
VU Night 2012

VU Night is an annual event highly anticipated and is a night of celebration for the VU family to come together. VU Night 2012, held at Sunway Resort Hotel & Spa on 19th April, with its “Sapphire & Turquoise” theme, was indeed a night to remember. The two colours chosen for the dress code of the spectacular night actually symbolized a love story presented by VUBC.

The first three episodes were shown on video during the semester, but the final episode was a dance performance presented LIVE on the night itself. Idyllic posters featuring the main cast of ‘Sapphire’ and ‘Turquoise’ were displayed all over the campus, and the publicity spread like wildfire via Facebook.

The event was graced by Puan Sri Datin Seri Dr. Susan Cheah, EXCO Member of the Sunway Group of Companies, along with Ms. Elizabeth Lee, Senior Executive Director, Mr. Teo Ee Sing, Executive Director, Ms. Gneeja Hemalata De Silva, Head of the Australian University Programme (AUP), the Directors of the different programmes, Heads of departments from Sunway, as well as our beloved AUP lecturers.
A couple of young and energetic dancers, “Bromance”, fired up the grand ballroom with their dynamic opening performance and prepared the crowd for the next item which was a creative performance by our very own VU lecturers, showing off their sporting and hidden talents.

The awards presentation was up next where students who achieved excellence in their studies, and former VUBC committee members were given recognition for their dedicated efforts.

This year, the Mr & Ms VU competition was more challenging. The contestants were required to do a cat walk and introduce themselves. This was followed by an exciting Q&A session. Finally, individual performances by the contestants kept the crowd cheering for more.

Vocal performances from our very own VU idols, Nutserlar, Jeremy, Chun Haw and Star delighted the audience. The Lucky Draw brought the night to a climax. Attractive prizes ranging from Fujifilm cameras, Famous Amos hampers, Jaben products, GPS to STA Travel air tickets were taken home by the lucky winners.

The results of the Mr & Ms VU, the Best Dressed Male and Female as well as Best Dressed Couple were then announced. The prizes were provided by sponsors which included Full House, Celebrity Fitness and Kelvin Gems Jewellery.

VU Night 2012 was a successful event brought together by the VUBC, VU students, as well as VU lecturers. Special mention and appreciation must also be made to the generous sponsors who contributed in one way or another.
Introducing Banking and Finance

The banking and finance sector is described as a high-profile and high-paying sector. However, the admittedly lucrative salary does not come so easily. Hence, the VU Bachelor of Business degree is aimed at equipping graduates with the necessary skills such as analytical and leadership skills, and specialised knowledge to manage a wide range of banking and finance services and activities. The students/graduates can choose suitable and relevant study units based on the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC)’s RG146 compliance requirements, which when fulfilled, will allow graduates to work in organisations providing financial product advice to retail clients.

Law of Financial Institutions & Securities (LFIS)

This subject focuses on three main areas of English Law on banking, based on common law: quotes of practice such as industry quotes which are not regulations but policies or norms that banks follow, and legislation that regulates banks and other financial institutions. Law of Financial Institution & Securities aims at giving students a better understanding of the laws that govern banks and financial institutions in Australia. In view of the fact that Australian Law taught in this subject is based on international standards, it makes it possible for graduates to commence their career anywhere. An examination and assignments based on current issues will equip undergraduates with a mixture of research and problem-solving skills as well as technical skills to prepare them for the working environment.

Financial Institutions and Monetary Theory (FIM)

Financial Institutions and Monetary Theory is a subject aimed at providing an insight into the financial system (by providing an advanced theoretical framework for analysis of financial markets and monetary developments), and at exposing students to more recent developments in financial markets in Australia and countries all over the world. This subject basically emphasises the Australian financial system such as the regulatory framework within, its functions and its importance in the economy. It also addresses the role of financial institutions and financial markets and the characteristics of different types of financial instruments. The assignments and presentations involved will help with students’ application of theoretical knowledge and develop their public speaking and research skills. With this unit, undergraduates specialising in banking and finance will be able to enter the working environment with the ability to analyse and synthesise knowledge for a deeper understanding of current issues affecting financial sectors all over the world.

Corporate Finance (CF)

As a fundamental subject for students specializing in Accounting and Banking & Finance, Corporate Finance introduces the principles of making financial decisions in a firm to maximize shareholders’ value, and exposes students to concepts of risk and return. These principles and concepts form the basis for all advanced financial subjects. Corporate Finance cultivates financial literacy to enable interpretation of information presented, creates awareness of the theoretical and practical developments in finance, and enables students to examine and evaluate the impact (short and long term), of alternative financing proposals that a firm might face. Application-based assignments are incorporated to measure risk and return by using real-time financial data on stocks from the Australian Stock Exchange. These assignments not only challenge the students to apply theoretical concepts, but also involve the usage of Microsoft Excel. Coupled with examinations, students will graduate equipped with problem solving, analytical and corporate finance communication skills.

Commercial Banking and Finance (CBF)

Commercial Banking and Finance explores the nature of risks in the commercial banking sector, the role of regulation in the banking sector, identifies the types and sources of risks, recognises how risks impact the balance sheet of banks, and provides an understanding of how banking risks are measured as well as managed. Apart from the academic theories, this unit also includes a written report to a CEO aimed at preparing students to communicate effectively and professionally. In this assessment, they will be given an opportunity, based on a hypothetical scenario, to provide their views with justifications to the CEO of a bank. The final exam will enable students to synthesise banking and finance principles, requiring written and numerical skills. By completing this unit, students should not only become more aware of the environment in the commercial banking sector, but also be able to critically evaluate and manage banking problems that arise in the working environment.

Career Opportunities for Banking and Finance Graduates

The VU Bachelor of Business (Banking and Finance) will lead you to wide career prospects in banking, funds management, financial planning, financial institutions, superannuation, insurance, investment, risk management and stock broking. Any company providing these services is your potential employer and these companies, among others, include Citibank, Macquarie Bank, Ausbuild, Mckinsey & Company, Goldman Sachs and Price Waterhouse Coopers.
GRADUATION
A cherished occasion to be shared with friends and loved ones.

18 March 2012
A Big Day which marks a new chapter in the life of every graduate.

Photos contributed by:
Jeff Khoo
Kai Lin
Xiao Qian
Karin Nathasa  
Accounting/ Banking & Finance

I'm currently working as a Service Banker in CIMB Bank, Singapore and my job responsibilities are to assist the Branch Manager and provide sales support to the Personal Bankers.

Jimmy Goh Tzun Foo  
Financial Risk Management/ Banking & Finance

Presently, I am attached to OSK Investment Bank as a Senior Associate. Since joining the bank’s Graduate Associate program in 2010, I have had the chance to work in 3 departments (Futures and Options, Business Process and OSK-UOB Investment Management). I ended my job rotation last year and decided to be permanently placed under OSK-UOB Investment Management. My day-to-day work involves researching the local unit trust industry and country data as well as maintaining the smooth running of the overall marketing support functions. Besides these, I deal with ad-hoc projects.

Where am I and what am I doing now?

How did the VU Programme prepare you for employment?

A curriculum with a balanced mixture of theory and practical assignments prepared me with the right skills to face real issues in the workplace where I have to handle and solve problems strategically according to the bank's standard of practices. I would like to give credit to all my lecturers who guided me during my three years in VU, Sunway Campus, for their excellent support and dedication. I still remember vividly how the lecturers were willing to go the extra mile by conducting extended lecture hours to review the entire semester's syllabus before the exams and during the assignment period, guiding the students with perspectives on how to think out-of-the-box by analysing things from different angles. It was altogether a really priceless educational experience for me.

Through the dedicated and experienced VU lecturers and well-structured VU program, I was able to develop my personality, leadership qualities and other professional skills to prepare me for the working environment. I was able to enhance my communication skills, management skills and people skills. Each lecturer handling the program was fully committed and possessed excellent teaching qualities. The VU program focused not only on academics but on the development of students' soft skills as well. The various activities and events held created a closer bond between lecturers and students. I viewed these events as a golden opportunity to widen my social circle.

What were your memorable moments at Sunway College?

There were so many memorable moments and they always make me smile each time I reminisce about my university days. I was a part-time student helper with the Marketing Department, an audit intern in Sunway Resort Hotel & Spa's Marketing Department, and a Sunway International Student Ambassador. From my internship, I gained many valuable experiences that made my transition to the real working world a lot smoother. Through the ambassador program, I was able to meet many people from different backgrounds, some of who were influential people. VU at Sunway is not only about studies and hard work; Sunway is also a fun place. There were those nights when together with my housemates, I watched fireworks from our dormitory which faced the Sunway Lagoon Theme Park. VU at Sunway has given me important communication and work skills, a good range and depth of knowledge, together with joyful memories!

Throughout my three years there, my social network grew through my involvement in various clubs and societies. I am grateful to have been the President of the Buddhist Society, working together with members, organizing meaningful spiritual events. I had a taste of the real working world through an internship program with the Sunway Group. Other exciting and memorable moments included being the chief invigilator for the ACCA internal exam, assisting in the VU office and working part-time in the Sun-U Finance Department and Marketing Department. I am proud to say that I was the leader for the 2008 Sunway Challenge University Edition in 2010, obtaining the 1st runner-up placing. I also managed to come in as the overall champion for the ICAEW Business Challenge, 2010.

Academic achievements aside, the greatest memories were those that I had with individuals I met along the way at university. I am thankful to have worked with course mates, lecturers and SYUC staff, some of who have played important roles in my life. Thanks to the strong support from all lecturers and friends, I am who I am today, fulfilling what the Sunway Education Group has worked towards for the past 26 years, “Nurturing the Seeds of Wisdom”.

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Let’s Bond Shall We?

Bonding Activities

Dance Club by Ms Rani & Ms Shakirah

Movie Club by Ms Jaya, Mr. Jason & Ms Dharshini

Ping Pong by Mr. Tee, Mr. Toch & Mr. Chung

Bowling by Ms Christine, Ms Fong & Ms Haslinda

Digital Treasure Hunt by Ms Soon, Ms Joanna, Ms Daeshini, Ms Uma & Ms Wong

Talent Showcase by Ms Anita & Ms Rambha

Origami by Ms Jennifer, Ms Choong, Ms Moy & Ms Lai

Hiking by Ms Kala, Ms Dharshini, Ms Ya Yee & Ms Rambha
Lee Shi Ming

Exchange period: Semester 5 (July 2012)

I believe that university life is a time not only for expanding our technical knowledge but also for learning about one’s own self. Personal growth is a key component of university life and I am convinced that the experience of studying abroad offers endless possibilities toward accomplishing these ends.

Studying abroad involved serious re-thinking for me. I had reached a point in my life when I wanted to see beyond the walls of my own daily life and way of thinking; I wanted a new experience. Immersion into the Australian way of life was very fascinating and it helped me to acquire more knowledge and greater insights into a foreign culture.

Ng Mei Teng

Transfer period: Semester 5 (Feb 2012)

It was a good experience for me to transfer to Victoria University in Melbourne. I had never been able to acknowledge the differences between studying in Melbourne and studying in Malaysia until I experienced studying in a country where the cultures and lifestyles are so diversified. In order to adapt to the new environment, I had to overcome certain difficulties. This helped me to be more independent. The opportunities to spend meaningful time with people from various cultures were plentiful. Experiencing student life in Melbourne has widened my view of overseas studies. It was altogether an eye-opening experience.
VU Night

Coming Soon
September 2013

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VUBC
Victoria University Business Club
nurture young leaders