



*A panoramic view of UTAR Perak Campus from a distance*





*Serving the Nation  
through Intellectual  
Capital Development*



# *Serving the Nation through Intellectual Capital Development*

As Malaysia progresses to achieve its vision to be a fully developed nation, UTAR continues to play its role and contribute in stimulating and sustaining the growth of intellectual capital that meets the varied needs of an advanced knowledge-based and innovation-driven economy in this increasingly more competitive global world.

UTAR's approach to holistic education that emphasises broad-based and industry-relevant curricula, soft skills development, character building, entrepreneurial drive and global exposure has successfully empowered the students to meet the demands of the competitive world. The University is proud to have produced more than 25,000 graduates since the inaugural convocation in August 2005.







"I am impressed that UTAR has a proven track record of high employability rate, that is, 97% of its graduates are gainfully employed within six months upon graduation and the graduates have been well accepted by the industries and employers in both the local and global marketplace."

**YAB Dato' Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak**  
**Prime Minister Malaysia**





## Graduates share their joy



### *Gob Vern Jan and Gob Vern Ann* Bachelor of Arts (Honours) English Language

Vern Jan, the elder of the first twin sisters to graduate from UTAR said the university has helped her in many aspects especially in communicative skills and teamwork. She added that she discovered her love for linguistics through the English course that she took up. "The ultimate satisfaction is making my parents proud. Seeing their wide and pride-filled smiles makes my day. It makes everything worthwhile," she said. Meanwhile, according to Vern Ann, "My experience in UTAR has prepared me to further my studies. I have gained a well of knowledge ranging from critically analysing information to presenting confidently in front of a crowd." The twins have enrolled to pursue the Masters of Linguistics programme.

### *Manmeet Kaur* Bachelor of Arts (Honours) English Language

Manmeet said words cannot describe her heartfelt gratitude for her family, friends, lecturers and tutors who have been a constant source of guidance, care and support in her life. "I am happy and I take great pride in my achievement. I feel satisfied that all the hard work and extra hours I put in have paid off and I know this is the beginning of a long journey ahead. Therefore, I do not want to let this achievement to get to my head. It is important to stay focused and work towards my goals without slacking," said Manmeet, whose dream is to become a lecturer once she completes her post graduate studies.





*Nur Intan Sykira Abdul Rahman*  
Bachelor of Science (Hons) Construction  
Management

Intan said, "My three-month internship at SP Setia Bhd gave me hands-on training to apply what I had learned from my studies in UTAR. Besides, meeting lots of people from different departments enhanced my communication skills. My studies in UTAR definitely helped me become a more well-rounded person in terms of communication skills, and it also helped me manage people's expectations better. It was definitely the right decision for me to come all the way from Sarawak to study at UTAR, as I believe it has served me very well."

"We are very happy to be here today to witness our daughter's graduation today. Thank you UTAR!" said Haji Abdul Rahman, Intan's father.



*Arvin Kumar*  
Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) Mechanical  
Engineering

Arvin said, "I would like to thank all my lecturers and tutors in UTAR for all the valuable advice they have given to me. The lectures and practicals I have undergone in UTAR definitely helped me advance in the technical aspects of my current job as a Pipeline Assessment and Inspection Engineer as well as helping me learn more about management aspects. The qualities shown in UTAR's lectures and practical are first-class, and I hope more students will choose UTAR as their choice to further their studies."



# Graduates with the UTAR's edge

One of the measures of the quality of an institution is the success of its alumni. Within a decade, UTAR has produced several notable alumni who are making their mark in various fields of expertise and making impact in the global arena. They advance their careers in a diverse range of professions in corporations ranging from small- and medium-sized enterprises to multinational conglomerates.

Many are pursuing postgraduate studies in UTAR as well as other world renowned universities. Some break away from the norm and venture into business as entrepreneurs of their own.

Some of the successful alumni are featured in the following pages.







## Lim Weng Khong

**Bachelor of Computer Science (Hons)  
(First-Class Honours), 2005**

**PhD researcher, University of Cambridge, UK**

### The voyage to Cambridge

"Cambridge has always been a mystical place where scientific greats and literary thinkers expound their world-changing views" says Lim Weng Khong who is currently a PhD researcher at the Department of Genetics in the renowned University of Cambridge. Penang boy Lim completed a diploma in Computer Science before furthering his studies in Bachelor of Computer Science in UTAR. For his undergraduate thesis, Lim opted to do research on cryptography, secret sharing schemes in particular that eventually led him to be interested in computational biology.

Lim is currently working for his PhD in final year in Genetics, focusing on the computational genomics and systems biology of non-coding RNAs. His research aims to uncover the role that non-coding RNAs play in pathogenesis and how the very same molecules can contribute towards the development of therapeutics.

To Lim, true success is being able to make an impact in a field that one is passionate about. Hoping that the findings and the methodology that he developed during his PhD research will be of use to other researchers of gene regulation mechanisms, Lim is grateful to his former lecturers in UTAR who have sparked the research interest in him.



## Naysan Munusamy

**Bachelor of Commerce (Hons) Accounting, 2006**

**Trader, head of electronic trading for emerging market currencies  
Asia Goldman Sachs Asia Ltd, Hong Kong**

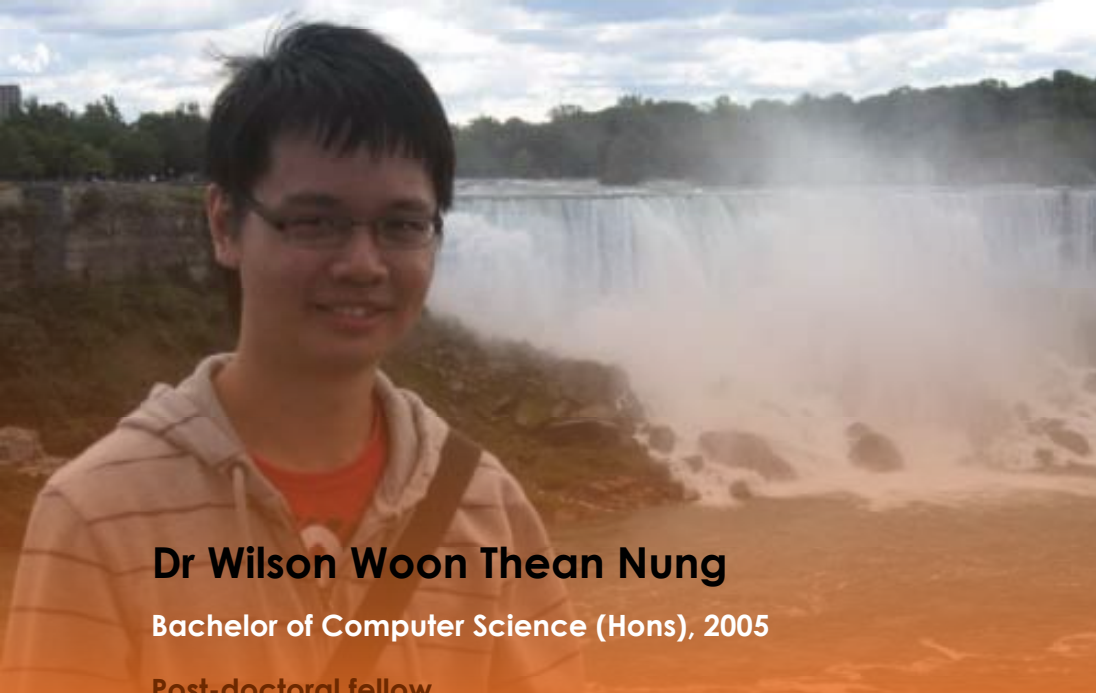
### High-flying trader in Hong Kong

Although it was a newly established university when Naysan joined UTAR back in 2003, the level of exposure and education he received allowed him to compete against other candidates who came from Harvard, Oxford, Cambridge and UCLA when it came to landing a prestigious job. Today, Naysan is a successful trader in the prestigious Goldman Sachs Asia Ltd.

"There was plenty of exposure to a wide array of subjects and practical training and applications," said the high-flyer, recalling several competitions that he took part in and won during his studies. For him, studying in UTAR was a great learning experience.

Naysan, who always wanted to try his hand in the world of commerce and finance, said that one must find the perfect balance between confidence and humility. To his juniors, he advises, "Be confident in yourself, your capabilities and the education in UTAR. Be humble and most importantly never forget your roots, because it can be for you to fall just as you have risen."





## **Dr Wilson Woon Thean Nung**

**Bachelor of Computer Science (Hons), 2005**

Post-doctoral fellow  
City University of Hong Kong

### **Epitome of a scholar**

UTAR alumnus Dr Wilson Woon Thean Nung graduated from UTAR with a Computer Science degree in 2005. He then completed his Master's degree in the same field and returned to UTAR as a lecturer for a year, before he was awarded a research postgraduate studentship funded by the Hong Kong Government to study at the University of Hong Kong, where he received his PhD. He is now a post-doctoral fellow at the City University of Hong Kong, where he conducts research on contemporary politics in Malaysia and comparative politics in South East Asia.

"I am highly indebted to my academic advisors and career mentors at UTAR for my educational success," said Dr Woon, thanking his alma mater.

On UTAR's 10th anniversary, he expressed his hope that besides providing quality education, UTAR would become a world-class research university so that his alma mater could play a bigger role in serving the nation to achieve Vision 2020. He added that UTAR, despite being a relatively young university, had come to the forefront from a humble beginning.

"I believe the University has a lot of potential to achieve great success, particularly in research and development," he said.



## **Yeoh Sy Chyi**

**Bachelor of Communication (Hons) Public Relations  
(First-Class Honours), 2006**

Business development manager  
Czech Republic

### **A success story in Czech Republic**

Yeoh Sy Chyi's parents believed that UTAR could offer quality education for her. The University was the best choice for her to obtain a Bachelor of Communication majoring in Public Relations and she made that choice which had changed her life.

She graduated with a first-class honours UTAR degree in 2005 before she pursued her postgraduate studies in Palacky University, Czech Republic and Jagiellonian University, Poland under a scholarship from the European Commission Erasmus Mundus programme. Yeoh graduated with a Master of Euroculture in 2008.

Yeoh is currently residing in Prague, Czech Republic where she is attached to ELC Group as account manager. The young lass attributes her success to the years she spent in UTAR going through stressful times and also the memorable moments. "My years in UTAR were truly fruitful ones as I had improved myself in many aspects, compliments to the well-designed syllabus, dedicated lecturers, consistent guidance, practical knowledge, professional exposures, and soft skills that UTAR equipped me with." And all she has to say to the younger Utarians is study hard, work hard and play hard.





## Emily Tan Yean Jia

**Bachelor of Communication (Hons) Journalism,  
(First Class Honours), 2005**

**Reporter  
Campaign Asia-Pacific  
Haymarket Media  
Hong Kong**

### True passion for journalism

Emily Tan is an example for what true passion can do in one's life. She joined UTAR Bachelor of Communications (Hons) Journalism programme as one of its first batch of students. After graduation from UTAR, she worked as a journalist with The Sun and The Edge in Malaysia. Today, Tan is a reporter with Haymarket Media in Hong Kong covering the Asia-Pacific region.

Her passion for journalism rewarded her with the Euroculture Consortium of Universities Erasmus Mundus Scholarship to pursue a Masters of Arts in Journalism and Media within Globalisation: The European Perspective with specialisation in Finance at three leading universities of the consortium: University of Aarhus in Denmark, University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands and City University London in the UK.

She attributes her success to her faculty dean during her time at UTAR and her lecturers for their support and letters of recommendation which helped win her win the Erasmus Mundus scholarship.



## Esther Teh Theng Yinn

**Bachelor of Communication (Hons) Public Relations,  
(First-Class Honours) 2006**

**Master of Business Administration, 2010**

**Project Manager  
CSR Asia**

### An account of growth

Joining UTAR in 2003 has afforded Teh the privilege to witness UTAR's exponential growth over the years. "It still amazes me to see how the once physically fragmented institution based in an industrial area morphed into the current campus amidst the lakes and hills in a piece of 1,300-acre land in Kampar, Perak," said Teh.

Teh, who was a student leader, developed traits such as teamwork and leadership skills through organising many student activities during her days in UTAR. Her association with her alma mater did not end there. She was nominated by UTAR to pursue a Master of International Communications Studies at the University of Nottingham, Ningbo, China under the Yang Fujia Scholarship. She returned from Ningbo and served as a lecturer at UTAR before she moved on to her present job as a project manager at CSR Asia. She also obtained her second Master's degree - Master of Business Administration - from UTAR in 2010.

"I wish for UTAR's triumphant continuity towards becoming a premier university. You have come a long way," said Teh in congratulating the 10th anniversary of UTAR.





## **Yeam Shin Sar**

**Bachelor of Commerce (Hons) Accounting,  
2006**

**Assistant Manager  
CIMB**

### *A priceless journey*

Yeam Shin Sar remembers her student days at UTAR where she was trained to engage her analytical skills, which proved to be very useful in her career later on. The former senior associate of Ernst & Young is now an assistant manager in CIMB Group.

Yeam still cherishes the many wonderful moments of campus life, such as her first experience living in the capital city with fellow course-mates who came from all parts of the country and her interesting learning episodes with lecturers and fellow students.

“The competent and committed lecturers and tutors made my journey in UTAR more meaningful and priceless,” said Yeam, adding that the lecturers were ever willing to assist students in every way. Describing the years she spent in UTAR as a valuable, eye-opening journey, she further said, “My course was full of challenge, and competition among the students was very tough but healthy at the same time. I learned how to work in a team during the group assignments.”



## **Shawn Tee Sau Wei**

**Bachelor of Business Administration (Hons),  
(First-Class Honours) 2006**

**Account Services Manager  
Citibank Malaysia**

### *Youngest manager twice*

Shawn Tee Sau Wei made history twice – the youngest manager ever in OCBC Bank and the youngest branch manager ever in EON Bank. He credits UTAR for his success for it was a consultancy conversation at the University that inspired him to venture into the competitive and stressful but rewarding industry. Today, Tee is an account services manager in Citibank.

“I must say it was UTAR who had shaped and made me who and where I am today,” proclaimed Tee, adding without UTAR, he would not be doing so well in such a competitive industry, especially after the sub-prime financial crisis in 2008. He said, “Out of all the universities available, I chose UTAR for its reputation, commitment in education, high quality and, of course, the [affordable] fees.”

Describing his life at UTAR as fun and fantastic, Tee said it was the best three years of his life, and a period that he would always cherish.





## Lai Kok Foun

**Bachelor of Computer Science (Hons),  
2005**

**Inspector  
Sipitang District Police Headquarter, Sabah**

### Succeeding in diverse fields

Lai Kok Foun is the proof that UTAR alumni can excel in diverse fields, even if it is not the field they studied in. Graduated in 2005 with a Bachelor of Computer Science, Lai decided to enter the public sector. He joined the Royal Malaysian Police Force and now he is an inspector at the police headquarter in Sipitang District, Sabah.

“UTAR was destined to be a reputable institution even in the early years of establishment, as it emphasises not only academic achievements but also holistic development,” said inspector Lai. He, who already had intention to join the public sector, added, “I felt reassuring when enrolling in UTAR because the courses are all recognised by the Government; and it ensures me that I could apply for a public sector job.”

Lai treasures every moment he spent in UTAR. They were worthwhile as the education he received not only provided him with valuable knowledge but also broadened his horizons. It has changed his perspectives and strengthened his self-confidence in facing the challenges in life, which are critical to his career as a police inspector.



## Aizaruddin Bin Idrus

**Bachelor of Communication (Hons) Public Relations,  
2006**

**Operations Executive  
Synergy Consultants Sdn Bhd**

**Ice Skating Instructor  
Sunway Pyramid Ice Academy**

### Transcending ethnic barriers

It was never an issue for Aizaruddin to pursue his Bachelor of Communication (Hons) Public Relations programme in UTAR. For him, there could not have been a more learning-conducive environment surrounded by his many friends, predominately Chinese, during his days in UTAR.

Aizaruddin, who entered UTAR with a mass communication diploma, said that he learned a lot quickly from his fellow course-mates who were very ‘study-focused’. He recalled that their determination to excel in studies to realise their dreams was much stronger than his. And this had influenced him to work harder.

The industrious Aizaruddin is working as an operations executive in Synergy Consultants Sdn Bhd, a franchise radio in Taman Tun Dr Ismail, and also an ice-skating instructor for the Sunway Pyramid Ice Academy in Sunway Pyramid Mall.

He is certain that UTAR will continue to play a vital role in producing more quality graduates and will embark on its second decade with more successes.





## **Freya Lim Khai Shin**

**Bachelor of Communication (Hons) Journalism,  
2006**

**Special Assistant to Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry**

### **Many more centennials for UTAR**

"I'm pleased to find out after my graduation that not only the tuition fees at UTAR are more affordable than others', but also its qualifications are well-recognised in the public sector," said Freya Lim Khai Shin, who is special assistant to agriculture and agro-based industry deputy minister Datuk Chua Tee Yong.

"Majoring in Bachelor of Journalism has always been my top priority and at first I chose UTAR because its fees are more affordable than others," Lim further said, adding that now she is more than pleased to know that all UTAR qualifications are recognised by the Public Service Department and widely accepted in the private sector.

Lim worked as a journalist for four years before she decided to change her profession to work in the Government. She hopes that her alma mater will go on to celebrate many centennials to come and become the top choice for Malaysian and foreign students.



## **Marcus Tan Chee Tiong**

**Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) in Electrical and Electronic  
Engineering, 2010**

**Design engineer  
Sony EMCS (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd**

**PhD scholarship student  
Bond University, Australia**

### **Straight from bachelor's to PhD**

The most defining moment as a scholar for UTAR alumnus Marcus Tan Chee Tiong was when this bachelor's degree holder received a Commonwealth Scholarship awarded by the Australian government to pursue a doctorate degree at Bond University, Australia commencing in January 2012 without the need to complete a master's degree first.

Tan attributes his success career in getting the postgraduate scholarship to his alma mater. His research area will be 'Marketing Strategies for Sustainable Development'. He also thanks UTAR for shaping him into a competent engineer who had performed well in his previous job as a design engineer in a Sony R&D centre.

"My course in UTAR was well structured to cover all knowledge needed by an electrical or electronic engineer in different perspectives," said Tan, adding that elective subjects enabled students to pursue knowledge in areas of their special interest. He said his university life in UTAR was challenging but enjoyable.





## **Chai Wei Sin**

**Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Chinese Studies,  
2005**

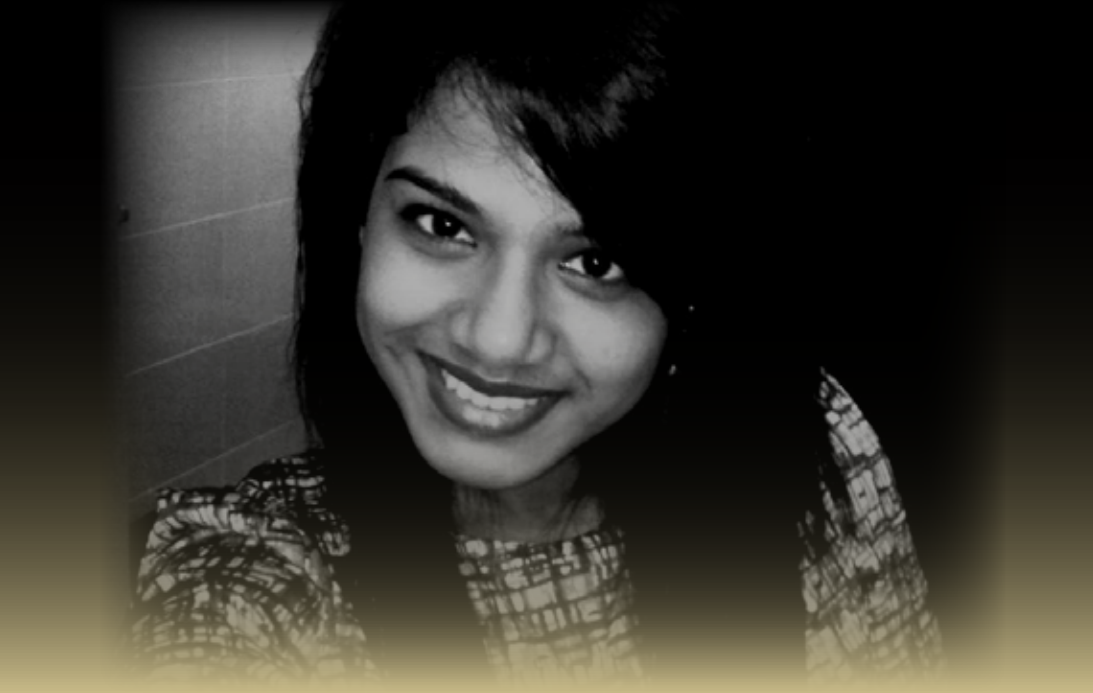
**Awarded International Graduate Students Scholarship to pursue Master in Chinese Literature at National Taiwan University, Taiwan.**

### **Advancing Chinese Studies in Taiwan**

UTAR alumna Chai Wei Sin made her alma mater and family proud when she was announced a recipient of the International Graduate Students Scholarship of National Taiwan University (NTU), a prestigious university in Taiwan.

"I found out I was accepted by NTU from their website in May 2007. I was overjoyed when I noticed I was also awarded the International Graduate Students Scholarship," said Chai, adding that she treated the award as a great accomplishment and was thankful for the education she received from UTAR.

In congratulating her alma mater for celebrating its 10th anniversary, Chai, a pioneer UTAR Chinese Studies graduate of 2005, said, "I am proud to be a Utarian and a part of the University's history; and I wish UTAR all the very best."



## **Marie-Elena Isaac**

**Bachelor of Social Science (Hons) Psychology,  
2010**

**Human Resource Consultant  
KPMG Business Advisory**

### **Proven: Utarians are readily employable**

"There was never a day that I could remember where there was unpleasantness among the students in my course," said UTAR alumna Marie-Elena Isaac, describing her campus life in UTAR. She added that although her classmates came from different backgrounds, the differences were never noticed in the classroom, and that made every class so memorable to her until today.

Apart from all the fun she had, Isaac also recalled her proudest moments in UTAR of being named in the President's list twice during her studies. The recognition had motivated her to go the extra mile to achieve her goals, and led her to realise that with determination everything would be possible.

"It has proven to me that what I heard many years back about how readily UTAR graduates are snapped up by huge companies after graduation is indeed very true," said Isaac from her experience as human resource consultant in KPMG Business Advisory.





## Luvin Vishnu Perumal

**Bachelor of Commerce (Hons) Accounting,  
2007**

**Team leader  
IBM-Maxis IT outsourcing partnership  
IBM Malaysia**

### UTAR is instrumental to my success

UTAR Accounting graduate Luvin Vishnu Perumal plays an important role in IBM Malaysia. He oversees the financials of the IBM-Maxis IT outsourcing partnership, and Maxis is IBM's biggest telco client in ASEAN.

Luvin was active in extracurricular activities and was a founding member and then president of a co-curricular society during his three-year studies in UTAR. He has been putting his first-hand experience in leadership and management into good use in his career.

"The well-designed degree programmes in UTAR groom students not only academically but also with soft skills which are essential in the working world, as it is evident that the programmes emphasise written examinations as well as assignments and presentations," said Luvin. He added, "My alma mater, UTAR, has been instrumental to my success in the corporate world, today."



## Toni (International Student - Indonesia)

**Bachelor of Information Technology (Hons) Communications  
and Networking, 2011**

**Research Assistant  
Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman**

### Staying back for postgrad

Toni, from Indonesia, came to UTAR and realised his dream of obtaining a quality higher education.

He enjoyed the best of both worlds when studying in UTAR. Toni experienced the happening city life when doing his foundation studies at Petaling Jaya Campus. He was captivated by the picturesque sceneries surrounding Perak Campus when he was transferred there to pursue the Bachelor of Information Technology (Hons) Communications and Networking programme.

Besides the peaceful campus environment, Toni also found the dedicated lecturers inspiring, the lessons they deliver interesting, and his many campus-mates pleasant to get along with. All this has made Toni his time spent in the University worthwhile and enjoyable, and he has decided to stay longer. He has taken on postgraduate studies in Computer Science and the research assistant job in Perak Campus.





## **Karen Kong**

**Bachelor of Commerce (Hons) Accounting,  
2007**

**Singer and Actress**

*Star shines brightly*

Karen Kong is a star from UTAR that shines brightly beyond the local entertainment scene. For she has already successfully released four song albums within four years – three 'Mulakan', 'Showtime', and 'Showtime Vol.2' in Malaysia and 'I'm Karen' in Taiwan. And now the ambitious Kong is preparing her fifth album to make her presence in Hong Kong. The talented lass has also made her debut movie appearance in the recent 'Nasi Lemak 2.0'.

Singing means the world to Kong. She actually started her singing career during her varsity days, after her producer discovered her at UTAR Talent Night 2005. She also performed the prize-winning song composed by her fellow UTAR student at a national university patriotic song competition. Since then there was no turning back for Kong. Although she juggled between her studies and singing career, her grades remained good. She thanks to her coursemates and lecturers who were very supportive and helpful. The young star has never missed to enjoy every single moment of her years in UTAR.

"Chase your dream, be passionate, and have fun." is what this proud Utarian has to say to her juniors.



## **See Kai Xin**

**Bachelor of Business Administration (Hons),  
(First-Class Honours), 2007**

**Entrepreneur/Photographer  
'TOFU CAFE, BEDS & BIKES'**

**A flash packer's hostel, cafe & art gallery**

*Entrepreneur-cum-photographer*

UTAR alumna See Kai Xin strongly believes that one must have true passion in what one does, and setting clear goals is most important for one to achieve success.

To pursue her ambition to be a successful entrepreneur, See gave up her Intel job and ventured into wedding and commercial photography business. She has no regrets in making the decision as she is as passionate in photography as in entrepreneurship. She was a prize-winner of the Asia Photography Award by Asia Magazine and 'Building People' photography competition by National Geographic.

With the support from her parents, See is preparing to open Tofu Café, Beds & Bikes, a one-of-a-kind hostel for chic camera-carrying backpackers in Penang, where she will also showcase her photographic works. "Venturing into this new business makes me realise how important skills such as financial planning, budgeting, purchasing, accounting, marketing and branding, and operational management are to a business; and I am glad that I have learnt all this in UTAR," said See, who also thanked her alma mater for the opportunity to organise the very first 'UTAR Star Search' back in 2006.



## **Andrew Sureshkumar**

**Bachelor of Information Technology (Hons) Computer Engineering, 2009**

**Technical Support Analyst  
Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC)**

### **Best Analyst of 2011**

Andrew Suresh kumar graduated from UTAR not only with a Bachelor's degree but also a certificate in soft skills competency with distinction. He was the only person from his faculty to have accomplished such a feat.

"UTAR has given me a unique holistic learning experience in an environment conducive for learning," said Andrew, adding that his alma mater is a university that emphasises both academic and personal development of students.

Andrew has put the knowledge and skills he acquired from UTAR into good use. He was awarded the Best Analyst of 2011 by US IT leader Computer Sciences Corporation, where he works as a technical support analyst. His team achieved the highest first call resolution (FCR) score, customer satisfaction (CSat) score and service-level agreement (SLA) target.

Success in career has enabled Andrew to pursue his passion for travelling, visiting interesting places, meeting new people and experiencing new perspectives. The young UTAR alumnus has already visited 12 countries around the world.



## **Tuttie Irdawati**

**Bachelor Of Marketing (Hons),  
2009**

**Executive producer  
Marcus Evans**

### **A meaningful learning experience**

Tuttie Irdawati found her experience in UTAR totally beyond her expectation.

Today, Tuttie is grateful to her alma mater for the meaningful learning experience because she said, "Most of UTAR lecturers works in the fields of their expertise, carrying with them both practical and theoretical knowledge that makes every lecture a complete package to the students."

For her, the greatest advantage of UTAR was the undivided attention of the very resourceful lecturers that the students got during teaching and learning sessions. Her years in UTAR were very constructive. Every semester provided her with a different learning experience that had contributed to her personal and professional growth

"My years in UTAR were definitely worthwhile for me and it is a great honour for me to be a part of one of the best universities in Malaysia," said Tuttie.





## Dr Yeap Kim Ho

PhD in Engineering,  
2011

Assistant Professor  
Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman

First Engineering doctorate of UTAR

Dr Yeap Kim Ho became the first to be conferred a Doctor of Philosophy in Engineering by UTAR when Prime Minister Dato' Sri Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak presented him the scroll in the University's convocation in September 2011.

Coming from a modest family, Dr Yeap, who always wanted to be a lecturer, achieved his ambition through determination and willpower. After receiving his Master's degree, he joined UTAR as a lecturer. He commenced his doctorate studies in UTAR in 2007. He was fortunate to have the privilege to pursue his research in the renowned University of Oxford with a UTAR scholarship while his lodging was borne by the University of Oxford.

"The route to success is never an easy one. It was truly a real blessing that what I learned all these years has enabled me to finally reap the fruit of success," said Dr Yeap, adding that attaining a PhD was not the end but the beginning of a whole new world of challenges.



## Law Geok Kian

Bachelor in Science (Hons) Construction Management,  
2011

Site Engineer  
Gamuda Johor Venture Sdn Bhd

UTAR nurtures leaders

"The holistic education provided by UTAR makes me not only a competent site engineer, but also a responsible leader who can contribute to the society," said UTAR alumnus Law Geok Kian.

Describing his engineering profession as challenging, Law said UTAR lecturers, who were experienced experts in their fields, had prepared him well to face the challenges. He added that they constantly updated themselves with the latest developments in the industry and disseminated their knowledge to students through well-prepared lectures.

Law acquired his leadership skills through actively participating in soft skills training and extracurricular activities organised by the University. He had put his leadership skills into good use even in the varsity days. In 2010, as the team leader, Law led his team to win the Merit Prize in the ASEAN ESTI AAET Design Competition and Grand Prize in UTAR Green House Model Design Competition.



**Chua Lee Woon, Chua Lee Yin, Cheah Yong Chuan, Ng Kean Wai, Lee Jin Nie, Lok Ee Wen, Siew May Wen, Lim Sheirly**

**Bachelor of Commerce (Hons) Accounting,  
2011**

*Chua Jui Teng*

**Bachelor of Business Administration (Hons) Entrepreneurship,  
2008**

**Entrepreneurs  
Riotous Hostel & Laksa Cafe**

### 'Riotous' entrepreneurs

Their three years of 'riotous' (vigorously joyous) campus life in UTAR has inspired these nine alumni to be entrepreneurs. Pooling their resources together, they started their first business venture Riotous Hostel which trades second-hand items such as furniture, stationery, garments, bags and everything else needed by university students.

The nine enterprising graduates did not rest on their laurels. When they heard news of a nearby shop was on sales, they bought it and turned it into Laksa Café. Just as the café has bloomed into a concept restaurant offering a variety of mouth-watering delicacies, the entrepreneurs, with strong support from their families, have moved on to developing an online shopping mall project and expanding their business into wholesaling.

The 'riotous' entrepreneurs are very grateful to their alma mater as it was where they found each other as business partners and where they were inspired to be successful businesspersons.



## **Norfaezah Binte Muhammad Lip**

**Bachelor of Science (Hons) Construction Management,  
2007**

**Quantity Surveyor  
Gamuda Berhad**

### Let's pursue lifelong learning

Years ago, Norfaezah binte Muhammad Lip thought that a learning environment in a cultural setting different from her own would make her stronger and more independent. She was right and that is why she has never regretted in deciding to study in UTAR.

"The quality time I had with my friends in UTAR, doing assignments, sharing knowledge and having fun, I will cherish forever," said Norfaezah, recalling her good old days in her alma mater. She added that while she was enjoying life in varsity, she also grew stronger in character and became more competent technically.

"UTAR not only offers quality education but also pays attention to all aspects of student's development which prepares them better for the working life" she said, attributing her personal growth to her lecturers and the interesting approaches they used in teaching.

Norfaezah advises her juniors in UTAR to use their precious time in university to sharpen knowledge, improve skills and gain experience through classes and participating in extra-curricular activities, and pursue lifelong learning after graduation.





## **Awang Aizzuddin Sulong bin Awang Sabli**

**Bachelor of Information Technology (Hons) Computer Engineering, 2008**

**Information Technology Officer  
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS)**

### **Path less travelled**

Awang Aizzuddin has trodden the path less travelled for his education since he was young. At a tender age, he attended a Chinese kindergarten and later a Chinese primary school for six years. He even received his secondary education at a private independent Chinese secondary school. As a result, this young man speaks fluent Mandarin, English and Bahasa Malaysia.

When it comes to tertiary education, Awang rejected all other offers including one from a foreign university to join UTAR in May 2005 and enrolled in the Computer Engineering programme. Being a cross-cultural person, neither cultural background nor language was a barrier for him to be active in various campus activities. He was appointed course representative for all three years of study. He was an active member and had served as secretary and treasurer in the Student Representative Committee.

"My three years at UTAR was fruitful to me and filled me with unforgettable memories. I am applying all the positive things that I learned in UTAR in my job and it has enhanced my personal and career life," said Awang.



## **Kow Kwan Yee**

**Bachelor of Communication (Hons) Journalism, 2011**

**Journalist  
Star Publications (M) Bhd**

### **Accomplished Journalist**

Kow already had a number of feathers in her cap even before she joined The Star newspaper, covering crime news and court hearings.

Kow was awarded a scholarship from UTAR to study the Foundation in Arts programme. She later became the first chairperson of the UTAR Buddhist Society. She was selected from a dozen applicants to be the sole student Malaysia representative at a month-long international young journalist exchange programme fully sponsored by the Finnish Foreign Affairs Ministry. Kow was invited to speak on 'Malaysian Media System: A Comparative Study' in the Brown Bag Session held by her faculty on 26 October 2010. In her final year, Kow and her team established an independent online news portal called J-On, where she was the first chief editor. The portal elicited much response from the UTAR community.

"As a Utarian, I am very proud to be a part of the University, and I wish all the very best to UTAR" Kow said.



## Chang Kok Yung

**Bachelor of Science (Hons) Construction Management,  
2010**

**Tutor, Department of Construction Management  
Faculty of Engineering and Green Technology, UTAR**

### First a student, now a tutor

Chang Kok Yung entered UTAR with the intention to leave it after getting a quality education for him to land a secured job. Little did he know that his attachment to the University would last beyond that.

Chang is now a tutor in the Department of Construction Management, Faculty of Engineering and Green Technology in UTAR. It was the department he once studied in. He now looks at the University from an employee's perspective, though his memories of his student days are still fresh in his mind.

"Apart from attending classes, as a student, I obtained industry exposure through internships and site visits to enhance what we could not get from lectures. The University has been providing us with the latest practical and theoretical knowledge that is essential in both the industry and academic field," said Chang who is pursuing a Master's degree.

"Manage and utilise your time wisely and work hard for your future, while you enjoy your campus life as much as possible," Chang advises his juniors in UTAR.



## Nur Afni binte Halil

**Bachelor of Communication (Hons) Public Relations,  
2008**

**Marketing & Events Executive  
Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia**

### A solid foundation

"I decided to study in UTAR because of its cultural diversity, quality and recognition, industry-relevant courses, holistic learning experience, better employability, adequate facilities, and philosophy of lifelong learning; I made the right choice," said Nur Afni binte Halil, about her decision to enrol in the Public Relations programme in UTAR six years ago.

"The programme turned out to be extremely relevant to my current job. I feel glad that I have a good foundation for my career development and fortunate to be working in a field related to my area of study," she said, adding that her varsity days were an enjoyable period in her life, with good friends and knowledgeable lecturers who had made learning interesting.

"It gives me great pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations to UTAR on its 10th anniversary. I have no doubt that UTAR will continue to play an important role in providing world-class education in the coming years," Afni wished her alma mater.





## **Sandy Christian (International Student - Indonesia)**

**Bachelor of Information Technology (Hons) Communications and Networking, 2011**

**IT Operations Analyst  
Computer Science Corporation**

### **Getting much more from UTAR**

Dedication, motivation, endurance, and gratefulness are some of the values Sandy Christian has acquired from UTAR

Sandy, from Jakarta, Indonesia, said he chose to study in UTAR to experience studying overseas and the unique Malaysian multicultural lifestyle. Later, he discovered that he got more than what he wanted from UTAR.

"I enjoyed the cultural diversity in UTAR very much, through which I learned many languages and about the different cultures from friends around me. UTAR has offered me a good education through its comprehensive curriculum, qualified lecturers, adequate facilities and an environment conducive for learning," said Sandy, adding that he actively took part in extra-curricular activities including basketball game and won in several competitions.

"I also represented UTAR in the UC-MoHE Future Leaders Camp 2009, where many university student leaders and delegates from all over Malaysia gathered in Nilai for three days. It was definitely a memorable moment I always value," he said.



## **Low Chan Phan**

**Bachelor of Computer Science (Hons),  
2005**

**Product Management Specialist  
Alaric International**

### **Computing ace from UTAR**

When it comes to computer wizardry, UTAR Computer Science graduate Low Chan Phan is truly a top-gun.

In his first job interview, Low beat other candidates and emerged as the top scorer in a Java examination. He then commenced his career as an Oracle Java instructor to industrial developers. As he progressed on, he became certified instructor several levels of Oracle Java courses. In 2008, Low was voted as the best instructor of the year by Sun Microsystems Asia Pacific.

Today, Low is a product management specialist who manages a team of software developers. He frequently makes on-site visits to clients' offices and assists the sales team in presenting products to prospective clients in the Asia-Pacific region, Australia and the UK. Low wishes his alma mater a happy 10th anniversary and that it will continue to produce great achievers for the years to come.