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RM 10.7 mil in WOU Grants, Scholarships since 2007

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WOU hosts Commonwealth Training for Women Leaders

About 40 senior office bearers of higher education institutions from some 20 Commonwealth nations converged in Malaysia for a three-day women's leadership training organised by Wawasan Open University (WOU) recently...

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WOU's SHSS Researchers win Award at Tokyo Conference

The School of Humanities & Social Sciences (SHSS) has made WOU proud by sensationally attaining the Distinguished Paper Award for its research at the 2018 International Conference on Education and Learning (ICEL) in Waseda University, Tokyo...

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Celebrating the Nation's Diversity at Family Day

More than 200 staff and family members got together to celebrate the WOU-DISTED Family Day 2018 with guests and full-time students of both institutions...

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Young Engineer pursues BTME as 'Launch Pad' to a Promising Future

Since the beginning of this year, Louis Ong Bing Hao has been working as an assistant engineer at Iskandar Space...

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VICE CHANCELLOR'S VOICE

2018 is quickly drawing to a close. How the time has flown. I now excitedly await our 9th Convocation ceremony on 24 November at Hotel Equatorial Penang to congratulate the students who will be graduating. You have made it to the finishing line. Isn't it lovely that you and your family can soon be proud of your accomplishments? Your success is also our success!

After joining the University last November as Deputy Vice Chancellor, I have undergone a steep learning curve, especially since donning the additional hat of Acting Vice Chancellor from the beginning of 2018. I am glad to see the University gaining recognition for its skills training as seen by the many requests and/or visits from local and international schools and institutions. As we proceed with our transformation plans, let's remind ourselves that WOU aims to improve student success and that it can be further enhanced through our various transformation initiatives.

I fervently believe in collaborating with the industry in the effort to make our academic programmes more relevant for students and add value to our degree programmes. Hence the Memorandum of Understanding with the Penang Skills Development Centre (PSDC) signed last June. There will certainly be more initiatives in this regard with the industry.

WOU also continues to work closely with the Commonwealth of Learning (COL). This was manifested in its first women leadership workshop that we were entrusted to host in Penang. COL has been a long-time strong supporter of WOU and we thank them for their confidence in us recently organising the workshop and two other significant events in 2018.

WOU has also been involved with the ASEAN Cyber University project that is being funded by the Korean Ministry of Education. We are representing our beloved country through our role as a member of the Working Group meeting that comes together regularly in Korea.

We are also reaching out to educate the community through public talks. I applaud the School of Education, Languages & Communications for successfully bringing two renowned early childhood experts to share their wealth of knowledge with preschool teachers as well as the School of Humanities & Social Sciences for organising a very informative talk recently on water supply sustainability and the challenges being faced by the Penang Water Supply Corporation (PBAPP) in maintaining the "no water rationing" policy for Penang in the future.

The University desires its students, both from the part-time, open distance learning (ODL) and the full-time mode of studies, to have a sense of belonging. In this regard, the full-time student body has been very active in offering support and a helping hand for University events, such as the WOU-DISTED Family Day.

In the spirit of Corporate Social Responsibility, WOU through the Wawasan Education Foundation (WEF) continues to generously extend scholarships and grants to new and existing students. Thus far, about 12,600 students have benefited from these financial aids amounting to more than RM10.7 million.

Next I'm proud to share some good news. My colleagues from the School of Humanities & Social Sciences (SHSS) were awarded the Distinguished Paper Award at a recent international conference in Japan. Well done! My congratulations also go to the two students who won medals at a taekwondo open championship in Melaka.

To all staff and students, let's end the year on a high note. To my respected colleagues, let's do more for our students to help them succeed. To our dear students, set and aim to reach higher goals for yourselves. Share your ideas and suggestions with me and my team on what more we can do for you as we strive to truly become the "people's university". To the WOU alumni group, I warmly welcome your efforts to help with our student success initiatives.

Finally, I'd like to wish, in advance, a 'Happy Deepavali' and a 'Merry Christmas' to all our Hindu and Christian staff, students and readers! Have a good and meaningful celebration.

Professor Zoraini Wati Abas
Acting Vice Chancellor

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EVOLVING EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION IN MALAYSIA



Dr Lai explains how the brain develops.



Dr Chiam highlights the evolution in the structure and content of ECCE.



Prof Santhiram Raman, Dean of SELC, moderates the Q&A session.

'Serve and Return' vital for Child Brain Growth

A prominent child and adolescent psychiatrist has cautioned that a child may grow to be poor at socialising, interacting or dealing with criticisms if one over-emphasises academic results and forgets about the youngster's social and emotional development.

Dato' Dr Lai Fong Hwa, a consultant at Island Hospital, Penang, highlighted the "serve-and-return" relationship between children and parents which neuroscience researches indicate impacts on the brain's developmental process.

"If you let the child play iPad, watch TV, the brain isn't developing as there is no connection," he said. "It must be two-way, like when the mother talks, smiles or plays with the child there is 'serve and return' and connection happens."

Dr Lai said this when expounding on how early childhood experiences influence brain development and help to prepare the child for learning and life during a public talk on *Neuroscience Updates for Early Childhood Education* at the main campus on 30 June 2018.

He explained that the child's brain is packed with billions of neurons at birth. These begin to form synapses or connections as the child experiences things in the environment.

"The brain is built over time from the bottom up, as they see and hear sounds. As mummy plays with the baby, the synapses start to grow more and more," he said. "The connections continue to form until about 2 to 3 years old, and then pruning happens. The synapses that get pruned away in the brain are those that are not so much used by the child."

In the first few years of life the brain forms more than a million new neuro-connections every second for different functions like vision, hearing, language and higher cognitive functions, after which the 'pruning' process begins, he added.

Dr Lai also stressed that children need supportive, caring relationships as most connections get built when the child is happy. However, toxic stress like repeated abuse, neglect, unmet needs, extreme poverty and maternal depression can damage the baby's developing brain.

"Playing is the best way to learn. Babies' brains require stable, caring, interactive relationships with adults. Let them explore, see as many things as possible, like visiting the botanical gardens, the zoo," he said. He shared that a game like 'A-E-I-O-U' can train the child's brain to focus and control, thereby reducing negative episodes like temper tantrums.

"Kids must know that it is alright to make mistakes and fail as otherwise they will not try new things. We should create a desire in the child to learn new things," he highlighted.

Findings made by economists and neuroscientists have shown that quality early childhood and education (ECCE) from birth to at least 6 years of age play an important role in reducing dropout and crime rates. They also contribute towards lowering expenses for justice administration, healthcare, security and welfare.

In asserting this, Datuk Dr Chiam Heng Keng, President of the National Early Childhood Care and Education Council, explained that **neuroscientific findings have in fact shown the child's brain to have 100 billion neurons at birth, all needing interactions, right experiences and the right environment to develop.** Negative influences, on the other hand, generate stress hormones that adversely affect the child's development.

In light of these findings, the structure and content of ECCE in Malaysia have evolved to recognise the impact of experiences on the developing brain in the first five years of life, Dr Chiam said in a public talk titled *Early Childhood Care and Education: An Evolution* held at the main campus on 30 June 2018. Organised by WOU's School of Education, Languages & Communications, the event saw an attendance of over 140 people, mainly ECCE providers and preschool teachers.

Dr Chiam said that handling of ECCE has evolved structurally from there being two separate units - childcare under the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development and preschool under the Ministry of Education - to a single integrated entity for smooth progression from childcare to preschool. Both ministries have formed a committee co-chaired by their ministers to systematise the regulations and operations of early childhood education.

In terms of content, the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) has set up **Programme Standards** for all ECE programmes from certificate level to PhD. This is to ensure that the programmes contain the required knowledge and competencies for every preschool teacher to become a professional early childhood educator.

The Ministry of Education has mandated that diploma in ECCE be the minimum qualification for preschool teachers, and set up the National ECCE Council for quality control of the industry.

The teacher should not merely teach children to read, write and draw, but must provide the right kind of environment and experience to give them a strong foundation and the right start in life, Dr Chiam said. As such, the curriculum should teach the teachers on how to develop good mental health and guide the young child with appropriate discipline, and also on how to assess.



English Language Training for Thai Varsity Students

Eighteen undergraduates from Silpakorn University in Thailand recently underwent a 10-day English Language class at WOU's main campus in Penang under the able hands of facilitators from the School of Education, Languages & Communications (SELC).

The educational technology students had requested for the training in order to enhance their language and communication skills as well as to improve their learning and presentation quality in English. The 50-hour hands-on workshop from 16 to 27 July 2018 that they participated in was led by trainers Dr Por Fei Ping, Dr Tan Saw Fen, Arathai Din Eak, Ong Cheng Teik and Ooi Li Hsien from SELC.

The purpose of the programme was also to improve the participants' ability and confidence in communicating in English in social situations and other settings.

In closing the workshop, Dean of SELC, Prof Santhiram Raman, advised the students to practise speaking in English among themselves and with others. "Make mistakes, laugh about it and correct it! That is the best way to learn a language. Then you will build your confidence and your vocabulary," he said. Also present were Asst Prof Dr Siwanit Autthawuttikul and Asst Prof Dr Anirut Satiman from Silpakorn University.



The students with their certificates.

Thai School Explores Collaboration in English Language Training



Sean Ooi and Arathai brief the teachers.

Following a study visit to WOU on 13 August 2018, a delegation from Srithammaratsuksa School in southern Thailand has expressed interest in sending its students and teachers to benefit from the Holiday English Camp offered at the main campus in Penang.

The 39 teachers and four administrators were led by Saengjan Mitrakul, the school's Director, and Juthaporn Taokham, the Assistant Director of Academic Affairs and Educational Quality Development of the school's English Programme. They were briefed on WOU's academic programmes, course delivery and learning support by School of Education, Languages & Communications (SELC) lecturers Arathai Din Eak and Sean Ooi Li Hsien.

Arathai mentioned WOU's Holiday English programme and explained that SELC also conducts other workshops such as English for Working Professionals, Innovative Pedagogy for Teachers, Research Methodology and Effective Supervisor Training.

Juthaporn shared that Srithammaratsuksa School would be interested in collaborating on the English classes next year to improve the English proficiency of its teachers and students.

In his closing remarks, Dean of SELC, Prof Santhiram Raman, stressed that WOU's classes are highly interactive. "We can customise the courses according to the needs of your institution, for example, Teaching Pedagogies, ELT of Secondary School Teachers et cetera."

Srithammaratsuksa School is a private Christian co-educational institution in Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand, with 5,200 students from nursery to upper secondary (Grade 12) levels.

PRODUCTS GALORE AT HP'S INNOVATION WEEK



Dr Tan (right) seen here with Dr Mohd Nor Azmi (3rd from right) of CREST, the Penang Chief Minister, and USM's Prof Low Heng Chin (left).

WOU, in collaboration with CREST, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Motorola Solutions and Sanmina, recently showcased a range of innovations in conjunction with Innovation Week initiated by HP Malaysia Manufacturing (HPMM). The event was held at the HP Garage facility in Batu Kawan on 16 August 2018.

At the event, Dr Tan Choo Jun, Senior Lecturer at WOU's School of Science & Technology, used a tablet to explain to visitors a product in the form of an android-based learning application for manufacturing. It certainly bears potential for implementation on multiple equipments and different working environments.

Located in Penang, CREST, an acronym for 'Collaborative Research in Engineering, Science and Technology', facilitates and sponsors research and development (R&D) activities between industry and academia.

COMPARATIVE RELIGIONS PUPILS' GRAND SHOWCASE OF HARMONY

Twenty-eight full-time students of WOU who are taking the Comparative Religions course in the May 2018 semester recently put together a fascinating exhibition to highlight the richness of the major religions practised in Malaysia.

The two-day event titled *Culture and Religion*, organised by the students with the support of WOU's Learning & Library Services (LLS) unit, was held at the main campus on 9 and 10 July 2018.

The exhibition featured six major faiths - Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism and Taoism - offering brief explanations and featuring items significant to each religion, such as a Last Supper drawing, rosary beads, white sacred ash, incense sticks, a *thirumangalyam* (wedding) set, lotus flowers and Buddhist writing. The students also performed cultural dances at the opening of the exhibition.

WOU Acting Vice Chancellor Prof Zoraini Wati Abas, who officiated at the ceremony, said the initiative highlighted the diversity of the cultures as well as the harmony among people of different faiths and beliefs in the country.

Recalling the cultural assimilation and harmony in Indonesia that she had observed first-hand during her stint abroad in Jakarta, she remarked: "In Malaysia, we are fortunate that we live in a multiracial country. There is so much to gain from learning about each other's cultures and religions."



Prof Zoraini opens the exhibition.



The booth on Buddhism.

Thai School Students Visit WOU's Digital Library

Twelve students from schools in various parts of Thailand gained some valuable educational insights when they were hosted by WOU for a study excursion to the main campus on 25 July 2018. They learnt about the various services offered by WOU's digital library and how to locate study resources on the Internet.



The students change into T-shirts of WOU.

Secondary School Students Captivated by Main Campus



The visitors with Chew in front of the WOU library.

A group of fourth and fifth formers from SMK Taman Desa (SMKTD), Kuala Lumpur, had some rare and helpful exposure to WOU's full-time undergraduate degree programmes and to the management of the University's library.

The delegation of 35 students accompanied by seven school teachers were briefed by Penang Regional Centre (PGRC) director Ching Huey Ling and Head of WOU's Learning & Library Services Unit, Chew Bee Leng, when they visited the main campus on 21 July 2018.

RM10.7 MIL IN WOU GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS SINCE 2007

In tandem with its corporate social responsibility (CSR), the University through the Wawasan Education Foundation (WEF) reaches out to needy and deserving students with various financial assistances, while also extending rewards in the form of bursary awards and scholarships for academic excellence.

WOU first opened its doors to part-time, open distance learning (ODL) students in January 2007 and to full-time, on-campus students in September 2013. Since then, the total disbursements for the student financial awards as at 31 August 2018 has come up to about **RM 10.7 million (RM10,700,709.69)**, as listed below.

ODL and full-time students

Type	No of students	Amount	Period
WEF Study Grant	10,999	RM 7,216,980	Jan 2007-July 2018
Chancellor's Merit Scholarship	1,085	RM 2,021,497.19	July 2007-Jan 2018
Bursary Award	179	RM 643,792.50	Sept 2013-July 2018
WEF Achiever Incentive Scheme (ODL)	238	RM 71,400	started July 2018
Return to MBA Study Grant (ODL)	77	RM 425,040	started July 2018

Full-time study Sept 2018 intake

Type	No of students	Amount
Inaugural Study Grant (ISG)	23	RM 322,000



Retired Educator Donates Book Collection to WOU

Retired teacher Leong Kok Hing has generously donated his collection of 127 books and periodicals to the WOU Library. A graduate of Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Leong is a close friend of WOU Board of Governors Chairman Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon. He made the thoughtful offer when Dr Koh had gone for the wake of Leong's elder brother, Kok Kee, in mid-May.

Dr Koh recounted that he got to know Kok Hing when they were at USM in the late 70s, and afterwards became acquainted with Kok Kee. "Both brothers later became prominent leaders of the Young Buddhists Association of Malaysia, of which I have been an advisor for the past four decades. We have been keeping in touch since then," he elaborated.

"These books are quite relevant for our Mata Pelajaran Umum (MPU) and related courses offered by SHSS. They can also be good reference materials for research," he added. Dr Koh witnessed a simple handing-over of the printed materials on 30 July 2018 in the presence of School of Humanities & Social Sciences (SHSS) Dean Dr S Nagarajan and Learning & Library Services head Chew Bee Leng.

Dr Nagarajan said the books will be useful for students researching on Malaysian history and politics. The collections are mainly on nutrition, health and Malaysian politics. Among the titles are: 'Lost in Transition: Malaysia under Abdullah' (Ooi Kee Beng, 2008); 'Old vs New Politics in Malaysia: State and Society in Transition' (Francis Loh Kok Wah, 2009); 'May 13: Declassified Documents on the Malaysian Riots of 1969' (Kua Kia Soong, 2007); and 'Mahathir vs Abdullah' (Nathaniel Tan, 2007).



(From left) Leong looks on as Dr Koh, Dr Nagarajan and Chew view the donated collection.



FIND THE COURSES WOU OFFERS

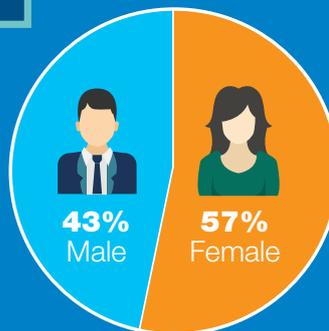


Word List :

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY,
 BUSINESS, EDUCATION,
 LANGUAGES,
 COMMUNICATION, FINANCE,
 MARKETING, PSYCHOLOGY,
 HUMANITIES, SALES,
 ACCOUNTING, ENGINEERING,
 MECHATRONICS,
 ELECTRONICS, LOGISTICS,
 CONSTRUCTION, BANKING,
 NETWORK, SYSTEMS

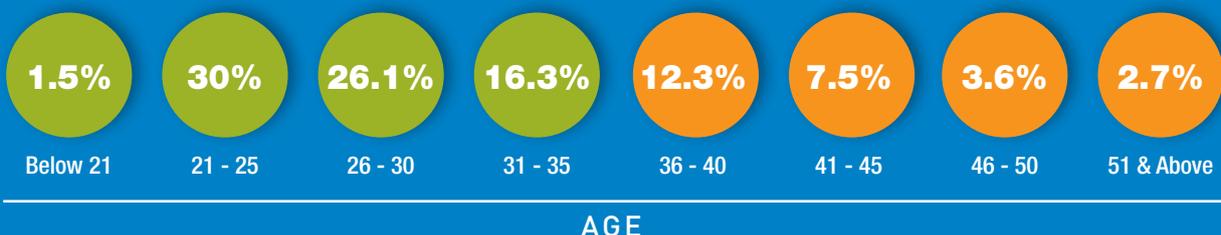
WOU Student Profile *(as at 5 September 2018)*

1 CURRENT STUDENT PROFILE



about **5,000** students

2 AGE GROUP



AGE

Come and pursue your educational dreams at WOU!



WOU hosts Commonwealth Training for Women Leaders



Dr Bala welcomes the participants.



Prof Zoraini talks about her professional experiences and leadership roles.

About 40 senior office bearers of higher education institutions from some 20 Commonwealth nations converged in Malaysia for a three-day women's leadership training organised by WOU recently.

COL Vice President Dr K Balasubramanian, who facilitated the training, said COL sought to strengthen women's leadership in the education sector through the workshop. The countries represented were Malaysia, Tonga, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Uganda, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia, Kenya, Mauritius, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Guyana, Antigua, India and Sri Lanka.

In her presentation, WOU Acting Vice Chancellor Prof Zoraini Wati Abas spoke on *Identifying the Leader Within* where she recounted her personal leadership journey through more than 30 years in the field of education. She credited four role models for formulating her thinking, vision and passion. The columnists S.H. Tan and Sri Delima (pen name of Adibah Amin) fanned her desire to be a columnist herself. She wrote for three different newspapers for over ten years to promote computer literacy and benefits of the Internet. Two female professors, she added, opened her eyes to academia.

She spoke about how she set 5-year goals to rise from lecturer to associate professor and eventually to professor. She stressed that she was directed along the path by having focus, goal, confidence and passion. "The leader within is about focusing on your own personal desires and aspirations. That is why I gave the story of my own journey," she said.

Prof Zoraini also cited six winning leadership traits - passion, goal, confidence, team concept, communication and determination.



Participants at the workshop.



Grace Lau (left) of WOU being introduced to the participants.



Dr Sushma Jaireth (right) presented on gender and leadership, and about gender mainstreaming in institutions.



Assoc Prof Dr Wendy Bong Chin Wei spoke on data analytics.

Utilising Technology for Positive Growth



Tan delivers her talk.

Speaking on *Empowerment through Technology*, Vice President of Dell Penang, Corina Tan, shared about her personal path to corporate success after starting work as a clerk at age 21 and putting herself through college. She had joined Dell 18 years ago as a senior manager.

She encouraged using technology as an empowering tool to grow oneself and the company, as technology offers the flexibility to work anywhere and at anytime, and encourages collaboration of work. She touched on using mobile learning and gamification to attract youngsters to learning.

Tan plans for everything and is currently finishing her MBA to potentially do consulting after retirement. "Our mentors and friends will encourage us but you are the one who is going to make the change, so plan for it," she said. She also highlighted three critical factors for success: mindset shifts where you are willing to learn and take steps to learn: building key skills; and networking to accomplish tasks.

The workshop also featured talks on student engagement, challenges for women leaders, the art of negotiation, learning via social media and decision-making through the use of data analytics.

WOU lends support to LANGUR CONSERVATION EFFORTS

TEAM BUILDING TO FOSTER STAFF-STUDENT RELATIONSHIP

It was all about fostering camaraderie with a memorable dose of fun when about 30 full-time students and five staff members from the Penang Regional Centre (PGRC) took part in a team building event at the main campus on 23 July 2018.

The programme was organised by WOU's on-campus Students Council. The PGRC team comprised its Director Ching Huey Ling along with Rina Julian Nazrin Julian, Cynthia Lim Ai Ling, Sasikanth Mariappan and Robin Cheah Kai Yang. The participants divided themselves into seven groups to take part in five station games held at various floors of the Albukhary Building.

In one game called 'Head, knees, toes, cup', they were made to follow directions to touch their heads, shoulders and whichever parts mentioned, while trying to be the first to snatch a cup on command.

Another game, 'Glow in the dark', required them to be blindfolded in a room that had its lights switched off where they had to negotiate around obstacles while holding each other's hands and learning to trust one another. For the 'Black box', each participant had to pick two marbles through a hole in a box, while the 'Ice bucket' challenge required them to remove a needle from an icy cold bucket and thread it up. The participants were later left huffing and puffing while blowing up balloons in the activity called 'This blows', for the air to be released to push cups across a table.



Huffing and puffing to move the cups with air released from the balloons.



Watching the documentary by Andrew Ng.

WOU recently hosted an awareness-raising programme to highlight Penang's very own dusky langurs and the efforts undertaken by Langur Project Penang (LPP) to promote primate conservation in the state.

The event was held at the main campus on 30 July 2018 as part of LPP's ongoing nature education campaign called 'Wild Roads'. Featuring road shows, exhibitions and talks, the campaign also addresses the need to mitigate the impact of roads on wildlife, stressing on the importance of canopy bridges to assist arboreal animals that are crossing.

LPP founder Joleen Yap thanked WOU for sponsoring the venue for the third Wild Roads event of the year. She said LPP strives to highlight the effects of habitat fragmentation and urban development on the ecology and on arboreal wildlife behaviour.

The programme was held as part of WOU's corporate social responsibility towards social and environmental causes. It culminated with the screening of a short documentary titled *The Hills & The Sea* by filmmaker Andrew Ng. It addressed the impact of large-scale land reclamation for development projects on wildlife habitats and the inshore fishing community.

The event had earlier commenced with an exhibition and a simple ceremony. In his remarks, School of Business & Administration (SBA) Acting Dean Prakash V Arumugam lauded the collaboration since "LPP's mission resonates well with the founding philosophy of this University".



Joleen Yap present souvenirs to Prakash to thank WOU for its support.

"Human beings, sitting high up on the food chain, should act as protectors and not destroyers," he said. "The langurs are voiceless as their most important allies are also their greatest enemies; us humans. It is hoped that through the efforts of the LPP team, more people are aware of the plight of these 'distant cousins' of ours and more will come forward to help in their conservation," he said.

The participants and the organising committee members.



Precious Insights from Two WOU Alumni

Having recently completed their Open Distance Learning (ODL) programmes at WOU, two alumni reflected on their achievements and offered words of advice to new students during the orientations held for the July 2018 ODL intake.



Cepea Wan at KCRC

Realising the higher purpose in learning

Cepea Wan, from Kuching, Sarawak, completed her Bachelor of Arts (Hons) degree in Psychology (BAPS) at the end of 2017 only to enrol again to pursue Post Graduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) in July 2018. She now works as a part-time tutor in a private centre and at her home. Here are some nuggets of wisdom from her speech:

"I was very determined to obtain an academic qualification because I wanted to further my knowledge and enhance my intellectual growth. For me, it was a journey of determination and persistence, of struggles and hindrances, through faith and failures, and of course with encouragement from other ODL students and my tutors. Finding motivation amidst these challenging experiences was a great psychological exploration. It made me realise that friends, tutors, CCs (course coordinators) and even the WOU regional centre staff were there to assist me all the way, whenever necessary."

"We have a higher purpose in becoming learned individuals. We are preparing ourselves not only for service but also for leadership. Our studies at WOU will shape and enable us for that purpose. Therefore, revising our course materials, attending tutorials, interacting with tutors and course mates are fundamental activities in our learning process."

"We pursue tertiary studies because we believe that this will make a difference to our future self. We may fail or fall short of expectations but do not give up. Persist in your studies, doing your best and always seeking to improve yourself. Your study is not just about completing your assignments and getting excellent grades in exams. Learning is about change and it begins by having an open mind and a right attitude. Learning is about changes in the way we think and behave, and we must take responsibility for our learning. Many learners have gone through this process successfully. You too can be successful."

"Those who continue to learn continue to live". These words of Barton Goldsmith echo the truth that as long as we live, we need to continue learning."



Ramesh Chandran at JBRC

Drawing motivation from loved ones for the journey

Ramesh Chandran of Skudai, Johor, completed his Commonwealth Executive MBA (CeMBA) late last year, having enrolled via Open Entry using his STPM qualifications and work experience in 2014. Since the beginning of this year he has worked as a sales executive at a multinational pharmaceutical company based in Johor Bahru. His older sister and older brother are also MBA holders while another sister possesses a degree related to teaching. Though their mother passed away of cancer in 2013, she would certainly have been proud of the siblings' immense dedication and accomplishment in career and in life.

"It is important to have the right mindset before embarking on this journey. I believe the journey is more important than the destination, as the journey you take will influence where you reach or who you would become."

"Managing time wisely to juggle between your commitments and studies is very important to succeed in this programme."

"I am not a degree holder, so anyone with reasonable intelligence and a tenacity to study can make it. Do not think that only the smart or 'qualified' ones can get an MBA because it all comes down to your self-belief, especially your self-confidence which is crucial to any success in life."

"Have someone to study with, or participate in a study group as this is very beneficial. Score well in your assignments as these make up 50% of your overall marks. And pose questions to your lecturers or learned friends, like the saying "Ask and you shall receive."

"MBA is a pathway to a better future for you and your loved ones. See them or anyone/anything else as your source of determination-cum-weapon to succeed in this programme. In my case, my mum, before she died, was my strongest motivation because she had always wanted me to obtain a degree. Also, my other siblings were degree or MBA holders; this was my other motivation, for if they can do it so can I! So focus and do it. Never give up, friends!"



At KCRC, the Dean's List recipients.



At PGRC, new students taking the oath.

WOU's SHSS Researchers win Award at Tokyo Conference



(From left) Ch'ng, Dr Ooi, Ooh and Cheah with the award certificate.

The School of Humanities & Social Sciences (SHSS) has made WOU proud by sensationally attaining the Distinguished Paper Award for its research at the 2018 International Conference on Education and Learning (ICEL) in Waseda University, Tokyo.

The SHSS team that was accorded the honour consisted of Ooh Seow Ling, Dr Ooi Chia-Yi, Irmadura Ramli, Cheah Seeh Lee and Ch'ng Ping Ping. Their research paper was on *Development and Psychometric Properties of Psychological Capital Questionnaire in Online Distance Learning Environment*.

The paper was among only five that were selected for the Distinguished Paper Award at the conference held from 22 to 24 August 2018. The organisers had in total received 449 papers from 29 countries, of which 273 papers were accepted for presentation and five papers - including WOU's - recognised with the award.

The research - funded by WOU's Institute for Research and Innovation (IRI) - aimed to develop a psychological capital instrument for use in the online distance learning environment to better measure and understand online learners' psychological capital. This will facilitate educators and institutions to help learners to progress along their academic journey in the online distance mode.

A number of researches have proven that psychological capital is a significant predictor of students' academic performance. However, the current existing instrument to measure psychological capital was not developed in an educational setting.

WOU students triumph at International Taekwondo Tourney

Two students from the main campus in Penang made the University proud when they brought home medals from the Greenfield Taekwondo International Open Championship held in Melaka from 25 to 27 May 2018.

Grace Gan, 20, earned bronze medals in both the pattern and sparring divisions. Gan is in the second year of the full-time Bachelor of Business (Hons) in Logistics and Supply Chain Management (BBLC) programme.

Meanwhile, Stanford Tan Chong Liang, 32, won a gold medal for the pattern division and a silver for the sparring division. Tan is in the second year for his Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Psychology programme via part-time, open distance learning (ODL).

The WOU taekwondo team was led by Edmund Leong Chee How at the tournament. An ODL student pursuing the Commonwealth Executive MBA (CeMBA), Leong is a taekwondo black belt 5th Dan holder and instructor, and conducts weekly training sessions at the main campus.



WOU student Grace Gan.



Tan with his medals and the WOU banner.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING



Prof Zoraini presents at the conference.

Acting VC Addresses e-Learning Conference in Bangkok

WOU Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic & Educational Technology) Prof Zoraini Wati Abas, who is also Acting Vice Chancellor, was a keynote speaker at the 9th TCU (Thailand Cyber University) International e-Learning Conference 2018 (IEC 2018) on 19 and 20 July. The event was themed *MOOCs and Beyond*. Prof Zoraini spoke on *Designing for MOOCs and Beyond* at the conference which was held at the Bangkok International Trade & Exhibition Centre. Other keynote speakers came from Netherlands, USA, Taiwan and Thailand.



Full-time students of WOU perform an Indian dance.



The Chinese diabolo performance by students and Robin Cheah (centre, foreground), a staff, of WOU.



The clown keeps the kids entertained.

CELEBRATING THE NATION'S DIVERSITY AT FAMILY DAY

More than 200 staff and family members got together to celebrate the WOU-DISTED Family Day 2018 with guests and full-time students of both institutions in a convivial and memorable atmosphere at the WOU main campus on 11 August 2018. The gathering was aptly themed *Celebrating Diversity* to reflect the multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-cultural spectrum of Malaysia.

Like the diversity that was feted, the occasion saw a variety of fun-filled activities lined up. There were zumba sessions, singing of patriotic numbers 'Setia' and 'Tanggal 31' by a group of WOU staff, as well as Chinese diabolo and Indian dance shows by full-time students.

The crowd cheered as WOU's Board of Governors Chairman Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon launched the kayak doubles race participated by eight teams. Team E's dynamic duo of Penang Regional Centre (PGRC) marketing and admissions officer Sasikanth Mariappan and library assistant Mohd Yusuf Hanafiah emerged champions, clocking 4 min 18 sec.

Senior administrative executive K Ranjini and lecturer Kevin Tan Pooi Soo from the School of Humanities & Social Sciences came in second, while PGRC marketing and admissions officer Robin Cheah and WOU alumni Bobby Chan Yaou Hooi were third. The top 3 teams received shopping vouchers worth RM100, RM70 and RM50 from former Vice Chancellor Dato' Dr Ho Sinn Chye.

Kids were meanwhile kept occupied throughout by a clown giving away balloons and a colouring contest.

The event's climax was the lucky draw with a total 135 prizes to be given away. Up for grabs were umbrellas, bath towels, torchlights, foldable storage bags, vacuum flasks, car vacuum cleaners, ice cooler boxes, hair dryers, photo frames and microwaveable plastic containers. The first prize, an air fryer, was won by School of Education, Languages & Communications lecturer Dr Por Fei Ping.



Dr Ho (centre) with the kayak participants.



Mingling and enjoying the food.



Prof Zoraini presents the lucky draw 1st prize, an air fryer, to Dr Por Fei Ping of WOU.



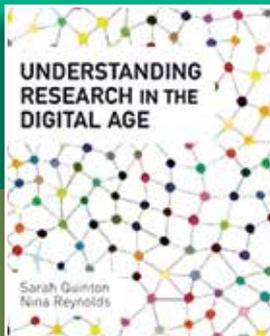
Kayak champs.



WOU staff show their patriotic fervour with songs and waving of the Jalur Gemilang.

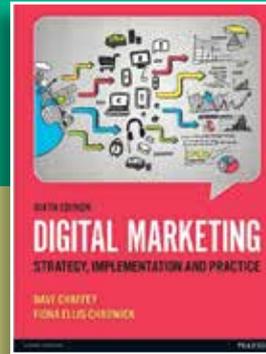
Library Offerings to Pique the Mind

Here is a quick preview of four more interesting books from the vast collection in the main campus library to enhance your knowledge, inspire your research or just perk up your wit.



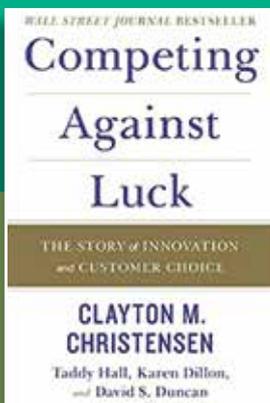
Title : **Understanding Research in the Digital Age**
 Author : **Sarah Quinton and Nina Reynolds**
 Imprint : 2018, SAGE, 234 p.

This book is aimed at researchers who are taking on social science projects involving digital phenomena and/or digital research methods. The increasing complexity of performing research in the digital environment requires researchers to think in more interconnected ways in three aspects: re-conceptualisation of digital research, accessing digital data and moving forward onto practicalities of doing digital research.



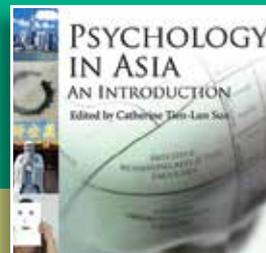
Title : **Digital Marketing: Strategy, Implementation and Practice (7th Edition)**
 Author : **Dave Chaffey and Fiona Ellis-Chadwick**
 Imprint : 2016, Pearson, 701 p.

This publication provides comprehensive and practical guidance on how companies can get the most out of digital media and technology to meet their marketing goals.



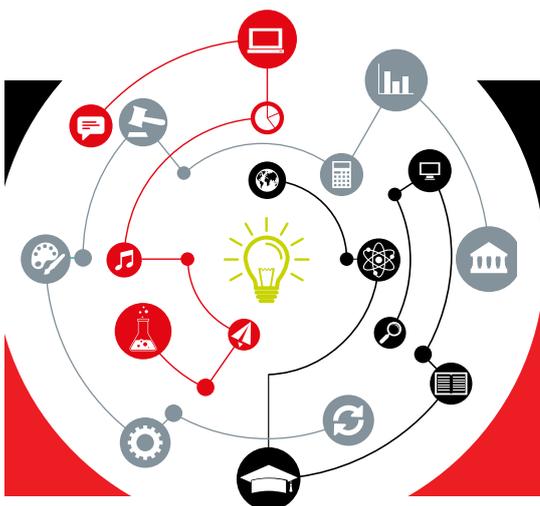
Title : **Competing Against Luck: The Story of Innovation and Customer Choice**
 Author : **Clayton M Christensen and Karen Dillon**
 Imprint : 2016, HarperCollins, 262 p.

Professor Christensen explores the idea that customers do not buy products, but rather hire them to achieve key tasks or to "do jobs". The reasoning and information he provides lend significant impact on the way new product innovation and services are developed.



Title : **Psychology in Asia: An Introduction**
 Author : **Catherine Tien-Lun Sun (Editor)**
 Imprint : 2016, Cengage Learning Asia Pte Ltd, 664 p.

A good introductory-level textbook on psychology and human behaviour with an Asian focus. It covers essential topics of psychology such as personality, human development, psychological disorders, gender and sexuality, emotion and positive psychology.



TEDEd:

A unique website for educators to innovate

TEDEd is a remarkable website that allows educators to create lessons based on videos. It is suitable for instructors who would like to incorporate technology in creating their class lessons and also for learners who prefer to learn via interactive videos. It allows educators to build their own lessons by sourcing suitable videos, while also adding activities and tracking their students' learning progress. The website can be accessed at <https://ed.ted.com>.

Welcome aboard the WAWASAN SHIP



Ms Jane Chew Loo Cheng

She joined WOU as Head of Finance on 16 July 2018. Chew has been in the accounting field for almost 20 years and was awarded an associate membership by the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA, UK) in 1999. Her varied work experiences include positions in the media, manufacturing and pharmaceutical sectors. She took a career break over the last two years and was involved in volunteer programmes with foundations that work with hill tribes in northern Thailand. Having recently returned to Penang she is looking forward to contributing to WOU's growth and progress in her new role.



Ms Fauziyah Md Aris

Fauziyah joined as Assistant Manager of Student Engagement on 16 July 2018. She holds a Master of Instructional Design and Technology from Open University Malaysia (OUM) and is now pursuing her PhD. She has experience in mobile technology, creative film, TV, video and multimedia productions as a director, script/song writer and producer, and also as a creative entrepreneurship module writer and trainer. She contributed to the government's Mindset and Entrepreneurship training programmes in 2012 and 2013. Ms Fauziyah has trained more than 1,000 participants from across Malaysia while involving herself in a few learning and teaching events in Malaysia, Thailand, South Korea and Indonesia. Her experience includes co-facilitating workshops for the Ministry of Education and MARA.

New Appointments



Mr Asaithamby Eeswaramorthy

Asaithamby was assigned to the position of Acting Head of the Klang Regional Support Centre (KLGRSC) effective 15 July 2018. He has been working with WOU for about two years, and was prior to this a Marketing and Admissions Officer since 2 May 2017.



Dr Mazlan Zainal

With effect from 15 July 2018, he has been appointed as the Acting Head of the Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre (KLRC). He holds a Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) from Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM), graduating on 18 November 2017 after five years of part-time study. Dr Mazlan also holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) and a Bachelor (Hons) degree in Information Technology & Management (BITM) from Open University Malaysia (OUM). After working part-time for some five months at the Subang Regional Support Centre, he joined the Bandar Utama Regional Support Centre as Senior Marketing & Admissions Executive in March 2014. He was transferred to the Klang Regional Support Centre as Senior Marketing & Admissions Executive in March 2016, and subsequently became the Head there in December 2016.



Assoc Prof Dr Lee Chee Leong

After serving WOU for 3 years, Dr Lee has been appointed as the Deputy Dean of the School of Science and Technology to oversee the academic and quality assurance of the programmes offered by the School, effective 1 July 2018.



The New WOU Learning Experience

- ☺ Integration of digital platform for a diverse authentic experience in preparation for workplace environment
- ☺ More flexible and self-directed learning experience
- ☺ Courses supported by award-winning interactive course materials

FULL-TIME STUDY
Main Campus
Penang

PROGRAMMES OFFERED

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATION

Bachelor of Management (Hons) with Psychology

R-DL/345/6/0230(MQA/FA1336)08/22

Bachelor of Business (Hons) in Accounting

R2/344/6/0075(MQA/A7120)01/22

Bachelor of Business (Hons) in Management

R2/340/6/0109(MQA/A7118)01/22

Bachelor of Business (Hons) in Banking & Finance

R2/343/6/0034(MQA/A6945)01/22

Bachelor of Business (Hons) in Logistics & Supply Chain Management

R-DL/345/6/0136(MQA/A7121)05/22

Bachelor of Business (Hons) in Sales & Marketing

R2-DL/340/6/0108(A6944)01/22

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Bachelor of Software Engineering (Hons)

R-DL/481/6/0027(MQA/FA0092)12/20

Bachelor of Technology (Hons) in Computer Systems & Networks

R2/481/6/0139(MQA/A6946)02/22

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Psychology

R/311/6/0066(A10926)01/20

Young engineer pursues BTME as 'launch pad' to a promising future

Since early this year, **Louis Ong Bing Hao** has been working as an assistant engineer at Iskandar Space, located in Johor's prestigious Iskandar Puteri area. His work involves developing web applications for the flight management system of drones as well as mobile applications for the ground control station of the devices.

Like the drones that he manages, Ong's academic credentials and professional future have been given a promising lift after he enrolled in the Bachelor of Technology (Hons) in Mechatronics (BTME) programme at WOU in the January 2018 intake. The 21-year-old took advantage of the golden opportunity afforded by the University to elevate himself through part-time, open distance learning (ODL).

"I am all for self-enrichment where one has to have the focus and the ability to keep learning because technology is changing dramatically these days," said Ong, whose hometown is Penang. "The BTME programme can be a launch pad to broaden my horizons and understanding about the algorithms that are powering up the machines. I plan to build up my mathematical skills at WOU, especially those that are applicable in the real world."

Ong had previously attained a Diploma in Electronic Engineering at a private institution in 2017. Searching on the Internet, he decided to join WOU as "its course structure is flexible". He found that he could gain practical experience through his work and even complement it with knowledge acquired from his studies. The courses offered under BTME include Engineering Mathematics II, Mechanical Engineering Design and Manufacturing Technology.



Louis Ong at his workplace.

On balancing work with studies, Ong said that he travels once or twice a month to attend tutorials in Penang. "Other than that, I am able to learn from anywhere as WOU provides the online Learning Management System for students where all the contents of the programme are available for us," he said.

Ong is driven by the zeal to succeed so that he can eventually give back to society. "The values that motivate me are clarity and empathy. Knowing what you want to contribute back to the world will direct you to the tools and knowledge that you need to achieve this mission."

9th WOU CONVOCAATION CEREMONY

Date
Saturday, 24 November 2018

Time
9.00 am (Session I)
and 3.30pm (Session II)

Venue
Hotel Equatorial Penang
1, Jalan Bukit Jambul,
Bayan Lepas, Penang

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10050 Penang, Malaysia.
Tel: 04-218 0333
Fax: 04-226 9323
Email: enquiry@wou.edu.my

WOU Regional and Learning Centres
Open Tuesday to Sunday:
10.00am - 7.00pm

Penang Regional Centre
54 Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah,
10050 Penang, Malaysia.
Tel: 04-218 0133/4
Fax: 04-228 4500
Email: ro_pg@wou.edu.my

Ipoh Regional Centre
Wisma Gerakan,
80 Persiaran Greenhill,
30450 Ipoh, Perak.
Tel: 05-242 6323 / 243 6323
Fax: 05-254 9323
Email: ro_ip@wou.edu.my

Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre
Level 3 Menara PGRM,
8 Jalan Pudu Ulu,
56100 Cheras, Kuala Lumpur.
Tel: 03-9281 7323 / 9283 8323
Fax: 03-9284 9323
Email: ro_kl@wou.edu.my
(Library Services available Tuesday to Sunday, 10.00am-7.00pm)

Bandar Utama Regional Support Centre
L2-6 & 7, Wisma BU8,
11, Lebuhr Bandar Utama,
Bandar Utama,
47800 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
Tel: 03-7629 7223 / 7629 7123
Fax: 03-7629 7023
Email: rso_bu@wou.edu.my

Klang Regional Support Centre
No. 41(Ground Floor),
Jalan Kasuarina 2/KS7,
Bandar Botanic Capital,
41200 Klang, Selangor.
Tel: 03-3325 2353 / 3325 2373
Fax: 03-3325 2313
Email: rso_klg@wou.edu.my

Johor Bahru Regional Centre
17 & 19 Jalan Jaya 2,
Taman Jaya,
81300 Skudai, Johor.
Tel: 07-556 4323 / 556 6323
Fax: 07-554 9323
Email: ro_jb@wou.edu.my

Kuching Regional Centre
14 Westin Avenue,
Jalan Tun Jugah,
93350 Kuching, Sarawak.
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Fax: 082-576 923
Email: ro_kc@wou.edu.my