UTAR Hospital receives RM100,000

Wantita MCA and the Malaysian Chinese Women Entrepreneurs’ Association made a donation of RM100,000 on 9 April 2018 for the development of UTAR Hospital. This donation was made at UTAR Kampar Campus during the 26th UTAR Convocation.

The mock cheque was presented to UTAR President Ir Prof Academician Dato’ Dr Chuah Hearn Teik and UTAR Council Member Hew Fen Yee by Wantita MCA Chief Datuk Heng Seal Kie. It was witnessed by UTAR Chancellor Tun Dr Ling Long Sik, UTAR Council Chairman Tan Sri Dato’ Seri Dr Ting Chew Peh and UTAR Council Member Dato’ Seri Ong Ka Chuan. Also present at the ceremony was Datuk Paduka Tan Sook Choo who was the Guest of Honour for the convocation.

Datuk Heng said, “We hope this hospital will bring many benefit to the people in Kampar. We hope this small donation will inspire more people to contribute towards the establishment of the hospital.”

Prof Chuah said, “The hospital is expected to be operational by the end of 2021. It will be a unique hospital offering medical services in both Western Medicine and Traditional and Complementary Medicine including Chinese and Ayurvedic medicine.”

With a total of 250 beds for conventional medicine and another 100 beds for Traditional Chinese Medicine and Ayurvedic Medicine, the hospital will also provide clinical training for UTAR’s Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, and TCM students.

Visit and MoU signing

UTAR Planning and Development Committee Advisor Tan Sri Hew See Tong along with UTAR Vice President Prof Ir Dr Ewe Hong Tat and Associate Prof Dr Chong Siou Wei visited Meizhou, Guangdong, China from 25 to 29 March 2018.

On 26 March 2018, UTAR signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Jiaying University (JYU), located in Meizhou. Topics discussed included mutual collaborations on academic staff and student exchange, research activities, credits recognition, research and inheritance of Hakka culture and postgraduate studies. Also present at the MoU signing ceremony were JYU Secretary Qiu Xiaohong, Chancellor Qiu Guofeng, and Vice Chancellors Xue Fangcun, Luo Jiawen, Yuan Duoo and Zhang Lixia.

The UTAR delegates were accompanied by Chairman of Mezhou Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese Tang Zhiping, Vice Chairman Zhang Yinghong, and Secretary General and Office Director Cai Yuwen during the visit in Mezhou, China.

UTAR and TJU renew ties

UTAR and Tianjin University (TJU) renewed their memorandum of understanding (MoU) at Sunagai Long Campus on 28 March 2018. Present on behalf of TJU were Dean for School of International Education Prof Chen Zhilhua, Assistant Dean for School of Civil Engineering Prof Qihong Zhao and lecturer for School of Science Dr Shanshan Cheng.

UTAR was represented by its Vice President Prof Ir Dr Lee Sze Wei, Division of Community and International Networking Deputy Director Assoc Prof Dr Lai Soon Onn, Lee Kong Chian Faculty of Engineering and Science’s Student Development and Industrial Training Deputy Dean Dr Lim Jee Hook, Centre for Extension Education Assistant Manager Mohanaselvi Panicker.

The renewal of this MoU will facilitate the exchange of scholarship plans, faculty and student exchange programme, cultural and artistic activities and collaborations on joint academic research and seminars.

UTAR iCGPA and Blockchain Certification System

UTAR is now ranked #99 in the Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings 2018, up from #111-120 in the 2017 Rankings. Subsequently, on 7 February 2018, the Times Higher Education (THE) ranked UTAR #501-600 in its Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2018 top 1000 list. UTAR is also top 500 in both the broad subject areas of Engineering and Technology, and Social Sciences and Management by the QS World University Rankings 2018.

UTAR’s placing in the rankings reflected the immense efforts and strategies put in place by the University since its inception in 2002. The Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings 2018 and The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2018 are based on 13 separate performance indicators in the areas of teaching, research, paper citation, knowledge transfer, industry income and international outlook.

With the support from Silverlake, UTAR launched the Key Generation of UTAR integrated Cumulative Grade Point Average (iCGPA) and Blockchain Certification System. It was held at Sungai Long Campus on 9 February 2018.

Present at the launching ceremony were Deputy Minister of Higher Education Datuk Dr Mary Yap Kian Ching; Silverlake Founder and Group Chairman Goh Peng Ooi; UTAR Council member Datuk (Dr) Oh Chong Peng; UTAR President Ir Prof Academician Dato’ Chuah Hearn Teik; UTAR Vice President Prof Ir Dr Lee Sze Wei; Silverlake Symmetry and Technology Research Sdn Bhd Managing Director Chee Hin Kooi; UTAR Registrar Yim Lin Heng; and Department of Examination, Awards and Scholarships Director Nik Zaluz bin Nik Salleh.

In view of the Industrial Revolution 4.0, UTAR aims to be a smart university that has implemented the Blockchain technology. Being the first university in Asia to launch this certification system, UTAR graduates are issued with an actual and a digital certificate which is secured.

Datuk Yap urged everyone to continue to design and deliver interventions that will strengthen Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics skills, employability skills and global citizenship skills.

Prof Chuah believes this technology will enable students to have a clearer overview of their personal strengths and weaknesses and prospective employers can identify future employees based on skills and other holistic measurements.

According to Goh, Blockchain is like an impenetrable container that cannot be manipulated or altered. It has enabled them to make a repeated profit by solving problems in an efficient, meaningful and purposive way.
MoU with CMU

UTAR and China Medical University (CMU) officially inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on 20 March 2018 at Sungai Long Campus. The MoU was signed in the presence of the Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department Datuk Seri Wee Ka Siong. Signing on behalf of UTAR was its President Ir Prof Academician Dato’ Dr Chua Hean Teik, while CMU was represented by its Vice President Prof K. S. Clifford Chao witnessed by Office of Global Affairs Dean Prof Liang-Yo Yang. Also present at the event were College of Chinese Medicine Dean Dr Hen-Hong Chang, Graduate Institute of Acupuncture Science Assoc Prof Yi-Hung Chen, Recruitment Consultant Prof Dr Teoh Boon Khan, students and staff. Datuk Seri Wee hoped that the signing of the MoU will further strengthen the partnership and academic exchange between the two universities so that students can enhance their knowledge as well as broaden their worldview.

Prof Chua said, “International collaboration is very important for students to have exposure not only in the Southeast Asia and Malaysia but also in other parts of the world. This MoU is vital to facilitate academic development and exchanges between the two universities.”

Prof Chao said, “CMU has 60 years of history with a total of 14 hospitals and about five thousand beds. We can also work together in the aspect of hospital establishment besides collaborating in Traditional Chinese Medicine.”

MoU with Hokuriku University

UTAR and Hokuriku University officially signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) at Sungai Long Campus on 20 January 2018. Signing on behalf of the parties were UTAR President Ir Prof Academician Dato’ Dr Chua Hean Teik and Hokuriku University President-cum-Board of Trustees Chairman Prof Ogura Tuotomo. Also present at the ceremony were Hokuriku University Executive Managing Director Zhou Hang, International Exchange Centre Deputy Manager Justin Tobias, UTAR Vice President Prof Ir Dr Ewe Hong Tat, Institute of Management and Leadership Development Director-cum-Division of Community and International Networking Director Prof Dr Cheng Ming Yu, Lee Kong Chian Faculty of Engineering and Science’s Student Development and Industrial Training Deputy Dean Assoc Prof Dr Lai Soon Onn, Department of Laboratory Management and Safety Administration Head Dr Lim Jee Hock, Institute of Chinese Studies R&D and Postgraduate Programmes Deputy Dean Assoc Prof Dr Tee Boon Chuan, Faculty of Accountancy and Management’s Academic Development and Undergraduate Programmes Deputy Dean Dr Hen Kai Wah, Faculty of Creative Industries R&D and Postgraduate Programmes Deputy Dean Dr Loo Hong Chuang, and Centre for Extension Education Director Lim Guat Yen.

Prof Chua expressed his wishes to foster and deepen both sides’ collaboration through an agreement in various areas such as student and teacher exchange, implementation of joint research and research conferences. Prof Tsutomu expressed his pleasure in forging a strong and comprehensive partnership with UTAR. He pointed out the possibilities of collaborations between the two universities and look forward to the programme that could benefit both sides’ students.

UTAR and the Board of Quantity Surveyors Malaysia (BQSM) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) at Sri Pacific Hotel, Kuala Lumpur on 28 February 2018. Signing on behalf of the parties were Lee Kong Chian Faculty of Engineering and Science Dean Prof Ir Dr Goi Bok Min and BQSM President Dato’ Sr Aziz Abdullah. The signing was witnessed by Head of Surveying Department Assoc Prof Dr Chia Fai Choy and BQSM Registrar Sr Roziyah binti Ismail. Present at the signing ceremony were BQSM Secretary Sr Jamisah binti Ibrahim, Board of Engineers Malaysia Representative Ir Ishak bin Abdul Rahman, board members of BQSM and the recipients of Best Dissertation Award and BQSM Professional Certificate.

The MoU aimed to assist final year Quantity Surveying students to be registered in BQSM as early as their graduation date. The assist will consist of registration procedures, required documents and requirements for renewing the registration for the first year. Previously, only public universities, namely Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi Mara, Universiti Malaya and Universiti Sains Malaysia have signed such MoU with BQSM. UTAR follows as one of the first private universities to sign this MoU with BQSM.

Datuk Aziz shared the total number of registered quantity surveyors in Malaysia, which is 3,721 altogether and urged more to come forward to register. Prof Goi explained that this MoU will assist graduates to register. Surveying students for their pre-registration before BQSM comes to verify and register the students. The event also saw an award presentation ceremony for the Best Dissertation Award and BQSM Professional Certificates.

TCM Fiesta

The Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) Society of Sungai Long Campus organised the TCM Fiesta from 14 to 16 March 2018 at its Campus. The event aimed to empower the general public and students’ healthcare choices by promoting awareness and practical application of TCM diagnostic and therapeutic approaches, besides providing them with an educational platform.

Themed “The Roving Practitioner (懐中華醫)”, the event offered a wide range of educational activities, including mini-games with TCM elements, academic exhibition, CPR demonstration, probiotic talk, health test and medical consultations such as acupuncture, Tui-Na and internal medicine of TCM. The ceremony also saw a series of performances by the students such as live band, singing, and Gongseng performance.

Present at the opening ceremony were UTAR President Ir Prof Academician Dato’ Dr Chua Hean Teik, Centre for Research in Traditional Chinese Medicine Chairperson-cum-Department of Chinese Medicine Head Dr Te Kian Keong, Traditional and Complementary Division of the Ministry of Health’s (MoH) Policy and Development Section Principle Assistant Director Dr Chai Kho Meow, lecturers, students and staff.

Prof Chuah explained that TCM is a compilation of rich characteristics and the ingenious treatment of Chinese medicine through this event.

MoU with BQSM

From left: Dato’ Aziz and Prof Goi at the signing ceremony.

From left: Prof Cheong, Prof Chuah, Datuk Seri Wee, Prof Chao and Prof Yang.

From left: Dr Lim, Lim, Dr Lai, Justin Tobias, Zhou, Prof Tsutomu, Prof Chuah, Prof Ewe, Prof Cheng, Dr Tse, Dr Hen and Dr Loo.
Pursuant to the “Belt and Road” China-Malaysia Economic and Trade Exchange Day, a discussion meeting, called “Belt and Road” China-Malaysia Culture, Education and Study Tour Programme and a cultural performance titled “The Secret Recipe (九二五料理)” were held in Kampar Long Campus on 2 March 2018. Matters regarding cooperative education, partner universities, study tour, cultural exchange, traditional herbs and Traditional Chinese Medicine were discussed during the meeting.

Present at the meeting were C-Corporation Chairman Regina Deng Oidun, Culture Department of Liaoning Province Deputy Director Niu Zhonglin, Liaoning People’s Art Theatre Dean Tong Chunchuang, Liaoning People’s Art Theatre of Affiliated Art School Principal Hou Guodong, Kumwu Judging Investment Holdings Co Ltd Chief Executive Officer Ma Hong and members of Liaoning People’s Art Theatre. The visitors were welcomed by Dato’ Albert Chang Chun Chew representing Perak State Executive Council Member Dato’ Dr Mah Hang Soon, UTAR President Ir Prof Dr. Mah Hang Soon, UTAR President Ir Prof Dr Teng Choon Chee, UTAR Vice President Prof Dr Choong Chee Kiong, Institute of Chinese Studies Head of Chinese Studies Department Toh Choon Chuan, New Kopisan New Village Chief Chen Kong Hoy and Officer of Kampar’s New Village Development Tai Mun Hong.

The Faculty of Accountancy and Management and the Centre for Sustainable Development and Corporate Social Responsibility in Business organised Risks and Operations Management Seminar on 5 February 2018 at Sungai Long Campus. The seminar aimed to highlight how youth and young working adults can plan their first retirement, justify it by scientific evidence, technology and to build capacity to engage in decision making based on sustainable development from the perspectives of social, economic and environmental in the hopes to see a better, liveable planet for the future generations.

The invited keynote speaker was Private Pension Administrator (PPA) Malaysia Chief Executive Officer Hussaini Hussin. During his talk, he addressed some issues regarding the challenges of saving for retirement, the shocking reality of millennia’s spending habits and several concerns about retirement to the audience.

He mentioned, under TN50 Private Retirement Scheme (PRS) Youth Incentive, those who are between the age of 20 and 30 will be given RM1,000 incentive by the Government with a minimum contribution of RM1,000 in any PRS fund. The incentive is only available until 31 December 2018. He also gave a clear explanation on the overview, structure and value propositions of PRS, and provided a brief introduction to the types and features of PRS funds offered by the PRS providers, ranging from growth, moderate and conservative.

The event also assembled six PRS providers registered with PPA under one roof to raise the awareness and understanding of retirement planning. The participated companies included Affin Hwang Asset Management Berhad, CIMB-Principal Asset Management Berhad, Public Mutual Berhad, Kenanga Investors Berhad, AIA Pension and Asset Management Sdn Bhd and AmFunds Management Berhad. A total contribution of RM8,000 was given out to the participants by the companies through PRS for youth@Campus draws, where the lucky participants received complimentary PRS units to open or top up their PRS account.

The Master of Engineering (MEng) in Electronic Systems Programme was launched on 29 January 2018 at the Sungai Long Campus. The programme is the brainchild of USAINS Holding Sdn Bhd and American Malaysian Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) in collaboration with UTAR and it is supported by Human Resource Development Fund (HRDF). With this, eligible working engineers will receive full sponsorship from the HRDF (INBASE Postgrad MSc Programme) to pursue MEng in Electronic Systems in UTAR.

The initiative aimed to provide educational opportunities for working engineers who wish to elevate their skills and expand their width of knowledge to become more qualified professionals and move up to the Electronics and Electrical value chain. Present at the launch were UTAR Vice President Prof Ir Dr Lee Sze Wei, UTAR Faculty of Engineering and Science (LKC FES) Dean Prof Dr Gok Bok Min, LKC FES Student Development and Industrial Training Deputy Dean Assoc Prof Dr Lai Soon Onn, LKC FES Deputy Dean for R&D and Postgraduate Programmes Assoc Prof Dr Yong Thian Chok, LKC FES Head of Master of Electronic Engineering (Electronic Systems) Programme Dr Shen Ying Yang, LKC FES Head of Electrical and Electronic Engineering Department Assoc Prof Dr Chang Yong Choon, USAINS Holding Sdn Bhd Group Senior Manager, Human Capital Development Calvin Chan Yee Yuen, USAINS Group Senior Officer, Human Capital Development Lim Wei Sin, and members of USAINS Holdings for its effort and close collaboration that made the PRS for youth@Campus draws possible.

The seminar aimed to discuss various sustainable issues on risks and operations management in the business environment. The invited keynote speaker was Private Pension Administrator (PPA) Malaysia Chief Executive Officer Hussaini Hussin. During his talk, he addressed some issues regarding the challenges of saving for retirement, the shocking reality of millennia’s spending habits and several concerns about retirement to the audience. He addressed some issues regarding the challenges of saving for retirement, the shocking reality of millennia’s spending habits and several concerns about retirement to the audience.

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Kampar Science Fiesta

The Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences Department of Nursing organised an educational visit for the Busan Women’s College (Korea) in Nursing to UTAR from 8 to 11 January 2018. The programme aimed to explore and experience nursing education and culture at UTAR. The visit enabled the students to learn a new culture, experience a different learning environment and make new friends. It also aided in enhancing personal and social competency as well as refining self-awareness with intercultural understanding.

UTAR also embarked on a collaborative journey with the Busan Women’s College (Korea) by signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU). Both parties hoped that the MoU can promote future collaboration in the context of nursing practice which includes the aspects of research and development activities, sharing of ideas and facilities, enhancing research and curriculum development, providing industrial attachments for students and staff as well as holding seminars, conferences and workshops that are relevant to the industry.

There were many educational activities lined up to assist the students in learning the social and cultural differences, also the education systems while developing an international point of view. The students were introduced to the UTAR Bachelor of Nursing curriculum, nursing clinical practice using simulated patients and reflexive nursing practice. They also went on a tour to Hospital Kuala Lumpur, Tung Shin Hospital and Sunway Medical Centre.

Visit by Busan Women’s College

UTAR welcomed visitors from China-Malaysia Guangzhou Industrial Park (CMQIP) at Sungai Long Campus on 1 March 2018 to discuss potential collaborations. Present were Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Department of Commerce and Port Office Deputy Director General Tan Xinlu; UTAR President Ir Prof Dr Lai Soon Onn; Vice Presidents Prof Ir Dr Lee Sze Wei, Prof Ewe Zhu, Prof Cheng, Dr Lai and Gao.

One of the highlights of the programme was the cultural activities which provided the students with a platform to interact with each other and learn about other cultures and customs. The students performed some dance routines, sang national songs, presented a cultural fashion show and conducted role-play on dealing with patients from multicultural backgrounds.

UTAR Kampar Campus’ Centre for Foundation Studies (CFS) organised the Kampar Science Fiesta (KSF) 2018 at Heritage Hall Building on 27 March 2018. The inaugural fiesta aimed to enhance the awareness of the public on the practical application and utility of STEM while engaging students’ interest in STEM-related fields of studies.

The event was graced and launched by Prof Chuah Hean Teik, owner of Klinik Maanoj Dr Manoj Loganathen, Klinik Dr Veerappan Ramalingam and Klinik Maanoj Dr Manoj Loganathen, UPSR Kampar. The fiesta aimed to help Malaysia to advance further in STEM fields and continue the efforts of past scientists for the benefit of many.

The opening ceremony saw Prof Chuah alongside Tong Kiat, Lee Siew and Phang cutting the ribbon to officially launch KSF 2018. It was followed by a prize-giving ceremony to award winners of the Science Comic Competition, Dream Gadget Drawing and Colouring Competition.

The fair saw varied STEM booth activities, competitions and a STEM Exhibition which provided an opportunity for CFS Foundation in Science students to present their research ideas and analysis via poster presentations. Also enriching KSF 2018 was a series of talks by industry experts and academics aimed to deepen the audience’s ideas and analysis via poster presentations. Also enriching KSF 2018 was a series of talks by industry experts and academics aimed to deepen the audience’s understanding. The opening ceremony saw Prof Chuah alongside Tong Kiat, Lee Siew and Phang cutting the ribbon to officially launch the event.

CFS celebrates language diversity

UTAR Kampar Campus’ Centre for Foundation Studies (CFS) organised a Language Week themed ‘Celebrating Language Diversity’ from 26 February to 2 March 2018. The event was graced and launched by UTAR Vice President Prof Dr Choong Chee Keong. The event aimed to promote the importance of linguistic diversity and multilingualism among UTAR students.

The guests and organising committee at the opening ceremony

UTAR staff and students. Prof Choong believes that the event is a great platform to promote the importance of mother languages as well as the world dominating language, English. Gangadurai hopes this event could create awareness among the students to speak and value the importance of mother languages.

The event saw students reciting poetry in seven different languages, namely English, Malay, Chinese, Tamil, Japanese, French and German. The week was also filled with various exciting language activities such as language booths and games, speakers’ corner, movie screenings and talks. All activities focused on areas related to the beauty of mother languages, ways to cultivate interest in mother languages and the importance of languages for students’ self-development.

The closing ceremony was held on 2 March 2018 at the Kampar Campus. Tan lauded the hard work and effort placed by the CFS lecturers in organising a significant event like this for UTAR staff and students. The closing ceremony ended with a prize-giving ceremony for the winners and participants who had participated in the speakers’ corner activity.

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UTAR celebrated 26th Convocation

UTAR welcomed a total of 2,914 new graduates into the family of UTAR alumni at the UTAR’s 26th Convocation ceremony, which was held from 9 to 11 March 2018 at the Dewan Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik of Kampar Campus. It was a celebration of the graduands’ perseverance, determination and their dedication to the ideals of UTAR.

A total of 2,914 (Session 1 – 736; Session 2 – 714; Session 3 – 638; Session 4 – 826) graduands from 88 programmes comprising 66 Bachelor (Hons) degree, 16 Master’s degree and six PhD programmes, received their convocation scrolls in four sessions held over the three-day period. Of the 2,914, 10 received their PhDs, 71 received their Master’s degree and 4 received their Hons Degree with Distinction, while the rest received their Bachelor Hons with Merit and Bachelor Hons degree.

The Session One and Two of the Convocation were declared open by the UTAR Council Chairman Tan Sri Dato’ Dr Ting Chew Peh; Session Three and Four were declared open by UTAR President Ir Prof Academician Dato’ Dr Chuan Hean Teik. Also present at the ceremony were UTAR Chancellor Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik and other UTAR Council and Board of Trustees members.

The Guests of Honour were Chairperson of United Malacca Berhad Datin Paduka Tan Sri Bok Choo for Session One, President and Managing Director of Infineon Technologies (Kulim) Sdn Bhd Ng Kock Tong for Session Two, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of UTAR Education Foundation Tan Sri Dato’ Dr Sak Cheng Lim for Session Three, and President of The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia and Secretary General of Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia and the Pacific (FEIAP) Ir Prof Dr Choo Kean Hou for Session Four. The scroll presenter for Session One was Minister of International Trade and Industry II of Malaysia and UTAR Council Member Dato’ Seri Ong Ka Chan; Session Two was UTAR Council Members Tan Sri Dato’ Seri Choo Hee Heung and Datuk Lim Si Chong; Session Three were UTAR Council Members Datuk Lee Leck Cheng and Datuk (Dr.) Oh Chong Peng; and Session Four were Tan Sri San and UTAR Council Member Hiew Fen Yee.

Tan Sri Chua in his speech advised the graduates, “Career paths are becoming more flexible and you need to change expectations of what a career will look like in the future. Employees of the future will need a broad range of skills and experience that can help them creatively adapt to technologically rich environments so that they can move between careers. Graduates of the future should become job creators rather than job seekers. The world needs new ideas, innovative solutions and visionary leaders who can make things happen. You need to pursue both economic and social values to create not only wealth but a wealth of opportunities for others.”

Datin Paduka Tan said, “Failure, success and the need to keep trying is the issue that I would like to talk about today. In a speech at Bard College, Paul Krugman, a Nobel Prize winner in economics, said the fight for equal rights for Black Americans isn’t a tale of good things happening by chance, but neither is it a tale of sudden, transforming revolution.” Instead, it’s a story about activists, political leaders and ordinary citizens painfully pushing giant stones up a slope, year after year, and not giving up when those stones slid back ways. Whatever your dreams are today, dream even bigger. Wherever you have set your sights, raise them even higher. And above all, keep going. Don’t do it because I asked you to. Do it for yourselves. Do it for truth and reason.”

Ng said, “I realised that there is no such thing as the ‘perfect job’ or the ‘perfect company’. Every job has its pros and cons, the only difference is you. You make the difference in a job; more specifically your attitude makes the difference. How you choose to approach a job determines whether it is perfect, or impossible. Needless to say, a positive attitude helps, but more importantly, a proactive attitude will take you to the next level. In today’s highly competitive world, being self-driven will give you the added advantage, the differentiator that will set you apart from the rest.”

Tan Sri San in his speech enthused, “In the World Economic Forum report, it is stated that future jobs will require ten key skills, namely complex problem-solving, critical thinking, creativity, people management, co-operating with others, emotional intelligence, judgement and decision-making, service orientation, negotiation and cognitive flexibility. These are all human qualities that machines will find hard to emulate and therefore, graduates like you should sharpen your skills in these areas to ensure that you are employable now and in the future. As you walk out after this ceremony, you will be making decisions on the next steps of your life. Regardless of what path you may choose, the country needs your input and contributions.”

In Tan’s speech, elucidated, “Many employers look for staff who are positive, mainly because their positive attitude can influence those around them and affect the atmosphere and mood of the work environment. Generally, positive staff are welcome at work because they are deemed to have better confidence and are willing to take on challenges and responsibilities with fewer complaints. Being positive is also an attribute of a good leader and many inventors and world leaders are positive people who never give up believing in their visions. These are some of the attributes most employers will consider in the evaluation of your advancements in your career and your climb up the corporate ladder.”

Master of Business Administration (Corporate Governance) graduate Kee Cia Hee in her graduation speech said, “Studying MBA at UTAR has enabled me to acquire new skills, which very much benefited me for my promotion. I acquired, namely leadership, interpersonal communication and project management have helped me to develop as a complete person.”

Bachelor of Science (Hons) Psychology Lim Lee Kern said, “I would like to thank my parents, family members, friends and all the helpful lecturers who have taught me in my journey of four years in UTAR. I realised it was indeed the best choice of mine to be part of UTAR and today I am proud to stand as UTAR alumni.”

Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Early Childhood Studies graduate Amalai Miasarah binti Zukri said, “At this moment, I would like to share two valuable tips to follow in the workplace. Firstly, take initiative and don’t ever wait for your supervisor to tell you what to do. Secondly, take charge, take part and never be shy to share your ideas and always be a team player to succeed in your career.”

Bachelor of Business Administration (Hons) Ting Xin Then said “I would like to congratulate all the graduands who are graduating today. I want you to know that everything happens for a reason. I believe we wouldn’t be who we are today without the knowledge and soft skills we gained from UTAR. I hope whenever path you are about to take next, just keep calm and make a plan.”

With the addition of 2,914 graduates from this 26th Convocation, the number of the University’s alumni now stands at 53,420 since its inaugural convocation in 2005.
Fourth from left: Prof Chuah, Tan Sri Ting, Datin Paduka Tan, Tun Ling and Dato’ Seri Ong with some graduates of Session One

Third from right: Hew, Datuk Lee, Tan Sri Chor, Prof Chuah, Ng, Tan Sri Ting, Datuk Lim and Tan Sri Sak (far left) with some graduates of Session Two

Third from left: Tan Sri Sak, Prof Chuah, Ir Tan and Hew (far right) with some graduates of Session Four

Graduates in jubilant mood

Second from left: Advertising graduates Lim Jun Kit, Choo Hong Yuan and Raymond Goh Chee Wei with their friends

UTAR graduates, from left: Kee, Lim, Amalia and Ting

UTAR PhD graduates

Chinese orchestra performance

Mace bearers, clockwise from top left: Construction Management student Lee Zer Sen, Entrepreneurship student Marvin Goh Wen Yi, Finance student Yap Wai Seng and Chinese Studies student Yin Shiqiang

Musical interlude performers (clockwise from top left): Veronica Pang Syn Ni, Xaviera Yih, Yang Shun Kai, Evelyn Fioo Ching Lin, Lim Vi Xuen, Tay Jor Jun, Neoh Boi Xiang, Tan le Huang, Esther Koh Kiat Qi and Teo Jeng Yee

Musician graduate Serene Priscilla Jude Thaddeus with her family members
CFA Challenge

UTAR’s Faculty of Business and Finance (FBF) students won second prize in the Malaysia CFA Institute Research Challenge 2017/2018 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia after competing in a battle of analytical wits with a total of 15 local teams. The final Malaysia CFA Institute’s Research Challenge 2017/2018 was held on 10 March 2018. The team comprised of Year Two Finance and Banking students, namely Tan Zheng Zhi, Soo Zhi Cheng, Lee Kok Long, Saw Teong Yew and Lew Jia Piang. They walked away with a challenge trophy, USD500 worth of Wiley book voucher and certificates of participation verified by CFA Institute and CFA Society Malaysia. The team was supervised by UTAR FBF lecturer Woo Kok Hoong.

The challenge was organised by the CFA Institute and hosted by CFA Society Malaysia. It is an annual, local, regional and global competition that provides university students hands-on mentoring and intensive training in financial analysis.

The challenge kicked-started on 25 October 2017 and saw the participation from a total of 15 public and private universities all around Malaysia. All the participating teams were subjected to carry out equity research on Westports Holdings Berhad, the port operator that dominates Port Klang, the busiest port in Malaysia.

Top Cited Author

From left: Chairman of CFA Institute Research Challenge Malaysia Phua Yew Boon with winners Lee, Sio, Tan, Lee and Saw

Faculty of Business and Finance lecturer Garry Tan Wei Han’s research paper was recently awarded the “Top Cited Author (2014-2017)” by Elsevier (USA) for the Telematics and Informatics Journal. The research paper was awarded based on the number of citations received, which was 138 citations from 2014 to 2017. It was co-written by Ooi Keng Boon from UCSI University, Chong Siong Choy from the Finance Accreditation Agency and Hew Teck Soon from the University of Malaya.

From a total of 1555 journal articles published from 1989 to 2014 using Thomson Web of Science database, Tan’s research paper was identified as one of the 50 highly cited papers. The paper is also ranked alongside with the authors of the Technology Acceptance Model and Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology.

Double wins by FAS students

On 25 October 2017 and saw the participation from a total of 15 public and private universities all around Malaysia. All the participating teams were subjected to carry out equity research on Westports Holdings Berhad, the port operator that dominates Port Klang, the busiest port in Malaysia.

MTSF Award

Master of Science student Esther Thou Mun Hueh from the Department of Biomedical Science won Science and Technology Research grant worth RM30,000 at the 24th Malaysia Toray Science Foundation (MTSF) prize presentation ceremony, held at InterContinental Kuala Lumpur recently. Organised by the MTSF, the event aimed to promote science and technology in Malaysia by supporting deserving Malaysian researchers.

Also present at the ceremony were MTSF Chairman Academician Prof Emeritus Tan Sri Dr Omar Abdul Rahman, Toray Industries Japan Executive Vice President Kazushi Hashimoto, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Malaysia His Excellency Dr Makio Miyagawa, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation Datuk Seri Panglima Wilfred Madius Tangua, MTSF Examination Committee Chairman Academician Prof Emeritus Tan Sri Emeritus Prof Dr Augustine Ong Soon Hock.

Silver in VBL 2017

From left: Datuk Noorhalim, Dato’ Latt Sherman and Prof Lee

From left: Chairman of CFA Institute Research Challenge Malaysia Phua Yew Boon with winners Lee, Sio, Tan, Lee and Saw

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The UTAR Kampar female basketball team won the second prize in the inaugural Varsity Basketball League (VBL) 2017. It was held at Tunku Abdul Rahman University College (TAR UC) of Kuala Lumpur Main Campus from 15 to 28 November 2017. The national final game was played on 28 November 2017.

FAM receives research grant from MTDC

Thou was among the seven recipients who received the Toray Science Foundation, Japan grant. Thou was among the seven recipients who received the Toray Science Foundation, Japan grant.

The research team from the Faculty of Accountancy and Management (FAM) managed to secure a research grant worth RM63,200. The mock cheque presentation ceremony was held on 15 March 2018 at the office of Malaysian Technology Development Corporation Sdn Bhd (MTDC).

The event was organised by the University Psychology Club of INTI International University. It aimed to create and enhance public awareness about the blending of psychology and engineering, and allow students from different faculties and universities to exchange knowledge among one another.
Buddhist Society celebrates 10th anniversary

The Organising Committee of the UTAR Buddhist Society (Kampar Campus)

PR Campaign 2017/2018: Volunteerism VI grand launch

All smiles after the grand launch

Volunteerism VI.

The grand launching event was the collaborative efforts of all five groups. Prior to the grand launching, each group has also organised a series of activities, including their soft launching event. Following the grand launch, an array of in-campus and outreach activities will also be organised by the five sub-groups, throughout the coming weeks until April.

Entrepreneurial talk by MoneyLion Inc

MoneyLion Inc. Co-founder and Chief Technology Officer Chin Chun Kit.

Wong (right) presenting the token of appreciation to Foong Chee Mun.

The Centre for Learning and Teaching organised a talk titled “Blended Learning and the Future of Education” at Kampar Campus on 29 March 2018.

The invited speaker was Faculty of Arts and Social Science lecturer Kristina Francis. The objective of the talk was to provide participants with an overview of blended learning and its importance, also the ways on how to incorporate blended learning into the teaching and learning programmes.

Kristina elaborated that, the use of blended learning environments in higher education has rapidly increased in the 21st century. Tools and techniques that were initially used in the experimental distance education courses are today part of mainstream education with blended learning as a continuum between traditional face-to-face teaching and purely online courses. Among the popular blended learning tools available online are TED-Ed, Google Classroom, PlayPosit, Edpuzzle, Blubrr, LessorPaths and Kahoot.

President speaks on Fourth Industrial Revolution

L ee Kiong Chian Faculty of Engineering and Science (LKC FES) together with Department of Consultancy and Commercialisation organised an entrepreneurial talk on 12 March 2018 at Sungai Long Campus. Present at the talk were LKC FES Centre for Computing and Innovation Director Prof Dr Tan Yong Hau, LKC FES lecturer Wong Chin Cheew, students and staff.

MoneyLion Inc. Co-founder and Chief Technology Officer Foong Ching Tiam gave a talk titled “Entrepreneurship in the age of automation and artificial intelligence”. He began by giving an overview of MoneyLion Inc. to the audience and it was followed by the introduction to finance technology and artificial intelligence (AI).

Foong shared about the working environment and cultures as well as his experiences on the start-up and success of MoneyLion. He also spoke about the evolvement of AI in the finance industry and the incorporation of technology in business in the industrial revolution.

Blended learning and its importance

Kristina delivering her insights on blended learning

From Talks to Forums

Chuah highlighting the opportunities and challenges in 4IR.

The President of UTAR, spoke on the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) at the Sungai Long Campus on 7 March 2018 and again at the Kampar Campus on 21 March 2018.

The talk aimed to create awareness among students on the latest trends of 4IR and focused on the challenges that will be faced by the future graduates in 4IR. In an overview, Prof Chuah elucidated to participants on the waves of Technological Revolution, trends and challenges in 4IR, skills required for future graduates as well as ways to work with industry and professional bodies.

Prof Chuah said, “It is necessary to keep ourselves abreast of the changes in all fields and aspects including our lifestyles, education and the way we think. These changes would bring about opportunities for growth and developments. The arrival of 4IR would raise the global income and improve the quality of life, while technological innovations would generate higher efficiency and productivity.”

“Nevertheless, we should also foresee the challenges in multiple aspects. The turbulence as a result of the Industrial Revolution would yield greater inequalities and social tensions. The challenges would also cut across many aspects, from the workplace to our daily lives such as water, food, energy, climate change, healthcare, security and job market,” Prof Chuah added.

At the talk, Prof Chuah reviewed some of the initiatives and strategies taken by various countries to overcome the challenges in 4IR. He also mentioned some professions of the future and suggested some skills required in 2020 which included complex problem solving, creativity, people management, emotional intelligence, negotiation, decision making and cognitive flexibility.

The talks at both campuses were hosted by the Department of Student Affairs and saw the attendance of more than 1900 staff and students.

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T he Public Relations (PR) Campaign 2017/2018: Volunteerism VI officially kicked off on 6 March 2018. All 198 PR students gathered for the grand launching event at the Multipurpose Hall of the Heritage Building, Kampar Campus.

Held for the sixth year, this year’s PR Campaign was themed “Revitalising Volunteerism, Empowering Community”. It consists of five groups with different campaign sub-themes, namely Corporate Social Responsibility, Digital Economy, Health Services, Heritage Tourism and Social Welfare.

The event saw a large crowd and among them were Faculty of Arts and Social Science staff who were present to give their support. Dance performances by the campaign members and the five sub-groups’ mascots marked the commencement of the event. They presented their theme song, titled “Volunteering”, written and composed by the campaign members themselves.

“We are more than glad to continue to carry out these community-based projects and to do our best to serve the society. Our main goal is certainly to promote the public provision for unmet social needs through the act of volunteerism as well as to promote alternative provision among the community,” said Main Campaign Director Julian Chin Chun Kiet.

Present also to lend their support for the campaign’s grand launch was the cast members of the movie “Lee Chong Wei”. They graced the opening ceremony and marked the official launch of the PR Campaign 2017/2018: Volunteerism VI.

The grand launching event was the collaborative efforts of all five groups. Prior to the grand launching, each group has also organised a series of activities, including their soft launching event. Following the grand launch, an array of in-campus and outreach activities will also be organised by the five sub-groups, throughout the coming weeks until April.

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拉曼大学第二届全国大专中文文学奖颁奖典礼

中文文学奖颁奖典礼于2018年3月18日在敦林良实礼堂举行。活动邀请到中文系系主任兼中研会顾问老师杜忠全、学生会代表黄诗婷、中华研究院院长张晓威副教授及中文系系主任杜忠全等嘉宾出席。

中文文学奖设有三个组别，即新诗组、散文组及短篇小说组，而每组各设有首奖、评审奖及优秀奖。拉曼大学中文系系主任兼中研会顾问老师杜忠全表示，中文文学奖的举办不仅能为学生提供一个发表自己文学作品的平台，也能够促进校园文学氛围的培养。

文学奖评审团代表杜忠全以及短篇小说组评审团代表陈川兴分别对获奖作品进行了点评，他们表示每位作者都展现了自己独特的文学才华，作品中充满了对生活和人性的深刻洞察。

文学奖评审团成员包括中文系系主任兼中研会顾问老师杜忠全、学生会代表黄诗婷等。学生事务处副经理姚艾萍表示，中文文学奖的举办不仅能够促进校园文学氛围的培养，也能够为学生提供一个展示自己文学才华的平台。

此外，文学奖也得到了一个多单位的支持，包括中文系系主任兼中研会顾问老师杜忠全、学生会代表黄诗婷、中华研究院院长张晓威副教授及中文系系主任杜忠全等嘉宾的出席。他们对中文文学奖的举办表示了肯定，并希望未来能够继续举办类似的活动。

最后，杜忠全教授表示，中文文学奖的举办不仅是对学生文学才华的肯定，也是对校园文学氛围的培养。他希望未来能够继续举办类似的活动，为学生提供一个展示自己文学才华的平台。
Penguasaan bahasa Inggeris dalam kalangan pelajar sentiasa menerima perhatian daripada semua pihak dan ini sejajar dengan aspirasi sistem pendidikan di Malaysia yang ingin melahirkan individu yang mampu menguasai bahasa Inggeris bagi membolehkannya mereka berdaya saing di peringkat global. Bagi mendokong aspirasi tersebut, Pusat Pendidikan Lanjutan UTAR (CEE) telah menganjurkan Kem Bahasa Inggeris yang disertai oleh 330 pelajar sekolah menengah pada 17 Mac 2018 di Kampus Sungai Long.

Selain mewujudkan kesedaran dalam kalangan pelajar tentang kepentingan penguasaan bahasa Inggeris, terutamanya dari segi kefasihan dalam pertuturan, kem Bahasa Inggeris ini juga bertujuan untuk menggalakkan interaksi antara para pelajar dari tujuh buah sekolah berlainan seperti SMK Jenjarom, SMK Dato' Shamsudin Nain, SMK Bandar Baru Sungai Long, SMK Bandar Banting, SMK Seksyen 27, SMK Taman Forest Height dan SMK Dato Mohd Said di samping memupuk sifat kepimpinan dalam kalangan peserta.

Kem tersebut bermula dengan sesi suai kenal dan aktiviti memanaskan badan yang diketuai oleh Ketua Unit Bahasa Inggeris CEE Raiza Azni binti Suhainih. Para peserta kemudian dibahagikan kepada 15 buah kumpulan untuk menjalankan aktiviti-aktiviti yang ditetapkan.

Kem tersebut diteruskan dengan pengajaran bahasa Inggeris yang intensif selama tiga jam yang terdiri daripada Tinjauan Kosakata, Bengkel Tatabahasa dan Kemahiran Pembentangan. Setiap sesi diperuntukkan selama satu jam dengan aktiviti dan kuiz yang menarik. Aktiviti-aktiviti yang dijalankan telah memberi peluang dan ruang kepada para pelajar untuk menggunakan bahasa Inggeris dengan cara yang mudah dan menarik.


Kem yang telah dikendalikan oleh tenaga pengajar serta staf dari CEE tersebut mendapat sambutan yang amat baik daripada para peserta. Walaupun kem tersebut merupakan satu pengalaman pembelajaran yang singkat tetapi ianya berjaya memberi kesan-kesan positif kepada para peserta.