Out of 22 Monash University Foundation Year (MUFY) subjects in the November 2014 examinations, MUFY students in Sunway College were top in 16 subjects worldwide. The highest scorer worldwide, Lee Loong Kuan achieved an overall score of 96.5% and 124 Malaysians were eligible for scholarships to Monash University.

The largest and most established MUFY provider, Sunway College is one of the largest university foundation programmes in Malaysia. With approximately 1,000 students coming from over 40 countries such as Germany, Egypt, Philippines, USA, Japan, South Korea, Kazakhstan, Singapore and Indonesia, MUFY at Sunway College is truly international in its scope of curriculum and recognition.

In his congratulatory speech, Lee Thye Cheong, Director of MUFY advised the graduates to learn not just from textbooks, lectures and tutorials but to learn from challenging situations, friends, mistakes plus the bitter and sweet experiences. He reminded graduates to take a moment to “Consider your journey ahead. Without doubt, you have accomplished a considerable amount of learning but it does not stop here. The learning does not stop when you graduate from university. In fact, Monash University’s motto is “I am still learning”.

Lee encourages graduates to cultivate a deep curiosity and desire to learn as MUFY has empowered them to be enquiring lifelong learners. He cautions them not to lose the desire to learn. Acknowledging the hard work and dedication of his academic colleagues, Lee took the opportunity to thank the lecturers for their commitment and belief in their students.

Valedictorian Priyanka Subramaniam summed up her MUFY experience at Sunway with “MUFY has offered us more than just an education. The things we learned and obtained from this amazing journey are far beyond our expectations. From the MUFY Games, we learnt about sportsmanship and teamwork. From the Charity Carnival, we know the simple pleasures of life can always come from giving rather than receiving. From the Talent Quest, many showcased their talents and tapped into their hidden potential. Most importantly, we learnt day to day the life lessons of being constantly on our toes, perseverance, strength, the leadership qualities, and so much more.”

Acknowledging the real heroes of the night’s graduation ceremony, Priyanka paid tribute to MUFY’s beloved lecturers who inspired all of them to succeed academically and personally. In her own words, “Thank you for imparting life lessons to us, for telling us what we’re good at, and for encouraging us to be better.”
MOVERS & SHAKERS

Striving to make excellence a habit, Johanan recently joined Teach for Malaysia 2015 as the fourth cohort. Johanan is working to “be the change that you wish to see in this world” and decided to engage in something meaningful while young and full of energy. Teach For Malaysia’s goal is to combat education inequity. Many like-minded people from diverse educational and working backgrounds are hopeful about bringing change to Malaysia, as they stand united behind the belief “One day, all children in Malaysia will have the opportunity to attain an excellent education”.

Currently an active teacher serving in a semi-rural school in Miri, Sarawak as the Secretary of the Humanities Department, Secretary of the Board of Geography teachers, club advisor, and School ‘Koperasi’ teacher, Johanan preps lessons for classes ranging from Form 1 to Form 5 in history, geography and civics education.

As the Form 1 class teacher, Johanan has the responsibility of handling paperwork and welfare management. He uses this opportunity to further understand his students and their respective family backgrounds. This current position allows him to be heavily involved in the lives of many school children as many aspire to go places. “Many have dreams but no plans for the future. With no intention to explore their potential talent, these students in Miri would be missing out on the opportunities to be more than what they are”, he explains.

These students are bright but with less exposure to the internet, the English language and world issues, they cannot see beyond the world that is their town so Johanan is working with Teach for Malaysia to provide them with access to these opportunities.

Although the Malaysian government has the Malaysia Education Blueprint to update the education system, Johanan believes change is possible only if each person owns the problem and does whatever it takes to contribute to the change they want to see in the nation.

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A PASSION FOR EDUCATING

23-year old Johanan Wong, once a Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah scholar for MUFY reflects back on his student days in Monash University Foundation Year (MUFY) programme. For Johanan, MUFY was the place where he met lecturers fiercely passionate about the subjects and the students they taught. In the eyes of a student like Johanan, this passion easily translated into drive and determination to deliver exceptional classes; classes where both lecturers and students learn.

In his days as a MUFY student, Johanan was involved in taking care of the welfare of visiting students from the Oxford-Cambridge Joint Debate competition at Sunway as a Student Ambassador. Johanan enjoyed the diversity of Sunway and he thinks the Student Centre reflects the many different faces present. A myriad of activities from table tennis to dancing, Johanan remembers fondly the ping-pong games he played against students from China, Africa, and even Mauritius!

MUFY taught Johanan to strive for excellence as the students’ knowledge and mastery of a subject matter was constantly tested through frequent quizzes that contributed to the final exam scores. The lecturers in MUFY encouraged and cared for each student and this dedication for excellence has inspired Johanan to pursue that passion in his job as a teacher.

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