

## PASSING THE TORCH



**Ms Moey Yoke Lai**

**Ms Angela Pok**

**"I have done my term here, and I have enjoyed every moment of it. I'm very thankful to the Methodist Church for giving me this opportunity to serve and to help MCKL"  
- Ms Moey Yoke Lai, 2019**

Ms Moey retired as the CEO of MCKL on the 31st July 2019, after serving 13.5 years in the College, culminating in a total of 46 years of service and contribution to the field of education. Her dedication to teaching has made her a familiar face in the education circle. Director of Academic Studies (Tertiary Programmes), Ms Khor Kheng Leik, took charge as Interim CEO while the search for a new CEO began.

***Read more about Ms Moey's journey on page 38***

**'Are you a Christian?' was the question posed by the management recruiter to potential CEOs.**

Though an unusual question, it was regarded as crucial to enable the right person to fill the top position at MCKL. This question must have stirred something in Ms Angela Pok's heart because she responded to the calling to become CEO.

On 2 September 2019, Ms Angela Pok took over the helm of MCKL with a mission of taking the College to even greater heights.

***Read more about Ms Angela's plans on page 3***

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**Above: Ms Angela Pok, CEO of MCKL**

**Below: MCKL senior management team.**

*L-R: Ms Chan Chiau Khoo, Ms Betsy Li, Mr Kwan Kow Cheun, Ms Angela Pok, Mr Khoo Teng Sooi, Ms Khor Kheng Leik.*

# MCKL 4.0

Ms Angela Pok joined MCKL as Chief Executive Officer on 2 September 2019. She holds an MBA from the University of Southern Queensland and a professional qualification from Tunku Abdul Rahman University College.

She brings with her more than 20 years of management experience in tertiary education, having served in both public and private universities. She was Vice-President of Student Experience at Taylor's University from September 1997 to March 2017 before assuming the role of Director of Transnational Education and Strategy at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia SPACE (UTMSPACE) from April 2017 to July 2019. At UTM, she was involved in transnational education engagement where she spearheaded the successful implementation of six franchise campuses in six countries, making UTM the first Malaysian public university to offer local degree programmes abroad.

She has always been passionate about providing positive student experiences that enhance student learning at universities and institutions of higher learning. This has led to her appointment as the President of Asia Pacific Student Services Association (APSSA), a role which allows her to enhance liaison and collaboration among student services practitioners of the Asia Pacific region.

Ms Angela has vast experience managing high volume of staff and working with diverse staff of different levels. She specialises in higher education management and administration, leadership and staff development as well as institutional strategic planning.

Ms Angela is committed and ready to steer the College and its community to greater heights. Her vision for MCKL can best be summed up as **MCKL 4.0: The Institution of Excellence for Life.**

The MCKL family is very pleased to welcome Ms Angela as the new CEO and we look forward to her leadership and guidance as we continue to strive for excellence.



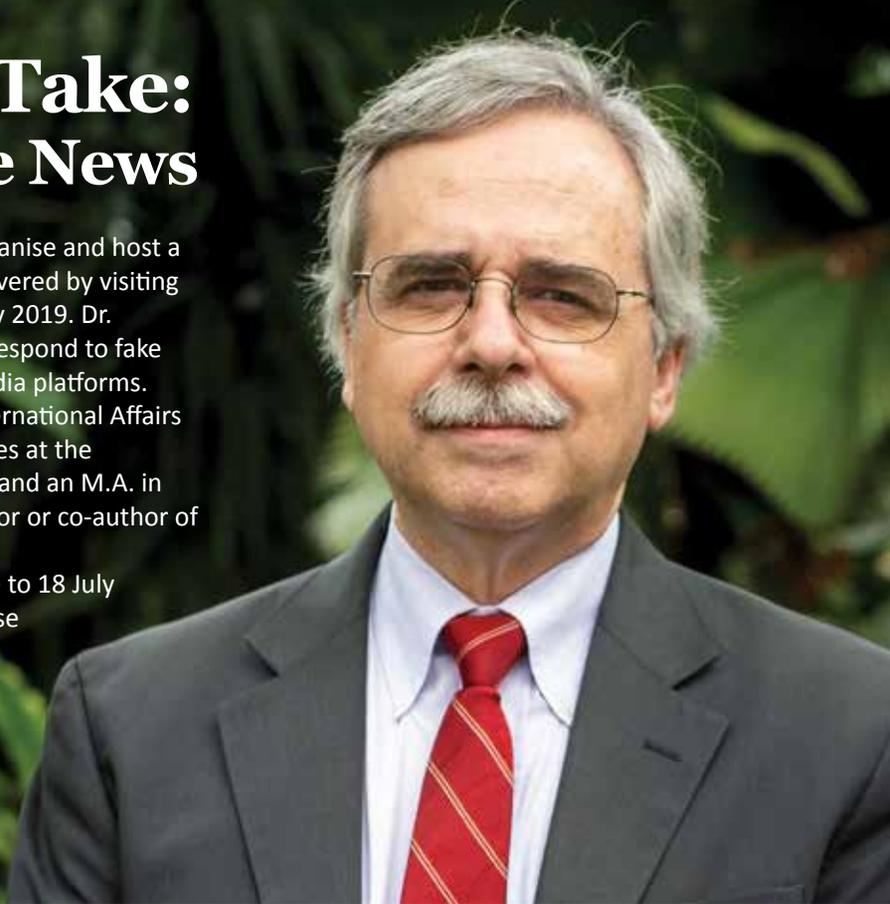
# Dr Farnsworth's Take: A Face Off With Fake News

Methodist College Kuala Lumpur was honoured to organise and host a Public Lecture: Seeking Truth in an Era of Fake News delivered by visiting Fulbright Specialist, Dr. Stephen J. Farnsworth on 6th July 2019. Dr. Farnsworth offered suggestions on how to identify and respond to fake news found in traditional news outlets and on social media platforms.

Dr. Farnsworth is a Professor of Political Science & International Affairs and Director of the Center for Leadership & Media Studies at the University of Mary Washington, USA. He received a PhD and an M.A. in government from Georgetown University. He is the author or co-author of six books on the US presidency and mass media.

Dr. Farnsworth was in residence at MCKL from 10 June to 18 July 2019, where he taught the 'American Government' course in the American Degree Transfer Program.

We managed to have a quick chat with him before he went back to the States.



## 1 How did you feel about the public lecture turnout?

We had a good crowd and some great questions. I think that it speaks, I think, to how important it is and how many people are willing to consider fake news and how to deal with it as they go forward and that's a good sign because we can't really count on the governments to fix this. Because if governments try to manipulate free speech, you'll risk losing a free society and businesses probably won't regulate fake news either because they make money every time people get angry at somebody else and click and retweet and repost things. So it's on us, and that challenge is one that we have to take on. It's more work than we want to take on, but it is what it is. We won't get a more honest conversation about the future of the country, the future of the world without it.

## 2 What do you think about the maturity level of journalism in Malaysia?

I think journalists everywhere struggle. The first challenge that every reporter has is trying to get information that other people don't want you to have. Governments are not necessarily as transparent as the people might like and they're certainly not as transparent as the journalists would like, and so sometimes you end up writing stories that are more incremental than comprehensive, and that's the nature of journalism. But the journalists here, I think, do an excellent job of saying a lot about what is going on with the government and what some of the significant controversies are in the country. Now I'm only reading the English language media. I'm keeping track of what's going on in the US in that media, keeping track of what's going on in business in that

media, and starting to learn a bit about Malaysian politics through those stories too.

## 3 What do you think about the exposure of Malaysians towards fake news?

I think the challenge that every society has now is how to separate information that is accurate and factual, from information that is an opinion or just false. I believe that the challenges are going to only intensify as more and more people go online and more and more people learn how to manipulate video or audio to make it sound like something that didn't happen, actually did happen. That's creating, I think, a great challenge and so as I'm looking at questions of fake news that it's requiring more critical thinking than it ever did be they American citizens, British citizens or Malaysian citizens. Everywhere you go, you're going to see people who are trying to tell you stuff that is not true because it's worth it to them for you to be fooled and you have to go through that much more trouble than ever before to avoid being subject to this fake news.

## 4 When international news is announced in the US, is it delivered the same way as it was initially portrayed in the home country?

Well, what you get in the American media is very American focused. The issues outside of the US that relate to the US are the kind of international stories that get covered. So the issues would really only be the sort of top significant issues, like the 1MDB scandal that involves some American celebrities, it involves people who have connections to

Hollywood and so, Americans, like most countries they like talking about themselves. So the conversation about US-Malaysia issues has to have a pretty significant US component for it to breakthrough in the US news.

**5 What made you go into Political Science?**

I started college as an English major. I was really interested in literature, but I had to take a range of courses to get my degree, and I took a Political Science course, and I decided this was so much more interesting than what I've been studying in any other program and so I was ready and I jumped right in. It was great training. I went, after graduation, to be a journalist and the Political Science degree was useful there and then eventually I went into graduate school, and now I teach Political Science.

**6 Why did you pick MCKL as your Fulbright Specialist host?**

Well, MCKL is in a part of the world that I really liked. I haven't been to Malaysia before I came to this program, but I have travelled a lot in Southeast Asia and really look forward to the chance to see someplace new and explore it.

**7 How was your experience teaching Malaysian students compared to American students?**

The thing is every class that I've taught before this one has been about 95% people who were born in the US, who grew up in the US and lived in the US and so the people here have a very different view of the US. You have a sense of what America's impact is in the world in a way that American students would not. And so it's handy for me to think about how to talk about American politics in ways that are more internationally oriented but also, to take account of the fact that there are things I would typically bring up with American students that they would know because of having followed the news. That might be a little more difficult for the students here. So it has really sharpened me as a teacher to think about where the students are.

**8 What can students who are interested in Political Science expect when they go into this field?**

Well, Political Science allows you to do a lot of different things; you could work as a lobbyist, you could run for office, you could work for somebody who's running for office, you could be a journalist. There are all kinds of things that revolve around politics. Issues that you may care about. Let's say you want to be a teacher, well, the way that the government funds or doesn't fund the education, that's politics. Let's say you want to be in the business of developing properties, the same story, you have to ask the government for permission to build a building, and all these issues come back to politics. They really do find the very central thing in a lot of issues that people have to deal with in their lives and in their workplaces.



Above: *Seeking Truth In An Era Of Fake News* public lecture

Left: Dr Farnsworth's American Gov't class in MCKL

**9 What is the best Malaysian cuisine you have tasted so far?**

I've loved the food here. I like the beef and chicken rendang and nasi lemak is excellent. And there's a coffee I like here, teh tarik.

**10 What about the durian?**

Yeah, I like durian!

**Do you have any parting advice for MCKL students?**

The main thing that I would tell any students anywhere is that this is a great time. You have the opportunity to really focus on whatever it is that interests you; In your classes, in your planning for your career and so you have to make the most of it. You can have fun, of course, but you can also really shape the trajectory of the next 20 years of your life by where you focus and what you do here. So, make the most of it.

# Earth Weekend



On the weekend of 14 April 2019, a group of MCKL AUSMAT students took part in the Earth Weekend event as part of their Service Learning subject. Service Learning is for students to reflect on their service activity through writing, discussion, and reading to gain further understanding of course content, broaden their appreciation of the discipline, and enhance their sense of civic responsibility.

Held at The School by Jaya One, the purpose of the event was to raise awareness on environmental issues. Our students share their experiences:

**It made me realise that every kind of service which benefits starts from you and me**



Chua Jo Ee

On the day of Earth Weekend, we arrived at 10.30 in the morning to help set up the venue. While the boys were busy running around doing the heavy work, the remaining few of us were asked to help a lady with her fashion show. At the beginning, we thought we were going to help sort out some clothes, but we became the mock models. The lady preparing for the fashion show told us that she hadn't finalised the choreography for the show, so she pulled us in and told us to walk around a massive landfill of donated clothes while striking poses at different positions. It was funny seeing us trying to walk to the beat of the music because the music was awkwardly slow, and we had to stop ourselves from walking at a normal pace. After all that, the event officially started at noon.

There were a lot of workshops going on. There was a marketplace that sold a variety of eco-friendly homemade products, and there were also educational talks and movie screenings going on simultaneously. The people were walking around and talking about how important the environment is while looking at the small exhibitions that were set up by various NGOs. People from all ages and cultural backgrounds were there; they were there to donate clothes, E-waste and loads of other good stuff. There was also a cheese store selling artisanal cheese that really 'perfumed' the whole area.

The highlight of the day came at the end when the landfill of donated clothes was open for sale at RM1 per garment. The volunteers huddled around the landfill and helped the people pick out what they wanted, mainly used clothes, but occasionally some pieces still had their price tags attached to them! The proceeds were all going to be donated to fund a research project for the whales in Langkawi (yes, we have whales), so the people there were even more enthusiastic when buying the clothes.

Service Learning is exceptional, it pushes students to interact with global issues, and it provides eye-opening perspectives for a lot of us. This subject doesn't just encourage us to volunteer for an NGO; it also forces us to learn how to manage time properly, it shapes us into people who are more passionate about the community and not just bookworms who are selfish and ignorant of world issues. Service Learning made me realise the importance of working together as a team to achieve a goal and opened my eyes to the global issue of climate change. So, in conclusion, Service Learning is essential, although it does take up some time, but the time spent will be worth it.

 Chia Kai Dong

Last Sunday, I attended an event called the Earth Weekend, held at The School by Jaya One. The purpose of this event was to raise awareness of environmental pollution. I was working with Kloth Malaysia Sdn Bhd alongside a few of my teammates. We noticed that a lot of people were focusing on issues like global warming, carbon emission, plastic waste, water pollutions and others. Fast fashion is slowly becoming the second largest polluter in the world because people are throwing away their clothes at an alarming rate to follow the latest fashion trends, and these clothes often end up in landfills.

I learnt a lot of new things through this event as I noticed many things are still affecting our Mother Earth, and there are many ways to prevent it.

Although this is a school-based project, we hope to achieve both of our targets, which are to conserve nature and reduce the carbon footprint indirectly.



**Service Learning is exceptional, it pushes students to interact with global issues, and it provides eye-opening perspectives for a lot of us.**

 Bau Yi Xuan

During Earth Weekend, there was a landfill made of clothes. The landfill encouraged the recycling of fabric waste, such as clothes and soft toys. The organisers have in the past urged people to donate clothes to them. Other than that, they hosted a fashion show of dresses made of unwanted fabric. There were also stores there that sold metal, and bamboo straws and some organic food shops were also set up at the event.

After the fashion show, there were talks about saving energy and what happens to plastic wastes during recycling and so on. I helped in the setting up of the talk by setting up the computer, projector and cables. I also contributed to manning the store in the evening.



 Leong Jia Hui

The Earth Weekend event was my first time getting involved in voluntary work to raise awareness of environmental pollution. It was an excellent experience, and I got to gain some knowledge through Earth Weekend, held at The School in Jaya One. I think the landfill in the middle of the mall was one of the main attractions of the event as it showed how clothes and fabric can produce so much waste. The event was two days, and in just a day, the landfill full of clothes grew a metre tall. I learnt that we can repurpose most of the things in our life if we think about it and we could refuse to buy or use many things to reduce waste. It was an eye-opening experience to see people using unwanted oil to make whipping soap, some people even had their clothes swapped instead of throwing them away, and a family shredded and melted plastic straws to make pendants. There were also a few talks held during the event. One of the talks made my jaw drop, it was on climate change, and I didn't know climate change was so severe due to all the waste we produced.

I think that Service Learning does not just mean what the words say, learn to serve. It is also about finding the purpose to help create a better world not only for ourselves but for every living being on Earth. It made me realise that every kind of service which benefits starts from you and me. So, in conclusion, it is not about whether we can or not, but it is about we want to or not. And if we're going to serve, do it, then bit by bit it will become a habit.

# Mini Malaysia

**As Malaysians, we take pride in many things. However, there is one aspect that makes us distinct and truly leaves a mark, one that we might take for granted but one that makes us who we are—living in a harmonious multicultural society.**

To appreciate and acknowledge our ethnicities, students from the Diploma of Early Childhood Education were tasked to set up cultural booths as part of their group assignment for the Teaching Social Studies to Young Children module. It aimed to promote cultural awareness amidst students of the college and to equip the soon-to-be teachers with different styles of interactive teaching.

The DECE students were challenged to creatively exhibit the cultures of each Malaysian race, namely the Malay, Chinese, Indian, Iban and Kadazan-Dusun races. They were separated into groups consisting of students from different cultural backgrounds and were given time to plan and discuss their showcasing.

On the 2 July 2019, the MCKL Agora was filled with beautifully decorated booths with vibrant colours and items that resembled each culture. Students used red packets, oil lamps, rattan and various forms of tapestry to decorate their booths. The end result was a resplendent sight that captivated all who passed by.

'Mini Malaysia' drew more attention when passers-by were greeted amiably with pleasantries in various languages by the ECE students. Other students who went in the Agora saw their friends from the DECE in their very own traditional clothing. This aspect made them stand out from other exhibitions as some of the costumes were even self-designed!

At the booths, they were introduced to an immersive and interactive experience of the different cultures in Malaysia. This was done through handmade information boards and

participation in traditional games and dances. The DECE students performed dances such as the Magunatip, a traditional Kadazan-Dusun dance involving bamboo poles and agile feet. In some booths, visitors even got to taste various local delicacies that the DECE students prepared.

The exhibition was one of a kind and was a great learning platform, not only for those who visited the booths but more so for the DECE students who showcased the different cultures. In doing extensive research on the cultures, they

**Learning about a new culture is as if we are travelling to a new country**

grew to have a deeper understanding and respect for the different cultures they were promoting. To some, it decreased their apprehensive feelings towards other races and to others, the whole experience was an eye-opener to our rich Malaysian heritage.

All in all, the event was a huge success, educating and impacting the lives of many.



# Viva La Vixen



“

**Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear, and obstacles vanish.**

**John Quincy Adams,  
6th President of the United States.**

”



This is true for Tung Wei Seng, Lim Jo Lyn, Natasha Lim, Ng See Keng, and Heng Khai Suan, who make up the Kpop dance cover group—Vixen.

Having to bear the typical responsibilities of a student, Vixen proved that they were able to balance their commitments; attending classes as per usual, having their dance practice after classes till 7pm daily, and completing assignments of their respective programmes.

The members of the MCKL Dance Club formed Vixen in early 2019 with the intention of participating in the Kpop Dance Cover Competition (KDCC), an annual dance competition. Their discipline paid off as they emerged as 1st runner up in the KDCC2019 Under-18 category, something that they did not expect as it was their first time competing together and there were more experienced contestants competing.

They will be joining KDCC2020 in the Open Division, where they will face even tougher contestants. Their practice sessions have been put on hold as they are currently focusing on their year-end examinations. Jo Lyn, who plans to pursue Law after A Levels, advises, “If you really want to do it, you will make time for it. Learn to compromise”.

Congratulations, Vixen, on your win! May you dance your way to more victories!





# Education At Its Fullest

*On Sept 2019, UCO President Patti Neuhold-Ravikumar and her team visited MCKL.*

Founded in 1890, the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) is one of the oldest institutions in its state and is now known to be a flourishing metropolitan university. Located on 210 acres in the heart of Edmond, UCO has more than 16,000 students to whom it will invest and educate to produce future leaders that can actively serve in the greater Oklahoma City metropolitan area. UCO offers students a chance to volunteer and do service learning, in addition to more than 200 student organisations that will put its students on the path of holistic education, moulding them to be future leaders.

UCO bears the core mission of providing and equipping its students with transformative education experiences so that they can develop holistically to serve the global community around them. Transformative learning is an all-encompassing practice that places students at the focal point of their dynamic and intelligent learning encounters.

## Central Six

In light of channelling education through transformative education experiences, UCO also serves as the Leadership University through this method based on the common grounds of Community, Character and Civility. All students will have the opportunity to metamorphose in these six aspects: Discipline Knowledge, Global and Cultural Competencies, Health and Wellness, Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities, Leadership, Service Learning and Civic Engagement.



Not only that, UCO has developed a great initiative to further enable its students to receive the most of the transformative educational experience. Students' academic performance will reflect their progress in the Discipline Knowledge aspect. Students' development in the remaining five aspects will be tracked in the Student Transformative Learning Record (STLR). STLR is an avenue where students can recount their experiences and lessons learnt throughout their schooling years relating to the other aspects. After receiving constructive feedback from a trained faculty member, students then get an opportunity to include this when applying for jobs or enrolling in graduate schools to increase employability or chances of enrolment.

### Academic

Academics in UCO adhere closely to their core mission, also promoting and encouraging constant learning regardless of location and time. Lecturers and faculty members in UCO create open doors for association and development, instilling in students the certainty and boldness for whatever they may face in the future.

UCO comprises 6 colleges, namely the Colleges of Business, Education and Professional Studies, Fine Arts and Design, Graduate Studies, Liberal Arts, Mathematics and Science as well as a Forensic Science Institute. These colleges boast more than 100 undergraduate programs and more than 70 graduate programs that cater to the vast array of interests of prospective and current students. As an institution that strives to become the top metropolitan university, UCO offers Tutoring Central that gives free tutoring to its students, whether in person or online so that they will be better assisted in their program. UCO also cares for the future of its students by providing a Career Development Centre where students are given handy career advice, mock interviews, job listings and more.

### Recognition

UCO is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools as a bachelor’s and master’s degree granting institution. It also has specialised recognition for quite a number of their programs by renowned institutions. Some examples include

the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science which is accredited by the Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET. Similarly, the Bachelor of Science in Chemistry—ACS Certificate has the approval of the American Chemical Society.

UCO is ranked No.6 of ‘Top Schools for Engagement’ by the Times Higher Education College Rankings. On top of all that, UCO has been named as the top public regional university in Oklahoma.

### Going to UCO through ADTP@MCKL

UCO is one of the partner universities that offers an exclusive scholarship to ADTP @ MCKL students called the UCO-MCKL Leadership Scholarship.

Since its inception, there have been four recipients of the scholarship, with Sara Ashley being the most recent recipient. She is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology because she is interested in global issues and wants to make a change.

A little known fact is that Sara Ashley is the cousin of Sharon Too Huei Lin, who is the daughter of one of the lecturers at MCKL. Sharon was also an ADTP @ MCKL student and is doing a double major of Software Engineering and Digital Forensics, and minor in Criminal Justice. She is also a recipient of the exclusive scholarship. On top of receiving the exclusive scholarship, she was also awarded the John Taylor Beresford Endowed Scholarship for Computer Science.

They share about their experience at UCO and MCKL and provide some tips:



**Sharon Too Huei Lin**

#### 1 Why did you choose to do ADTP?

Because I wanted to study in the US and ADTP was a more affordable option

#### 2 What majors and minors are you pursuing, and why did you choose them?

My major is in Software Engineering, and Digital Forensics. I am interested in going into law enforcement as a career and Software Engineering complements Digital Forensics well. My minor is in Criminal Justice.

#### 3 What would you tell a student considering your majors?

Don't be afraid to apply for internship and research opportunities

#### 4 Nicest food/delicacy at UCO?

A restaurant called Flatire Burgers



**Sara Ashley**

**1 What major and minor will you be pursuing at UCO, and why did you choose them?**

I will be receiving my Bachelor of Arts in Sociology (Human Services) at the University of Central Oklahoma.

I choose Sociology (Human Services) because it is very much rooted in the helping profession, especially social work. Helping others is something I desire to do. I believe Sociology will provide a clearer picture of how I can help others and also help me understand the kinds of opportunities there are in helping others.

**2 Why did you choose to do ADTP instead of other programs?**

ADTP was best suited for me and my style of learning. Instead of it being entirely assessed by standardised testing, I had the opportunity to explore and learn through different ways such as observing, research, reflections, discussions, and presentations which honed my interpersonal skills and abilities to function as a person which can give back to society. I was right to choose ADTP. Through ADTP, my studies in both MCKL and America allow me to go beyond the textbook from analysing ancient literature by Plato to dealing directly with society (such as support groups or families) to watching and learning from stand-up comedies. With this type of schooling, I feel alive. I feel like I am doing something that allows me to learn beyond what long-winded, draggy and dry lectures can do. The gears in my brain are turning.

**3 Why did you choose to do ADTP at MCKL?**

As a Christian, I found MCKL was more aligned with my beliefs than other colleges. Furthermore, the community and the environment was very attractive. And the scholarships as well.

“

**This is once in a lifetime experience, yes, but don't throw it away with short-lived YOLOs**

”

**4 What will you remember most about MCKL?**

The people I met, both fellow students and the lecturers that have touched me by caring for their students and also opening our minds to love learning and hope in the possibilities.

**5 How is your first week at UCO?**

Wonderful! At first, the Americans seem to be difficult to approach and are merely just polite, not necessarily sincerely friendly. However, once you warm up to them and you get past the fear of approaching people, you'll soon find good friends. There are also plenty of opportunities to volunteer or be involved in events and organisations.

**6 What would you advise your juniors?**

First and foremost, you are a student. Never forget to enjoy the experience. Make an effort to learn about different cultures present. You have to get out there. Make friends and get to know them by asking questions. Don't stick to a particular ethnic group, whether Malaysian or American or European or African. Globalisation is happening right now; don't fall behind. Be open to learning new things. Stop your mind from forming narrowminded conclusions about people or ideas or practices. You have to be a little philosophical. Never condemn. Never allow challenging assignments and nearing deadlines to take the joy out of learning. This is once in a lifetime experience, yes, but don't throw it away with short-lived YOLOs. Live. Don't kill yourself in any way. Not with depression or negativity or overthinking nor with bad habits and regretful partying.

Do it for God. Do it for yourself.

# ADTP @ MCKL

2019

*Congratulations to our American Degree Transfer Program Students on their University Transfer\**



Laura Tan May Chern  
Applied Health Science  
Messiah College  
on Moey-Phipps Scholarship of Distinction 2019 & MCKL Book Prize



Sara Ashley  
Sociology - Human Services  
University of Central Oklahoma  
on UCO-MCKL Global Leadership Scholarship



Emerson Ngu Yong Keat  
Psychology & Economics  
University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire  
on UWEC-MCKL Merit Scholarship



Zoe Chan Su-Huey  
Biochemistry & Finance  
University of Kansas  
on KU Int'l Excellence Award



Sim Si Yuan  
Mechanical Engineering  
Iowa State University  
on Transfer Global Scholarship Award



Leh Yi Rou  
Business Administration & Actuarial Science  
Drake University  
on Presidential Transfer Award, Int'l Student Grant & Drake Supplemental Grant



Joshua Keong Wei Xian  
Computer and Information Science & Finance  
Messiah College  
on Provost's Scholarship & Int'l Aid



Wan Muhammad Ayden Shah  
Economics  
University of Central Oklahoma  
on Transfer University Global Scholarship



Park Cheol Hui  
Biology, Liberal Arts  
University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire  
on UWEC Int'l Student Scholarship



Khoo Xin Zhi  
Agronomy  
University of Nebraska - Lincoln  
on Global Excellency Scholarship



Callum Mattaeus Song Kai Rong  
Computer Science  
Arizona State University  
on New American University Scholarship



Sophia Wong Chiet  
Biology  
University of Toledo  
on Int'l Student Scholarship & Sibling Scholarship



Yaw Zhi-Qing  
Psychology  
University of Northern Iowa  
on UNI Int'l Student Scholar Award & Laura Jones Scholarship



Felicia Chee Jing Jing  
Nutrition  
Kent State University  
on Global Scholarship



Adrian Joseph Poh Yang Li  
Civil and Environmental Engineering  
Calvin College  
on Dean's Scholarship & Mosaic Award



Zachary Luke Nathan  
Politics & Economics  
Drake University  
on Presidential Transfer Award



Jamie Nyam Ee-Li  
Linguistics  
Trinity Western University, CA  
on Dean's Scholarship



Celine Ong Xin Yu  
Psychology  
University of Michigan - Ann Arbor



Julian Nishan Karajacob  
Electrical Engineering  
Arkansas State University



Kevin Yong Jia Yueen  
Mathematics  
Wichita State University



Sean Ho See Jian  
Agricultural & Biosystems Engineering  
North Dakota State University



Leong Khoi Yat  
Automotive Technology Management  
University of Central Missouri



Hannah Tiew Jia Yi  
International Relations  
Florida International University



Hoo Swee Ying  
Nutrition and Dietetics  
University of Wisconsin - Madison

| Name                    | Major   | University Placement                        | Scholarship  |
|-------------------------|---|---|--|
| Toh Jern Yoong          | Sport Business Management                           | Cedarville University                       | Cedarville Excellence Award, Int'l Student Grant & Int'l Transfer Cedarville Achievement Scholarship |
| Anil Jeet Singh         | Finance & Data Analytics                            | Drake University                            | Presidential Transfer Award  |
| Edwin Kuay Zhen Liang   | Mechanical Engineering                              | Iowa State University                       | Presidential Scholarship Award   |
| Heng Jia Anne           | Psychology & Family and Consumer Sciences Education | Messiah College                             | Provost's Scholarship  |
| Benjamin Ong Yoong Hern | Applied Health Science                              | Messiah College                             | Provost's Scholarship & Int'l Aid  |
| Won Ying Qing           | Psychology  | University of Kansas                        | KU Int'l Excellence Award  |
| Ng Bei Suen             | Business Administration                             | University of Nebraska - Lincoln            | Global Ambassador Scholarship  |
| Lee Yi Ning             | Marketing Management                                | University of Northern Iowa                 | UNI Int'l Student Scholar Award  |
| Lim Chao Xian           | Computer Science                                    | University of Northern Iowa                 | UNI Int'l Student Scholar Award  |
| Yip Ye Liang            | Computer Science                                    | University of Northern Iowa                 | UNI Int'l Student Scholar Award  |
| Goh Ju Hann             | Computer Science                                    | University of Northern Iowa                 | UNI Int'l Student Scholar Award  |
| Deborah Wong Myin       | Psychology  | University of Toledo                        | Int'l Student Scholarship & Sibling Scholarship  |
| Hannah Wong Pey Ling    | Communication Sciences & Disorders                  | University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire        | UWEC Int'l Student Scholarship   |
| Liu Wei Yao             | Biology, Liberal Arts                               | University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire        | UWEC Int'l Student Scholarship   |
| Emma Lim Ching Teng     | Elementary Education                                | University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire        | UWEC Int'l Student Scholarship   |
| Ang Thong Sheng         | Data Science  | Western Michigan University                 | Diether H. Haenicke Scholarship  |
| Amber Lim Ching Ying    | Marketing   | Western Michigan University                 | Diether H. Haenicke Scholarship  |
| Yap Sue Jiun            | Global and International Studies                    | Western Michigan University                 | Diether H. Haenicke Scholarship  |
| Philip Yong Bei Xu      | Computer Science                                    | Western Michigan University                 | Diether H. Haenicke Scholarship  |
| Brendan Loh Wei Kit     | Media & Communication                               | Swinburne University of Technology, AU      | Swinburne Int'l Excellence Scholarship   |
| Ronald Pang Yan Weng    | Computer Science                                    | Missouri University of Science & Technology |  |
| Lim Sha-Nice            | Marketing   | University of Wisconsin - Madison           |  |
| Syed Basil Javed        | Psychology  | LCC International University, LT            |  |
| Dylan Tan               | Data Science  | University of British Columbia, CA          |  |
| Simon Wong Kee Choong   | Technical Computer Science                          | University of Twente, NL                    |  |
| Zhang Fay               | Technical Computer Science                          | University of Twente, NL                    |  |



Chiew Suet May  
Retail Management & Marketing  
Purdue University



Sherwin Thasan Shan  
Communication  
California State University - San Marcos



\* Partial Listing

... and many more



# The Human Side Of Medicine

*MCKL alumni Tusyita Menon of the Cambridge A Level 1701 cohort has become the first MCKL student to receive the coveted Monash University Malaysia Medical Bursary Award! Monash presents this award to students studying Bachelor of Medical Science and Doctor of Medicine.*

*She dropped by MCKL to share her experience studying at MCKL and Monash and provides some advice to MCKL juniors.*



## Why Medicine and why Monash University?

This is quite a common question for me. Initially, when I joined MCKL, I wasn't planning on doing medicine; far from it. I was more interested in doing biomedical science or biochemistry, because I didn't fancy the chemical reaction side of biology, as I was more interested in the human body and the processes that happen in the human body.

I had an excellent experience working at a pet shop after my A Levels. I got to interact with customers, and I realised that I like people, which is quite unusual for me because I'm an introvert. The experience made me realise that I have a passion for people, and my interest was still in Biology, so I think those two factors decided for me.

I chose Monash because it has a more holistic approach to medicine, which I thought was needed because other medical schools were very curriculum-driven. Hence, I believe that the medicine programme at Monash will shape more holistic doctors because we focus on ethics, and we talk about issues that are relevant today and the future, not just medicine, the anatomy, per se.



## What do you think made you stand out during the interview?

I think this award geared towards financial need, and I had to be very honest about my situation because I would categorise myself as lower middle class. I was truthful in saying that it was only recently that I decided to do medicine, so I think the interviewers appreciated that honesty, and I knew what I was getting myself into, so that set the stage for me.

Besides honesty, I think showing that you really care and have an interest in people matters too. At MCKL, we had the Service Learning subject where I participated in the volunteer programme with SUARAM, an NGO. Even though it's not related to medical science, it opened my mind up to human rights and the marginalised communities here in Malaysia. So, when they (Monash) gave me scenarios in the interview rooms, the Service Learning experience helped me to think critically and answer confidently.



## How was the interview conducted?

Monash's interview structure is quite different from the other universities I went for interviews. They had multiple mini interviews where there were a few stations, and each of them assessed various aspects of your personality.

There was one station where they asked me about genetic testing on babies and whether I approved of it or not. That was more towards ethics, and then there was one station that asked me why foreign workers in Malaysia opt for fast food instead of healthy food, and that was more related to the cost of living and health in society.

So again, each station assessed you as a person, not academically, and I think that was also one of the reasons that made me choose Monash as I realised that they had a different approach to the interview and what they expected from the students.



## How do you think MCKL's holistic approach to education helped you in getting a place in Monash and a scholarship?

One of the interview questions to me was, 'How do you think you would maintain a work-life balance in the future?'

I found it quite similar to my experience at MCKL because as you're studying, you shouldn't forget to unwind and de-stress and always pursue your hobbies. So I would say that helped me get into the Monash medicine programme because in the future, if I, when I become a successful doctor, I would like to have a stable work-life balance and so, I think that helped me in that sense.



## Speaking about MCKL, why did you choose to do your pre-university studies here?

MCKL is very comprehensive in the sense that they have a lot of partnerships with different universities, and for me, it is the top pre-university provider in Malaysia.

I heard feedback from my high school seniors regarding the A Level course here and how the teaching approach is different from other colleges. This unconventional approach suited me, personally, and I feel like it guided me towards realising that I wanted to do medicine.

Also, I already had friends who had registered at MCKL and truthfully, I wanted a sound peer support system around me because I knew A Levels would be gruelling.



## Did the MCKL lecturers make your study here memorable?

Yeah, definitely. The most memorable were my biology lecturers. I had two biology lecturers throughout my course, for AS I had Ms Mak and for A2, I had Ms Lydia. Both were very good, and I enjoyed their classes. They made the learning environment fun. They engaged with the students well, and I liked that.

Overall, the lecturers were impressive because they were always willing to help me out during my times of need. I remember when I first joined MCKL, it was quite a jump from SPM, so I found it harder to cope at the beginning. So I used to meet up with my lecturers, sometimes to inquire about specific topics that I couldn't keep up with in class and they were always willing to help me, so I think that helped me achieve the goal I wanted to get, my final result in AS and A2.



## Any advice for your MCKL juniors?

I had a difficult time maintaining a balance between all the activities and my studies, so time management is very, very important. I realise that now, going into medicine, there are a lot of things that I want to participate in, but at the same time, I can't afford to let the other suffer.

Hard work, definitely, and always go the extra mile. Don't be afraid to ask questions, because I dreaded that I was not up to par with some of my classmates who were smarter or could grasp things faster, so always ask questions. It makes everything much more manageable, and you won't regret it at the end of the day, and of course, enjoy your time here because I made a lot of good friends here with my classmates and my lecturers, and I think it's something that I'll hold close to me forever.

## HELP CEO Scholarship



Congratulations to Lau Jia Chuan on being the first ever MCKL student to receive the HELP-CEO Scholarship Award 2018!

The scholarship provides him with a full tuition fee waiver for Years 2 and 3 of his study in the Bachelor of Psychology (Hons) programme

at HELP University. Congratulations once again and may you excel in your future undertakings!

Lau Jia Chuan joined MCKL's Cambridge A Level programme in 2016. He achieved 4As in the A Level examinations.

## HWUM MCKL Scholarship



Congratulations to Poh Jia Qing of CAL1801 on receiving the prestigious MCKL-HWUM Scholarship 2019 from Heriot-Watt University Malaysia!

The MCKL-HWUM Scholarship 2019 is a collaboration between MCKL

and HWUM which provides an exclusive scholarship to one deserving MCKL student, covering full tuition fees for the entire duration of an undergraduate course at HWUM.

Poh Jia Qing will be pursuing BSc (Hons) Statistical Data Science at HWUM. He achieved 4A\* in his Cambridge A Level and was also the top student in his high school, scoring 10As in his SPM.

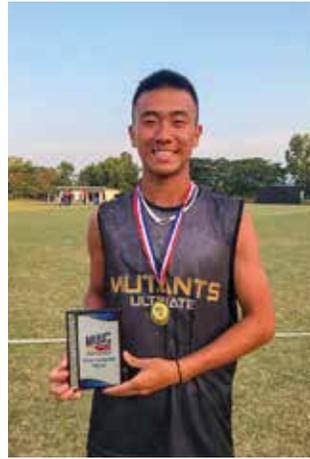
## STAR Education Fund Scholarship



These are the recipients of the 2019 Star Scholarship Education Fund who will continue their studies with us! Their chosen programmes range from ACCA, AUSMAT, Cambridge A Level, and Diploma in Early Childhood Education. Congratulations, and we welcome you to MCKL!

L-R: Tan Wai Han (CAL1901), Lim Rui Shun (AUSM1908), Wong Jae Hann (CAL1907), Mr Khoo Teng Sooi (Director, Institutional Development at MCKL), Ms Angela Pok (CEO of MCKL), Venessa A/P A Vincent (DECE1904), Jesslyn Ho Yong Xin (CAL1907), Hee Zi Shuo (ACCA1807)

# MCKL Mutants For The Win



MCKL MUTANTS frisbee team were crowned champions in the recent Malaysia University Ultimate Championships (3-4 August 2019), competing in the Pool B category!

Not only were they one of the youngest teams, but they also won the Best Spirit Award, and Jonathan Ng Xian Hui (AUSM1901) won the Most Valuable Player award!

This is the third time MCKL participated in this competition, and as they say, "third time's a charm".

# Beyond The Four Walls

by Tang Pui Ying



On March 2019, MCKL was invited to participate in the 18th National Inter-Varsity Accounting Quiz (NIVAQ).

MCKL students from different ACCA cohorts formed two teams of four members each with our lecturer advisor, Mr Low, leading the way. Before going to Multimedia University Malacca Campus, we were given some tips from our seniors who had been to the quiz last year. They shared their wonderful experiences with us and gave us useful bits of advice.

We were nervous and excited at the same time before the quiz. Most of us had never participated in a competition where we would be up against so many other universities and colleges in Malaysia.

Both MCKL teams managed to get into the top 20 after competing in the first round, an accounting test. We were delighted. After a great meal in Malacca town and some fun around Jonker Street, we headed back to our homestay and did some preparation for the semi-final round the next day. The semifinals were more tense as it was an oral Q&A session, involving five teams competing on stage each round. We needed to grab the chance to answer the questions given by pressing the buzzer. Sometimes, knowing the correct answer was not enough; speed was crucial. Everyone was so nervous, and in the end Team A managed to get into the finals.

In the finals, we were asked to present a business proposal. We were given 30 minutes to prepare before going on stage. In the end, we emerged as the third-runner up.

We were very thankful and glad that we had this valuable experience. Especially during the finals, we faced challenges such as time management and stage fright. We were delighted that we had the chance to interact with accounting students from different backgrounds. Everyone did a great job, and we gained a lot of new knowledge and skills from them.

Besides the quiz competitions, there were also talks during NIVAQ. We got tips on how to perform during an interview and gained some insight into our future work life through employees of the Big Four who presented the talks. These were very useful as most of us will be graduating soon.

We thank MCKL and NIVAQ for giving us the opportunity to learn something new out of the classroom. It was, indeed, a memorable journey.



*Tang Pui Ying is from the ACCA 1707 cohort*

# MCKL Charity Run 2019: Not All Wounds Are Visible

by Laura Tan May Chern



It was a beautiful Saturday morning with the sun shining brilliantly above the breath-taking, glistening lake of Kepong Metropolitan Park. Around 200 participants gathered in front of the stage, eagerly waiting for the event to start. The event kicked off with a fun-filled, energetic Zumba, followed by the flag off. At 8.00 a.m., a stream of participants wearing mint blue coloured t-shirts could be seen running enthusiastically down the road as Ms Moey blew the vuvuzela, signalling the start of the race, while Mr Yoshua waved the MCKL flag.

With the theme "Not All Wounds Are Visible", the MCKL Charity Run 2019 aimed to raise awareness and to decrease the stigma people have about mental health illnesses in Malaysia. With that in mind, participants were encouraged to take part in a game called 'He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother'. In this game, participants took turns piggybacking each other across a 'landmine', while the one carrying the other was blindfolded. This game aimed to show the participants that we, as a community, should be caring for one another and help those who are struggling with mental health illnesses.

Throughout the event, attendees got to witness incredible singing, beatboxing, and dancing performances, with the presentation of prizes and speeches in between. The event was a success, and a total of RM10,000 raised from the run will be donated to the Malaysian Mental Health Association (MMHA), in the hope that these funds will be used to help those in need.

*Laura Tan May Chern is from the ADTP 1708 cohort*

## Computer Competent!

On the 20 October 2018, a group of MCKL Cambridge A Level students participated in the Malaysian Computing Challenge (MCC) organised by the Malaysian Informatics and Programming Society. The MCC is an annual online competition designed to evaluate participants' computational thinking abilities.

Under the guidance of Mr Soong Jing Chyuan, the students garnered 8 Gold, 4 Silver, and 4 Bronze winners. Their names are as follows:



### Gold

Kong Xian Ying (500/500, 1st place)  
Ooi Chu Jun (480/500, joint 2nd place)  
Tai Kah Kiang (480/500, joint 2nd place)

### Gold

Tang Yi Qwan  
Chan Yi Jing  
Lee Jin Hen  
Wong Wee Sam  
Ong Xin Jiong

### Silver

Teresa Yong Pui Yee  
Loo Chee Kean  
Magdalene Toh YouJun  
Clement Tee

### Bronze

Shoon Zhen Yong  
Siaw Khai Horng  
Yee Hern Yue  
Ngu Kirson

**Congratulations to the winners and may you continue to excel!**



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2



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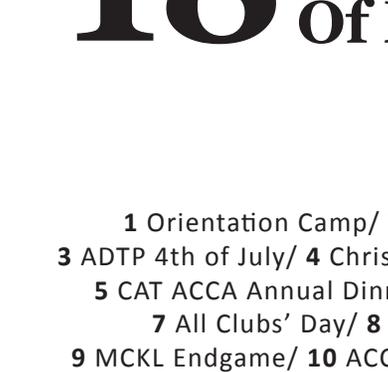
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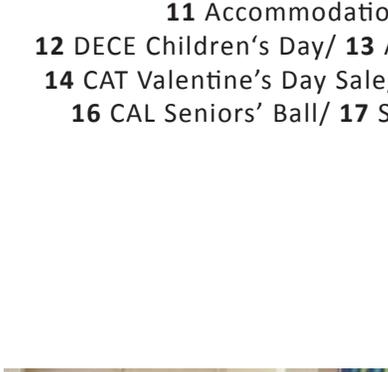
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18

# 18 Snapshots of MCKL

1 Orientation Camp/ 2 ACCA Sekinchan Trip  
 3 ADTP 4th of July/ 4 Christian Fellowship Easter Rally  
 5 CAT ACCA Annual Dinner/ 6 DECE CPR Training  
 7 All Clubs' Day/ 8 Frisbee Tournament  
 9 MCKL Endgame/ 10 ACCA Career Recruitment Day  
 11 Accommodation Welcoming Party  
 12 DECE Children's Day/ 13 AUSMAT Chemistry Workshop  
 14 CAT Valentine's Day Sale/ 15 AUSMAT Dress Up Week  
 16 CAL Seniors' Ball/ 17 Suit Up Day/ 18 Graduation

# Heritage Worth Protecting



**Social entrepreneur and former MCKL AUSMAT student, Wong Xiao Cheng, is nothing short of brilliant.**

Two times STAR Scholarship recipient as well as the University of Nottingham's Vice-Chancellor Global Graduate award winner, Wong Xiao Cheng graduated with First Class Honours and is now the Chief Executive Officer of Earth Heir.

Being the first in her family to access a higher education, Xiao Cheng was expected to find a job and earn a high salary. However, her passion for helping the underprivileged due to her own background caused her to put aside these expectations to explore social entrepreneurship. Her family supported her decision positively.

Xiao Cheng claims her experience at MCKL taught her to do her best in everything she does. She praises her MCKL lecturers for being genuine and passionate in empowering their students while walking the talk themselves.

She credits MCKL's holistic education for igniting her passion for helping others and pursuing excellence in life. She believes that the Service-Learning subject was what inspired her to pursue community work further. It also gave her a different outlook on life and career besides inculcating long-term sustainable values.

Xiao Cheng feels blessed that her journey to Earth Heir was a relatively smooth one. Before joining Earth Heir, she was the Head of HR and Finance at ParkEasy. The founder of ParkEasy had always been supportive of her desire to venture into social entrepreneurship and even guided her on how to start and manage a business, despite knowing that he would be losing an excellent employee.

It was through a mutual friend that Xiao Cheng met the founder of Earth Heir, who at that time was looking for a business partner.

Earth Heir provides underprivileged artisans with additional income while preserving their heritage skills and culture. These artisans' products are handcrafted and are uniquely Malaysian. Artisans make between 15 and 90 percent from the retail price of the products. Since 2013, Earth Heir has created more than RM420,000 indirect income for the artisans.

Xiao Cheng advises her MCKL juniors not to be afraid to try new things or do something different especially as MCKL is a safe place to learn from mistakes.

MCKL is proud of Xiao Cheng's achievements and wishes her all the best!



*Wong Xiao Cheng joined MCKL AUSMAT in 2011.*



# Keep Running The Race



*Adele joined MCKL A Level in 2009 and went on to do a Bachelor of Medical Bioscience at Monash University Malaysia and has an MSc in Dietetics & Nutrition from University of Sydney.*

## **Alumni Adele Wong took up running as a form of escape from a heavy college workload, and it has changed her life.**

It got her joining major running events such as the Standard Chartered KL Marathon, Penang International Marathon, and Puma Night Run. Her best achievement to date is winning silver in the 2014 Standard Chartered KL Marathon in the women's full marathon category. Various running and fitness related articles have featured her.

Along with running, she has a strong interest in dietetics and nutrition, which led her to start a fitness blog and eventually set up Nutrition Track in early 2018, a company that offers personalised evidence-based nutrition services to meet different and varied individual needs. She conducts 1-to-1 consultations as well as corporate talks. Her clientele include individuals, food businesses, and corporations.

She has always wanted to do a degree related to nutrition and food, but options were limited in Malaysia at that time, so she decided to do a Medical Bioscience degree first, gain some working experience, and then continue her Master's in Nutrition and Dietetics overseas.

When she started running, she met many people in the running circle and saw the importance of proper diet and nutrition. The lack of awareness and education among Malaysians due to the lack of professionally qualified dietitians further reinforced her ambition to venture into this field.

Her passion did not go unnoticed. Her superior at her first workplace saw it and supported her along the way, even writing a letter of recommendation for her to further her studies. A prominent figure in the political scene whom she met through running even offered to fund her further studies, but she turned it down.

The goal for Adele is for Nutrition Track to be the place for evidence-based nutrition consultations. As her company is still new, she is working to build a strong reputation among the public. She has plans to tap into the education sector as healthy eating should start at a young age.

She combined and put into practice the advice from Datin Nadarajah on devoting time to focus on studies and then Ms Angeline (Biology lecturer) on creating a structured daily schedule while at university, which led her to achieve the Best Graduate Award in her faculty at Monash University.

She tells her MCKL juniors, "Explore the world and don't be too focused on studying; being book smart is one thing, but life's experiences count. Learning doesn't stop here; it is a life long journey. Build lasting friendships at MCKL. Never take anything for granted. Be grateful for any opportunity that comes your way. Be humble. Work hard. Persevere. Nothing worth having comes easy."

**Learning  
doesn't  
stop here;  
it is a  
life long  
journey**

# the MCKL LIFE HACKS

*from mckl-ian alumni and seniors*



“

Smile at the aunty selling mixed rice and she will give more food and call you 'lengzhai'.

”

“

Make use of the many study areas. Library isn't the only option!

”

“

Help out at Education Fairs and Info Days a lot if you want to work in MCKL as an intern

”



“

Play ping pong, foosball or basketball during your breaks to prevent a breakdown.

”

“

Get the egg and ham toast during every break. You won't gain weight!

”



“

Join Orientation Camp as facilitators because you can improve your soft skills such as leadership and organisational skills

”

“

If you want to wear slippers but can't because of the dress code, tie a piece of string that goes around your ankle, it qualifies as "strap around the ankle."

”

*P.S. We aren't responsible if you are caught and get fined*



# METHODIST COLLEGE

## *Congratulates Our Students on Their Univer*





# the MCKL LIFE HACKS

*from mckl-ian alumni and seniors*

“

Attend visiting university talks and start visiting the University Placement Office in your first semester itself!

”



“

Get second-hand books, calculators, lab coats and goggles from SSO.

”

“

Remember to bring extra clothes and a towel when playing sports. Because you can shower in MCKL.

”

“

Enjoy the Bidet while it lasts!

*(Mainly for ADTP Students. Hehe..)*

”



“

Nasi Lemak Goreng Double tambah Ayam from the 3rd Stall

”



“

Buy cendol near 7-11 for your lecturers if you're going to be late for class after lunch.

”



“

Wait till 7-8pm and then walk to the Cafeteria A. You could potentially pick up free pens and liquid paper.

”

# Under Currents



## 1 What got you into Earth Science?

I have always been interested in our Mother Earth. Back in high school, I took part in summer camps to do jungle trekking, waterfall absailing, to feel close to nature. When I first comprehended how much waste we are producing and dumping to the environment, I volunteered in recycling activities.

However, I never considered this as a subject to study at the university, just because I never knew such a course existed, despite its importance. Most Malaysian students are expected to study medicine, engineering, IT, commerce, and law.

Then came UCAS application day, when I was still struggling to choose what course to study. My A-level course mate, Nigel Gui, informed me about Earth Science courses in several UK universities. I was very glad that I could undertake an undergraduate course that I was passionate about, and finally, the University of Bristol gave me the offer.

Global warming was both a huge topic and debate then, and climate change movies inspired me: "The Day After Tomorrow" and "The Inconvenient Truth", these were further motivations for me to study Earth Sciences.



## 2 Did you immediately continue with your PhD after getting your degree in 2012?

Yes. On my final year of BSc Environmental Geoscience, our lecturer of oceanography: Prof. Laura F. Robinson offered me a PhD project that was funded by the European Research Council. The main aim of the project was to employ chemistry techniques to investigate the interaction between climate changes and ocean dynamics in the past, which has implications for predicting future environmental changes driven by the current global warming. For the project, I took part in a 2-month long research expedition collecting seawater, sediment and biological samples across the tropical Atlantic Ocean.

Throughout my PhD, I also became a visiting student in the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (University of Columbia, USA) and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in the U.S. and took part in several international scientific conferences. Last year, I published a major part of my PhD findings in the "Nature Communications" scientific journal.



## 3 What is the most exciting (and terrifying) part of your work?

The most exciting part of my work is the opportunity to visit remote locations with stunning natural scenery that probably will disappear in the future due to climate change.

After my PhD, I have continued working as a Postdoctoral Research Associate on the accelerated melting of polar ice as a result of global warming. For my current research work, I get to visit glaciers and ice fields in Chile and Greenland - these large ice masses are shrinking at a fast rate. One of our sites of investigation in



*Dr Ng Hong Chin joined MCKL's A-Level programme in July 2007. He went on to study Environmental Geoscience at the University of Bristol on JPA Scholarship where upon graduation, he was offered to do his PhD there. He hopes that his research will provide solutions to tackling global warming.*

*He shares about Earth Science and what prospective students can expect.*



Chile shows icebergs of various sizes are breaking off into the ocean from nearby glaciers.

Another thing I find exciting with my work is the scientific analysis of the data collected, which will improve our understanding of the multiple environmental impacts of global climate change.



### What would you say to a high school student who may be interested in Earth Science?

You will be surprised by the great breadth of Earth Science subjects. Topics covered range from oil and gas mining to environmental remediation, from natural disaster risk assessment to water-air quality evaluation, from modern satellite application to ancient rocks, fossils and the origin of life. It might not be easy deciding which area you are going to specialise in afterwards, but it will expose you to various opportunities. The subject has a good mix of chemistry, physics, biology, mathematics, and computing applications, so if you are interested in a little of every physical science, Earth Science could be just your thing.



### Why did you choose MCKL?

It was a decision based on friends' recommendation. They started in the January 2007 intake while I had to complete my national service in Sarawak. They gave good feedback on MCKL A Level lecturers and the environment of the College.



### How was your experience at MCKL?

My overall experience at MCKL was great. The first thing that comes to me when I think about MCKL is the balance between studies, sports and other co-curricular activities that the College offered—it helped me to work towards good A-level results while maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

It's the emphasis on self-discipline, especially by Datin Nadarajah, thanks to this, I am trained to be focused and systematic in my university studies and research work.



### What advice would you give to the current and future MCKL students?

Follow your passion, as it is the best motivation in your future career.



## Believe In Your Potential

*Dear Ms Moey,*

I am so blessed to have been able to spend nearly six years in MCKL: 2.5 years as a student (August 2012 - December 2014) and another three years as a lecturer (August 2016 - April 2019). Being in MCKL has changed me for the better. I was a meek girl with no motivation or passion because I never had the proper guidance on how to cope with my studies well. Thankfully, I'm glad that God led me to this unconventional choice because I would never have had the guts to be a teacher or better yet, a lecturer in MCKL!

My family could not afford to send me to a private college, which was why I did STPM. Unfortunately, my results were not good enough to get me into any university. I didn't have enough money to afford tuition or buy suitable reading materials as well.

I prayed hard because everything seemed hopeless. My dad told me to work instead of furthering my studies, but I did not want to. I did not want to get left behind. That was when God sent my friend, Jean, to show me a brochure from MCKL stating that MCKL was offering scholarship discounts! That was precisely what I needed! So I applied with my SPM results and got a 25% discount. Also, I took a PTPTN loan to sponsor the rest of my fees and living expenses.

At the back of my mind, I knew I would never be a good teacher because I used to get very bad stage fright, most probably due to my low self-esteem but I gave it a try. The irony was, I stayed but my friend quit.

How was this possible? It was all thanks to my lecturers and peers in MCKL. With lots of encouragement, presentations and overflowing support, I experienced a growth spurt that led me to become a renewed and re-energised Melissa—literally tapping into my fullest potential. I did not just turn from a weak student to an average student; I graduated with

outstanding results, allowing me to receive the MCKL Teaching Scholarship!

Words cannot express how blessed I am. This is because my parents could never afford to send me to University, let alone, a university overseas. Thank you, Ms Moey, for believing in me and for entrusting me with the Scholarship!

During my studies, I fell into depression again. I did not get the grades that I wanted because I had a high fever during my finals. They were crucial because the final examination marks made up a total of 70% for the whole course. I was struggling with self-doubt, and I did not understand why I tried so hard but failed again.

It was only when I started lecturing that I realised I needed to go through failures to understand and empathise with my students better. If my life had been smooth sailing with straight A's all the way, I would not be able to connect with the students as well as I do now and help them wherever and whenever I can.

The character trait that I gained from all the experiences I had with MCKL was empathy. This has led me to be a competent teacher. I was even headhunted, by parents, to teach their struggling children! I connected with them, and they managed to push through their difficulties. One of my students, who had dyslexia, is now writing a storybook by himself (before this, he suffered from anxiety whenever it came to writing)! Another one of my students who was bullied in school due to her bad results is now scoring A's. I treat each of my students as if they are my children.

And I now know the secret to teaching, because MCKL has taught me this secret:

“  
**To instill self-confidence through education**  
 ”

That is the secret. I would never have thought that I was able to be “smart”, but the lecturers in MCKL showed me that I was capable. Also, my friends in MCKL had faith in me when we did group assignments together, and that moulded me into who I am today. With the newly gained self-confidence and amazing colleagues that gave me continuous support, I gradually excelled in my teaching career (although I had a rough time coping at the beginning, my ECE team lifted me in no time).

I aim to continue genuinely believing that ALL students are capable of succeeding when they are given the proper encouragement and strength. Once they have achieved their core self-confidence through guidance, their passion and motivation will naturally come through. That is when you see their growth spurt.

I would like to thank my lecturers, colleagues, peers and students who have been consistently providing me with support and love and personally guiding me through my journey of growth in MCKL.

Thank you, Ms Moey, for giving me such a fantastic opportunity and life-changing experience in MCKL. It is thanks to MCKL that I am now exploring my further potential. I have been given the role of a Curriculum Specialist at several preschools (Little Greenhouse and Alphabet Playhouse) in Singapore. I am sure that I will be able to learn from the various types of eye-opening experiences that the overseas opportunity offers and that I will gain different perspectives in education.

Love,  
 Melissa Chew



*From being a student...*



*...to studying overseas as a Teaching Scholar...*



*...to joining MCKL as staff!*

# Tet's One Amazing Journey



**Life is a journey.** To fully live life is to journey through wildernesses and deserts, to brave vast oceans, and to take in the glory that is creation all around you while you're at it. Sometimes we're so caught up in the pain of the moment that we don't look up and marvel at the stars. It is possible to feel immense suffering and breathtaking awe at the same time, and that is the beauty of the journey that my God has called me to undertake with Him by my side.

**My name is Tetsuo Takahara, and this is a short story of my journey from MCKL to Messiah College.**

Let me start by saying this. If you ever find yourself discouraged or worrying about where you are in life, whether you are on track or "behind" compared to your peers, allow me to encourage you by emphasizing that each one of us has our own unique story. We talk about God's timing yet fret and worry when we do not meet the expectations of society around us. This is especially true for young emerging adults that must make decisions regarding their future that will carry long-lasting consequences!

I entered MCKL's Edexcel A-Levels program in 2013 with the ambitions of becoming a marine biologist. I love biology and the ocean, I hated the thought of conforming to a typical career choice such as engineering or medicine, so I chose to pursue a career that was still STEM enough for my parents yet nonconventional. There I was, 19 years old, thinking I had it all figured out. I was proud, I was cocky, I was under the impression that everything would go as I had imagined. I would earn my credits, go to the UK and get my degree. As you probably might have guessed, things did NOT go that way. At all. I failed most of my classes (due to some questionable life choices, I regret nothing), my credits were useless, I was stuck. Despite my academic failings, it was a turning point in my life. Those 18 months were a time of self-discovery, and I was blessed to have dedicated educators who cared about my personhood and wellbeing, as well as my academic success (shout out to Ms Lydia). I decided to take half a year off to work odd jobs as well as reevaluate my plan for getting that overseas education. I tried the SAT and got average results, not good enough to merit any real

financial scholarship. It was around this time that MCKL launched the ADTP program. I did not enjoy the rigid structure of the British system, and so I decided to set my sights on America.

I like to think I was a little more well-adjusted to college life and responsibilities by the time I enrolled in the ADTP program in 2015. It was during this time that I had to face the reality that I was not cut out for a STEM subject, as my math and chemistry grades never improved. It was disappointing, but that's okay. It's important to listen to the signs that help point you to your real vocational calling. I took one Gen Psych class and knew immediately that Psychology was the subject for me. It still had elements of biology that I loved so much, but it was also a subject I found myself excelling at. I was passionate about it and eager to learn more. I switched my major, and I've never looked back (Thanks to Ms Khor for being my spiritual mom throughout all of this). I also ran for Student Council and ended up becoming its President. This was a formative time for me and an important experience in my life because it was another indicator of what I was passionate about. Often, life-shaping experiences happen outside of the classroom, and that was truly the case for me. I finished my two years and got all the credits I needed to transfer, but I was still undecided on where I would go. I took another year off to work, discovered a passion/hobby that will stay with me for the rest of my life (coffee), lived life and saw the world before I settled on the decision to go to Messiah. In hindsight, I can only say that it was God who opened the doors for me to be able to attend.



**Often, life-shaping experiences happen outside of the classroom, and that was truly the case for me.**



I am now in my senior year (last year) here. It has been an incredible experience. Incredible, but not easy. And that's the way it probably should be. I've allowed myself to be taken on this journey, to sit in sadness and to marvel at gladness. Authentic joy and pain both have seats at the table of my heart and soul. I've wrestled with myself and with my God, and He has shown me more about myself than I ever imagined I could know. I am set to earn my Bachelor of Science in psychology by May 2020, and I will be using that to pursue a Masters in Higher Education (or Counselling, I still haven't fully decided yet). Life continues to surprise me, but it's through my experiences serving within the Student Council that have helped give direction to my vocational calling.



I am proud to say that I will be serving as next year's Student Body President here at Messiah (the first international student to do so). Being SC President showed me that I have the passion for serving within the college/university community. Serving as a Resident Assistant this past year taught me that I have the desire to work with college-aged young adults. My degree in Psychology will now serve as a springboard into a different career field than I had initially anticipated.

All this I can say was slowly revealed to me in little moments throughout my journey and like any journey, its not always a straightforward road. You can't see beyond every bend, and it's difficult to look past trials and obstacles but if you truly seek with an authentic heart, if you open yourself up to being stretched and challenged, if you allow your heart and soul to be vulnerable and to trust in an Almighty God then He will bring you on a journey of a lifetime that will be filled with terrible beauty and inspiring depth. Do not fret and despair if you find yourself unsure and full of doubt. If you feel as though you're not doing good enough and not meeting expectations, I empathise with you. I've been there. Do the best you can with what you are given in the moment, and bit by bit you'll see the big picture slowly come together. Have faith, be bold, and may God be ever with you, friend.

**Tetsuo "Tet" Takahara ADTP1504**  
**Former President of MCKL Student Council**  
**Current President of Messiah College Student Body**



## Rooted & Growing

The Australian Matriculation programme has always stood out to me due to its modern syllabus, which equips us with the tools to solve current real-life problems. Besides that, its unique combination of coursework and exams kept me competitive and encouraged me to work hard throughout the year.

I find that MCKL has provided me with a platform to grow through a combination of dedicated and supportive lecturers as well as countless activities. Besides knowing the course like the back of their hand, lecturers in MCKL find fun and interesting ways to ensure that the students are constantly engaged in the course.

Having countless clubs in MCKL also means that students can meet new friends from different courses with similar interests. For example, by being in the Music Club, I was able to meet up with different people who all loved music. As a part of the club, there were many opportunities to cultivate my leadership skills through events such as jamming sessions and competitions.

MCKL is an awesome place not just to study, but to grow mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

**Kelvin Chan Wey Han AUSM1701**  
**Achieved ATAR 99 for AUSMAT**  
**Electrical Engineering at University of Malaya**

# A Year in CAT



**Ruphinee Chandran**  
**CAT 1703 & ACCA 1807**

I had my doubts when I first came to MCKL. I wasn't sure if this was the college for me. Is this the best place to study CAT? Will I make good friends? Will it be as memorable as how I've always pictured it to be? Will I have fun, or will I be that student who stares at the clock waiting for classes to end? It all happened so fast. A week after receiving my SPM results, I was at MCKL attending my orientation.

Fortunately, enrolling in MCKL has been the best decision I've made to date. My journey in MCKL has been nothing short of a memorable one. Something that I'll forever cherish. My lecturers not only passed on their knowledge and expertise in the field of accounting to help us in our studies, but they were our advisors and counsellors too. Kind, understanding and approachable are just a few wonderful ways to describe them.

MCKL provides a very conducive environment to study and play at the same time! Since MCKL's strategic location is close to KL Sentral, it's easy to move around and discover many hot spots around KL. This was one of the reasons why I made such amazing friends in CAT. Most of us took public transport so we would always walk together to the station and sometimes eat at restaurants located nearby. This brought us all so close and, in a few months, we were inseparable! We were a family that studied, ate and travelled together!

Apart from studies and play, I took on the responsibility of being a part of the Student Council too! It was a great experience, indeed! There were many clubs and activities to be involved in. The various opportunities offered in MCKL not only helped me grow intellectually, but also helped me build my personality.

I received the college life of my dreams in MCKL, and I'll forever be grateful to God for that. I proudly call myself an MCKL student and hopefully I'll be able to live up to the MCKL motto, 'Excellence for Life' in my future undertakings.



**Matthew Martin Silva**  
**CAT 1703**

Throughout my journey I never would have thought I'd study in MCKL. This is because when I graduated from Wesley Methodist School, I always wanted to get away from the strict rules and very tight discipline. So, I did move out and studied at Curtin University, Sarawak. I was there doing a Foundation in Engineering, but halfway through the course, I broke my leg playing for the University's football team, so I was sent back to Kuala Lumpur. This situation gave me a lot of time to think and reflect on myself to see if I was pursuing the right course because deep down, I knew I wanted to further my studies in a business major. I was given a second chance to rethink my choices, and I spoke to some of my ex-teachers, guidance counsellors, uncles and aunt. They advised me to go into ACCA and at that time, most of my friends were already in MCKL doing their CAT program.

I was still having second thoughts about MCKL but looking at the tuition fees, MCKL was the best option. I wasn't too happy at first, but I had friends there, so I thought it wasn't going to be too bad. The friends I made in MCKL are still some of the best friends I have until today now. I have no regrets joining MCKL.

The lecturers are so helpful.

Mr Calvin, who always knew how to make sure his students understood everything in the easiest way possible, and it was sad to see him leave, but other lecturers helped me along the way.

Ms Guna, with her motherly nature, always knew how to advise and make sure we studied all the time.

Ms Keow and Ms Rachel helped me a lot when I didn't understand certain concepts because I was a science stream student; hence, there were terminologies that I struggled to comprehend, and they would stay back to help me. It was difficult to adapt to the accounting subject, but MCKL's amazing lecturers helped me along the way and hands down, I have no regrets joining MCKL.



**Narendharan**  
**CAT 1703 & ACCA 1807**

When I first came to MCKL, a sense of insecurity engulfed my mind as that was the first time (attending college) I attempted to leave my comfort zone. I was really worried about the various issues that I might face there. But as soon as I joined the College I realised that my perception prior to joining the college was unfair. Soon after joining, it was clear that the students here are not taught to put themselves in the pole position all the time; instead they are often encouraged to look after others who need help. The College also encourages its students to work together so that they can continue their journey towards achieving Excellence for Life.

The classroom experience in MCKL is what I admire the most with the lecturers being unarguably, its main asset. The lecturers here carry out their fiduciary responsibility by enlightening the students not only on the importance of learning technical skills that would help them to build a sustainable career, but also often advising them about the need to balance their academic and social life in order to lead a fulfilling life. They also urge the students not to be overly attracted by material wealth but to have a broader understanding about the importance of contributing to a positive environment that benefits others in the community and society around us.

The College, strategically located in the heart of our capital, provides students with many avenues to spend their leisure time with various indoor and outdoor activities. The facilities provided are adequate to support the students to live an adventurous yet disciplined College life.

The past year in MCKL has been nothing short of a memorable and exciting College experience for me.



**Loh Zhi Jing**  
**CAT 1707 & ACCA 1807**

When I first joined MCKL, I had mixed emotions, feeling excited and anxious at the same time.

My experience studying at MCKL is a new experience for me as this is the first time I am away from my home in Penang. Other than academic knowledge, College life has taught me to be independent and understand myself better. MCKL has also organised events that have helped me to pick up some extra skills and knowledge to equip me for the outside world. The lecturers are very friendly and they often guide me when I face problems, whether in studies or life.

I truly appreciate every single moment I have spent in MCKL, whether in times of happiness or sadness. Thank you, MCKL!



# Venturing Off To Germany

Gaining a higher education qualification can be expensive, especially for those wanting to do Science related degrees. As such, some consider more affordable options such as matriculation centres and public universities. Sadly though, not everyone can get a place.

This leaves students with no choice but to hunt for good private institutions which are affordable. Most of the time, affordability and good quality do not come together, making the search harder.

Here's where Germany comes in, a country famed for its technological innovations, and its free university education.

Seeing this opportunity, MCKL collaborated with German Educare this year to provide students with a pathway to study in Germany. Previously, students would have to complete their A Levels before attempting the German Language subject, hence, taking a long time before they can start their undergraduate studies. With the collaboration, however, students will get to do the German Language subject and take the exams while doing the other A Levels subjects.

Below are the testimonials of MCKL students who are currently studying in Germany:



## Ming Cheng

Frankly, looking back, two years ago when I was in MCKL, I could never have foreseen myself doing what I am doing right now – writing a testimony for my alma mater MCKL on my experience studying in Germany while on a bright red Deutsche Bahn preparing to leave Cologne for my university in Aachen.

If you ask college students what their worries are, you will most likely get a recurring answer – where to further their education. Mine was no different. I remember back then in MCKL, amid preparing for our A-Level examinations, my friends and I would search high and low for information regarding higher education, be it on the Internet or by attending talks organised by other universities. Like a typical optimistic young college student, I naturally believed that my future was bright and that the path moving towards the next chapter of my life was going to be rosy. Moreover, I had always harboured

dreams of studying abroad. However, amidst all these positive thoughts, deep down, there was still this concern about the high cost of living abroad and the tuition fees, especially. Sadly, after researching profusely on universities in English-speaking countries, due to financial constraints, I was led to believe that my dream of studying abroad seemed to be too far-fetched.

After finishing College, I decided to take a year's break to think about what my next step should be. During this period, I kept myself updated on international universities. I would be at every series of education fairs whenever they were in town, but in the end, I would still end up with nothing but more questions about my future. Nevertheless, I always attended in hope, perhaps for a miracle, and sure enough, my perseverance paid off in the end! I happened upon an institution called German Educare that promoted studying in Germany, and it fitted perfectly into my plan. Studying in German public universities is practically free, and on top of that, I would be studying in a country famed for its innovation and technology, especially in the field of Computer Science. Soon after, I found myself studying German under their care. Six months later, I found myself continuing my study of German in a language school in a German city called Aachen right up to C1 Level, which is on par with a native level of proficiency. I would later take an examination called DSH, a German proficiency test, one of the main prerequisites to studying in a German university. Besides, in a space of six months, I had also taken the AS-Level exam in the German Language.

For A-Level students like me, we are required to have a pass in any language at AS-Level among our subject combinations. On top of that, students need to have the right subject combination as well. In general, prospective students should select subjects that are relevant to what they would like to study in the bachelor's degree. Subsequently, I applied to RWTH, one of the largest, leading universities of technology in Germany and one of the most renowned in Europe, and thankfully, I was successful!

I am currently in my second month of university, and I must admit it can be very overwhelming and challenging sometimes. Nevertheless, this one whole year of learning German, meeting new people from all around the world and now studying in one of the most prestigious universities in Germany has been nothing short of life-changing and eye-opening. If I had been asked back then what I would see myself doing in five years, I would never have imagined that I'd be doing what I am today. Life can be so unpredictable, but I am more than grateful for where I am today. I will never regret this decision to study in Germany, and I am looking forward to seeing more MCKL students studying here in Germany!



## Trisha Yow

My difficult and challenging journey of deciding where and what to study after my O level exams ended when I found MCKL. Throughout my studies there, I found lifelong friends and gained essential experiences. I do believe that despite the seemingly harsh rules and stressful exams, everything I've done has been worth it.

Throughout my time studying for A levels, I was considering furthering my studies in Germany, which I thought would be challenging to achieve due to the differences in language and schooling system. That's when I found German Educare in MCKL, where they were holding an introduction to their services. Looking for just a German course, I received much more, such as help with the University application process and even the arrangement of accommodation during my stay in Germany while I continued my German lessons. Being in Germany has helped me step out of my comfort zone, cultivate independence and make many of my close friends today.

Soon it was time to go to University, and after lengthy contemplation, I decided on Hochschule Trier Umwelt-Campus Birkenfeld. I'm currently studying Renewable Energies in the small town of Birkenfeld, which is extremely environmentally conscious. For example, the supermarkets here offer stickers whenever you purchase fruits or meat in your Tupperware, which reduces the use of plastic. After you've collected ten stickers, the supermarket company will plant a tree.

The university itself is not very large but as they say here: "Klein Aber Fein", which means small, but well, fine. This campus specialises mainly in environmental courses and is also known as the greenest University in Germany. Becoming accustomed to the language and culture here is an ongoing process, but I am thoroughly enjoying my time here. Although the lectures and work might be difficult, I wouldn't pick anywhere else.

Do come, to earn memorable experiences, to develop your independence and to step out of your comfort zone. Because you will not only enjoy exploring and adventuring Europe but you'll also challenge the limits of your abilities.



Kishen Selvendran AUSM1701

## Life-changing Lecturers

Joining Methodist College Kuala Lumpur with absolutely no prior knowledge of what to expect in the AUSMAT programme, it was pleasant to find that all the lecturers were so patient and taught me with enthusiasm, be it in class or when I came up to them with questions. Many would argue that a lecturer is a person that teaches what we need for our education, and that is true, but here, they take it a step further. Who we see as knowledgeable lecturers in class have become our mentors and friends to talk to outside of class, all the while teaching us about life.

I was, by no standards, a hardworking student, but there was something particularly different about the way the lecturers taught that made the knowledge they imparted stick with me instantly. Just a few that I would like to mention:

Mr Denis Kan, with his enthusiasm for the applications of maths outside of the classroom boundaries and life.

Mr Ban, for constantly relating the physics we learnt in class to our day-to-day tasks in life.

Mr Yap, for his catchphrases, pieces of life advice and rapid-fire quick call questions.

Mr William, for his strict yet on-point humorous way of teaching biology and more in his own fashion that pleasantly enough, keeps us students piqued for what he would say next.

And, Madam Audrey, in few short sentences, the soul of a teacher, the heart of a mother, and the mind of who I would say is the most caring and understanding person I've ever met.

Life outside the classroom is just as pleasant as life inside the classroom: the activities that were organised, the chances you got to get closer to friends and mingle around (and get more friends), the multiple leadership positions you could hold and the journey that went with them, the camps that were organised for us and many more.

Also, as a personal anecdote, when I was going through tough times in my short span of a year here, it was the people that worked here, the staff, lecturers and so on that stuck out for me even though they didn't know me. That's enough to say volumes about the character and values the people here in MCKL have that's at the core of their selves. In short, Methodist College certainly lives up to its slogan "Veritas Vincit Omnia", and I wouldn't have it any other way.

Thank you.

# Don't Rock The Boat

**They say that learning never stops; you learn something new every day.**

**In Yee Weng Yan's case, she learned that coming out of your comfort zone can be, as she puts it, surreal. Weng Yan teaches Biology in the MCKL's Cambridge A Level programme. She is one of the recipients for 2017/2018 United Board Faculty Scholarship where she got to do a postgraduate study in Hong Kong.**

**She shares with us her experience:**



*With Mr Khoo (left) and Mr Reuben (right) in The University of Hong Kong while they were on a work trip to Hong Kong*

If I were to sum up my postgraduate study experience in one word, it would be “unforgettable”. I remember feeling quite hesitant when I was first asked to consider applying for the scholarship. Not only was the idea of slogging for examinations (again) daunting to me, I was happy and contented where I was – teaching, meeting and working with students in MCKL. I enjoyed going to classes and teaching A-Levels Biology (which I've been doing for the past 4.5 years) and was thoroughly pleased not to rock the boat.

And so, in September 2016, when I was presented with an opportunity to apply for the United Board Faculty Scholarship 2017/2018, I treated the application paperwork as another thing on my to-do-list that I needed to complete. I didn't give much thought to it. Deep down, I didn't think it would materialise. It was not until after I learnt that the various stages of applications were successful that it finally dawned on me that I was going to leave this comfortable, happy zone. It was surreal.

Fast forward, August 2017, on a typhoon-stormy wet morning, after a bumpy touch-down in Hong Kong, my postgraduate study adventure began. Although I was pleasantly greeted by the view of extensive skyscrapers and the waft of beef brisket noodles upon arrival, deep within, I wondered if this was all a mistake.

In hindsight, my time in Hong Kong and the University of Hong Kong pursuing a Master of Education (Curriculum and Pedagogy) was immensely rewarding. While I thoroughly enjoyed formal classes and seminars, it was working with like-minded people from various backgrounds and listening to stories from their own classrooms that I found incredibly insightful and practical. The informal dialogues and formal exchanges during lessons were an eye-opener to me as it helped me see how conventionally-entrenched my practice was. I saw not just the need but also the urgency to continually reflect and adapt my teaching approaches to cater to the changing needs of my learners.

The bullet-paced, hectic, move-fast-or-lose-hard, no-nonsense way of Hong Kong life has definitely grown me in so many ways. Seeing the diligence and the resilience of my Hong Kong friends in the face of challenges was both humbling and inspiring.

I am very grateful for the opportunity given, and I can only attribute all these to God's goodness and grace to me. Looking back, my hesitance and fears were unfounded because I had a Rock which my boat could anchor on.

To those who are considering pursuing a postgraduate - it is a worthwhile endeavour.

To those who are happy in their comfy corner - it is a blessing.

But, to those who have been given an opportunity to move out of their comfort zone - seize it, embrace the change, let the boat rock and enjoy the ride.

*The United Board Faculty Scholarship is awarded to promising young faculty members from selected United Board network institutions in Asia to pursue an advanced degree. With a strong emphasis on whole-person education, the scholarships help developing colleges and universities to nurture individuals through strengthening their academic qualifications, enhancing their teaching and fostering academic networks among Asian universities.*

# Service Learning: Not Just a Community Service!

**Service Learning was not something I was familiar with until I accepted the role in MCKL. However, when the concept was explained to me, I was genuinely excited; as it was something I was passionate about—serving the community using one’s skills and knowledge. Having worked in the humanitarian line for the past 8 years, this was perfect!**

The journey of teaching a subject I was not familiar with is not an easy task as no other academic institution in Malaysia was offering this as a subject. The beginning of my journey was filled with research, discussion, and trying out new methods to suit our unique students. A few years in, I thought I had it all down but little did I know: I still had a lot to learn.

I was given the privilege to join not one but two international conferences this year, where I was asked to present a research paper:

The 3rd International Conference on Service Learning 2019, held in the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (10 – 12 January 2019, Hong Kong). I wrote a paper titled *“Service Learning as General Studies in Tertiary Level Education.”*

7th Asia-Pac Regional Conference on Service Learning, held in Singapore University of Social Science (19 – 21 June 2019, Singapore). I wrote a paper titled *“Teaching Reflection for Service Learning.”*

The conferences were an eye-opening experience for me as Service Learning is not something commonly practised in Malaysia. But being able to listen and understand how other countries implement Service Learning gave me better understanding and more ideas on how to adapt Service Learning so that it fits MCKL students. The conference also allowed me to network within the industry for further collaboration.

Participants from the US, Indonesia, Singapore, Vietnam, Cambodia, Philippines, China, Korea, Spain, South Africa, Myanmar, Singapore and Sri Lanka attended the conference. Never did I expect Service Learning to be such an essential aspect of education. Sure enough, I was the only individual/presenter from Malaysia both times! I was terrified as I was not sure if my understanding of Service Learning was strong enough to present to these academicians. However, I felt proud to represent MCKL (and Malaysia) in this initiative to better society around us.

When it came to my turn for the presentation, I took a deep breath and just went for it! Surprisingly there were good responses to my papers. One thing I have learnt is that many universities conduct their service learning internationally (mostly in third world countries).

It made me proud when they were impressed with MCKL’s model of Service Learning especially on how it is conducted as a general study (students with different skillsets working together in a project) and how our Service Learning projects focused on home-based issues instead of international affairs. I could not be happier to get feedback from all these experts. I am truly proud and happy of all MCKL students who have put in much effort to ensure that their projects were impactful.

These conferences were very educational as some papers presented were on the models and theories of Service Learning which have been adapted with MCKL’s current structure. It gave me a chance to understand not only at an institutional level but also at a governmental level in different countries.

Through the conference, I also noticed a gap which explains why Service Learning is not widely implemented in Malaysia. This is because other institutions do not have a hub where they can connect to Malaysian society/community. If MCKL were to grow Service Learning, we could be the hub to connect institutions to various NGO/NPO/communities.

My next challenge? Well, I would love to make Service Learning better known among other institutions in Malaysia. I believe that students have the potential to



## MY NEXT CHALLENGE?

Well, I would love to  
**make Service Learning  
better known among  
other institutions  
in Malaysia**

develop ideas and projects to make society a safer place, and with support from various industries and institutions, this can come true.

Overall, this year has made me realise how much I truly believe in this subject called Service Learning. Through these projects, students are forced to relate with different takes on social issues, and they can use it to combat dogmatic thinking, become more aware of their community’s behaviours and belief systems. Service Learning not only allows students to grow: to use their knowledge and skills, to learn about the society around them, to build resiliency and empathy, but it also helps the community they are living in.

# The Retirement Of Ms Thilakam



Ms Thilakam Raju joined Methodist College Kuala Lumpur on 27 September 1985 and is one of the longest serving staff. She has served under four CEOs and is the “gateway” to anyone wanting to speak or meet the CEO. Though she may look like a fierce lady, everyone knows she has a gentle heart, always making sure that the welfare of all the staff is taken care of. She retired on 29 June 2019. We had a chat with her on her final week of service at MCKL.

Friday, 28 June 2019  
12.45 - 2.00p.m.  
Auditorium



## 1 How did you discover MCKL as a potential workplace?

When I first came to Kuala Lumpur, it was a closely knitted place with minimal opportunities and one of the opportunities that I found was to work for this small college by the river known as Methodist College. It was an admin based job, and it suited my work experience; hence, I took it.

## 2 What do you cherish the most about working in MCKL?

Watching the College grow from a small seed to a big fruitful tree today, as well as meeting so many new people from different walks of life. I learnt a lot about life and work from my many years of experience here.

## Age Is Just A Number!

At 67 years old, Mr Chan shows no signs of slowing down as he participates actively in marathons, a passion that started more than 30 years ago.

He is one of our long time staff and behind-the-scenes heroes, keeping our campus and classrooms clean.

The medals you see here, are just a small part of his collection.



**3 Name some of your most memorable moments in MCKL**

Having both my daughters study in this College and graduate successfully is a beautiful memory.

In my younger days, I had my fair share of "mean bosses" who I didn't really cherish (*laughs*). But I think it's all part of the learning process to face different people and characters.

**4 What made you stay in MCKL for all these years?**

Gratitude and comfort.

**5 Describe your MCKL colleagues with three words**

Friendly, Supportive & Gossip buddies :-)

**6 What's the one advice you will give to new staff?**

Every job is difficult. Nothing is easy, but nothing is impossible too! Treat this as a learning process, and you will soar high.

**7 How was it like working under different principals/CEOs?**

Everyone had their style of working and guiding. Being under several leaders, I learnt a lot — some the tough way, some the easy way.

How does it feel like to work with Ms Lai, Ms Lim and Mdm Tan for more than 25 years?



*I definitely found lifelong friendships*

Thank you, Ms Thilakam for your years of service at MCKL!  
May you have a peaceful retirement! (and thank you for the nasi briyani!)





# The Illustrious Career of Ms Moey Yoke Lai

Ms Moey Yoke Lai joined MCKL on 1 March 2006 as the Chief Executive Officer, after having served in government schools since August 1973. She has inspired many lives, some of whom have become prominent figures in society.

She retired on 31 July 2019 after 46 years of service in education.

This is her journey in education:

## Faith Brought Her to Teaching

Like many other young people, Ms Moey's ambition was to go for a prestigious career, in this case, to be a doctor. The thought of becoming a teacher never crossed her mind. It was during a Christian Union meeting at her alma mater, Bukit Bintang Girls' School (BBGS), that she got the first hint that the Lord was steering her towards teaching.

Her principal at that time, Ms Elena Maud Cooke, told the students that they were praying wrongly; they had chosen their own careers and asked God to lead them there. Ms Cooke said students should be praying like this, "Dear God, you created me, you gave me my gifts, you know best what I will be good at, please show me what to do." This led to Ms Moey dropping the idea of being a doctor, but at the same time, she was left clueless and had to wait for God's guidance.

Ms Moey discovered the joy of teaching when she taught in Sunday School, but she knew that teaching in a school would be a different ball game. However, only when she had the opportunity to be a substitute teacher during her Form Six days did she know for sure that teaching was for her.

Coming from a low-income family background, Ms Moey had to scrape the bottom of the barrel to fund her education. She applied for the Colombo Plan Scholarship during her Upper Six year, and penned education as her desired course.

While waiting for the outcome of the scholarship, Ms Moey applied to university and used whatever money she managed to save to fund her first semester in university. Sadly, she did not have enough money for the second semester, and she had to face the bleak prospect of not being able to continue her studies. However, when she got home after the first day of the second semester, she found a letter from the Ministry of Education on the table, bearing the news that she had been awarded the scholarship to study in Canada.

## All Things Are Possible

While her ambition was given a new lease of life, Ms Moey now faced the issue of raising enough funds for luggage and getting a passport. Her headmistress got the Christian Union girls to raise funds for Ms Moey, and together they managed to raise RM300. Now remained the question of getting a passport in time. Back in those days, passport applications would take up to three months, and Ms Moey had to leave in less than two weeks.

Her mother's friend, who worked in the Social Welfare Department, brought her to meet one of the Directors in the Immigration Department. Hearing her predicament, he said to her, "Lady, you expect me to work miracles. It takes three months to get a passport". And a miracle it was as the passport was ready the following week!

Ms Moey went to study Bachelor of Science with Mathematics at the University of British Columbia for three years, came back to Malaysia for the summer where she got a short teaching job at BBGS and then went to Queen's University to do a Bachelor in Education.

## To Sir-Madam, With Love

When asked why she stayed in education for 46 years (1973 till 2019), she had this to say,

"It is the interaction with students that I enjoy and the fact that God has called me to work with students. Every year you have new students and the old students keep in touch with you, so your circle of friends grows larger and larger, and I love it when the old boys and old girls come back to visit."

Similar to the protagonist in 'To Sir, With Love', Ms Moey remained in education because of the students. She had taught in top schools such as MBSKL, BBGS, and SMK Kepong Baru, but every time she was assigned to another school, she left with a heavy heart because of the relationships she had built with the students.

She recalls the time when she and her BBGS students repainted the class toilet. They even organised a

ribbon-cutting ceremony where they invited Ms Elena Cooke to officiate its re-opening.

She remembers two sisters from SMK Rawang who brought her to visit their parents' poultry farm. She had intended to buy chicken eggs there but eventually the sisters ended up delivering eggs to her every Monday morning.

## From Government Service to Private Education

In her final months in government service in 2005, where she would retire as principal of MBSKL, Ms Moey was approached by Methodist Council of Education's Ms Yin Kam Yoke, who was the Education Secretary at that time. Ms Moey initially turned down the offer to be CEO of MCKL, but Ms Yin's persistence paid off, as Ms Moey graciously accepted the post, but not before conquering Annapurna in the Himalayas.

On 1 March 2006, Ms Moey reported for duty as CEO of MCKL. Since then MCKL has experienced a massive growth; from 70 students to 1800 students, from 20 staff members to 200 staff, from one block to three blocks, all in a span of 13.5 years.

Ms Moey is grateful for every staff, contractor and supplier that came her way; they have all attributed to the growth of the College.

## Life is Lived Forward, Not Backward

When asked if she would do anything differently if she could turn back the time, Ms Moey's answer was simple yet profound, "I hardly ever looked back because I like to look forward all the time and ask myself, "Where do we go from here?"

Ms Moey may have retired from a full-time job, but she has not retired from her NGO duties. She is chairman for various NGOs such as the Malayan Christian Schools Council, Federation of Councils of Christian Mission Schools Malaysia, and BBGS Alumni Berhad. She will continue to teach SPM Bible Knowledge.



### **Her Last Day as MCKL's CEO**

To acknowledge the impact Ms Moey has made in the lives of many staff and students, the College organised a full morning farewell programme for her on 31 July 2019. She was brought for a tour of every department and feted by staff in a variety of ways at every stop; many who had worked with her for many years shed tears.

It was certainly a morning to remember for Ms Moey. The maintenance crew re-enacted the flash flood that happened in 2009 and the teaching staff surprised her with the Mannequin Challenge. She was made to do a 'volcanic' chemistry experiment (thankfully there was no explosion) and many more. Even the English Literature lecturer, Mr Nicholas, who himself was an MCKL alumnus, penned a heartfelt poem as a tribute to Ms Moey.

Every staff wrote a farewell message on a sticky note, and they were plastered all over her car. A luncheon was provided, during which staff members had the opportunity to share their farewell messages in person.



## **MCKL Milestones under Ms Moey's leadership**



**2006**

CIE Programme began



**2008**

Groundbreaking Ceremony



**2009**

CAT Programme began



**2010**

Dedication of the New Block



**2009**

Topping Up Ceremony

### Ms Moey's Hopes and Prayers for MCKL

"My hope for Methodist College is that it will keep on going. I have done my term here, and I have enjoyed every moment of it. I'm very thankful to the Methodist Church for giving me this opportunity to serve and to help MCKL. The fact that Ms Yin trusted in me and Rev Hwa Yung also trusted in me speaks a lot for the Methodist Church because I'm not from the Methodist Church; I'm from the Brethren Assembly. However, we have not thought about the differences between the churches; we have just concentrated on helping to provide quality education for young people in our country at as affordable a price as possible.

So I'm very thankful that I have had this stint here and I certainly hope that Ms Khor (the interim CEO) and the Committee will take the College to a higher level. Some members of the Methodist Church would like to have a Methodist University. I am not sure in the current situation when for such a small country like Malaysia, we already have so many universities, and we will be competing against big boys who have gone much further ahead of us. It would be nice to have a Christian university, but if we can strive to be the best pre-university college that is available in Malaysia, I think that is doing well already.

We had plans to build a twelve-story-block but that one, I will have to leave to the next leadership to look into.

I have worked with a wonderful team here, and I feel that the staff, everyone from sweeper to gardener to admin staff to marketing staff to academic staff to heads of schools to the management team and senior management team, we have a wonderful team here, we worked together very well. Dr Stephen Farnsworth, the Fulbright Specialist, commented on this - that we have an excellent team here.

I wish the new team all the very best. What can I say to students and staff alike but to be the best that they can be at every stage of their life and last night I looked up an old poem that I read as a young girl:

### 'Be The Best of Whatever You Are'

If you can't be a pine on top of the hill,  
Be a scrub in the valley – but be  
The best little scrub by the side of the rill.  
Be a bush if you can't be a tree.

If you can't be a bush, be a bit of grass,  
Some highway happier make.  
If you can't be a muskie, then just be a bass  
But the liveliest bass in the lake.

We can't all be captains, we've got to be crew  
There's something for all of us here  
There's big work to do, and there's lesser to do,  
And the task we must do is the near.

If you can't be a highway then, just be a trail  
If you can't be the sun, be a star.  
It isn't by size that you win or fail  
Be the best of whatever you are!

This is a reminder to all of us that we should put our best foot forward in every task that is given to us and then we will never have to regret.

What is my prayer for MCKL? I read this ancient Irish prayer:

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

That is my prayer for MCKL.

Thank you very much."

Thank you, Ms Moey, for all you have done for the College, for all the years of service in education. May you be blessed with a wonderful retirement.



**2012**

First batch of JPA Bursary scholars



**2013**

MCKL Teaching Scholarship began



**2014**

ADTP began



**2018**

MCKL 1st Homecoming Dinner



**2013**

MCKL 30th Anniversary Celebration



**2014**

ACCA began



# Ms Moey

By Nicholas Wong, Lecturer  
Written for Ms Moey's Farewell

Once upon a midday dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary,  
Over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore-  
While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came inquiring,  
As of someone questioning, questioning at my office door,  
Tis' a Claire Tan, I muttered, bidding me read before  
Ms Moey a poem, nothing more.

Ah, distinctly, I remember how quick I was wont to abjure,  
Refuse a task so great and daunting - terrifying like never before  
So that now, to still the beating of my heart, I stood repeating  
"Tis a Claire Tan entreating, bidding me at my office door,  
Shun not the trial; nor from the plow withdraw thy hand evermore  
A poem it is, and nothing more."

Presently my soul grew stronger; hesitating then no longer,  
"Madam," said I, "or Miss, truly thy forgiveness I implore,  
But the fact is I am nothing, and so great the subject needs describing,  
And so faintly thou camest asking, bidding at my office door,  
That I scarce was sure I could do - as asked and so read before  
Ms Moey this humble poem, and nothing more.

August the month of her birth; August the personage,  
Of birthdays the 70th to come, ageing like fine wine, the older the better,  
Eyes like a hawk, reading, correcting, lambasting the minutes  
For lapses in accuracy; Young people should not get sick,  
Excuses for shoddy work lack their remedy  
No rest for the wicked - even less for the godly!

A soft boiled egg for the morn; and warm glasses of water twain  
To some: "Take care of thy health, young man; harm not the oil and the wine"  
To others: "Trim thy tresses, and shear thy locks; abhor  
To let soul obscuring fringe bar the windows to thy soul;  
Bare no ankles, nor show no knees; desist from unseemly apparel  
As of singlets, shorts, ripped jeans and the like drivell.



Old am I, as old as young thou art; however doubt not  
 But that I know the way to guard the doors of my own keep:  
 An enemy prowls without; and youth's passions run hot within  
 I set a watchman over the modesty of my sheep,  
 Mock if thou wilt, say the fashion is old that prescribes her whim,  
 I draw the line - Let none say I hold their honour cheap."

"Ah time," said she, undaunted altogether, "thou mightst these limbs wither,  
 Make my voice shake, my shoulders stoop, my hair as white as winter,  
 But thou never canst extinguish the fire, such as burns within  
 My term here is ended, but my crusade is just beginning!"  
 Fear ye, behold, and tremble, all who hide from the hunter,  
 Who smells the least heresy on the wind!

She might prove the bard false who said "When the age is in, the wit is out."  
 What matter that 'Age with his stealing steps, hath clawed me in his clutch'?  
 "Sage fool" she laughs - "I have learned much; I am become a fount  
 Of knowledge." The silver crown of wisdom gilds her aspect without:  
 That white is a crown of glory and is seen most among the godly  
 Is proved true in Ms Moey without a doubt.

Presently the time of farewells drew nearer, with thoughts of farewell dinners-  
 "Say friend" spake I to Suit Lin, "say, would she ride the carriage with us,  
 To Kiara and victuals therein, along the highway long and dreary  
 Grace us with her gracious personage, her lofty presence?"  
 "Nay," said she, "we are but peasants, bakers, and candlestick-makers  
 Cast a cold eye on ambition, but gladly learn from thy betters,  
 Nought have we to do with royalty."

Though we gently mock, as naive youth some time in jesting foolery  
 See God's eternal tapestry, where a beacon blazes as it has of yore,  
 While I pondered, jokingly reading, solemnly realising,  
 She who welcomed us, built a place for us, repaired its crumbling door -  
 leaves a body in faith, and a building bustling with students galore;  
 She leaves, but not with heavy heart, nor with weary feet sore,  
 But in triumph forevermore:

Till Christ shall come again and unto Himself all things restores.



They call this a college  
but we like to think of it as



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