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THE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

18<sup>th</sup>

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**VOLUME 23**



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4	Management and Science University (Malaysia)	#541-550
5	Ateneo de Manila University (Philippines)	#601-650
6	Sunway University (Malaysia)	#751-800
7	Bina Nusantara University (BINUS) (Indonesia)	#801-1000
8	De La Salle University (Philippines)	#801-1000
9	Multimedia University (MMU) (Malaysia)	#801-1000
10	Universiti Tenaga Nasional (UNITEN) (Malaysia)	#801-1000
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# Here's To New Beginnings!



Academician Senior Professor Khalid giving his welcome speech.

Orientation Day is a much-awaited and anticipated event at any university. It marks the beginning of a journey in all aspects of learning. As a preamble to their studies, students look forward to this day to get a 'feel' for what university life will be like.

UCSI University had around 1,400 new students enrolling in its September 2019 intake. On Orientation Day, before delving wholeheartedly into academics, students got a glimpse of what their next few years would be like.

The event started off with UCSI's Institute of Music students Ng Yun Han and Shieh Yann Wen performing 'Malaguena' and 'Leave a Tender Moment Alone'. After this, the solemn student pledging session followed by the Student Council president Darren Anthony John.

Vice-Chancellor and President of UCSI University Academician Senior Professor Dato' Dr Khalid Yusoff then proceeded to give his welcome speech.

"University, as you realise, is not a mere progression as from primary to secondary school. Here the expectations are higher. You need to be more independent, resourceful, be able to work with lecturers and friends, keep up with deadlines of projects and assignments and to go to classes, labs and seminars," he said.

"Not only that, but there are also student clubs, societies and also the Cooperative-Placement programme where you can work with industry leaders. All this requires a desire from you to perform at your

utmost. It requires energy, enthusiasm, and maturity," he added.

"A university is a place where you develop lifelong friendships and relationships, and as the world is becoming smaller, you will realise how lucky you are. A third of you come from around the world. Get to know each other, connect - it will be a good opportunity for you in the future to maintain global connections," he advised.

"To all new students, you are in a university now; this is your launching pad for your future. And your future is what you make of it," he encouraged.

Below are some excerpts from new students and why they decided to study at UCSI University:



Expectant Faces: Students at Orientation Day.

## Joyce and Tan Kerk Zheng



Joyce and Tan Kerk Zheng excited to start their academic journey.

Joyce: I'm 19 years old and will be doing the BA (Hons) Accounting and Finance programme at UCSI University. My parents told me to pursue this because my mum owns an accounting business and hopes that I will take over her company one day.

If I could have chosen any other degree, it would have to be Actuarial Science and Finance. I want to join the clubs and societies available and expose myself to new things - most probably a sports club as I'm a very active person.

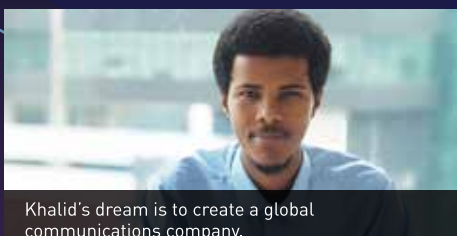
Kerk Zheng: I'm 19 years old too, and I am doing the Diploma in IT programme. I've

always had a passion for IT and want to do software engineering. Hopefully, I will make it to Silicon Valley and work with Google or Apple.

I chose UCSI because of its location - we both live in Cheras. I also liked the environment here, back when we first visited the campus. Other than concentrating on my studies, I hope to join the badminton and the entrepreneurship club.

My advice to the 'future me' is: without commitment, we can't start and without consistency, we can't finish.

## Khalid Khaddar



Khalid's dream is to create a global communications company.

I come from Somalia, and I will be studying Communications and Electronics. I chose this field because the world is changing technologically at a rapid pace. I want to promote Somalia's status and reputation and help improve the communication infrastructure there. My dream is to create a global communications company.

My message to my Somalian friends and family is that - I will study hard. And if they have the chance to study in Malaysia, I will tell them to come to UCSI University. One of the reasons why I chose to study at UCSI University is because it is considered one of the best universities in Malaysia.

# The Malaysian Brain Bee Challenge



Group photo of the participants.

UCSI University's Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences hosted the Malaysian Brain Bee Challenge (MBBC) Zone K Finals which was open to all secondary school students aged 15 to 17 years old. It aimed to engage and inspire students in the field of neuroscience and give them a chance to represent Zone K at the MBBC Grand Finals held on July 5 and 6, 2019, at Universiti Sains Malaysia (Kelantan Campus).

Malaysia, as one of the 50 countries participating in the International Brain Bee competition, will see the finalists from the MBBC Grand Finals representing the country at Daegu, South Korea in September 2019.

The MBBC Zone K Finals had 50 students from five different schools participating. The schools were SMK Alam Damai, SMJK Chi Wen, SMK

Cochrane, SMK Taman Connaught and Tsun Jin High School.

At the end of the quiz, the students and teachers were given participation certificates, followed by an address by the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences dean Associate



Learning together.



Doing their best.

Professor Dr Mogana Sundari Rajagopal. She gave an engaging career talk on pharmacy and the innovation and future of pharmacy in Malaysia. This was followed by a special laboratory demonstration session and tour by the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

The MBBC programme is organised by the Department of Neuroscience, School of Medical Sciences USM and endorsed by the Division of Industry and Community Network USM, the Malaysian Society of Neuroscience (MSN) and the Society for Neuroscience (SfN) Kelantan Chapter. It is supported by the Zone K organiser, UCSI University's Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

## The Zumba Colour Festival



Burning calories doing the Zumba.



Spreading the joy.



Full of energy.

This exciting and memorable event brought together 100 people including lecturers, students and the public converging to have a good time.

The event combined an energetic Zumba workout with the 'Holi' Colour Festival where participants playfully threw coloured powders at each other. This festival, mostly celebrated in India, commemorates the victory of good over evil and is a day to be carefree and have fun. It is also a festival of fertility and love.

The Zumba was an engaging dance workout played to Bollywood, Bhangra, and Western music and was exhilarating for all the participants. Besides harmonising diverse races and nationalities together - students got the chance to bombard each other (and lecturers!) with blue, green, yellow and red powders.

It was truly a great time for students and lecturers to break the ice as most of the time they meet only at seminars and conferences. It was also part of a fundraising activity by the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, to help them run their next event in conjunction with World Pharmacist Day.



(left to right) Ngo Hui Shi, Chong Chien Her, Associate Professor Dr Nwabueze Patrick Okechukwu, UCSI University Vice-Chancellor and President Academician Senior Professor Dato' Dr Khalid Yusoff, Ninian Tian, UCSI's Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic, Student and Alumni Affairs Associate Professor Ir Dr Jimmy Mok Vee Hoong, Yap Hui Yee, Teh Cheah Yee, Eee Shang Yang.

## Towards A Worthy Cause



Students engaged in one of the activities.

On 30 August 2019, UCSI's Adventure Club students handed a mock cheque amounting to RM26,625 to World Vision Malaysia as the beneficiary of UCSI's 2019 30-hour famine camp.

300 participants attended the camp held at UCSI University where together they fasted until the 26th hour, where the last four hours were spent at Melawati stadium with 12,000 other participants, Famine 30 ambassadors and local artists for the final countdown.

The campaign focused on raising awareness in light of three issues: food insecurity, malnutrition as well as child abuse and violence in Myanmar, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Malaysia.

'We wanted to highlight the problems that other children face in their countries, such as the lack of education, nutrition, water and food by teaching them and having a lot of games and activities to show them how important this is,' said President of the UCSI Adventure Club Yap Hui Yee, who is currently taking the Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Marketing programme.

When asked on how they managed 30 hours without food, she had this to say:

"Be among friends, and you will forget about your hunger. Do pack your day full of activities. We organised lots of talks and activities for the participants so that they wouldn't think of food. We didn't sleep for two nights, and when breaking our fast, we had light bread and either soya milk or plain water. Our number one most-dreamt of food was pizza!"

The money was primarily raised by participants who joined the event - coming from secondary schools as well as universities other than UCSI.

Each participant was also given a donation booklet with information printed about the issues, insights and beneficiaries which they could use to ask family and friends to donate.

'When asking for donations, they have to explain why they joined this 30-hour famine event and explain the global issues facing the world today,' quipped Hui Yee.

Accepting the cheque was World Vision senior marketing executive Ninian Tian who thanked the students and the university for their contribution.

"Our work in Malaysia currently involves other NGOs, the communities in Sabah and transformation work with the local government. This is to help children overcome poverty by working with schools and the Ministry of Education".

Also at the cheque presentation ceremony were UCSI University's Vice-Chancellor and President Academician Senior Professor Dato' Dr Khalid Yusoff, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic, Student and Alumni Affairs Associate Professor Ir Dr Jimmy Mok Vee

Hoong and UCSI Adventure Club advisor Associate Professor Dr Nwabueze Patrick Okechukwu who congratulated the team for their fantastic work.

Dr Jimmy emphasised that diversity is much needed and recommended that there should be plans to expand the camps from solely Chinese-speaking participants to English-speaking and bilingual participants.



Dr Jimmy says that diversity is much needed in university events.

'We need to think outside of our comfort zone; for example, it would be great to teach Chinese to Middle Eastern students. I have spoken to some of them and they have stated that they would love to learn it. I am challenging the Chinese Debate Club to teach Mandarin to Middle Eastern students. You should challenge yourself and do 'extraordinary' things,' he said.

'I look forward to a bilingual, multiracial 30-hour famine camp. Malaysia is a nation of different races and we must represent this in our events. I hope that in the future, we have the camp in a bilingual format as UCSI is a diverse and global university,' he concluded.

# Harmony Moments



Tan Sri Dr Omar talks about the ACCA+E approach.

Tan Sri Dr Omar Abdul Rahman needs no introduction and if there is one thing that he abides by, it is the ACCA+E approach. According to Omar, this stands for Awareness, Comprehension, Commitment, Action and Evaluation, and is something that can be applied to the implementation of SDGs, Industry 4.0 or any other current or new issue. According to Omar, this framework is simple enough to be adopted by universities such as UCSI and is effective in achieving goals.

During a recent interview with him at his residence, he touched on another topic which he is passionate about: The Dialog Rakyat initiative in promoting the concept of Harmoni-Mesra - which is a way to promote sustained and enduring national cohesion, unity and harmony.

"Harmoni-Mesra is based on recognising the importance of, and the need to increase, 'harmony moments' - activities that bring members of communities together to interact, socialise, break down barriers, exchange experiences, strengthen friendships and rekindle the spirit of *muhibah* and neighbourliness," said Omar.

"Secondly, it is to enhance the benefits of 'harmony moments' by encouraging meetings and discussions to promote the understanding of our national heritage, cultures, values and national aspirations," he added.

Omar also mentioned the Dialog Rakyat Code of Ethical Conduct (CEC). This CEC can be the principles guiding our attitude and behaviour towards each other in a multiracial, multiethnic, multicultural, multilingual and multireligious Malaysia.

Omar is currently a member of the UCSI University Council having served in the Prime Minister's Department as Science advisor

during the Mahathir administration from 1984 to 2000.

"Those were exciting times as there were many things that needed to be improved in terms of the organisation and management of Science and Technology in the country," he said.

He is the Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM) Founding President and current Senior Fellow, the Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS) Founding Fellow, The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) Fellow, the Kryghyz Republic Academy of Sciences Honorary Fellow and the Chair of the Organising Committee of the 'Dialog Rakyat for National Cohesion & Unity'.

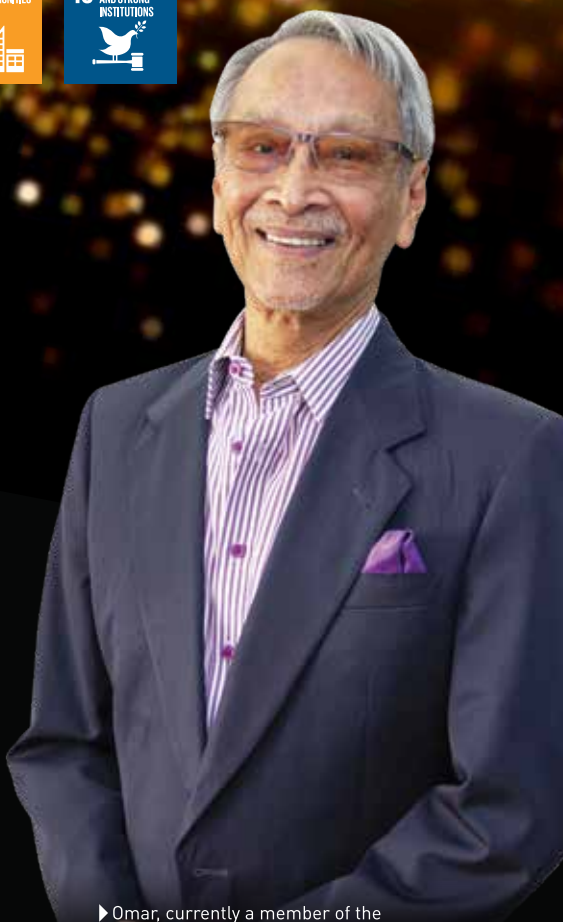
His list of accolades distinguishes him even today as a prominent figure in the field of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI). His biography cum memoir 'From Science To Science Policy - One Man's Passionate Journey' jointly written by himself and the former Academy of Sciences Malaysia CEO and current UCSI Professor Dr Ahmad Ibrahim is widely read and documents most of his career.

Omar is known for his drive and advocacy of the SDGs and has given many talks and led many discussions at UCSI University on the topic especially on SDG 16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

"The SDGs are a comprehensive way to ensure global sustainability. But these issues can only be dealt with if they coincide with national priorities and implementable at institutional and individual levels," said Omar.

On the topic of education, he had this to say:

"The generally accepted graduate attributes for the future and which emphasise the soft skills are the 4 Cs: Critical thinking, Creativity,



► Omar, currently a member of the UCSI University Council.

Communication and Collaboration. Applying the C formulation, I am recommending for Malaysia a set of seven Cs of graduate attributes, namely: Critical thinking, Core competency, Creativity, Communication, Collaboration, Civility and Compassion as well as Civic nationalism. These take care of the elements of the Malaysian Education Blueprint and those of the UCSI University graduate attributes as well as those of other universities, I am sure."

"Civility and Compassion as well as Civic nationalism are important elements to be nurtured in a multiracial, multireligious and multicultural Malaysia, especially in the context of a harmonious Malaysia. The other five components, comprising both technical and soft skills which must include the language for international communication, cooperation and collaboration, form the foundation for preparing our youth for future awareness and readiness," he added.

In honour of him, the Tan Sri Omar Harmony Award was recently instituted by UCSI University to recognise student activities that promote cohesion and harmony in the community. It also promotes awareness on the unifying value system based on respect, trust, transparency, tolerance and accommodation.

# The Power of The Subconscious Mind and Self-Exploration



Group photo of the participants and speakers.

UCSI's Faculty of Social Sciences and Liberal Arts Psychology department lecturers Crendy Tan Yen Teng and Dr Zhooriyati Sehu Mohamad conducted a workshop titled "The Power of The Subconscious Mind and Self-Exploration" at the 7th ASEAN Regional Union of Psychological Societies (ARUPS) Congress and 3rd Malaysian International Psychology Conference (MIPC).

A total of 25 academicians and practitioners attended this workshop. This workshop focused on the unconscious mind and its effect on individuals. It has been proven that our behaviour is influenced by our thoughts and emotions. A person with a positive mind-set will have more positive experiences in life including happiness and joy.

According to Crendy and Dr Yati, "You are who you think you are" and the knowledge of the interaction between your conscious and subconscious mind will enable you to transform your whole life.

Through this workshop, the participants were given the opportunity to engage in self-exploration which is essentially the examination and analysis of one's own unrealised spiritual or intellectual capacities. This was done to identify their thinking style and how the unconscious mind can affect them. Participants also learnt how to apply specific psychology techniques to increase positivity in themselves.

The process of self-exploration includes being a keen observer; focusing on solutions rather than problems, chasing strong emotions, identifying core values and beliefs; knowing the line of demarcation (where to set boundaries) and responsibility.

Participants also had the chance to take part in an activity called 'Mind Communication', which emphasised the fact that "If you don't control your thoughts, your thoughts will control you."

'Positive Affirmation' was also highlighted which has powerful influences on your attitude, behaviour, personality, emotions, cognition and success. It is what you say to yourself and believe. Also, it is not what happens to you that matters, it is how you respond internally to what happens that determine your mind power and your actions.

The 'Guidelines for Positive Affirmative' include starting with words like "I am", "I can" and "I want"; using the present tense; keeping it positive and neutralising negative thoughts; making affirmations short; making your affirmation emotional; making the affirmation for yourself not others and keeping your thoughts on your goals and dreams.

The other activity had to do with 'Self-Healing' which involved writing down negative thoughts that are blocking you from being positive and tearing and throwing them away. Activity 3



introduced participants to the Johari Window where there are four sections such as the "open", "blind", "unknown" and "hidden" sections.

The "open" section is what is known by you and also seen and acknowledged by others. The "blind" section is what is unknown to you but seen by others. The "unknown" section is what is unknown to you and also unknown to others. Lastly the "hidden" section is what is known by you but unknown to others.

The feedback from the participants was very positive. Through the workshop, they learnt how to utilise their subconscious mind, exploring their own strengths and weakness and make positive changes in order to be a better person in their lives.



A moment during the workshop.



A visit to be remembered: Group photo of participants outside the Kajang Prison.

# An Enlightening Experience



It is not always one gets to visit a prison. Therefore, when a field trip to the Kajang Prison was organised by UCSI University's Psychology Student Association (PSA) under the Faculty of Social Sciences and Liberal Arts, the students were truly enlightened. The visit provided them with a glimpse into the reality of a prison as well as all that happens within it.

Altogether there were 10 PSA committee members along with 21 Psychology students, accompanied by three lecturers from the Department of Psychology - Crendy Tan Yen Teng, Dr Zhooriyati Sehu Mohamad and Dr Mohtaram Rabbani.

This field trip was aimed at achieving four objectives: (1) to have the opportunity to visit a correctional facility and to see the reality behind the theories studied in classrooms (2) for the visit to add real world experience to what students speak and learn about in the classroom; to get a sense of what it is to work in the criminal justice system first hand, (3) to have a critical look at challenging and controversial correctional practices, and (4) to provide an opportunity for students to explore these areas in a very critical and realistic manner.

Arrangements were made for participants to arrive at the designated meet-up location, the entrance of Block G at UCSI University, Kuala Lumpur Campus. Once everyone arrived, each person proceeded to accompany their designated driver to their car. By 9.15 am, all cars had arrived at the entrance to the prison, at which point they entered the premises after

passing through guarded gates and a check-up point.

All cars were parked in a parking space indicated by the officer escorting the cars into the prison complex. Participants were asked to leave behind their mobile phones and other forms of electronics, money, and wallets or purses. Only water and an official form of ID were allowed.

Standing right outside the gates of the prison, an officer explained the laws dictating visitation to the prison and led participants to the gates. There, participants were asked to line up beside the gate and read the board detailing prohibited items. Participants were then allowed to enter the checkpoint before the actual prison premises. At the checkpoint, participants were asked to store their belongings, including the water bottles and IDs inside a small locker, and proceed to wait their turn to get checked by two prison officers.

Afterwards, the gates were opened and participants were led through the prison premises, past a line of prisoners surrounded by guards, and down a hallway, up a flight of stairs, into an air-conditioned hall.

Here, participants settled into pre-arranged chairs to listen to Mr Izuddin, a Psychology Officer, as he briefed them about the prison's four phases, a process to re-introduce or re-integrate prisoners back into society. Mr Izuddin also spoke about and showed images of the basic necessities provided to prisoners upon their arrival. Following his speech, he

conducted a question and answer session. Next, an officer spoke of and showed the instruments for punishment. The floor was then opened to questions once more.

Lastly, participants were led out of the hall, next door, where a number of prisoners were studying with computers. This was after Mr Izuddin had explained that the prison allows prisoners to pursue their education, providing the opportunity to finish high school, get a diploma, degree, Masters, and even a PhD.

The lecturers then briefly spoke to one of the prisoners that was pursuing his Masters. Participants were then led out of the room and back out of the prison premises to the same checkpoint that they initially entered through. Belongings were collected and participants walked out of the check-point area; outside, participants posed for a group photo with Mr Izuddin and the other officers. Participants were then escorted back to where the cars were parked.

The visit, proved to be an eye-opening one for many of the participants as they were exposed to the rules and regulations of the prison and also the atmosphere that surrounded the prison. Needless to say, it was a visit not to be easily forgotten and one that would add to the students' knowledge and perspectives on the criminal justice system in Malaysia.



## ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR DR LIONEL IN LIAN AUN: HIS EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE

### Tell us about your experience so far working as the dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences.

I have to admit that the past three months as the dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences has been a very steep learning curve for me and is an extremely challenging task with loads of responsibilities. It is a never ending parade of problem solving, strategising and dealing with staff, students, parents, industry partners and the university management. Nevertheless, deep down inside, there is always that little spark of joy when I witness all that hard work bearing fruit through the performance and achievements of my colleagues and students, which ultimately nullifies all the spent energy, sweat and late nights.

### Is there a specific area of Applied Sciences that you are interested in? If so, please describe.

I'm currently in the field of molecular oncology and immunology, which is a specialised subfield of cancer research. While clinical oncologists focus more on the diagnosis and treatment of cancer patients, molecular oncologists and cancer immunologist like me tend to focus more on the understanding of cancer mechanisms, biological pathways and immune responses in order to create newer and more effective therapies.

### Have you always been interested in this field or is it something you picked up later in life?

Initially, I spent most of my early research years specialising in the development of chemotherapeutic agents, particularly from plant sources. I only started venturing into immunotherapy about seven years ago, mainly because I wanted to be more involved in precision and personalised medicine, which is where modern medicine is headed. We need something that is more efficacious and specific with fewer side effects, and this is where targeted immunological therapies come in. We need to remember that change is the only constant, and in research, we need to keep abreast in order to remain relevant.

### What made you pursue a career in this field?

Ever since I can remember, I have always been mesmerised by nature and biology. I spent most of my younger days outdoors playing with animals and insects, and whenever I was indoors, I would be glued to the TV watching National Geographic and Discovery channel documentaries (a habit that I still have until today). Additionally, having a father who is a medical doctor only spurred me further towards a science stream secondary education and ultimately into a career in the sciences.

### What excites you most in the field of Applied Sciences?

The most exciting thing about Applied Sciences is the opportunity to witness innovations and creative ideas embark on that chronological journey from fundamental science discoveries all the way to their real-world downstream applications. The fact that the field of Applied Science is multidisciplinary and encompasses so many different sub-fields makes it even more interesting, relatable and exciting.

### What are one or two notable research projects you have undertaken?

I started my own research group shortly after joining UCSI called the Cancer Immunotherapy Research Group [CIRG]. Currently, the CIRG consist of four teams: The Cancer Vaccine team, The Cancer Immunotoxin team, The Antibody Engineering team and most recently, The Cancer Biosensor team. The first most notable research project is on the development of an orally administered cancer vaccine against a specific type of colorectal cancer, while the second most notable project is on the development of a precision-based cancer therapy involving an immunotoxin capable of targeted destruction of cancer cells with minimal effects on normal cells.

### What motivates you to keep going?

I think my main source of motivation comes from within myself, coupled with an inner desire to make this world a better place for the next generation. Everyone wants to leave their legacy behind before they leave this world, and I guess I am no different.

## How has UCSI impacted your life and career?

To progress in my career as an academician and scientist, I first needed to seek a platform which allowed me to carry out research. That being said, a university's leadership and future direction is really important, and I am indeed fortunate to have found an institution that prides itself in the pursuit of quality research and development. Over the years, UCSI has continued to provide its staff and students with a conducive environment to do research, and this has definitely impacted the progression of my career in this field.

## What would your advice be to students who would like to pursue a career in Applied Sciences?

Don't hesitate, don't wait, and get your postgraduate degree. Real impactful research outcomes are not achieved overnight, but may take a lifetime's worth of hard work. So get started as soon as you can, and as young as you can.

## What are some of the characteristics that one would need to succeed in this field?

Perseverance, Creativity, Curiosity and Passion. When it comes to scientific research, one should never be a stranger to failure. Welcome it with open arms and then learn from it. It's not easy to persevere through it,

but if you truly want to succeed in this field, you need to have that inner passion and constitutive will to ultimately contribute towards knowledge creation and to make the world a better place.

## How would you describe your journey as an academician in this field?

People say that it's not the beginning or the end, but the journey that counts most. And so far, mine has been a high speed roller coaster journey filled with nothing but excitement. As an academician, I have had the opportunity to meet with so many different people with different personalities and in different roles. But I guess the most fulfilling part of my journey as an academician would be to see both my research and students mature like a bottle of good wine over the years. To know that I have played a role in nurturing future scientists and creating new knowledge is an ecstasy-like satisfaction that cannot be described in words.

## Finally, what do you do during your leisure time (if any)?

Not many people know this about me, but I love beach fishing! Whenever I get the chance, I will pack up my fishing rods and gear, and drive to one of my favorite secret fishing spots to kick back for a couple of hours. Somehow, there's just something tranquil and relaxing about being all alone, staring into the horizon with nothing but the sound of waves breaking.



# Understanding the Minds of Criminals



Group photo of UCSI's Crime and Psychopathology Seminar participants.

The increasing usage of gadgets among the public has extended the potential for people to commit crimes. These crimes can be in the form of robbery, rape, sexual harassment or child abuse. Former Inspector-General of Police, Tan Sri Mohamad Fuzi Harun stated that the advancement of technology has made it difficult for the Royal Malaysia Police (PDRM) to combat crimes happening in Malaysia, thus, making it a disturbing issue for the public.

In light of this, UCSI's Psychology department under the Faculty of Social Sciences and Liberal Art (FoSSLA), successfully conducted UCSI's 2nd Psychology Crime and Psychopathology seminar and a three-minute thesis competition at UCSI College, KL Campus.

The seminar was organised for participants to understand what goes on in the criminal's mind aside from understanding their genetic, biological, psychological and social tendencies. Moreover, the seminar was conducted for Psychology students to understand how their field of study is implemented in the working world.

The informative seminar kicked off with an enlightening presentation by Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia's Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities criminologist and senior lecturer, Dr Mohammad Rahim Kamaluddin. His presentation was entitled "Psycho-Criminogenic Assessment" and he discussed the meaning of psychopathology and how much at risk we are when it comes to committed.

In his presentation, he stated that most of us have the tendency to commit crimes whether we realise it or not. Hence, in verifying his statement, Dr Rahim conducted a simple test of answering eight Likert scale questions for participants and lecturers to find out their tendencies in committing crimes.

The results showed that most of the participants were above average proving his statement to be true. He then continued his presentation in making the participants understand more about how the test results can be used to predict one's personality.

In the context of psychology as a career, Psychology officer of Criminal Investigation Department D11, Bukit Aman, Kogilavaani Elawarise indicated that the majority of their tasks at the Victim Care Centre (VCC) involved helping victims and their family members to recover from psychological disturbances apart from assisting them to carry on with their daily lives.



The audience pays close attention to the speakers in the seminar.

"The VCC was established to help heavily impacted victims. Most of the incidents related to victims at the VCC are mostly because of the usage of smartphones. Children, especially, are more vulnerable to pedophiles. Often, pedophiles use social media to fulfill their needs without caring about the effect it has on these innocent children," she said.

"Prevention should start with parents and, so, do not take it lightly when something happens to your child. It is better if parents regularly ask about their children's welfare," she added.

"We can do everything including providing comfort, shelter, and a support system to help the children in getting their old life back but I would strongly say that everything starts from

the home. Parents should be more aware and alert about the condition of their children," she clarified.

Fakultas Psikologi Universitas Mercu Buana, Indonesia's business psychologist, trainer and educator Dr Amy Mardhatillah focused more on how we can promote a change of behaviour to prevent crime from happening at the workplace.

She said that most crimes which happen at the workplace are due to the lack of rational factors apart from having an opportunity to commit the crime. It is a state where people use illegal methods in ensuring that they get their desired goal.



At the registration booth.

UCSI's final year Psychology student, Baanusri M. Murugiah responded that she was very pleased to participate in the seminar as she gained a broader perspective in her field of study.

"The speakers were great and I am absolutely astounded by the fact that there are Victim Care Units (VCCs) that actually provide services such as those I am currently learning about. The crime test by Dr Rahim was amazing because I did not know that we can actually measure our risk level to commit crimes," she said.

When asked about her hope for the future, she added, "We need a more open-minded society when it comes to crime because not only adults but also children are vulnerable. As what Kogi shared in some of her cases involving children, the implementation of sex education is needed in Malaysia. I hope that our country can have our own forensic psychology team in preventing crimes."

The opening speech was given by FoSSLA dean, Professor Dr Shameem Rafik-Galea. In her speech, she stressed that it is very important to address crimes as they can happen to all levels of people. Thus, there is a need to understand the minds of criminals.

The seminar ended with a prize-giving ceremony to the winners of the three-minute thesis competition, tokens of appreciation to the speakers and a group photo with all participants including lecturers before tea.

# P. Ramlee

## Film Poster Exhibition

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



A group photo of the memorable event.

The P. Ramlee Film Poster Exhibition was held on August 16 at Tun Hussien Onn Memorial, where the opening ceremony featured 63 posters of all P. Ramlee's films. The exhibition was a collaboration between the National Archive of Malaysia and UCSI University's School of Architecture and Built Environment, Interior Architecture department.

Visitors had the opportunity to appreciate the poster collection of all P. Ramlee's films including those that are almost forgotten such as Si Tora Harimau Jadian, Aloha, Kanchan Tirana, Dajal Suchi and Abu Hassan Penchuri.

The ceremony was officiated by the Section Head of the Planning and Conservation Section, Tuan Abdul Hamid Tuan Daud. PUSPANITA DBKL chairperson Datin Rabithah Zakariah, Statesmen Archives Division director Azimah Mohd Ali, P. Ramlee Memorial manager Daslila Mohd Dahlan and P. Ramlee's grand-daughter Najua Nasir were also present at the event.



A colourful poster display of P. Ramlee's films.

The event was attended by about 80 guests, including students and lecturers from UCSI and officers of the National Archive of Malaysia. Visitors were invited to vote for the best three posters by filling up the guest book placed at the exhibition area. Apart from creating a sense of motivation for the students, it also encouraged the visitors to engage in the exhibition. All of the guests voted for their favourite posters during the opening ceremony.

This project reflected only part of the student's involvement in the field. The posters formed a conceptual ideation that would be used to inspire them for the design stage of proposing a new interior for the P. Ramlee Memorial in Setapak, Kuala Lumpur. Each student was given one of P. Ramlee's film titles and the image of the original film poster obtained from the National Archive as their reference.

To produce the poster, the students were required to watch the films to appreciate the expressions, emotions, music, quotes and other details to be interpreted into design principles. As a result, students were able to express their personal interpretation of the films on canvas, which would inspire and guide them throughout the P. Ramlee Memorial interior project.

The final outcome of the student projects will be exhibited at Tun Hussien Onn Memorial, tentatively in November this year.

"This is more than just another typical project for the students as it is dedicated to Malaysia's legendary artist, Tan Sri P. Ramlee in collaboration with the National Archive of Malaysia. It is a great opportunity to re-introduce



UCSI students performing P. Ramlee's songs at the event.

P. Ramlee's celebrated works throughout his career especially for the younger generation," said Zalina, Interior Architecture Department lecturer.

She mentioned that the exhibition was exceptionally fascinating as it also featured art work from UCSI's International students including those from Yemen, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Brunei and Indonesia. Other than to reintroduce P. Ramlee to the locals, this project was a good platform to allow the international students to know the brief history of his life as a proponent of art and one who made a tremendous contribution to the national film and music scene.

The P. Ramlee Film Poster Exhibition was organised to encourage the engagement of the young generation in preserving part of Malaysia's national treasure. It is the National Archive's first ever exhibition in collaboration with a local university.

# Fighting The Big 'C'



"Did you know that physical activities, reduced stress, eating right, smoking less and managing your weight altogether have an impact on cancer prevention?"

These were the words of Deputy State Health Director of Selangor, Dr B. Venugopalan, who was the Guest of Honour at the 18th UCSI University's Public Health Campaign (PHC).

"Eat right - keep in mind the chemicals that are included in your food and manage your weight. Mental health is also essential, and prolonged stress can lead to cancer," he said.

"The other issues we need to look into are environmental issues. How is our food grown? The use of pesticides in our vegetables and antibiotics in poultry is proven to be carcinogenic, and we must be made aware of the quality of air and water that we inhale and consume. Chronic exposure to harmful chemical fumes does lead to higher uptakes of cancer," he added.

"There are three instances where people can recover from cancer. The first one is the Hepatitis B immunisation as a cancer prevention strategy, which we administer at birth. The second is nasopharyngeal carcinoma or nose cancer while the HPV vaccination has been proven to reduce the cause of cancer within the female population as well," he shared.



UCSI Pharmacy student advising one of the participants at the event.

Dr B. Venugopalan also emphasised the importance of early detection of cancer, as many forms of cancer can be treated and cured if diagnosed at an early stage. Furthermore, the social stigma about cancer being a death sentence should not be in the mindset of the public. This misunderstanding causes people who are at risk of developing cancer to become reluctant to undergo screening choosing to delay early treatment.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad told The News Straits Times on February 4, 2019 that 60% of cancer cases in Malaysia were only detected at much later stages, such as Stage 3 and 4. He also added that late detection is mainly due to the lack of awareness on the importance of screening and early detection among the public.

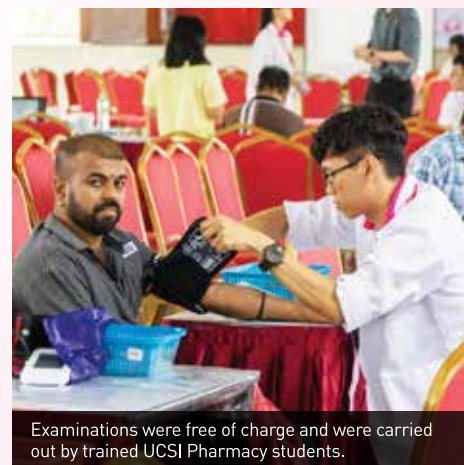
The 2019 annual PHC held on 13 and 14 July at Pusat Rekreasi JKKK Batu 11 Cheras, and the following weekend on 20 to 21 July at Pangsapuri Sri Penara Bandar Sri Permaisuri, Cheras saw over 1,116 attendees at both locations. There was

a poster exhibition which focused mainly on breast cancer, colon cancer and cardiovascular diseases, corresponding with the theme of the campaign.

Apart from working with various communities in Cheras to raise awareness on cancer and its prevention, UCSI University's Pharmacy Student Association (UPSA) also ran the 2019 PHC collaboratively with the Breast Cancer Welfare Association (BCWA) in offering free clinical breast examination with home test kits for the women participants.

The recognisable pink truck of BCWA, where the screening tests were held, was seen present throughout the campaign. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia's Faculty of Medicine also joined forces in making the campaign a success through hosting a public talk delivered by the university's oncologist.

Presenting facts to raise awareness on cancer in an interactive way to the public, the campaign included various health screening tests such as



Examinations were free of charge and were carried out by trained UCSI Pharmacy students.



(left to right) UCSI's Public Health Campaign chairperson Tan Xuan Hui, Datin Matron Zainab Abdullah, Associate Professor Dr Yeong Siew Wei, Dr B. Venugopalan, Academician Senior Professor Dato' Dr Khalid Yusoff, Wong Siew Ki and Associate Professor Dr Mogana Sundari Rajagopal.



UCSI students explain more about the PHC.

waist-to-hip ratio measurement, blood pressure tests, body fat tests and blood glucose tests. Patient counselling was also made available from qualified pharmacists, also UCSI University lecturers, to enable the public to assume responsibility for their own health.

According to the World Health Organization, approximately 30 to 50 percent of cancer could be prevented by healthy living such as avoidance of tobacco and immunisations against cancer causing infections. Others can be detected early, treated and cured.

The Malaysian National Cancer Registry has reported that the most common types of cancer among Malaysian males are colorectal cancer (14.6%), followed by lung cancer (14.4%) and prostate cancer (6.6%); whereas breast cancer (31.1%), colorectal cancer (11.1%) and cervix cancer (7.6%) are the top three types of cancer among Malaysian females. As in most diseases, working with the communities is an important element towards better outcomes.

The PHC opening ceremony was also graced by the presence of the Vice-Chancellor and President of UCSI University, Academician

Senior Professor Dato' Dr Khalid Yusoff, BCWA representative Matron Datin Zainab Abdullah, UCSI's Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences dean Associate Professor Dr Mogana Sundari Rajagopal and UCSI's PHC advisor Associate Professor Dr Yeong Siew Wei.

Academician Senior Professor Khalid in his speech urged the public to focus on cancer awareness and prevention and to practise healthy living. He highlighted certain actions that can be taken by the public to prevent cancer including health checks, cancer screening and healthy lifestyles.

"We all have what is called the metastasis gene, which is a pathogenic agent's spread from an initial or primary site to a different or secondary site within the host's body," he elaborated.

"We need to find out what causes cancer to proliferate. We have groups of researchers working on these issues. Lastly, we need to work out how to reduce the cost and price of treating cancer. Malaysia is a small country - but if ASEAN countries were to unite together, we might have a chance to renegotiate with the drug

companies to reduce the cost of the drugs," he said.

"This is the war on cancer. First, identify and reduce the causes of cancer, and secondly, help patients in terms of cancer treatment and medicine costs," he added.

"The Annual Public Health Campaign is an important platform of disease prevention and for the pharmacy students to gain early exposure on the responsibilities of pharmacists in disease awareness and prevention in important areas such as cancer," commented Associate Professor Dr Yeong Siew Wei.

Founded in 2002, the UCSI University Annual Public Health Campaign has been held in a total of six states in Malaysia sharing information on disease awareness and prevention to more than 12,000 members of the public, in both urban and rural areas.

*-By Matthew Teo and Tan Xuan Hui (PHC 2019 Committee, UCSI Pharmacy Student Association) and Associate Professor Yeong Siew Wei (UCSI PHC Advisor, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, UCSI)-*



Various health screening tests such as waist-to-hip ratio measurement were conducted.



UCSI Pharmacy students at the registration booth at the PHC.

# UCSI's Engineering Day 2019



Trying out the equipment at 3R Solutions.

From the newest engineering technology to smart solutions, new-age electronics and informative sessions with experts in the industry, UCSI's Engineering Day 2019 was the first ever held among private universities in Malaysia.

The event had the theme of bridging the university with industry and saw a total of 23 industry players participating in the event including top companies such as Siemens Malaysia, Schneider Electric, FESTO, CAD Vision Systems, Harvest Engineering, CIDB Malaysia, Omron Electronics, Bentley and Wehaya Sdn Bhd.



The drone demonstration.

"The event is held mainly to give exposure to students and provide them with training opportunities. It is a move from the conventional to revolutionised technology in line with Industry 4.0," said UCSI's Faculty of Engineering, Technology and Built Environment postgraduate studies head, Dr Jonathan Yong Chung Ee.

One of the participating companies was CIDB Malaysia that prominently featured their product which was motivated by the desire to improve the way low-cost housing is designed and built. The home units are designed in a way that allows them to be modularised to allow standard sections to be fabricated off-site while the main structure is being erected on site.

"With this new technology and innovation, fewer labourers are required, construction time is reduced and there is less waste. It is a modern

construction which will lead to enhanced knowledge among students especially in their Final Year Project," said CIDB Malaysia researcher, Mohammad Faedzwan Abdul Rahman.

CAD Vision Systems marketing executive, Nur Dianah Hasan Basri, was eager to share about her company. According to her, CAD stands for Computer Aided Drawing which essentially represents designs in manufacturing.

The company provides a four-day training which benefits students involved in designing especially in the field of Mechanical Engineering. Aptly, their motto is "3D Experience for Design Vision to Build Reality".

Bentley division manager, Vincent Chong, emphasised the company's control design software used for tasks that involve electrical schematics, connection lists, panel layouts, bills of material and many more.

He also explained about the different courses included in their three-day training programme. The training consists of 3D Basics, Solid Construction and Modification, Feature Modelling, Surface Creation, Meshes and Visualising a 3D Design.

"The skills we hope to develop in students are software skills, business management skills, communication and technical skills as well as equipment knowledge. The only way to learn is through experience. If students don't see it, they don't know it," he said.



OMRON booth representative with equipment.



UCSI IChemE Student Chapter representatives were also present at the event. They elaborated on the many site visits that were conducted to Yakult, Top Glove and other top companies where they got to apply what they learnt in their studies with reality.

Their aim, collectively, was to develop chemical engineering skills and knowledge through training, events and publications.

The event continued with a series of talks by various companies present. FESTO sales engineer Mohd Azhar Abas talked about training and consultancy where the focus was on people and technology equals productivity.

The talk ended with an automation video clip where pneumatics was highlighted as opposed to hydraulics. Some applications were innovative products such as those used to test durability of furniture, lifting products, bending devices and in animation.



Students at the event listening to one of the talks.

Fatin Ahmad, representing Siemens Malaysia also gave a presentation where she emphasised the future of automation which is essentially artificial intelligence. According to her, Siemens has the best of both worlds – automation and digitisation. Thus, the future will result in more flexibility, shorter time to market, increase in quality and efficiency and new business solutions.

The students who attended UCSI's Engineering Day 2019 left with additional knowledge and information in the field itself and were enlightened by the demonstrations and talks by the reputable companies at the event.

# Sarawak River Art Competition 2019



RCE Kuching Youth Ambassadors and UCSI University student volunteers with Associate Professor Dr Yeong Siew Wei.

UCSI University is the first private university in Malaysia to be recognised as a Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE). Hence, RCE Kuching was set up to support transformative education for translating the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the local context.

In conjunction with Sarawak Independence Day, RCE Kuching in collaboration with the Sarawak Multimedia Authority and Old Kuching SMART Heritage held the Sarawak River Art Competition 2019 themed 'Our River, Our Life' on 22nd July.

A total of 30 paintings, 10 poems and 6 sculptures were shortlisted among the entries and a prize presentation was held on the same day at the Kuching Waterfront which was officiated by the deputy chairman of Old Kuching SMART Heritage (OKSHe) Tan Sri Datuk Amar Mohamad Morshidi Abdul Ghani.

Ann Marie Teng May Cing, champion for the painting category, expressed her views on the Sarawak River: "In my opinion, the Sarawak River has been a life source for many here in Sarawak. However, I believe that we need to instil knowledge of taking care of the river to the citizens, as the river has been constantly polluted."

"I think the Sarawak River represents life because our ancestors used to live on the edge of the river and then civilisations began rapidly," said Angelina Tan Siaw Yen, winner of the sculpture category.

Muhamad Nur Rasyid Rosli, winner of the poetry

category, said he would like to join similar events in the future and, through these, hopes that others will be encouraged in the importance of taking care of nature.

Also present at the event were Kuching North City Commission Mayor Datuk Haji Abang Wahap bin Haji Abang Julai, Deputy Chief Scientist and Chief Advisor for Digital Economy Sarawak State Government Professor Ir Dr Al-Khalid Othman, RCE Kuching chairperson Associate Professor Dr Yeong Siew Wei and the Sarawak River Art Competition chairperson Francesca Enchang.

RCE Kuching Vice-Chairperson, Mukvinder Sandhu, explained that the art competition was aimed at gathering unique perspectives that local communities have of their rivers and their sustainability and how this can be expressed through art.

"We would like to promote the goals of SDG 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation and SDG 14 - Life Below Water. We want to empower our locals to understand what they can do to contribute to each of these global goals," she elaborated.

With the belief that young children should also be encouraged and have awareness of protecting rivers, a colouring contest was also held on that same day, especially for children below 12 years of age.

Besides the art competition, the Sarawak River Board and the Natural Resources and Environment Board also supported the event by giving a talk to the students and public on keeping the rivers clean.

RCE Kuching's main focus is on the Sarawak River Kiri, as it is the main water source for Kuching. The centre will continue to work together with its key partners which include various non-governmental organisations (NGOs) such as WormingUp, JCI Kuching, WWF-Malaysia, the Natural Resources and Environment Board, the Sarawak Rivers Board, the Sarawak Biodiversity Centre, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas), G.A.M.E.S., Kuching Chef Association, Trienekens and communities along the river such as Kampung Semadang.

Moving forward together with these stakeholders, RCE Kuching aims to provide a framework for strategic thinking and action on sustainability, thus creating tangible improvements in our communities. RCE Kuching also strives to empower locals and youth to be agents of change as they make sustainable choices for themselves and their communities.

It is envisioned that RCE Kuching's programmes will continue to improve the society's awareness of the importance of river cleanliness, imparting education for sustainable development into the hearts of the people of Kuching and beyond thereby fulfilling many SDGs.

*By: Francesca Enchang  
Organising Chairperson  
Sarawak River Art Competition 2019*



UCSI students helping at the RCE booth.

# Sarawak River Art Competition 2019

Painting Competition: Our River, Our Life

## CHAMPION



NAME

**ANN MARIE TENG MAY CING**

YEAR

**2019**

SCHOOL

**SMK ST. THERESA**

(INDIVIDUAL PAINTING)

## FIRST RUNNER-UP



NAME

**CHAI MAY CHENG**

YEAR

**2019**

SCHOOL

**SMK MATANG HILIR**

ARTS TEACHER

**COLLIN CHONG  
VOON HOW**

## SECOND RUNNER-UP



NAME

**GLORIA UMAH ANAK  
MARTIN RENANG**

YEAR

**2019**

SCHOOL

**SMK MATANG HILIR**

ARTS TEACHER

**COLLIN CHONG  
VOON HOW**

## FINALISTS

Year 2019



Name: Bong Shin Ngee  
School: CHMS No.1  
Arts Teacher: Tsng Kim Hua



Name: Kimberly Lim En Yee  
School: CHMS No.1  
Arts Teacher: Tsng Kim Hua



Name: Melody Lim Chia Chia  
School: CHMS No.1  
Arts Teacher: Tsng Kim Hua



Name: Nicole Jee Tong Tong  
School: CHMS No.4  
Arts Teacher: Tsng Kim Hua



Name: Voon Xin Yi  
School: CHMS No.  
Arts Teacher: Tsng Kim Hua



Name: Bong Pik Xia  
School: CHMS No.4  
Arts Teacher: Tsng Kim Hua



Name: Muhd Izzatur Nazreen  
School: SMK Bako  
Arts Teacher: Sarina binti Muhammad



Name: Wan Damia Amanina  
School: SMK Bako  
Arts Teacher: Sarina binti Muhammad



Name: Fazirra Manisha binti Kassim  
School: SMK Bako  
Arts Teacher: Sarina binti Muhammad



Name: Awangku Haariz Tasnim  
School: SMK Bandar Samariang  
Arts Teachers: Zurina binti Ramli |  
Noorle binti Sukor



Name: Nurshaziera Binti Jaffry  
School: SMK Seri Setia  
Arts Teachers: Samban Anak Nillie |  
Laura Maxwell



Name: Norana binti Komelly  
School: SMK Seri Setia  
Arts Teachers: Samban Anak Nillie |  
Laura Maxwell

## FINALISTS

Year 2019



Name: Azmin bin Ahmad  
School: SMK Seri Setia  
Arts Teachers:  
Samban Anak Nillie |  
Laura Maxwell



Name: Elissiana A. Edmond  
School: SMK Seri Setia  
Arts Teachers:  
Samban Anak Nillie |  
Laura Maxwell



Name: Mohamad Zamberee  
School: SMK Seri Setia  
Arts Teachers:  
Samban Anak Nillie |  
Laura Maxwell



Name: Awang Azimat  
School: SMK Seri Setia  
Arts Teachers:  
Samban Anak Nillie |  
Laura Maxwell



Name: Kenny Vun Jia Cheng  
School: CHMS No.4  
Arts Teacher: Tsng Kim Hua



Name: Magdelene Chin  
School: CHMS No.1  
Arts Teacher: Tsng Kim Hua



Name: Bong Wee Ting  
School: CHMS No.1  
Arts Teacher: Tsng Kim Hua



Name: Siti Halifah bt. Rashid  
School: SMK Bako  
Arts Teacher:  
Sarina binti Muhammad



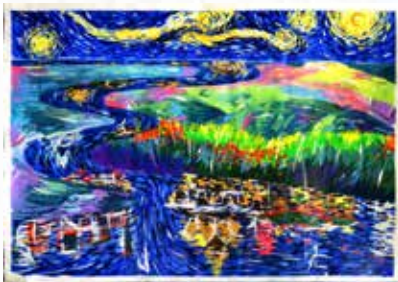
Name: Siti Nur Atira  
School: SMK Seri Setia  
Arts Teachers:  
Samban Anak Nillie |  
Laura Maxwell



Name: Rahmat bin Rosli  
School: SMK Bako  
Arts Teacher:  
Sarina binti Muhammad

## CONSOLATION

Year 2019



Name: Tsai Xing En  
School: CHMS No.1  
Arts Teacher: Tsng Kim Hua



Name: Yap Kui Hoon  
School: SMK Bandar Samariang  
Arts Teacher: Zurina Binti Ramli



Name: Ong Zhi Yuan  
School: SMS Sunny Hill  
Arts Teacher: Lidiana Lidew



Name: Nurshahida Binti Zamir  
School: SMK Bako  
Arts Teacher: Sarina binti Muhammad



Name: Ten Wan Jing  
School: CHMS No.1  
Arts Teacher: Tsng Kim Hua

## KIDS ZONE (8-12 YEARS OLD) COLOURING CONTEST

Year 2019

Drawings by Anthony Dohan (RCE Youth Ambassador)

### WINNER



Name: Nur Aqilah Athirah



Name: Qeesya Rania Bt Muhd Adam



Name: Harith Ahar Bin Husni Sabirin



Name: Affan Dariyan Bin Azizan



Name: Aryan Darwishy Bin Azizan



Name: Joshua Ting Shi Wen

## KIDS' ZONE (5-7 YEARS OLD) COLOURING CONTEST

Year 2019

Drawings by Anthony Dohan (RCE Youth Ambassador)

### WINNER



Name: Sheeza Nawfal Syzia



Name : Izz Dzakinir Qayyum

## KIDS' ZONE (1-4 YEARS OLD) COLOURING CONTEST

Year 2019

Drawings by Anthony Dohan (RCE Youth Ambassador)

### WINNER



Name: Sarah Wong Xin Yan



Name: Qhaliff Rafif Bin Muhd Adam



Name: Raudhah Jannah Bt. Sharin



## Adam Pahlevi Baihaqi

*BSc (Hons) Computing, graduated 2014*

Adam is from Gresik, Indonesia and has wanted to be a software engineer ever since he was young. It was his dad that introduced him to the world of computing and it was on Windows 98 that he did some of his first coding. So when he landed a job with Voyagin he was in his element. Voyagin's parent company is Rakuten and for Adam, this was a perfect opportunity to put into practice software engineering techniques he learnt at UCSI such as object-oriented programming and logic programming.

This column is dedicated to UCSI alumni who have gone on to secure jobs at various companies locally and abroad, those who have made an impact in their communities, those who are furthering their studies or those who just have a story to tell! This time around, we caught up with Adam Pahlevi, a BSc(Hons) Computing graduate who dared to aim high!

### What excites you most about your field (IT)?

This field is not static. As we are entering the computer age, the role of information technology will only get more interwoven into our daily lives. There are so many problems to solve, and it will even get more interesting from now on. Robotics, data mining, smartphones, machine learning, and anything in between will have a huge impact in our daily lives. It already is; but it will not stop there.

### What made you choose your programme at UCSI?

UCSI University offered the Co-Op internship which allowed me to gain real industrial experiences even before graduating. There are also many international students from various countries in UCSI University, so I can blend with not only the locals who are very kind, but also a diverse set of students from various origins. The programme is also challenging and the lecturers are experienced, and have links to the industry.

### What particular aspect of IT do you enjoy?

Web engineering. Not only will humans take advantage of the web; there will even be things like self-driving cars. Quick question: How long does it take to copy 1 terabyte of data using 1Gbps internet connection? Can we make the data transfer even more faster, using the same internet speed? Those kind of questions are interesting to me.

### What are your future ambitions?

I want to help make one of the best tools for students to learn and get connected with their lecturers. The software should be scalable and responsive, accessible both in the web, as well as in mobile. I want to make the experience of education, as good and as smooth as possible.

### Your advice to UCSI students in the same field?

Explore, and don't be afraid to fail. Develop the abilities to think logically. Never be satisfied with what you are studying right now, always enquire more.

### How was your time at UCSI significant in your current success and the shaping of your future goals?

UCSI is a Praxis university. As software engineers, we too are required to be pragmatic craftsmen. Everything should be implemented in the right

way, or else it won't work. Not only that, we need to challenge the status quo too. I love that all those values were taught by UCSI University.

### Tell us about your work experiences.

As a software engineer, sometimes we need to do more than coding. At times, our ideas may look unreasonable, or costly. But a good software engineer does more than just coding. He makes a prototype, and shows that his idea works, and can even save money as it is more efficient. We need to always come up with the better alternative without disturbing the workflow as much as possible, with as minimum energy as we can. I aspire to be that kind of software engineer.

### What are your contributions to society or the community (if any)?

Sometimes, I write books. Sometimes, I talk at various conferences. I have been giving talks about technology in various cities from Jakarta, Tokyo, Kuala Lumpur, Madrid and everywhere in between.

### Where do you see yourself 5 years from now?

5 years from now I would like to have established a start-up in the field of education. Hopefully, I can work hand-in-hand with education institutions for this.

### Describe your transition from Malaysia to Japan. Was it hard to adjust to the culture there?

It requires more work than I thought, adjusting to the local customs. Japanese people love rules, and they follow it quite religiously. For example, Japanese people have certain etiquettes with regards to dining; before the meal, receiving the meal, eating the meal, and paying for the meal, and even leaving the store all have its own set of rules. A newcomer might not know all these unwritten rules, which makes immersion a bit difficult. Even until today, I am still discovering new rules.

### Would you ever come back to Malaysia?

I would love to visit Malaysia again. I really enjoyed the food and its generally modern atmosphere. It's a really a good blend of advanced economies, and hospitable communities.

# *Congratulations* AND BEST WISHES TO



## **OUR VALEDICTORIAN CLASS OF 2019**

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**James Koo Jian Wei**

*Bachelor of Science (Hons) Actuarial Science*

## **ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS**



**Cynthia Ng**

*Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Mass Communication,  
Class of 2007*



**San Weng Onn**

*Bachelor of Classical Music (Hons)  
Class of 2005*



*(left to right)*

**Suzanne Ling**

*Bachelor Of Arts (Hons) Psychology,  
Class of 2017*

**Lim Yuet Kim**

*Bachelor of Contemporary Music (Hons),  
Class of 2016*

**Lee Swee Lin**

*Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Accounting and Finance,  
Class of 2015*

# THE UCSI GAZETTE

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