



**METHODIST  
COLLEGE** KUALA LUMPUR  
*Veritas Vincit Omnia*

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# The Flame

by Methodist College Kuala Lumpur

## Thanksgiving Service for the New Extension Block and Facilities

On 28 February 2015, MCKL held a thanksgiving service in celebration of the newly acquired MGS Brickfields 2 Primary School premises. The new premises which add another 2 acres to the existing 2-acre campus, is now referred to as Block A. This includes an outdoor badminton court, new classrooms and office spaces, open study areas, a large cafeteria and a new multi-purpose hall currently used for student recreation purposes.

"We want to give thanks to God for all His provisions and His answers to our prayers," said Ms Moey Yoke Lai, CEO of MCKL.

Officiating the event was Bishop of The Methodist Church In Malaysia Rev. Dr. Ong Hwai Teik. Also present were esteemed members of the community and the education sector including Executive Director of the Methodist Council of Education Mr Khor Hong Yin, Chairman of the MCKL Board of Management Dato' Dr Tan Kee Kwong and Dr Esther Daniel of Universiti Malaya, school principals, staff and friends of MCKL.

In addition to the new block, other renovations on the main block are completed, providing students with a new music room, mini lecture theatre, and additional science labs. The University Placement Services (UPS) office and Psychology and Learning (PAL) Centre have also moved into larger spaces, allowing more students to receive university admission services, academic assistance and career or personal counselling.

MCKL is still raising funds for the multi-storey building, which is to house more classrooms, office space and accommodation. If you'd like to make a contribution, email us at [buildingfund@mckl.edu.my](mailto:buildingfund@mckl.edu.my).



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See more of our alumni inside!

The Methodist Church In Malaysia has always believed in the importance of a full education for Malaysia's boys and girls. This can be seen in the number of Methodist mission schools which have been built on the same plot of land as a Methodist church, eg: Wesley Methodist Church and Methodist Boys' School, Kuala Lumpur. There arose a problem when students lost their places in government schools for failing their examinations twice. That was when Methodist High School, a private school, was set up as a school of second chance in 1969 to train these young people into citizens who would play their part in nation building.

After completing their education, these students went on with success into higher education and employment. In 1983, Methodist High School was renamed Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL) and it went on to produce students of calibre whose aspirations were fulfilled as they were accepted into prestigious universities of the world.

Fast-forward thirty-two years to 2015 and it is clear for all to see that MCKL still holds true to its original calling, just on a larger scale. Today our student enrolment is 1400. More students than ever go from the classroom to graduation each year; this August, MCKL held its largest ever graduation ceremony in Wesley Legacy Centre, where over 500 students gathered to celebrate their academic achievements and mark their passage into the next stage of their lives. Every single A Level student passed, with more than a third of them scoring at least 3 As; 50% to 65% of students scored an A\* or A for the Sciences and Mathematics; 50% of Psychology students scored an A\* or A; and Khong Jia Ren received a Special Award from ACCA for the highest mark by a student in Malaysia for the FMM paper in December 2014 examinations.

Eunice Lim Yuying and Sya Mun Kit Julian are both 2015 A Level graduates who have made MCKL proud. They are both currently reading Medicine at Penang Medical College (PMC) and both have acquired the much sought after UCD and RCSI Scholarships, which will fully cover the tuition fees for their 5-year twinning programmes from

PMC into University College Dublin and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. They are the only two Malaysian students who have received those full scholarships for the academic year of 2015. Other MCKL graduates have also gained entry into prestigious institutions like the University of Oxford, UK, on various grants like the JPA scholarship or the ASEAN Undergraduate Scholarship.

In addition, the College has granted three of its outstanding alumni the MCKL Teaching Scholarship; Clare Tan Yi Zhi, Elizabeth Tan Hsiu-Chin and Melissa Chew Li Mei will be advancing to the University of Cambridge, UK, Wheaton College, Illinois, US and Institute of Technology Tralee, IE to pursue Education with English, Physics and Early Childhood Care and Education degrees, respectively. Upon graduating with their respective qualifications, they will return to MCKL to serve by taking up a lecturing position, thus adding to the roster of passionate, dedicated and qualified lecturers for future students.

Speaking of which, several of MCKL's former students are already taking an active role in building up the nation by serving in the College. Upon graduating with their degrees, Zara Kim Khoo and Eunice Goh Cheng Mei both came back to lecture in the same ECE programme that launched their careers in education; Colin Wong completed his degree in Australia and then came back to work in MCKL's administration; Regina Yoong Yui Jien is teaching English Literature and IELTS at the College, and Jeremy Achariam worked for a while as an engineer before deciding to pursue what he considered a more fulfilling career: teaching Physics to our A Level students.

We attribute the successes of the aforementioned students to the strong support of parents and families, as well as the dedication of College lecturers and staff in nurturing students to achieve their dreams. Bearing that in mind, MCKL is constantly striving to improve its faculties and facilities to better serve Malaysia's youth. The A Level and Australian Matriculation programmes have seen steady growth each year, along with the Diploma in Early Childhood Education, Certified Accounting Technician and ACCA programme.



This year, we are particularly proud of the American Degree Transfer Program (ADTP) and the milestones it has passed. The number of enrolled students has increased six-fold since its establishment in October 2014, and has expanded its list of partners to 21 universities in the United States. Representatives from US universities regularly visit each year to meet new students and parents to provide guidance on transferring to their respective universities. On top of that, Messiah College and the University of Central Oklahoma currently offer exclusive scholarships to MCKL's ADTP students.

Last but not least, MCKL has doubled in land area size this year. After acquiring land from our neighbouring Methodist Girls' Primary School, we have opened up many new classrooms and offices to provide some much-needed room to accommodate the ever-growing MCKL community. The College currently has eight laboratories in total, four of which are newly built, and the MGS canteen has been refurbished to serve as a straight upgrade to the old cafeteria, with significantly more space and an adjacent garden under beautiful, shady trees. All these serve to provide a better learning and growing environment for MCKL's students.

In short, we thank God for His abundant blessings upon MCKL and aspire to answer His call to nation-building by nurturing a community where excellence, in all its forms, is celebrated; and where individuals come alive to their God-given ability to make a unique difference in the world.

Blessings

Maey Yoke Lai



## ADTP@MCKL: Milestones of 2015



Established a year ago in August 2014, ADTP@MCKL was officially launched on 2 October 2014. The program enables students to pursue approximately two years of a four-year degree program locally before transferring to the universities of their choice in the United States of America to complete the remaining requirements for the degree of their chosen major.

Since its establishment, the number of students has increased six-fold, and more partnerships have been developed with U.S. universities. MCKL regularly hosts a number of talks by university representatives from all over the U.S. at least once, if not twice per year to meet with new students and parents to provide advice or guidance on transferring to their universities to obtain Baccalaureate degrees.

Currently, Messiah College and University of Central Oklahoma offer exclusive scholarships for MCKL's ADTP students, including a full tuition scholarship.

ADTP@MCKL has an esteemed group of faculty members and an adjunct psychologist. Ms. Khor Kheng Leik, the Head of Programme, and the Director of Academic Studies (Tertiary Programmes), has a Masters of Education in Human Development and Psychology from Harvard University. She has been teaching since 1994, and has over ten years of experience in heading an American Degree Transfer Program in Malaysia.



Ms Khor Kheng Leik, Head of ADTP@MCKL



The ADTP@MCKL faculty comprises qualified lecturers who are vibrant and enthusiastic, with a passion for cultivating critical thinking within their students in their respective courses.

ADTP@MCKL also encourages field trips that benefit the students academically. Recently, the World Civilizations 1 course had an out-of-state field trip to Malacca for a two-day visit to World Heritage sites such as the prominent Christ Church, the Cheng Ho Museum, and a variety of Chinese temples. In addition, the Introduction to Anthropology course visited Batu Caves to appreciate Indian cultures. An upcoming trip in November is being organized to visit Universiti Putra Malaysia's molecular laboratory to explore the captivating world of cell culture, fluorescent proteins and transfection.

In terms of extra-curricular activities, students of ADTP@MCKL are automatically enrolled into the ADTP Club, which is responsible for welcoming new students and helping them settle into the program. To further strengthen the bonds among the students, a 'family' system has been implemented, where the seniors aid their juniors whenever they are in need of help or support. Sports also play an important role in the ADTP community, including basketball, table tennis, frisbee, football, captain ball and badminton. The ADTP Club organizes semester leagues which encourage students to excel outside the classroom whilst honing their skills.

MCKL currently has eight laboratories in total: three Chemistry labs, two Physics labs, two Biology labs and one Physics/Biology lab; four of which are newly built. More than half a million Malaysian Ringgit has been invested in the last three years to acquire modern equipment, electronic sensors and advanced data loggers for conducting a variety of experiments.

There are eight dedicated lab staff

and three dedicated chemical preparation rooms, as well as one physics preparatory room to maintain and accommodate laboratory course needs. Using these well-equipped laboratories, ADTP@MCKL successfully organized "Science Camp" in June 2015 for O-Level students (especially those who are homeschooled) to expose them to science laboratory skills.

The camp spanned two days, where registered students participated in hands-on basic chemistry, physics and biology experiments. The response was promising and ADTP@MCKL plans to organize such events annually.

In conclusion, ADTP@MCKL is a growing program catering to students



who dream of pursuing their studies in the United States of America via a more affordable pathway. Success stories are materializing, with three students having transferred over to the U.S. and a student deciding to pursue her studies in Korea. ADTP@MCKL believes that in providing a solid foundation for their students academically as well as culturally, these students will be able to cope, adapt and excel in American Universities to the very best of their abilities and achieve their dreams.



## University Partnerships Locally and Abroad

Since its inception over thirty years ago, MCKL has been steadily garnering recognition from institutions around the world for its holistic education and outstanding students. As a result, MCKL has managed to secure partnerships with several universities that will provide exclusive benefits for its students.

For example, Asia Pacific University (APU), Swinburne University Sarawak, IACT College and HELP University all recognise the quality of MCKL students, and thus offer financial benefits such as application fee waivers to students who enter their degree programmes after completing their Pre-University courses in MCKL. Students who go to APU or IACT College will benefit from an RM2000 bursary, whilst Swinburne University Sarawak offers free on-campus accommodation for one semester and HELP University offers a 30% tuition fee waiver for one year.

Additionally, MCKL has secured partnerships with 21 universities for its American



Degree Transfer Program (ADTP), such as Messiah College and University of Central Oklahoma, both of which also happen to offer exclusive scholarships of up to 8000USD per year to ADTP students from MCKL. Graduates from MCKL's Diploma in Early Childhood Education programme also stand to benefit from

partnerships with institutions like Institute of Technology, Tralee, IE which also offers a scholarship exclusively for MCKL students, and University of Gloucestershire, UK in order to upgrade their diploma to a degree qualification.

## The Yin Kam Yoke School of Excellence



The Yin Kam Yoke School of Excellence was birthed through the implementation of a College-wide series of Core Values, and it came under Core Value 8: Celebrate Excellence. The school was started to provide underprivileged students, especially from struggling mission schools in and around Kuala Lumpur, with the means to improve their academic performance. To achieve this mission, MCKL students are mobilized to assist these secondary students with homework and even providing additional lessons.

There are two aspects to this School: peer tutoring and teacher training. Both of these are run by candidates from the MCKL Teaching Scholarship Programme.

The lead staff behind this effort is Yoshua Chua, Head of the MPU subjects at MCKL, who was also the lead staff in a committee that

structured the 10 Core Values.

"Basically, we want to see our former and current students engaged in helping students in mission schools and/or poorly performing schools as part of their Service Learning time, or even on a voluntary basis," explains Yoshua.

"We are also in the midst of developing a proposal for our own training program to boost the standard of teaching among teachers in mission schools and beyond. All of these are part of our Core Values, which seeks not only to celebrate the highest academic achievements but to also encourage these high achievers to 'give back' to those in greatest need. One way would be through the Yin Kam Yoke School of Excellence.

"The idea came about when we wanted to start a 'school within a school'. As the school caters to the underprivileged, it pays homage to the original ethos of the Methodist Education program that helped students from poor backgrounds and those who failed their exams. We wanted to recreate that identity."

The school is named in honour of a senior Methodist teacher and former Executive Director of the Methodist Council of Education, who played a pivotal role in the growth of MCKL

in the early years (pictured left).

For its inaugural year, the School has worked closely with one school in the neighbourhood: SMK La Salle Brickfields. So far, as many as 20% of the Form 5 classes have been tutored, and we hope that their passing rate of 50% in SPM in 2014 would improve slightly for the 2015 sitting, through the help of the student peer tutoring programmes we have conducted over the last few months.

MCKL Alumna Beh Su Jane, one of the Teaching Scholars involved in the School, explains a bit more about this from her perspective.

"The core value highlights the need to pursue and celebrate academic excellence, not only within the boundaries of the college, but in every person. Keeping in mind that this is a short-term intensive program, we have set realistic teaching objectives, which are:

1. To prepare students for SPM examinations
2. To motivate students to work harder
3. To encourage critical thinking and self-directed study in students

"To achieve these aims, we took the time to read through SPM

reference books and past years to identify important chapters. It was useful to find out what students already know and what they have not mastered, so that they may learn not only to work hard but to work smart."



Su Jane with one of her students

"Personally, this project is a good platform for me to gain teaching experience and test the effectiveness of teaching methods, to be able to formulate a manual for future MCKL students who are prospective teachers or want to be involved in a program like this," says Su Jane, who is reading Biology at the



Eu Min assisting his students with past year questions

University of York, UK.

As the focus was more on the sciences and mathematics subjects this year, Su Jane enlisted the help of fellow alumni Tien Eu Min, a Psychology major and Maxis scholar at University College London, UK, and Samuel Lim Qi En, a Mathematics major and JPA scholar at Imperial College, UK, to teach these subjects. Eu Min and Samuel were both back for the summer holidays, and found the experience eye-opening.

Speaking on the direction of the



Malaysia's education system is in urgent need of teachers for young children. Despite countless kindergartens opening up all over the place, not many of their staff are trained or qualified to teach children, often having stopped their own formal education just after secondary school. This is a cause for concern, as the Malaysian government has stated its intention to enforce regulations so that by 2020, only qualified teachers may teach in kindergartens and childcare centres.

Back in 2004, Datuk Dr Chiam Heng Keng, the CEO of MCKL and a retired professor of Social Psychology

from University of Malaya, had foreseen this growing problem and began preparing MCKL's very own early childhood education course in anticipation of the coming demand for qualified teachers. Based on her extensive experience, she wrote all of the modules for the Diploma in Early Childhood Education (ECE) and personally supervised setting up a special room for teaching the course, along with a special section in the library dedicated to ECE reading materials.

After securing approval for the course from the National Accreditation Board (LAN) in December 2004,

Yin Kam Yoke School of Excellence, Yoshua hopes to set up a more organized system that will allow students (past and present) to be involved in helping needy schools in and around the Klang Valley, both at a Secondary and Primary level. Part of this is achieved hand-in-hand with the community service that students do at MCKL, a required aspect of their time at the College.

Also, through the Yin Kam Yoke School of Excellence, the vision is to give future MCKL students the opportunity to be trained as teachers, and educate students that will one day be inspired to teach as well.

"We hope to see the teacher training program grow to become a ministry-sanctioned programme that will allow for affordable and quality teacher training (development/skills upgrading) in future so they can be better educators in the future. For our part on Teacher Training, we have been researching different methods and programs for possible implementation in the future. But that will take some time."

## 11 Years of Early Childhood Education

MCKL opened its first intake for the Diploma in ECE in March 2005 with a total of seven students enrolled. With a duration of two and a half years, the programme provided a good balance of theoretical knowledge and practical hands-on training, including entrepreneurship and administration. Datuk Dr Chiam herself taught several modules in the ECE course and brought in Mr Terry Brougham, a qualified psychotherapist and expert with over forty years of experience in the field of education and communication, as one of MCKL's ECE lecturers.

Eleven years have passed since the inception of MCKL's ECE programme, and the fruits of their labours are clear for



The leadership of the Early Childhood programme (left to right):  
Datuk Dr Chiam Heng Keng, Mr Terry Brougham, Ms Khor Kheng Leik, Ms Anita Wong

all to see. Students who graduated from the programme were qualified for work immediately, and many of MCKL's graduates have done so. We have trained teachers for local and international childcare centres around Malaysia, including Fungates, Q-dees and Hilltop, and some alumni are even teaching at MCKL now. Zara Kim Khoo and Eunice Goh both graduated from the University of Gloucestershire, UK and HELP University, MY respectively, and they are both teaching in the very same ECE programme that prepared them for a career in education.

Additionally, as more of MCKL's graduates pursued further education overseas, their academic success in their chosen institutions served to highlight the quality of MCKL's ECE programme. MCKL has secured partnerships with various universities abroad so that its ECE students have the option of progressing straight into the second or even final year for related degree programmes in University of West England, UK, University of Hertfordshire, UK, University College Birmingham, UK, University of Gloucestershire, UK, New Zealand Tertiary College, NZ or Institute of

Technology, Tralee, IE.

Tan Evon and Ng Xu Xuan are two such students. After completing their diploma in MCKL, they then moved on to the Institute of Technology Tralee, Ireland and graduated with First Class Honours. Evon currently gives private tuition to pre-schoolers back in Malaysia, whilst Xu Xuan has found work as an au pair in Dublin, Ireland. Jagdish Kaur is another outstanding MCKL alumna. After gaining some working experience, in 2013, she managed to transfer into the final year in Canterbury Christchurch University, UK, and graduated First Class with a BA (Hons) in Early Childhood Studies. She has volunteered at Dignity for Children as a lower primary teacher, and she now works at Hilltop Development Centre, Taman Tun Dr Ismail.

On top of that, ECE graduates are very versatile in their career pathways; not all will necessarily teach kindergarteners, as the following MCKL alumni indicate. Audrey Lee graduated from the University of Nottingham, MY with

a Master's in Special Needs education for people with learning disabilities. Monica Khoo graduated from Universiti Sains Malaysia with a BA in Education, as a part of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). After Nyon Kar Mern completed her BA in Education Studies at Sri College, MY, she began working as an education curriculum developer in China. And Tee Ying Qin is currently pursuing her Doctorate in Education at Universiti Malaya after graduating with First Class Honours from University of Gloucestershire, UK with a BA in Early Childhood Studies.

Any students who wish to follow in their footsteps will find MCKL a helpful and willing partner in guiding their way to a career in education. On top of the holistic ECE programme, MCKL offers a wide range of scholarships and financial aids to deserving students, including exclusive scholarships for Methodist Church kindergarten teachers. In effect, MCKL has answered the call to serve the country by setting high academic and ethical standards for Early Childhood Education in order to produce qualified and passionate ECE academicians in many sectors, all at an affordable cost.

## The MCKL Teaching Scholarship Programme: Commitment to Nation Building Through Education

In Malaysia, it is fairly common to hear parents or friends encouraging students with outstanding grades to pursue prestigious careers in medicine, engineering or law, whilst less glamorous professions like teaching are often overlooked or left as last resorts. In hindsight, perhaps this pervasive mentality has contributed to the sorry state of affairs in our public education system today, which is in desperate need of capable and passionate teachers to ensure that the next generation has a better education.

At Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL), we believe that teachers play an indispensable role in nation-building, and in order to improve the education system, we must encourage the best, brightest and most passionate about teaching to pursue careers in education. To that end, MCKL provides various forms of scholarships and financial support to outstanding and deserving students; going so far as to provide scholarships and financial support to deserving alumni who wish to pursue their undergraduate studies in education and teacher training in the best possible universities around the world.

The MCKL Teaching Scholarship scheme was introduced in 2013, and this year, three of MCKL's alumni who have a passion for teaching and working with young people have been awarded scholarships to pursue their university studies overseas in various disciplines.

Claire Tan Yi Zhi has been admitted to the University of Cambridge to read for her Education with English degree. Meanwhile, Melissa Chew Li Mei has entered the Institute of Technology Tralee, Ireland for her final year studies for the Early Childhood Care and Education degree. Melissa has recently completed her Diploma in Early Childhood Education in MCKL with outstanding results. Elizabeth Tan Hsiu Chin has gained admission to Wheaton College, Illinois, a Christian liberal arts college in the US that is often called 'the Harvard of the evangelicals', and will major in Physics.



from Left: Elizabeth, Claire  
and Melissa just weeks  
before flying off for studies.

The selection process was rigorous. On top of achieving outstanding results and having been accepted into prestigious universities, they have displayed a true passion for teaching, leadership and care for society, as evidenced by their active participation in extra-curricular activities and contribution to the community. Upon graduating with their respective degrees, they will return to MCKL to serve by taking up a teaching position.

"I didn't want to join MCKL at first because it didn't sound like a very prestigious college," says Elizabeth, "but after I saw the variety of scholarship opportunities, I decided to give it a chance. My friends and the College staff encouraged me to take part in many activities, and that really helped me to develop my administrative and leadership skills and my interest in education."

Melissa had a similar experience in MCKL. She says, "MCKL changed me. I felt lost at first, and I was a very meek girl when entering College. But the staff and my friends helped me to open up through many of the organised programmes and activities. They gave me the necessary speaking skills to be a more effective teacher."

"In the end, I accepted the Teaching Scholarship because I believe that early childhood education is very important. Children need teachers trained to have realistic expectations and goals with regards to child development."

Once she has her degree qualifi-

cation, Melissa intends to play her part in ensuring that children get the best possible education they deserve.

"MCKL helped me build up my people skills and administrative skills. I was the coordinator for a lot of the co-curricular activities, and I had a great time being a part of this memorable, warm community. Once I get my A-level results, I'll finally be ready to move on to Cambridge University," says Claire. When asked for her opinion on what students should do if they plan to become teachers, she answered, "Join in co-curricular clubs and societies to acquire new skills. Also, it's important to understand why you want to teach. Never treat it as a last resort."

They are not the first to receive the MCKL Teaching Scholarship. The inaugural recipients were Chan Yen Ping and Zara Kim Khoo in 2013. Chan is in her final year studies in Physical Sciences in the University of Cambridge, whilst Zara has completed her studies at the University of Gloucestershire, UK and has returned to serve as a lecturer in Early Childhood Studies. Beh Su Jane was awarded the teaching scholarship in 2014 to read Biological Sciences in the University of York, UK.

While the scholarship funding provides the opportunity for these promising MCKL alumni to study in top universities overseas, future MCKL students will benefit from being taught by passionate, dedicated and qualified teachers when they return to serve as teachers and academic leaders. In short, we believe in giving our children a better future by investing in their teachers, and this is MCKL's ultimate contribution to nation-building.



# Choosing to Teach: AN ALUMNI PERSPECTIVE

The calling to teach is a high one, and teaching has always been considered a noble profession. It can also be a tough one! It is one of the rare few careers where the individual dedicates his or her life to benefitting not the self but future generations by guiding or instructing in knowledge and wisdom that they have acquired, and to inspire them to go beyond their own achievements.

Not many career pathways impact human civilization in such a significant manner. Little wonder that Nelson Mandela once said that “education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”.

Of course, teaching is not for everyone. Some have a natural affinity for teaching. Others have a keen love for knowledge and are ecstatic to share it with the world. Some start out simply with a passion for nurturing and caring for the little ones. Others, through the course of life, find themselves unexpectedly gravitating towards it, and discover their passion and calling to teach.

MCKL can proudly say that it has seen some of its alumni go down these different paths in discovering the teacher within them, and they have responded to that calling to teach, right here at MCKL.

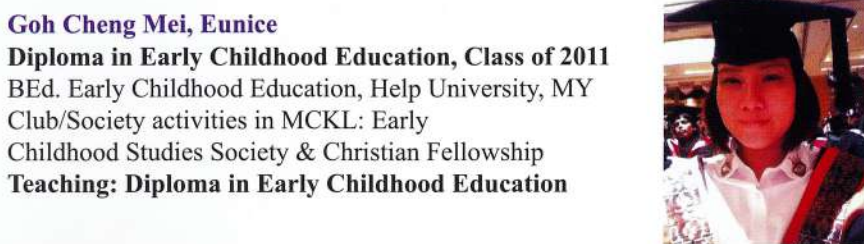
Recently, we sat down with our alumni who are teaching at MCKL to gain some perspective into this career and their experience with it.



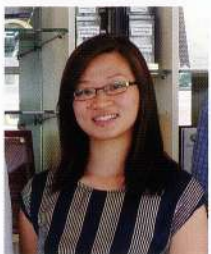
Regina and Jeremy: two outstanding student leaders in their time who are now teaching at MCKL.



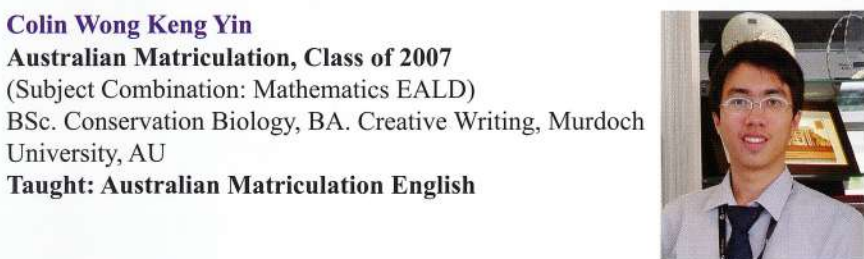
**Jeremy Achariam**  
**Edexcel A Levels, Class of 2007**  
(Subject Combination: Physics, Maths, Chemistry)  
BSc. Electrical & Electronics Engineering, University of Nottingham, MY  
Club/Society activities in MCKL: President of the Student Council, Organized the MCKL Annual Treasure Hunt 2006  
**Teaching: Cambridge A Level Physics**



**Goh Cheng Mei, Eunice**  
**Diploma in Early Childhood Education, Class of 2011**  
BEd. Early Childhood Education, Help University, MY  
Club/Society activities in MCKL: Early Childhood Studies Society & Christian Fellowship  
**Teaching: Diploma in Early Childhood Education**



**Regina Yoong Yui Jien**  
**Edexcel A Levels, Class of 2009**  
(Subject Combination: English Literature, Chemistry, Mathematics, Biology)  
BA. English, UCSI University, MY. Currently pursuing an MA. English Literature at Universiti Malaya.  
Club/Society activities in MCKL: Christian Fellowship, Student Council, Basketball Club.  
**Teaching: Cambridge A Level English Literature, IELTS**



**Colin Wong Keng Yin**  
**Australian Matriculation, Class of 2007**  
(Subject Combination: Mathematics EALD)  
BSc. Conservation Biology, BA. Creative Writing, Murdoch University, AU  
**Taught: Australian Matriculation English**



**Zara Kim Khoo Chen Xi**  
**Diploma in Early Childhood Education, Class of 2013**  
BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies, University of Gloucestershire, UK  
Club/Society activities in MCKL: Vice President for the Early Childhood Studies Society, Designed the ECS page for Vision Magazine, Orientation Camp Facilitator, Peer Tutor for the Child Development subject.  
**Teaching: Diploma in Early Childhood Education**

In the Beginning...

While Eunice and Zara were set on becoming kindergarten teachers – and eventually lecturing at college – Regina, Jeremy and Colin found their paths eventually leading them to teach.

“I didn’t think that I was going to teach after completing university,” shared Regina. “I actually wanted to go into writing and grammar. Ms Moey came and talked to me and asked me whether I would be interested in teaching. I never really considered it before, but I remembered when in high school and college I was inspired by several lecturers, and so I said ‘okay, why not’.

“When I started teaching, what really inspired me every day were my students. It’s a great class and I enjoy Literature as well as English, so that keeps me going. But it’s just the interaction with the students and how sometimes they open up to you and they share their lives with you. That’s really encouraging and I enjoy that part.”

Similarly, Jeremy didn’t intend to go into teaching. After his A Levels, he went on to do engineering and worked for a bit. But somehow it wasn’t as fulfilling as he expected. When he heard about an opening in the Physics department, he applied, and was offered the job.

“I wanted to have a fulfilling career prospect and yet give back to Methodist College,” explained Jeremy.

“Like most students after SPM, I had no idea what I wanted to do. So when I came to do A Levels in MCKL, I was sort of guided on a path to be more focused. Physics was what piqued my interest at that point of time, and the A Level programme – and what I was exposed to here – is what guided me to get into engineering and take that as my major.

“Why did I come back to MCKL? When I was a student here, I was elected as the president of the Student Council (SC). Because I was the kind of person that was not very confident in myself, Methodist College provided a platform for me



Reminiscing the old days.

to believe in myself, sharpen my skills in dealing with people, organize events – things I didn’t get to do during high school. MCKL prepared me academically and developed my soft skills, which I carried on to the corporate world as well.

“But you know how it is in a corporate environment. Even after a while I still felt that something was not right, something was missing. So I said ‘okay, step back into this environment, if the possibility that this opportunity opens up at that time, come back into this environment.’ And the rest is history. I think I made a right decision so far.”

Colin had a different experience altogether.

Colin’s Creative Writing degree made him an excellent candidate for writing – and, therefore, teaching – in English, and his prior experience at MCKL as a student was the perfect background for providing course and career advising to students and families. The possibility of lecturing had crossed his mind, but the opportunity only surfaced in 2014 when he was offered to teach English in the Australian Matriculation programme.

As an alumni, he was already familiar with the Ausmat exam and assessment style. As an Australian graduate, he was familiar with their standard and expectations of education. These two unique factors not only qualified him to teach, it also enabled him to share his experience with the students on a level that was different from the other lecturers.

Strategy, Strategy, Strategy

They say that education is a lifelong process. One nice thing about teaching is that you discover new things about yourself. Sometimes, you learn this from your students. Sometimes, this includes how you approach a lesson or even the classroom itself.

“Teaching has definitely taught me new levels of patience. I thought I was a pretty patient guy,” laughs Jeremy, “til I found out about this side of teaching, and then I realized, ‘Oh, so this is how I was.’

“It’s taught me about relating to people. It’s very, very important to relate. Because you can go into a class, you can teach a lesson and just be there for an hour or so, and then your job is done...But I’ve learned you’ve got to bring yourself down to the student’s level and relate to them – structure your lesson in a way that they can understand it, to make it relevant to what they’re going through. I find that they really learned that way as opposed to just throwing out facts, so that really enlightened me on the teaching process.”

Having previously taught in kindergartens, early childhood graduates Zara and Eunice have interesting approaches to their college classrooms of future kindergarten teachers. “To be honest, teenagers and children can be very similar in the way they interact with us, in the way that they can throw tantrums,” shares Zara. “As such, I find that I’m able to apply whatever I learned about young children to this class as well, and it does

Teaching is the one profession that creates all other professions.  
- anonymous

work. So some things like reward systems – if you think that teenagers are over the reward system, they're not. They still enjoy it. But with that said, it's still a very different experience teaching teenagers.

"Like Jeremy, I thought I was very patient, having worked with special children before this. But teaching college students is a new level altogether."

**"I need to somehow be that teacher, that instructor, that lecturer to say, 'Okay, I enjoy a personal relationship, but hey, you're gonna sit for an exam in a few months, and I need to prep you for that.' So I started learning the balance of being the teacher..."**

**- Regina Yoong**

"For me," begins Eunice, "I have a different perspective on this, because when I see young children, they can just learn things and just enjoy your presence, be loved, nurtured and cared.

"But with this group of teenagers, I always see myself as trainer to them, because they are going to be future teachers. So I always put very high expectations on them. They can't be naïve about it. So, for example, I always address them as teachers, like 'Teacher Jeremy', when they are in class."

Of course, teaching styles tend to vary depending on the nature of the subject. "We're teaching very different subjects," explains Zara. "I think I teach a lot of the content subjects whereas Eunice teaches more of the theory subjects."

"I teach entrepreneurship, how to start a programme and how to run a programme base," Eunice continues. "I also teach foundations and theoretical perspectives."

"I teach things like physical education, music and movement and play," Zara picks up from where Eunice left off. "So I think how my students react in my class will be different from how they react in her class." The key to this is balance.

"I'm serious with them but I can be playful with them at the same time," says Eunice, amidst nods of agreement from the others.

**A Professional 'Buddy' System**

With all five alumni in their mid to late twenties, teaching college students makes



Eunice striking the balance between the strict and fun side of her.

for interesting professional and social dynamics. While some tout the old adage that "with age comes wisdom", a smaller generation gap does tend to allow lecturers and students to relate to one another better, which also impacts teaching and how the students learn.

"Some of my students are from the same generation as me, which made it a bit awkward in the beginning. But I teach several different cohorts, and I noticed that even though they may seem very close in age, they are already very, very different. I see that the senior students are more responsible, more focused," explains Zara. "And then I see my 2015s, they are very flighty, still having that 'I can do anything I want to without trying' mentality, which is what we're trying to get out of their system."

Colin echoes Zara's sentiments. "Students seem to have a very 'assembly line' mindset. If it is math or science, it's pretty straightforward; it's either right or wrong, end of story. If it's English, you have to figure out how to tell them to fix it.

"The trouble is that for a lot of subjects, you have to introduce critical thinking skills, and you have to tell them "No, you can't use this all the time. You need to know when, you need to be able to figure out on your own when this or that is appropriate." The thing is that I think a lot of students aren't really big fans of that; they just want to hear it once and start applying it without even thinking about it."

"Exactly," continues Zara. "You feel like you're not just teaching them Physics or English or Early Childhood Education, you're teaching them how to think critically, how to solve problems, how to have manners, those simple things that they should already have. Sometimes that's even harder than teaching the content of the subject."

"What I find is there's more interaction between the lecturers and students," adds Jeremy. "We know them on a more personal level compared to my time. I supposed my lecturers were more orthodox in the way they teach their lesson and they expect good results out of you. But now I find that we've really got to tailor our lesson to the needs of the students, depending on how they react; talk

**"You feel like you're not just teaching them Physics or English or Early Childhood Education, you're teaching them how to think critically, how to solve problems, how to have manners..."**

**- Zara Kim Khoo**

to them, give them a bit of counselling.

"Those days as a student when I was still here, you're here to study, you focus, gear yourself up for that and sit for your paper. But now there's more interaction between the lecturers and students, I find that I talk to them more and spend more time with them outside of academics. So it's more personal."

"You can't just be the teacher anymore," Colin chips in, "you have to be their buddy as well."

Of course, the teacher is still the teacher. "You need to draw the line," Jeremy quips, 'or they'll go over your head."

Regina recalls how she figured out that balance with her students. "I started off playing nice, like 'friend-friend', making sure that they really like me and could relate. And then I think it was around the first semester exams when I realized, 'Okay, my students are really enjoying the subject and enjoying my teaching, but they're not performing. They just can't answer in their exam week.'

"So I realized I can't be like that, I need to somehow be that teacher, that instructor, that lecturer to say, 'Okay, I enjoy a personal relationship, but hey, you're gonna sit for an exam in a few months, and I need to prep you for that.' So I started learning the balance of being the teacher, yet outside of class I'm



Class in session: One of Zara's play-related subjects being conducted outdoors.



From student to colleague: Colin with his English lecturer Mr Ganesan, who still teaches in the Ausmat programme.

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"So I realized I can't be like that, I need to somehow be that teacher, that instructor, that lecturer to say, 'Okay, I enjoy a personal relationship, but hey, you're gonna sit for an exam in a few months, and I need to prep you for that.' So I started learning the balance of being the teacher, yet outside of class I'm

with this new generation of students. There is no cookie-cutter way to approach lessons or teaching, especially with the availability of technology at the teacher's fingertips.

So if after reading this, you're thinking, "is teaching for me? What else should I know?" Here are few pearls of wisdom from our alumni:

friends with them. But I learned it the hard way."

Staying at the College accommodations, Regina also has the benefit of getting to know students on a more personal level. Even with daily lessons, socializing at College, juggling some warden responsibilities like taking midnight emergency calls and her Masters

classes, she still gets to share the occasional home-cooked meal with the students from her apartment.

It's all about the balance. And with a myriad of different experiences in the classroom (and outside too!) as illustrated by our inspired alumni, teaching proves to be a very structured career path that also requires a lot of flexibility, especially

with this new generation of students. There is no cookie-cutter way to approach lessons or teaching, especially with the availability of technology at the teacher's fingertips.

So if after reading this, you're thinking, "is teaching for me? What else should I know?" Here are few pearls of wisdom from our alumni:

*How to*  
**TEACH \ 'tēch\**  
to impart knowledge of or skill in something  
*effectively*

**1. Be in their shoes.**

*The golden rule is applicable, even in the field of teaching.*

**Nigel:** Put yourself in the shoes of the students: teach in ways that are best for them, not ways which you're most comfortable with.

**2. Go and try it out for your own.**

*Exposure to teaching or tutoring can give you insight on whether it's something for you or not.*

**Zara:** Nothing will prepare you for teaching. You can have a degree, you can have a PhD, you can have an IQ of 160, but nothing will prepare you for teaching. You just have to jump into the pool.

**Yen Ping:** Teaching is not something you can read up on, that's definite; you need to stand in front of a classroom and figure out whether you actually like doing that. That's a good marker - whether you can do it, whether you enjoy doing it for the rest of your life.

**Su Jane:** Also I think its beneficial to go into the government sector to see the problems of the current education system or see the benefits of the current education system and things like that and I think looking at things like this opens up your horizons, your perception in general

**3. Never try to teach like how someone else teaches.**

*Learn teaching techniques from others, but don't just copy it. Be yourself.*

**Zara:** Even if someone else's way of teaching is working and you're tempted to copy him/her directly, don't. That style might not suit your personality and it might not suit your students either.

**4. Inspire your students.**

**Regina:** Be passionate in your subject matter. That will give you a lot of confidence as a lecturer, and that's how it inspires confidence in the students.

**Jeremy:** You first need to like to learn and know more about the subject you're teaching. It's that passion which you can then project onto the students: make them interested in that subject, make them look at it from a different point of view.

**Nigel:** Go beyond the textbook, especially with general knowledge, current affairs, latest advancement, etc. But don't forget to keep it relevant by connecting it to the syllabus. And always remember to give your students hope!

**5. Be sensitive to what is happening in your classroom.**

**Regina:** You may have a teaching plan prepared for the day, but you might have to throw it all out the window if they're not in the right mental place to listen to a lecture. You just need to be sensitive and make sure that you are adapting to what the students need. At the end of the day, you want to reach them.

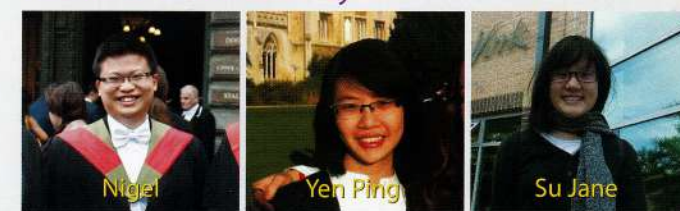
**Jeremy:** Be sensitive to the class environment and not just focused on your syllabus content and deadlines. If not you're just wasting their time and your time because nothing really goes in. You must adapt.

**6. Set the rules.**

**Jeremy:** Make sure you have certain rules and regulations, and that they're enforced; If you're too 'in tune' with them, then you'll lose focus on what you're doing in the first place.

**Colin:** Sometimes students have to learn that the universe won't bend itself backwards to give them what they want. So things like assignment deadlines, cut-off points for grades - sometimes you just need to know when to draw the line.

*Additional contributions by:*



- Engineering graduate Nigel Ngiam (A Level Class of 2011) had a short stint of teaching in MCKL as a Physics lecturer.
- MCKL Teaching Scholars Chan Yen Ping (A Level Class of 2013) and Beh Su Jane (A Level Class of 2014).



# stepping stones

College is often considered the next stepping stone in a student's academic experience to a successful career and life – it is about preparing for more advanced subjects and more rigorous academic hurdles as they take their first steps into a world that values hard work and independence.

However, MCKL aspires to be more than just a facility for academic learning. The College aims to be a safe place where students can balance learning with character development, social skills, friendship and for some, spiritual growth.

The effects of such an environment are evident in the testimonies of our alumni. They have willingly done so in the interest of sharing their experiences with current and future students, and have helped

to make MCKL a home away from home. Senior students often fill the roles similar to that of older siblings by guiding and inspiring their juniors by working in the Student Council, tutoring in the Psychology & Learning Centre or simply leading by example.

On top of that, there are many students who found a second chance at excellence for life in MCKL, as you will read in this section of testimonials.

There are many others with similar experiences shared here, and we hope there will be many more like them in the years to come. Enjoy reading!

## Aaron Chong, A Level Class of 2011



When we bumped into Aaron Chong at this year's National SPM Bible Knowledge Quiz in SMK Assunta, we were delightfully surprised to discover yet another MCKL alumni who decided on the

vocation of teaching.

Aaron, upon graduating from the University of the West of England, Bristol with a Bachelors of Law, decided to dedicate the first few working years to teaching, or in his words, 'giving the first fruits to God.'

"I never intended to be a teacher," admits Aaron. "In fact, teaching was the one thing I did not want to do." While that admission was not surprising, considering the fact that many who find teaching their calling in life did not initially plan to do so either, what took us by surprise was this: not only was Aaron teaching IGCSE Business Studies and Religious Studies (which covers the books of Matthew and Acts) at the Sri Sempurna International School, his alma mater, he was also preparing the school team for this year's annual Bible quiz (covering the

books of Luke and Acts), which consistently emerges in the top 3 teams every year (if they're not bagging the top prize itself!). Aaron had big shoes to fill.

So how did it all begin for Aaron?

"It started as a joke. A few of us were chatting talking about salary, and a friend currently tutoring at Sunway University jokingly asked if I wanted to teach. But it got me thinking. I thought about it, prayed about it.

I spoke to my parents, surprisingly they were fine with it, so I applied for a couple of universities. Because I did law, I thought I should teach law. One day while I was preparing for an interview and a friend who was staying over at my place was going over to Sri Sempurna, our old school. So I decided to go along and apply. It was very difficult to decide where to go, but I think I made the right choice."

Although a law graduate, Aaron didn't actually plan to practice law. "The plan was always to follow my dad [Aaron is the eldest son of Datuk Michael Chong who owns several businesses including the Shogun chain of restaurants]. I studied law, so I'd know the law, so people can't trick me or anything. I still plan to do my CLP, after the first few years here (teaching at Sri Sempurna). I'm not sure yet. But that's the plan so far."

Aaron is from the EDEX1003 cohort

and is very happily inspiring the next generation at Sri Sempurna. When he's not teaching, he keeps himself busy by providing consultation for his father's businesses and volunteering in church and ministry work.

Aaron was also interviewed by Christianity Malaysia. Read the article here:

<http://christianitymalaysia.com/wp/giving-my-best-years-to-the-lord-aaron-chong/>



Aaron with Jonathan Gerard, classmates at Sri Sempurna and MCKL, and his former Sri Sempurna teacher Pastor Jacqueline Ryan.

## Beh Su Jane, A Level Class of 2014



Most people are clueless on their first day. Like the majority, I was clueless. It wasn't merely getting lost in buildings or having difficulty making new friends. It was not having a complete idea of what I stand for, what I want to become and what kind of life I want to live. But Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL) moulded me and helped me grow in so many ways – academically, mentally and spiritually.

I first heard about MCKL through a few friends who could not stop talking about how happy they were in it. So I decided after SPM that my mum and I would visit the College. It is comparatively smaller than other colleges, but it is surprisingly beautiful. The building is literally centred around greenery. It has nice facilities, classrooms that have plenty of sunlight and plenty of student spaces around that are conducive for studying or a nice chat. There is even a classroom with glass walls! I remember feeling at home almost immediately.

What made me surer about MCKL is its scholarships. I was one of the many who benefited from the 50% Partial Merit Scholarship. For me, it

meant that I did not need to worry about finances while studying; and for my parents, it was a significant weight off their shoulders.

It only took a month for me to realise that MCKL was way more than I thought it was. As cliché as it may sound, it was the first time I ever considered a place as my second home. Saying good morning and thank you to cleaners and guards, and chatting up with the friendly lady at Book Corner was always part of my day. I experienced a close-knit student, lecturer and staff community for 16 months.

A Levels was no doubt a huge challenge, but my lecturers were dedicated and helpful throughout. Some lecturers even took the time to answer questions or explain the subject again after class! I am however most grateful that some lecturers I knew brought up relevant life or world issues (e.g.: university, religion, alcoholism, abortion, homosexuality etc.) that gave a whole different perspective of things. They prodded me to change my attitude towards studying, think critically and even fuelled my curiosity to learn and search for more answers. Most impor-

tantly, they helped me reinforce my value system, and I learnt how to stand my ground to defend what I believe is right.

MCKL also has a range of activities, clubs and societies so wide for a small college that gives us students a chance to really explore and develop our skills and interests. In MCKL, I was given the

opportunity to volunteer at a nearby church as an English and Mathematics tutor for poor children, and as a Mathematics tutor to juniors through MCKL's PAL Centre. The experience was truly rewarding because I learnt to be observant, creative in teaching methods, love and care.

Furthermore, I also actively participated in, I dare say, the largest college Christian Fellowship (CF) in Malaysia, and humbly served as a Chapel Departmental Head, and then a Secretary in my last semester. I spent a lot of my time and energy in the CF, only to be more blessed with a platform to sharpen my public speaking skills and organisational skills. I learnt to work in a team, and that was when I made my closest friends. Although I joined the Latin Dance Club as well, I finally found what I wanted to do in life mainly through tutoring and serving in the CF, and that is – to teach and educate the younger



generation!

So, here I am, no longer clueless. It has been over a year since my graduation, and I'm on the other side of the world, thankful to be on the MCKL Special Teaching Scholarship and in my second year studying a BSc Biology in the University of York, UK. York is ranked one of the top 100 universities in the world by Times Higher Education, and ranked 2nd in The Guardian's University Guide

2014: league table for biosciences. It's a beautiful place, with many ducks, extremely polite people, entirely different culture and surprisingly not-too-pricey shopping. I'm still adjusting to the temperature, but it has been a great experience so far!

I really thank God for placing me in MCKL and meeting people like Ms. Moey, my lovely lecturers and friends who helped me be who I am and where I am today. To Him be all the glory!

To current students of MCKL, this is the best place to learn about faith, explore what you can be, pick up new skills and hobbies, make friends and map your future. Appreciate and make the most of your time in MCKL now, because there is no other place like it. I'm in the UK now, and I miss it a whole lot! To the future students of MCKL, be assured that you have made the right choice. You won't ever regret this!

## Eunice Lim Yuying, A Level Class of 2015



Eunice Lim Yuying graduated from MCKL in August 2015 and is now reading Medicine at Penang Medical College (PMC). She and Sya Mun Kit, another MCKL alumni, have both managed to acquire the coveted UCD & RCSI Scholarships, which will fully cover the tuition fees for their 5-year twinning programmes from PMC into the University College Dublin and Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. They were the only two Malaysian students to have acquired those full scholarships for the academic year of 2015.

This is her testimony of her experience in MCKL and the role it played in guiding her on the path towards a career in medicine:

"I fondly remember my first day attending college lectures in Methodist College; it was one of those days when I truly felt my perspective widen. My Physics and Chemistry lecturers were young and enthusiastic graduates from the US, and they were

constantly encouraging us to know more than what our syllabus commands. On the other hand, my classmates were constantly amazed with our Biology lecturer's stories in the zoo, dissecting animals for post mortem to discover why they had died. I had a lot of fun in their classes as well as bonding with them as friends outside of class. Academically, we got help wherever we sought it, be it from lecturers or peers through the peer-tutoring programmes.

"My choice to study in MCKL was mainly encouraged by advice from seniors back in high school: that it was, comparatively, a more studious and holistic environment, and this was definitely proven true. During my time in MCKL, I had the opportunity to lead the Pre-Medical Professions Club, where I met other eager and aspiring medical practitioners. Together, we created a platform where we could encourage each other to discover our interest in medicine and whether or not it was really suitable for us. We shared our experiences in shadowing doctors in hospitals and clinics, attempted several case studies that were answerable with our A-levels knowledge and conducted Hepatitis and HIV AIDs Awareness Days as well as a blood donation drive. During my acceptance of that leadership, I too was faced with numerous challenges, but with the constant guidance and sound advice from the Student Services Department in MCKL, the hardships did not wear me down. Service Learning and Character Formation classes gave me space to grow, and urged me to think and care

about human lives and the community I live in.

"The art of healing and the science of Medicine have always intrigued me, but it was after all those experiences I've had during my time in MCKL that I made my final choice to venture into Medicine. Many of my peers wanted to do Medicine, too, and among those, many also dreamed of studying abroad. I saw many of these dreams wither over time, because admission into medical schools abroad, especially in the UK, is both tough and financially challenging.

"This same issue set me on a very rocky path. Though my parents had always been extremely supportive and able to provide for my education despite whatever path I chose, I had always acknowledged that tertiary education is a luxury that they didn't share. It didn't

make sense to me for them to dent or empty their life savings over my tertiary education. As I grew to an age where I was urged to decide on my path, I had the same debates many, many times over. How much is a medical degree abroad worth? Will I be happy at the end of the day if I decide to spend that much money on

studying abroad? So what if I chose a less financially challenging path; will I not be able to get to where I want in the end?"

"I applied to many universities with the help of the University Placement officers in MCKL, mostly abroad, and travelled alone to a few countries to attend interviews. While these universities were top notch, it also came with a heavy fee, which I didn't feel all at ease about. After the UK applications were done, I decided to apply to one institution in Malaysia which offered a twinning programme,

**"My choice to study in MCKL was mainly encouraged by advice from seniors back in high school: that it was, comparatively, a more studious and holistic environment, and this was definitely proven true."**

which the doctors I shadowed strongly recommended - Penang Medical College (PMC).

"As I mentioned prior, medical scholarships hardly come by, but Penang Medical College is the one of the very few institutions locally that offers full and partial scholarships with very few strings attached, for it comes from the institution itself and not a third party; and it is the only one that includes an overseas experience. I considered it as a route to financial freedom after graduation, allowing me to do more than what I could have if I opted for a UK medical school

experience. For instance, I will be less burdened if I decide to do a postgraduate course or go into research afterwards, or I can choose to volunteer my expertise to aid those in need. I gave the scholarship a shot. The scholarship application considered my academic and co-curricular achievements, two written essays and an interview with a panel of seven. A week after, two MCKL students, Mun Kit and I were lucky to have gotten two full scholarships. After much thought, I decided that this was the path that I will take.

"A word of advice to fellow College

friends, I strongly encourage everyone to keep pursuing what interests you and gain experiences anywhere you can. Challenge your decisions, and consider your options again and again. Go beyond your limits, travel alone; learn things you've always wanted to. When choosing your university, think not just of what you want but also why you want to do it. Above all, talk to friends, and talk to strangers. Read articles, attend conferences and listen to stories. Listen to people who think alike, and especially people who don't think alike. Last but not least, always be grateful, and value your friendships."

## Elizabeth Liu, ECE Class of 2014

Elizabeth Liu graduated from MCKL with a Diploma in Early Childhood Education (ECE) in 2014, but instead of MCKL's more popular ECE partners like Institute of Technology Tralee, Ireland or the University of Gloucestershire, UK, she chose to pursue a Bachelor in Early Childhood Education in Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Australia.

After completing MCKL's ECE programme, she managed to obtain a scholarship as well as a 1-year exemption for her degree programme in QUT, thus saving greatly on time and expenses. This is her testimony on why she chose QUT and her experience so far:

"God had really opened the door when I was applying for a few universities. As I was an international student looking for a degree in Education, I was actually eligible for a scholarship in QUT. On top of that, although the Bachelor in Early Childhood Education is technically a four-year course, I am eligible to complete the course in three years because of my Diploma in ECE from MCKL. I will be finishing my 1st semester by June and will have another five semesters until I graduate in 2017.

"I chose to study in QUT because it is one of the best for Education and has a long history in teaching, and so far, my experience in QUT has been really good. The lecturers and staff here have been really helpful, especially when you have problems



with assignments, such as tackling difficult questions and learning how to reference sources. They also focus on giving students real experiences in the working world; I get to go for field placement every semester for 10 to 15 days. The quality is clear, because many who graduated from this course were able to get jobs through lecturers' recommendations.

"My cost of living is an average of \$1500 per month. Since I stay in the Student Village opposite QUT, I save a lot on time, transport and internet. However, it differs depending on where you stay and the cost spent on travelling. You can also save a lot when you cook for yourself and buy fresh fruits and vegetables from the local market at a lower price.

"In Brisbane itself, there are so many great places you can visit. It is

very convenient to take a train to the Gold Coast for a day trip with friends. Take time to explore during your holiday breaks as you can get quite busy during the study semester.

**"I am eligible to complete the course in three years because of my Diploma in ECE from MCKL."**

"My advice is to always keep up with the reading schedule that the lecturers give and to start the assignments as soon as you get them. Don't wait till the last minute! The lecturers are really helpful so don't be afraid to approach them. It is good to build a relationship with them as they will get to know you and can refer you when there is a job opportunity. I hope to see some of you here soon; good luck!"



## Olivia Francis, CAT Class of 2014

Olivia is the eldest of eight children in the family. Having scored 9As in SPM, Olivia was offered a place in the form six science streaming, which would open doors to her to study medicine or pharmacy, something her parents hoped she would do. With the limited resources available, the STPM was the most viable option for her. While she enjoyed mathematics, the sciences were another story altogether. "I didn't want to disappoint my parents or burden them," said Olivia, so she did her best, but still struggled through her first semester.

In the midst of her struggle in form six, things seemed to be coming together bit by bit, opening a new opportunity for Olivia.

Enquiries to study accounting at MCKL were made on her behalf by family and friends, and by the end of December, Olivia received an offer from MCKL to study the Certified Accounting Technician (CAT) programme on a full tuition scholar-

ship with Financial Aid covering miscellaneous fees, and the Elena Cooke Education Fund (under the BBGS Alumni), had pledged to cover her book fees, travel expenses as well as a bit of meal allowance. Olivia only had to pay for the exam fees.

Olivia was set.

Having never studied accounting before, Olivia was cautiously optimistic about this new path God set her on, and it was a path that would prove to be her forte.

By the end of the Certified Accounting Technician programme, Olivia became a proud recipient of the Amcorp Study Grant, which covers all expenses for her ACCA Skills and Professional papers as well as her travel and meal expenses.

Olivia thanks God for opening the doors to her to study accounting, and is glad to have come to MCKL. As far as first impressions go, Olivia liked MCKL, which was also a deciding factor in her continuing her ACCA at MCKL.



"It's a small college with a conducive environment. The lecturers are friendly and they spend time with us, not just in studies but also motivating us," says Olivia. "I really appreciate the help Ms Guna gave me when I studied CAT."

*While not too involved in College activities, Olivia remains active in her church in Kajang and is involved in the youth ministry. She gives free tuition at her church to the less fortunate children in her neighbourhood, teaching up to SPM science and math subjects.*

## Yong Zhi Hui, CAT Class of 2015

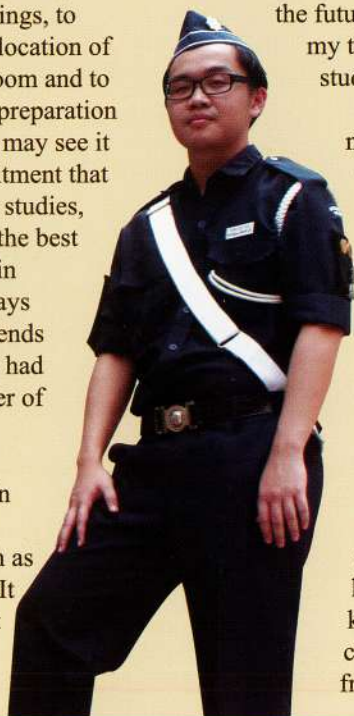
I did not plan to study in MCKL at first as the programmes offered were not what I wanted to study. However, after I received a scholarship from Stedfast Association, I had to think whether to continue my studies in my initial college or to MCKL. My parents and my Boys' Brigade (BB) officers suggested MCKL because it provided a better environment, and I eventually signed up for the Certified Accounting Technician (CAT) course.

I am really grateful for the Stedfast Scholarship because my parents do not have the ability to finance me to complete the whole degree program. Just like other scholarships, I was required to achieve a certain mark in order to maintain my scholarship and this requirement pushed me to study harder. Sometimes it is really tiring to always think about the marks I need to score, but it is all worth it because I am able to study without worrying about money.

About a month after starting my course in MCKL, I was elected as one

of the student council members representing CAT. As a student council member, I was required to give a certain commitment such as staying back on every Monday for meetings, to complete the reallocation of student council room and to stay back for the preparation of events. People may see it as a tough commitment that might affect their studies, but to me, it was the best experience I had in MCKL and I always share with my friends the many things I had learnt as a member of student council.

As Assistant Treasurer, I was in charge of one of major events such as Orientation Ball. It was another great experience because I



gained a lot of practical experience and was able to apply what I had learnt in my studies, such as preparing the budget, controlling expenses, and preparing a post-event report. I am not too sure how much these experiences would help me in the future, but as of now, I am able to manage my time better and not to lose focus on my studies.

My experience as a Boys Brigade member since Form 2 helped in MCKL, too. The self-discipline and organising skills I had picked up from there translated well into my studies and position on the student council.

I am currently taking the ACCA course in MCKL and planning to start my career at one of the big four audit companies after I graduate. I hope that one day I would be able to be a Chief Financial Officer, and so I have to be more diligent, humble and willing to learn from others. I hope that every student will always be humble in their journey of pursuing knowledge, prepared in facing any challenge and always ready to learn from failures and move on.

## Ranimah Oransum, ECE Class of 2014



Ranimah Oransum is a Christian Dusun girl who hails from Kampung Perupuk, Pitas, Kota Marudu, Sabah. Both her parents are non-commercial farmers of padi and various other crops that they use solely for the family's consumption. She has two older brothers, two older sisters and one younger brother, all of whom help out with the farming to ensure that everyone has enough to eat.

In most cases, a person of Ranimah's background would probably have to remain in her village indefinitely, labouring to support her loved ones. However, despite starting school late at the age of 9 years, she now happens to have the highest education qualification in the family – a Diploma in Early Childhood Education – and is currently working in the city as the primary breadwinner of the family. In light of that, it would seem that God has blessed her with gifts and opportunities to play a larger role in Malaysia's nation-building.

Soon after completing Form 5, Ranimah first discovered MCKL through her uncle, who knew Ms Moey through the Teachers' Christian Fellowship (TCF). However, her journey with MCKL would not begin until a little later. Upon completion of her STPM, Ranimah's uncle took her around Malaysia, searching for a university in which she could enrol for a degree programme.

"At first I wanted to study Medicine, but unfortunately my MUET and STPM results weren't good enough for admission into university," says

Ranimah when asked about her initial interests. But her uncle had a backup plan. "He said that if I cannot enter a local university, I would then go to MCKL. And since he was sponsoring my studies, he chose Early Childhood Education for me."

Ranimah enrolled for MCKL's ECE programme in March 2011 at the age of 21, funded through a combination of PTPTN loans and her extended family's financial support because her parents

could not afford it. Ms Moey and the Bukit Bintang Girls' School (BBGS) Alumni Berhad association also funded her accommodations for one and a half years, including a separate allowance for her textbooks and personal

expenses. According to her, it was the first time she had to stay outside of her village, and also her first encounter with city life. Everything was tough:

"I was very shy. In the first few months, I never spoke in class and sat far at the back so that the teacher wouldn't ask me questions. I couldn't speak English – only Dusun and Bahasa – and my classmates only spoke English or Chinese, even my housemates. It was hard to understand the ECE lessons, and I did very poorly in the early assessments.

"Luckily, the lecturers did everything they could to help me. Ms Rachel, one of the lecturers, personally gave me extra English lessons and explained so many things in Bahasa so that I could catch up. After Tadika practicums, I usually went to MCKL's Psychology and Learning Centre, where Danielle Chun, an A Level student, would teach

me English. I had to consult the dictionary all the time."

Despite the daunting challenges, Ranimah persevered and gradually improved to the point where she could effectively communicate with everyone else in English. "It's okay to try," she says. "Everyone's better than me in English, but it's the only way to learn. After three months, I even made friends who are very close to me, and even after leaving MCKL, I am still in contact with them."

With the language barrier finally out of the way, Ranimah then had the freedom to channel her passion into learning.

"ECE was my uncle's idea, but once I got into the course, I enjoyed it very much. You get to meet a lot of children in the practicums and teaching them wasn't as stressful as I thought it would be. We learned how to handle all sorts of different children's attitudes in the classroom and although I already had some experience from babysitting my uncle's children before coming to MCKL, I can say that there is a huge difference between teaching children as compared to just making sure they eat and sleep well.

"I think the best part of MCKL is the people; so many of them helped me to improve my English; Ms Moey and her friends from BBGS helped to finance my studies and accommodations expenses; My friends helped me when I had to go without food to pay rent; and the lecturers all kept encouraging me and teaching me even when I felt like giving up. Now, I teach because it brings me joy and fulfilment."

Ranimah currently teaches in a private kindergarten, Q-Dees School in Kota Kinabalu, and is the only one amongst her peers with a Diploma in Early Childhood Education. She believes that many more

qualified teachers are needed in the industry in order to ensure that more children get the early start they need to move on to higher education, and that MCKL offers a step in the right direction. Her younger brother quit school completely because nobody at his school knew how to deal with an anxious, crying child. "If they knew what I now know after doing my Diploma in ECE, I'm sure that he would have completed his education," she says.

"I want to give thanks to Ms Moey, BBGS and all the MCKL staff; thank you for your love, support and encouragement to me since I entered MCKL until even now, when I'm supporting my family. To new ECE students, I have this to say: learning ECE is interesting, not only for yourself or just employment but also for making a difference to other students and their parents."



## Why KPM Bursary Students Choose MCKL

Since 2012 when it was first initiated, the KPM Bursary has been awarded to Malaysian students who perform outstandingly by scoring 9A+ in their SPM exams. The Bursary covers the expenses of their pre-university studies such as STPM and A Levels.

The KPM Bursary was initiated in 2012, and Methodist College Kuala Lumpur was amongst the first twelve tertiary institutions licensed and approved by the Ministry of Higher Education to provide KPM Bursary students with their A Level programme. Since then, that number has grown to roughly fifty institu-

tions, and MCKL still stands as one of those favoured by students.

Given that MCKL is amongst the most affordable institutions offering the A Level programme, it might seem strange at first for students to choose it when they can choose other institutions with more substantial fees in order to fully benefit from the all-academic-expenses coverage offered by the KPM Bursary. However, after interviewing some of the outstanding KPM Bursary students in MCKL, it is clear that there are other important qualities that made them choose MCKL as their place of study.



**Chin Hui Yin**  
**Pharmacy in University College London, UK on a JPA Scholarship**

"MCKL exceeded my expectations. The campus was clean, conducive to studying, and it had a good reputation for academic performance. Both the students and lecturers were very helpful to me and my friends when we had trouble finding places or handling our homework. The staff of the University Placement Office also made a huge difference when I applied through UCAS; they gave me a lot of useful advice and I eventually got offers from all five universities that I applied to."

**John Liang Qin Sheng**  
**Pharmacy in Monash University, AU on a JPA Scholarship**

"MCKL feels unique to me. In just a year, it changed me from a quiet boy to one who had many friends and was able to find a balance between work and play. Community service was a big part of that – I was reluctant at first, but I soon found meaning and fulfilment in teaching English to young children. It taught me to be patient and to show love to those who needed it most. After completing my studies, I hope to contribute to the College expansion fund so that more students can come to MCKL and feel the joy of learning and growing that I did."

**Lyndon Ong Chun Hien**  
**Medicine in Newcastle University, MY on JPA Scholarship**

"I had always wanted to study in a Christian college, and MCKL with its good facilities, traditional values and strong discipline therefore became my top choice. On top of good academic facilities and lecturers, the co-curricular activities really helped me foster a closer relationship with my friends and lecturers. And as someone from Kuching, the affordable and convenient accommodation was a nice bonus."



**Pavithra Subramaniam**  
**Pharmacy in University of Manchester, UK on JPA Scholarship**

"I chose MCKL because it was a relatively small college; everything is monitored and maintained very well, and I had a good time with my teachers. My best memories here include facilitating Orientation Camp for the juniors, where I learned to diversify my skills with teamwork and responsibility. It's like a second home to me and the memories will stay with me for a very long time. If there is one thing I have to say to future students, it's this: MCKL is a good place. Think about what you want to experience before choosing, and do what feels the best for you. Don't just follow everyone else."



**Caleb Tay Hong Teng**  
**Gap year**

"My friends said that MCKL students have good character, and I had also heard that many of them have been to elite universities around the world because MCKL helped them to become well-rounded in skills and knowledge. I wasn't disappointed. The staff were friendly and helpful, and the lecturers really went the extra mile to help us even when we messaged them outside of college hours. Once I'm done with my gap year to get some work experience and social skills, I intend to apply to the US and UK to study Electrical & Electronic Engineering."



**Marcus Tay**  
**Mechanical Engineering, University of Nottingham, MY**

"Many of my friends recommended MCKL, and it met my expectations. The study environment is nice and quiet, with good academic and sports facilities and lots of places to study outside of classrooms. I enjoyed the classes because experienced and friendly lecturers made learning interesting. Overall, I feel that MCKL really brought out the best in us."



**Wong Violet**  
**Government & Economics, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK on JPA scholarship**

"I needed a good study environment, and MCKL filled that need quite nicely. It was not too big, not too loud, and had lots of trees. My experience in MCKL was great, mostly because of the people. Due to its small size, knowing everyone gave it a homely feeling, and the lecturers were able to give us more attention and make my study life better."

## Architecture in Italy



Timothy Ong, A Level Class of 2011  
BSc. Architecture, Kent State University,  
Class of 2015

As if being abroad in America was not enough, I was given the opportunity to further studies in Florence, Italy for a semester. The need to be exposed and adapt to new cultures and circumstances is vital for personal growth and development. And the semester in Florence did no less. As a sojourner in Italy, I sought to entrench myself in the rich vocabulary of history spoken by its architecture and normalcy. The awareness of diversity assisted in shaping my worldview towards people, cultures, religion and design.

As a student of Architecture, to design in a context whereby, historical, political and economic significances played a larger role proved to be challenging and exciting. My flexibility and adaptability as a designer were refined as we thought differently to provide solutions for the client.

The socio-economic scene in Florence proved to be a cultural shock for us. The presence of gypsies begging, illegal street vendors, flashy tourists, students and clergy in the same piazza opened our eyes to the sharp economic gap throughout the country. The presence of huge cathedrals and basilicas primarily standing for the entertainment of tourists rather than as a house of prayer also raised questions about the changing religious and economic landscape throughout the region.

Ultimately, being in Florence has allowed me to look at Malaysia with a different lens. She provides a benchmark for comparison, a scale for measurement. However, despite the overwhelming differences, Malaysia is remarkably similar to Florence and the United States: Our religious and socio-economic landscape is changing, there is injustice and there is beauty, there is darkness and there is light. The world isn't so different after all, is it?

## How Volunteer Work Inspired The Economist In Me

Adam Gabriel McKenna, A Level Class of 2009  
BSc Economics, University of Victoria (expected graduation in 2017)



**Q:** So Adam, what was your subject combination in A Levels?

**A:** I took Economics, Business Studies, English Literature & Law (I dropped Math). On my first day of maths, I struggled. I was told by the lecturer that I should 'explore my options', outside of maths. So I took law, which was great, but it left me with doubts in my math abilities for many years. Ironically, i'm doing a very math intensive Economics programme now. Haha.

**Q:** So after completing your A Levels, you took a couple of years off before commencing your degree programme. How did this unconventional route benefit you?

**A:** The age you get into (and graduate from) university truly doesn't matter. It's the mindset you cultivate through that experience, and some time off after A Levels can help prepare you for that. So yes! Take a year (or three, like me) off after A Levels.

**Q:** What did you do in those years off?

**A:** I entered MERCY as a volunteer right after A Levels, doing odd jobs in fundraising. I approached the then Senior Accountability Officer, and assisted her to prepare MERCY for an upcoming humanitarian audit. This would turn out to be my first internship. At the same time I continued to volunteer in various domestic humanitarian efforts, from missions in Ampang to rural Perak.

**Q:** When and how did you find out about Teach For Malaysia (TFM)?

**A:** An ex-colleague from MERCY Malaysia casually mentioned to me over dinner one night that TFM was looking for interns. So I jumped on the chance, and the rest is history!



**Q:** What made you passionate about educational change in Malaysia?



**A:** The fact that I lived in a family that had invested in my education determined a lot of the opportunities that were afforded to me. Understanding that this was not the case for most Malaysians made me want to find out more about the realities of the educational landscape in Malaysia, which is what I tried to do in TFM.

**Q:** Did you teach?

**A:** I did not - TFM Fellows are university graduates who apply to the programme (which is a joint collaboration with the Ministry of Education) and have to undergo a 2-year contract. They become actual teachers, and are employees of the MoE. I wasn't a graduate, but there were lots of internship opportunities within the organisation. I worked in operations and recruitment.

**Q:** Did you ever go to the schools Fellows were placed in?

**A:** Lots of times - everywhere from rural Perak and Kedah to urban KL (my Malay got really good, really fast. haha). It just goes to show that education inequity is prevalent everywhere - not just the kampung schools we might be quick to think about.

**Q:** What did you learn from this experience? How does it impact the way you see your life, education, the world, how teaching should be, the attitude one should have, etc.

**A:** It impacted what I chose to study in university - economics (believe it or not). I have realised that education is one of, if not the most important determinant in a person's life outcomes. I wanted to study that from a more macro perspective, which is what I'd like to get into doing more of in grad school.

**Q:** Would you encourage others to try out teaching or even TFM?

**A:** It's not a small commitment, and there are a myriad of (very valid) reasons why people may choose to not undergo the Fellowship. It's tough. But a lot of people are cut out for it, and a great way to feel it out is by doing an internship at TFM! They hire basically year-round, and it's a fantastic experience.

*Adam is of Malaysian-Canadian heritage and, although a Canadian citizen, he considers Malaysia as home.*

*If you'd like to find out more about opportunities (including internships!) in teaching and education with Teach For Malaysia, check out their website [www.teachformalaysia.org](http://www.teachformalaysia.org).*

## Education Destination:

# Germany

Chew Zhen Yin (Rachel),  
A Level Class of 2012, Mechanical Engineering,  
Karlsruhe Institute for Technology, DE

Germany is like my second home. I have been in Germany for more than a year now and I love Germany. I have moved to 3 different cities due to my studies and have met many people from different countries. I would like to share about my life in Germany and hope to encourage more Malaysian students to further their studies in Germany because it is a really beautiful country and the people are also very friendly.

Cologne is a city located in the west of Germany and I spent my first 6 months there. I was really lucky to be able to stay with a German family during my stay at Cologne because there were also other foreign students that stayed there. We would have dinner together with the family every day and we would talk throughout dinner, but the only rule was that we were only allowed to speak German.

It was really difficult at the beginning because my German was not good enough and I was also shy to speak German. I did not speak much for the first few days in Germany as I was afraid that I would make mistakes and be laughed at. But after a few days, I was actually forced to speak German because everyone that I met in class or at home could not speak English. The only common language we had was German.

After spending 6 months in Cologne, it turned out that I could no longer speak fluent English with my family, even though English is my mother tongue. This time, my parents had a few laughs whenever I made mistakes in a simple English sentence. At times I could not even remember certain words in English.

I spent the next 6 months at Hamburg, another city located north of Germany. I took part in a preparatory course which was organised by the university to prepare foreign students for university as the lectures would be conducted in German. My classmates came from different countries and as expected, none of them could speak English. I have always thought that everyone would know how to speak English as it is an international language, but I was proven wrong. However, thanks to my friends and the surrounding that had forced me to speak German, I have managed to improve my German language in a short period of time and finally being accepted to the university that I have dreamed of.

I am currently studying Mechanical Engineering at Karlsruhe Institute for Technology (KIT) in Karlsruhe, which is also located west of Germany. If anyone is wondering, all of my lectures and tutorials are conducted in German. This means I have to put in more effort and do more self-study every day after lectures,

which also includes studying at the library during weekends and having less free time.

The reason why I chose to further my studies in Germany was not to make myself suffer, but because I wanted to study Engineering and Germany is famous for its Engineering courses. Furthermore, the fees in German universities are much cheaper than that in other countries and I would say that it is almost free. I have to make some sacrifices like taking up German classes, putting more efforts in my studies as German is still a foreign language for me and being a year behind all my friends in studies, although I have never regretted that I chose this path.

Honestly, I was concerned at the very beginning that I might not be able to graduate from a German university because German is after all a foreign language and I might not be able to catch up with my studies. However, I am glad that I did not give up despite all the worries and although my journey from now on till I graduate will be tough, I am sure that all the efforts I put in will be worth it at the end of the day.

Lastly, I hope that I have not frightened students who have interest in furthering their studies in Germany. I would actually like to encourage Malaysian students to step out of their comfort zone and come to Germany to study. It might be a challenging adventure, but it will be a satisfying one.

If anyone of you are still concerned about the language, there are still bilingual courses offered by the German universities, which means that the lectures in the first year are conducted in English and from the second year onwards, they will be then conducted in German. I do have friends who are studying bilingual courses here in Germany.

I am willing to answer all the questions that you have, for example what you should do before you come to Germany and how much the fees cost and etc. My email address is [chewzhenyin@gmail.com](mailto:chewzhenyin@gmail.com). For anyone who is interested or curious about studies in Germany, you can send me an email and I will try to reply as soon as possible.



4 of us from the A Level Class of 2012 in Germany (from left to right) are:

1. **Neo Wei Sheng** at Duisburg University studying mechanical engineering.
2. **That's me!** I'm at Karlsruhe Institute for Technology studying mechanical engineering.
3. **Tan Lin Hui (Desmond)** at Mannheim Hochschule studying Automation Technology
4. **Tah Hou Thin** at Duisburg university studying mechanical engineering.

In the autumn semester of my third year, I decided to take advantage of the opportunities offered by Messiah College by applying to spend a semester at the University of Oxford. I was accepted into the rigorous Scholars' Semester in Oxford to study "Theories of Government" and "Modern History". Through the program, I was matriculated at Wycliffe Hall as a visiting student, allowing me access to Oxford's facilities and amenities like all their students. This was an exciting time for my academic career, and looking back, I would not have imagined its far-reaching impact on my life.

Messiah College offers a variety of study abroad programs that go from America to Europe, Latin America to Africa to the Middle East, and even to Australia. Programs last for a month, a summer, or – in my case – a whole semester.

Not all of these programs are strictly academic; they vary in nature. A graphic design major might find inspiration studying renaissance art in Orvieto, Italy. Aspiring doctors can participate in Malaria research in Zambia, Africa. A political science student could intern at the British parliament. Are you talented in music? You could immerse yourself in one of America's biggest music hubs – Nashville, Tennessee – where you will record, produce and perform songs while touring the country on concerts! Despite these great options, I chose to stretch my academic ability at the oldest English-speaking University in the world.

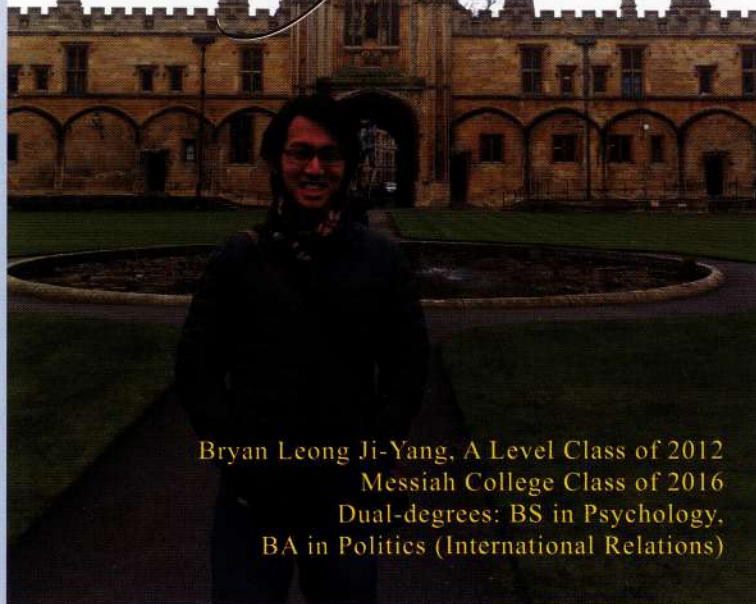
In preparation for my semester at Oxford, I was troubled by the costs and expenses associated with studying abroad. Fortunately, Messiah College is one of the few schools that generously transfer all your scholarship and financial aids into your choice of one semester abroad. After the processing, I found myself paying almost the same amount as I did for a regular semester at Messiah. Imagine that: paying the same amount to attend Oxford University instead of your home institution! Messiah College made it incredibly easy to pursue these opportunities.

At Oxford, I was immersed in its beautifully antiquated history and its unique academic culture. In the first three weeks, I had to produce three 10-15 page research papers on selected topics of British history. All students in the program bonded through the initial trials we faced adapting to this dynamic and independent method of learning. Besides that, we also had two tutorials and a seminar class in which we would produce a mini-thesis at the end.

Tutorials represented the bulk of our education there. In the application, I specified my desire to pursue tutorials in "Modern Japanese History" and "Theories of Government" because they would meet requirements for my degree back at Messiah College. Upon arrival, I was formally assigned to two Oxford professors that would mentor me on my chosen subjects. I met my tutor once every week (one-on-one) after producing a 10-page research paper – a task given to me the week before. We would then engage in constructive debate on the content of my essay, challenging my viewpoints and forcing me to defend my argument on the subject.

It was an ego-shattering experience having to pit my week-old knowledge of Rousseau's Social Contract against Dr. Nicholas Cole, my Oxford tutor (or don) who is an expert in Classical and Contemporary Political Philoso-

## A Semester in *Oxford*



Bryan Leong Ji-Yang, A Level Class of 2012  
Messiah College Class of 2016  
Dual-degrees: BS in Psychology,  
BA in Politics (International Relations)

phy. Nevertheless, this is the essence of an Oxford education: training me to think analytically and wholesomely, write critically and articulate my viewpoints with grace and humility.

My time in Oxford made me realize how little I know and how dependent I needed to be on the Lord for academic wisdom, humility to learn gracefully from my tutor's critical comments, and appreciation of the amazing opportunity to study at one of the best universities in the world. I now laughingly describe how I had never before cried that much to God (and my friends and family, bless their souls) because of academic stress, but the experience was invaluable in shaping my thought process and writing style today.

I realized that when choosing a university, you want it to be a place you can both maximally grow and contribute into the lives of others. Some do that better at a big university (like Oxford) whilst others flourish in smaller schools (like Messiah College). Moving past the name and prestige associated with some schools, you want it to be a place that will mold you in the best possible way because – for those who have the opportunity – university may well be the place you begin to shape seriously your outlook on life and the future.

As I look toward graduation, I can testify to how short time is at university. So, take advantage of the opportunities, connections and experiences; make those 3 or 4 years count!

*While at MCKL, Bryan was the Student Council President, a Stedfast Scholar and an exemplary student of impeccable character, earning him the CEO's Award upon graduation. His entire journey in education has been a walk of faith, and MCKL wishes him all the best as he finishes his final year at Messiah College, US.*



It is common knowledge that the engineering sector is one of the most lucrative. In fact, a considerable number of your peers in university will probably tell you that they are only putting themselves through the adversities of an engineering degree in order to reap the monetary gains which follow. However, there is so much more to it than the financial rewards alone.

As part of my personal statement for applying to university, I had made a commitment towards sustainable development, in particular, to help our country advance into a modernised nation without disregarding the environment. As I continue my search for a graduate job, it remains my aim to keep to those words which I had typed, five years ago.

Ultimately, engineering is, like all other lines of work, one of the pathways which God has blessed us with to be able to touch the lives of those who share this world with us. From the supply of potable water and electricity, to the manufacture of medicine and transportation, the opportunities are endless. It all boils down to one thing – what are you passionate about?

There is a widespread misconception that engineers need only excel in mathematics as well as the relevant sciences. This is far from being the case, as I draw on my personal experience of having done modules during my degree which were far from being "conventional". Examples include Law (since every project is subject to regulations,

and every invention needs to undergo patent control), as well as Economics (because the mass manufacture of most engineering products relies on their profitability).

In short, whilst pre-university will undoubtedly cover the fundamental prerequisites, one must also sharpen the mind in preparation for the significant escalation in academic complexity at degree level and beyond. One must be in touch with current affairs, for how are you to help others when you are not aware of whom to help and the nature of assistance required? Furthermore, the exploration of scientific literature will allow you to think outside the box and distinguish yourself from the swathes who squander their time on social media, entertainment news and computer games.



*Nigel survived engineering school and graduated with his Masters degree, despite entering directly into the second year of his degree programme. At the time of writing, he is assisting in the Admissions Department at MCKL, hoping to guide and inspire the younger generation towards selecting the right pathways and tackling the challenges ahead of them. He would be glad to share his university experience in further detail, and can be contacted at [nigelngiam@live.com](mailto:nigelngiam@live.com).*

### Be An Inspiration To Others!

*Are you an alumni with a tale to tell or advice to give? Write in to [ask@mckl.edu.my](mailto:ask@mckl.edu.my) with your full name, programme and cohort, and send us your stories with some pictures. We'd love to hear all about your experiences and share it with others!*



## So you want to do Engineering?

Nigel Ngiam, A Level Class of 2011  
MEng in Chemical Engineering with Honours,  
University of Edinburgh Class of 2015

# Finding Love After Education

Many consider MCKL an important milestone in their lives, and so we celebrate when our alumni reach another important stage in their journey through life and with one another. This year, four of MCKL's alumni have tied the proverbial knot:

Joyce Ng completed her Degree in English at Kent State University and is currently looking for work in non-profit organisations. On 20 September 2015, she married Jonathan David Bundy, a Journalism graduate from Cedarville

University who currently works as a digital marketing coordinator. The wedding was held at Pleasant Hill Outdoor Camp where they first met each other, and amongst the attendees were her fellow MCKL alumni, Timothy Ong, Tan Shen Wen and Lim Kai Shin.

Whilst studying Nursing in Kent State University, Lim Kai Shin met Kyle King in a campus ministry, and after graduating, she married him on 30 May 2015 in Grace Baptist Church, Kent. Her fellow MCKL alumni at the wedding were Tan Shen Wen, Timothy Ong, and Joyce Ng and her then fiancé.

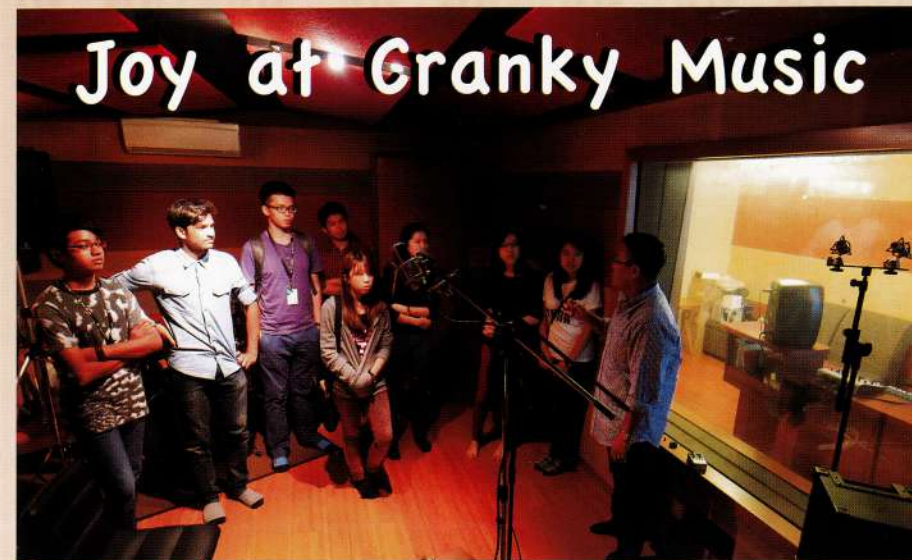
Both Anuja Ananthan and Vijayen-

dran Rajalingam are former MCKL students who graduated in 2004. Anuja has a BSC in Money, Banking and Finance from the University of East London, UK, and is now a business and finance TV host, facilitator and model, whilst Vijayendran graduated from Padjadjaran University, Indonesia with a degree in Medicine and now works in a specialist residency programme in Internal Medicine. They married on 29 August 2015 at Kalamandapam Hall, Brickfields, just a stone's throw away from MCKL where they first met.

And lastly, Joyce Fong, the girl who went to Cambridge with her violin, fell in love and married a very tall man! Both are practicing law in Singapore.



MCKL wishes them all the very best in their futures together, and that they will continue to exemplify excellence for life!



For the young, aspiring musician, the music industry often seems like an extremely unforgiving, cut-throat business. Although that may be true to an extent, more often than not, failure to break into the industry is due to inexperience. Like any other industry, one needs to learn the ropes beforehand from someone experienced and successful, which is exactly what a group of lucky MCKL students were able to do on a bright Saturday morning.

Mr Aubrey Suwito, a graduate of the famed Berklee School of Music (*who also happens to be an MCKL alumnus*), needs no introduction on the Malaysian scene as a multi-award-winning composer, singer, songwriter and producer who has written songs and produced for the likes of Dato Siti Nurhaliza. No surprise then, that we were so excited to visit the studio of such an esteemed artist.

Cranky Music Studio is Mr Aubrey's base of operations and is located in Ara Damansara, serving as a home away

from home where he has spent endless nights writing, arranging, refining and producing pieces. Stepping into the unit produced an overwhelming sense of cosiness that almost felt like home, if it weren't for the amazing equipment that many musicians have only ever dreamed of using, let alone owning.

The real business began with Mr Aubrey and his wife recounting his career in music and how opportunities may come and go, which was a welcome boost to the fragile confidence of us young musicians. He talked about his idols and his musical influences growing up. He also spoke on the pros and cons of the music industry in Malaysia, offering insights on how to appeal to a target audience and how to gauge attention of the general public. As a bonus, he even demonstrated his process for turning ideas into songs before showing everyone around the studio itself, including his spectacular control room:

We made the most of the opportunity

and asked just about every question under the sun, and we gratefully absorbed all the wisdom we could from the musical maestro that is Aubrey Suwito. Unfortunately, time flew by all too quickly and we eventually had to leave and say goodbye.

To say it was an amazing experience would be an understatement, as Mr Aubrey had given valuable insight to everything we wished to know about the music industry and music itself. The experience had fuelled our passion and desire to work hard and follow in his footsteps. Who knows; one of us might even succeed!

Written by: Kahrthikeyan Selvarajah  
Cohort: CAL 1501 S3



## Winners of the Nottingham Economics Essay Competition 2015



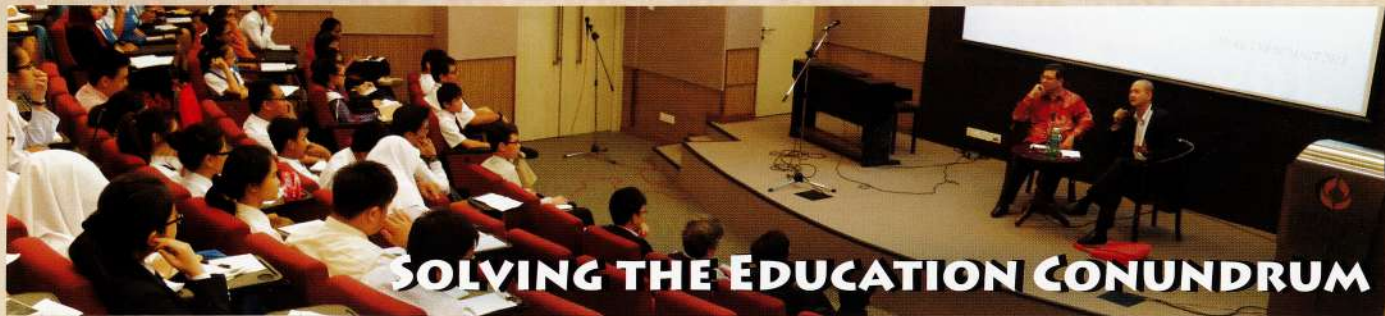
On 7 October 2015, MCKL students, Wong Huey Teng and Shalini Samudri d/o Ananda Rao (both of cohort 1501A1), attended an award ceremony for the University of Nottingham Economics Essay Competition 2015. Our students had done the College proud by achieving Second Prize in the competition.

The award ceremony was held in conjunction with the inaugural talk of the University of Nottingham School of Economics' Distinguished Speaker Series, where YBhg Dato' Yvonne Chia,

a trailblazer for women in banking and the first female CEO of any commercial bank in Malaysia, shared her vast experience.

Shalini was also the winner of the MCKL Accounting Essay Writing Competition held in conjunction with the CAT-ACCA Day September this year. The title was "How Can Accountants Contribute to Nation Building?"

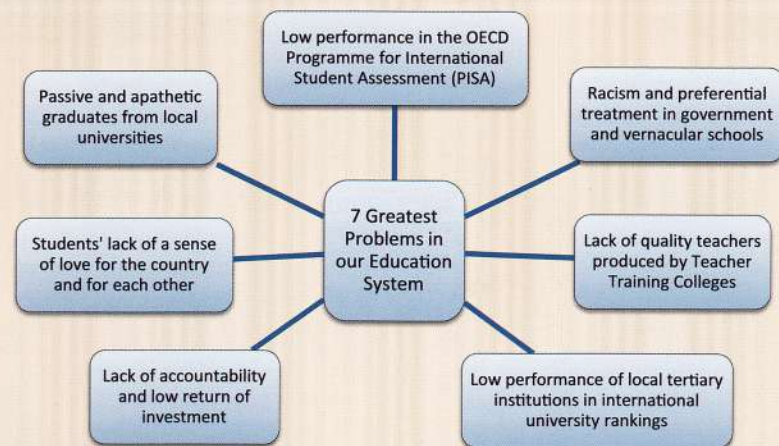
MCKL hopes that the students' success serves to inspire others who wish to take part in future competitions.



The education system in Malaysia is a topic which generates debate, and deservedly so, as it is one of the pillars for the development of a society. In keeping with the present-day concerns of our country and its citizens, students from 17 secondary schools convened for the inaugural Student Leaders Summit, conducted by the MCKL Young Nation Builders Club.

there were various methods of tackling such extensive predicaments, whilst laying bare the less apparent intricacies which were encountered. The event culminated in a brief competition, where

assembling of such a distinguished panel, of whom all had contributed exceptionally, was no less than impressive.



YAM Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin, presenting the keynote address at the Young Nation Builders Summit 2015

A keynote address on the theme of Education was delivered by YAM Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin, Founding President of the Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS), a local, non-profit public policy think-tank. The topics conveyed were on the role of the private sector in education, the formulation of education policies, as well as the impact of education on the competitiveness of our Nation.

Subsequently, seven challenges facing Malaysia's education system were deliberated by YB Dr Ong Kian Ming, MP for Serdang and former policy analyst for the Social Economic Development and Research Institute (SEDAR), along with Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah, a former Deputy Minister for Higher Education.

Later that day, there was further dialogue between Mr Wan Saiful Wan Jan, Chief Executive Officer of IDEAS, and Datuk Dr Denison Jayasooria, Secretary-General of the Society for the Promotion of Human Rights (PROHAM) on "Building a Greater Sense of Muhibbah in our Schools".

A key objective of these discourses was to demonstrate to the audience that

representatives from each secondary school were invited to contribute their reviews of the assessed subjects.

There was a clear proliferation of awareness, combined with a drive towards reforming the education system in Malaysia. A recurring theme was that its exam-orientated nature should be dispensed with, and be replaced by a configuration which would eradicate any characteristics of being overly competitive.



Furthermore, vital sub-aspects such as teachers, languages of instruction, as well as school environments and activities cannot be overlooked, as we seek to put Malaysia and Malaysians on the map. Indeed, the challenge is to pioneer efforts to better train our future generations into more well-rounded citizens of this world.

MCKL is proud of the endeavours of our students and lecturers, who worked tirelessly to execute this Summit. The

The occasion had provided those in attendance with a platform for thinking critically and compassionately about our Nation's most pressing issues. Secondary school students and their teachers alike had commended that the episode had been distinctively stimulating, compared to anything they had previously experienced.

Upon reflection, the significant questions directed by the audience towards the panelists, on top of the high-quality analyses from the student representatives, and the interest shown via the reactions of those present, demonstrate that, in spite of what is commonly insinuated about the younger generation, our country may yet have a brighter future in their hands.



Seated from left: MCKL Head of MPU Subjects Yoshua Chua, MCKL CEO Ms Moey Yoke Lai, YAM Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin and Serdang MP Mr. Ong Kian Ming.

# BE THE CHANGE

## ~ MCKL'S FIRST CLIMATE CONFERENCE 2015 ~



Ambassador and Head of the European Union Delegation to Malaysia, His Excellency Luc Vandebon

Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL) organized its inaugural Climate Conference on 25 July 2015. The guest of honour was the Ambassador and Head of the European Union Delegation to Malaysia, His Excellency Luc Vandebon. The theme of the Conference was 'Be the Change', with the intent of creating awareness amongst the 300 attending students and guests about the daily practical things which they could do in their everyday lives to minimize their carbon footprint, featuring a panel discussion with guest speakers from Leaderonomics, Ms Awatif Gharar, Ms Michaelle Phoenix and the ever lively Mr Matthias 'The Greenman' Gelber.

The topics of discussion ranged from the history of the International Climate Conference to the role of young adults in their communities by becoming environmental leaders. His Excellency provided a keynote address and formally opened the Climate Conference, after which he provided a summary of the key mandates and objectives of the upcoming Paris Climate Conference, as well as the urgent need for governments to act and uphold their respective commitments.

Touching on the role of youth in climate mitigation actions, His Excellency added, "The involvement of young people is a crucial part of the wider engagement of society, because

their attitude, mentality and actions today will shape the behaviour of the coming generations. I would therefore very much like to encourage the youth to actively engage in the fight against climate change, by changing their way of life to a low-carbon sustainable one, by promoting awareness of the effects of climate change and influencing the decision-making process in this respect."

A spirited and lively exchange among the panellists kept the audience amused and intrigued, touching on daily activities like reducing the usage of water heaters and air-conditioning as practical solutions which everyone could implement in a small way but have a large collective impact. Mr Matthias also suggested that consumers should demand more environment-friendly homes which will encourage the development of green homes.

The event came to an end when His Excellency and the Management of MCKL placed their pledges on the MCKL Climate Conference Pledge Tree.

At the end of the Conference, Ms



The panelists (seated from left to right): His Excellency Luc Vandebon, Mr Gelber, Ms Phoenix and Ms Gharar.

Moey Yoke Lai, CEO of MCKL said, "There is hope for our planet if each one of us realises that change begins with me. Let us all begin taking small steps towards reversing the trend of climate change."



Ms Moey and His Excellency placing leaf pledges on the MCKL Climate Conference Tree 2015

The event was organised by Mr Troy Keegan, Chairman of the MCKL Climate Conference 2015 who is also the Panel Head of Economics at MCKL. In the run up to the event, MCKL collaborated with 'Leaderonomics' in conducting environmental and conservation talks to the students. According to Mr Keegan, a number of students have committed themselves to the 'Green Revolution' as part of the 'Negawatt' initiative post Climate Conference 2015, where students try to reduce electrical consumption in their households.

### Model United Nations



### Leo ROAR Fiesta



# University Talks & Visits in MCKL

(Nov 2014 - Oct 2015)

- AEO Tour
- Arizona State University, US
- Cardiff University, UK
- City University of Hong Kong, HK
- City University London, UK
- Curtin University, AU
- Dublin Institute of Technology, IE
- Full Sail University, US
- Griffith College Dublin, IE
- Handong Global University, KR
- Hawai'i Pacific University, US
- Heriot-Watt University Malaysia, MY
- Hong Kong Institute of Education, HK
- Hong Kong University of Science & Technology, HK
- Imperial College, UK
- IACT, MY
- Institute of Technology Tralee, IE
- Iowa State University, US
- Irish Universities Tour
- John Carroll University, US
- King's College London, UK
- Laureate International Universities
- London School of Economics and Political Science, UK
- London Universities : Imperial College, King's College, School of Oriental and African Studies, University College London
- Messiah College, US
- Midwest Education Tour
- New Zealand Tertiary College, NZ
- North Dakota State University, US
- Penang Medical College, MY
- Perdana University, MY
- Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, JP
- Robert Gordon University, UK
- Singapore Management University, SG
- Singapore University of Technology and Design, SG
- Study in German Tour
- Study in Ireland Tour
- Study in Japan Tour
- Study in the US Tour
- Study in New Zealand Tour
- SUNY Brockport, US
- Swansea University, UK
- The Chinese University of Hong Kong, HK
- The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, HK
- The University of Hong Kong, HK
- Truman State University, US
- University College Dublin, IE
- University College London, UK
- University of Bath, UK
- University of Birmingham, UK
- University of Edinburgh, UK
- University of Essex, UK
- University of Exeter, UK
- University of Glasgow, UK
- University of Hertfordshire, UK
- University of Kent, UK
- University of Melbourne, AU
- University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, US
- University of Missouri - Kansas City, US
- University of Nottingham, UK
- University of Nottingham Malaysia, MY
- University of Southampton, UK
- University of South Australia, AU
- University of St Andrews, UK
- University of Sydney, AU
- University of Warwick, UK
- University of Waterloo, CA
- University of Western Australia, AU
- University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire, US
- Wichita State University, US
- Winona State university, US

## Suit Up Day

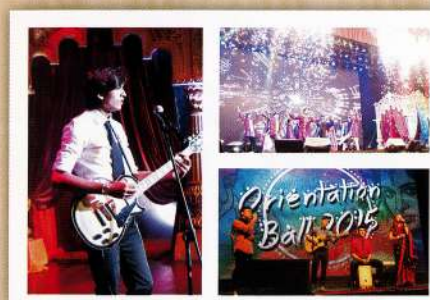


## Dithyrambic Singers



Dithyrambic Singers performing. Among them our MCKL students who are Yvonne Soo, Alex Yap & Jonathan Wee.

## Orientation Ball



## Milal Choir



## Midsummer Classique

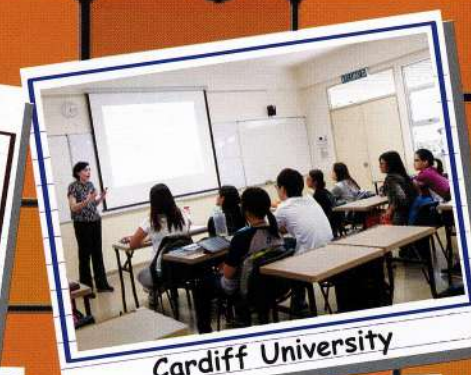
Milal Choir performing at MCKL Agora on the 8th and 9th of July 2015



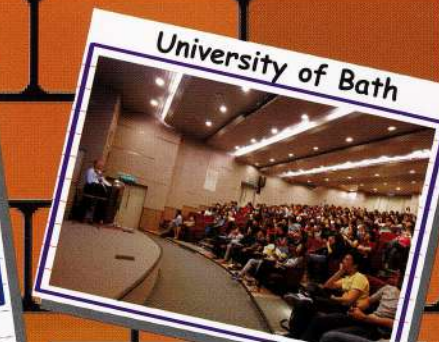
## Orientation Camp



Winona State University



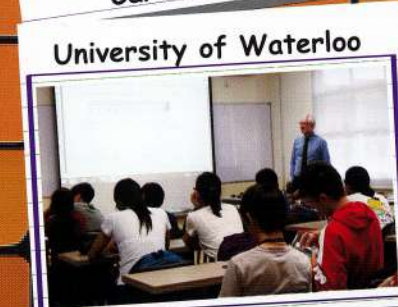
Cardiff University



University of Bath



Chinese University of Hong Kong



University of Waterloo



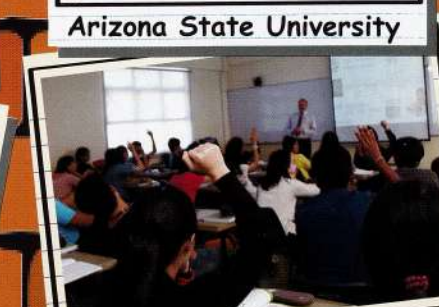
Arizona State University



University of Wisconsin



University of Missouri



University College Dublin



University of Kent



Handong Global University



London School of Economics & Political Science



# Serving with Love

On Saturday 15 August 2015, MCKL held a volunteering workshop called 'Serving with Love' with the core value of 'volunteerism initiative', aiming to equip students with the necessary skills and knowledge to create community projects that would benefit society.



The workshop featured several speakers from various esteemed organisations that specialise in social work and supporting developing communities. They were as follows:

Annora Ong, from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in the Education Unit. An alumna of MCKL, she is actively involved in Mentari, a tuition centre for the underprivileged children living around the area (at low-cost flats) held every Saturday, teaching English and Maths. She also volunteers at EPIC (Extraordinary People Impacting Community), building homes for the indigenous people of Malaysia.

Nuhan Zainal, Mandeep Singh and Shailesh Nathan have

just returned from a volunteering trip to Cambodia, where they worked closely with an organisation called 'Water for Cambodia', building, distributing and maintaining water filters in the rural areas of Cambodia.

Eunice Quay and Emily Wong are currently involved in UKECharisma, an organisation created to encourage student volunteerism by providing a reliable and sustainable framework for community service and leadership projects to be carried out in Malaysia.

The event also served as a soft launch for 'Project Lab', a platform to connect MCKL students to various NGOs for short-term and long-term internship. Project Lab also provides seed-funding to student-initiated community projects, and we hope that all attendees have benefited from the experience and will continue to play a role in developing their respective communities.



## STAR Education Fund Recipients



Proud recipients (left to right): STAR Scholarship 2015 winners Santhene Chandran, Tee Yi Wen, Cheng Kar Mun, Vanessa

As part of its goal in serving the community and building up the nation, Methodist College Kuala Lumpur has a good, long-standing partnership with the Star Education Fund in providing financial support and opportunities for deserving young Malaysians to pursue their tertiary education. The selection process is stringent, requiring a combination of outstanding academic results, co-curricular achievements and financial need, and this year, four students qualified to reap the benefits whilst studying in MCKL.

Over the years, MCKL through the Star Education Fund has contributed over a million ringgit in financial support to young Malaysians with bright futures, and MCKL also participates in Sin Chew and Stedfast Scholarships. We wish the students all the best in their studies and hope that more will follow their example in taking the first steps to nation-building.

## SPECTRUM DASH

The MCKL Spectrum Dash was organised on 31 January – a run for unity in Malaysia and for raising funds for feeding and education programmes to aid many Malaysian children living in poverty. It was planned and organised by the Student Council of MCKL, with Dr Peggy C. Wong, the founder and chairman of Living Hope and Ms Moey Yoke Lai, the CEO of MCKL as the Guests of Honour.

Through the event, MCKL managed to raise an estimated RM5000 and donated a total of RM10000 for the cause, which made it a spectacular success. MCKL would like to thank our sponsors and participants for their tremendous support; let us look forward to more of such events to help support our fellow brothers and sisters in need!



## Celebrating Diversity



MCKL staff wearing traditional costumes in celebration of Diversity on the eve of Hari Merdeka.



## ECE Children's Day & Kids Carnival

## CAT-ACCA Day



## Mooting Workshop



# Graduation 2015

Methodist College Kuala Lumpur celebrated the graduation of its Class of 2015 students on 22 August 2015. It was the largest single graduation ceremony in MCKL's history with over 500 graduands at the Wesley Legacy Centre. Excellent results abounded in the A Levels, Certified Accounting Technician (CAT) and Diploma in Early Childhood Education (ECE) programmes this year. All of the A Levels students passed the programme, with 36% scoring at least 3As. Khong Jia Ren received a Special Award from ACCA, whilst Clare Tan Yi Zhi, Elizabeth Tan Hsiu-Chin and Melissa Chew Li Mei received the MCKL Teaching Scholarship Award.

As another year passes, MCKL adds another chapter to its 32-year history and tradition as The College of Excellence for Life. We thank God for blessing our students with outstanding intellectual and co-curricular achievements, and we hope that He will continue to do so for many more years.





# Graduands of 2015



ECE Class of 2014



AUSMAT 1307



CAT 1403 & 1407



CAT 1401



ECE Class of 2015



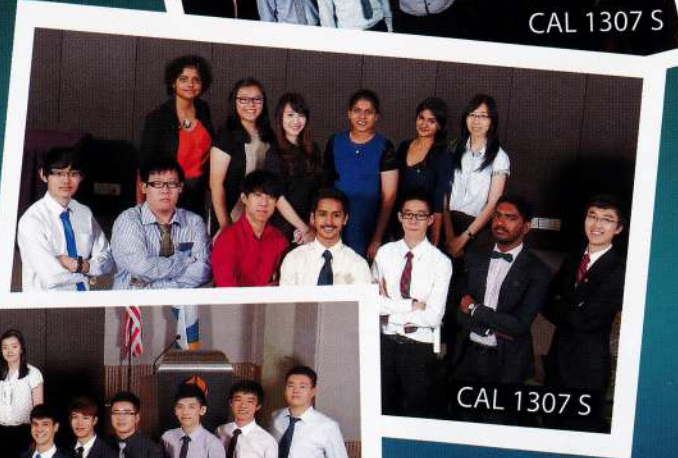
AUSMAT 1401



CAL 1307 S



CAL 1307 S



CAL 1307 S



CAL 1307 D



CAL 1307 M



CAL 1307 A



CAL 1401 A



CAL 1403 A



CAL 1401 D



CAL 1401 S



CAL 1403 M



CAL 1403 S



CAL 1401 M

# METHODIST COLLEGE KUALA LUMPUR

*Celebrating 33 Years of Academic Excellence*



Chew Kwang Liang, Class of 2011  
Economics & Applied Mathematics  
Yale University, US  
(the only Malaysian admitted in 2011)  
Yale University Scholarship



Tong Kin Seng, Class of 2012  
Medicine  
University of Oxford, UK  
(the only Malaysian admitted into the medical programme in 2012)



How Han Ming, Class of 2013  
Film Studies & Economics  
Wesleyan University, US  
Freeman Asian Scholarship  
(the only Malaysian recipient in 2013)  
& AMCHAM-MACEE Scholarship



Liew Jin Soong, Class of 2014  
Economics & Literature  
Wesleyan University, US  
Freeman Asian Scholarship  
(the only Malaysian recipient in 2014)



Eunice Lim Yuying, Class of 2015  
Medicine  
Penang Medical College-University  
College Dublin, IE  
on UCD Full Tuition Scholarship  
(the only Malaysian recipient in 2015)

## Students Admitted to Top Universities in 2015\*



Lee Han Gyu  
Chemical and Biological Engineering  
KAIST University, KR  
on KAIST Scholarship



Yvonne Low Teng-Wei  
Insurance, Finance & Actuarial Analysis  
Chinese University of Hong Kong, HK  
on University Admission &  
Morningside College Admission Scholarships



Astrid Rachel Van Dort  
Archaeology  
Leiden University, NL  
on Decision Holland Scholarship



Khaw Jien-Vei  
Engineering  
University of Hong Kong, HK  
on HKU Entrance Scholarship



Cheong Hsien Hwa  
Environmental Science (PEAK Program)  
University of Tokyo, JP  
on The University of Tokyo  
Scholarship



Sya Mun Kit Julian, Class of 2015  
Medicine  
Penang Medical College-Royal  
College of Surgeons, IE  
on RCSI Full Tuition Scholarship  
(the only Malaysian recipient in 2015)



Charis Sii Ning  
Dentistry  
University of Dundee, UK  
on JPA Scholarship



Kavin Arunasalam  
Physics  
University College London, UK  
on MyBrainSc Scholarship



Abigail Tan Kar Ling  
Medicine  
Perdana University, MY  
on Academic Medical Centre  
Foundation Scholarship



Jeremy Yon Hsien Yee  
Software Development  
Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, IE  
on English Language and Country of  
Origin Scholarship



Yagi Makoto  
Advanced Molecular  
Chemistry  
Tohoku University, JP  
on Full Tuition Scholarship



Ananthan Nambiar  
Physics  
Reed College, Oregon, US  
on Reed College Scholarship

NAME	PROGRAMME	UNIVERSITY PLACEMENT	SCHOLARSHIP
Tou Da Hui	Mechanical Engineering	Imperial College, UK	JPA Scholarship
Rooban Letchumanan	Commerce (Actuarial Studies)	University of Melbourne, AU	JPA Scholarship
Ng Vi Jia	Microbiology	Imperial College, UK	JPA Scholarship
Janice Wu Teene Teene	Dentistry	University of Queensland, AU	JPA Scholarship
John Liang Qin Sheng	Pharmacy	Monash University, AU	JPA Scholarship
Tan Jo Yee	Medicine	Monash University, MY	JPA Scholarship
Lyndon Ong Chun Hien	Medicine	Newcastle University, MY	JPA Scholarship
Sharwini Paramasevan	Medicine	Newcastle University, MY	JPA Scholarship
Hing Li-Syuen	Food Science	McGill University, CA	McGill Entrance Scholarship
Yeoh Min Li	Chemical & Environmental Engineering	Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, HK	Entrance Scholarship
Kek Meng Siong	Aircraft Maintenance & Operations	University of Limerick, IE	Faculty of Science and Engineering Undergraduate Scholarship
Chang Yi Hua	Science	University College Dublin, IE	Global Excellence Scholarship
Tan Sue Yee	Early Childhood Care & Education	Institute of Technology Tralee, IE	IT Tralee-Methodist College Scholarship
Hanniel Soh Een Yang	Early Childhood Education	University of Central Oklahoma, US	UCO Global Scholarship
Dorcas Choo	Counseling Psychology & Social Welfare	Handong Global University, KR	Outstanding Entrance Grade Scholarship
Shawn Hiew Siu Ping	Psychology	Bangor University, UK	Bangor University Merit Award
Melissa Chew Li Mei	Early Childhood Care & Education	Institute of Technology Tralee, IE	MCKL Teaching Scholarship
Sean-Michael Morais	Aeronautics & Aerospace Engineering	University of Southampton, MY	Top Achievers Scholarship
Yeh Yang	Mechanical Engineering with Acoustical Engineering	University of Southampton, MY	Top Achievers Scholarship
Isabelle Tay Sui Kim	Chemical & Environmental Engineering	University of Nottingham, MY	High Achievers Scholarship
Muhammad Habib Zaman	Chemical Engineering	University of Nottingham, MY	High Achievers Scholarship
Kamarul Zaman	Chemical Engineering	University of Nottingham, MY	Merit Scholarship
Tan Xin Yi	Chemical Engineering	University of Nottingham, MY	Merit Scholarship
Kow Kai Xin	Chemical Engineering	University of Nottingham, MY	Merit Scholarship
Lee Chee Hoong	Chemical Engineering	University of Nottingham, MY	Merit Scholarship
Lee Gao Jun	Civil Engineering	University of Nottingham, MY	Merit Scholarship
Koh Zhuan Lun	Civil Engineering	Heriot-Watt University, MY	The Star Education Fund
Cho Khai Lee	Actuarial Science	Heriot-Watt University, MY	Heriot-Watt Scholarship
Wong Kah Seng	Actuarial Science	Heriot-Watt University, MY	Merit Scholarship
Ng Sui Lyn	Chemical Engineering	Monash University, MY	High Achievers Award
Ha Zhe Ying	Science	Monash University, MY	High Achievers Award
Joey Yap Jo Yee	Accounting & Finance	Sunway University, MY	Jeffrey Cheah Entrance Scholarship
Yvonne Tan Yi Wen	Business Management	Sunway University, MY	The Star Education Fund
Puteri Nur Najwa	International Trade & Marketing	Victoria University Sunway Campus, MY	The Star Education Fund
Megat Husni	International Trade & Marketing	Victoria University Sunway Campus, MY	The Star Education Fund
Chow Sook Yee	Pharmacy	UCSI University, MY	UCSI University Trust Scholarship
Koh Yen Ru	Architecture	UCSI University, MY	UCSI University Trust Education Grant
Loo Yang Xian Jade	Architecture	Taylor's University, MY	Tertiary Merit Scholarship

NAME	PROGRAMME	UNIVERSITY PLACEMENT
Tan Wen Hian Johannah	Pharmacy	National University of Singapore, SG
Ng Xin Yi	Biological Sciences	Nanyang Technological University, SG
Chai Chung Sien	Medicine	University of Dundee, UK
Ng Hui Yun	Medicine	Newcastle University, MY
Prabha Harenee Patchiappan	Medicine	Nizhny Novgorod State Medical Academy, RU
Venosa P. Sanmugasundram	Medicine	Jawaharalal Nehru Medical College, IN
Sangkari Karuppliah Ganesan	Medicine	JSS Medical College, IN
Lim Jian Rong	Medicine	International Medical University, MY
Lee Jit Chen, Sean	Medicine	International Medical University, MY
Grace Tan Yee Cheen	Dentistry	International Medical University, MY
Ong Zhi	Dentistry	Penang International Dental College, MY
Ashik Masru Rahmnan	Medical Sciences	Virginia State University, US
Jessie Tan Xi Le	Actuarial Mathematics	Dublin City University, IE
Lim Ke-Xin	Actuarial Science	London School of Economics and Political Science, UK
Low Soon Yin	Mathematics with Management Studies	University College London, UK
Lee Yi Nian	Natural Sciences	Imperial College, UK
Sien Yew Jung	Materials Science & Engineering	University of Bath, UK
Ian Ho Heng Jin	Electrical and Electronic Engineering	University of Manchester, UK
Marcus Lee Zhen Lup	Petroleum Engineering	University of Southampton, UK
Lu Chun Kiat	Civil Engineering	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, HK
Shim Eun	Civil Engineering	Shinshu University, JP
Fujinami Kae	Mechanical Engineering	Technische Universitat Ilmenau, DE
Fong Yan Yi	Industrial Engineering	University of Melbourne, AU
Chuah Huai Chuang	Engineering	University of Melbourne, AU
Basil Yap Ji Tsing	Engineering	Singapore University of Technology & Design, SG
Aparajith Nagarajan	Engineering	Pennsylvania State University, US
Helena Chang Zin Ying	Microbiology	University of California - Davis, US
Nicholas Yee	Economics & Politics	University of California - San Diego, US
Queeny Lim Ly Kar	Finance	California State University - Long Beach, US
Brandon Simon Saviour	Liberal Arts	University of Illinois at Chicago, US
Nelson Sou	Commerce	University of Queensland, AU
Yap Hui Li	Biomedical Science	University of Queensland, AU
Prakrithi Narayanan	Biomedical Sciences	University of Manchester, UK
Louisa Tan Yi Wei	Optometry	University of New South Wales, AU
Elson Lim Eng Vern	(undeclared)	University of British Columbia, CA
Hong Jinghann	Law	University of Warwick, UK
Lee Shin Yiang	Journalism	Leeds Beckett University, UK

\* Partial listing only. NOTE: All information is correct at time of print



Pavithra Subramaniam  
Pharmacy  
University of Manchester, UK  
on JPA Scholarship



Abigail Toh Youxin  
Material Science & Engineering  
Imperial College, UK  
on JPA Scholarship



Ho Zhu Yi  
Civil Engineering  
Imperial College, UK  
on JPA Scholarship



Sui Yea Lin  
Dentistry  
Cardiff University, UK  
on JPA Scholarship



Toh Wei Tung  
Economics  
University of Warwick, UK  
on JPA Scholarship



Chin Hui Yin  
Pharmacy  
University College London, UK  
on JPA Scholarship



Kok Zi Cheng  
Economics  
Nanyang Technological University, SG  
on ASEAN Undergraduate Scholarship



Wong Violet  
Government & Economics  
London School of Economics and Political Science, UK  
on JPA Scholarship

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Email: ask@mckl.edu.my Website: www.mckl.edu.my



**METHODIST COLLEGE** | KUALA LUMPUR

*Veritas Vincit Omnia*

If absence makes the heart grow fonder, the students of MCKL's Class of 1995 would be very fond indeed. After twenty years apart, over fifty of MCKL's former students made their way to Publika, Kuala Lumpur on the 6th of June 2015 for an evening of reminiscing of their time spent learning and growing together in school.

As a bonus, several of MCKL's staff members and lecturers attended the event as well: Ms Lim Huey Kuin, Ms Subra, Mrs Bala, Puan Faridah, Mrs Mak, Mr & Mrs Moore and Mr Mohan. Ms Lim still serves at MCKL, and it was a great opportunity for her to catch up with former colleagues and for them to hear how far MCKL has come since their time.

As Jessica Ng, Davin Fernandez and Daryl Leong, the organisers for the event put it, "Friendships were forged even 'til today and many teachers and peers made lasting impressions. We were pleased to be able to meet up with many ex-teachers even though some were not able to attend due to various reasons.

"At the event, there was much chatting and laughter as we recounted many memories with teachers and classmates and yes, even as we sang the school song. After the event, many left looking forward to the 25th year reunion – so here is a 5-year 'save-the-date' for the next reunion!"

Overall, it was a great night of celebrated birthdays, achievements and remembrances, and everyone had a great time catching up on where their respective lives had led them from their common roots in the College of Excellence for Life.



## Class of 1995 Reunion

## Study Abroad Tips

by seniors

When asked "What are some must-have items when studying abroad? what did you take with you? what did you wish you took along?" here's what some shared:

- ★ If you're picky with stationery, bring the ones you like along. In bulk. Don't bring too much clothes actually as you'll end up buying more over there!
- ★ Waterproof jacket or bag, especially for countries that rain frequently...
- ★ And those going to UK, bring your slippers. YOU WILL NEED THEM when going for shower, and buying slippers in the UK is expensive. And also bolster lovers, UK don't sell them here, if not rarely (same for Australia and Hong Kong, apparently!)
- ★ Anything spicy. The spiciest sauce you can find here in Ireland is practically nothing compared to whatever you can find in Malaysia unless you go shopping in the Asian market.
- ★ MCKL hoodie! It has proven to be the best piece of clothing I've brought to Ireland!
- ★ You can find so many things in any shop here in Japan. Even the convenience store is plentiful with things you need during an emergency. Unless you're pretty tight on your finances, that is.
- ★ Don't bring too much shampoo / facial stuff unless you're pretty sure because with the difference in humidity & temp levels, what your skin needs might also be different.
- ★ Bah kut teh herb packs and curry mix packs... They're the best to help you get over homesickness.. But of course the most important.. bring an open heart and mind to go experience it!
- ★ Milo tastes different in the UK. But I found that dark choc flavoured almond milk tastes similar to Milo back home tho!

Keep in touch and share your experiences by joining our [Methodist College Student Alumni network of current students and alumni on Facebook](#).  
[Add us and let us know which cohort you are from!]

Read more inside!