

THE UCSI GAZETTE

THE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



Harvard Bound

Tan Jia Wei and
Ting Pei Yee



Saving Premature Babies

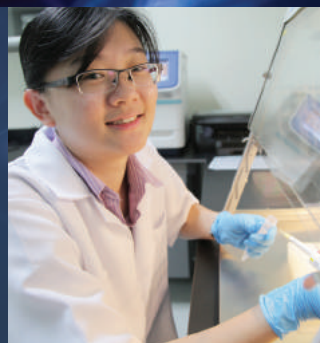
Muthu Kumar
Veerapen

STUDENT RESEARCH REVOLUTION



Imperial Research

Leon Tan and
Soh Wei Ming



Harvard Breakthrough

Cherish Chong



VOLUME 04

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A NEW ERA OF RESORTS WORLD GENTING



Sky Avenue & Sky Plaza : Unique Position, Unique Offerings.

The stunning new Sky Avenue and Sky Plaza are nestled right in the heart of the refreshed Resorts World Genting, with easy access from all adjoining hotels and leisure attractions.

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The Showroom is all set to become an even bigger draw in the new Resorts World Genting. With a seating capacity of 10,000 people, it is a fitting venue for performers of truly global stature.





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Write Right:
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'The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy'. Building on these words by Martin Luther King Jr and putting it in the context of a university in the 21st century, the time has come.

We have come far since our beginning as a computer training institute to what we are today. Quality and excellence are two operative words if we want to go beyond expectations. The mission in the last 2 to 3 years was to push UCSI higher and further. We had adopted various measures: Review and Revamp, Differentiate and Distinguish and Star Trek. We had achieved a Tier 5 (Excellent) university in the last SETARA ranking and a Top 300 in the QS Asian University Rankings, and for the first time achieved a place in the Malaysia Research Assessment (MyRA).

Our students are responding with various achievements and exciting engagements. We grew as a university quite steadily, not just in increasing our student population, but also in our engagement with top universities in the US, UK, France and Ireland as well as with enhancing other universities and institutes of higher education in the region. Now the mission is to go beyond. Our Strategic Plan 2016 – 2020, called the Sunrise Plan, which we are putting together now, will identify the targets and the routes to traverse. In the current financial and socio-economic challenges, this will serve as the surfboard that we take to tame the perfect wave. I encourage all – our academic and non-academic staff, and students – to get ready for this time in the sun.

We will make this happen by looking inwards and outwards. Internally, we are upping our ante in terms of quality and adherence to best practices for all our programmes. MQA accreditation, recognition from professional bodies and a constant review and revamp of our programmes are the stringent internal processes all our programmes go through. Externally, we are benchmarking ourselves with the best names in education. On top of our existing initiatives with Harvard and Imperial College London, we are creating new networks with universities in Australia, Ireland, France, Germany and Scandinavia. Student mobility – outward and inward bound – and staff mobility need be given further support. So does industry engagement. Postgraduate studies and research are being enhanced further – our Industrial PhD will pave a new path in this respect, and, by the way, we have recently succeeded in obtaining a Newton-Ungku Omar Fund research project. So all of us – academic and non-academic staff, and students – must now push ourselves, not just further and higher – but to achieve beyond expectations. We can if we want to, we can't if we have already decided not to.

Go beyond, be profound: Make a difference.

Senior Professor Dato' Dr Khalid Yusoff, FASc.
Vice-Chancellor and President
UCSI University

DPSK, PSK, MBBS (Melb.), DMedSc (*honoris causa*) (Melb.),
MRCP (UK), FRCP (Lond.), FRCP (Glasg.), FRCP (Edin.),
FACC (USA), Hon. FRACP (Aus.), Hon. FPCP (Phil.),
FIAS, FNHAM, FMSA, FAMM



UCSI Vice-Chancellor and President, Senior Professor Dato' Dr Khalid (left) receiving the software licenses donation on behalf of the University from Landmark Software Services Central Asia Country Manager, Eddie Murray.

UCSI SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING BUILDS CONNECTIONS

New engagements promise to increase UCSI students' learning experience in research and industry network.

The year 2016 kicked off with new collaborations that promise better industry engagement and an enriched learning experience for the students of UCSI University's (UCSI) Faculty of Engineering, Technology and Built Environment.

In January, the Faculty received 10 Decision Space® Well Planning software and NEXUS software licenses from Landmark, a Halliburton business line. The software is worth more than US\$9 million and is the standard for the oil and gas industry.

Through this, UCSI will provide its students with the new state of the art visualisation and collaboration software as well as reservoir simulation software for their classroom learning. The Decision Space® Well Planning software and NEXUS software licenses allow the University to provide an industry-driven education for the students.

The collaboration with Halliburton will also provide the students with a better understanding of real-life situations in their future professions and allow more active participation of the industry in the education field.

Halliburton has maintained a close long-term industrial partnership with the University, specifically, UCSI's Petroleum Engineering department. The University had the honour of receiving representatives from Halliburton as Industrial Board Members. Halliburton representatives are also UCSI guest lecturers and speakers during the University's career talks. The company has also hosted UCSI students for site visits over the years.

In the same month, UCSI expanded its internationalisation initiative by inking a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Queen's University Belfast (Queen's), United Kingdom.

The MOU was signed by UCSI Vice-Chancellor and President, Senior Professor Dato' Dr Khalid Yusoff and Queen's School of Pharmacy Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor James McElroy.

The MOU emphasises collaboration in advanced entry or articulation of students, exchange of graduate students for study and research, as well as joint research activities. Staff members will also benefit from an interchange in terms of research, teaching and discussions.

According to Dr John Tan Teng Hwang, UCSI's Electrical and Electronics Engineering Head of Department, this collaboration is a historical moment as it marks a new journey with Queen's — a prestigious member of the Russell Group, an organisation that represents 24 leading research-intensive universities in the United Kingdom.

"We are taking a big step towards internationalisation and globalisation in research, education and knowledge transfer. Ultimately, both parties will advance towards a better future."

"We are taking a big step towards internationalisation and globalisation in research, education and knowledge transfer."

DR JOHN TAN TENG HWANG

UCSI'S CULINARY ARTS TEAM TURNS UP THE HEAT

UCSI students beat professionals and fellow students to nab medals at the 3rd Penang International Halal Chef Challenge.



Raspberry and Rose 'Big Mac', Raspberry Consommé and Lychee Parfait by bronze medal winner Wong Choon Hau for the Modern Dessert entry.



Mango Coulis and Passion Fruit Sorbet by bronze medal winner Wong Choon Hau for his vegetarian dessert.

UCSI University's (UCSI) culinary arts students cooked up a storm at the 3rd Penang International Halal Chef Challenge (PIHEC). They returned with a silver medal, a bronze medal and seven diploma awards.

The team competed against more than 1,000 students and professionals in the hospitality, tourism and culinary industry from around Malaysia.

The signature event organised by Halal Penang in collaboration with Penang Chefs Association-Malaysia was held over three days at Setia Spice, Penang.

Poon Wing Chong who currently reads the Diploma in Culinary Arts programme claimed a silver medal in the Plated Dessert Category.

"This achievement is a blessing. I was nervous and certainly did not expect to bring home a silver medal. And most importantly, I also gained a lot of invaluable skills from this competition," he said.

Poon's menu contained a unique combination of sweet yet healthy ingredients. His shooter glass dessert consisted of Almond Tofu accompanied

by Cheng Teng Soup infused with Self-heal Herbs and Sesame Tuile served with Cheng Teng Foam Mousse. The ingredients for Cheng Teng included dried longan, barley, ginkgo nuts, lotus seeds and malva nuts.

For the freestyle dessert entry, the budding culinarian whipped up a delectable Chocolate Raspberry Cream Cake with Chocolate Crumble Base alongside a Pear Parfait, Red Sparkling Juice Poached Pear, Raspberry Consommé Carpaccio Jelly and Raspberry Granite.



Sarawak Laksa by diploma award winner Joseph Martin Pudun for the Laksa Malaysia category.

Poon's hot dessert entry included the Yuzu Chiboust served with Yuzu Sabayon, Pistachio Tuile and Azuki Red Bean. For the vegetarian dessert, he impressed the judges with Citrus Terrine, Citrus Compote, Non-Fat Yoghurt Panna Cotta and Carrot Jelly, Orange Chip and Non-Fat Yoghurt Sorbet.

Besides the moral support from his friends and family, Poon also credited his lecturer Wong Choon Hau, for his win.

"My thanks to Chef Wong for his constant reminders on the dos and don'ts. It really helped me a lot during the competition," said Poon.

Wong himself bagged the bronze medal under the same category by impressing the judges with his exceptional selections of Penang-inspired menu.

His hot dessert included a divine taste of Chocolate Banana Popiah served with Chocolate Soil and Chocolate and Caramel Cream alongside Meringue Chips and Vanilla Ice Cream.

Bringing a touch of fusion to the menu, the chef wowed the judges with a mouth-watering Chendol Panna Cotta infused with Palm Sugar Jelly, Coconut Sable and Ruby Chestnut soaked in Coconut Chantilly Cream for the shooter glass.

Using fruits as the main ingredients, Wong served up an assorted fruit platter with Mango Coulis and Passion Fruit Sorbet for his vegetarian dessert. As for his modern dessert, the chef concocted the Raspberry and Rose Big 'Mac', Raspberry Consommé and Lychee Parfait.

Bringing home one of the diploma awards is Gary Lim who impressed the judges

with his Pan Seared Seabass served with Lemon Corn Sauce accompanied by Tempura Purple Yam and Assorted Sautéed Vegetable in the Asian Main Course category.

In regards to preparing for the competition, Lim shared that time constraint is one of the biggest challenges the team had to face. Leading towards the competition, the team had to prioritise and balance their time between classes and practice.

"It was very challenging for all of us. We did not really have enough time to construct our menu and execute our plans but it really is a relief that we manage to pull this through," he said.

Describing the competition as an insightful learning experience for the team, UCSI's Culinary Arts Head of Department, Christopher Wan Sageng said that PIHEC is indeed a perfect platform for the team to up their game.

He added that by observing other participants and adapting to the competition's environment, the students could use the competition to prepare for their future careers in the culinary arts industry.

"With more entries this year, the standard has certainly been elevated to maintain the quality of the dishes produced by each participant. This, I believe makes the competition tougher. It certainly motivated our team, especially our students to do their best and they did," he said.

Wan Sageng also commented on the students' commitment and enduring passion for cooking.

"Our students possess the drive and purpose to create something memorable. Their determination, skills and desire to prove themselves have contributed to making the University proud once again. I am very happy and proud to have such passionate students," he said.

He also mentioned that the team's achievements clearly portray the quality of UCSI's culinary arts programme.

"Although we did not win the gold medal, returning home with a silver, a bronze and seven diploma awards speaks volumes of the quality of our programme and our students," said the chef.

Wan Sageng who also took part in the competition brought home two diploma awards for the Asian Main Course and Modern Malaysian Cuisine category.

Other diploma award winners are Anati Haryathie and Kueh Wun Thiin for the Asian Main Course category and a culinary arts lecturer Joseph Martin Pudun for the Laksa Malaysia and Modern Malaysian Cuisine category.



Salmon 'Umai', 'Pansuh' Chicken and a succulent Trio Borneo Dessert by diploma award winner Christopher Wan Sageng for the Modernise Sarawak Cuisine category.



Munirah Aisyah Binti Ibrahim and Chef Loke Hoi Weng at the 9th Nestlé Professional Culinary Arts Awards competition.

UCSI STUDENT WINS NESTLÉ CULINARY ARTS COMPETITION

UCSI University's (UCSI) culinary arts student recently chopped her way to win the 2nd runner-up prize in the 9th Nestlé Professional Culinary Arts Awards competition.

The prestigious competition held over three days at Universiti Tun Abdul Razak (UNITAR) was participated by 11 culinary arts students, each representing one university across the country.

The competition featured a black box concept on day three where participants were required to use the mystery ingredients provided by Nestlé to create their dishes within six hours.

Munirah Aisyah Binti Ibrahim, who currently pursues Diploma in Culinary Arts programme managed to wow the judges with a unique three-course meal. Her main dish saw her taking a popular Malaysian 'percik' roast chicken recipe and modifying it for a roasted lamb loin.

The 'percik' lamb loin was accompanied by sautéed vegetables, broccoli puree and Asian fusion couscous.

Prior to the main course, Munirah impressed the judges with her appetizer — the crunchy Nestum-crust salmon accompanied with an exquisite dab of curried hollandaise alongside an assorted salad dressed with balsamic vinaigrette.

As for the dessert, the budding culinarian whipped up a decadent dark chocolate lava cake topped with milk chocolate mousse. It was served with an orange flavoured crepe dabbed with a rich taste of white chocolate Chantilly cream. Salted caramel sauce drizzled over the whole concoction gave the finishing touches.

Munirah was the only student from UCSI's Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Management (FHTM) who entered the competition. She said that the three-day competition was definitely an eye-opener because she gained invaluable skills through the experience on top of the prize.

"The black box challenge really brought out the creative side of me. It takes a lot of practice to really understand the ingredients and how they complement each other to create an unforgettable dish," said Munirah.

She added that although she was nervous and made mistakes, she pulled through in the end.

"The most challenging part for me was plating. After the food is prepared and cooked, it all comes down to the presentation. Nervous, I burnt the pumpkin twice and even spilled the couscous during plating in front of the judges," she chuckled.

Despite the challenges that she faced during the competition, the 19-year old who hopes to open her own bakery one day was elated by the win.

"I'm very honoured and happy with this win. I was nervous in the beginning but as the competition progressed, everything fell into place," she said.

Munirah credited her mother and her lecturer Chef Loke Hoi Weng for her win. She also commented on the benefits of the competition.

According to Chef Loke who guided Munirah in preparing for the competition, the student has indeed proved herself and did exceptionally well to compete against other talented future chefs to bring home the prize.

"Those six hours was the most precious six hours in her career. Munirah was very disciplined and used the time given wisely. Her dishes showed an amazing understanding of cooking and they were brilliantly presented. I'm happy for her win."

He also hopes that her win would encourage other aspiring chefs to pursue their dreams in the industry.

"This competition definitely built her confidence and helped her improve her techniques. I hope she will continue to grow and continue to inspire young chefs out there," he said.



SIAP INDUSTRY ACADEMIA STRENGTHENING
INDUSTRY-ACADEMIA
PARTNERSHIP

COMPETITIVENESS, RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

Top names in academia and business share their insights at UCSI.

If tertiary education is to fulfil its promise, universities must synergise their core values and efforts with the demands of this new age. Close collaboration with the industry is and will remain the *sine qua non* for the revamp, revitalisation and restructuring of tertiary education. Spearheading the drive for constant improvement, UCSI recently organised the Eminent Persons Series Pre-Conference Talks that featured notable leaders who shared their insights and experience. The three part Series led up to UCSI's Strengthening Industry-Academia Partnership (SIAP) Conference that took place in March. The Conference is co-organised with the Higher Education Leadership Academy (AKEPT).



Dato' Dr Hafsa Hashim,
Chief Executive Officer of
SME Corporation

COMPETING IN THE 21st CENTURY: Enhancing SME-University Engagement to Meet the Challenges

Dato' Dr Hafsa Hashim, Chief Executive Officer of SME Corporation Malaysia kicked off the Eminent Persons Series Pre-Conference Talks organised by UCSI University (UCSI) on 22 January 2016.

Dato' Dr Hafsa spoke on 'COMPETING IN THE 21st CENTURY: Enhancing SME-University Engagement to Meet the Challenges', where she addressed the issues and invaluable opportunities for more productive collaboration between academia and industry. During her speech, she highlighted the important role that academic institutions play in cultivating entrepreneurship among youths.

"We need that kind of focus so that we can ensure when the students leave their alma maters, they also have the option of kick-

starting their own businesses, become job creators instead of job seekers, and simultaneously boost the country's economic development."

Dato' Dr Hafsa also praised UCSI for organising an event that functions as a bridge between academia and the industry.

"This event is very important and useful as it gives current information to institutions of higher learning and allows them to play their part in resolving the country's economic issue," she said.

UCSI's Vice-Chancellor and President, Senior Professor Dato' Dr Khalid Yusoff said that both the Series and the upcoming Conference aim to connect corporate

organisations with higher education institutions in order to produce holistic, entrepreneurial and balanced graduates as emphasised by the National Higher Education Blueprint 2015–2025.

“We are very honoured to have the key players share their experiences and help both the industry and academia to see clearer what is at stake and what we can do to collaborate,” he said.

“We need that kind of focus so that we can ensure when the students leave their alma maters, they also have the option of kick-starting their own businesses ... become job creators instead of job seekers.”

Dato’ Dr Hafsa Hashim



(front row, from left): Margaret Soo Boon Yoke, Professor Dato’ Dr Ahmad Bin Ibrahim, Professor Dato’ Dr Ahmad Hj Zainuddin, Dato’ Dr Hafsa Hashim, Tan Sri Dr Salleh Mohd Nor, and Senior Professor Dato’ Dr Khalid Yusoff.

STAYING AHEAD IN THE COMPETITIVE WORLD: HOW MALAYSIA SHOULD ALIGN ITSELF WITH THE 21ST CENTURY



Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz,
Chairperson of AirAsia X Bhd

Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz, the Chairperson of AirAsia X Bhd recently shared her insights on how Malaysia could enhance its competitive edge in the challenging years ahead. With her trademark wit and candour, she delivered her keynote speech at the Eminent Persons Lectures Series on 18 February this year.

Held at UCSI’s KL campus, her talk was titled, ‘Staying Ahead in the Competitive World: How Malaysia should align itself with the 21st Century’.

Commending the country’s Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement negotiators for settling a deal that would allow Malaysia to tap into new markets, she also advised industries and companies to be prepared to compete amongst themselves to further develop the country.

During the talk, the former international trade and industry minister also stressed the importance of the English language, saying that conversing in the lingua franca does not make one less nationalistic.

“We should look at equipping the young as assets of the country. When they have full command of English, that can take them anywhere in the world; it doesn’t make them less nationalistic.

“I am speaking English to you [this] does not mean I am less nationalistic; nationalistic means you love your country more, you will do whatever it

takes to make it grow and develop," she said.

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

According to UCSI's Vice-Chancellor and President Senior Professor Dato' Dr Khalid, UCSI is thrusting forward to identify means to enhance the University's engagement with the industry, with the new Malaysian Higher Education Blueprint as a guideline. This move will subsequently synergise the students with the future, marking the University's 30th anniversary.

"With the plunge in oil prices, increase in the US Federal Reserve interest rates and the slowing down of China's economic growth, there are clear financial headwinds. But UCSI is maintaining its edge by redoubling our efforts in widening our global network, connecting with industry partners and going full force in research," he said.

He also shared that as a result of its foresight, UCSI will soon unveil two new academic blocks that will expand the University's operational space by around one million square feet. This will simultaneously improve the learning capacity and enhance the studying experience of UCSI's growing student population.

"We should look at equipping the young as assets of the country. When they have full command of English, that can take them anywhere in the world; it doesn't make them less nationalistic."

Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz



Professor Emeritus Tan Sri Dr Zakri Abdul Hamid,
Science Advisor to the Prime Minister of Malaysia (right)

'RESEARCH AND SCIENCE FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE MALAYSIA: HAVE WE MISSED THE BUS, THE BOAT, THE TRAIN OR THE PLANE?'

Professor Emeritus Tan Sri Dr Zakri Abdul Hamid, Science Advisor to the Prime Minister of Malaysia concluded the Eminent Persons Series Pre-Conference Talks with his talk titled, 'RESEARCH AND SCIENCE FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE MALAYSIA – Have we missed the bus, the boat, the train or the

plane?'. His talk took place on 16 March 2016.

During his talk, Tan Sri Dr Zakri said that it is not too late for Malaysia to ensure a sustainable future for the next generation. However, to achieve that goal, he pointed out that the responsibility should not lie solely on the shoulders of the nation's leaders and scientists.

"Yes, we have missed the [earlier] bus, the boat, the train and the plane, but our journey towards a sustainable future is ongoing. Science, technology and innovation is the way forward to address the challenges of the 21st century but every level of society needs to come together and play its part," he emphasised.

The former Founding Director of the Centre for Global Sustainability Studies (CGSS) at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) then added, "In order to combat these urgent social and environmental challenges, input from the social sciences are also very crucial. It should not be an afterthought."

UCSI's Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Academic Affairs and Support, and Director of De Institute of Creative Art and Design (ICAD), Professor Dato' Dr Ahmad Hj Zainuddin was also present at the event.

"Technology has made knowledge accessible to everyone and education institutions must

reinvent themselves to focus on connecting with industries and driving research. The university experience must provide so much more, and the upcoming SIAP conference is the perfect platform to drive this," he said.

He added that UCSI's internationalisation efforts have borne results.

"We have sent medical and engineering undergraduate students for research stints at Harvard University and Imperial College London. These are respected names in research, and speak volumes about the potential of UCSI and Malaysian education."

"Science, technology and innovation is the way forward to address the challenges of the 21st century but every level of society needs to come together and play their part."

Professor Emeritus Tan Sri Dr Zakri Abdul Hamid

WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH CONNECTIONS

From saving premature babies to challenging the conventional understanding on the role of the adrenal glands, UCSI students are making impact in research institutions all over the world.

Muthu Kumar Veerapen focuses on helping premature babies survive. He isn't a medical doctor; he is a PhD student at the University of Miami. He makes a difference in premature births through his lab research with Professor Dr Olaf Bodamer, Associate Chief, Division of Genetics and Genomics, Boston Children's Hospital (Children's) — one of the most renowned paediatric hospitals in the United States.

Being selected to work with Professor Dr Bodamer speaks volumes about Muthu's scientific acumen, as the former is also part of Harvard Medical School and is a world-renowned authority in the field of metabolic disease genetics and genomics research.

Muthu credits his time at UCSI University's (UCSI) Faculty of Applied Sciences for equipping him with the skills needed to conduct research at the international level.

"I had an amazing mentor at UCSI, Associate Professor Dr Renee Lim. Even today, I am still using the research process she taught me for my work at Miami and Children's," said the BSc (Hons) Biotechnology graduate.

Associate Professor Dr Lim mentors for the long run and she still follows up with his progress up to today — almost eight years after he graduated back in 2008. The bond between mentor and mentee is clear —

Muthu still returns to UCSI yearly to share his scientific experience, particularly in genomics, at his old Faculty.

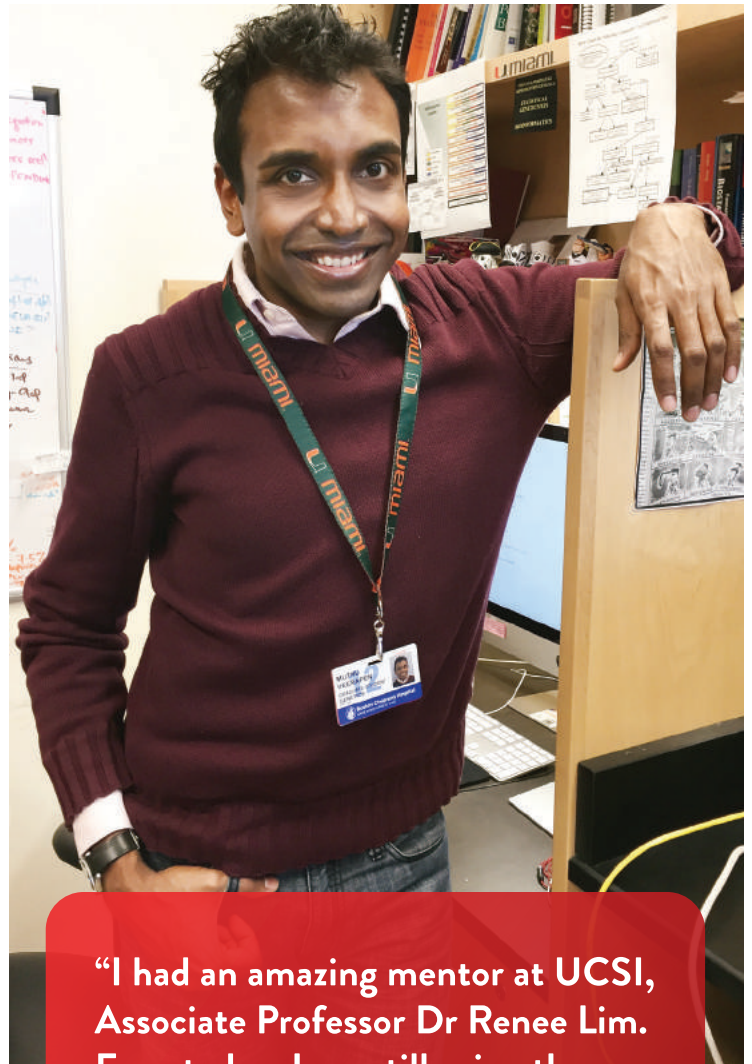
In fact, he often tells his juniors that UCSI's standard requirement of a year-long final year research project prepared him for the high-end research that he conducts now in the United States.

"Biotechnology at UCSI moulded me scientifically," he said simply.

Today, Muthu is wrapping up his PhD at the University of Miami with Professor Dr Bodamer. His PhD titled, 'Genetic Epidemiology of Preterm Birth' focuses on their research on the genetic risk factors influencing premature births in mothers and infants. Being the largest cause of perinatal morbidity and mortality, premature births is a major medical condition.

In his research, he has identified a gene coding for a specific protein that can be tested in pregnant mothers prior to their deliveries. He thinks that this gene influences a premature delivery, and if his research comes out as conclusive and reproducible, clinicians may be able to use this gene to diagnose if a mother will deliver prematurely.





“I had an amazing mentor at UCSI, Associate Professor Dr Renee Lim. Even today, I am still using the research process she taught me for my work at Miami and Children’s.”

– Muthu Kumar Veerapen

Another aspect of his research focuses on the premature infants themselves. The conventional knowledge associates a premature infant being delivered prematurely mostly on the infant’s growth in the mother’s womb and the infant to cause an infectious or inflammatory reaction to the mother.

Muthu’s research analysed whether this remains true and whether additional genetic risk factors play a role. After all, premature infants have far more health complications in the short and long term compared to full term infants.

In his research today, Professor Dr Bodamer constantly tells him that, “A good scientist thinks of bringing the science from bench to [the patient’s] bedside.”

“He reminds me that everything I work for in the lab, it’s for the patients. It is for the babies that are born too early every minute,” he said.



Undergraduate Research Opportunities Today

Following in Muthu's research footsteps are his fellow UCSI students from the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Engineering, Technology and Built Environment.

In 2015, UCSI sent its top medical student for a year-long research programme at Harvard Medical School. Shortly after, two of UCSI's best Engineering students were selected for summer research programmes at Imperial College London.

The results: Invaluable experience, the opportunity to learn from — and work alongside — some of the world's best minds and the distinction of publishing papers in renowned scientific journals.

This year, UCSI is sending not one, but two medical students to Harvard under the Pre-doctoral Research Training Programme.

Enter Tan Jia Wei and Ting Pei Yee. The duo will now spend a year of clinical research under the tutelage of Professor Gordon Williams, a leading clinician-scientist who leads the Hormonal Mechanisms of Cardiometabolic Injury Programme at Harvard's Brigham and Women's Hospital.

"You can only advance medicine through research and I can't wait to get started," enthuses Jia Wei who intends to be an oncologist.

"I will be involved in clinical research at Harvard and I will be analysing big data to understand as much as I can about patients, diseases and the correlations that drive important decisions in medicine."

She added that her interest in research first started in her first year at UCSI when her mentor, Associate Professor Dr Cheah Shiau Chuen — the director of UCSI's Office of Postgraduate Studies, involved her in various research projects.

Jia Wei was also sponsored to attend the 23rd Biennial Congress of the European Association for Cancer Research in Munich and she observed how research was a key driver in medical technology.

An aspiring pathologist, Pei Yee is preparing for Harvard by training hard at UCSI's labs.

"It's good to work with sophisticated instruments that we are not exposed to on a

"I'm flexible and I want to learn more so I'll go to Harvard with an open mind, focus on the research experience and give my best."

– Ting Pei Yee

regular basis," she mulls. "It's challenging but enjoyable and I'm sure my year at Harvard will expose me to cutting-edge research at its best."

"I'm flexible and I want to learn more so I'll go to Harvard with an open mind, focus on the research experience and give my best."

Both Pei Yee and Jia Wei add that they would relish the opportunity to conduct their own research projects at Harvard. They are also looking forward to attend lectures and experience the intellectual vibrancy at the renowned university many regard as the world's best.

"We're really thankful for the opportunity and we'll definitely make the most of it," says Pei Yee. "It's good that UCSI is going the extra mile to make such arrangements with the world's best universities."

"It adds to the student experience and it's something not many other universities can do."

The duo's research stint at Harvard is sponsored by the UCSI University Trust — the University's scholarship arm.



"You can only advance medicine through research and I can't wait to get started."

– Tan Jia Wei





CHERISH THE EXPERIENCE

Wishing her juniors all the best, Cherish Chong Chiu Wern — UCSI's first student at Harvard — only has good things to say of her experience.

Back in Malaysia, Cherish is elated with the news that her work at Harvard has resulted in two research papers that are due to be published.

"This is far more than what I expected when I packed my bags for Harvard," she quips. "When I got there, I thought it would be nice if I could just tag along for a research project.

"I never thought of conducting one by myself!"

Initially receiving close supervision, Cherish was soon entrusted to conduct her own work which focused on the adrenal glands that produces a variety of hormones including aldosterone.

Among its other functions, aldosterone plays a central role in the regulation of blood pressure through several ways including by conserving sodium or by reabsorption of ions and water.

Traditionally, the production of aldosterone is thought to be regulated by the level of sodium in one's body. Less sodium in the body will result in more of the hormone and vice versa.

Instead of being regulated by the level of sodium, her work in the lab showed that the aldosterone hormones are regulated by the adrenal glands, specifically the mineralocorticoid receptors (MR).

To confirm this, she manipulated other receptors in her lab rats.

Cherish soon made an important discovery. She found that the MR does not only regulate aldosterone, but also corticosterone — a hormone that regulates energy, immune reactions and stress responses.

No one else had discovered this. But interestingly, her initial reaction to this discovery was disappointment.

"I felt down because my hypothesis was off," says Cherish. "But when I told Professor Williams of my findings, he was excited and that was when I realised their importance."



Her findings did not come easy — there were periods when she spent 12 hours a day in the lab.

And for this, she felt grateful to UCSI for providing her with intensive lab training before she left for Harvard.

Out of everything she learned at UCSI, she singles out the proper pipetting technique as most important. A pipette, also known as a dropper, is a tube used to suction small amounts of liquid for transfer or measurement.

“Accuracy matters a lot in research, and I used the pipette continuously for a year in Harvard,” she explained.

Another challenge for her, was working with lab rats.

To get to the adrenal glands, she had to remove them from the kidneys of lab rats. This was not easy for Cherish as she loves animals.

Additionally, they cost USD40 per rat, and Cherish shares how the first time she dropped one and it escaped, she immediately thought, “That’s RM170 ringgit right there”.

The fact that she is dealing with live animals and they cost the university money made her highly focused and aware of the aim of her research project.

Because of this, her hours in the lab never felt like work. Her supportive lab mates also made her work enjoyable.

In true UCSI camaraderie, Cherish met Jia Wei and Pei Yee before they left for Harvard.

Her advice: Learn all you can, enjoy every moment and do not put too much expectation or pressure on yourself.

The bond between UCSI’s students with each other and with their mentors speaks volumes about the robust research atmosphere at UCSI.

After all, from alumni to current students to research supervisors, it is clear that all of them are out to do great things through their scientific explorations. And all of them are bonded by one constant — UCSI University.

An Imperial Experience

By **Leon Tan Kuan Leong**,
BEng (Hons) Chemical Engineering

In 2015, two UCSI University Chemical Engineering students headed to **Imperial College London** for an intercalated research programme. The students had the opportunity of working with Dr Jerry Heng, a Malaysian academic who conducts cutting-edge research at Imperial. Now, they are back in Malaysia and Leon Tan is ready to share his experience with *The UCSI Gazette*.

Looking back, it was rather strange how unaware I was about Imperial College London — one of Britain's best universities — until this opportunity arose. I was thrilled when I learned I passed both the interview and written test and was chosen along with Soh Wei Ming to be part of the Student Overseas Visitation Programme. Recalling the days I spent in Imperial College London's world-class facilities, I still feel elated.

The Student Overseas Visitation Programme was a three-month period research endeavour where I focused on studying the crystallisation of proteins using the antibody in the human immune system and silicon dioxide with well-defined porosity. My research titled 'Crystallisation of Protein on Engineered Surfaces', is an attempt to crystallise the liquid state antibody into solid crystals from the antibody's mother liquor. The 'mother liquor' is part of the solution left over after crystallisation.

The motivation behind this research is that the crystallisation of protein is believed to be a possible alternative to the current protein purification process, which incurs high production cost. The research aims to help lower the production cost of antibody using antibody crystallisation.

Having the opportunity to use the facilities in one of the world's best universities is also the highlight of this programme. In Imperial College London, the students have the privilege of utilising a wide range of sophisticated analytical instruments as well as various useful general laboratory equipment in a purpose-built modern laboratory. The laboratories are all well equipped and strict regulations are applied to ensure the safety of students and the faculties.

While I was in London, I was stationed in the Surfaces and Particle Engineering Research Group led by Dr Daryl Williams and Dr Jerry Heng, whom I had the greatest honour of working closely with. The research group specialises in characterising solid state particulate materials such as powders, fibres and films.

It was a valuable experience for me to work with group members consisting of PhD and Master's students supervised by the Department of Chemical Engineering's academicians. I was able to interact with people of different cultural backgrounds and supplement my pursuit of knowledge with a keen sense of cultural appreciation.



Leon Tan Kuan Leong (right) and Soh Wei Ming returned with an experience worth more than gold.

“I will forever remain grateful who gave me the opportunity like no other in UCSI



I am forever grateful towards my parents who gave me the opportunity to pursue an education.”

But what gave me the greatest satisfaction, is seeing my research objectives achieved successfully. A promising result was obtained during the programme, in which crystals of proteins were successfully crystallised. Now, the research is continued by Dr Jerry's PhD student in hopes of further refining my research data and further expanding the research scopes.

Although the programme has ended, I am still exchanging my knowledge on this research with the PhD student. Together with Dr Jerry and his pupil, we are now

I will forever remain grateful towards my parents who gave me the opportunity to pursue an education like no other in UCSI; Dr Jerry and UCSI's Chemical and Petroleum Engineering Head of Programme, Assistant Professor Dr Kiew Peck Loo, for their enthusiasm, guidance and unrelenting support during my research; UCSI's Chemical and Petroleum Engineering Head of Department, Assistant Professor Tan Jolly for initiating this programme and last but not least, the University for offering students like me an opportunity to pursue high impact research stints like this.



trying to improve the outcome and looking for ways to publicise the results. I am very grateful to be part of this study as the crystallisation of proteins research is considered one of the 'holy grail' research topics in this industry. It is even more flattering to learn that the results we obtained are considered a very important discovery in the field.

For a degree student like me, to be able to work abroad alongside brilliant minds and return to Malaysia with their knowledge, it was an experience beyond compare.

“ What gave me the greatest satisfaction, is seeing my research objectives achieved successfully.”

TAN SRI DATO' SERI (DR) MUSA MOHAMAD

From crossing the Straits of Malacca to obtain his degree in Pharmacy, to being the first non-politician to be appointed as Malaysia's Minister of Education, a quiet determination to get the job done has been the signature characteristic of the newly appointed Chairman of UCSI Group and former Chairman of the UCSI University Council.



Having guided UCSI since its early days, Tan Sri Dato' Seri (Dr) Musa plays a pivotal role in UCSI's success. In fact, Dato' Peter Ng, UCSI's Group Founder and CEO, often thanks Tan Sri for being one of his most important mentors. Tan Sri sat down with The UCSI Gazette editorial team to shed light on his life prior to joining UCSI and share some insightful pieces of advice.

One of the most striking things about Tan Sri Dato' Seri (Dr) Musa Mohamad is his pragmatism. Asked about his biggest challenges growing up, he looked thoughtful and pondered before saying simply, "Nothing was really challenging, I must say I have been lucky so far in life – everything has been smooth sailing."

Tan Sri was not born with a silver spoon. In fact, growing up in Bagan Dato, a small township in the state of Perak, Musa – then without his honorific prefixes – spent his early schooling years selling chickens and eggs as well as working tracks of land to earn some extra cash. It was hard, laborious work and it speaks volumes about his strength of character when he says he has been fortunate for much of his life. He even credits his childhood for making him who he is today.

"I believe poverty breeds dedication. The upbringing by my parents taught me the importance of working hard, the value of earning money and saving early. I am glad I have parents like that," he said.

When the time came to pursue a tertiary education, it should come as no surprise that he became one of the few Malaysians to cross the Malacca Straits to pursue pharmacy in the prestigious National University of Singapore.

But there is a funny backstory as to how Tan Sri came to pursue an education in the field of pharmacy.

"I was one of those students who went to university not knowing what I wanted to study," he recalled with a chuckle.

"In those days, a medicine course took six years to complete whereas a pharmacy course only lasted for a three-year period.

"As a young man, I was thinking, 'Do I want to slog for six years in a university or just spend two years because I qualified for direct admission into second year due to my excellent High School Certificate results?'"

"Back then my girlfriend was waiting for me so the choice was obvious," he said with a laugh.

Upon completing his education, Tan Sri worked as a pharmacist for the Malaysian Ministry of Health.

In 1975, he was handpicked by the first Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Tan Sri Hamzah Sendut, to become the Dean of USM School of Pharmaceutical Sciences. USM is the second oldest university in Malaysia and this appointment was an important one.

Subsequently, Tan Sri Musa was appointed as USM's Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Academic Affairs in 1979 and later its Vice-Chancellor from 1982 until his retirement in 1995.

A few years upon his retirement from academia, in 1999, Tan Sri Musa was appointed as the Minister of Education by the then Prime Minister, Tun Dato' Seri Mahathir Mohamad. He was the first non-politician to be selected.

"The position was always held by senior ministers in the government so the appointment came as a surprise to me," he said.

After all, Tan Sri Musa pointed out that, "The government was not lacking people to choose from ... I thought to myself, 'I must have been doing something right then!'"

As the Minister of Education, Tan Sri was instrumental in the development and implementation of the Malaysia Blueprint for Education 2001-2010, which saw him pushing for access to all levels of quality education, including pre-school.

His other contributions included championing the English language and its usage in the teaching of science and mathematics, introducing the community college concept which culminated in the establishment of 34 such colleges nationwide by the time he left the ministry. He also introduced and established university colleges in both the public and private sectors.

Coming from a science background himself, his keen interest in research saw him playing an important role in the development of research at universities for postgraduate education, as well as in

the growth of private higher education.

He retired from his position as Education Minister in 2004.

He shared that although he never planned on entering the field of education, when the opportunity to be of service to his country presented itself, he took it with his trademark approach – sensible and no fuss with his eyes on the goal.

It was through his experience in education that led to his fateful and long-term friendship with UCSI founder, Dato' Peter Ng who invited him to be the University's advisor.

Tan Sri played a lead role in establishing UCSI's School of Pharmacy and later, the School of Medicine. He officially joined UCSI as Chairman of the UCSI University Council in 2010 and was recently appointed as Chairman of UCSI Group.

"As the new Chairman of UCSI Group, I intend to familiarise myself with the existing visions and missions of the subsidiaries under the Group. I want to seize on this opportunity to move the Group forward and develop further the subsidiaries we have."

With his illustrious career, what advice would he give to young students trying to succeed in their fields?

Tan Sri singles out sheer determination as a key component to succeeding.

"It is not so much your training or background, but more of your commitment to your job that pushes things towards excellence. If you make a mistake, reflect back. Look at examples of successes and use them to motivate yourself."

He also emphasised the importance of making benchmarking objectives a habit.

"My way of doing things is to always evaluate by comparison with a standard to ensure the things I do are of quality.

"Like the saying goes, 'always aim for the moon so even if you miss, you will land among the stars'. With that attitude, you will succeed no matter what your education background may be."

UCSI'S MUSIC STUDENTS BEGIN 2016 ON A STRONG NOTE

The UCSI Institute of Music students dedicate their recent accolade and win to their lecturers.



UCSI University's (UCSI) Institute of Music students started 2016 with world-class performances that made international and Malaysian music lovers sit up and take notice.

Its trailblazing UCSI University Chorale (UCSI Chorale) along with the Dithyrambic Singers had the honour of performing at the Dewan Filharmonik Petronas for the second time. The concert took place on 30 and 31 January.

Their feat is matched by their Bachelor of Contemporary Music (Hons) schoolmate, Loong Wen Hung, who nabbed a prize in the 3rd Malaysian Jazz Piano Festival.

Both the Chorale and Loong received glowing praise from leading names in classical and jazz music. Both also dedicated their success to their lecturers whom they credit for making UCSI's Institute of Music the best place for musical studies.

The UCSI Chorale began the Institute's string of accolades by working alongside the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO) to take on one of the greatest works in the choral repertoire, Mozart's

Requiem. The piece is listed by The Telegraph as one of the '10 Best Works of Choral Music'. In fact, it is the MPO's inaugural performance of the magnificent piece and it is no small feat that the UCSI Chorale together with the Dithyrambic Singers were trusted to perform it with the MPO.

The Requiem was conducted by a renowned German conductor Andreas Delfs. An experienced music director and

conductor, Delfs has led a myriad of top-notch professional ensembles including the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. He also led the orchestra on a tour of Cuba — the first by an American orchestra in nearly 40 years.

The prestige of the MPO and the challenge of performing the Requiem speak volumes of the capability of the Chorale.

*The **prestige of the MPO** and the challenge of performing the Requiem **speak volumes of the capability of the Chorale.***

WITH DELIGHTFUL TUNES: (Right) Loong Wen Hung impressed the judges with a delightful performance of Victor Young's *Stella by Starlight*, John Coltrane's *Naima* and an exclusive jazz version of *My Favourite Things* from the much-loved movie *The Sound of Music*.



"Our lecturers are seasoned performers themselves. Throughout my studies and my practice sessions, they've given me a lot of advice about performing."

Loong Wen Hung,
Second prize winner at the 3rd Malaysian Jazz Piano Festival

It goes without saying that the terrific choristers carried the emotional weight of the performance perfectly when Delfs personally complimented them after their first performance on 30 January this year.

"When the conductor complimented us, we were certainly motivated to deliver our best for the next round," said Mabel Soong Yongqi, leader of the Chorale's alto section.

Fellow student Loong Wen Hung echoed the same opinion when he won second prize in a piano competition held in conjunction with the 3rd Malaysian Jazz Piano Festival.

"Our lecturers are seasoned performers themselves. Throughout my studies and my practice sessions, they've given me a lot of advice about performing," said the young fan of the famous jazz legend Charlie Parker.

Loong elaborated that the Institute has



MOMENT OF GLORY: Members of the UCSI University Chorale sharing a light moment with renowned German conductor Andreas Delfs (middle).

"It was not an easy performance, but as long as our director and lecturers guide us, we are more than prepared to take on another challenge."

Shaun Chow,
President of the UCSI University Chorale

prepared him very well in terms of theory, practical, and the jazz genre.

He added that he is especially grateful towards Asst Prof Justin Lim Fang Yee.

"I've learned a lot from him and I hope to continually make the Institute proud of my future performances," said the young lad.

Loong certainly made the Institute proud when he impressed the judges with a delightful performance of Victor Young's *Stella by Starlight*, John Coltrane's *Naima*

and an exclusive jazz version of My *Favourite Things* from the much-loved movie *The Sound of Music*.

The judges were made up of musicians with over 20 years of experience. One of them was Michael Veerapan who pioneered the Malaysian Jazz Piano Festival. Veerapan is also one of Malaysia's most prominent composer, director and producer in the jazz scene. Judging from the success of both the UCSI Chorale and Loong, it is evident that we will hear much more from them in the months and years to come.



WERE YOU BORN ON THE

30th?

If **YES**, you are in
for a treat by UCSI!

Whether you are a staff of the UCSI Group or a student of UCSI University, you are eligible to receive **RM30 worth** of vouchers and merchandise.

Find out how to claim your treat!

Please contact Shu Ying at 03-9101 8880 ext. 3737

Remember to collect those gifts on the prescribed date/time; any claim other than these timing will not be entertained.

Staff/students from Kuching/KT Campuses: Please liaise with the respective COO Office for the date of merchandise disbursement.

UCSI 30th Anniversary Car Sticker Campaign

Cars spotted with UCSI's sticker will be shortlisted
to win attractive prizes at UCSI University!

**GET
SPOTTED
AND WIN!!!**

Each winner
will receive
RM500 worth
of cash and UCSI's
merchandise

Four (4) winners
every month
in 2016,
starting February

All staff and
students at
UCSI University,
and members
of the public are
eligible to
participate

Students can collect the
car stickers from:

KL Campus South Wing:
* Student Affairs & Alumni
(SAA) Office, 3rd Floor, Block A

* Student Council's Counter,
1st Floor, Block A

KL Campus North Wing:
* North Wing Residential Hall

Staff can collect the car stickers
from the office of Group Corporate Affairs (GCA),
5th Floor, Block B, KL Campus (South Wing)



In honour of WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

In conjunction with International Women's Day on 8 March 2016, Amber Chia Academy with the support of UCSI University's (UCSI) De Institute of Creative Arts and Design (ICAD), organised a grooming workshop titled 'Confidence is Beautiful'.

Conducted by professionals in their respective fields, attendees were able to acquire important tips and tricks to proper grooming and maintaining a professional appearance.

Amber Chia, Founder and Principal of Amber Chia Academy, was present at the workshop to provide the attendees motivational support.

"Being a woman is not easy; you have to juggle so many roles and time management

is everything. But it is during this day — International Women's Day — that we celebrate the things women do and encourage us to work harder towards our dreams.

"To all the young women out there: if you have a goal in life, go for it. Even if you fail, try again — what matters are the lessons you gain from it."

The Malaysian model and brand ambassador also advised the attendees to improve their body posture for beauty as well as health purposes.

Happy
*Women's
Day*



YOUR GO-TO CENTRE FOR HEALTH, WELLNESS AND BEAUTY

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STARS OF THE NIGHT: Nominees of the Best Dressed Award striking their best pose for the audience.



SMILES: Receivers of the Student Organisation Leadership Award looking proud in a group photo.

CELEBRATING THE C

Since its inception in 1986, UCSI University (UCSI) has grown by leaps and bounds into a Tier 5 — as rated by the Malaysian Higher Education Institutions Rating System in 2013 — education institution and ranked among the top 300 in the 2015 QS Asian University Rankings.

Academic staffs who are at the forefront of their disciplines and a strong track record of university-industry engagement is part and parcel of the University's 30 years of empowerment.

But mostly, the University's success can also be attributed to its students. As such, celebrating the students is part of UCSI's culture.

Organised by the UCSI Student Council, the University honoured more than 200 students during its annual Extracurricular Awards Night recently.

The event was held to recognise high-achieving students in sports and extracurricular activities in the year 2014-2015.

Among the guests present at the event was UCSI Vice-Chancellor and President, Senior Professor Dato' Dr Khalid Yusoff, and Managing Partner of Steven Lim and Associates, Mr Steven Lim, who presented the Steven Lim and Associates Cash Award.

During his speech, Senior Professor

Dato' Dr Khalid emphasised the importance of extracurricular activities in higher education institutions.

"With these activities and engagements, students develop their worldview and their understanding of the world around them, inculcate a moral compass and an ethical paradigm which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

That is why these extracurricular activities should not just be or confined to matters of interest and excitement, a mere hobby club; but also be directed to the intellect and the inner self."

Among some of the awards that were presented include the Student



Group photo with UCSI Vice-Chancellor and President, Senior Professor Dato' Dr Khalid Yusoff.



IN HARMONY: 'FooLing Around', a band that consists of UCSI students, charming attendees with their acoustic take on songs.

GO-GETTERS OF UCSI

Organisation Leadership Award; Student Council Award; UCSI Student Council Outstanding Extracurricular Award and the Top 3 Student Organisation Award.

In January, the UCSI Scholars' Circle (U-Schos) hosted its first ever U-Schos night themed 'The Red Carpet', marking the University's inaugural Red Carpet Night.

Organised by the scholarship recipients of the University's scholarship arm — UCSI University Trust, the event saw more than 160 participants walking down the red carpet in glamorous suits and dresses.

Present at the event was David Yap,

Press Secretary to Senator Datuk Paul Low from the Prime Minister's Office, and a number of prominent collaborators with U-Schos, including Ramesh Vadiveloo from Meals for All project.

According to U-Schos President, Bernard Chin, the purpose of the event is to celebrate individuals who have assisted in the founding and development of U-Schos.

"U-Schos played a role in connecting heads, hearts and hands where scholars come together and join forces to work towards a goal of enriching their university experience beyond books and studies, with the ultimate outcome of becoming holistic students. None of our

efforts would have succeeded without your support," he said.

Multiple awards such as the 'Best Dressed' were presented to attendees during the event.

Ilavenil Balu Rajah, winner of the Best Dressed Female Category award, was glad she made the decision to attend the event.

"It was a very enjoyable event with series of amazing performances. I was very impressed with the organising committee for organising such a memorable event," said the BSc (Hons) Actuarial Science student.



WRITE **RIGHT**

WRITE RIGHT

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

Journalism is the activity of gathering, assessing, creating, and presenting news and information. While journalism functions as a mediator between the public and policymaking elites, editing in a news organisation is the backbone to all the reporting that happens. The role of a news editor is considered significant as it is crucial that news bulletins are presented as error-free as possible.

To understand what it is like to be a news editor in Malaysia, *The UCSI Gazette* editorial team interviews **Chelsea L. Y. Ng**, a journalist with 22 years of experience working with *The Star* — Malaysia's largest circulation newspaper. Her prior experience as a court reporter saw her covering high profile cases such as Anwar Ibrahim's Sodomy Case and the murder of Altantuya Shaariibuu, one of Malaysia's most sensational murder cases.

◀ 1998. Chelsea L. Y. Ng in the courthouse covering Anwar Ibrahim's sodomy case.



Early 2000. Chelsea L. Y. Ng in *The Star* office when it was in Section 13, Petaling Jaya

Please tell us more about yourself: where you came from, how was your childhood like, what are your favourite go-to activities to release stress?

I was born in Kuala Lumpur but spent most of my childhood in Kajang, Selangor. I lived the 'kampung' lifestyle, planting our own vegetables and fruits as well as raising chickens and ducklings for Chinese New Year and birthday celebrations. I remember oranges and apples being a rare commodity; guavas and 'jambu air' were more commonly consumed in the household.

I love my job so working itself is a way for me to de-stress. I also love to have black coffee. My two daughters help me out a lot as well; every poem they write would bring a twinkle to my eyes and a sparkle to my heart.

You are currently a news editor with Malaysia's well-known newspaper, *The Star* under Star Media Group Berhad. Can you tell us more about your job scope in *The Star*?

My job as a news editor requires me to be a news junkie. Most of us here are natural news junkies. Apart from following issues and trends closely, I also help to manage news flow and our team of writers. We have several news editors here with about 20 years' of working experience.

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

The keyword or phrase here is always 'Be hungry' and 'Be passionate about your job'. Always think of your audience or readers, be in their shoes.

Was it always your passion to be in the news industry? What or who inspired you to venture into the field and what are the aspects that keep you going?

I joined the journalism field more than 20 years ago for the purpose of educating people. I wanted to learn and also teach at the same time. I had a degree in education but eventually, I felt that I could teach more through the mass media than through a classroom. It was the mass media's reach that attracted me to venture into this field.

What are the things you love most about your job as a news editor? Why?

I love writing and I love the adrenaline rush of hunting for news. This job makes me feel like I am doing something new every day. I never get bored.

What are the main challenges of being a news editor in one of the renowned local news agencies?

In my opinion, there are not many challenges but many opportunities. There are always means and space for us to pursue an issue. As long as public interest and human interest remains, we will have great opportunities.

Who are the Malaysian and non-Malaysian writers that have left a deep impression on you and why?

I love reading legal judgements — I was a court reporter after all. I, in particular, liked writings by famous Malaysian judges Tan Sri Dato' Dr Eusoffe Abdoolcader, Tun Mohamed Suffian and Datuk Seri Gopal Sri Ram.

In your professional opinion, does the local media have a sufficient level of transparency?

Yes, I believe that the local media does have a sufficient level of transparency. However, matters like these are entirely up to the people's perception.

Have you ever written in different genres or mediums? If yes, what are they? If no, why? And will you consider trying in the future?

Throughout my 22 years with *The Star*, I have worked in the Sunday *Star* section, Education section as well as the News section. I have also written for business and sometimes, featured articles. I have been working on video news for *The Star Online* since the late 1990s and moderated forums as well as product presentations for selected top clients. While I have not worked in other mediums, I am determined to publish a series of books for children.

UCSI University is celebrating its 30th Anniversary this year. Could you share a message with the University and its students on this special occasion?

UCSI is one of the leading universities here and I congratulate the University for its many years of empowerment. I hope the University will continue to produce top class graduates and launch exciting new courses that will help the growth of our nation.

As for the students, I have only one advice: choose a job that you will enjoy doing and all will work out fine. After all, what can be better than being paid handsomely while pursuing your hobby?



HIGH TECH: Lim Lai Huat, a senior lab technologist specialising in marine systems and the club's co-advisor showing Dato' Ng the facilities.

UCSI LAUNCHES NEW AQUATIC SCIENCE CLUB

New club aims to drive marine conservation awareness among students.

Buoyed by the success of its aquatic science degree, UCSI University (UCSI) launched the Aquatic Science club for students with an interest in discovering more about aquatic life and conservation.

According to club advisor Assistant Professor Dr Teo Swee Sen, who is also the head of the aquatic science programme, the club aims to become a platform for both students and the public to be involved in aquatic conservation. Most club events will be opened to the public and activities include scuba diving lessons and aquascaping — a form of underwater landscaping.

The club's activities is supported by the university, which has invested heavily in its new dry and wet labs equipped with aquarium tanks ranging from one to eight feet in length. The new facility is home to the jellyfish kreisel tank. The kreisel tank is a carefully designed circular aquarium made specifically for jellyfish and seahorses that are sensitive to water pumps or even the corners of the tank itself.

The launch took place on 30 January 2016 and was officiated by UCSI's Founder and Group CEO, Dato' Peter Ng.

In his speech, Dato' Ng reminded students that it is humanity's responsibility to preserve marine habitats. He added that there is a lack of awareness about the aquatic ecosystem in the country and the establishment of the Aquatic Science club is a step in the right direction towards cultivating conservation habits amongst the younger generation.

"One thing we can do is to care for our oceans by actively participating in efforts to save it. We need to rehabilitate our oceans which are so damaged to the point where bleached corals are aplenty as are broken bits of corals on the sea bed," he shared.

He added that Malaysia is a country known for the beauty of its beaches and islands, and education has a role to play to ensure this is passed on to the next generation.

Education is expected to be a popular choice for those looking to do their bit for

the environment in the future.

"The future in aquatic science is tremendous and there are numerous opportunities for the application of the relevant knowledge in the market today, especially with the increasing scarcity of marine wildlife," he said.





FAMILY CARNIVAL DAY

**SATURDAY
14 MAY 2016**

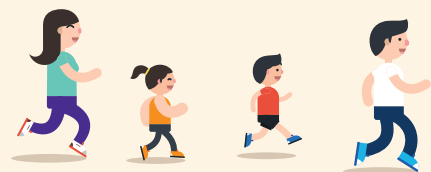
9AM – 4PM

**UCSI UNIVERSITY
SOUTH WING**

**SHAPING A
HEALTHY
FUTURE**



Fun and Games • Contest • Fitness Demo • Food Bazaar • Showcase • Craft and Painting • Face Painting • Cooking Demo • Workshops • Entertainment • Performances • Product Sales • Health Checks • Blood Test • Eye Test • Skin Care Tips • Weight Loss Programme • Nutrition and Wellness Session • **and LUCKY DRAW!**



Supporting Our Community

Profits from the Carnival and the Marathon will go to the following charity organisations:

- Persatuan Insan Istimewa Cheras, Selangor
- PPR Sg Besi Community
- National Autism Society of Malaysia (NASOM)
- Hospis Malaysia
- Pusat Jagaan Kanak-kanak Kurang Upaya KIRTARSH
- Malaysia Lotus Charity Care Centre Association
- Generasi Gemilang
- National Kidney Foundation
- Yayasan Budi Penyayang Malaysia
- Rainbow Home

Family and Individual

JOIN US!

Let's continue to make a difference to the community around us.

**Saturday 14 May 2016
6AM-9AM**

THE UCSI GAZETTE

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