

# THE UCSI GAZETTE

THE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



## HARRY HOON: ELECTRICAL EXPERIENCES

VOLUME 26



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 **UCSI University**<sup>®</sup>



**QS** WORLD  
UNIVERSITY  
RANKINGS

**2020**

**BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT STUDIES**

**TOP 400**

# ONE OF THE TOP BUSINESS SCHOOLS IN THE WORLD

UCSI's Faculty of Business and Information Science has emerged as one of the Top 400 schools in the QS World University Rankings By Subject 2020 for the business and management category. This milestone reflects UCSI's commitment in pushing education further and higher. A huge congrats from the UCSI fraternity and friends.

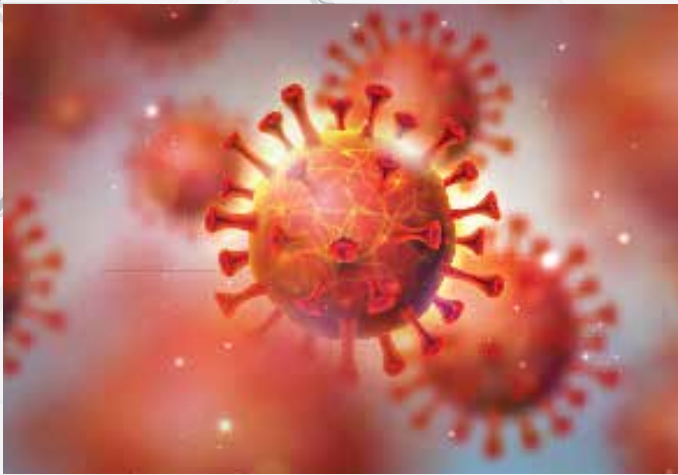


# Contents



## COVER STORY

### 12 Harry Hoon: Electrical Experiences



### 02 Coping with COVID-19



## Academic Spotlight

### 08 Dr Michelle Soo: *Of Species and Specimens*



### 10 The 'Fuyoooooh Creative Challenge'



### 14 World Interfaith Harmony Week 2020

# COPING WITH COVID-19



Your alarm rings. As you turn it off, it hits you that you don't have to travel to work or school (that is, if you are not a front-liner or providing essential services). It's another day under the nationwide Movement Control Order (MCO) which was enforced in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

You wake up and as you try to focus on working from home, you can't help but feel uncertain about the next few months ahead and the volatile situation at hand.

This might very well have been, and is, the start of a typical day for you...However, as part of the UCSI community, we are urged to be careful, watchful and vigilant during this time of crisis. We need to live in the 'now' but be prepared for what is to come and learn from the past.

The first two phases of the MCO — which began on March 18 and April 1 respectively — yielded positive results as daily new infections did not spike, while the number of cured patients continued to rise. As we enter the fourth phase, we are at the brink of ambiguity not sure when it will all end.

To date, there is no specific treatment for COVID-19, although existing drugs for malaria and HIV are in trial. It is generally believed that the cure or vaccine can only be produced next year.

A common phrase used nowadays is "flattening the curve" which simply refers to using protective practices (including MCO) to slow the rate of COVID-19 infection so hospitals have room, supplies and doctors for all patients.

Let us be responsible as we brace ourselves for another period of "lockdown" at home, and remember the plea of the health front-liners: "We stay at work for you, you stay at home for us, please".

When the MCO is lifted eventually, we would expect a lot will be different; operations and livelihood would have adjusted to be more 'virtual'. Many industries will struggle to rise again and employability is expected to get the hit.

It is imperative that we be positive; be prepared and patient for what is ahead of us - be ready for the next wave of development. As the saying goes, when it is down, the next is always up!



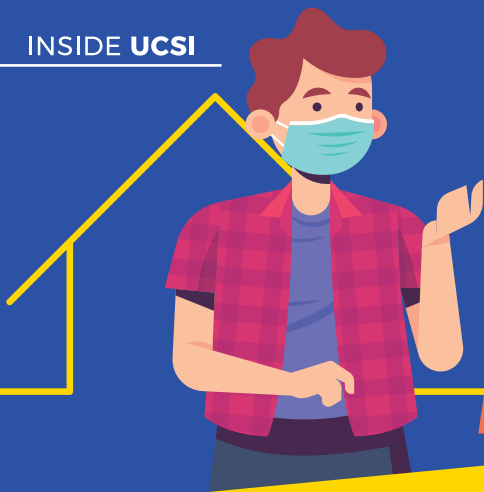
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# Hear From UCSI Staff and Students

## Haider Mohammed Abdullah Haider

*Bachelor of Electrical and Electronics  
Engineering With Honours*

My encouragement to other students is to use their time well – apply for online classes related to their studies and develop new skills.

## Mohammad Rashman Bin Borhan

*Bachelor of Contemporary Music (Hons)*

I see the positive side of things. People get to bond more with their families.

## Kok Hong Li

*BA (Hons) Graphic Design*

With the time flexibility and convenient environment, I have learnt self-discipline in doing my assignments so that I can submit them on time.

## Shelna Machfudz

*BA (Hons) Mass Communication*

My advice to other students is to stay safe, keep healthy and take care of your mind and body.

## Foo Hui Ying

*Doctor of Medicine (MD)*

We should stay connected with our classmates especially international students who can't go back home. Also, have faith in the medical profession.

## Keith Lim

*BSc (Hons) Finance and Investment*

A workout plan would be important to boost your immune system to stay healthy during this outbreak.

## Teoh Zi Shan

*Bachelor of Optometry (Hons)*

My advice is to attend online classes and exams on time; complete assignments accordingly. Follow the MCO guidelines; stay home and stay safe.

## Darren Anthony John

*President, Student Council*

With the MCO, things are a bit sombre but at the same time it's nice not keeping up to a normal routine.

## Assistant Professor Ts Dr Ang Chun Kit

*Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Technology and Built Environment (FETBE)*

There is a quote from Jack Canfield, "Change is inevitable in life. When you embrace change you will begin to see it as an opportunity for growth."

## Assistant Professor Dr Khairul Azril Ismail

*Director, De Institute of Creative Art and Design (ICAD)*

Know that we are together in these unprecedented and strange times...we can make good use of this forced pause.

## Assistant Professor Dr Siau Ching Sin

*Head of Research and Postgraduate Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences and Liberal Arts (FOSSLA)*

My vision is that whatever we are learning now will enrich our teaching and research after the MCO.

## Dr Molly John

*Medical Officer, Laurent Bleu Clinic*

COVID-19 is treatable if detected early. Have faith in God. He will see us through.

## Professor Dr Mohd Tajuddin Mohd Rasdi

*School of Architecture and Built Environment (SABE)*

We create the computer, the internet and the software as our servants, not our masters. Learning is the philosophical act of discovery, not a glimpse on the shadows of history.

## Dr Margaret Flori

*Medical Officer, Laurent Bleu Clinic*

We want the UCSI community to know that during this MCO, Laurent Bleu continues to be here for anyone who needs us.





# Practise Good Personal Hygiene



## Do's



**Wash hands regularly at least for 20 seconds. Sanitise them frequently.**



**Cover your mouth and nose with tissue or shirt sleeves when coughing or sneezing.**



**Wear a mask if you are not feeling well.**



**Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.**



## Don'ts



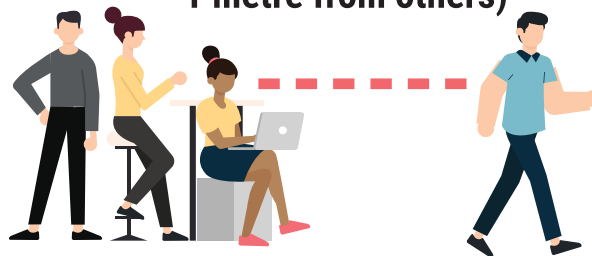
**Don't spit in public.**



**Don't touch eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.**



**Don't have close contact with others if you are experiencing cough or fever. (maintain social distance of at least 1 metre from others)**



**Don't keep the tissue you used for coughing/sneezing**



# In and Around Campus



## Signing of LOI for Centre for Peace and Unity

January 16, 2020

UCSI Group has, through the Office of the Secretariat of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), launched the Centre for Peace and Unity Education (CPU-Edu), with the support of 11 other NGOs following its cooperation through a Letter of Intent (LOI).



## Seminar on "How safe is the food we eat today?"

January 16, 2020

The seminar was organised by the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (FHMS) which included various topics related to food health. Deputy Dean Professor Dr Mustafa Ali Mohd talked about how microplastic accumulation in the body would disrupt the body's enzyme system in fat production. There were more than 80 participants.



## Signing of MoA With HTMi

12 February, 2020

UCSI University has inked a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Hotel and Tourism Management Institute Switzerland (HTMi) to mark the start of a strategic partnership between the two top universities.



## Update On Novel Coronavirus

15 February, 2020

FMHS and the Medical Student Association (MedicSA) organised this talk which had the aim of educating communities and addressing precaution strategies. The talk included the origins of the virus while recognising the importance of organising such programmes to prevent the public from receiving incorrect or inaccurate information that can lead to extreme anxiety.



## HUAWEI Career Talk 2020

18 February, 2020

226 UCSI students attended talk. Patrick Wee spoke on Huawei's cutting-edge 5G technology and the company's role in the future of the digital connected society. Derrick Gan spoke on the company's work culture, career advancement and benefits, as well as the company's expectations and requirements from its dedicated workforce.



## Rational Emotive and Cognitive Behaviour Therapy Workshop

22 February, 2020

This workshop was conducted by the Psychology Department with Assistant Professor Dr Mohtaram Rabbani as advisor and 44 participants. Students became familiar with identification of Anxiety Disorders, Distinguishing Normal Fear and Anxiety, Anxiety Disorders in Children and Adolescents, Cognitive Therapy (CT), Rational Emotive Behaviour Therapy (REBT) and other therapies during this workshop.



## CNY Alumni Gathering 2020

28 February, 2020

Around 70 UCSI alumni came back to their alma mater for this gathering. Tan Ying Shing who is the Co-Founder of Heeren Inn, Melaka gave shared on "Connecting the Past to the Present: How I Started my Entrepreneurship". The alumni were also introduced to the Alumni Achievement Awards encouraging all to nominate reputable alumni who have achieved great success in their life to be recognised by the University.



## Broadcasting Forum

2 March, 2020

The 'Broadcasting, Moving Forward With 5G' forum was held at the newly launched Media Broadcast Centre at Block G, UCSI University. Professional Emcee and Director of AMD Golden Resources, Aiman Mustaqim Roslan, moderated the forum with three invited speakers discussing the survival of the industry during this era of 5G. Students got to ask industry players directly about the 'real world' before they graduate.

## New Programme At UCSI University

### PhD in Education

(N/141/8/0001) (01/2027) ((MQA/PA12956)

Generally, education is the study of the process of receiving and giving systematic instruction. An education degree will equip learners with skills to work and communicate with students, effective oral and written communication, information and communication technology savviness, research and analytical skills, organisation and time management skills among others. Students in this discipline are encouraged to contribute to the practice and policy-making in the Malaysian education system. The PhD programme also aims to engage students in active research collaboration between academia and industry. Career opportunities include lecturers, educational consultants, career counsellors, curriculum developers, editors, writers, instructional designers and educational administrators.



# Overview Of Transport Management Beyond 2020



Mohd Faiz Hakim enlightening the students through his talk.

UCSI's Department of Logistics Management, under the Faculty of Business and Information Science, recently welcomed Mohd Faiz Hakim, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Asia Global Total Logistics Sdn Bhd, for a lecture on the topic "Overview of Transport Management Beyond 2020."

This initiative was vital to expose students to practical aspects and "know-how", thus enabling students to translate theories into practice. Mohd Faiz successfully enhanced students' understanding of the current and emerging transport system management. Around 62 students attended the lecture which started with a welcoming speech by Logistics Management Department head, Assistant Professor Dr Siti Norida Wahab.

"I believe, it is important to recognise the significance of the overall teaching and learning systems, skills and processes (ecosystem) by incorporating industry experts' views in leveraging students understanding. It may enhance students' learning processes rather than just focusing on the silo concept of learning," said Dr Siti.

"Likewise, this talk enables the speaker to get student feedback on their expectations and what the corporation is looking at upon hiring. Additionally, this talk prepares graduates to be market-ready," she added.

Sustainability is the art of improving the quality of human life while living within the carrying capacity of supporting eco-systems. Thus, future logisticians have to play a great role towards how transport may reduce the carbon footprint.

In light of this, it is necessary to understand the current state of logistics distribution management which involves various modes of transport. Global shipping trends are changing; vessel and terminal sizes also evolving. This leads the inventor to introduce



the future modes of transport that might have a possibility to reduce traffic congestion, improve lead time, reduce cost and improve customer satisfaction.

During the lecture, Mohd Faiz covered the future modes of transport which include Hyperloop and autonomous vehicles. A Hyperloop is a proposed mode of passenger and freight transportation, first used to describe an open-source vactrain design released by a joint team from Tesla and SpaceX.

On the other hand, an autonomous vehicle is a self-driving vehicle, also known as a connected and autonomous vehicle, driverless vehicle, robo-vehicle, or robotic vehicle, which is capable of sensing its environment and moving safely with little or no human input.

The session included a sharing session on electronics and Mohd Faiz also mentioned a few other future modes of transport including electronic vehicles, 3D tunnels network and the future of space tourism. The event ended with a token of appreciation awarded to Mohd Faiz by Dr Siti.

# Effective Warehouse Layout and Design



Keveljit Singh Gill, from Quantum Solutions, giving his talk.

Go beyond limits. This is the phrase used by the Department of Logistics Management, from the Faculty of Business and Information Science at UCSI to continue the initiative of bringing students closer to the industry. Recently, the department welcomed Keveljit Singh Gill from Quantum Solution (M) Sdn Bhd for a guest lecture. Being appointed as the industry advisor for the department, Keveljit (Senior Manager, Operations) shared his experiences with 42 students on the topic 'Effective Warehouse Layout and Design.'

The opening speech by Assistant Professor Dr Siti Norida Wahab highlighted the background of the guest lecturer and the purpose of the event. The main audience consisted of students from the BA (Hons) Logistics Management programme taking the Warehousing Management course.

"Apart from the industrial visits that are also part of the department routine activities, this talk also brings clarity to the importance of logistics management concepts. Students may visualise how these concepts are put into action via the practitioner sharing session. It is also important to close the gap between classroom theoretical foundation and practical learning in a real-life environment", said Dr Siti.

According to Keveljit, to manage a warehouse well, an individual must first UNDERSTAND warehouse design requirements. It is a must for warehouse personnel to Understand the client's business, Note the design objectives and facility constraints, carry out Data collection and review task, Establish pick profile, Recognise storage profile, Set up control report, Target storage medium, Analyse size of warehouse of each option, Narrow down to one option with facility layout, and Document results and assumptions. He talked about the importance of managing the racking system because failure to manage it well, will result in a warehouse disaster.

During the lecture, Keveljit also shared about a prominent material handling equipment (MHE) being used in daily warehouse



Group photo of the talk.

operations for the movement, storage, control and protection of materials, goods and products which include pallet jacks, side-loading trucks, reach trucks, counter balance forklifts, automated storage and retrieval system (AS/RS) and a few others. He also shared a few ways to manage the e-commerce retailing through the use of an information system. The event ended with a token of appreciation awarded to Keveljit by Assistant Professor Dr Siti Norida Wahab.



UCSI students listening attentively to the talk.



# Dr Michelle Soo :

## Of Species and Specimens



### When did you start your career at UCSI University? Describe your experience so far in the Faculty of Applied Sciences.

I started working at UCSI in April 2016. This job, as a lecturer with the Aquatic Science programme, was my first job upon graduating with a PhD from Universiti Malaya (UM) in 2015. I was very excited and eager to start building my career and the Faculty of Applied Sciences was the perfect platform for that. But I admit that when I started in 2016, I did struggle a little because I had never worked officially and there were so many new things to do and achieve. But by the grace of God, helpful colleagues and a little bit of diligence, I have grown not only as an academican but also as a researcher and a person.

### We have read about your contribution to the field by discovering a total of 14 new species of marine parasites and naming them. To what or whom do you owe your success to?

I owe my success to my late PhD supervisor and mentor, Professor Dr Susan Lim. She was my lecturer in my undergraduate studies. One of our assignments was to write about someone who impacted and influenced us to choose the degree pathway we were enrolled in. I wrote about Dian Fossey who championed the conservation of gorillas in Africa. I am not sure why but after the submission of that assignment, Professor Susan approached me to do my final year project with her. That's how my journey in research started under her mentorship. She was a taxonomist as well, with more than 100 species described. She taught me almost everything I know now about taxonomy and nomenclature (the naming system of living organisms). It's unfortunate that she isn't around anymore – I believe I could have learnt more from her.

### What is it like discovering a new species and naming them? From where do you get your knowledge?

It is an exciting affair! Firstly, I have to do a quick literature review of the species I am observing and once I have familiarised myself with its characteristics, I would know if it has been previously described or not. Sometimes we have to resort to using molecular biology techniques to confirm if a species is new or not, because genes don't lie. So once we know for sure that the species is new, then the description process (writing the paper) starts. As I mentioned earlier, I learnt the basics from Professor Susan but because we don't work on the exact same group of fish and parasites, I have to do a fair bit of reading and discovery on my own.



Dr Michelle in the Natural History Museum United Kingdom referring to the Platyhelminthes collection where her specimens are also stored.



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

I have always wanted to work with animals, be it terrestrial or aquatic. In fact, my ambition growing up was to become a veterinary doctor. I did my STPM and in my public university application, I was selected to pursue a BSc. in Ecology and Biodiversity in UM. I was slightly disappointed that I didn't make the cut for Veterinary Medicine but I was pleased that at least, I would still be working and studying animals. Over the years, I moved into the aquatic side because it was less emotionally draining when working with aquatic organisms as compared to terrestrial ones (especially when they get sick or die). I think I always wanted to work with animals. I am probably not saving their lives or treating them, like a veterinary doctor would, but I am contributing to their conservation and diversity. I branched out into parasitology and then taxonomy, but it still means I work with a living thing, so that's not too bad.

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

I have always loved animals (even creepy crawlies) and I like sharing what I know with people. So naturally, research and teaching is the perfect fit in regards to what I like, and that's why I am in this line.

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

It is a limitless field of study. New discoveries are being made daily and there will always be something to work on. Applied Sciences is a dynamic field and this is what makes it such an interesting field: there will always be something new to do or discover or improve on.

## What motivates you to keep going?

There are two factors that keep me going: Firstly, I am still at the beginning of my career. I haven't achieved my goals yet, in terms of my research. Secondly, my Aquatic Science students. In this programme, we get students who are really interested in anything aquatic-related. Because of how "thirsty" for knowledge these students are, I am motivated to ensure that their learning process doesn't disappoint them. I am encouraged by their enthusiasm to learn from us.

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

One would need to be diligent, persistent and optimistic. But apart from these attributes, one would first and foremost need to have a burning interest in order to succeed. If we have no interest or passion for something, we'd never succeed in that particular field. We must love what we do, in order to become truly profound.

## How has UCSI impacted your life and career?

My journey at UCSI has been thoroughly exciting. I know I have a purpose for being in the Aquatic Science programme within the Faculty of Applied Sciences. The Aquatic Science programme is new and the Faculty was the right platform for me to start building my career. Apart from just my career, I am also learning about various things in my daily interactions and tasks with colleagues and students. It's meaningful but sometimes disheartening and I am learning to enjoy the "ups" and appreciate the "downs" as they come.

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

I enjoy reading. Whenever I travel or have a little bit of free time, I try to squeeze in a good read. I used to only select fictional works but I am now slowly learning to enjoy non-fiction and motivational books as well. I play the piano and the violin, so again whenever I have some free time or over the weekend, I will de-stress through music.

## What are some future projects you have already undertaken?

My next publication is a description of two new species from catfish in Selangor. This might be my last taxonomy paper for the time being as I am branching out into more applied research. I recently received a government grant to investigate a sustainable method of aquatic oil spill degradation utilising oil-degrading bacteria and a neglected Malaysian bioresource, the Kapok cotton fibers. I am also trying to secure a grant to study the diversity and impacts of land planarians in Malaysia as there have been no other study carried out on this group of invertebrates locally.

► Dr Michelle talking excitedly about taxonomy and nomenclature.

# The 'Fuyoooooh Creative Challenge'



ICAD students, accompanied by their lecturers Athirah Mohamed Zaini (second from right) and Alan Ong Tee Chuan (right), take home 4 out of 10 awards.

UCSI University students managed to win four different prizes in the grand finale of the "Fuyoooooh Creative Challenge" organised by KB Colour Image Sdn Bhd. The finale was held at Atria Shopping Gallery, Petaling Jaya on 19 December 2019 after going on for almost eight months from 2 May 2019 to 15 December 2019.

In the event, three teams from De Institute of Creative Arts and Design (ICAD) walked away with prizes. The first team, 'Monster', successfully walked away with a cash prize of RM8,000 and RM1,500 with their projects entitled 'Nasi Lemak' and 'Design Zone'. Teams 'Project Code 005' and 'This is Non-Fiction' with their projects 'Connect' and 'The Art of Tribal' bagged consolation prizes each of RM1,500.

Chong Kai Qi, one of the team members of 'Monster' stated that winning two awards for two different projects was the best experience of her life as their hard work in creating 'Nasi Lemak' as well as 'Design Zone' were recognised by professionals.

"We were really pleased when we were chosen as a finalist for the competition by KB Colour Image. Not only did we manage to become one of the winners but we also gained experience working in a real design field by creating our pieces of art," she added.

"Our inspiration for 'Nasi Lemak' came to us upon seeing a white food truck without any design located nearby UCSI University as this is basically our go-to area as students. We decided that the food truck needed some of

our creativity to make it look more interesting," she highlighted.

Chong remarked that their 'Design Zone' project was inspired by 'Real Life at Work', a project created by advertising agency Wieden + Kennedy in London.

"Based on that, we decided to transform a place we always pass by and neglect into a more useful and creative space, transforming a boring and monochromatic area into a cartoonist environment with pop art illustration," she said.

"We decided to make use of the unspectacular storeroom in ICAD, a place surrounded by grey walls and messy equipment. We aimed to provide an innovative and creative environment to make people delighted while working, encouraging them to find small surprises in their daily lives," she noted.

When asked how UCSI University, particularly ICAD has helped them, Chong mentioned the designing skills provided by the lecturers of ICAD and their hard work in ensuring the projects ran smoothly.

"Our group and maybe others as well have put in hard work for almost half a year to complete the projects. During the process, we faced a lot of conflicts in the design concept," she said.

"Being the only group that worked on two projects at the same time, we did not have enough time - always working overnight to make sure all the things were submitted on time including our assignments. However,

seeing the complete artwork being installed on the food truck and at the mall, we felt excited and assured that our hard work had paid off," she added. In the future, Chong who is currently a Master in Arts and Design student hopes that the experience that she gained during the competition will help her in the real world.

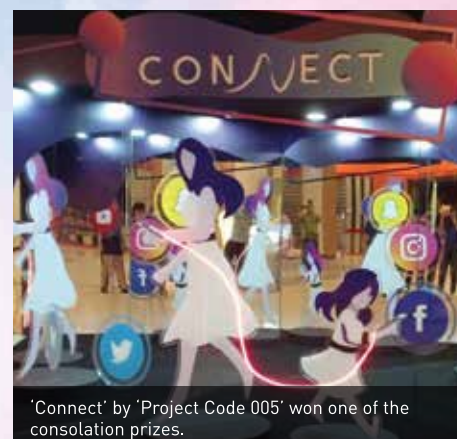
Receiving the consolation prize at the grand finale, Kok Hong Li from 'Project Code 005' said that their team was satisfied and happy upon winning the prize. "What we like about this competition is that the experience of this design challenge is quite new and interesting apart from gaining new insights about printing and installation," she remarked.

"There were times when things were quite rough as the competition period was quite long and clashed with our internship programmes," Kok explained.

Kok who is pursuing the Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Graphic Design highlighted that their inspiration came from observing their surroundings where they noticed family members were becoming more and more disconnected as they scrolled through social media sites on their phones.

"We are very thankful to our faculty lecturers for their motivation and dedication in guiding us throughout the competition. Moreover, UCSI has provided us with sufficient facilities and a conducive environment to develop ideas and knowledge," Kok added.

When asked about their future aspirations, Kok stated that they hoped to apply all the knowledge and experience that they gained during the competition in the industry. One of the lecturers from ICAD, Athirah Mohamed Zaini, who accompanied the teams for the



'Connect' by 'Project Code 005' won one of the consolation prizes.





The 'Nasi Lemak' project by 'Monster' won the first runner-up prize of RM8,000.

competition along with Digital Media head of department Alan Ong Tee Chuan stated that she always encourages the students to participate in many competitions as it is a good opportunity for them to gain experience.

"I believe that the "Fuyoooooh" competition was uniquely designed for students to be involved in all aspects, from designing to the final execution where they were able to witness first-hand and be exposed to ground work such as factory blueprint settings and big-scale installation practice or approach in a shopping mall," she said.

"In fact, I am sure that they learnt their weaknesses and strengths; to think critically; analyse problems; gain confidence in communication as well as team work. The lessons which they received from this competition are invaluable and is something that cannot be obtained in a classroom setting," she added.

Explaining about the future prospect of the students, Athirah highlighted that the competition helped the students in many ways

such as in broadening their horizons and also gaining lifelong learning skills which enhance their personal development, self-sustainability, and employability.

"Following the competition, I expect students to be proactive individuals and I hope this competition will empower them to continuously acquire knowledge, values, skills and apply them with confidence, creativity and enjoyment," she remarked.

The competition started off with the students presenting their creative concepts to convert an indoor or outdoor space area (with all existing fixtures included) into an imaginative fantasy or utopia. Following the presentation, participants with the best proposal were selected as the finalists.

All finalists conducted a short presentation and were assigned a Project Consultant (supervisor) from KB Colour Solution Team to help them throughout the whole project. During the competition period, all finalists had to work as a team from the aspects of finalising their design and artwork, conducting

site visit and discussions, developing detailed map plans, measuring dimensions of project space to sending the design for factory printing or production process before doing the installation work.

At the final stage, all groups engaged in marketing plans to promote their project and created a final video to gain as many 'likes' as possible from Facebook. The objectives of the event organised were to bring out the creativity of students, develop the right set of quality skills, to show students the real-world collaboration of different skill sets of people as preparation to face the real world, gain practical experience through cooperation with businesses as well as networking and gaining the opportunity to build their work portfolio for future jobs.

This event is in line with ICAD's values of creativity, authenticity, passion for art, innovation and freedom of expression in aspiring to develop visual thinkers and competent practitioners in the art and design sphere.



'The Art of Tribal Project' by 'This Is Non-Fiction' won the consolation prize with its ethnic art.





# Harry Hoon:

## ELECTRICAL EXPERIENCES



Harry at the University of Queensland where he did his research attachment.

When UCSI University Engineering student Harry Hoon Jian Wen was selected for an internship at Schneider Electric, he knew that this would be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to gain invaluable experience.

During his three months as a Design Engineer intern in the Schneider Electric's Gutor Industrial UPS Engineering department, he was involved with designing secure power systems, which allowed him to apply power system protection knowledge in ensuring proper implementation of current ratings. He also produced customised part documents to meet special customer requirements such as non-standard transformers, cables, circuit breakers, etc.

"At Schneider, I also took on the role of cross-referencing schematic diagrams and producing Bills of Materials which maximised cost efficiency while meeting requirements. This exposed me to the business aspects of the engineering field," said Harry.

"As part of Schneider Electric's well-being policy, many initiatives are implemented to encourage employees to be healthy, happy and to make the most of our energy, both at work and at home. Employees are allowed to manage their own time provided that the work

is completed in a timely manner. Well-being events are held regularly including weekly badminton, sports programmes, festival celebrations, and parties. These events have given me the opportunity to meet some of the best people I know," he added.

As for his interest in the Electrical and Electronic field, Harry says that his inclination is more towards electrical power, renewable energy and energy management. According to Harry, subjects offered by UCSI such as Power Systems, Power Electronics, Power Protection, and Circuit Theory built up the foundation of his work at Schneider.

"Studying at UCSI has been a great experience for me. It has exposed me to many opportunities and these opportunities have made me who I am. The syllabus at UCSI is industry-relevant and the lecturers are helpful," he said.

"Furthermore, you get the opportunity to join events in terms of student life and, to me, it is the student activities that make UCSI a great university, apart from others. Also, it is the internationally recognised external affiliates that give more exposure to students," he remarked.

Harry's favourite course at UCSI was Power System Protection, the reason being he considers himself an industry-relevant person and this course was able to provide him the industry-relevant knowledge such as circuit breaker and power cable sizing, protection relay tripping calculation, power system protection devices where he was able to apply the knowledge he gained during his internships, both in ABB Power Grids and Schneider Electric.

Harry was selected by the University of Queensland in 2019 for a research attachment in which his title was 'Battery Energy Storage Control System Design for Large-Scale Solar PV Plant Integration'. His research involved using Matlab Simulation to perform a peak shaving or shifting function for economic benefit of electricity consumers.

Specifically, his research aimed to present the detail functions of charge and discharge controllers in Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and its integration with the solar PV plant in the University of Queensland Gatton Campus, Australia. The shifting of the BESS, together with the solar PV plant will be able to reduce the campus load consumption from the power grid significantly, while being cost effective.

As a UCSI Trust Scholarship recipient, Harry takes his studies seriously. He has been on the Dean's List seven times and is active in co-curricular activities as well. He was the President of the IEEE-HKN Mu Alpha Chapter from 2017-2019; part of the task force for U-Schos (UCSI Scholars' Club) from 2016-2018 and sub-mentor for MAGIC (Malaysia Global Innovative and Creative Centre) where he encouraged minorities and refugees to be involved in entrepreneurship.

"The most memorable experiences I have had at UCSI are the student activities, particularly, the times I spent with my team members brainstorming about event ideas and thinking about how to conduct activities, meeting with industry players and CEOs. I truly value the relationships and friendships obtained here," he said.

"It is through UCSI's Engineering Day that I got connected with Schneider Electric. Their expectations are high requiring a well-balanced person, with excellent academic performance, active in co-curricular





Harry Hoon was selected to do an internship at Schneider Electric.

activities and having a winning personality. So I was fortunate to have secured the internship with them" he remarked.

On being the President of IEEE-HKN Mu Alpha Chapter, Harry had this to say: "I feel very proud to be inducted into the honour society of IEEE, the IEEE-HKN Mu Alpha Chapter, and I feel honoured to serve this chapter as the President. I've gained so much knowledge and experience academically as well as industrially from this role that I can never obtain in any other way," he said.

"For sure, I will treasure everything I have learnt. The growth of Mu Alpha Chapter has always been one of my top priorities and looking back at what we have accomplished this year just makes me feel so proud. It is important that Mu Alpha continues to grow every year and the chapter's success was one of my main priorities. I am proud of the chapter and my beloved members," added Harry.

"Additionally, I am very pleased that we were able to organise some of the most ambitious events in the University, especially the 4th Industrial Revolution Series. We were able to collaborate with a number of companies in the engineering industry to bring about a wide range of activities in which we represented both IEEE-HKN as well as UCSI University," he said.

The chapter's key learning outcomes are to enhance, practise and improve soft skills that include effective communication, critical thinking, time management, leadership and problem solving skills; learn beyond the

classroom by participating in technical talks and workshops, professional development events and industrial visits; improve technical skills, continuously keeping up with the latest technological trends and to be exposed to advancements and developments in the electrical and electronic engineering field.

The learning outcomes also include exchanging perspectives, engaging with global evolution and interacting with people from all walks of life; being competitive by being equipped with the latest technologies learning, progressive development and industrial requirement and to minimise the gap between academic and the industrial real world environment.

Harry's advice to his juniors is to focus not just on studying but on external exposure and current trends to gain additional knowledge. In addition to his excellent academic performance, Harry also uses his leisure time wisely. He was one of the Top 5 country finalists in the Schneider Go Green Competition out of all applicants in Malaysia where the idea presented was "Cost Effectively Reduce Carbon Emission using PV-BESS System".

Harry described his "dream job" after graduation as one in which he will get more practical experiences in his field. The job would either be as a Design Engineer where he will get to handle the whole project on his own with every detail and specification designed by him or a Field Services Engineer where he would get to do everything "hands-on" and working on or off site.

"What motivates me is passion and interest. I was just like all the other high school leavers four years ago, not sure about my future career, but I knew I had a little bit of interest in Electrical and Electronic Engineering, so I enrolled at UCSI," he said.

"What inspires me is my passion in technology advancement, especially in the field of power generation and renewable energy. I am fascinated by how power generation technology provides us with "light" and how renewable energy is taking over conventional power generation which is typically sourced from environmentally-harmful methods, for example, coal fire power generation produces greenhouse gas emissions like carbon dioxide causing pollution to the environment," he also said.

For Harry, in five years he sees himself equipped with technical knowledge in the engineering field and a competent engineer. He plans to register himself as a Professional Engineer once he meets all the requirements. He also plans to contribute back to society, especially to UCSI, and to share about his experiences to juniors.

In Harry's words, "You can always pick up the technical knowledge from work but a humble attitude to learn new things and skills is the key." With this, the future looks bright for Harry, whatever his plans are after graduation; and with all his "electrical" experiences, he is sure to succeed!



# World Interfaith Harmony Week 2020



Stefan Preisner giving his inspirational speech.

Harmony between all religions is highly desired in the world today. It makes for a united, happy and prosperous country. Sometimes we get caught up with mundane everyday tasks that we don't make a conscious effort to contribute to this harmony. If it doesn't start with us, then where will it start? Taking the time to understand others of different religions is important as this will reduce the misunderstanding and misconceptions we have of that person. What better way for this type of understanding to happen than to sit down and have a talk, listen and hear other's views and explain one's own.

With this in mind, the World Interfaith Harmony Week 2020 was launched in a grand way on February 18, 2020 at the Grand Ballroom of Le Quadri Hotel with the theme 'The Importance of Love To Society'. To set the tone for the event, UCSI students from around 30 different countries waved their respective flags to honour the occasion. Dressed in traditional attire, the students demonstrated that different races and cultures can live together in peace and harmony in a country such as Malaysia.

Present at the event were Puan Aldrina @ Mimi O.P. Andu, Deputy Head Director for Planning

from the Department of National Unity and Integration representing Senator Waytha Moorthy Ponnusamy, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department for National Unity and Social Wellbeing; Academician Senior Professor Dato' Dr Khalid Yusoff, Vice-Chancellor and President of UCSI University and Stefan Priesner, United Nations Resident Coordinator for Malaysia.

Also at the auspicious event were Tan Sri Dr Omar Abdul Rahman, UCSI Council member and Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM) Founding President and current Senior Fellow; Jufitri Joha, President of Malaysian Youth Council; Professor Dr Mohd Tajuddin also from UCSI University; and representatives from Jabatan Perpaduan.

The event started off with a Harmony Forum moderated by Professor Datuk Dr Denison Jayasooria. Datuk Dr Jayasooria, was a former Practice Professor for Public Advocacy and Principal Research Fellow at the Institute of Ethnic Studies, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM).

Representatives from the different religions in Malaysia - Buddhist, Islam, Hindu, Bahai, Christian, Sikh, Tao and Orang Asli - gave a

short presentation on the importance of love according to their respective religions. Essentially they shared how in the context of love while there is so much of hate, distrust and disharmony in the world, to build love in society to make a better world for all of us.

As the religious leaders shared their thoughts, it became apparent that the central issues discussed by all included the necessity of love to God, to mankind and then to all the creatures in the universe. Another important issue discussed was the need to find common ground between all the religions and not focus on the differences.

In his speech, Academician Senior Professor Dato' Dr Khalid Yusoff highlighted that we are living in a world of increasing contradictions and of decreasing humanity and understanding.

"We prefer to take the easy way out; to differentiate rather than integrate. This is an



Puan Aldrina giving motivation to the audience through her speech.





UCSI - A truly international community.

era devoid of values. We need to bring back meaning to higher education," he said.

The event continued with a performance by the band 'Ayam Cripsy' comprising UCSI's Institute of Music students performing two songs from Sarawak. After that, it was Stefan Priesner's turn to give an inspiring speech about his experiences with the UN while emphasising four values: respect for one's culture, absence of discrimination, compassion and love for future generations.

As Puan Aldrina took the stage to deliver her speech, she reflected on how in Australia, her brother who was rather dark-skinned attracted the attention of a girl who said she liked him because of his 'chocolate-coloured' skin. As she put it, young children don't 'see' the colour of one's skin.

With that the World Interfaith Harmony Week 2020 was launched; which was followed by the launching of the Centre For Peace and Unity Education hosted by UCSI Group. 10 representatives from different NGOs were invited on stage including Blue Ribbon Global Founder Norani Abu Bakar.



The moderator and panellists at the Forum.

The Centre was inspired by UCSI's SDG Secretariat Office to build a society that lives out the core principles of multicultural life through sound transformative education that develops human relationship and promotes conservation of the environment, especially among the youth, aligning its implementation towards the Global Agenda 2030. Through this aspiration, UCSI Group has published a book entitled 'Peace and Unity in Diversity' for the youth studying in upper-secondary schools and universities.

Next on the agenda was the Harmony Forum Certificate Appreciation presentation by Puan Aldrina to the forum moderator and panellists. This was followed by the presentation of tokens of appreciation to Stefan Priesner and Academician Senior Professor Khalid; while Academician Senior Professor Khalid presented tokens of appreciation to Jufitri Johar and Puan Aldrina.

In conjunction with the launching of the Centre for Peace and Unity Education, four competitions that have been held in collaboration with UCSI University were

announced by Leong Sat Sing, President for the Centre of Peace and Unity Education. The first was the Tan Sri Omar Award which was launched in 2019; the second was the National Essay Writing Competition; the third was the mySENI Painting Competition; and finally the myStory Video Competition 2020. Total cash prizes and scholarships amounted to RM500,000.

As for the student reactions, most of them were glad they could be a part of such a meaningful event. Vadivel Anbalagan from the Civil Engineering Department felt that the key to harmony between all religions is that everyone should connect spiritually and consider themselves equal.

"This event made us realise that we are one and should not be separated by skin colour, ethnicity, custom or religion. The event was a good concept as all the religious leaders attended to create a better world towards peace and harmony," he said. For Optometry student, Teoh Zi Shan, everyone should respect one another and should have their own right to be part of any religion.



UCSI's IMus students giving a performance.

Harinidevi Nadarajan also from the Electrical and Engineering department said that this was the perfect opportunity to learn how to be more understanding, and more tolerant towards different religions and to create bonds to live harmoniously while fostering unity. "I attended this event to gain more insights on other religions and to learn the importance of love, harmony and peace in society," said Harinidevi.

It was truly an uplifting moment to see all the religious representatives coming together as one to share their knowledge and experience, particularly on the topic of love in society. UCSI will continue to pave the way for a peaceful and harmonious Malaysia through organising thought-provoking events such as these for the benefit of students, staff and the community.



# Tzu Chi Hospital, Taiwan Attachment by

## Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons) Year 3 Students



Group photo of some of the pharmacists at Tzu Chi Hospital.

Tzu Chi Hospital has a very well-organised and well-designed delivery system for in-patients. This includes a unit dose delivery system, a pneumatic tube drug delivery system and a barcode scanning system which minimises medication errors.

For prescriptions every morning, there will be a drug carrier to deliver medications specifically to each in-patient. Besides that, the pneumatic tube drug delivery system in Tzu Chi enables immediate delivery to in-patients in all the wards.

We got the chance to witness and even try out all the systems mentioned above. We hope that hospitals in Malaysia can employ this kind of delivery system to improve both efficiency of the hospitals and

safety of patients. It was a great experience for us to learn new knowledge and information about diseases and medication, drug interactions any potential problems when dispensing the medication.

During our outpatient attachment, our preceptor introduced oral and external use of medication to us and we learned to recognise which class these drugs belong to. We learned how to dispense the medication according to prescription correctly step-by-step under the guidance of our preceptor.

Tzu Chi Hospital is equipped with an automatic drug packing machine which is named the Toshio machine in the drug filling area. This machine contains many large containers filled with different drugs inside and automatically packs the right number of drugs into plastic package with the patient's information printed on it. This speeds up the drug filling process and increases the efficiency of drug filling.

They also do screening and checking once in a while to ensure that no drug is accidentally misplaced in the wrong container. This is essential as the drugs are all similar in shape, colour and size. They introduced different databases that may be helpful during attachment including ClinicalKey, UpToDate, Embase and Micromedex which can be utilised to search the information related to drugs and diseases.

We would like to express our appreciation to UCSI University for giving us this opportunity and to all pharmacists in Tzu Chi Hospital for their guidance and patience throughout this hospital attachment.

# Malaysia Technology Expo 2020



(left to right) Assistant Professor Dr Habibur Rahman, Pearly Chia Zhi Qing (Year 4 UCSI Pharmacy student) and Assistant Professor Dr Ashok Kumar Janakiraman with their award at the MTE 2020.

The 19th Malaysia Technology Expo (MTE) on Invention and Innovations 2020 was recently held where every year, inventors and innovators gather from near and far to be part of the prestigious MTE Innovation Awards Programme.

According to their definition, MTE 2020 provides a one-stop platform for inventors, designers and entrepreneurs to showcase their latest inventions, ideas, prototypes, products and designs to investors, manufacturers, distributors and marketers in Asia and beyond, paving the way to connect them with those who are seeking new ideas, as well as technology commercialisation and collaboration.

It is a medium for younger inventors and budding entrepreneurs to show off their skills and talents to the world while gaining an

experience of a lifetime in the process. A team of researchers from the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences at UCSI University and the Faculty of Pharmacy at University of Cyberjaya joined the expo where they exhibited their innovation called 'Cocoa Butter: A Healthier Alternative to Fast Melt Tablets'.

The researchers for this innovation were Dr Ashok Kumar Janakiraman, Pearly Chia Zhi Qing, Dr Shiek and Abdul Kadhar Mohamed Ebrahim Habibur from UCSI and Dr Liew Kai Bin from the University of Cyberjaya. Their innovation idea arose from the problem of difficulty in swallowing of conventional oral tablets especially in paediatrics and geriatrics.

Fast melt tablet is a new oral dosage form that dissolves in our mouth without the need of chewing it. Since cocoa butter is an inexpensive and easily available lipid that melts at normal human body temperature, they incorporated cocoa butter in the formulation of fast melt tablets to help the tablet melt and dissolve faster.

Other ingredients such as fillers and super disintegrants are also added to enhance the disintegration and mechanical strength property of the tablet. Addition of cocoa butter would create a synergistic effect with the other ingredients and further promotes the melting properties of the tablet.

The product is also produced using simple freezing method, which is fast and easy, unlike the usual fast melt tablet's manufacturing methods. The researchers from the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences presented their ideas and exhibited their cocoa butter fast melt tablets in the expo and won a Silver award for the category of Asian Youth Innovation Award.



# Beyond The Limit



The Aerodance Champion with their pose at the MIVG 2019.

"The bond we have is so much deeper than the game we play", Patrick Willis, the former American football linebacker once said.

With the sole intention of bringing together medical students from all walks of life, the Asian Medical Students' Association (AMSA) Malaysia and UCSI Medical Students' Association (UCSI MedicSA) joined hands to organise the annual Medics' Intervarsity Games (MIVG) 2019. The MIVG was the biggest annual sports meet organised by medical students for the medical students.

MIVG 2019 was a two-day programme aimed at strengthening relationships among medical students of various universities in Malaysia through sports, show their talent in sports and to raise awareness of the importance of sports and a healthy lifestyle.

Through sports, students are able to build on a wide range of abilities and skills such as leadership, confidence, teamwork, patience,

self-reliance, trust, and many more which facilitate the overall development of an individual. You become proactive when you need to solve problems while playing on the court. Students also learn to manage time between lectures, sports, and personal lives.

One of the important advantages of MIVG 2019 is developing a positive spirit to achieve success while playing for your university. This passion and positive spirit help students achieve their career goals easily. Through sports, they get the opportunity to mingle around with other medical students and attain immense experience.

UCSI University was very proud to be chosen as the hosting university for MIVG 2019. Other than encouraging the involvement of medical students, this programme also enriched their soft skills. This year, there was a total of 32 participating universities a grand total of approximately 1900 individuals. These participating universities consisted of both public and private universities around the nation.

This event was held on 21 and 22 December 2019 at several different locations catering to 19 different sports and games. These consisted of Frisbee, Track and Field, Volleyball, Basketball, Netball, Badminton, Swimming, Futsal, Tennis, Rubik Cube, Table Tennis, Bowling, Chess, Aerodance, PUBG, Beyond the Voice (Singing), Dota 2, Mr. Holmes (Escape Room) and Handball. Two of the main locations of the event were Panasonic Sports Complex, Shah Alam and UCSI University KL campus.

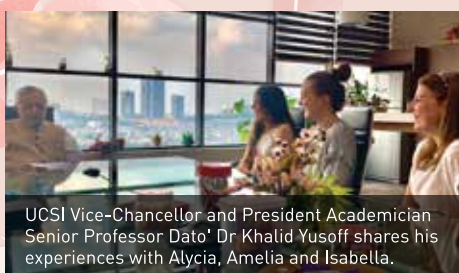
MIVG 2019 kicked off with an opening speech delivered by UCSI MedicSA's Club Advisor, Associate Professor Dr Cheah Shiau Chuen. The Regional Chairperson of AMSA Malaysia, Lee Wei Wen, also graced the event with a welcoming speech. This was then followed by the inauguration of MIVG 2020 with the oath-taking ceremony led by Natasha Tsen Pei Pei, a fellow UCSI participating athlete.

Day 1 of MIVG had a total of 13 games in several locations. The winners of the games conducted on the first day were awarded with their medals at the end of their respective games. The winners of the games conducted in the second day were presented with their medals in the closing ceremony that took place in Panasonic Sport Complex.

Alongside the winners of Day 2 MIVG games, 5 other special awards were given out too such as 'The Best Contingent Team', 'The Best Contingent Leader', 'The Best Sportsman' trophy, 'The Best Sportswoman' trophy and 'The Champion' trophy.

Friendships born on the field of athletic strife is the true gold of a game. Medals might corrode through time, yet relationships cannot be reversed. One says sports does not build character; it reveals character. UCSI MedicSA will do its best to ensure the interest in sport sustains beyond this event.

By: Nivasheini a/p Saravana Ganesalingam  
(Year 2 UCSI University Medical Student)



UCSI Vice-Chancellor and President Academician Senior Professor Dato' Dr Khalid Yusoff shares his experiences with Alycia, Amelia and Isabella.

Beautiful, intelligent and friendly are some words that can be used to describe the three young ladies from Deakin University, Australia: Amelia Mc Callum, Alycia Lauren Renee Bonica and Isabella Ruby Farran. The three of them came under the New Colombo Plan for an exchange programme at UCSI University, Kuala Lumpur Campus.

The Vice-Chancellor and President of UCSI University, Academician Senior Professor Dato' Dr Khalid Yusoff was delighted to have a short sharing session with the three of them where he welcomed them and shared his experiences of when he was a student in

## From Deakin with a Dream

Australia. He also talked to them about how the different cultures and races in Malaysia live harmoniously together.

Alycia who is under the Psychology department here at UCSI said that it was a great opportunity for her to be able to experience being a student in Malaysia.

"Malaysia is nice country with heaps of places to visit and nice people. Everyone has been friendly and willing to help, the weather is nice and things here are inexpensive," she said.

When asked about the differences in the study environment here as compared to Deakin University, Alycia highlighted that UCSI stresses more on collaborations and relationships with people whereby all of her

assignments have been group assignments. In Deakin, she said, they have more individual assignments rather than group ones.

In comparing the differences in study environment, Amelia stated that at her home university, attending lectures are not compulsory as the lectures are recorded so that the students have the resources to watch this on DeakinSync (Deakin's version of CN).

"As a student travelling and studying abroad, so far, this exchange programme at UCSI has given me a deeper cultural understanding," she Isabella. All three Deakin students will be here for a semester ending April 2020. We wish them a memorable stay in Malaysia and a productive time at UCSI University.





# A 'Muy Bien' Masterclass



[from left to right] Global Engagement Office (GEO) director Chan Joe Jim, GEO Senior Vice-President Willie Tan Moh Leong, Professor Dr P'ng Tean Hwa, Joshua Yee (pianist), Loi Liang Hao, Professor Maria, Charity Goh, Goh Xin Tian, Tee Jia Hui and Assistant Professor Ysan Suit Yin

UCSI's Institute of Music (IMus) is dedicated in providing a conducive environment for holistic and artistic growth for both staff and students, being a leader in music education and musical culture in the region and fostering global exchange of musical knowledge and scholarship through international collaborations.

As such, IMus has been ranked among the World's Top 100 schools in the performing arts category for the third consecutive year. This is indeed a reason to celebrate the Institute's success and the University's climb upwards in the locally and international music scene.

Indeed, what better way to illustrate the Institute's mission and vision than inviting the well-known Venezuelan soprano singer Professor Maria Elena Vargas, to hold a masterclass held at the Recital Hall, Block G, UCSI University Kuala Lumpur Campus. During the masterclass, Professor Maria applauded the performers with the words 'Muy Bien' (very good) and 'Bravo' (well done) showing her immense appreciation for them.

The masterclass was attended by Institute of Music (IMus) director, Professor Dr P'ng Tean Hwa, Classical Music programme head, Assistant Professor Ysan Suit Yin, delegates from the Venezuelan Embassy as well as students and staff of IMus.

As part of her tour in Malaysia, the Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in Malaysia hosted the Venezuelan Opera Gala featuring Professor Maria on 5 and 6 March

2020 which was held at The Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre (KLPAAC).

"I am so delighted that I can be here today to share some of my knowledge with the students. What we will be doing today is more than a phase, it is to create a memory in learning," she said. Professor Maria added that it is much better for her to share her experiences directly with the attendees of the masterclass.

"When a professor with experience presents herself in a different environment, she also learns from students as there is always feedback from the audience," she highlighted. "I am not going to sing today so that you can attend my concert in two days," she remarked, making the audience laugh.

The masterclass then started with a performance by Tee Jia Hui and Lim Chuen Yi



Professor Maria (left) with Classical Music programme head Assistant Professor Ysan Suit Yin.

(pianist) with a song entitled 'Mon Coeur s'ouvre ta voix' from *Samson et Dalila* by Saint-Saëns, followed by a performance from Charity Goh and Bonnie Kong (pianist) performing 'Chanson de la Mariee' from *Cinq Melodies Populaires Grecques* by Ravel.

Following this, Loi Liang Hao took the stage with Lee Yi Chen (pianist) performing 'Questo amor, vergogna mia' from the opera *Edgar* by Puccini and lastly Goh Xin Tian with Joshua Yee (pianist) performing 'Als Luise die Briefe ihres ungetreuen Liebhabers verbrannte' by Mozart.

Professor Maria actively participated in helping the performers give their best in terms of breathing, body postures and other important elements in singing classical music. "Don't be afraid to try different voice styles and most importantly, try to 'open' up yourself when you sing," she said before ending her masterclass.

One of the performers during the class, Goh Xin Tian said that it was a great pleasure to be attending the masterclass by Professor Maria. "It was a great experience to be able to get knowledge from an experienced singer. Moreover, I am grateful for the chance to learn various valuable lessons from Professor Maria which I am sure will be useful in the future," she said.

Professor Maria Elena Vargas has an amazing track record of achievements in singing. Upon graduating from the P. I. Tchaikovsky Conservatory of Moscow with a Master's Degree in Soloist Singing, Opera and Singing Teacher, she went on numerous concert tours in various cities such as Austria, Spain, France, as well as the Soviet Union. Having passion in teaching, Professor Maria has been teaching in different Music Conservatories in Venezuela since 1990.

Professor Maria is an established singer having worked with numerous performers from different musical fields such as pianist Silvia Cabrelles and Venezuelan pianist Teresa Cos apart from being one of the 'Rodrigo Riere' quartet members along with Maestro Rafael Saavedra, Ignacio Barreto and Enrique Quedo.

She was the founder and director of the Choir of the National Institute for Women in 2002. She is now teaching in music schools as well as the Experimental University for the Arts (UNEARTE) in Venezuela.

With Professor Maria, the masterclass was truly a lesson in perfection. Students gained invaluable knowledge and got to hone their skills in music and, the best part was, they got to learn from a professional!



# RCE Kuching Eco-Campus Programme



11th Tongyeong ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) International Forum, South Korea - 1 and 2 Nov 2019.



Beach Clean Up Day- 26 October, 2019.

The UCSI University Sarawak campus is using its campus as a 'living lab' to test sustainability initiatives which can be eventually duplicated at other institutions aiming to be more sustainable in their operations.

This initiative, the Eco-Campus Programme, started in the first quarter of 2019 and is led by RCE Kuching representatives who work towards coming up with ideas that can be used to inform and assist the campus' implementation of the programme.

Through the Eco-Campus Programme, UCSI Sarawak aims to educate its campus community; both staff and students, on sustainability and sustainable development in order to internalise eco-friendly habits and mindsets, embedding sustainability into the culture of the campus.

Through advice from various stakeholders such as WWF-Malaysia, WormingUp and G.A.M.E.S. PLT., the campus has embarked on various eco-campus initiatives since last year. From waste management, energy as well as water management and green procurement to educational workshops, the campus has launched a number of initiatives, including banning the use of straws, plastic and styrofoam cups and plates in all its events and activities.

Additionally, they are using only FSC-certified paper or paper from sustainably managed sources, printing only when required, using single-sided used paper, collecting and re-purposing used cooking oil, and

composting kitchen waste of the University. Induction into this new culture starts from the very beginning; with students being briefed during orientation sessions and new staff at staff induction sessions.

The student orientation sessions, led by the Student Board team, who are also members of the RCE Kuching Youth Ambassadors network, plan to organise green events paying much attention to keeping waste at a minimum, using e-forms, aiming for zero waste refreshments and segregating waste if any.

The University has also set up the UCSI Community Garden as an initiative under the purview of the Gastronomy Club, enabling students of various programmes, including those in the culinary arts programme to grow herbs and vegetables which can be used in their training kitchens. Students and staff work together to maintain the garden and bring their harvest straight to their kitchens.

Other successful initiatives involve reviewing the campus' event proposal and review forms to include a sustainability checklist, green procurement efforts including buying only energy efficient indoor and outdoor lighting, no longer procuring mineral water bottles and files, using recycled files, educating everyone about zero waste refreshments and bringing own cutlery during staff and student events.

Furthermore, the campus also strongly encourages students to participate in at least one project organised by RCE Kuching such as the 5R (Refuse, Reduce, Recycle, Reuse and

Repurpose) campaign which aims to enhance the students' awareness on the 5R concept inculcating in them the proper habits of garbage disposal and recycling. In addition, RCE Kuching is also currently planning to organise the Sarawak River Art Competition 2020 and its Youth Ambassadors will be collecting registration e-forms and description of artworks via QR Code as one of the initiatives to save paper.

The invaluable insights and eco-friendly practices that are being instilled in our staff and students through this Eco-Campus Programme will be a source of inspiration and a foundation from which to build impactful Youth Ambassadors.



The UCSI Community Garden group picture

The representatives and stakeholders of RCE Kuching are excited and committed to translating and implementing these practices in various schools and communities in the Kuching region. Even as the University is rigorously pursuing its mission of quality in teaching and research, it is also cultivating a community which has a deep understanding of the challenges of climate change and sustainability supporting a healthy, thriving and sustainable campus community.





# Kevin Sraatharan

*BA (Hons) Logistics Management, graduated 2016*

Without a doubt, Kevin has what it takes to get selected by the best companies around. Previously an intern at Schlumberger, the world's leading oilfield services company, he has had more than his share of experiences in the field. Not only that, he is a member of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT), a Hong Leong scholarship holder and a member of Toastmasters International. Since 2017, Kevin has been a customer operations specialist at Shell Malaysia, and he is enjoying every minute of it.

In this column, the UCSI Gazette features the lives of alumni after graduation. Like Kevin, many have pursued their dreams and made them a reality, whether it be a career or an ambition they have had since young. Yet others have journeyed on to further their studies in the field of their interest. In this volume, we catch up with Kevin Sraatharan and see what's new in his life since his time at UCSI University.

## Describe your job at Shell.

I handle home-based businesses for Shell Malaysia. I make sure our commercial customers get the fuel on time by facilitating the whole process from ordering until the fuel is delivered to our customer's plant. I manage new businesses for Fleet Cards, rewarding employees that bring in business to Shell as well as manage fuel orders until the customer receives the load on time.

## What made you choose your programme at UCSI?

I did my diploma in Logistics and Supply Chain in Politeknik Seberang Perai. After completing my diploma, I got offered a full scholarship from Hong Leong Foundation to complete my degree at UCSI. The rest is history!

## What excites you most about your field?

Dealing with multiple stakeholders and making sure the fuel gets there on time!

## Did you know you were going to study this since young or was it something you discovered only later?

Logistics wasn't a well-known course and also not one that every parent has in mind. Usually it is all about being a lawyer, doctor or IT specialist. However, my awesome cousins helped to educate me in this field and on how much it would impact our lives in the future as well as how important it would be.

## How did you manage to complete your degree within just two years?

I have to admit I struggled through those two years. I had to make sure I did not fail any papers, which would result in me paying for retaking those papers. I had to attend class for 45 minutes and rush to another class to complete another 45 minutes. I had to make sure in that 45-minute lecture, I had to absorb everything, so that my knowledge and understanding for the subject would be on par with other students. Some subjects clashed with each other and so I had to complete the subject within that semester. If not, I would not be able to complete it at all. Thanks to Assistant Professor Dr Siti Norida, the Head Of Department, who helped me during my period at UCSI.

## What are your future ambitions?

Be the boss someday; one day it will be time to lead!

## Tell us about your experience studying at UCSI.

When I started off with my first semester, I met Aizat in Land Transportation class and we basically made a deal: Let's graduate together ASAP! And we did. We completed our degree in less than two years. I certainly made many good friends during my journey at UCSI!

## What courses did you learn at UCSI which was helpful in your work at Shell?

Everything. From operation management to logistics management, every aspect of it is important in my current field right now. And of course I took up a lot of subjects during the semester, making sure every assignment is completed within the time frame given. It works the same way with every project within the organisation.

## Where do you get your motivation from? (In terms of what you studied as well as work-wise)

My childhood years were tough. So I made use of that reason to motivate me to do better. I thought to myself, If I don't do well, my kids would suffer like I did. I could not get into a private university without the scholarship provided by Hong Leong Foundation and SOLS 24/7. So that pushed me to do better knowing that my education was funded without me having to pay back a single cent!

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

You can go anywhere and do anything with a Logistics degree. Every company needs you! It's important for everyone to start somewhere small so we can learn about the entire business and its operations. With MNCs you become a part of the existing process, where you will only learn that part of the process.

## Tell us about your work experiences.

As I had a passion for the Oil and Gas field, I started off with an engineering company specialising in the Oil and gas industry, Amerstrand Engineering Sdn Bhd. During my internship there I developed a procurement system for the management. With SMEs you learn everything from top to the bottom of the business. Amerstrand Engineering was the place I learnt the most.

## Where do you see yourself in five years?

I would like to grow in Shell; it's the best place to work. I can see myself being in this organisation in the next five years. My true inspiration would be my dad. I would really like to give him the best retirement when the time comes.

## What do you do in your leisure time?

I play Dota 2, which is a competitive online game which I have been playing since I was a kid. I play it now competitively for Shell's main team!

# INSTITUTE OF MUSIC DOES IT AGAIN

For the third consecutive year, QS World University Rankings By Subject 2020 has ranked UCSI's Institute of Music (IMus) as among the world's Top 100 schools in the performing arts category. The ranking further cements IMus' reputation as one of the foremost music schools in the world. A huge congrats from the UCSI fraternity and friends.



# THE UCSI GAZETTE

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