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UCSI'S SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT



NOT JUST ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL



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UCSI APPOINTED AS IIMP-RECOGNISED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE

UCSI University's (UCSI) undergraduate marketing students can now boost their credentials further when they apply for the Certified Marketing Management Professional (CMMP) programme.

Specifically designed for industry professionals, the CMMP designation is globally-recognised and holders will be able to gain a competitive edge in the marketing industry by achieving a high level of competence that can be demonstrated on a professional level. The professional designation will provide marketing practitioners with the specialised knowledge, confidence and credibility needed to get ahead and take charge of their careers.

The programme is offered by the International Institute of Marketing Professionals (IIMP) which

has appointed UCSI as an IIMP-Recognised Educational Institute (REI). The entry requirements include having completed at least four marketing and business courses each as well as worked in marketing / sales management or other relevant fields for a year.

IIMP is a Canadian independent professional not-for-profit association that is dedicated to developing and promoting Internationally Accepted Marketing Standards™ for marketing practitioners.

It has the largest advisory network throughout the world — 192 countries — with each of these council members representing a different country and able to contribute by expressing their

points of view on the Generally Accepted Marketing Principles™ and Practices and contemporary marketing profession issues in their particular country or region.

UCSI's Faculty of Business and Information Science (FoBIS) has been steadily making headway in enhancing student employability as part of its mission. Many prestigious accreditation bodies today offer certifications and exemptions to the Faculty's programmes in recognition of their transformative and interdisciplinary teaching and learning practices that produce high-calibre graduates. And with this recognition from IIMP, FoBIS continues to add another distinguished professional body to its long list of esteemed certification partners.

A LEARNING OPPORTUNITY ACROSS THE SEAS

UCSI University's (UCSI) Faculty of Engineering, Technology and Built Environment (FETBE) recently welcomed four fourth-year Polytech Nantes students from France to pursue a three-month-long cooperative internship programme at UCSI. Polytech Nantes, known as a French 'Grande Ecole', is the graduate engineering school of the University of Nantes. In France, 'Grandes Écoles' are higher educational institutions that are prestigious and very selective, their graduates occupy managerial and executive positions in the industry.

With backgrounds in electronic and digital technologies and computer science, the Polytech Nantes students were tasked to work on the IoT and App Design under the supervision of UCSI FETBE's lecturers Ir Associate Professor Dr Rodney Tan Hean Gay, Assistant Professor Dr John Tan Teng Hwang, Assistant Professor Dr Tiang Sew Sun, Assistant Professor Dr Mastaneh Mokayef, Manickam Ramasamy and Chuah Eng Yew.



Polytech Nantes students (from left) Jean Portalis, Alban Sicard, Omar Diouf and Florent Sabadie sharing a light moment during their second day at UCSI University.

The interns also participated in UCSI students' Capstone project — development of a 2D plotting platform with an interchangeable head that allows various plotting task and an energy meter recording system that interface with any Modbus compatible energy meter — under the supervision of Dr Rodney. A collaboration such as this allows both UCSI and Polytech Nantes students an opportunity to exchange technical knowledge as well as improve their communication skills. It was also an opportunity for cultural exchange.

As one of the leading private universities in Malaysia, UCSI is renowned for their extensive collaboration with many of the world's best universities — the Ivy League, Russell Group, Universitas 21 and Australia's Group of Eight — providing opportunities for students and staff to contribute to the pursuit and advancement of

knowledge around the world.

According to Dr John, the Head of Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering in FETBE, Polytech Nantes will be receiving an undergraduate student of UCSI in September 2017 for a duration of two and a half months.

Supported by BASF — the largest chemical producer in the world with over 300 production sites worldwide — the internship programme will provide the student an opportunity to conduct research in the area of renewable energy under the joint supervision of UCSI's Dr Mastaneh and University of Nantes Professor Razban Haghghi Tchanguiz and Dr Ahmed Ould El Moctar.

This is the second time UCSI welcomed students from Polytech Nantes.



HEAVENLY VOICES: UCSI CHAMBER CHOIR CONTINUES ON ITS SOARING NOTE

Hoi An can be translated as ‘peaceful meeting place’ and indeed, it was when ethereal voices from four corners of the world descended on this World Heritage port town and wrapped it in a heavenly vibe with mesmerising renditions of classical and traditional songs.

UCSI University’s (UCSI) Chamber Choir joined 31 other choirs from 10 countries in the 5th Vietnam International Choir Competition that took place in Hoi An, a city on Vietnam’s central coast, recently — Malaysia was represented by UCSI and one other institution.

The Choir competed in the B1 (mixed choirs, difficulty Level II) class and edged out 11 other competitors to win a Level 3 Gold Award, placing them at 2nd place in the category. The ensemble led by Professor Ian Lim Kean Seng performed a traditional Malaysian piece, ‘*Pagtulog na, ne ne*’ arranged by Arwin Tan, Cherly Susanti’s ‘*Daemon irrepit callidus*’ and a traditional Indonesia piece, ‘*Janger*’ arranged by Budi Susanto Yohanes.

The award adds on to the Choir’s previous wins which includes the 13th China International Chorus Festival 2016, the 9th Orientale Concertus

International Choral Festival 2016 in Singapore and the 4th Bali International Choir Festival 2015.

The Choir is the pride and joy of UCSI’s Institute of Music (IMus), providing a platform for young vocal talents to blossom under the tutelage of high-calibre and passionate teachers.

IMus, Malaysia’s premier music school continues to be at the forefront of discovering, cultivating and empowering the country’s musical talents into pursuing musical excellence and charting their own careers. The Institute also believes in providing a rich student learning experience by participating in professional competitions.

Organised by Interkultur, the global address for international choral competitions, the Vietnam music festival included other competition categories included children and youth, chamber and sacred, as well as non-competition elements such as evaluation performance, individual coaching and friendship concerts.

In addition, participating choirs also had the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful country of Vietnam as an additional activity. The bi-annual

competition first started in 2011 to espouse Interkultur’s philosophy of bringing diverse cultures and people together using music. It is one of the hundreds of music festivals and competitions organised by Interkultur yearly.

The Choir competed in the B1 (mixed choirs, difficulty Level II) category and edged out 11 other competitors to win 2nd place and Level 3 Gold Award.



Science, Technology and Innovation Minister YB Datuk Seri Wilfred Madius Tangau urging the audience to enhance their knowledge on the Fourth Industrial Revolution and strategise to best benefit from it.

UCSI UNIVERSITY FACILITATING MALAYSIAN INDUSTRY FOR THE FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

In support of the Malaysia Education Blueprint 2015-2025 (Higher Education), UCSI University (UCSI) recently organised a 'Strengthening Industry-Academia Partnership (SIAP) Conference' in collaboration with the Higher Education Leadership Academy (AKEPT).

Themed 'Shaping the Malaysian Industry for the Fourth Industrial Revolution', the Conference aimed to create awareness and enhance understanding of the latest revolution, discuss the potential impact of it on government, industry, education and society, as well as to strengthen the industry-academia partnership for its challenges.

Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Yang Berhormat Datuk Seri Wilfred Madius Tangau, who was present as the keynote speaker, urged the people to enhance their knowledge of the revolution and strategise to best benefit from it.

"The Malaysian industry should be ready for the Fourth Industrial Revolution by acquiring more relevant knowledge to initiate cooperation between industry players and their clients.

"The whole idea of the Industrial Revolution is knowledge, we innovate to resolve the problem and come up with the right market while revamp

every market sectors such as in the agricultural industry which had the least interest among the public previously," he said.

"Like many of the world's nations — big and small — Malaysia is at the crossroads in this regard. The way forward is crucial and as I look at the youth of today in this great nation, I feel an abiding hope and a deep solicitude. Precisely because the future depends so much on them.

All of us at the Ministry will continue doing our utmost to ensure that Malaysia will be well poised to take advantage of Industry 4.0. And I would like to extend a hand to all of you — industry leaders, C-suite executives, policy makers, academics and students — to join us in a worthwhile journey."

The Conference featured two forum sessions titled 'Future Industry Now' and 'Future University Now' respectively.

The first session was attended by Yang Mulia Tengku Datuk Dr Mohd Azzman Shariffadeen from the Academy of Science Malaysia, Managing Director Albert Chai from Cisco Malaysia, Vice-President of the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers Jacob Lee Chor Kok, and Curator of the World Economic Forum Global Shapers Dr Renard Siew.

“

The Malaysian industry should be ready for the Fourth Industrial Revolution by acquiring more relevant knowledge to initiate cooperation between industry players and their clients.

— **Yang Berhormat Datuk Seri Wilfred Madius Tangau,**
Science, Technology and
Innovation Minister

”

The latter session featured President of Raffles University Iskandar Professor Graeme Britton, General Manager of Public Sector Group Nik Ariff Nik Omar from Microsoft Malaysia and CEO of Blunumber Foundation, Inc Dr Puvan J Selvanathan.

The event was also attended by UCSI's Vice-Chancellor and President, Senior Professor Dato' Dr Khalid Yusoff who delivered the welcome remark and the Director General of the Ministry of Higher Education, Yang Berbahagia Datin Paduka Ir Dr Siti Hamisah binti Tapsir who delivered the closing remark.

The event was well attended by corporate leaders, professors and managers from higher education institutions, SMEs, trade associations, professional bodies and ministries.



Director General of the Ministry of Higher Education Yang Berbahagia Datin Paduka Ir Dr Siti Hamisah binti Tapsir was one of the influential individuals present at the event.



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UCSI PROMOTES LOVE FOR SCIENCE AND MATHS



Chong Hwa Independent High School came back with a vengeance this year when both their teams emerged as top winners at UCSI University (UCSI) Science and Maths Quiz 2017.

The first team consisting of Takeda Shigenori, Tan Wei Xuan, and Chan Tin Ping beat out Taiping's SMJK Chung Hwa Confucian team (Yau Yong Sheng, Tan Yi Chun, and Lee Zong Yu) by 3 points and walked away with the top prize of RM1000 cash, certificates and full tuition fee bursaries. The first runners-up took home cash prize RM500, certificates and partial tuition fee bursaries.

Chong Hwa's second team (Ong Xin Jiong, Zhang Shi Hong, and Lim Jun Hong) took home the 3rd prize of RM300, certificates and partial tuition fee bursaries while Penang Chinese Girls' High School (Oh Yong Xin, Ling Vee Nis, and Lim Ai Lin) — the only all-girl team to make it to the finals — had to settle for 3rd runner-up.

The finals, which saw the top four teams compete against each other, was intense and nerve-racking as they strive to be the first to answer.

The Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Maths quiz questions were sometimes indirect in the form of application and some were also tricky, leaving even the audience dazed.

According to Low Meng Wha, Chong Hwa Independent High School's Mathematics teacher, the school's Science and Maths Club was founded to coach and prepare members for competitions such as this. He added that his students worked hard for many weeks preparing for this competition by indulging in discussions and Maths Olympiad style quizzes.

"We are very happy to win and it is not only for the prizes but also because we want to earn a good name for ourselves, our teachers and our school," said Tan Wei Xuan, one of the members of the Chong Hwa Independent High School team.

Yau Yong Sheng from the 1st runner-up team shared that it was actually a good-natured bet with their teachers to win the competition but unfortunately, he admitted, they made some mistakes along the way which made them miss their chances to win the grand prize. However, his teammates agreed that they had a good time throughout.

A total of 16 out of 182 teams made it through to the semi-finals after the state-level challenges in Perak, Penang, Klang Valley and Johor.

The quiz is one of UCSI's many initiatives to promote greater interest in Science and Maths,

which form the foundation of all Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines. Declining enrolment in the science stream and STEM undergraduate courses is a major concern for Malaysia which is targeting a 60:40 ratio of science to art students.

To compete and succeed in today's dynamic global landscape, Malaysia needs a qualified STEM workforce to drive science and innovation. Underlining the severity and importance of this issue, a new policy — National Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Transformation Plan — is being drafted to address and reverse this troubling trend.

In the Vice-Chancellor and President Senior Professor Dato' Dr Khalid Yusoff welcome note which was read out by UCSI's Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Student Affairs and Alumni Associate Professor Ir Dr Jimmy Mok Vee Hoong, the audience was urged to adopt a culture of lifelong learning and love for knowledge.

He also highlighted the importance of promoting greater interest in Science and Maths amongst young people by engaging their natural curiosity and adopting non-traditional teaching and learning methods.



◀ **PROUD ACHIEVERS:** The winners with (from left) Director of UCSI's Centre for Pre-U Studies Asst Prof Alice Phua Choon Yen, Vice-President of Student Enrolment Centre Willie Tan, and President and CEO of UCSI College Assoc Prof Dr Mabel Tan.

“One strategy identified in the Malaysian Education Blueprint 2013-2025 is engaging student awareness through hands-on learning experiences such as science camps or fairs, popularising science through mass media, and organising more participatory events such as competitions and debates — it is by doing that learning is most effective.”

President and CEO of UCSI College Associate Professor Dr Mabel Tan Hwee Joo who was also present at the event said, “The Science and Technology Human Capital Road Map states that Malaysia needs 500,000 science stream graduates to provide enough human capital to accelerate the country’s growth and achieve developed nation status by 2020. We believe this Quiz is the right platform to cultivate the love for Science and Maths amongst secondary school students.”

All competing teams received certificates of participation and hampers.

▼ **NERVE-WRACKING:** The strain and nervousness on the faces of each competing team member visible as they await the questions.



▶ **ENTERTAINING:** Quiz Master, James Low, lightening up the intense mood with his funny jests at the competing youngsters.





SPEAK UP, ACT OUT!

Drama builds character



UCSI University's (UCSI) Faculty of Social Science and Liberal Arts (FOSSLA) successfully organised its third 'Act it Out!' event — the annual one-day inter-school drama training cum competition affair. This year's theme, 'Speak Up, Act Out!' focused on holistic development — creativity, imagination as well as communication skills — by giving form and meaning to experience through 'acting out'.

A total of 24 teams from 20 Klang Valley secondary schools participated in this event which comprised of a drama training workshop in the morning and an impromptu drama competition in the afternoon; the latter has always been a hit with the young participants in the past.

In his officiating speech, Senior Professor Dato' Dr Khalid Yusoff, Vice-Chancellor and President of UCSI University, highlighted the need for producing well-rounded graduates who display strengths in critical thinking, communication and English-language proficiency as emphasised

in the Malaysian Education Blueprint.

"The young people present today can hone their creativity, time management skills, and boost their self-confidence as they perform in front of a large audience," he said.

The drama training workshop was conducted by Elaine Foster, a practised writer, performer and poetry educator, along with her team members from the Poetry Café KL in several focus groups.

In the workshop, 16 to 18-year-olds learned to prepare scripts according to a given theme as well as express and deliver their ideas in the form of a drama. Most importantly, they learned to overcome the biggest challenge — conquering stage fright!

The most exciting part of the one-day event was definitely the impromptu drama competition in the afternoon. The competition was judged by prominent members of the performing arts industry such as Dr Wong Oi Min from the National

Arts Culture and Heritage Academy (ASWARA); Pat Chan Lai Ngo from Taylor's University; Dominic Lucien Luk from the Monday Show Entertainment; Yeo Li Min from Port Dickson Polytechnic; and Mathew Jerome van Huizen from Multimedia University.

The contestants wooed the audience with their immense talent and creativity during their drama performance. The three teams that caught the judges' eyes were students from SMK Taman Tun Dr Ismail, ST John's Institution, and SMK Bandar Kinrara 3. They walked home with the Best Drama, Best Story and Best Comedy awards, respectively.

Associate Professor Dr Tan Bee Hoon, Dean of FOSSLA, asserted that the event was primarily to train and to be trained, quoting former US Secretary of Education Richard Riley, "I believe arts education in music, theatre, dance, and the visual arts is one of the most creative ways we have, to find the gold that is buried just beneath the surface. The children have an enthusiasm for



ALL SMILES: The winners with Assoc Prof Dr Tan Bee Hoon, Dean of FOSSLA (middle) and the organising team.



life, a spark of creativity, and vivid imaginations that need training — training that prepares them to become confident young men and women”.

“The use of drama in teaching and learning, not only nurtures creativity but also improvisation. The many benefits of drama in developing physical, intellectual, creative, aesthetic and social skills should be recognised,” she added.

Dr Tan also commended the organising team and student assistants for their dedicated hard work in making the event a success. She also expressed a special appreciation note to the co-organisers from UCSI’s Student Enrolment Centre.

▲ **PASSIONATE:** SMK Taman Tun Dr Ismail team showing off their talent and creativity during the annual drama competition.



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Since its establishment in 2005, the School has evolved rapidly to become one of the most prestigious and innovative providers of architectural education, not only in Malaysia but throughout the region. Never one to rest on its laurels, the School continues to advance its teaching standards, keeping its promise of offering students a learning experience like no other.

At UCSI University's (UCSI) School of Architecture and Built Environment, we believe that our future designers and thinkers seek liveability and right livelihood, inclusiveness, ethical sustainability, environmental and social responsiveness, conviviality and cultural robustness in our built environments. The underlying premise of our education is humanistic, communal and embedded in user-centric concerns; and in the best of examples, our teaching approaches combine abstract theory with concrete practices.

Our students frequently work alongside revered experts on undergraduate projects that address global challenges — the result of the School's vast partnership with renowned architects both local and international. We are always actively engaging industry and academic partners to work on live projects and have them actively input into the University's design studio. We constantly invite various non-governmental organisations (NGOs) as guest speakers to enhance the student's learning experience.



**HIJJAS
KASTURI**

Founder and Principal Director of Hijjas Kasturi Associates Sdn

Hijjas Kasturi has had a hand in creating some of the most striking buildings on the Kuala Lumpur skyline, including the Menara Telecom Tower. Dubbed 'Malaysia's first architect hero' by fellow practitioner Lim Teng Ngim, Kasturi has won a clutch of awards over the years, including Malaysia's highest architecture accolade the PAM Gold Medal. With an interest in the aesthetics of industrial design, Kasturi has also created a centre for developing traditional and contemporary art forms and nature conservation at his home in Rimban Dahan.



**PROFESSOR
HUANG SHENG-
YUAN**

Founder and Principal of Fieldoffice Architects

Initiated architectural actions globally with a group of young architects, gradually expanded to the diverse redevelopment of the local ecology, waters, and the urban space of Taiwan. Huang worked in Eric Owen Moss Architects as a Project Associate and also taught at North Carolina State University. Fieldoffice Architects received numerous awards since 1998 such as the Far Eastern Design Awards and National Landscape Re-development Award, and is frequently invited to participate in international exhibitions, social and cultural activities.



**DR AR ERIC
CHEN XUAN-
CHENG**

- Adjunct Lecturer of Department of Architecture at Chung Yuan Christian University
- Directors of the SWEETEN Educational Foundation
- Curator of THE 201 ART • Architect of Archiblur Lab

Chen's work has allowed him to be a nomad and vacillating practitioner. Chen takes the point of greatest tension from between these opposites — such as art and architecture, architectural objects and architectural installation, or body and perception — to carefully and concretely undertake his art practice. Chen is currently a lecturer in the Department of Architecture at Chung Yuan Christian University and has served as an art consultant and curator for The 201 Art, an architect for Archiblur Lab and a navigator for Interbreeding Field.

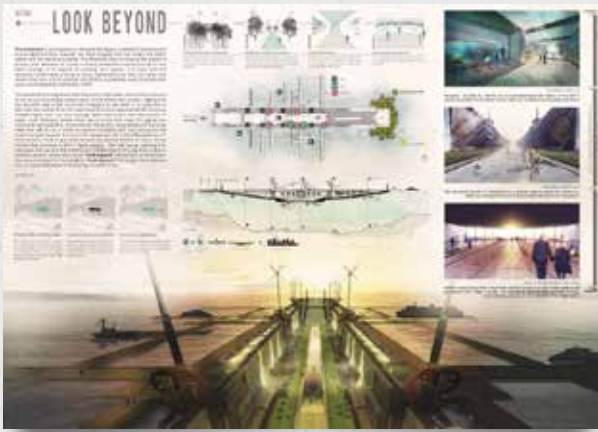
The School has experienced great success but none greater than that of its students. Some have won top awards in national and international competitions. Some have gone on to top architecture firms. And some are recognised for their contributions to the community. For many, their own success story begins long before graduation.



TAN KWON CHONG

- Regional winner, Nippon Paint Young Designer Award 2015 (Architectural Category)
- Gold award, Nippon Paint Young Designer Award 2015
- Honorary Mention and Best Green Design, Nippon Paint Young Designer Award 2013
- Second prize, UM Epic Home Competition 2013





LAM CHEE HAU

Winner, Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia (PAM) Housing and Urbanity Symposium 2015 (Sustainable Eco-Living Centre category)

Silver award winner, Nippon Paint Young Designer Award 2015

Top 50 shortlisted, International Competition on MH17 Memorial 2015

Finalist, Nippon Paint Young Designer Award 2014

Second prize, UM Epic Home Competition 2013



BERNICE LIM XIN YIN

First prize, Malaysian Institute of Interior Designers (MIID) Dulux 20.5 Student's Saturday 2016 (Residential Design category)

Second prize, Malaysian Institute of Interior Designers (MIID) Dulux 20.5 Student's Saturday 2016 (Commercial category)

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KUALA SEPETANG, KAKTAO 46 PROJECT

UCSI students transformed a run-down shop lot into a community centre that houses a children's library, a play centre and a homestay. The project was the result of a collaboration between architecture students from UCSI and Taiwan's Chung Yuan Christian University (CYCU). The students were guided by two renowned architects from Taiwan who are visiting professors of UCSI, Professor Huang Sheng-Yuan and Dr Ar Eric Chen Xuan-Cheng. The project caught the attention of QS Reimagining Education Star Awards 2015 and was one of the shortlisted innovations around the world.

SUNGAI BULOH, 'THE DISEASE, THE PLACE, THE PEOPLE' PROJECT

When Malaysia's history of leprosy faces the threat of being forgotten, UCSI students were challenged to create insightful and innovative designs to temporarily convert Sungai Buloh Leprosy Settlement — fondly also known as the Valley of Hope and the world's second largest leprosarium heritage — Council Hall's first floor into a story museum, a place to commemorate the history of the Settlement.

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AT A GLANCE

Our programmes are fully accredited by the Malaysian Qualification Agency (MQA).

Our Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Architecture programme is a pre-professional course that is accredited by Lembaga Arkitek Malaysia (LAM) which exempts graduates from the LAM Part 1 Professional Examination.

Our classes are kept deliberately small with staff-student ratios as low as 1:12 to ensure that each student receives utmost attention and guidance from a team of experienced lecturers.

UCSI's Co-Operative Placement Programme offers students an opportunity to pursue their internship with over 4,000 companies.



BRIDGING THE DIVIDE

UCSI Master of Architecture students visit mosques in Melbourne, Australia

UCSI's architecture students engaged in a lively discussion on Islam and mosques with the Islamic Council of Victoria's Mr Ayman.

A university degree is not just a license to practise architecture but an opportunity to be a conscientious, caring and critical citizen of the world. For nine UCSI University (UCSI) Master of Architecture students who found themselves engaging the Islamic Council of Victoria on the activities of the Melbourne Mosque, it was an eye-opener into a realm they had always been uncertain to think about — of mosques and Islam.

Professor Dr Mohd Tajuddin Bin Mohd Rasdi — leader of the team to Melbourne last April and lecturer with UCSI's School of Architecture and Built Environment (SABE) — had obtained not only the approval of the Islamic Council of Victoria to conduct an exercise in designing the recently proposed Melbourne City Mosque, but also managed to forge a collaboration with Australia's RMIT University architect cum academic, Dr Jan Van Schaik and his postgraduate students. It was a rare opportunity to see the nine Chinese students engaging with the RMIT students on mosque design principles after being prepped by Professor Tajuddin, a noted expert in Islamic Architecture and the Mosque.

After visiting the proposed site in the Docklands area with RMIT Dr Jan, the nine UCSI students had a dialogue with Madam Liyana and Mr Ayman, both office-bearers of the Islamic

Council of Victoria. The students asked many questions that impressed both officers in relation to the depth of their knowledge on mosque activities, rituals and practices.

"At the Council," says Madam Liyana, "we make every attempt to engage with the non-Muslim community by having open talks about health and other issues. When serious concerns arise, we invite these people to a dialogue. Many accept the invitation and are satisfied with the explanation and opportunity to make new acquaintances.

"Unlike mosques in Muslim countries, we are not allowed to perform the Qurban ceremony by slaughtering cows or lambs at the mosque," Madam Liyana explained to a question by one of the UCSI students. "We do this at the slaughterhouses. This is in keeping with the local authority's policies on health for the general populace. We, Muslims, must make changes in order to grow as a larger community and not restrict ourselves within our own cultural confines."

A wonderful treat for the students was the visit to the new Islamic Centre of Australia in neighbouring Newport. It was designed by Australia's own 'Hijjas Kasturi' or iconic architect, Glen Mercutt.

"Before I visited the mosque in Melbourne, I was thinking that the mosque will be quite the same as the ones in Malaysia but surprisingly, no. I found out that they are quite open to others, not only Muslims but to the larger community of non-Muslims. I feel that it is very contextual to the surrounding and it does not feel alien to the surrounding community. This opportunity also spurred thoughts on how Muslims treat their mosque for different uses as a community place or space," said David Lau Zheng Rhong, one of the UCSI architecture students on the trip.

Another UCSI student, Hoo Qiow Vern, said, "For the mosque in Newport, I was impressed by its appearance. It does not consist of domes or minarets. It is humble and more in touch with the neighbourhood."

One of the features that captivated the students was the absence of fences, because it implies openness and engagement, not isolation. "In terms of transparency, the structure has no fencing and all covered in glass walls which encourage non-Muslims to interact with the Muslims. Its scale and ornaments are also very much in touch with the common people," added Hoo.

Aside from fences, they have also tried to promote openness by planting grass, plants and letting

I believe that mosques should be a frame for nature ... the Qur'an contains many verses reminding men to look at nature in order to feel His presence.

— Professor Dr Mohd Tajuddin Bin Mohd Rasdi,
Lecturer of UCSI School of Architecture and Built Environment

birds in so worshippers can marvel at God's creation. "I believe that mosques should be a frame for nature", said Professor Tajuddin, "This is because the Qur'an contains many verses reminding men to look at nature in order to feel His presence. Frank Lloyd Wright once said, 'Nature is the only body of God you will ever see.'"

Another factor that contributes to the openness of the mosque that the students can learn from and improve on is the glass walls of the mosque. The surroundings of the mosque have glass walls which help in promoting openness and engagement. However, when asked about this, the students voiced out their ideas for design improvements in the Malaysian context.

"Vent blocks. It allows the wind to pass through and it is see-through which provides good ventilation because it has holes. It is a very good material to replace glass walls," Ng Jia Joe suggested.

"Instead of a glass wall, a water picture or a parameter pool like the one in Masjid Negara would be better because it is quite a smart way to create a sense of public space," Hoo responded.

Besides openness, what the students found intriguing yet hidden in plain sight was how Mercutt handled the historical elements of ornaments, transferring it to modern use by using geometrical carvings and triangles of coloured glass. In other words, functionalism. Beauty is when you realise all elements are working towards a function.

"Yes, because all historical artefacts are a form of historical record or footprints left by earlier civilisations but they can be transformed into other functions to make them relatable and functional in a win-win situation," David replied when asked if he would do the same as what Mercutt did.

Speaking of contextualism, the students have also voiced their thoughts on how they can implement elements of nature, community centre



Prof Tajuddin engaging with RMIT students and Studio Master concerning their design ideas.

and the idea of contextualism into their design for the mosque.

"I will try to open up the mosque to the public. Firstly, I will not design a fence around the mosque, and secondly, incorporate some common public space which is suitable for everybody such as a library. Thus, open spaces for activities and events can bring people to the mosque," said David.

According to Professor Tajuddin, another group of students from UCSI recently conducted a contextual research on the Saidina Abu Bakar As-Siddiq Mosque in Bangsar, designed by local architect, Dato' Ar Hj Hajeedar bin Hj Abdul Majid. In the mosque, the architect allocated a multi-functional space for banquets like marriage ceremonies. "According to Dato' Hajeedar, this way the non-Muslim community can come in and celebrate together as one nation and people."

Furthermore, the students also found out that the mosque community had even extended the idea of openness and inclusiveness by hosting a Chinese New Year celebration for the Chinese community. "This is what we want for our country, the different races and faith groups engaging peacefully and in brotherhood with one another."



UCSI's Master of Architecture students in a group photo in front of Melbourne University's School of Design.



A GRAND COLLABORATION

UCSI and 11 local and ASEAN universities' final-year architecture students showcase projects at KL City Gallery

UCSI University's (UCSI) School of Architecture and Built Environment (SABE) recently exhibited its graduating architecture students' final-year project for a month-long at the Kuala Lumpur (KL) City Gallery.

The event is SABE's first collaboration with 11 universities including local universities University Malaya, Taylor's University, UTAR, and UPM, as well as ASEAN universities such as Chulalongkorn University from Thailand, and Universitas Gadjah Mada from Indonesia, to exhibit their respective students' projects under one roof.

The School aims to improve their quality of architecture programme by working alongside other universities that offer similar programme in addition to providing architecture students and academics in the ASEAN region a platform to connect and build a strong network.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor of External and International Affairs and Director of De Institute of Creative Arts and Design (ICAD) Professor Dato' Dr Ahmad Hj Zainuddin who was present on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor and President Senior Professor Dato' Dr Khalid Yusoff said, "Often in our mission to pursue achievements and success, we tend to forget the significance of

those around us that we need in our journey to climb up the ladder of victory.

"Similarly, in our struggle to improve our standards in education, it should not be a responsibility of one institution or one person. For us to progress, it is necessary that all institution, body and organisation unite and offer support to each other. For that reason, we hope to see more universities participate and support this event in the future."

The President of Board of Architects Malaysia (LAM) Yang Berbahagia Arkitek Dato' Sri Dr Amer Hamzah Mohd Yunus and Architect Adrianta Aziz, a representative of Malaysian Institute of Architects (PAM), was also present at the event.

The exhibition also featured four exclusive ten-foot-long outfits made entirely out of paper created by thirteen ICAD students — Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Fashion Design with Marketing major, while three are from the Diploma in Fashion Design programme.

According to Celline Priscilla Ferdianty, the assignment provided to be a challenge but it was one she and her Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Fashion Design with Marketing partners, Lynn Lim Chuqiao



Four non-wearable dresses made entirely out of paper by UCSI fashion students.

and Li Shihongna, enjoyed and learned from greatly. From sketching to constructing the materials by hand, the team spent a lot of late nights on the assignment — one they are proud of.

"It was a valuable experience," she added.

The opening ceremony of the graduation exhibition also saw the launch of UCSI's national high school photography competition title 'mySPACE National Photography Competition 2017', which aims to identify and honour young Malaysian youths who demonstrate both creativity and photography skills with their smartphones.

Separated into two categories, the themes are 'Category 1: Space for Friendship' — focuses on defining spaces that connect friends together; and 'Category 2: Space for Family' — focuses on more intricate spaces that relate to family bonding.

Eligible participants are youths currently enrolled in secondary school — Form 4 to Form 6 or Senior Middle 2 to 3 (for Chinese Schools) or International School IGCSE Grade 10 to 12 — or a 2016 school graduate. Submission deadline is 5 November 2017 and participants stand a chance to win cash prizes and scholarships worth RM500,000.



Attendees admiring the architecture students' projects.



(from left) Lynn Lim Chuqiao, Celline Priscilla Ferdianty, and Li Shihongna are one of the teams responsible for creating the 10-foot-long outfits.

For us to progress, it is necessary that all institution, body and organisation to unite and offer support to each other.

— Professor Dato' Dr Ahmad Hj Zainuddin,

UCSI University Deputy Vice-Chancellor of External and International Affairs and Director of De Institute of Creative Arts and Design (ICAD)



Deputy Vice-Chancellor of External and International Affairs and Director of De Institute of Creative Arts and Design (ICAD) Prof Dato' Dr Ahmad Hj Zainuddin officiating the event.

**SPACE FOR FAMILY
SPACE FOR FRIENDSHIP**

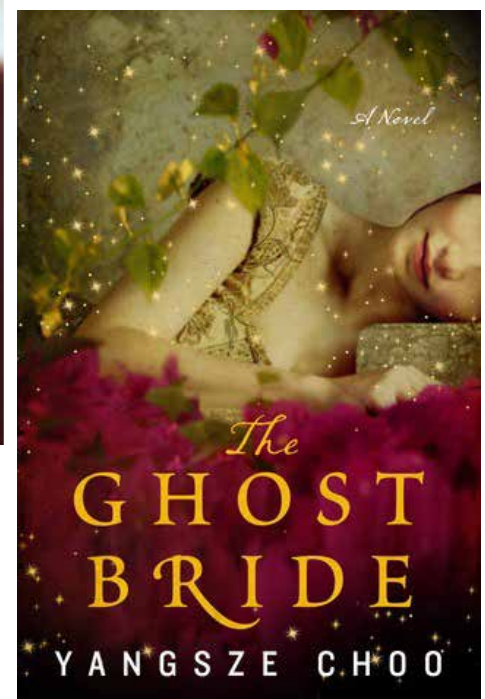
Professor Dato' Dr Ahmad Hj Zainuddin

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ICAD competitions aims to identify and recognise young Malaysian students who demonstrate creativity and photography skills with their great projects.

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Apply your entries through UCSI University official website www.ucsiuniversity.edu.my before **15 DECEMBER 2017, 5pm (closing date)** Any inquiries please contact the Project Contact Committee @ philosophy@ucsiuniversity.edu.my / Tel: (603) 911 8800 ext. 206



WRITE RIGHT

Insights from some of Malaysia's most experienced authors and journalists.

After graduating from Harvard University, **Yangsze Choo** worked in various corporate jobs and had a briefcase before writing her first novel — *The Ghost Bride*. Set in 1890's colonial Malaya and the elaborate Chinese world of the dead, the novel is about a peculiar historic custom called a spirit marriage. Rich, vivid and totally absorbing, the book was a Carnegie Medal nominee, a New York Times bestseller, the Book of the Week in Oprah Winfrey's Oprah.com, and all kinds of other acclaim and honours.

Please share with us how did you begin your career as a writer and what was the journey towards publication like.

I have always enjoyed writing when I was growing up, but I never thought it would be more than a hobby. After university, when I got a regular job, I continued writing short stories in my spare time. They were mostly to amuse friends and family, and some of them were kind enough to encourage me to get published. I did not have any idea how to do it, so I literally Googled 'how to find an agent', and there was a lot of helpful stuff online.

Two websites which were particularly helpful were agentquery.com and querytracker.com. Through them, I was able to figure out which literary agents to apply to and ended up with the wonderful Jenny Bent. You write a short query letter explaining what your book is about and attach the first few pages if they require it. Most agents take email applications, which is really helpful and fast compared to the past, where you would have to write letters and wait quite a long time to find out if anyone was interested in your book.

The online forums are a great source of information about agents and what sort of stories they are looking for. So I want to encourage those of you who are writing to keep on writing. You never know what might happen, and many authors have been discovered by chance in the slush pile (like me!).

How did the idea for *The Ghost Bride* come about? For those who don't know anything about your book, how would you briefly describe it?

In 1893 Malacca Li Lan, a young Chinese girl receives an offer of marriage from the son of the richest family in town. The only problem is, he is dead.

The Ghost Bride really came out of the obscure and rather strange Chinese custom of arranging marriages for the dead, usually between two ghosts, but occasionally with the living as well. I was doing some research for a different novel that I was writing when I happened upon a brief mention of spirit marriages amongst the Chinese in an old newspaper archive. At first, I was puzzled, and then suddenly remembered this odd custom that I have heard about a long time ago. It was so intriguing that I went off and wrote the first chapter pretty much as it appears in the book.

***The Ghost Bride* is rich in Chinese folklore and myths about the afterlife, were there any particular tales that influenced the novel?**

Yes, when I was a child, we had a copy of Pu Songling's *Strange Tales of Liao-zhai* at home. This is a classic Chinese collection of stories about the afterlife, full of corrupt Hell officials and flower spirits who turn into beautiful women. I spent hours reading and rereading it, and years later when I was writing this book, I drew on these beliefs to construct the strange world of the dead that Li Lan ventures to in *The Ghost Bride*.

Your first novel has been nominated for many awards and received good critical acclaim. How does it feel to see your book receiving such amazing buzz?

Thank you for your kind words. To be honest, I was quite surprised because I never imagined people would read it — in fact when we were getting the book ready for publication, I wondered "who is going to read this book about an obscure cultural practice?". I am so very grateful to all the readers who picked it up and enjoyed it.

You never know what people might want to read. As a bookworm myself, there have been many books that I loved that I wondered why other people were not reading and vice versa. Fiction is an emotional animal.

It is interesting how your novel is set in the 1890's Malaya, specifically Malacca. Can you tell us why you wanted to write about this particular period in Malaysian history and how did you go about recreating the rich atmosphere?

My uncle used to live in Malacca, and when we were children we would go down and visit him sometimes. I was always struck by the rich, haunting history of the town, with the ruins of the Portuguese Fort and the empty hole where St. Francis Xavier was briefly interred before his bones were sent to Goa. It seemed like a natural setting for a ghost marriage. I was also helped by travellers' accounts of colonial Malaya in that era, as well as the Peranakan Museum in Singapore which a few years ago had a very interesting exhibition of wonderful batik and clothing from that time.

What are the main challenges you have met as a writer?

Writing fiction is such an unstructured occupation. You have to set your own goals and figure out what you are doing, and that is sometimes difficult to do when it is not clear how the story will unfold and what will happen. I do have writer friends who are organised and plan their novels out by chapter. I really admire that, although I have

to admit that I write by the seat of my pants. That is not a very good thing since there are often times when I get stuck, not knowing what will happen next.

Have you ever encountered a writer's block while writing your novels and how do you overcome it?

Yes, quite often! *The Ghost Bride* took me about three and a half years to write — of which one year was a fallow year when I simply got stuck. The plot was so complicated that I had to let it settle for a while, and come back to it later. Sometimes it helps to leave things alone for a bit; you see things in a different light.

How do you hone your writing skills?

Oh dear, I would love to tell you that I get up at 5am every day and go jogging, but unfortunately, I do not exercise very much! What does help me is lots of chocolate and reading. Read lots and lots of books that you love and find inspiring! Also, write a lot and do not be afraid to throw away your own writing, even if it seems painful to do so.

Do you have any writers that you look up to?

There are so many wonderful writers that I admire, including Haruki Murakami, Isabel Allende, Isak Dinesen, Rohinton Mistry, and Jhumpa Lahiri. That is the wonderful thing about books — discovering new worlds and new writers. I am very grateful that we live in an age when books and stories are more easily accessible than ever before.

Your current career is one of the future career options for UCSI students reading Mass Communication and English Language and Communication programme. Do you have any recommendation or advice for the students pursuing a career in the mentioned field?

If you like to write, I would encourage you to keep writing and write what deeply interests you. Try to finish things, whether it is a short story or a novel. It is a good discipline to try to work through the whole story to the very end, even if you end up throwing it away. In the meantime, however, it is also good to keep a day job! Sadly, it is hard to write fiction full time — most novelists maintain some other career, at least until they are well-established. But write to please yourself first, and do not worry too much about what other people think. Keep writing; you never know what might happen!

'LEND A HAND, HELP A MAN 2017'

Caring for the Underprivileged

Hope Place representative along with UCSI organising committee members delivering food supply to one of the needy families.



The students from UCSI University (UCSI) Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Management (FHTM) in the Sarawak Campus recently organised a charity food sale in collaboration with Hope Place and supported by UCSI's Commerce Enterprise Club (ECC) titled 'Lend a Hand, Help a Man'.

The food sale took place in the University's foyer from July 3 to July 7 and was a huge success with the staff, students and the public.

The campaign aimed to equip UCSI students with the relevant soft skills and practical experience of event-planning and management. In addition, it also aims to create awareness towards the underprivileged while fundraising for needy families.

The students prepared various kinds of food and beverages to sell for breakfast and lunch, as well as light snacks. There was also a collection booth to receive cash donations and in-kind donations, such as daily necessities (cooking condiments), dry food, adult diapers and sanitary items.

The charity campaign also received much-appreciated sponsorships from companies such as Grand Margherita Hotel, Riverside Majestic Hotel, Catama Borneo, Alvin's Burger, Lee Fah Mee, Gammy Hair Supplies, and Crunching Handmade, as well as other individual contributions. The donations and cash collected totalled to approximately RM2,500 and were distributed accordingly to the identified families by the organising committee.

According to Joanne Lee, one of the committee member, the campaign managed to collect more than originally planned.

"On behalf of the organising committee, we would like to thank our generous sponsors, UCSI's student body and UCSI University Sarawak Campus for their support, and our lecturers who advised and guided us throughout the entire campaign period," said the project leader, Chung Boon Kiat. He also added that he appreciates all the hard work by his committee members and is positive that they have gained valuable experience and skills from this event.

Hope Place, also known as Persatuan Kebajikan Harapan Kuching, is a non-governmental organisation dedicated to alleviating the plight of the poor and the deprived. Starting as a one-man show, it eventually evolved into a welfare body with 180 needy families presently under its care.

The campaign aimed to equip UCSI students with the relevant soft skills and practical experience of event-planning and management.



UCSI organising committee member along with Hope Place representative offers cash donation to one of the underprivileged families living near a swamp area.



Maxy Chan, A RISING STAR

Looking resplendent in her yellow gown and shoes, Chan Mei Xuan may appear tiny and unassuming, but once she starts to play, you will do a double take as the prowess of a musical genius begins to unravel.

Chan Mei Xuan, or more commonly known as Maxy Chan, presented her very first solo piano

recital at UCSI University (UCSI) in front of a very enthusiastic audience that made up of family members, friends and UCSI music students.

Her first piece for the afternoon was her own interpretation of Ng Chong Lim's dramatic piece, 'A Distant Voice in the Rainforest' accompanied by an electronic track, followed by Adeline Wong's

“

The best thing a parent can do for his or her child is to support their dreams, whatever that may be.

— Mr Chan,
Parent of Maxy Chan

”

composition titled 'Paces'. Both Ng Chong Lim and Adeline Wong are leading contemporary Malaysian composers.

Maxy also performed pieces by her favourite pianist, Hiromi Uehara's 'Wake Up and Dream' and 'Place to Be', and a delightful rendition of one of her favourite soundtracks, 'Ratatouille' by composer Michael Giacchino, accompanied by an orchestra track and video. She also performed John Cage's famous and controversial '4'33"', also known as the 'silent piece' of which Cage wrote a piece of music that consists entirely of silence.

When the audience thought that was the end of the recital, Maxy delivered a surprise performance, an old Chinese song titled 'Yi Lian You Meng', which she dedicated to her father in conjunction with Father's Day. The performance ended with a rousing applause from the captivated audience.

According to Maxy, her father Mr Chan has always been her source of motivation and has supported her ever since her innate musical ability was discovered. Although neither he nor his wife knows how to play the piano, this did not deter Mr Chan as he loves classical music.

"The best thing a parent can do for his or her child is to support their dreams, whatever that maybe," quipped Mr Chan who admitted to being Maxy's biggest fan.

Maxy is UCSI's very own musical prodigy and rising star. She was thrust into the limelight when she became the first Malaysian to win the Gold Award at the 2013 Asia Piano Competition in Taiwan and the following year, she bagged another gold award at the 2014 Asia Music Competition in Seoul.

Currently, she is in her final year pursuing her Bachelor of Classical Music at UCSI's Institute of Music (IMus) with the hopes of realising her dream of becoming a world-renowned classical pianist.

NOTES OF EXCELLENCE

As Malaysia's leading music school, UCSI University's Institute of Music is consistently chartering new grounds in international musical standards



Winners and finalists of the 2nd International Piano Festival and Competition 2016 pictured with UCSI's Vice-Chancellor and President Senior Prof Dato' Dr Khalid Yusoff (third from right), Director of UCSI's Institute of Music Prof Dr P'ng Tean Hwa (far right) and adjudicators.

Koay Wan Ern is a gentle young lady who decided that she wanted to be a professional pianist when she was 10 years old and who did not, for a moment, falter in her ambition.

Now she is 19 and a Foundation in Music student at UCSI University's (UCSI) Institute of Music (IMus). She was only in her second semester when she won the Best Etude Award in the senior category at the 2nd International Piano Festival and Competition 2016 (IPFC).

"Etudes have a high level of technical difficulty and I did not expect to win," said an elated Koay, "I am extremely grateful to my parents and friends for their support and I also thank all my teachers at UCSI, particularly Ms Chee Su Yen, for guiding me and helping me to hone my craft."

Organised biennially by IMus, 2016 IPFC welcomed a total of 116 participants between the ages of 7 to 25 from countries such as Australia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam for the competition as well as for seminars, masterclasses and recitals.

These young pianists were able to perform for and receive constructive feedback from award-winning maestros cum professors such as Dr Peter

Amstutz from West Virginia University, Professor Akira Imai from Kunitachi College of Music, Dr Lucas Wong from Soochow University School of Music, and more.

Ho Sue Jin, a Bachelor of Classical Music student, is Koay's senior and also a semi-finalist at IPFC. "UCSI truly goes out of its way to encourage self-exploration," she said. "I have enjoyed numerous opportunities to perform as I was studying and all these experiences have helped me immensely in learning more about myself as a performer and how I can improve."

IPFC is one of the many high-level and star-studded events that UCSI students are a part of. Constantly seeking to enrich the learning experiences of their students, UCSI actively secures strong industry linkages and university affiliations to provide engaging platforms for networking, performance and study at international levels.

Iconic artists such as Malaysia's foremost jazz pianist Michael Veerapan, Malaysian drum virtuoso John Thomas, renowned violinist David Frühwirth, and international concert

UCSI has a very vibrant group of contemporary musicians and this speaks very well of the quality of its programme and the students it attracts and graduates.

**— Dr Julie Bees, The Orfeo Trio,
UCSI University Visiting Professor**



pianists Dennis Lee and Toh Chee Hung are just a few who have crossed UCSI's doorstep to showcase insightful masterclasses.

The Artist in Residence programme is another similar endeavour by UCSI to keep its students in touch with the world, where prominent or legendary musicians would be invited to stay as visiting scholars for a period of time to enhance learning and teaching outcomes.

Earlier this year, UCSI hosted the Orfeo Trio from Wichita State University comprising of Visiting Professor Dr Julie Bees, Evgeny Zvonnikov and Dr Leonid Shukaev.

Dr Bees has conducted recitals and masterclasses around the world while Zvonnikov and Dr Shukaev are members of the famed St Petersburg String Quartet that has received numerous accolades including a Grammy nomination.

Together, they held a variety of masterclasses, conversation sessions, individual coaching, ensemble group classes, and recitals at UCSI.

"I heard the very best from their students, all were very well-trained and well-prepared," said Dr Bees, who was also treated to a performance by UCSI alumni, the Terrence Ling Group. "UCSI has a very vibrant group of contemporary musicians and this speaks very well of the quality of its programme and the students it attracts and graduates."

Dr Bees did not only spend her time with students but enjoyed recitals from faculty members as well. "The performances were outstanding," she said. "They are experienced performers and teachers, some of whom are especially mature artists with fabulous gifts."

IMus's team of educators are 70 strong and together, they have a comprehensive range of expertise in the fields of performing, composing, technology and pedagogy.

"Our staff are of the highest calibre in this country," said Director of IMus Professor Dr P'ng Tean Hwa, "We teach but we are still very involved in the industry. We stay at the top of our game so that we can provide the best guidance to our students."



UCSI aims to lead music education in the region. Its fully accredited study programmes are one of, if not the strongest in the country, undergoing constant review to ensure that the syllabi respond to current developments.

Its alumni are a testament to its success; UCSI is where musical forces the likes of performing artists Dr Joanne Yeoh and Dennis Lau, jazz

pianist Liu Wei Zhong, acclaimed composer and music director Sen Weng Onn, as well as award-winning singer Tracy Wong, among others, got their first start in their professional careers.

"UCSI was my stepping stone to greater things in life," said Dr Yeoh, who in April 2016 became the first Malaysian to perform an aerial violin act. "Who I am today, I owe it largely to UCSI."



Prof Dr Julie Bees, Evgeny Zvonnikov and Dr Leonid Shukaev of the Orfeo Trio gives a vibrant recital at UCSI University.

ONG TENG WAI

Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Architectural Technology, graduated 2008

K P See Architect

As UCSI University marks three decades as an exceptional education provider, we have inadvertently created a tradition of incredible achievers. To honour these individuals, The UCSI Gazette catches up with the University's alumni to shine a spotlight on their career and achievements after graduation, and glean some words of wisdom from the alumni themselves. This issue, we liaised with **Ong Teng Wai**, a Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Architectural Technology student who upon graduation has accumulated a notable amount of working experience in the field.

Please describe your career journey.

I first joined K P See Architect for my industrial training in the year 2009. I was there for eight months before returning to UCSI for my final design studio. I remained in contact with my employer and worked as a part-timer for K P See Architect.

Upon completing my degree, I returned to the company where I worked for an additional six months. During those months, I did my IELTS test and my post-graduation application. I pursued my Master of Architecture Studies for two years at Curtin University, Australia and subsequently joined Architect CKL / ACKL upon my graduation. I was later invited to return to K P See Architect where I remained until today.

Please tell us what does your current job scope involves.

I am working in a sole proprietary architecture firm and involved in all stages of the projects from A to Z. Due to limited manpower, I am responsible for multiple projects at the same time.

My job scope involves the initial planning and concept development, initial sketch design and visualisation, design development and documentation which includes scheduling and attending client-consultant meetings, as well as building plan preparations and submission where I have to deal with the local authorities, fire department, among many others. I was also responsible for scheduling site meetings and solving site technical issues as well as site inspections with the local authorities.

Is your current working experience similar to what you imagined when you were still a student?

It was all within my expectation, except for the surprisingly common industrial practice "customers are always right" — no one prepared me for that when I was a student!

What is your favourite aspect of the job?

My favourite part is that I get to be hands-on on all of the projects that I am in charged with from Day 1 until its completion. It is good to see my design on the drawing board materialise into an actual building.

What motivated you to pursue an education in Architecture? How did your interest in this field come about?

I have the ability to create, draw and visualise 3D items. I was not particularly interested in Maths and Science and hence, I turned down science-related and engineering courses. Architecture was first introduced to me by my father when I was in Form 4; I started to explore this field during my secondary school period when I attended education fairs and studied more about architecture. My parents' encouragements during that time were extremely crucial to me.

Can you describe to us your experience studying in UCSI? What was your most unforgettable memory?

It was a pleasant experience studying in UCSI and I am glad that I was the first batch of students for that programme. I was able to enjoy one-to-one tutorial sessions and obtain maximum knowledge from the lecturers, which is extremely crucial for design studios. Lecturers were able to focus fully on me and share their knowledge, and that further stimulated my

interest in building designs. Their inputs were enormously helpful and that paved a solid foundation for me, making it effortless for me when I have to work on higher studio design levels.

How did UCSI affect you in terms of personal and professional growth?

UCSI lecturers do not just teach, they share their knowledge with the students. The students were not spoon-fed throughout the course and as a result, I can adapt to any working environment and work independently.

Which lecturers have you connected with in UCSI University and why? Would you like to leave a message for them?

I am thankful towards Assistant Professor Zaiton Bt Mokhtar Shah, Assistant Professor Ar Chia Lin Lin, and Assistant Professor Baizura Hanim binti Bidin, to name a few. In particular, Mr Teoh Chee Keong whom I still keep in touch with until today. I would like to thank him for inviting me as a visiting panel for his design studios every year. Thank You.

Do you have any words of advice for students who wish or are currently pursuing an education in architecture?

To become an architect you need: 1 year foundation study in architecture, 3 years degree, 2 years masters, 2 years (at least) for LAM logbook + years of experiences + multiple attempts for part LAM part 3 examinations.

That requires years of commitment in this field. Your passion for architecture will be the decisive fuel to push you to achieve it. All the best!

INTRODUCING

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