Bicycling is a popular form of transportation for many UTAR students.
Launching of the inaugural Kuala Lumpur Engineering Science Fair (KLESF) 2014

The inaugural Kuala Lumpur Engineering Science Fair (KLESF) 2014 was launched by the Minister of Education II, YB Dato' Seri Idris bin Jusoh at the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT), Cyberjaya on 25 February 2014. He was accompanied by the President and Chief Executive Officer of MIGHT and Joint Chairman of KLESF 2014 Dr Mohd Yusof Sulaiman and President of ASEAN Academy of Engineering and Technology (AAET) and the Chairman of the KLESF 2014 Steering Committee Datuk Ir Hong Loo Pae at the launch.

KLESF 2014 is jointly organised by UTAR, ASEAN Academy of Engineering and Technology (AAET), the Institution of Engineers Malaysia (IEM), MIGHT and the Kuala Lumpur National Science Center and aims to promote school children’s interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). It will also complement the Government’s Science to Action (S2A) programme which requires Science and Technology (S&T) to take a key role to drive national growth and sustainability. The fair will be held at the National Science Center from 25 to 27 April 2014. It will feature science demonstrations and exhibitions and admission is free.

Present at the launch were UTAR Vice President for R&D and Commercialisation Prof Ir Lee Sze Wei, representatives from the National Science Center; Phyllis Lam and Norzailawati Bt Md Nambor, President of IEM Ir Cho Choo Kok Beng, Fellows of AAET; Prof Yong Hoi Seng and Prof Dr Ho Chee Cheong, representatives from the Ministry of Education and industry sponsors (MDeC, Pizza Hut, Fierekale, Talent Corp, UEM Berhad and DreamEDGE), teachers and students, UTAR lecturers, staff and other invited guests.

In his speech at the launch, YB Dato’ Seri Idris who is also the Patron of KLESF, said, “Science can be fun, and if we promote interest in science fields among students, we can hopefully reach the objective of having 60% of students in the sciences.” He also added that more people are needed in the sciences for the national growth and encouraged all to visit the KLESF 2014.

Datuk Hong, in his address elaborated on the School Engineering and Science Design Mentorship (SESDM) programme which has started in the pilot phase in January with seven schools. UTAR lecturers and student volunteers are presently guiding the schoolchildren to conduct science experiments and projects.

The highlights included the KLESF mini showcase of science experiments and DreamEDGE’s booth display of the Robot Nao at the lobby of the MIGHT office. Stealing the limelight were science experiments put up by selected students from SMK Taman Melati under the mentorship of UTAR Faculty of Engineering and Science (FES) lecturer Chua Kein Huat. Aina Syamimi Bt Shamsul Bahri and Abdul Latif Bin Abdul Aziz, two of the seven SMK Taman Melati students at the science booth enthused that it was a memorable experience to demonstrate the experiments and treasured the hands-on learning experiences of the SESDM programme.

Chua praised the participating students for the self confidence in explaining the experiments to the Minister and visitors. Their accompanying teacher; Puan Wan Nor Mahazan Wan Mahmud expressed their appreciation to UTAR in placing the schoolchildren to demonstrate the experiments and enthused that it was a memorable experience to demonstrate the experiments and treasured the hands-on learning experiences of the SESDM programme.

The launch culminated with the presentations of the KLESF 2014 posters to the principal and teacher representatives from SMK Taman Melati, SMK Kepong and Kuen Cheng High School.

To further enhance its network of research partners, UTAR signed a MoU with the Socio-Economic Research Centre Sdn Bhd (SERC). The signing ceremony of the UTAR-SERC MoU was held on 20 January 2014 at Wisma Chinese Chambers in Kuala Lumpur. The signatories were UTAR President Ir Prof Academician Dato’ Dr Chua Hean Teik and SERC Chairman Dato’ Lim Kok Cheong who is also the President of Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (ACCCIM). Witnessing the signing were UTAR Vice President for Internationalisation and Academic Development Prof Dr Ewe Hong Tat and Deputy President of ACCCIM and Director of SERC Dato’ Ter Leong Yap.

In his address, Prof Chua said, “Today’s MoU is the culmination of the fruitful discussions and continue to stimulate more intellectual capital.” The signing of the MoU with SERC will pave the way for further joint research on social, economic, financial and business issues facing the business community, joint application for research grants and the enhancement of research outputs. Equally beneficial to UTAR students and staff will be the exposure, the wider networking and the knowledge sharing through the joint organisation of training, talks, seminars and conference sessions. The collaboration will also include tapping into SERC’s periodical technical journals, newsletters and other publications to update on the latest socio-economic issues and career prospects.

SERC is the think-tank for ACCCIM and its objectives is to undertake in-depth research on socio-economic issues that affect the nation.

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CIOB NOVUS Malaysia Student Convention 2013

A UTAR team of lecturers and students attended the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) inaugural CIOB NOVUS Malaysia Student Convention 2013, held at the ZON All Suites Residences on the Park, KLCC in Kuala Lumpur from 26 to 27 October 2013. The theme, ‘Challenges of Young Professionals for the Built Environment’, the convention marked the establishment of a new branch for students and young professionals below the age of 40, hence the term ‘NOVUS’ which is the Latin word that means new. It aims to be a networking platform and to link students to the working profession.

Comprising 45 Year One Construction degree students from UTAR Faculty of Engineering and Green Technology (FEGT) and 17 students from various built environment programmes of the UTAR Faculty of Engineering and Science (FES), the team was accompanied by UTAR staff SHL Datuk Ir Hamzah Hasan FCIOB, Patron of CIOB Malaysia, and UTAR students from various built environment programmes.

The programmes for the nite included the 3DCGI interactive multimedia. Daniel Yap presenting his paper on The Arts of -PBS by Beckhoff Automation. The exhibition displayed two-week event was to bridge the academia-industry gap with the emphasis on the borderless exploration of the open technology platform.

The UTAR Kampar contingent with Ar Tan, Prof Dr Naoto and Dr Olanrewaju looking on are Dr Yap (first from left), Kevin (fifth from left) and Beckhoff staff.

The programme was graced by Prof Chuah (second from left) and Daniel (fourth from left) exchanging MoU while looking on are Dr Yap (first from left), Kevin (fifth from left) and Beckhoff staff.

UTAR Faculty of Creative Industries (FCI) research centre, Centre of Immersive Technology and Creativity (CITC) organised its inaugural Practice-Led Research Symposium and Exhibition at the FCI Gallery Room, Petaling Jaya Campus from 6 to 20 December 2013. The two-week event was to bridge the academia-industry gap with the emphasis on the borderless exploration of the borderless research and practical world of art & design, new media, and interactive multimedia. The topics presented on the first day included the oil paintings of FCI -PBS by Beckhoff Automation. The exhibition displayed fifty-five artworks done by the skilled members from CITC and the Centre for Media & Creative Communication (CMCC), including the oil paintings of FCI lecturer, Wang Chain Khiang, puppet art, 3D modeling and printing, image processing, and video production.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was inked between UTAR and Beckhoff Automation Sdn Bhd (Beckhoff) at the Perak Campus on 29 November 2013. Signing on behalf of the parties were UTAR President Ir Prof Academician Dato’ Dr Chuaah Hearn Tek and Beckhoff Managing Director Daniel Tay, with UTAR Faculty of Engineering and Green Technology (FEGT) Dean Dr Yap Vooi Voon and Beckhoff’s partner Iconix Consulting Managing Director Kevin Tan Sze Pin as the witnesses.

Emphasising that the collaboration is a channel to enhance the learning, teaching and research at UTAR, Daniel in his opening address, said that the partnership would bring industry-relevant support to the UTAR and added that the MoU is proud to be associated with UTAR and that the MoU would provide a committed approach to working more closely with UTAR.

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The MoU formalised Beckhoff’s sponsorship of TwinCAT CNC, E-Version License for 20 seats, TwinCAT Trainer Certification for 10 lecturers, TwinCAT Certification for 100 students a year for three years and Beckhoff Project High Achiever Award for the best project with a complementary education trip to Hanover, Germany.

Beckhoff Automation is a German-based total solution provider for automation industry which combines both the advantages of IT and Engineering world into single and open technology platform.

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New Village Collaborative Project with NUS

The closing ceremony of UTAR New Village Collaborative Project with the National University of Singapore (NUS) ended with a presentation by the NUS students on their research findings of the three Kedahan villages of Jeniang, Kampung Baru Kura and Pekan Naka. The event organised by UTAR Department of Soft Skills Competency.

Skills Competency for the second time since 2012 was held at the Perak Campus on 17 December 2013. UTAR President Ir Prof Academician Dato’ Dr Chuah Hean Teik in his closing remark emphasised on the importance of soft skills. He said, “It is through workshops and projects as such that we learn soft skills; thus allowing us to communicate effectively with people from various backgrounds, religions and cultures.”

Also present was NUS Deputy Director of University Scholars Programme Prof Albert Tse Chu-Ying who expressed his gratitude to the UTAR team for the support, especially in acting as interpreters between the students and the locals.

Shona Loong Xiu Fen, an NUS student participant enthused, “This new village project has taught me how to make myself more useful by using my knowledge and what I have learnt to benefit others.”

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Invited to grace the ceremony were UTAR Vice President for Student Development and Alumni Relations Assoc Prof Dr Teh Chee Seng, Faculty of Business and Finance Dean Prof Dr Choong Chee Keong, Centre for Extension Education (CEE) Director Lim Guat Yen, Centre for Foundation Studies (Perak Campus) Director Pek Hoo Chuan, staff and students.

In congratulating the students in his address, Dr Teh also advised them to take the step into internationalisation to acquire new skills and understand more inter-cultural values.

Student Hong Hyun-Taek was in awe by the diversified culture in the country and enthused on his improvement in his English communication skills as a result of participation in the EIP.

The EIP, organised by CEE, is specially structured so that students get to experience the country’s customs and traditions in addition to intensive lessons in the classrooms.

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A Talk on the marvel of the human mind

The Brain Has Two Minds: Which Mind Do You Mind? was the title of the talk by Dr Peter Shephard on 18 January 2014, at UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus. The talk was jointly organised by Centre for Extension Education (CEE) and Malaysia Mental Literacy Movement. Present at the talk was UTAR Council Chairman, Tun Dr Ling Long Sik.

Dr Peter elaborated on the brain structure to ensure that his audience was able to comprehend his talk better and touched on the profiling of several well-known people such as Confucius, Mahatma Gandhi, Mother Teresa and a few others on their thinking and emotional style preferences.

The highlight of his talk was the acronym ‘SEARLUNGS’: Sleep, Exercise, Attention and Focus, Repetition and Memory, Learning styles, Use all senses/ intelligences. As he explained all the nine principles in detail, Dr Peter engaged with his audience in brain stimulation exercises called ‘Brain Gym’ and ‘Cross-Lateral’ and other quizzes.

Towards the end of the talk, Dr Peter briefly touched on the ‘Learning Competency Model’. He even showed two pet scans of the brain activity during learning and when mastery has been obtained. ‘When you are learning, greater neural activity takes place. The moment you get mastery, in other words, doing without thinking, lesser effort will be needed,’ explained Dr Peter.

It was apparent that the talk by Dr Peter Shephard had enthralled the audience as the majority of the attendees were still clambering to ask him questions during his book signing.

Industry talk on Building and Property Management

To enhance understanding of industry practice in building and property management, UTAR Faculty of Accountancy and Management organised a talk by its Industrial Advisor Richard Chan on 19 February 2014 at the Sungai Long Campus.

International Business Head of Department Alexander Tay Guan Meng said that the talk was held to highlight practical aspects in building management despite the theories learnt in class. “Graduates of this course are in high demand. Therefore, we want the students to be equipped with as much practical knowledge, skills, and real life experiences provided by the industrial expert.”

In his talk to over 50 students of Property and Building Management, Chan who has more than 33 years of experience said, “In order to be a good building manager, you must be a ‘troubleshooter’ to anticipate a problem before it comes.” He also advised students to relate what they have learnt to the real world in order to advance in their careers.

Chan lauded UTAR for having a comprehensive and specifically designed course syllabus. Prior to the talk, Chan attended the industrial advisor’s meeting with the academic staff where they discussed matters pertaining to the course, including the suggestion to extend the internship period to four months.

UTAR Centre for Stem Cell Research (CSCR) and College of Pathologists, Academy of Medicine Malaysia co-organised the 3rd UTAR Seminar on Stem Cell and iPSC Research: Basic & Translational Aspects at UTAR Sungai Long Campus on 2 December 2013.

With emphasis on the basic and translational aspects of stem cell research, including induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC), the seminar attracted participants from both the academia and the industry. There were local and foreign researchers, representatives, staff and others from 13 institutions which included research institutions among which were the Institute of Medical Research (IMR), Malaysia, Cancer Research Initiatives Foundation (CARI), stem cell companies, Cytoxglobal Sdn Bhd & Cytoproteics Sdn Bhd and universities including Universiti Malaya (UM), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), and International Medical University (IMU).

In his welcome speech, the chairperson of the organising committee Prof Dr Choo Kong Beng who is also the chairperson of UTAR CSCR said, “We not only have distinguished speakers from Australia and Singapore and two local senior stem cell scientists to update us on the trends in stem cell research, we also have the pleasure of having six young scientists to be our speakers to present their recent works.”

Prof Dr Sheffy Soo from the UTAR Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences was the master of ceremony at the seminar.

The keynote speaker was Prof Dr John Saks OJ AO who is an Australian pioneer in the application of adult stem cells and genetic therapy. His topic was on the hidden layers of gene expression control with focus on microRNAs; the mechanisms and the therapeutic strategies in the control of cell mutations. The other two main speakers were Dr Thamil Selvaree Ramasamy, Imperial College London UK and Universiti Malaya on her research finding about ‘Multiple signaling pathways regulating definitive endoderm differentiation from human embryonic stem cells’ and Prof Dr Seow Heng Fong from the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences and Institute of Bioscience, Universiti Putra Malaysia on the relevancy of tumourospheres as in vitro models for studying chemo-resistance of cancer stem cells with references to the Cancer Stem Cell (CSC) Theory.

The post graduate researchers who presented in the same session were Teoh Tze Keong, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Medical Centre (UKMMC), National Cancer Council, Malaysia & Universiti Putra Malaysia on ‘Inhibition of U266 cell growth by human mesenchymal stem cell-mediated siRNA silencing of interleukin-6’, Dr Lin Sik Leong from Universiti Malaysia on ‘Growth differentiation factor 5-induced human bone marrow-derived mesenchymal cells (hMSCs): an imaging analysis via confocal laser scanning microscopy and atomic force microscopy’ and K. Shri Hymavathree from UTAR CSCR on ‘Oxidative stress-induced pre-mature senescence in Wharton jelly-derived mesenchymal stem cells’.

The other two presentations were ‘In vitro expansion of hematopoietic stem cell (HSCs) without stable genetic modification’ by Dr Fadila Nordin, King’s College London UK and UKMMC Malaysia and ‘An investigation to determine the chondrogenic differentiation potential of bone marrow and peripheral blood-derived mesenchymal stem cells in vitro’ by Dr Chong Pan Pan, UM Malaysia.

In his closing address, Prof Dr Choo said that the seminar has grown relatively bigger with the addition of young researchers and thanked all parties for making the seminar a success.

Seminar on Stem Cell and iPSC Research

The panel of speakers at the seminar. From left, Prof Dr Sheffy Soo, Prof Dr Choo, Dr Tan Sik Leong, Dr Thamil Selvaree, Dr Shigeki Sugi from Singapore Bioimaging Consortium, Singapore and the Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School Singapore spoke on adipose (fat deposits) tissues as potential sources for metabolic re-programming and Emeritus Prof Dr Choong Soon Keng who is UTAR’s Dean of Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences presented on targeting cancer cells with genetically engineered mesenchymal stem cells.

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UTAR holds 18th Convocation

UTAR’s 18th Convocation at Dewan Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik in Perak Campus saw a total of 1,587 radiant graduands receiving their graduation scrolls on 8 and 9 March 2014.

They graduated from 64 programmes, which comprised 52 Bachelor’s Degree programmes and one PhD programme. The Convocation also celebrated the academic accomplishments of the pioneer batches of graduates from Doctor of Philosophy (Computer Science), Bachelor of Arts (Honours) English Education, Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) Environmental Engineering, Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) Petrochemical Engineering, and Bachelor of Science (Honours) Logistics and International Shipping.

Out of the 1,587 graduands, one received his PhD, 42 received their Masters, 32 graduands received the First Class Honours/Honours Degree with Distinction awards in their respective Bachelor’s Degree programme and the rest of the graduands received their Bachelor’s Honours.

The Convocation was declared open by UTAR Council Chairman Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik. Presiding at the ceremonies were Chairman of Board of Trustees UTAR Education Foundation Tan Sri Dato’ Dr Sak Cheng Lum, UTAR President Ir Prof Academician Dato’ Dr Chuah Hean Teik and other UTAR Council Members and members of the Board of Trustees.

Invited guests-of-honour for the Convocation were Chairman of UTAR International Advisory Council Emeritus Prof Dato’ Dr Wang Guangwu for Session 1, Chairman of Zalam Group of Companies Tan Sri Dato’ Wong See Wah for Session 2 and Dato’ Hon Choon Kim for Session 3. The scroll presenters for Session 1 to Session 3 (in chronological order) were UTAR Board of Trustees and Council Member Tan Sri Dato’ Seri Dr Ting Chew Peh, Chairman of Board of Trustees UTAR Education Foundation Tan Sri Dato’ Dr Sak Cheng Lum and UTAR Board of Trustees and Council Member Datuk Leong Tang Chong.

Tun Ling’s congratulatory message included gems of advice to graduates to use their tertiary education to excel in their careers and quoted sayings from the late Nelson Mandela to emphasise on the values of being passionate and dedicated to rise above adversities.

In addition to sharing UTAR’s progress, Prof Chuah’s convocation messages were peppered with advice which included upholding and advancing one’s self development through self-reflection, being alert and adaptive to changes in the globalised world.

In his address, Emeritus Prof Dato’ Dr Wang advised that compassion is essential in dealing with all types of people along life’s journey. Meanwhile, ‘Tan Sri Dato’ Wong encouraged all to stay competitive through continuous learning and Dato’Hon spoke on the importance of choosing the right career based on one’s passion, aptitude and interest.

“My educational experience in UTAR was indeed invaluable”, said Kenneth Lee Tze Wui who obtained a Master of Communication. UTAR Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) Electronic Engineering graduate Pragash Mayar Krishnan enthused, “The knowledge acquired at UTAR and the essential hands-on research experience at the Regensburg University of Applied Sciences in Germany have given me much leverage at work.” Pragash is currently working as a junior design engineer at Intel Penang.

With the addition of 1,587 graduates from its 18th Convocation, the number of the University’s alumni now stands at 33,957 since its inaugural convocation in 2005.
UTAR President named 2014 IEEE Fellow

I is with great pride that the University announces the latest accomplishment of its President, Ir Prof Academician Dato’ Dr Chuah Hean Teik, who has been named its President, Ir Prof Academician Dato’ Dr IEEE from within Malaysia. I would like to share this rare honour with all my teachers, IEEE. I understand that this is the very first excellence.

The IEEE Fellow is the highest grade of membership and is recognised by the one-percent of the total voting membership.

The SEC Honours Award, organised by Empowering Youth Endeavours (EYE) Project and TalentCorp Malaysia with the support of the Department of Higher Education of Malaysia, aims to recognise the best managed student societies and clubs including the Student Representative Council from the public and private institutions of higher learning in Malaysia.

UTAR Askar Wataniah Army Reserve Unit

T he day - 20 January 2014 - would prove to be a defining highlight for 14 UTAR students, as they received their army identification number to officially join the Askar Wataniah 503 BN3 Regiment. It was followed by their first official training at the battalion’s camp in Tapah, Perak, on 8 and 9 February 2014.

The maiden cohort for UTAR Askar Wataniah Army Reserve Unit (ARU) Perak Campus comprises Chairperson Chong Kwang Shun, Jeffrey Ong Shun Wei, Umaaasutan A/L Kattivel, Liew Angel, Liang Kien Yan, Chong Yoke Kwan, Yew Yam Chiew, Sia Woon Ann, Foo Yew Yan, Chang Yoke Kwan, Yew Raveenderan was elated by the award and enthused that the win would further motivate the society members to continue to work harder towards achieving its objectives.

Committee members posing with their trophy and certificate

ICLS wins the Best Student Engagement Centre Award

I ndian Cultural and Language Society (ICLS) of UTAR won the Best Student Engagement Centre (SEC) Honours Award for the category of Music and Culture at the presentation ceremony of the Inaugural SEC Honours Award 2013 Gala Night. The event was held at the Dewan Auditorium Tun Dr Siti Haznah, KL Sentral on 25 January 2014. The UTAR-ICLS winning team received the award that comprised a trophy, a certificate and a cash prize of RM1,000.

The ICLS wins the Best Student Engagement Centre Award
Two Awards at the World Inventor Award Festival 2013

A team of UTAR students from the Faculty of Creative Industries Bachelor in Communication (Hons) Broadcasting programme won the Best Documentary Award, and its director took home the trophy for the Best Director (Documentary) during the Festival Film Dan Video Pelajar Malaysia Ke-10 (10th Malaysian Film and Student Video Festival) hosted by Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (UNIM) in collaboration with the National Film Development Corporation (Finas) held from 15 to 16 November 2013 in USIM.

The UTAR team with their winning documentary titled ‘Hearts of Salvage’ were Chong Jang Fung, Goh Yook Seng, Ng Jia Yi, Tan Wei Liang, Lim Seu Bing, Katherine Kee Xiao Yue, Chong Jia Yi, Siew Yean Cheng, and Ching Sue Yuin. The winning team also took home RM1,000 cash and a trophy during the awards ceremony on 19 November 2013. Chong Jang Fung, the director of the documentary and also the team leader was awarded the Best Director (Documentary) and with it, a RM500 cash prize.

Chong said, “The suggestion for volunteerism in firefighters came from a teammate of mine, and we later approached the Malaysia Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association and got the project started.” The team’s winning was later featured in the Malaysia Hari Jari television programme.

FCI team bags 2 awards at film festival

A team of 11 UTAR students who named themselves Team DF won the Grand Prize and the Most Popular Award in “The Masters of Rev Up 2013” competition in a ceremony held at the Bentley Music Auditorium, Damansara, Petaling Jaya on 6 December 2013.

The DF Team comprised final-year Public Relations student Kang Mei Xuan and Advertising student Oon Wei Teng.

The UTAR team with their awards and beside him is Chairman Hong (left)

Recipient of JCI TOYM Award 2013

UTAR Faculty of Engineering and Science (FES) team achieved the highest honour for their two inventions in the respective categories of Civil Engineering and Construction at the Awards Ceremony of the 2013 World Inventor Award Festival (WIAF) held in Seoul, South Korea on 14 December 2013.

The winning team comprised Assoc Prof Ir Dr Low Kow Sai, Assoc Prof Dr Tush Ngee Heng, and Dr Ng Soon Ching. Their two winning inventions were ‘Lightweight Concrete Infill Buoyant System and Membrane Encased Lightweight Concrete or Mortar Panel and Block’.

Ir Dr Low represented the team to attend the Awards ceremony where he received the Order of Merit for Construction at the JCI TOYM Award 2013 ceremony held in Marriott Hotel, Putrajaya on 23 November 2013.

This was after stringent evaluation by a panel of distinguished judges led its chief judge Tan Sri Dato’ A.K. Nathan, the Executive Chairman of Malaysia Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association and got the project started. The team’s winning was later featured in the Malaysia Hari Jari television programme.

The team of UTAR students together with their two winning inventions in the respective communities.

UTAR students bag Grand Prize and Most Popular Award

A team of 11 UTAR students who named themselves Team DF won the Grand Prize and the Most Popular Award in “The Masters of Rev Up 2013” competition in a ceremony held at the Bentley Music Auditorium, Damansara, Petaling Jaya on 6 December 2013.

The DF Team comprised final-year Public Relations students Kang Mei Xuan and Advertising student Oon Wei Teng.

The winning team - (from left) Ching, Lim, Kos, Tan, Chong JF, Goh, Ng, and Chong TY

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Double win at entrepreneurial competition

Nine UTAR students in two teams from the Faculty of Accountancy and Management (FAM) won two out of four categories in the ‘Innovation Youth, Future Business Leader’ competition that was organised by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Kuala Lumpur and Selangor (KLSCCCI).

The objective of the series was to nurture entrepreneurial spirit and promote racial harmony and national unity among Malaysian youths. Each team received a cash prize of RM6,000 on 29 November 2013 at the awards presentation ceremony held in Petaling Jaya.

The first team consisting of Koh Yi Luan, Lai Ruihan, Goh Hui Bee and Lee Yee Chern, won in the CIMB Kwik Account category while Loh Chee Wei, Lau Heng Kei, Yong Chin Loong, Ong Yun Qi and Hui Hue Yeow of the second team won in the Sunstar Mediini category. The teams’ advisors were FAM academic staff, Low Chin Kian, Alexander Tay Guan Meng, Dr Sia Bee Chuaan, Yeong Wai Mun and Malathi Nair.

Tay said, “Our teams were able to think critically and were creative in coming up with innovative ideas for the competition. Furthermore, they presented well to the panel of judges.”

Student bags Green Journalism Award 2013

Candour and practicality in writing are among the qualities which brought victory to UTAR Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS) student-cum-Nanyang Siang Pau (Penang) intern Tay Yong Lean and her co-worker Lai Thern Wah in the Penang Green Journalism Awards 2013 on 12 November 2013.

Organised by the Penang Green Council (PGC) Strategies Sdn Bhd for the third time since its inauguration in 2011, the annual journalism contest was open to all journalists employed by any print media and new media operating in Malaysia or registered with the Companies Commission of Malaysia (SSM).

The duo’s winning piece in Chinese entitled “Let’s Talk About the Concept of Recycle” bagged the Special Prize Award in the features category.

An elated Tay expressed her surprise in winning the award. “I totally didn’t expect this at all as I thought I was too ‘green’ to win such journalism award,” she shared. Both Tay and Lai walked away with certificates and RM1,000 cash.

PGC Strategies Sdn Bhd. [Penang Green Council (PGC)] is a non-profit, governmental organisation that nurtures, facilitates and co-ordinates environmental causes in Penang, was established by the Penang State Government in the year 2011.

Champion in Inter-Varsity Table Tennis Competition 2013

UTAR table tennis team won the overall championship in the Kejohanan Ping Pong IPT 2013, held in Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Penang Campus from 7 to 12 December 2013. Kejohanan Ping Pong IPT 2013 is a national level championship organised for the fourth time by Majlis Sukan Kolej (MASKOM) in collaboration with the Ministry of Higher Education. Forty-five teams from various colleges, universities and other institutions of higher learning in Malaysia took part in the competition.

The UTAR team brought applause to the university by winning three main categories with four gold medals and cash prizes. Foundation in Arts student, Alisa Wong Yoke Mei played superbly to clinch the gold in the female individual category. Her golden feat was followed by Foundation in Science student, Edward Ling Heng Hui who secured the gold medal in the male individual category. Both the individual players also took home RM700 of cash prize each. The UTAR team powered to further victory through the excellent performances of Banking and Finance student, Teng Wei Ni and Foundation in Arts student, Soong Jun Fai, in the mixed doubles partner category. They won two additional gold medals and a cash prize worth RM2,000. The team was led by team manager Adrian Yeap Wai Kuan, a staff of the UTAR Sports and Recreational Unit.

Five sweeps Sudoku championship

Five UTAR students stamped their mark in the Fourth Malaysia Sudoku Championship held at the Summit USJ in Subang Jaya, Selangor on 30 November and 1 December 2013. They consisted of Engineering student Wong Khai Meng and Actuarial Science students, See Leng Li, Goh Ph Han, Tan Yong Chin and Tan Kok Hong.

It was a day of double joy for Wong, who clinched the champion’s title in the Slitherlink category and the consolation prize in the 1Sudoku category. Second to Wong’s achievement was that of See, who emerged triumphant as the first runner-up in the Open 2 category. Joining See in the same category was Kok Hong, who walked away with the consolation prize while Goh and Yong Chin also celebrated their second runners-up victory in the Slitherlink and 1Sudoku category respectively.

Aimed at promoting healthy mental activities among Malaysians of all ages, the fourth Malaysia Sudoku Championship was organised by the Malaysia Sudoku Society in partnership with household appliances manufacturer Midea Group, Japanese games publisher Nikoli, Summit Subang USJ shopping complex, the Malaysian Mensa society and the Malaysia Mental Literacy Movement.
拉曼大学中华研究中国闽南文化研究组于1月8日迎来了北京大学历史学系历史学系主任宋燕鹏博士主讲《区域社会史：作为方法论的一种历史观－－以华北与闽南为例》。

宋博士首先以区域（Region）及地方（Local）的差别，简单而明了地指出今天的主题。宋博士指出，区域是一个概念，可大可小，因此区域立论要全面且客观。其讲座纲领如下：（一）作为区域的“华北”和“华南”；（二）区域历史发展的比较－－以华北和华南为例；（三）华人民间宗教形成机制的比较－－以华北和华南为中心。

除此之外，宋博士对区域史的研究特点进行说明。宋博士指出，闽南自唐代开始出现文风，北宋开始形成士人阶层。那是由于山多，农业资源少，形成了一股读书风。闽南的人口增长的速度加快，而漳州、泉州地区的发展也异常迅速。宋博士指出，闽南的区域历史发展，是形成了以各自的地方为中心的区域史。

宋博士对闽南历史文化的演变特点进行说明。他指出，闽南自唐代开始出现文风，北宋开始形成士人阶层。那是由于山多，农业资源少，形成了一股读书风。闽南的人口增长的速度加快，而漳州、泉州地区的发展也异常迅速。宋博士指出，闽南的区域历史发展，是形成了以各自的地方为中心的区域史。

总结而言，宋博士认为中国南北区域所体现出来的差异基于汉文化同质的基础之上。在大一统的中国，地方上是否形成一个区域，成为了一个历史观的重要问题。宋博士指出，区域史的研究，是研究地方的差异与统一，是研究地方的历史与文化。

《茨厂街女王》电影分享会

编自舞台剧《他来自江湖》的黑帮动作贺岁喜剧《茨厂街女王》贺世平导演和袁再显监制、剧中演员吴天瑜、辛威廉、王骏及嘉逸娱乐（JE）制作公司团队于新年前到拉曼大学霹雳校区进行电影分享会，让学生能够和剧中演员、导演及监制有更进一步的交流。

负责执导的贺导以“电影将在元宵节上映，这是一部不一样的贺岁片”作为开场白后，便让其他演员和监制慢慢深入与学生们探讨这部电影台前幕后的点滴。吴天瑜则与学生们分享了《茨》所带出的意义，“不要忘记自己的根”，且应该为自己的出身感到骄傲。

嘉宾们除了分享关于拍摄喜剧的点滴之外，贺导更为在场的学

生上了一堂简短的历史课，让在场的学生对我国著名的旅游胜地——茨厂街名称的由来恍然大悟。随后，众嘉宾更在问答环节中分别出题，让成功抢答的学生获得电影的限量版T恤。

拉曼大学的“我们关怀，我们行动”新村社区研究计划下，于11月9日到森美兰州芙蓉小甘密新村马来西亚中央福利协会芙蓉分会举办一场中医养生讲座以及免费身体健康检查服务。

首先登场的是中医系的吴南民副教授，他从中医角度教导及传授在场的乐龄人士养身健体的各种方式，并开放时间让出席者询问保健养生的问题。讲座后，中医师们为村民进行了四个小时的义诊。

“我们关怀，我们行动”新村社区研究计划的主要目的是提供健康咨询和协助给予新村的村民和乐龄人士，让他们更加注重个人健康。此活动受到了村民的热烈响应，许多村民踊跃出席讲座及义诊。
Pelajar UTAR membanjiri pertunjukan Talent Time yang diadakan di Heritage Hall di Kampus Perak UTAR pada 13 Februari 2014.


Malam itu dipenuhi pelbagai persembahan vokal, tarian dan instrumental yang menarik. Penonton bersorak apabila pemain violin, Chester Lee Zhe Hang, mempersembahkan versinya untuk Wedding Dress iaitu lagu popular artis pop Korea, Taeyang. Persambahan tersebutnya seperti aksi break boy Andro A. Sandor dan Hor Kar Choon serta dendangan lagu Faizal Tahir, Gemuruh, oleh James Wong Liang Jenq juga menerima sambutan hangat dari penonton. Enam orang pelajar yang menggелar diri sebagai H2O Live Band menyerahkan kemantapan vokal dan petikan gitar mereka melalui enam lagu sentimental.

Pengacara majlis Lee Wai Keat dan Benny Ow Han Yu menghiburkan para penonton dengan berbagai lagu pop dan rock. Talent Time ialah hasil kolaborasi DSA dan SRC yang dianjurkan pada permulaan setiap semester panjang untuk mencungkil bakat baru dan merupakan sebahagian daripada initiatif UTAR untuk mempromosi pendidikan holistik.