GO Youth!
At the centre of nation-building lies the youth. They are the cornerstone in the construction of the nation’s future. This year, Malaysia sees a millennial being appointed as the Youth and Sports Minister. This appointment goes to prove that the younger generation’s voice is no longer unheard. Their resilience and hunger for success will propel the society and country at large forward.

Similarly, on our home ground, the student election was held successfully, and Nicholas Chong (BSc Actuarial Science), who was the former Heriot-Watt University Malaysia Student Association (HWUMSA) President, has since passed the baton to President-Elect Abdul Mubin (BSc Civil Engineering). In an interview conducted with In Kilter, Mubin expressed his aspiration to bring HWUMSA to even greater heights and also to promote unity through student clubs and activities.

The editorial piece features Heriot-Watt University Malaysia winning the BrandLaureate Most Iconic Brand Award 2017-2018 for Best Brands in Education (Tertiary). It is a remarkable honour for the university, which recognised the strategic and effective marketing strategy implemented by the Marketing and Communications team. Go HWUM!

Other features include the Youth Transformation Programme 2018 by the Malaysia Foundation Programmes, Shell Ideas360 Competition, David Cohen’s artwork, Maybank Go Ahead Challenge and many more.

If you have any stories that you would like to share with us, kindly email them to n.mohd_azhar@hw.ac.uk

Enjoy the read!

Nur Ilia Syazwani
Editor-in-Chief
When it comes to innovation, more brains are always better than one. Mark Zuckerberg didn’t build Facebook on his own; neither did Elon Musk, who founded PayPal, Tesla and SpaceX. They had their own mentors and teams to support them. Who do you have behind you to take your ideas to the next level?

The year kicked off with a few representatives from Heriot-Watt University Malaysia submitting their brilliant ideas to tackle the pressures on the world’s food, water and energy resources for Shell Ideas360.

Shell Ideas360 is not just a competition. It is an exciting global journey of learning and discovery that connects participants with a global student community comprising like-minded innovators, Shell experts and other industry leaders, allowing them to collaborate and receive advice and guidance to further develop their ideas.

From September 2017 to January 2018, over 15,000 students from across 140 countries participated in this competition, developing over 3,363 ideas with nearly 1,110 of them moving on to the next stage. 67 of the ideas from Heriot-Watt University Malaysia’s students made the cut to secure a place in Stage 2 of the competition. Among them was Nurul Husna Mohd Yusoff’s idea, entitled ‘Empty Fruit Bunch (EFB) Waste As Low Cost Oil Absorbent and Alternative Solution of Bio-Plastics.’

The selected teams were required to submit a Project Proposal for a chance to win a spot in the finals, which included a trip to Make the Future, London. While Nurul Husna’s proposal did not make it to the final stage, she nevertheless considered it a huge accomplishment to have been shortlisted to Stage 2, as this was her first time competing despite having a busy schedule. She added that participating in the competition enabled her to gain a lot of knowledge and experience that will help her move forward. She hopes to garner more achievements in this field in order to inspire and empower women in general to take a more active role in the realm of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).
HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

Wins Most Iconic Brand Award
In recognition of our leadership as well as positive attributes in impacting consumers and communities, Heriot-Watt University Malaysia was presented with the BrandLaureate Most Iconic Brand Award 2017-2018 for Best Brands in Education – Tertiary in an award ceremony by the BrandLaureate at the Majestic Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, recently.

Professor Mushtak with the event organisers, receiving the prestigious award for its recognition in leadership and impact on consumers and communities

“*We thank them for working tirelessly at raising our brand profile and awareness, generating content, updating social media, website, running press/media releases and managing our agencies and this is done literally at all hours of the day. This award is certainly the most rewarding accolade to the team and our heartiest congratulations to them!*”

Janice Yew, COO & Registrar of Heriot-Watt University Malaysia

Heriot-Watt University Malaysia Students Recruitment and Marketing staff members together with members of its Executive Office celebrate receiving the Brand Laureate award

Professor Mushtak with the event organisers, receiving the prestigious award for its recognition in leadership and impact on consumers and communities.

Janice Yew, Chief Operating Officer & Registrar of Heriot-Watt University Malaysia believes that the award is a wonderful acknowledgement of the strategic and collaborative effort that the Marketing and Communications team has made, which has been continuously supported by colleagues in Malaysia and in the UK.

“We thank them for working tirelessly at raising our brand profile and awareness, generating content, updating social media, website, running press/media releases and managing our agencies and this is done literally at all hours of the day. This award is certainly the most rewarding accolade to the team and our heartiest congratulations to them!”

Professor Mushtak Al-Atabi received the award on the university’s behalf. “The BrandLaureate award for the Most Iconic Brand is a testament of our commitment to deliver excellent education for our students as well as the strong consistent branding by the university across our global campuses, including in the UK and Dubai. This is a result of an effective marketing and branding strategy set out by our Marketing and Communications team, implemented successfully across all campuses.” Professor Mushtak also reiterated that the university’s global brand recognition is due to its focus on preparing employment-ready graduates. “Heriot-Watt has been consistent in delivering a truly global education and life-impacting research outcomes. Currently, we deliver our degree programmes to students in 150 countries. Our alumni network is also amongst the oldest in the world, which has garnered more than 120,000 graduates in 190 countries.”
Is the oil and gas industry on its last leg? The recent drop in oil prices has seen major oil and gas companies and related industries cut thousands of jobs worldwide. Yet, countries like India, Brazil, Russia, South Africa and Malaysia are continuing to develop and rise in the human development index, as well as continued growth in major economies like the US, Europe and China, the demand for energy will continue to rise. Thus, this question becomes moot. What are the prospects of working in the petroleum industry? That is the question that students and parents should be asking.

Oil prices are a major contributing factor for job growth in the industry. As prices increase, companies are more likely to invest in new and existing fields and facilities. Rigzone has indicated that crude oil priced between $50 and $55 gives the industry the financial stability to grow. Currently, oil prices are varying between $70 and $75, and we are already seeing signs of growth in the industry due in part to increased efficiencies and cost-cutting measures. This has led to more drilling rigs in service and increased capital spending, resulting in a growth in employment levels.

Technology has played an important role in improving production efficiencies and driving down costs. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) has allowed real-time production optimisation by making operations more predicative, as well as enabling deep-sea exploration such as natural seep detection. Such technology can naturally be used to protect the ecosystem. Virtual reality (VR) is also another major contributor to production efficiencies and cost reduction. Beyond simply training new staff, VR has enabled companies to visualise the subsurface, carry out drilling operations without needing to be present onsite, and virtually drill and test wells before actual operations. It is hard to think of a safer place to execute operations without putting personnel in harm’s way. Cloud computing is also a powerful tool. The absolute amount of data companies can harness and analyse through automation will reduce operational expenses, well down times and risks. The advent of AI, VR and cloud computing has freed up capital and enabled investment in mature and frontier basins worldwide.

According to the recent BP Energy Outlook 2018 report, petroleum fuel contributes to more than 55% of the total energy demand worldwide. The international energy agency has indicated that oil will continue to grow as a source of energy over the next two decades, with the US set to become the leader in oil and gas production. While the usage of lower carbon fuel and renewable energy is expected to increase, petroleum fuels will remain as the primary source of energy in the foreseeable future.
Youth Transformation Programme 2018

More than 200 students completed the Youth Transformation Programme (YTP) in 2018, with over 150 participating in the April session and over 50 joining in the fun in the July session.

YTP aims to inspire the participants with activities designed to take them out of their comfort zones and challenge them to think out of the box. The seeds for the YTP were sown when conversations among our academic staff revealed that they faced challenges when dealing with students who lacked enthusiasm to excel in their studies, were uncertain of their future goals, had low self-esteem and sense of accomplishment, and lacked mental resilience to overcome challenges.

Heriot-Watt University Malaysia’s Head of Foundation Programme, Dr Jasmine Low, mentioned, “In designing the YTP, we started with the aim and belief that with the right programme in place, we would be able to grow every student to their fullest potential by improving their emotional intelligence, creativity and understanding of their own personalities, developing their long-term vision and mission, setting realistic SMART goals, and building self-confidence through engaging and impactful activities. In the process we also want to instil a strong sense of positive emotions such as gratitude and empathy.”

The CEO and Provost of Heriot-Watt University Malaysia, Professor Mushtak Al-Atabi, kicked off the programme with a session on the importance of emotional intelligence and how mindsets can be changed. In his session, the participants were “taught” to re-wire their brain and encouraged to remove the word “problem” from their vocabulary and replace it with the word “opportunity”.

In the session “Get That Job!”, Salika Suksuwan and her colleagues from PwC Malaysia provided useful insights on what students should focus on in their tertiary journey to give them an edge in the competitive job market. The PwC representatives also shared the dos and don’ts of using social media to optimise their online branding, providing valuable tips on how to become a more intelligent and responsible digital citizen.

In conjunction with Heriot-Watt University’s Year of the Sea theme this year, YTP participants were given a project entitled “Saving Nemo and Friends: Keep Our Rivers, Seas and Oceans Alive!” They worked in teams to create posters using recyclable materials to raise awareness on the importance of conserving our seas, oceans and rivers. With videos and PowerPoint slides, the groups presented their posters to a panel of judges. The passion, energy and creativity that the participants showed in completing their projects were truly inspirational.

Aligning with YTP’s aim to instil a strong and positive mindset in the participants, they were encouraged to list five things that they were grateful for and to post their list on the ‘Gratitude Wall’ every morning for the entire two weeks.

At the completion ceremony, the participants and their parents shared their testimonies on how YTP had made a positive impact on them. It is hoped that the lessons they learnt and the friendships they forged will stay with them as they progress to the next phase of their studies at Heriot-Watt University and beyond.
The Entrepreneurial Development Programme (EDP) was launched in January 2018 by the School of Social Sciences (SoSS) in collaboration with the Entrepreneurship Club of Heriot-Watt University Malaysia. EDP is a year-long programme, aiming to benefit Heriot-Watt University Malaysia students who are keen to develop their entrepreneurial skills. A total of 84 students registered for the launch held on 24 January 2018. During the event, various activities were carried out. Among others, Premkumar Chandrashegaran provided insights into the entrepreneurial journey of young entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurial games and self-assessment surveys were also organised.

- **Enterprise Boot Camp**

  On 8 and 9 March 2018, Natasha Lobley and Olga Kozlova from the Enterprise Team in Heriot-Watt University (UK campus) were invited by SoSS to conduct two Enterprise Boot Camp sessions for Heriot-Watt University Malaysia students. A total of 53 students signed up for both sessions.

  During the boot camp, students were given training on how to develop and pitch their business ideas. The boot camp gave students an insight into the components that need to be considered when first starting a business or developing a product. The day-long activities included the processes of ideation, problem solving, lean canvas (where every participant left with a mini business plan for their fledgling business), customer validation and product/idea development. Participants also had to present a one-minute business pitch to the panel of judges and other participants.

  John David Joshua Lee Ern Hann from the School of Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS) enthused: “This boot camp has transformed my vague business idea into something more solid, which can be adopted in my future endeavours. There were many hands-on activities, such as drawing your partner’s face, coming up with a business model on a sheet of paper and others, which actually made the learning more interesting.”

  Another participant, Choong Muh, in from SoSS, “This boot camp has really helped in developing my business ideas. The feedback the facilitators provided was very helpful, especially on our pitching. I really enjoyed this event.”

- **Young Entrepreneur Master Class**

  On 14 March 2018, three guest speakers were invited to conduct the Young Entrepreneur Master Class. A total of 102 students signed up for the event. The three speakers were:

  - Alan Cheah, CEO of GoCar Mobility
  - Ken Lau, Travel Vertical Partner of SEGNEL Ventures Pte. Ltd. and CEO/Founder of Adventoro.com
  - Sadira Yeong Min Yi, Co-founder of Readpublic; she is currently a pharmacy student at University of Malaya.

  This master class was designed to provide young entrepreneurs with an opportunity to learn the skills and behaviours necessary to establish and run a company. The guest speakers shared their knowledge and skills on start-ups and organisational operations, as well as the different stages of their entrepreneurial journey.

  Zulaikha Binti Zainul Rizam from SoSS (BSc [Hons] Psychology with Management) said: “I really liked the speakers. What they shared is relevant to us as young entrepreneurs. Overall, the master class was good and we gained useful insights from the speakers. It made me reflect on what I can do as a student in pursuing my business ideas.”

- **Young Entrepreneur Clinics**

  Three different Young Entrepreneur Clinics were organised in March and April 2018. These clinics provided practical guides for those who:

  - would like to be self-employed in the future
  - need guidance or advice on business ideas
  - plan to enter any entrepreneurship competition
  - plan to pitch for funding
On 4 April 2018, a Design Thinking 101 workshop was co-organised by SoSS and the Malaysian Global Innovation & Creativity Centre (MaGIC). A total of 200 participants from four different institutions—Heriot-Watt University Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Rembau, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) and Financial Training & Management Services (FTMS) College—attended the workshop.

During the half-day event, participants were trained on Design Thinking, which offers a systematic approach in adopting fresh perspectives to solve problems and issues, rather than relying on overused templates. Design Thinking is a creative and collaborative process that can be used to innovate any issue. In this workshop, participants were taught the tools and techniques to think innovatively and to see things in a new light. There were fun-filled interactive sessions that used Design Thinking to help participants understand design processes better.

Watt Ventures Malaysia is a business pitching competition open to Heriot-Watt University Malaysia students. Budding entrepreneurs from the university are encouraged to produce and submit a two-minute video pitching their business idea for a chance to win up to RM3,000.
Going Global, British Council’s annual conference for leaders of international education, took place for the first time in Asia this year, at KLCC in Kuala Lumpur. The conference was held from 2-4 May 2018. I arrived at Heriot-Watt University Malaysia a week earlier to work remotely from the campus while helping to organise conference activities.

Due to our presence in Malaysia and our global outlook, Heriot-Watt University was invited to take part in a number of events during Going Global 2018, shining a spotlight on our global strategy and our Malaysia Campus.

This year’s theme was ‘Global Connections, Local Impact’, attracting over 1,000 delegates from 65 countries. Attendees from Heriot-Watt University Malaysia were Professor Mushtak Al-Atabi (CEO and Provost, Heriot-Watt University Malaysia), Professor M L Dennis Wong (Professor and Deputy Provost, Heriot-Watt University Malaysia), Professor Lynne Jack (Director of Research, Heriot-Watt University Malaysia) and Janice Yew (COO, Heriot-Watt University Malaysia). Professor Richard A Williams (Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Heriot-Watt University), Ruth Moir (Assistant Principal, International Development, Heriot-Watt University) and I flew in from Edinburgh to join the conference.

The conference kicked off on Wednesday morning with Heriot-Watt University Malaysia welcoming around 40 Going Global delegates to our lakeside campus. Student volunteers, including some of our Go Global students from Edinburgh and Dubai campuses, led a campus tour for the representatives from various universities and organisations around the world. After posing for a group photograph on the grass rooftop, the group then listened to presentations from Professor Mushtak, Andy Coxall (CEO of Common Purpose Student) and Zoe Cuthbertson (Go Global student).

The delegates’ short visit to our campus ended with a packed lunch for the journey back to KLCC. The money saved from lunch was donated to the children of the Temiar Orang Asli community, an opportunity linked to the ‘Giving’ key of A Happier U. Delegates were happy to contribute to a charity that our students have previously volunteered with, providing the children with classes and building a mini library for them.

On the second day of Going Global, Professor Mushtak was on a panel of speakers for ‘Five Go to Malaysia – UK Branch Campuses Making a Difference’, along with University of Nottingham, Newcastle University, University of Reading and University of Southampton. The final day of the conference saw Professor Williams presenting a session entitled ‘New Challenges for International Leadership in Higher Education’.

After conference sessions concluded, delegates were invited to join a tour of Putrajaya, Malaysia’s federal administrative capital. The tour ended at our campus with entertainment from students from Nilai University and Limkokwing University.

In addition to talks from inspiring speakers on the latest trends and issues in the sector, Going Global is also a fantastic opportunity to make connections with higher education leaders from around the world. A number of meetings took place, both with new and existing contacts, opening the dialogue for opportunities of partnership, research and to showcase Heriot-Watt University’s global outlook around the world.

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Clear skies in Putrajaya as delegates from the Going Global conference during the campus visit
Heriot-Watt University Malaysia hosted the Maybank Go Ahead Challenge (MGAC), on 21 May 2018. Most of the participants were from Heriot-Watt, with tour HWUMSA president, Abdul Mubin (BEng [Hons] Civil Engineering), emerging as champion. He is now selected for the national-level competition, along with five other champions.

Abdul Mubin shared his excitement on being named the Campus Champion — “I woke up this morning hesitant to leave the bed – thankfully I did as I ended the day as one of the campus champions. Needless to say, it was an interesting day with a few twists! I’d never entered a case competition before, so I didn’t know what to expect and was a bit stunned when debate came into play for one of the rounds. But my team persevered and we somehow managed to get through the day. It was challenging for me, and at the same time it was equally a highly rewarding experience. I hope to grow more during the national-level competition!”.

Chia Bing Xuan (BEng [Hons] Petroleum Engineering), who also managed to get through to the national level, stated: “This year, the competition required one key element: ADAPTABILITY. Compared to past competitions, there were no ice-breakers for you to understand your teammates. Therefore, it became imperative for a participant to adapt to his/her team dynamics very quickly. The experience made me humble, as I felt that there were many highly competent participants who could proceed to the national level. I personally take MGAC as an avenue to develop my soft skills in a highly intense environment. After the experience, one will come out a better and stronger person regardless of whether s/he wins or not.”

Maybank Go Ahead Challenge in session
MAIN FEATURE:

Hello,

The HWUM Student Association election nominations took place from 21 February 2018 till 14 March 2018. Students were given the opportunity to nominate their potential peers for the Student Association election. Seven candidates were nominated by the students, then interviewed and shortlisted by Senior Manager of Student Support Services, Puan Sharifah Mastura, who explained the dos and don’ts throughout election.

Candidates were thrilled to take part in the six-day campaign. Besides coming up with a convincing message (i.e. manifesto), the students utilised various methods to get their message across to the students. Some even used banners and posters to attract attention and gain traction. Adding to that, a Candidate Question Time was carried out where the questions were accumulated from students throughout the campaigning period through an online site. After the week of campaigning, hundreds of students came out on 26 and 27 March to cast their votes and decide on a leader. Soon, the day to tally up the votes came. Candidates and students crowded the Student Support Service Centre and waited with bated breath as HWUM Student Association of 2017/2018 committee members counted the ballot papers. The tension soon dissipated as the Student Association of 2018/2019 was announced; Mubin bagged the Presidential position; Aisya, the Vice President of Welfare; and Lee Kok Xin, the Vice President of Community. The results of the successful election were then released through an official email announcement to all students and staff of the university.

FROM HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA STUDENT ASSOCIATION!
EMPOWERING A TEAM OF YOUNG LEADERS

I feel that the main responsibilities I held as the former Heriot-Watt University Malaysia Student Association (HWUMSA) President were leading the team, as well as empower and guide them to know what needed to be done as an accountable member of the student association. Determining our direction and maintaining the growth of the association were both very challenging at first, especially when it came to establishing a proper financial process to support the execution of all our activities. We spent a great amount of time and effort to set things up. Everything from planning the annual budget, to creating a mechanism to track cash flow, writing financial reports and more was done from scratch. Because HWUMSA is still at its growing stage–a growing organisation requires a huge investment in time and resources–balancing all these initiatives to empower the team while also focusing on our studies was not an easy job. Despite all that, the experience was truly invaluable to me.

WE ARE THE HEART OF THE UNIVERSITY

I believe that students are the ‘heart’ of the university. As a Heriot-Watt student myself, I realised that creating memorable student experiences throughout our educational journey is essential in building a sense of belonging. For this reason, we established the “School Officer” mechanism, class representative panel and President’s meeting (to discuss matters pertaining to clubs and societies). These were introduced into the system, and meetings were held on a quarterly basis. These class representatives and school officers were elected to connect students with the university’s management team so as to improve student life on campus. Be it coming up with suggestions, bringing up issues or concerns–HWUM’s Student Association has become the voice of the students in the university. On top of all these things, we also discuss upcoming projects, activities and more of what we’d like to see students be involved with in the future. We are determined to support our fellow students and make student life better for all.

CREATING A SENSE OF BELONGING

We started the Student Association at HWUM with a philosophy that we want to create events or projects involving all students no matter what their background or nationality is. The Heriot-Watt Cup, for example, is our annual sports event that traditionally focuses on popular sports such as football or basketball. However, this year we have ventured into new domains such as e-sports (competitive video gaming) and less traditional sports such as dodgeball and frisbee. This effort is something that I personally really believe in and I have suggested to Mubin (the present Student Association President) that we should continue the legacy of the Heriot-Watt Cup as well as other events involving students from various interests and parts of the world.

THE BURNING SPIRIT OF HERIOT-WATT

There were so many memorable moments throughout my years as a student at Heriot-Watt University Malaysia, as well as the president of the Student Association (HWUMSA), that I sincerely cherished. During the earlier stages, when the association was newly formed, we had an intensive boot camp with the committee members. We rented a place in Cyberjaya (Imagine 18 persons cramped in one room!) to brainstorm for ideas and map out the direction for HWUMSA. We invited Professor Musthak, Provost and CEO of Heriot-Watt University Malaysia as well as Michael Teoh from the Ministry of Education to train us. It was such a great memory and with the committee members now held together by a special bond, we realised we were officially a team.

Throughout the years, HWUMSA organised various student-centred events and each has a distinct place in my heart. But the Rave party and Lakeside Cinema were especially iconic to me because the turn-up for both events were beyond what we had hoped for; they were very successful. Although the idea of organising a rave party on campus did not seem like a good idea at first (of course, no alcohol policy!), we had so much fun! I think that night we had about 500 students gathering at the Plaza, dancing and chatting under elaborate light fixtures and just enjoying good music in general. Certainly a great opportunity for everyone to make new friends.

Besides this, the Lakeside Cinema represents a very historical moment in university life, in my opinion. It was a special experience because, to be honest, we had initially hoped for a roof-top cinema. We had to forgo that idea, however, due to logistical reasons. All was not lost, because we managed to partner with JinnyBoyTV and their producers to screen an independent movie titled “By My Side”. We were so glad to see many students turn up to join the event. Audiences gathered by the steps (near the Plaza) facing the lake, where the screen was projected, and we witnessed the crowd respond enthusiastically to the plot. All the woos and boos as the plot intensified–these are things rarely experienced in an enclosed cinema. And lastly, the HWUMSA Annual Ball. The entire team put in so much effort to make it a magical night. It was very historical indeed. The tickets sold out in just 3 days–all 500 pieces of them. Can you believe it? Truly memorable.

Thank you to HWUMSA’s former president for your dedication and hard work! All the best, Nicholas Chong!
HWUMSA AS A PLATFORM FOR SUCCESS

The first time I participated as a candidate for the position of HWUM’s Student Association President, it definitely was a challenging journey for me. Still, it did not dampen my spirit, as I see that there is so much potential for HWUMSA that is waiting to be discovered. A lot of people can look at us and think: “Oh, it’s a new University, what can be done here?” But in reality, there’s so much more that we can initiate and accomplish. You can start a new club, be the first one to strategise and run activities; be an aspiring student leader! I want to be the person to realise the full potential of HWUMSA and I wish to continue what Nicholas has built up. HWUMSA to me, is a platform for success.

PROMOTING CONNECTEDNESS

The campaigning process was undeniably a tough one. It’s more than just the typical process of applying, going for an interview and scoring a position. I received the opportunity to learn how to execute an effective campaign. People might think that our campus is small, but I realised that there are so many students that I get to meet and connect with during the campaigning season. My team and I visited almost all the classes, clubs and societies on campus and I felt more connected than ever.

REALISING THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN CONNECTION

As a student leader, I envision that the Student Association of HWUM will be the voice of the students in the University. I want to create a community made of students that feel that they can be whoever they want to be no matter what religion, race or nationality they belong to. This community will allow them to excel in being a better person and in developing skills that they feel are relevant to them. Secondly, I wish to empower the students’ clubs and societies on campus to pave the way for them to execute their visions, goals, events or activities that they want to accomplish so that they don’t feel like they are restricted in terms of the options they have on campus. Also this year, HWUMSA is introducing a student well-being team led by Aisha, our Vice-president of Well-Being. We want to be able to create a positive connection between students and the university community. For this purpose, Aisha was elected as the key person for students to communicate their concerns or suggestions. We value this communication process and feel that it is very important that students know they are being heard.

MUBIN & HWUMSA IS AN OPEN DOOR!

Honestly, I think that I’m a very outgoing person—very ‘chill’, in fact. To any student out there who has never met me before: If you see me in the hallways, feel free to say hi. If you have an idea you’re thinking about or maybe something you want to try or start, walk up to me and just talk. Our doors are always open (metaphorically) - no matter if there is a door or not! My ears are open to listen to new ideas and opportunities that you might bring.
The HWUMSA 2018/2019 student election was my latest and greatest milestone; I ran as a candidate and ended up winning the position of Vice President of Wellbeing as chosen by my fellow peers. In the past, I had only been selected for minor positions such as the secretary and the marketing director of the Talent Show, the treasurer of the Running Club, and the event coordinator of the Psychology Society. Therefore, it was only natural that I felt doubtful and uncertain to run for a higher level position before the electoral campaign had even begun. It took some convincing, but

I finally stepped forward with a changed perspective on what it meant to take up the position and allowed myself to take this as a learning opportunity even if I won or lost the elections.

When it came to the campaign itself, I believe that I had done my best in presenting my desires and intentions for running as the VP of Wellbeing. Initially, I felt I had a slight disadvantage because I didn’t form an alliance with other candidates to promote a stronger and united force. Even though there was a divide between candidates, we all knew we had the same vision for HWUM; to give the students what they have been asking for and to be that representation of communication between different segments of the community. Throughout the campaign, I used my soft skills and connection in the Heriot-Watt community to voice out the things I wanted to offer in hopes of improving students’ general welfare. However, in the end, I do understand that it will always be about achieving the things that students actually want and need.

Compared to my competitor, I can safely say that there are many ways in which she is as deserving as a candidate could be for the position of VP Wellbeing. Often, I would think she might even do a better job. However, the pressure from my competitor made me learn that I should be more confident in myself. As they say, we only regret the chances we don’t take. But when we finally do, we might as well keep our heads high knowing that we have done our best. I would like to appreciate my competitor for making it a tough electoral campaign because I was able to push myself out of my comfort zone. With the results of the election, I am looking forward to doing my best with the two other chosen candidates (Mubin Hanafiah and Kok Xin Lee) in striving for a better HWUM.

To keep it short, we hope to reach our goal by making progress on long-term strategic plans and improving short-term operations that previously lacked in efficiency. Hence, my goals would primarily focus on the context of improving student’s wellbeing. For example, one of the short-term necessities, I plan to coordinate student mingling and social gathering events within the accommodation compounds to promote an environment where students feel more welcomed; to create the sense of a “Home Away from Home”. On that final note, acknowledging that there are heavy responsibilities ahead of me, I’d like to thank everyone, fellow HWUM students, friends and family for the continued support.

Aisya Farisya, Vice President of Welfare HWUMSA 2018/2019
The election was akin to a non-violent battle of wits and persuasion from the first day to the last; equal parts thrilling and fierce. Being the first election process that I have ever taken part in, there were many new things I never expected to face. One of which was the lengths that candidates were willing to take to garner attention and capture the hearts of the public; a conviction that I had to adapt to and carry out myself.

The campaign period was exhilarating to partake in. All the candidates had to utilize various methods of getting their message (i.e. manifesto) across to the students, on top of coming up with a convincing message in the first place. In my case, I used graphic materials to capture attention, such as posters and banners. Also, I am lucky enough to have had a strong base of friends and supporters who believed in the cause I was fighting for. This made it easier to reach out to more students; not to convince them to rally behind me, but simply to hear me out and cast a well-informed vote when it came time.

It got worrying at one point when my competition suddenly actively reached out to the students. She was a charismatic speaker with a way with words, and I was right to worry later as I found out my lead, while reasonable, was not substantial. Fortunately, in the end I found that it was the same for all candidates. After trying our best, it was up to those affected most by this election— the students—to make their decision. I personally enjoyed this period and hoped all the students felt the same way too.

After a week of campaigning, the day to tally the votes finally came. During the counting, candidates and students alike crowded in the Student Support Services Centre with bated breath. After all, in many ways this was the point when the experiences of their next academic year would be decided. The thick tension that filled the air slowly subsided as the Student Association of 2018/2019 was announced:

Mubin holding the Presidential position, Aisya the Vice President of Welfare and myself, the Vice President of Community. I believe that most of the candidates (including myself) were rather relieved that the nail-biting election was over irregardless of the results.

My team and I are grateful for the support shown, of which would be taken seriously. We aspire to form a Heriot-Watt where students constantly feel involved and heard, besides empowering clubs at the same time. In fact, we have already drafted plans to make this a reality in the coming months.

Our top plans for the next year include creating a centralised platform for events and activities, where clubs and societies can share the events held for students to view at their convenience. Implementing and standardizing the newly improved claims process for clubs to request for funding is also another part of our vision to promote the hosting of more events. Besides that, a transitionary program to help international students assimilate into the local setting will be held next semester. We have quite a number of other plans that will be slowly introduced during the course of next year, so follow us on Facebook (Hwumsa) and Instagram (hwumsa) to stay updated!

To conclude, we would like to thank you for the valuable trust received and will try our best to fulfil your expectations whilst keeping the best interests of students of HWUM at heart.
Gan Teck Wee

Company: SIMAS GROUP
Position: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Course Pursued: MASTER OF SCIENCE IN REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT AND FINANCE
Location of Study: MALAYSIA (PART-TIME)
Year Graduated: 2010

What has been your career path since completing your degree?

Since graduating, my position as the Executive Director of the property development company remains unchanged; however, my scope of work has changed from operational monitoring to more strategic business and financial projection planning. The course has broadened my perspectives and skills to encompass a more sophisticated way of analysing the opportunities of every project that the company embarks on.

What advice would you give to someone who is considering pursuing their education at Heriot-Watt University?

Pursuing an internationally recognised degree from Heriot-Watt University is the best choice and will surely benefit graduates in positioning themselves as great leaders at the workplace. I would highly encourage those who have the opportunity to join the course to be more perseverant in their aim and also to properly juggle study-life balance. Seek advice and information from the university support systems as well as the Watt Club during your time there or even after graduating.

The learning atmosphere with experienced lecturers and supportive classmates made it more manageable for me to achieve my goal.
Scuba diving is a sport which divides the world’s population into two categories: those who are scared of it and those who love it.

Without a doubt, I’m in the second category. Scuba diving has been my passion since I was little, thanks to my parents who always planned their holidays in the islands instead of the big cities. I was raised by two souls who enjoy the sea but are too scared to go deeper underwater. However, I was always amazed every time I looked at the divers, fully equipped and carrying their tanks towards their boats. I first tried scuba diving when I was 13 and promptly fell in love with it! Unfortunately, as I am the only girl in the family, my parents were reluctant to let me complete my licence then. So there went my dream of becoming a diver. At least at that time.

Skip a few years ahead and I enrolled in Heriot-Watt, not knowing what it had in store for me. During the September 2017 Recruitment Drive, I was lucky enough to bump into Izzat, the President of the HWUM Dive Club. “So cool! My uni has a diving club,” I thought to myself. Without hesitation (or my parents’ approval!), I signed up for the open water diver’s licence on the spot! The 13-year-old girl inside me was filled with happiness that I could finally be a diver! Thankfully my parents were understanding, so off I went to Tenggol Island, Terengganu, to become a certified diver. I met many new friends, both humans and fishes along the way!

As exhilarating as it is to be a diver, I realised it’d be far better if I could share this feeling with other people. Hence, I decided to join the HWUM Dive Club Committee; Izzat happily welcomed me on board his team.

We decided to organise our second dive trip (which we named HWUM 2nd Dive Trip) this year. While previously, there were only nine divers, to my surprise, we managed to enlist 20 divers this year!

We boarded a bus that took us on a seven-hour journey to Kuala Dungun. This was followed by a 40-minute boat ride to Tenggol Island. The boat ride was like no other! We were tossed around by huge waves and currents. Oh, did I mention that the people around me were throwing up due to sea-sickness? Not. A. Good. Sight. But as soon as we reached the island, we were greeted by none other than the beauty of a well-preserved private island, the fresh sea breeze, the smell of the ocean and no internet connection!

Picture perfect!
Before every dive, the scuba instructor would brief everyone about the dive sites, safety, what to expect, what to do and what to be cautious about. My heart was pounding so fast, indicating how nervous I was to dive again. Did I remember how to clear my mask? How to assemble my equipment? How to check my air level? HOW TO BREATHE? As I calmed myself down, I held my mask and regulator and it was time to back-roll into the wide open sea! I started descending into the beautiful crystal-blue water. At that instance, I realised that the underwater world is truly a magical place, and the nervousness I felt before completely vanished! I gained my neutral buoyancy and started finning alongside my dive-buddies. Barracudas, clown fish and bumpheads (to name a few) were literally swimming beside, under and above us.

Our dive master would bang his tank using his tank-banger to attract everyone’s attention – sometimes to take a group shot, sometimes to show us turtles, sometimes to check our air levels, sometimes to warn us of oncoming obstacles, but most of the time just to ensure if we’re okay. As our air supply started to run low, we did our safety stop and began ascending to the top. We went back into our boat, exhausted from the dive, but seeing everyone’s smiles and excitement in sharing their personal experiences and encounters during the dive was definitely an amazing feeling.

Scuba diving is truly a passion and I am glad that I didn’t disappoint my 13-year-old self. Each dive brings with it something new that I had never seen or experienced before, be it a coral reef, a different fish, a shipwreck, an unexpected current, an unplanned drift or even an aborted dive when some of us were separated underwater. Every single dive teaches me something new. That is the best part of diving; there’s so much to discover in such a short period of time underwater, so you will never be bored!

The HWUM 2nd Dive Trip not only proved that scuba diving is getting more popular among students, but also revealed how much the club has grown throughout the year. My hope for this club and the trips organised is to always see it grow and provide a safe and reliable platform for other students or even university staff to discover the joys of scuba diving. It’s an experience like no other. I have written numerous articles on this subject, and I will always end it with the phrase “see it to believe it”. One will never regret diving. It may not become one’s lifelong hobby, but it will always be a sport worth trying.
Clay is a fundamental material in the creation of ceramic forms. Each element involved in the process—clay, water, air, and fire—plays a crucial role in determining the final outcome. Clay needs water for workability, air for drying, and fire for permanence. Beyond this simple explanation, there lies a deeper inquiry into the interactions and dependencies among these elements, which contribute to the visual diversity of the finished product. Clay is a material that can be reused indefinitely if not fired, a property that sets it apart from many other materials. For this reason, David Cohen, a ceramic artist, found clay to be magical. He believed that American by birth, Scottish by choice, the late David Cohen was a Ceramic Artist who was as skilled a teacher as he was a craftsman. He was inspiring and generous with deep appreciation for the creative spirits regardless of age, skills, and ability. His passion for ceramic art has been an inspiration to many, and his artworks have been displayed at most major national art exhibitions, sold steadily in commercial galleries, and collected by all the major art institutions.

Heriot-Watt University Malaysia is privileged to be one of those places where six of Dave’s philanthropic ceramic art pieces are displayed.

*The information for this piece was obtained from David Cohen’s website*
Following the successful launches in Edinburgh, the Scottish Borders, Orkney and Dubai, SafeZone, the free personal safety app for all staff and students has now been launched at the Malaysia Campus. This completes the global roll out for SafeZone, and means SafeZone is now a truly global Heriot-Watt product.

In August, the SafeZone team, consisting of Ross Ferguson – Security and Resilience Manager and Hannah Booth – Security Project Officer, travelled to Malaysia to launch SafeZone.

Drop-in sessions were held throughout the week to provide staff and students with information about SafeZone to answer any questions. All SafeZone responders in Malaysia were trained to the same high standard as the responders in Edinburgh, the Scottish Borders and Dubai.

Together with the Heriot-Watt Malaysia Student Association, a stall was set up throughout the launch day where students and staff could find out more about SafeZone and pick up a leaflet or business card with the QR download codes.

Globally, Heriot-Watt University now has over 1200 users signed up for SafeZone. In the Malaysia campus alone, we had over 100 users sign up within the first week – the highest among all our campuses! Heriot-Watt University Malaysia is the first university in South Asia to use SafeZone and provides all Heriot-Watt staff and students with the same level of support regardless of which campus they are working on.

SafeZone can be downloaded from the Apple Store or Google Play. Should you have any questions, please email Security.Services@hw.ac.uk.

INTRODUCING THE SafeZone App!

BY HANNAH BOOTH, SECURITY PROJECT OFFICER, HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY

Date: 6 June 2018 (Wednesday)
Organised by: Counselling and Disability Support, Student Support Services

Counselling and Disability Support aims to encourage Heriot-Watt University Malaysia students to build resilience in life by learning interpersonal skills at its Building “LIVES” event. Students were invited to participate in different activities at various booths as well as a treasure hunt on 6 June 2018. Up to 90 students took part in this successful event.

L means TO LISTEN
I means TO INVESTIGATE
V means TO VERIFY
E means TO ENLIGHTEN
S means TO SEE THE WHOLE
Stay safe at Heriot-Watt University

**SafeZone**

- **First Aid Call**
  For when you need medical assistance.

- **Security Enquiries**
  For general non-emergency enquiries or support.

- **Emergency**
  If you feel threatened or need urgent assistance.

- **Campus Notifications**
  If there is an incident on Campus that requires you to take action.

- **Check-in**
  For out of hours working, share your position with Security Services for your personal safety.

- **Privacy**
  You are only visible on the system when you check-in or raise an alert.

Download now from [www.safezoneapp.com](http://www.safezoneapp.com)

Security.Services@hw.ac.uk
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Monday to Friday (9am - 5pm) and Saturday (10am - 4pm)

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