

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Industrial Training Abroad Gives Richer Experience to Biotech Undergrad** **2**
- UTAR Student Bagged Media Award in Cambodia** **3**
- Global Economic Meltdown & Its Implications** **4**
- International Students Share their UTAR Experience** **5**
- Creative Vibe at Graphic Design Showcase** **10**
- 与同善医院合作 拉曼大学办中医课程** **15**
- 漫谈中文系** **16**

UTAR CAMPUSES

Petaling Jaya Campus
(KPT/JPS/DFT/US/B07)
13 Jalan 13/6
46200 Petaling Jaya
Selangor Darul Ehsan

Kuala Lumpur Campus
(KPT/JPS/DFT/US/W05)
Jalan Genting Kelang
53300 Kuala Lumpur

Sungai Long Campus
(KPT/JPS/DFT/US/B12)
Lot PT 21144
Jalan Sungai Long
Bandar Sg. Long
Cheras, 43000 Kajang

Perak Campus
(KPT/JPS/DFT/US/A04)
Jalan Universiti
Bandar Barat
31900 Kampar



His Excellency Mr. Masahiko Horie and his wife (with corsage) arriving for a visit to the Perak Campus. UTAR President, Engr. Prof. Dato' Dr. Chuah Hean Teik (right) were at hand to greet them.

JAPANESE AMBASSADOR VISITS UTAR PERAK CAMPUS

His Excellency Mr. Masahiko Horie, Ambassador of Japan to Malaysia, accompanied by his wife, Yoko Horie, paid a courtesy visit to the Perak Campus in Kampar on 23 February 2009.

His Excellency, the first ambassador to visit the Perak Campus, and his wife, were greeted warmly by UTAR President, Engr. Prof. Dato' Dr. Chuah Hean Teik, UTAR senior officials, staff and students at the entrance to the Heritage Hall of the University.

During the visit, the Ambassador was briefed on the history and milestones of UTAR since its inception in 2002. Ideas on the potential for student exchange programme, and academic and research collaboration between UTAR and Japanese universities and institutions were also discussed.

His Excellency also delivered a lecture titled 'Japan Post-War Restoration and Cool Earth 50' to a large audience of over 700 UTAR staff and students. The audience was impressed with the ability of

the Ambassador to deliver a part of his address in fluent Bahasa Malaysia. The Ambassador shared with the audience Japan's success in modernising its economy within the last 60 years. From almost total destruction following their defeat in World War II and the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan rose to become one of the most powerful economies in the world.

According to the Ambassador, the Japanese spirit and values such as team work, discipline, diligence, good work ethics and competent management system were factors which contributed towards the nation's success. His Excellency also highlighted Japan's energy conservation efforts and its 'Cool Earth 50' plan.

Later, His Excellency was taken on a campus tour. His Excellency expressed his admiration of what UTAR had achieved and the quality of education offered by the University within a short span of time. He wished the University success and prosperity and would look forward to visiting UTAR again in the future.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING ABROAD GIVES RICHER EXPERIENCE TO BIOTECH UNDERGRAD

UTAR Biotechnology student, Stephanie Koh Hean Fong, recently returned from a three-month industrial training stint at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) in Paris, France. She shared with UTAR News her pleasant and educational experience in the following interview excerpt.

Question: How did your lecturers assist you to pursue this training so far abroad?

Koh: The industrial training for my course of study was optional but my lecturers strongly encouraged us to get an attachment in a company that specialises in our chosen field. As I was seeking an attachment not from the list given by the University, I applied to CNRS on my own initiative. As soon as I received a positive reply from CNRS, my lecturers helped me get all the relevant papers ready for my training in Paris.



Koh (second from right) with her co-researchers at CNRS.

Question: Any particular reason for choosing CNRS? What was your area of specialised interest? What were the projects you were involved in during your training?

Koh: CNRS is one of the government-funded research organisations under the administrative authority of France's Ministry of Research. It has a long history as an established medical institution and I believe that I can learn more about new technologies and the latest scientific discoveries in the field of biotechnology. As I was attached to the psychiatry research unit under Dr. Roland Jouvent at the L'hôpital Pitié-Salpêtrière in Paris, I also had a chance to oversee the development in using virtual reality to help cure brain disorders like depression and phobias. During my three months in Paris, I was fortunate to participate as an observer at the 15th Session of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) and the Joint Session of the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC) meetings organised by UNESCO from 28 to 31 October 2008.

Question: If your friends/peers are interested in doing their Industrial Training abroad as well, what are the requirements to enable them to do so? Would you encourage them to do the same thing?

Koh: In France, the main priority is learning the culture and the language. There was definitely some language barriers as many could not speak English. However, this experience can broaden our knowledge on how people work and live in another country. I certainly encourage my peers to apply for an overseas stint as much can be learned from collaborating with people from different countries as well as exploring a little of the country.

Question: In your opinion how will that experience enrich their academic life?

Koh: It certainly helps students to understand their field better and learn what to expect if they continue to pursue their field of choice. There are many who state that studying and working are two different concepts. It is quite true as knowledge of theory is certainly not enough to fully replace skills needed for employability. In certain job descriptions, practical skills or job experiences will be an added asset to boost one's career. We may have the knowledge to be successful, but experience and good practical skills do count especially in my field of biotechnology. It serves as an extra skill when seeking a job or pursuing postgraduate studies.

Question: Do you think UTAR and its students have the capability to share its knowledge and at the same time take the opportunity to learn more about biotechnology from foreign institutions?

Koh: UTAR and its students certainly have the knowledge and capability to collaborate with other foreign institutions. In terms of skills, we are almost at par with the other undergraduates that are also doing their training at CNRS. Practicality wise, we can still compete with the others. Practical skills taught during my studies at UTAR had certainly been a great help to me during my industrial training.



Koh in front of the UNESCO building.

Students Speak Up at Speakers' Corner

On 11 February 2009, the Department of Soft Skills Competency (DSSC) at UTAR Perak Campus launched its inaugural Speakers' Corner. The Speakers' Corner is held every alternate Wednesday afternoon as a platform for students to express their ideas, views and opinions on any topic that interests them.

In her welcome speech, Lok Bee Lan, Head of DSSC said, "This Speakers' Corner aims to develop a dialogue culture which can help students to enhance their soft skills in areas such as oral presentation, listening, leading, constructive evaluation, critical thinking, conducting meeting and event organising." She added, "Moreover, students can improve their English as well as share experiences and views. The Speakers' Corner can also be a place to meet new friends."

Four outspoken students took the lead to share on the topic of the day 'The Influence of the Blogging Community'. The speakers were Lim Kah Yee (Biotechnology), Clement Wong King Fook (Biotechnology), Ashleigh Errolene Goh Jia Qi (Biochemistry) and Jonathan Narain Chandran (Computer Science).

This first Speakers' Corner attracted a crowd of students and curious passers-by. One of them, Kwang I Miaw, a Marketing student, commented, "I have not seen or heard about Speakers' Corner. Actually, I'm very curious to find out what it is all about. That's why I am here today. I find it interesting and enjoyable to be able to express our opinions freely in such an informal setting. I will gather the courage to speak in the Speakers' Corner one day. This is what makes university life colourful."

Sharing similar thoughts was Wong Soon Eel, a Journalism student. Wong said, "The Speakers' Corner is beneficial to prepare us for the future working environment where we need to be trained to express our views confidently and learn to handle criticisms at times."



A speaker expressing his views.

UTAR Student Bagged Media Award in Cambodia

Final Year Broadcasting student, Balvinder Singh a/l Joginder Singh recently won the one-minute video production contest during the first SIGNIS Asia Media Award organised by SIGNIS (World Catholic Association for Communication) recently in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

His production, titled *Superman*, was created in accordance to the theme of the SIGNIS Asia Assembly, which was 'Children in Asia and the Media'.

Describing his winning entry, Balvinder said, "My video was about a little girl who watched the *Superman* show on television and became convinced that she could also fly like her super hero. She then wore a cape and jumped down from the fifth floor of a building and died."

He explained, "This video was produced to emphasise the negative impacts of the media on children if the media is not utilised properly. It also pointed out the ignorance of society in educating children on the power of the media. My video showed just how limited knowledge on the media can contribute towards a little girl's death because she decided to imitate the act of her super hero, thinking that everything she saw on television was real."

Prior to succeeding in the contest, Balvinder faced many obstacles. He said, "One of the challenges that I encountered during my preparation for this contest was the time constraint of producing my video. As my video was produced while I was completing my internship, I only had the evenings after my working hours to shoot the video."

Apart from that, the biggest challenge of the contest was trying to produce a video that runs within the one-minute time frame. He said, "It was tough coming up with a short video that can easily be understood by the audience while bringing meaning to the theme."



Balvinder with his trophy and certificates.

Insight into Development of Japan-Based Industries in Perak

A talk on 'History and Transition of Japan-Based Industries in Perak State' was held at the Perak Campus on 21 January 2009. Dato' Tomiyasu Ushiamo was the speaker and he took the audience through the history of Japanese companies in Perak.

"The presence of Japanese companies in Malaysia, be it joint venture or wholly-owned by Japanese in Perak can be traced back to the time after the second World War," he shared.

One of the most significant events in Perak's history was the discovery of tin in the mid-19th century. As tin mines sprung up around the region, the economy entered a period of boom. The economy received a further boost with the beginning of the rubber industry which continues till today. However, the 1980s saw the collapse of the tin industry which crippled Perak's economy.

This, in turn, forced the Perak State Government to make a firm decision to diversify the economy's base to cover more value added, resource-linked manufacturing.

Dato' Ushiamo advised potential investors to study factors such as product, market, geographical feature, transportation cost, infrastructure and government policy towards investors before deciding. He added that Perak's rich natural resources and low

labour cost are the main attraction to the investors.

Dato' Ushiamo graduated from Tohoku University in Japan where he studied Geology in 1961. He came to Ipoh and established Sagami Industries with a Malaysian partner in 1969. In 1970, he then became the director of Sagami Manufacture Sdn. Bhd., which was the first company in Malaysia to produce and export products using Malaysian latex. Dato' Ushiamo retired in 2007 and has resided in Ipoh for almost 40 years.



Dato' Ushiamo presenting his talk.

Global Economic Meltdown & Its Implications

The inaugural talk of the 'Breakthrough Learning Series' entitled 'Global Economic Meltdown & Its Implications' by YBhg Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Lau Ban Tin was held at the Wisma MCA on 18 February 2009. The talk was jointly organised by UTAR's Centre for Extension Education (UTAR-CEE) and the MCA Lifelong Learning Centre.

Dr. Prudence Goh, Director of CEE, in her introductory remarks alluded to the financial turmoil that has roiled markets and sunk banks on a global scale, leading to unprecedented 'rescue' packages from governments to shore up businesses and save jobs.

"The epicentre of the crisis is undoubtedly the free-wheeling and dealing Wall Street in New York, USA. That is where the contagion which sickened the world financial system actually began in late 2008," Dr. Lau pointed out.

He added, "Long before that, however, the convergence of certain critical developments on the American business front had already presaged the crisis. One was the 1999 repeal of the Glass-Steagall Act which effectively deregulated the banking, insurance and securities industries."

Dr. Lau pointed out that thus regulatory supervision became minimal while banks grew into financial behemoths free to do practically as they pleased. The other was the 'sub-prime' loans, which were packed as CDOs (collateralised debt obligations) and sold to banks around the world. When the defaults

in the housing industry began in 2008, it started a critical chain reaction which quickly swallowed banks, grounded financial markets and dried up credit. It is doubtlessly the worst fiasco since the Great Depression of 1929.

Dr. Lau said, "No one pretends that the world financial crisis will not affect Malaysia... (since) approximately 50% of our exports end up in the US whether directly or indirectly." He pointed out that the problems in the US will only worsen unemployment and shrink wages in the near term.

The talk was attended by 500 participants.



Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Lau giving his talk.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS SHARE THEIR UTAR EXPERIENCE

The international student population of Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman has grown in number and diversity as the University steps up its internationalisation efforts.

UTAR currently houses international students who hail from United Kingdom, Taiwan, Indonesia, China, Cambodia, Philippines, Iran and Sudan. Here are the accounts of what it is like to study in UTAR by two of them.

Sandy Christian, 20, a second year student in Information Technology from Indonesia at the UTAR Perak Campus said, "Lecturers at UTAR are really interesting because they not only focus on conducting pure lecture sessions but also include practical and hands-on training."

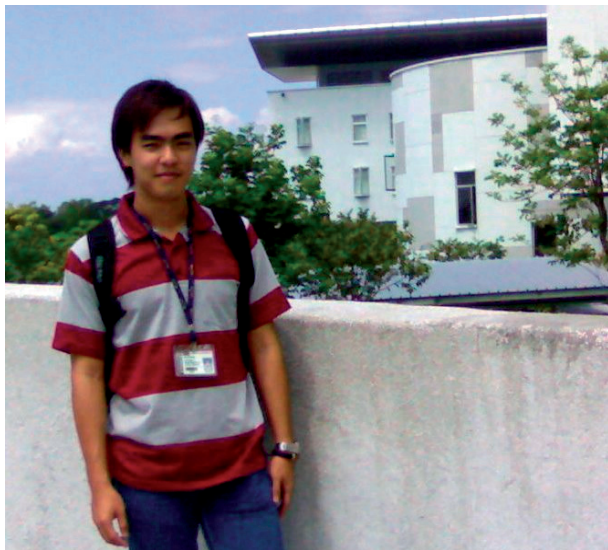
"I am constantly exposed to relevant case studies that help me familiarise myself with practical situations that I may encounter at work in future," he added.

When asked about the study condition in

UTAR Perak Campus, he commented "Perak Campus is a big campus that offers me a great living environment as well as useful facilities which help me to be more independent. Although I am a foreign student, I still feel very much at home here as I am able to socialise easily with the local students."

Shieh Pey-Jiee, 21, from Taiwan, is a second year Broadcasting student at UTAR said, "Studying here gives me the opportunity to improve both my Chinese and English languages and at the same time enable me to learn a little bit of the local Malay language. This is a very unique learning experience that I would not have possibly gained had I decided to study in my own country."

In describing her programme, she enthused, "Broadcasting is a very fun and intriguing programme. During my time at UTAR, I have learnt many things about recording, editing and shooting videos that I believe would be useful when I venture into the broadcasting industry."



Sandy (left) and Shieh (right) enjoying their life at UTAR and savouring every moment.

UTAR Student Leaders at the Youth Patriotic Convention

Two Student Representative Committee (SRC) members from UTAR attended the Youth Patriotic Convention 2009 on 26 February 2009 at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre, Putrajaya. They were Year 2 Broadcasting students from the Petaling Jaya Campus: Mark Woo Mun Kit and George Chan Jou Liang

Themed 'Unity as a Way to Form Patriotism', the Convention served to increase the participants' understanding on the constitution as a basis to unity among Malaysians. Besides that, it also aimed to increase moral values and patriotism among the participants. More than 2,500 people attended the event.

During the event, Datin Paduka Dr. Sharifah Mazlina Syed Abdul Kadir, the first Asian woman to trek in the Antarctic and Arctic regions was invited to give a talk on '*Menjulangi Maruah Negara*' (Upholding the National Pride). In her talk, she shared her experience in the Antarctic as well as the formula for her success. Besides the talk, there was a forum on '*Patriotisme: Di Mana Bumi Dipijak, Di Situ Langit Dijunjung*' (Patriotism: Home is Where the Heart Is). The forum touched on important issues such as the things that need to be done to instil patriotism among youths as well as issues on race, language and unity.

The event also included a speech by Tan Sri Dr. Nordin bin Kardi, Vice-Chancellor, Universiti Utara Malaysia on '*Perlembagaan Negara, Asas Perpaduan Rakyat*' (National Constitution as the Base for Unity). The talk discussed the Constitution as the backbone of the national administration and how it unites all Malaysians.

TIME TO PARTY AT THE UTAR BALL 2009

Clad in their best dresses and most stylish suits, scores of UTAR students, both freshmen as well as those due to receive their degree scrolls, made their way to the Sunway Resort Hotel and Spa's main ballroom for the UTAR Ball Night 2009 on 9 March 2009.

Themed 'Enchanting Moments', this edition of UTAR Ball brought together the biggest attendance of about 1,200 students from all UTAR campuses. Present at the Ball was UTAR President, Engr. Prof. Dato' Dr. Chuah Hean Teik as the guest of honour.

Students started arriving at around 6.30 p.m. wearing their glamorous outfit and in good spirit, ready to party the night away. It was also a time to meet and mingle with their friends from other UTAR Campuses.

In her welcoming speech, chairperson of the organising committee, Pearly Yuen remarked that organising an event at this scale was no easy work. "However, with the cooperation of my committee members and sheer team work that they display, we are able to coordinate everything and collectively solve all problems. I applaud the commitment shown by my team members even though some of them are in the Perak Campus," she added.

Prof. Chuah also commended the team effort

of the organising committee as well as the enthusiasm and spirit shown by the attendees of the event. He said, "It was through activities such as these that students are able to balance their academic commitment and at the same time allow themselves time to play, socialise and generally have a good time."

Many activities were lined up to accompany the nine-course dinner that was served during the Ball. Talented UTAR students showcased their skills in singing, dancing, acting and even performing magic tricks at the Ball.

The night ended with the ball dance where students let their hair down and grooved to the music, and had a great time with their friends.



Students performing at the Ball.

Themed 'Oscar Night', the Prom Night, organised by the UTAR Perak Campus Student Representative Committee (SRC) attracted the participation of 330 students from various faculties on 12 February 2009.

The Heritage Hall was decorated with the pictures of Oscar winners. A photo-taking booth was set up by the Photography Club at the entrance of the Hall. Lim Kah Yee, the chairman of Perak Campus SRC shared, "The theme was chosen to give students a chance to experience the 'glamour' of the famous Oscar Awards which is one of the world's prestigious events attended by celebrities."

The guest of honour was Assistant Professor Pek Hoo Chun, Director for Centre for Foundation Studies at Perak Campus, launched the event. The night came alive with band performances, songs dedication and singing by Kevinder Singh and Michael Teh.

Dressed elegantly, students were seen having a good time letting their hair down and dancing the night away. The highlight of the event was the crowning of the Prom King and Prom Queen. Lau Yoke Fuang won the Prom Queen title and the Prom King title went to Looi Choong Weng. It was indeed a Thursday Night Fever for the students!

Glamorous "Oscar Night" at the Prom



Experiencing "Hollywood glamour" at the prom.

Audit Practices in Malaysia: Russell Bedford's Perspectives

Loh Kok Leong, a partner of Russell Bedford LC & Company, a professional services provider, shed some light on 'Audit Practices in Malaysia: Russell Bedford's Perspectives' in the monthly professional talk organised by the Faculty of Business and Finance in the Perak Campus on 11 February 2009.

The talk captured the attention of students and staff as they gained insights into audit practices, audit approaches and challenges faced by the industry. Sharing enthusiastically on this profession, Loh commented, "Audit practices face numerous challenges such as microscopic scrutiny by regulatory bodies." He added, "Requirements of knowledge and skill set rapid changes in the business environment such as escalating operating costs, staff recruitment and retention, persistent price war, high client service expectation, as well as succession issues."

Input from the industry practitioners through such talks is part of UTAR's goal to provide quality programmes. Such talks are important for students to gain practical perspective of their future career.

Loh, an accountant by profession, is a member of the Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Malaysian Institute of Taxation. He has been working with accounting firms in both Malaysia and overseas for more than 20 years, three years of which as an audit partner of a Big Four audit firm in Kuala Lumpur.



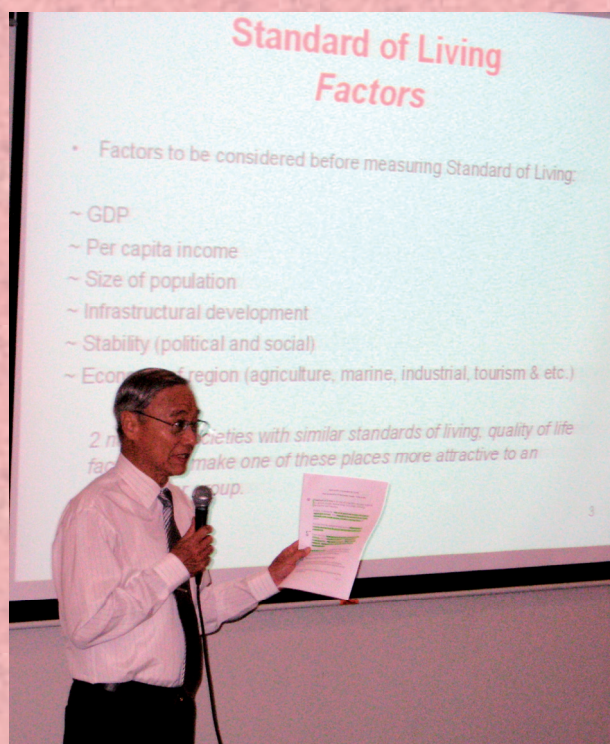
Loh sharing the audit practices information with UTAR.

Managing Standards of Living

2008 witnessed the beginning of a worldwide economic meltdown. Malaysia is not spared from the impact and its adversity. Thousands stand to lose their jobs at this challenging time. Consequently, Malaysians have to adjust their life styles to survive this crisis. The talk titled 'Managing Standards of Living' is indeed timely as Malaysians prepare to face the challenges ahead.

Organised by the Faculty of Business and Finance, the talk was held on 11 March 2009 at UTAR Perak Campus. With almost three decades of working experience with one of the Big Four audit firms, the speaker, Dato' Richard Ong Guan Seng provided insights on the relationship between national income and standards of living, implication of wages on standards of living and personal action for managing standards of living. "Financial planning and prudent spending are crucial in tackling the challenging times," he said.

Dato' Ong is a member of Malaysian Institute of Accountants, Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Chartered Institute of Secretaries and Administrators, and Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia. Currently, he holds the position as non-executive Independent Director of Hexza Corporation Berhad, Malaysian Mosaics Berhad and Rock Chemical Industries (M) Berhad, which are all listed in Bursa Malaysia.



Dato' Ong delivering his talk.

UTAR'S EIGHTH CONVOCATION CELEBRATED BY ALL

UTAR held its eighth Convocation Ceremony on 14 and 15 March 2009 at the Dewan San Choon, Wisma MCA in Kuala Lumpur. For this Convocation, 1,313 graduands from six Master's and 28 Bachelor's Honours degree programmes received their scrolls.

The Convocation also marked the graduation of UTAR's pioneer batch of students for two Master's and six Bachelor's Honours degrees. They were the Master of Computer Science (By Research), Master of Science, and Bachelor's Honours degrees in Biochemistry, Biomedical Science, Mechanical Engineering, Quantity Surveying, Actuarial Science, and Communications and Networking.

Among the graduates who celebrated their big day was gynaecologist Dr. Tan Swi Peng @ Tee Swi Peng who received his MBA scroll. This 50-year old doctor has a thirst for knowledge and believed that "knowledge is beautiful" as this MBA is his third academic degree. Previously, he obtained his medical degree from the University of Malaya and another degree in computing from the University of Portsmouth, UK.

In making UTAR as his choice for a postgraduate degree, Dr. Tee remarked that he has full confidence in the quality of UTAR education. His lecturers and course-mates proved to be among his biggest supporters as they were cooperative and easy to get along with. "I'm happy that I have made the right choice in getting a UTAR degree today. It is definitely one of the highlights in my life," he enthused.

Another graduate who received his scroll during the Convocation was Lee Ruenn Huah. Lee, a Book Prize winner from the Faculty of Information and Communication Technology, graduated with First Class in Applied Mathematics with Computing. Lee recently commenced his Master's studies at the National University of Singapore. Reminiscing about life at UTAR, Lee recalled that his UTAR years were among the happiest in his life. "The lecturers were approachable, and friends were willing to help me out whenever I had any problem involving my studies," he elaborated.

Another graduate who was among the first group of graduates for the Actuarial Science programme, was extra happy as her graduation brought another bonus. Paula Ho Yen Ling was the recipient of the Uni-Asia Book Prize Award, an award given to outstanding Actuarial Science student. Paula, later in the interview, expressed, "I am very happy to receive this award as it was totally unexpected. I didn't even know they have this kind of award to give. It is certainly a motivation for me to be a good actuaries and excel in this career."

This Convocation also saw the first international student, Sok Sykao from Cambodia, receiving his Bachelor Honours degree in Information Systems Engineering. With this Convocation, UTAR have a total of 13,585 graduates.

Photo Gallery - Convo Collage



Photo Gallery - Convo Collage



Creative Vibe at Graphic Design Showcase

Creative vibe filled the air of the Faculty of Creative Industries as it celebrated the launching of its Graphic Design exhibition called the Graphic Design (GD)'08 Showcase on 12 January 2009 at the UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus.

Organised with a 'recycling' theme by second year students from the UTAR Graphic Design programme, the exhibition displayed a wide variety of creative works produced by UTAR Graphic Design students amidst the decorations made from recycled materials.

Dean of the Faculty of Creative Industries, Dr. Carmen Nge Siew Mun who was present during the exhibition said, "It was most amazing to see how the students had cleverly utilised everyday recyclable materials to transform the exhibition area into a new place for the exhibition. This is what I call creativity."

UTAR President, Engr. Prof. Dato' Dr. Chuah Hean Teik, the External Examiner of the Graphic Design and Multimedia programme, Prof. Suzette Worden from Curtin University of Technology, Australia as well as UTAR students and staff also attended the Showcase launching ceremony.

While touring the exhibition, Prof. Worden commented, "Two very important aspects that determine the success of a graphic designer in the working world are the originality and the creativity in the works created. Through my visit to this exhibition, I have found that UTAR Graphic Design students have both of these qualities. This is because I feel that the student works displayed during the exhibition are of very high standards."

Apart from originality and creativity, Prof. Worden also pointed out the importance of creating items that are recyclable. She said, "Graphic designers who are able to produce recyclable goods would have an added advantage in the industry as there is an immense market for such products throughout the world. This is especially the case with the growing awareness of people on the significance of recycling to society."



Prof. Worden (second from right) chatting with the students during the GD'08 Showcase.

Creative Mindsets for Excellence

Some 400 people filled their day with enriching knowledge on creativity when they attended the talk titled 'Creative Mindsets for Excellence' on 28 February 2009 at UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus organised by UTAR Centre for Extension Education (CEE).

The speaker was Teoh Poh Yew, a counsellor and experienced international trainer in the fields of creativity and mathematics education.

Using five simple definitions of creativity, Teoh led the audience through an enlightening process of self-discovery, learning and unlearning.

According to Teoh, to solve problems in today's fast-moving global marketplace, organisations need people who are not boxed-in by rigid modes of thinking. She stressed to the audience, "We need to put on our thinking caps and jump out of the box."

Apart from that, Teoh also shared her experience in teaching mathematics during the talk. She encouraged teachers to use some magic tricks to make their lessons more interesting. She demonstrated a few simple magic tricks that she often used while conducting her mathematics lessons.

Schools, said Teoh, need to make a paradigm shift in their teaching methodologies in order to create a conducive environment that encourages creativity among the young. She also cited the Kano Model and the Torrance Test for Creativity to show the audience how creative children can be when given the right coaching and environment to work in.

Overall, many left the talk cheerful and satisfied with the extra knowledge acquired for the day.



Director of CEE, Dr. Goh (right) presenting a token of appreciation to Teoh.

Moulding Caring Students Through CARE Programme

52 UTAR students from different faculties were given the opportunity to learn the basics of Emergency First Aid Treatment from Citizen's Action in Response to Emergencies (CARE) Programme at UTAR Perak Campus on 1 March 2009. This is the first session held in UTAR Perak Campus.

The CARE program was conceptualized by the Federation of Private Medical Practitioners' Association of Malaysia (FPMPPAM) and St. John's Ambulance Malaysia (SJAM). The main objective is to improve the survival of casualties of accidents, criminal violence, fires and natural disasters by training citizens to deliver initial first aid and manage common accidents at home.

Before the training started, every participant was given a CARE programme guide booklet which helped and showed the participants a clear approach to dealing with accidents or emergencies. During the first session of the training, Jeffrey Nah from SJAM briefed the students on the basic First Aid knowledge. Dato Dr. Lee Hoo Teong from SJAM shared his experiences with the participants while Dr. Chang Keng Wee from SJAM gave lessons on how to handle multiple injuries.

In the second session, the participants were divided into six groups and they were given the opportunity to have hands-on experience on CPR technique and choking treatment on human models. In addition, the participants were encouraged to take the initiative to practise at home in order to enhance the skills.

At the end of the session, certificates of CARE programmes were presented by Dato Dr. Lee and Dr. Chang to the participants. In his closing speech, Dato Dr. Lee hoped that the CARE programme had help participants to take care of themselves and provide immediate assistance to others in time of need.



Students shown the correct method of applying CPR.

LEARN THE RIGHT RESPONSE TO AN EMERGENCY

Some 20 staff of UTAR Perak Campus learnt the right response to an emergency at a two-day first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training conducted by Manin Singh and Weng Kit from St. John's Ambulance Malaysia, Perak on 4 February 2009.

Organised by the Centre for Extension Education, the workshop covered the delivery of first aid knowledge and making appropriate decisions during emergency situations. Emphasis were given on managing situations that require prompt intervention, such as when a person is choking, unconscious, bleeding or in shock.

Participants were given the opportunity to apply CPR skills on a human model and try their hands on different bandaging techniques.

On the second day of the training, participants were required to sit for a theory test which included 50 objective questions and a practical test on CPR and bandaging. Those who passed the tests received first aid certificates from St. John's Ambulance Malaysia.

Hew Kuan Pin from the Information & Communication Technology Centre (ICTC) at Perak Campus commented, "I have learnt the proper techniques of rescuing a drown victim. Knowing the right method will double the chance of survival for the victim."

Ng Wai Loon from the Department of Student Affairs added, "I used to have vague ideas of CPR application. However, today I learnt the appropriate CPR technique."

Many of the participants shared the common view that helping others in time of need was rewarding and the time and effort spent learning first aid skills was worth it.



UTAR staff undergoing their practical test at the training.

STUDENTS SHOWCASE ACTING TALENT

It was an exciting day for UTAR students and staff who attended the Star Idol 2009 finals on 18 February 2009 at the UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus.

The Star Idol 2009 is an acting competition organised by the Drama and Public Speaking Society, and the Film Club to assess contestants' skills in video and stage acting.

Ten students were chosen to compete in the finals. These 10 contestants were provided with acting classes to coach them on acting prior to the finals.

The finals consisted of three rounds. For the first two rounds, the contestants were required to produce a video of their solo acting performance as well as their performance on stage in a group. The best five out of these 10 contestants were then chosen to continue in the final round which was to perform an impromptu act with a special guest actor. Judging for this final round was made based on the judges' decision and votes from members of the floor.

The champion of the competition was Lim Hui Hsing, a first year Broadcasting student while the

first runner-up was Lee Zikang, a final year Psychology student. 'The Most Popular Actor' award went to Sudarshan Nair, a Foundation in Science student.



The five finalists waiting nervously for the result.

Emotional Excellence for UTAR Staff

The Centre for Extension Education (CEE) held a two-day in-house training session on 'Emotional Excellence For People Management' for the University staff at its premises on 17 and 18 February 2009. The training session, conducted by Franklin Morais.

Emotional Excellence differs from other mainstream indicators of intelligence like Intelligence Quotient or IQ. While the latter measures intelligence per se, it fails to take into account other indicators like emotional maturity or 'people skills' which play such a crucial role in defining personal success and satisfaction.

The participants were told that this lacuna for understanding was filled by Professor Dr. Leonard Yong. Through his research he created what is called the *Leonard Personality Inventory (LPI)*, a profile of key determinants or personality traits which make up an individual's Emotional Quotient or EQ.

Participants were administered a short test to determine whether they were *Open*, *Neutral*, *Analytical*, *Relational* or *Decisive* by nature. These 'dimensions' are of course broad indicators only and oftentimes there will be an overlap of such dimensions in a person. When used in tandem with the *LPI* they can give a strong indication of the 'personality type' of a person and his or her innate strengths.

People who have emotional excellence are able to fashion their own wellness - spiritual, mental and physical - and find the wherewithal to deal with

and overcome all kinds of stress, disappointment and negativity. They can handle all problems and challenges and operate on the sunny side of life. They are well able to bring about positive changes in their environment and always work as a team.

People with strong emotional intelligence seldom 'dwell' on a problem. Instead they empathise, pinpoint the problem and move forward. They focus on the problem instead on the personality. Naturally they are highly motivated, functional and happy.

The training was lively, with a lot of practical, problem-based sessions and video screenings.



Morais (left) guiding a group of participants.

骊歌奏起时

拉曼大学在2009年3月14日和15日于吉隆坡马华大厦三春礼堂举行了第八届毕业典礼。拿督斯里黄家定、代表拿督斯里翁诗杰出席的房屋及地方政府部长拿督斯里黄家泉以及拉曼大学策划与发展委员会主席杨明生亦出席了这次的毕业典礼，使之增添不少光辉。

在这届毕业典礼上，共有1313位攻读6项硕士学位课程和28项荣誉学士学位课程的学子领取他们的毕业证书，当中包括两项硕士学位课程和六项荣誉学士学位课程的首批毕业生，即来自电脑科学和理科硕士学位课程、生物化学、生物医学、机械工程、建筑估算、精算学以及通讯与网络荣誉学士学位课程的学生。

迄今，拉曼大学已栽培了13 585 位毕业生。

现年50岁的郑瑞平是其中一位本届硕士毕业生。他在受访时表示：“我对拉曼大学很有信心，所以当初才会选择在这里完成我的工商行政硕士学位课程。这里的老师和同学都很友善。现在想来，我认为当时的决定是对的。”身为一名专科医生的他在此前也修毕了电脑科学的学士学位课程。他说：“学海无涯，我觉得知识是美好的，所以我不断地学习，让我的人生更充实。”

李润华是应用数学与电脑计算系的应届毕业生。询及选择拉曼大学的原因，他说：“我是独中生，要进本地国立大学不太容易，所以决定到拉曼大学继续我的学业。”他也补充道，在拉曼大学这四年的学习生涯很开心，老师们也很平易近人，遇到问题时总能得到他们的协助。目前，他在新加坡国立大学修读数学硕士学位课程。

华乐飨宴

2009年3月25日，拉曼大学华乐团在双溪龙镇的会计与管理学院举行了一场华乐演奏会。这场名为“寻找生命中的旋律”的演奏会从晚上8时开始至10时结束，全程得到了观众的喝彩掌声，精彩程度可见一斑。

虽然这是一场售票演奏会，但仍然吸引了许多学生出席，现场座无虚席。当天的主持人是林岫洁。她也是该团的指导老师兼指挥。林老师很会带动气氛，她那生动却不失幽默的主持方式不时惹得现场观众捧腹大笑。

当天演奏的乐器包括高胡、二胡、琵琶、柳琴、笛子、唢呐、中阮、扬琴、高音笙等。这组由37位来自拉曼大学不同学院的学生所组成的华乐演奏团为来宾们带来了13首悦耳动听的曲子，当中包括澳洲民曲、西藏民歌、动画片主题曲等，其中“雨的味道”一曲更邀请我校一位唱功了得的学生——陈怡典上台献唱。除了合奏，大会也安

排了笛子独奏、二胡独奏和唢呐独奏等。演奏会结束后，现场来宾仍然意犹未尽。循众要求之下，林老师亲自指挥，演奏团再为来宾们演奏了一首歌曲。

此外，林老师也邀请了本地团体——“暴风乱打”到现场表演。他们以各种日常用具的敲击声，为观众呈献另类的音乐。

拉曼大学华乐团成立于2005年，曾参与不少演出。早在2007年，他们已举办了第一场演奏会，并获得来宾们的热烈支持。2008年，他们再次举办名为“三月里的小雨”的演奏会。这场演奏会更结合了多媒体和音乐，可谓史无前例。演奏会筹委会主席谢净伊表示：“目前由于参加华乐团的学生不多，现有的团员又即将毕业，因此这是我们第三次举办华乐演奏会，也可能是最后一次。”



林老师（背对镜头者）亲自指挥乐团演奏歌曲。

拉大学生参观太平护法苑

拉曼大学霹雳校园佛学会成员在2009年2月7日参观了位于太平的护法苑。太平护法苑创立于2000年1月，是所提供马来西亚南传佛教僧人修行的寺院。

佛学会主席高君怡（译音）说：“这次参观的目的是提升学员对佛教的了解，让学员们与护法苑的负责人交流，协助打扫寺院以及促进佛学会会员之间的感情。

上午8时30分，这群由35人组成的参访团便整装待发，从霹雳校园浩浩荡荡地前往太平。约2个小时30分钟后，他们才抵达目的地。午膳后，便前往护法苑，并受到该苑两位负责人的欢迎。学员们皆深深地陶醉在清新怡人的空气，以及围绕着太平护法苑的青山翠谷。该苑负责人带领他们参观寺院。膜拜佛像后，全体学员协助清理寺院及其周边的环境。

其后，全体团员拜访该苑法师Venerable Kumara Bikkhu。他也和学员们分享了一些佛学知识。

学员们在这次的交流中学习到许多东西，亦希望将来可以再次来此参加联谊会或禅修营。



佛学会会员前往参观太平护法苑。



众人细心聆听Venerable Kumara Bikkhu法师的话。

急救的意义

拉曼大学的25名职员参与了在八打灵再也校园PB座举办的急救护理和心肺复苏法课程。这项培训课程于2009年3月3日和4日举行，由拉曼大学延续教育中心主办，并邀请了马来西亚雪兰莪州圣约翰救伤队的林钰霞队官前来教授。此课程旨在让本校职员学习急救常识和心肺复苏法。

课程的首日，林队官先是教导我校职员许多急救的基本概念和技巧，如：急救的定义与目的、伤口的种类、烧伤的种类、止血、人工运输和断肢急救法等。然后，她才指导学员正确的骨折包扎方法和心肺复苏法。

第二天则是考试日。考试分为三个部分，即笔试、包扎实践和心肺复苏法考试。能通过此三项考试的学员便能成为合格的急救人员，并可获得由马来西亚圣约翰救伤队总部颁发的文凭。幸运的是，全体学员都通过了考试。

林队官是位合格的急救人员和培训员，曾参加高级急救考试和急救课教学课程及考试。年纪轻轻的她教学经验丰富，自2001年起便开始在公共领域和私人机构教导急救知识，对象从幼儿园儿童至成人都有。她在受访时表示：“我认为救人是件很棒的事。我在一开始参加圣约翰救伤队后，就没有再停下来。”

询及参加此课程的原因，来自吉隆坡校区图书馆的行政人员温彩燕说：“学会急救知识，遇到紧急状况就可以帮助他人。”

“翻开报章，很多时候都会看到许多伤者因延迟就医、失血过多而死亡的新闻。如果当时有人可以为他们进行急救，或许就不会有这样的下场。我身边很多人都不懂急救技巧，学会这些技巧后就能传授给他们。”所以，当初一知道有这项培训课程后她就报名了，因为“这是个很难得的机会”。

她也表示，此课程不仅让她学会了正确的急救方法，也纠正了她的一些谬误，可谓获益良多。她认为，急救知识很重要，因此拉曼大学全体职员都应该学习。

课程结束前，一些学员不忘把握最后的时间，向林队官请教其他的急救技巧。在发表感言的环节中，许多学员皆表示非常赞赏此课程重视实践的安排，以及林队官那生动的教学方式。



林队官（右蹲者）正为我校职员示范进行心肺复苏法的正确步骤。

与同善医院合作 拉曼大学办中医课程

拉曼大学同善医院于2009年2月24日上午在同善医院会议室签署了谅解备忘录，合作开办中医课程，为有志于学习中医的人士提供就读的机会。

签署仪式由拉曼大学理事会主席敦林良实医生见证，签署人代表是拉曼大学校长拿督蔡贤德教授和同善医院主席丹斯里拿督张泗清博士。

拿督蔡贤德教授致词时说：“同善医院的历史悠久，是栽培中医师和研究中医药的理想伙伴。”

他亦表示，拥有近三千年历史的中医包含针灸、草药、推拿、铁打等治疗方式。不论是西方还是东方，这些古老的治疗方式在21世纪的今天也发挥了相当大的作用。根据世界卫生组织的报告，发展中国家约有70%至80%的人口采用替代和辅助西医的治疗方法；马来西亚则有70%的人民使用传统和辅助治疗方式。他认为项合作备忘录将使双方在中医教育和中医药研究等方面建立紧密的联系。

敦林良实指出，拉曼大学打算开办医药、药剂、护士、科学保健和牙医科课程。此次和同善医院达成合作协议，希望能推广及开拓本地中医的发展空间，并且携手进行和开办有关中医药的讲座和学术活动。

拿督张泗清致词时表示：“在这项协议下，拉曼大学同善医院在商讨后将负责拟定课程，提供行政和后勤协调，并负责中医课程的营运收入及费用、行销和宣传等工作；同善医院则会提供教学及训练专才，并提供地方作临床实习。”

他表示，中医在人民医疗保健方面扮演着重要的

角色。我国卫生部也逐渐意识到传统医药的重要性，并将之设为西医的辅助治疗。因此，他相信中医师未来将有很好的出路，本地的中医水准也得以提升。他说，拉曼大学在国内是一所享有盛名的大学，拥有出色的教学人员及完善的设备，栽培了许多人才。因此，他希望与拉曼大学的合作能为中医带来更大的发展空间。

同善医院将和拉曼大学在几个方面进行合作，包括举办一系列的免费中医药与保健讲座，提高公众对中医药的认识；开办短期的进修课程以及举办证书课程。蔡贤德教授表示，中医文凭或学士课程开办与否，尚须视与同善医院在以上三方面的合作成果，及能否得到卫生部的批准。

当天的出席者包括拉曼大学延续教育中心处长吴谨慎博士、同善医院第一副主席黄茂桐先生、总务张德康先生及多位董事如拿督杨星耀、陈达真博士等。



蔡贤德教授（左）和拿督张泗清博士（右）于签署仪式后合影。中间者为敦林良实医生。

拉曼大学和余仁生（1959）集团合作研发本地草药

拉曼大学与余仁生（1959）集团于2009年2月24日中午在余仁生尊厨签署合作备忘录，携手研发本地草药。

此签署仪式的代表是拉曼大学校长拿督蔡贤德教授和余仁生（1959）集团总裁余义明，由拉曼大学高等学位研究学院院长李仕伟教授和余仁生（1959）集团董事经理骆荣富见证。

当天出席者包括拉曼大学理工学院院长黄展群博士、副教授林燕美博士、助理教授何祥富博士、国际与院际关系部主任张秋祥先生、余仁生（国际）有限公司科研事务高级副总裁罗庆明博士、余仁生（1959）集团资深总经理邱月辉先生等。

在这项合作协议下，拉曼大学将负责研究的部分；而余仁生（1959）集团则提供研究所需的设施和经费。

余仁生（1959）集团的代表在去年11月已拜访本校理工学院，了解本校在相关方面的研究实力，及洽谈可能合作的事宜。此后，罗庆明博士、林燕美博士及何祥富博士也两度面谈，并划定了合作备忘录里的第一项合作计划。

理工学院助理教授何祥富博士表示，余仁生是知名的中医药材和中成药制作企业，着重于中药研究，在新加坡、马来西亚和香港等地设立中西医结合的私人诊所；拉曼大学则拥有一群在化学和生物领域学有所长的专才、良好的研发环境和众多的学生。他相信结合双方的特点和专长，这次的合作将提升中药的发展空间。林燕美博士较后也为出席者讲解了此研究计划的详情，并透露此研究预计费时一年半。



（左起）李仕伟教授、蔡贤德教授、余义明先生和骆荣富先生合影。

漫谈中文系

自19世纪初，华文教育便踏足马来半岛，发展至今没有间断过。马来西亚是中国、台湾、港澳地区以外唯一拥有小学、中学至大专完整华文教育体系的国家。马西亚华人虽然在日常社交使用方言如粤语、福建话、客家话等，但华语是他们共同使用的母语。

自从90年代，政府致力将我国塑造成本区域的高等教育中心，境内的高等学府便像雨后春笋般林立。然而，提供中文系或中文课程的大专学府却少之又少。在这种情况下，大部分有意修读中文的学生便别无选择，或争取进入名额稀少的国立大学，或到国外如中国、台湾等地去实现他们的中文梦。

拉曼大学于2002年创办以来，便提供本地学生另一个升学管道。中文系是拉曼大学创校初期的八大学系之一，其学生人数亦一直在增加。在各方面的配合和努力下，如今更开办了中文系硕士学位课程和博士课程，为有意进修中文的本地学子提供既经济又受承认的中文高等教育。

拉曼大学中文系的师资阵容强盛，拥有全职讲师20位，外籍讲师1位和兼职讲师4位。其中更有9位讲师拥有博士学位。拉曼大学中文系在实力如此雄厚的讲师的领航下，给予社会巨大的信心，从而促使报读此



林水椽教授

学系的学生逐年增加。截至2009年，拉曼大学约有500位学生就读中文系学士学位课程，研究生则约60余位。拉曼大学的中文系有何特点，使之成为学生的首要选择？任教于拉曼大学中文系的林水椽教授说：“和本地一些大学相比，我们的课程比较完整。目前，为本科生共开了近30门的课，硕士班开6门课，而博士班则开3门课。而且，我们在文、史、哲和语言上皆看重，所以课程比较全面。”

拉曼大学创意产业学院的中文系课程主任张晓威助理教授说：“近几年来，拉曼大学的藏书增长率也很快。我们的图书馆有《四库全书》，学校也采用存有几千种期刊、硕博学位论文和重要会议论文的中国知网。”文学与社会科学学院的中文系主任许文荣副教授补充道：“中国知网拥有相当丰富的资料，所以鼓励老师和学生多使用。”拉曼大学中文系的另一特色，就是允许学生以中文撰写学士、硕士和博士论文。

为了拓展学术品质，并促进相关的研发活动，拉曼大学亦成立了中华研究中心，属下有三个研究小组，即马来西亚华人研究小组、当代中国研究小组和中华文化研究小组。马来西亚华人研究小组由林水椽教授领导，研究范畴包括历史人物、华文教育、马华文学、马华经济、马华政治等；当代中国研究小组由谢爱萍副教授领导，研究范围涵盖中国政策与国际关系、中国的法治、民俗学与民族学、教育与文化、跨国人口移动和人口贩卖、中国城市与乡村发展等；中华文化研究小组由黄文斌助理教授领导，凡中国的文、史、哲、语言等专业皆在其研究范围内。

目前，拉曼大学中文系讲师已成功得到许多外界的研究经费，来源包括马来作家基金、马华策略分析与政策研究所、华社研究中心、马大中文系毕业生协会和台湾中央研究院的亚太研究中心等。

拉曼大学中文系课程涵盖了文、史、哲、语言四大项。中文系学士学位课程的学生必须修读中国通史、古典文学、马华文学、哲学、文选、四书、史记等科目；硕士课程有论文制和修课制两种模式。修课制的学生除了必须修中国历史和中国文学这两门课，也须选修中国语言、中国哲学、中国现当代文学、中国社会与文化、东南亚华人社会专题等课；博士学位课程则以撰写论文为主，不过仍须修三门课方能毕业。

为了增广学生的见识，让他们获得实际的工作经验，2009年开始，攻读中文系的学士学位课程学生皆须在第三学年的第一学期进行实习。他们可选择到教育界、文化机构、传播业等领域实习。实习的机构或由校方安排，或自行选择，但前提是该机构必须得到学校的认可。

除了上课，拉曼大学中文系的学生亦非常活跃于文学创作，且自行出版刊物，如《蔓延》、《随思》和《跼蹐》等。为了凝聚系内同学的感情，中文系学生还成立中文研究学会。该会出版《优曼坛》，并定时举办如座谈会、辩论赛、诗歌吟唱等学术活动，一些文化活动如校内新春布置、新春联欢会、中秋联欢会等，也会随着传统佳节的来临而举行。

拉曼大学中文系毕业生的素质也获得国际认可，许多已到海内外知名大学继续深造，如马来亚大学、新加坡国立大学、国立台湾大学、台湾政治大学、台湾清华大学、台湾元智大学、中国南京师范大学等。

谈及拉曼大学中文系的前景，林水椽教授乐观地表示，根据经验，中文系毕业生在寻找工作方面都相当顺利。他也说：“我们希望可以招收有素质的学生，这样一来便可提升学生的学术品质。我们也希望可以提高研究素质。”

许文荣副教授说：“创系至今，中文系的课程已调整了三次。现在的中文系可说已有相当的规模。如今要做的工作是加强各科的学术质量，提升教学的内容，让学生获得更扎实的知识。我们要强调的是教与学的效果。”

他补充：“教学与研究是息息相关的。为加强大学的学术形象，以及给予学生好的榜样，培养他们的探讨精神，老师们也应在研究方面有所突破。目前虽已有了一些成果，但仍然希望年轻教师可以赶上来。”

张晓威助理教授指出，拉曼大学对讲师的学术资格相当看重。目前已有几位中文系讲师正修读博士学位，这样将能提升中文系的教学与研究素质。



张晓威助理教授

迄今，拉曼大学中文系已栽培了许多毕业生，并于2008年见证了其第一届硕士毕业生。拉曼大学中文系将来不仅可望成为重要的教学领域，在推动中华文化的发展上亦能成 为本区域一个重要的据点。



许文荣副教授