



*"The Faculty of Computer Science
&
Information Technology"*

FoCUS IT alumni update issue three 06

The magazine of the
Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology (FCSIT)
Alumni Association

Contents

FCSIT UPDATE

3. A word from the Dean
4. FCSIT Activities

FEATURES

6. UNIMAS sign MOU
7. ICT4 Rural Development

NEWS & PEOPLE

8. Letter from Alumnus
10. Births, Marriage & Deaths

NOTICE BOARD

11. Notice Board
12. Reply Form



The articles printed here, to the best of our knowledge, were correct at the time of going to press. We cannot guarantee that all articles submitted will be printed and we reserve the right to edit material where necessary. Furthermore, the views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of FCSIT, the Alumni Association or the Editor.

For further information concerning any of the articles in this issue please contact :

*FCSIT Alumni Editor
Faculty of Computer Science and
Information Technology
UNIMAS, 94300 Kota Samarahan,
Sarawak, Malaysia*

Email : fcsit_alumni@fit.unimas.my

FoCuS IT alumni update

issue three 06

Editor's letter

We start off this third issue from the new campus also known as west campus. First and foremost, I would like to congratulate the team whom had put in so much effort to make FCSIT alumni a success. Heartiest thanks also to our Dean (Assoc.Prof. Narayanan) and Deputy Vice Chancellor for Students Affair & Alumni (Prof. Khairuddin) for their endless support and guidance. Nevertheless, best wishes to our new graduates. Congratulations!

In the previous issues, we had so many activities happened along the year, while we were still at the East Campus (old campus). In year 2006, we have more activities planned from the new campus. Kicking it off first is the ICT4RD Symposium, launching of the new campus, new intake of students, mentor-mentee programmes, and many more. During UNIMAS 10th convocation this year, we have 75 graduates leaving the halls of our faculty.

Moving to news bits on our faculty. We have several lecturers coming back from their study leave locally and abroad. This means the number of faculty academics is growing but at the same time, temporarily shrinking with some leaving or has already left for their study leave. Moving to a bigger campus has also seen the increase of administrative staffs. The faculty also went through a restructuring exercise with the Heads of Program being replaced with Heads of Department.

Finally, the most anticipated up coming event will be our first Alumni Gathering & Dinner. It is our utmost hope that as a fellow Alumnus, you could be there. This is the first ever Alumni event organized in the university. So, don't miss it. This is a golden chance for us to meet and get together. Finally, we have CITA'07 lined up next year along with many more activities.

Well, that's it for now. Thanks to our Alumnus whom had contributed in making this magazine a success. In future, keep in touch, do actively participate and God Bless us all.

With sincere good wishes,

Nazri

Issue 3 produced by :

Editor : Mohd Nazri Khairuddin

Sub-editor : Stephanie Chua Hui Li

Terrin Lim

Editorial Board : Lee Jun Choi, Halikul Lenando, Vanessa Wee Bui Lin,

Wang Hui Hui, Chai Soo See, Chiew Kang Leng,

Mohd Nazim Jambli, Lau Sei Peng

Web Master : Chiew Kang Leng, Nurfaeza Jali, Sarina Ahmad

Magazine Designer : Nur Rabizah Adeni

A Word From The Dean



Welcome to the third issue of the Alumni Update. We have had a busy year since the last publication of Alumni Update. Firstly, I am pleased to inform the Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology's Alumni that as of February 2006, the Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology has moved to the Permanent Campus Site (known as, West Campus). We now have a new buildings, with an increased floor space of about 10 times more than in the East Campus (temporary campus) fully equipped with state-of-the-art facilities. The Faculty now possesses 16 computer laboratories, comprising of general labs, 8 research labs, as well as 3 post-graduate labs having over 600 PCs.

The faculty has made excellent progress in the areas of Research and Development. Our "young" and dynamic and vibrant team at the faculty, have accumulated over RM 2.0 million in research grants. 75% of these comes from external sources which includes a Language Technology Productisation grant from MIMOS and an International research grant from the European Union on the Computerised Automotive Technology Reconfiguration system for Mass Customisation. Research from the faculty also received 3 bronzes at the last IPTA Research Expo in September 2006 in Kuala Lumpur, and just this year, we received a gold medal and a special award, at the 34th Geneva International Invention Exposition.

To further improve upon the management of research and teaching at the university, as of July 2006, all faculties have been departmentalized. FCSIT now consists of four departments, namely, Department of Information Systems, Department of Computational Science and Mathematics, Department of Computing and Software Engineering, and the Department of Computer Systems and Communication Technologies. With this change, the faculty is now able to actively focus on the various research niches and develop roadmaps for future developments.

At the recent 10th Convocation, eighty-four new members have joined the Alumni. This includes two PhD graduates, four Master by research, and three Masters by coursework, and seventy-five Bachelor of Computer Science with Honours. As members of the Alumni, you are all Ambassadors of the Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology. You have an extremely important role in helping in bridging the gap between the University and society (be it, government, private or NGOs).

With regards to forging links and collaboration, FCSIT signed two MOUs with Localisation Research Centre of University of Limerick, Ireland, and The Information Society Institute from Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Cape Town, South Africa. These two MOUs provide a platform for the faculty to collaborate in research activities as well as allow the Faculty to tap into the international network of experts in the areas of Software Localisation and Community Informatics. The Localisation Research Centre also provided the Faculty RM20,000 worth of localisation software as part of the Localisation Technology Laboratory and Showcase (LOTS) distribution. In addition, in August 2006, we also signed an MOU with MoBif Bhd, a listed company which provides communication (e.g. VoIP) solutions. This MOU provides opportunities for the staff to collaborate in research in communication technologies; MoBif will be providing state-of-equipment. With this, state-of-the-art research in this area will be conducted conjointly with MoBif for mutual benefit of both parties.

I am confident that all of you will contribute and play your part in upholding the name of Unimas and the Faculty, as well as promoting the faculty, not only locally but internationally.

I look forward to see you all in the near future and to share your success stories.

Assoc. Professor Narayanan Kulaturamaiyer



On 19-20th April 2006, Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology, UNIMAS together with Asian Info-Communication Council (AIC) organized the International Symposium on Information Technology for Rural Development (ICT4RD'06), at Hilton Hotel, Kuching. In addition, this symposium was also a collaboration with ICT Unit of Chief Minister's Department Sarawak, Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) and National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT), Japan.



An exhibition was held concurrently with the symposium to promote ICT products and services as well as handicrafts and local produce native to Bario.



CITA'05

The fourth conference in this series of International Conference Information Technology in Asia (CITA). The inaugural conference was held in September 1999, while the second conference in October 2001 and the third were held in July 2003. This year conference will be held on the 12th-15th December 2005 at Pre-Function rooms, Ground Floor, Hilton Hotel.



RoboCode Competition

FCSIT has organized the UNIMAS RoboCode Programming Competition on 23 October 2006. This competition is part of the collaboration event Sun Academic Initiative (SAI) program previously signed between SUN Microsystems Sdn Bhd and UNIMAS.

This Competition Aimed to promote Sun Java Technologies to the public, especially the students by encouraging students to learn programming language using more fun and exciting approach through computer game.



The competition was opened to all the undergraduate students from faculties in UNIMAS. 12 groups which teamed up of 2 team members have participated in this competition.

Through the competition, students have demonstrated their capabilities to program in Java programming language and shown confident to take up challenges.



PERTEKMA DINNER AT NEW CAMPUS

In conjunction with moving to new campus, PERTEKMA held a house warming dinner party at the new FCSIT Campus on 24 March 2006. The objectives of the dinner party were to celebrate the use of the new campus and also as a token of appreciation for the committee members of PERTEKMA 05/06.

All most 100 students attended the event together with several lecturers and tutors. The event started with a motivated speech by the advisor and also the committee members then follow by a buffet dinner. Few young and talented singers from the faculty also



UNIMAS Convocation 05

UNIMAS will be having the 9th convocation on the 13th -14th of August 2005. Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology is scheduled on the first day second session at 2.00pm with 69 graduates. The ceremony will include 9 students from Information System program, Network Computing with 31 students, Multimedia Computing with 14 students, and Software Engineering with 15 students. Computational Science was not offered at that particular duration.



MTD-The Home for every technopreneur

On 14th March 2006, Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC), UNIMAS and Technopreneurs Association Malaysia (TeAM) had join organized a seminar titled "MTD-The Home for Every Technopreneur". The objective of the seminar is to introduce participants to the idea of technopreneurship and what it takes to be one. During the seminar, the participants are exposed to the Government and industry support available for the start-up technopreneur.



UNIMAS SIGNS MOU WITH LOCALISATION RESEARCH CENTRE AND THE INSTITUTE

Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) entered a memorandum of understanding (MoU) each with two international institutions namely the Information Society Institute (TISI), Cape Peninsular University of Technology in South Africa and the Localisation Research Centre (LRC), University of Limerick, Ireland. UNIMAS Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Abdul Rashid Abdullah, represented UNIMAS while Director Reinhard Schälar represented LRC and TISI was represented by its Director, Prof. Wallace Taylor.

Deputy State Secretary Datuk Wilson Baya was in attendance to witness the MoU signing ceremony that was held in conjunction with the two-day International Symposium on ICT for Rural Development 2006 on 19-20 April 2006.

In the first MoU, UNIMAS and LRC are planning joint research projects, staff exchanges and joint research funding projects. In addition, the agreement covers the establishment of a mirror site of the LRC's Localisation Technology Laboratory and Showcase (LOTS), the holding of LRC - Malaysia events and training courses, and the initiation of joint research projects in the area of software internationalization and localization.

The collaboration between LRC and UNIMAS is aimed at exploring more projects that would allow local and cultural content by capturing indigenous oral knowledge in some of Sarawak's 63 native dialects to add value to the richness of Sarawak's cultural diversity.

In the second MoU, UNIMAS and TISI plans to collaborate in research, consultancies as well as to develop, conduct and offer educational and training courses, seminars, workshop and conferences for various communities throughout Africa and Malaysia specially in the area of Community Informatics, the social appropriation of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for local benefits, self determination, and social inclusion in decision making.

TISI was particularly relevant to UNIMAS's involvement in the E-Bario project, an award-winning pilot research that applied ICT's to the rural and remote community of Bario to sustain local and economic programs.

With this MoU, UNIMAS will be able to collaborate and tap into the network of experienced practitioners in TISI to expedite exchange of ideas and collaboration in projects that would benefits both countries.



International Symposium On Information Technology For Rural Development



On 19-20th April 2006, Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology, UNIMAS together with Asian Info-Communication Council (AIC) organized the International Symposium on Information Technology for Rural Development (ICT4RD'06), at Hilton Hotel, Kuching. In addition, this symposium was also a collaboration with ICT Unit of Chief Minister's Department Sarawak, Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) and National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT), Japan.



The opening ceremony on 19th April 2006 was officiated by YB Tan Sri Datuk Amar Dr. George Chan Hong Nam, Deputy Chief Minister of Sarawak. There were seven speakers from several countries such as Austria, Ireland, South Africa, West Indies and from Malaysia as well. UNIMAS's CALM's Dean, Prof. Peter Songan presented a paper on "Implementation of ICTs in Remote Communities: Lessons Learnt from e-Bario".

An exhibition was held concurrently with the symposium to promote ICT products and services as well as handicrafts and local produce native to Bario. Organisations involved were Malaysian Communication and Multimedia Commission (MCMC), ICT Unit of Chief Minister's Department Sarawak, E-Bario Sdn. Bhd, Asian Info-Communication Council (AIC) and E-Bario UNIMAS.



In the concluding session, participants agreed that the symposium had achieved the intention of bringing together researchers and practitioners in the area of ICT for rural development from within and outside Malaysia to promote sharing of experiences and collaborations. As well as to increase awareness and interest in private industries about the importance and necessity of such developments and to encourage their participation in bridging the digital divide. We believe that this symposium had also highlighted the potential usage of innovative and affordable ICTs in bringing about sustainable progress and advancement in the development of rural communities.

Letters from Alumnus

"My time in UNIMAS is definitely the most enjoying and with lots of fun."

Lau Hui Keng, Faculty of Information Technology
Graduated 2001

I left UNIMAS in 2001. Finding job after graduation was more difficult than I have expected. After couple months of waiting and attending interviews, I managed to get a job as a lecturer in a private college in Bintulu. However, after seeing many of my friends taking their master degree and some PHD, I was determined to join the league. I took my master in UTM. Doing only coursework, I managed to complete it in a year with lots of assignment and projects as the price, while other normally took an extra semester. However, when there's a will there's a way. After graduation, I sent out applications letters to various institution of higher learning wishing for a miracle. Finally the letter came from UMS asking me to attend the interview in KL. With God's blessing, the offer letter came and I joined UMS at the end of June 2004.

Looking back the yester years, my time in UNIMAS is definitely the most enjoying and with lots of fun. I still recalled the day when my friends and I bought Diablo II or Nox. We played continuously until we finish that game. What a life! Hartz Chicken and Tabuan Jaya are definitely the place of celebration after exams although we also went to Hornbill occasionally. During holidays, we take the opportunity to visit around. We visited Santubong, Damai, Culture Village and many more places of interest.

If there are good times, there are definitely the opposites. Overburden assignments (might be good), bad results, bad judgment, inconsiderate lecturers (other might disagree), accidents, and arguments with arrogant or selfish course mates, just to name a few. However, these experiences helped me in facing future challenges.

It's been a while since I last step my foot in UNIMAS. I always wanted to visit UNIMAS when I was in Kuching but never did. Now, having so many friends working in UNIMAS as lecturer, I will definitely coming back to the place that helped me to become what I am today.

UNIMAS Boleh!

Regards.
Lau Hui Keng
School of Engineering and Information Technology,
Universiti Malaysia Sabah,
Locked Bag 2073,
88999 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.
Tel: 088-320000 ext 3049
Email: hklau@ums.edu.my

Letters from Alumnus

My experience with the Faculty of Information Technology in Unimas starts in a cosy building in its temporary campus in Kota Samarahan. Though I find the place too isolated at first, I soon found the university's quiet, resort-like façade a great place to concentrate on my studies.

Independence is the order of the day in FIT. We were given a free hand in our studies and assignments and I've learnt to be self-sufficient in classes. However, FIT has a healthy mix of lecturers and study structure. While we were let to learn things on our own, there's a good infrastructure and accessibility to various lecturers, tutors and lab demonstrators as well. Computers and equipments are provided for students' learning and are always in good shape. This is of course a must for a programme like IT.

FIT is relatively new compared to other universities' IT departments but it is constantly updating itself and it tries to meet industry needs in terms of the students it produces. I find the courses in Software Engineering, 3D Graphics, Project Management, Mathematics from FIT are especially good. Some of the knowledge gained here are being used in the IT industry today.

To me, FIT is a good faculty for people communication and to foster inter-faculty relationship, friendship and understanding. They encourage students from different faculties to participate in their classes. That interaction has helped improve my interpersonal communication and I've made many great friends in the process.

While things have not always been rosy here and the challenges are great, I find as I enter the workforce that the experience really helps. The education and skills I gained are not wasted.

With the coming of the new and improved permanent campus, I'm sure FIT will become even better than before.

"FIT is relatively new compared to other universities' IT departments but it is constantly updating itself and it tries to meet industry needs in terms of the students it produces. I find the courses in Software Engineering, 3D Graphics, Project Management, Mathematics from FIT are especially good. Some of the knowledge gained here are being used in the IT industry today."

Tham Chun Neng
FIT Graduated

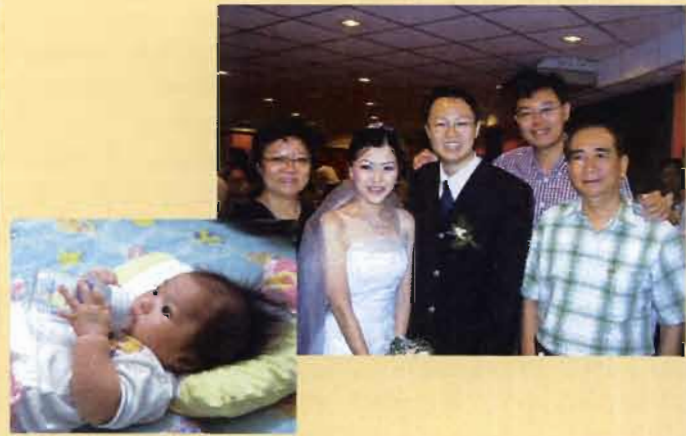
alumni news & people

Births, Marriages & Obituaries



Yap Kate Kiong
(FIT - Computational Science)
Melissa Chin (FSKPM)
Married : 05-Jan-2004
Baby Name: Angelina Yap
Working in Sarawak Information
Systems Sdn Bhd
IS Executive.
Email : ykkiong@yahoo.com

Mother : Low Meau Shan
Graduated : 2001
Name : Viena
Birthday : Dec 2005



Husband : Deric Law
Graduate : 2001
Married : 2006

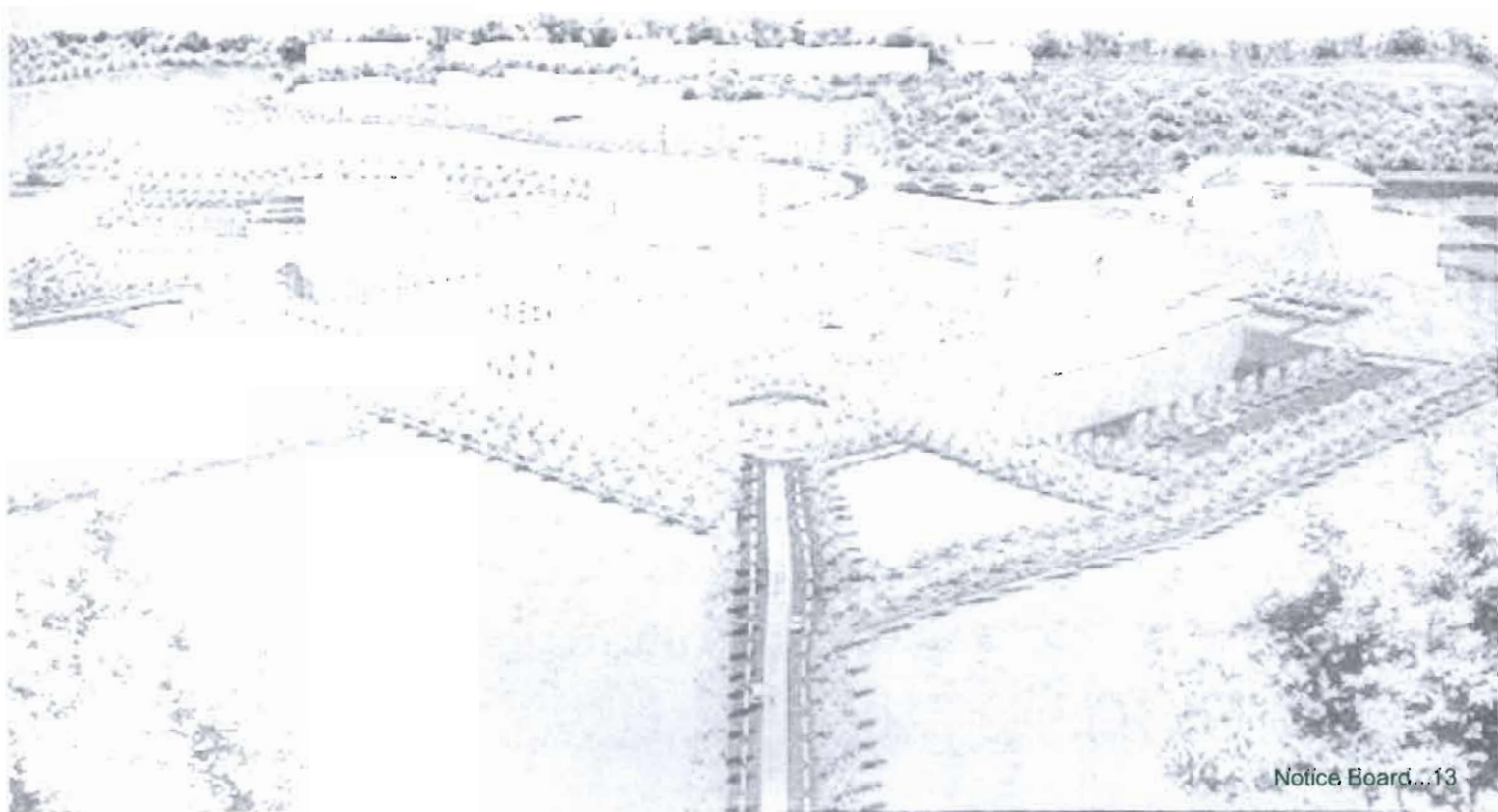
UNIMAS Convocation 06

UNIMAS will be having the 10th convocation on the 5th and 6th of August 2006. Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology (FCSIT) is scheduled on the second day (second session) at 2.00 p.m with 75 undergraduate students and 9 postgraduate students. The ceremony will include 10 students from Information System program, Network Computing with 30 students, Multimedia Computing with 17 students, Software Engineering with 16 students, and only 2 students from Computational Science program. For postgraduate students, they are 2 graduates in Doctor of Philosophy (Information Technology), 2 graduates in Master of Science (Information Technology) and 3 graduates in Master of Advanced Information Technology will also be graduated this year.

ALUMNUS First Gathering

Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology (FCSIT) will conduct the first ALUMNUS gathering day, which will be held in FCSIT, UNIMAS new campus on 25 August 2006. All alumni from Class '98' to Class '03 are welcome to participate in this great event.

Please complete the FCSIT Reply Form or email us at fcsit_alumni@fit.unimas.my



FCSIT Reply Form



GET INVOLVE

Please send all your correspondence to the attention of :
FCSIT Alumni, FCSIT, UNIMAS, 94300 Kota Samarahan, Sarawak Malaysia.
Or Fax : + 6 (082) 583764

We really appreciate your involvement in the FCSIT Alumni Association and hope that you can be a part of it. Please do spare a few moments to fill in this form by selecting the parts relevant to you.

SURNAME _____

FIRST NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Would you like to : Contribute to Update

The following section is for you to contribute to Update. Please keep your text as short as possible and include a photograph where applicable (We cannot guarantee that your contribution will be included, but we will try our best). Please tick (✓) where you would like this to appear :

- Keeping in touch
- Letters from Alumnus
- Reunion
- Births, Marriages, Obituaries

Why not Make Contact with old friends?

If you have lost contact with friends from FCSIT and we might have their current address details, we would be pleased to put you in the keeping in-touch section. Please give as much information as possible to help us. We can pass your details to them or we can put their name(s) in the next Update edition.

SURNAME _____

FIRST NAME _____

COURSE DETAILS (Subject and year of graduation) _____

Any further information _____

Your Comments and suggestions

The following section is for you to make comments, suggestions or queries.

We thank you for the valuable time you have taken to complete this form and post it back to FCSIT Alumni. This will be of immense assistance in helping us to continue to provide you with a quality service, a service we are seeking to enhance.