It's Mathematics at Cambridge for Sunway star

By R.V. Veera

Dreams of traipsing the hallowed halls of a world-renowned institution of higher learning as an undergraduate have become a reality for Sunway A-level student Oh Yenn Kai. The 19-year-old, one of six who scored straight As in the recent June 2002 Cambridge A-level examinations, has been accepted to read Mathematics at Cambridge University.

The bright and talented violin player shares her story. "A few years ago, when I first ventured into the confusing realm of adolescence, students who were not calculator-literate were discriminated against and ruled out as obsolete. Sadly, I bowed to peer pressure and conformed. I willingly allowed my brain to rust while the tiny chip exhilarated!"

Joining Sunway as an A-level student marked the beginning of a wonderful journey of discovery for her, she recalled. "Through my inspiring lecturers, I started to learn for the sake of learning and found joy in mental arithmetic. I was taught to wonder, instead of being shallow and accepting everything as it was."

Oh said she came to realise during her time at Sunway College what education is really about. "It is not about competing with your classmates, nor is it about who ends up first. It is about finding out who you really are; and the exhilaration of sharing, discussing and helping one another as you acquire knowledge with your friends."

Sunway A-level students managed an impressive 98% per cent pass rate in the Cambridge Board June 2002 examinations with more than 50 per cent of the 121 students who sat the exam scoring at least an A grade in one subject.

The college has been offering the Cambridge Boards GCE A Level programme since 1989.

The widely-recognised pre-university qualification is one of the more popular courses with a wide range of subjects which include Accounting, Economics, Law, Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Further Mathematics, History, General Paper and English.

The A-level qualification is a favourite among students as it is internationally recognised for entry into universities and professional courses in the UK, the USA, Australia, New Zealand, India and Singapore.

It is also accepted by Monash University's branch campus in Malaysia and all the twinning degree courses offered at Sunway.

Established in 1987, Sunway College, a MSC-status educational institution, was awarded in January the National Industry Export Excellence Award 2001 (services) by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry in recognition of its outstanding contributions to the country's export earnings.

The college is one of the recipients of the Enterprise 50 Award which is given to homegrown companies with good financial and management performance.

As a Trust-managed institution, Sunway College has awarded in excess of RM10 million in scholarships, helping more than 1,000 students.

The college also offers a two-year Diploma in Hospitality and Tourism Management, which upon completion allows students the option of pursuing hospitality or tourism-related first degree courses in selected universities in UK, Canada, US, Australia and Switzerland.

Besides that, students can also earn an additional external qualification from the City and Guilds Institute in Britain.

Students of the Colleges School of Hospitality and Tourism Management have access to the most comprehensive facilities.

Sunway College's Financial Courses Division has been maintaining an enviable track record of outstanding students, producing World and Malaysian prize winners in CAT and ACCA examinations at every examination since 1996.

At the recent 5th ACCA-CAT graduation ceremony, Certified Accounting Technician (CAT) graduates, Chum Wai Chong and Lee Mei Yi clinched World Prizes for obtaining the highest scores for Paper B1 (Maintaining Financial Records and Accounts) and Paper C2 (Information for Management), respectively.

Four other CAT graduates received the Malaysian Prize for having the highest scores in Malaysia for selected Accounting subjects.

Sunway ACCA students did well for the Malaysian Prize category with Lim Kok Heng and Tan Khoon Yeow securing first and second placings, respectively out of 380 ACCA Malaysian affiliates in the country.

In the Subject Prize category, Sunway ACCA students claimed the top spots in nine out of 16 subjects.

Sunway College, the first to be awarded the Premier Status Institution by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), UK, offers the CAT programme, a vocational qualification designed by ACCA.

The final-level examinations are equivalent to that of first-year university standard.

Upon completion of CAT, students will be exempted from Part 1 of the ACCA and enter directly into Part 2.

For those interested in pursuing professional business qualifications from UK, Sunway College offers professional diploma and external degree courses for school-leavers and mature students under the Association of Business Executives (ABE) and Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM) programmes.

The CIM programme is valued by Malaysian students as they can achieve a professional diploma within two years and with working experience, they can pursue a MBA.

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Meanwhile, the Association of Business Executives (ABE) programme is in demand by those who are uncertain about pursuing a diploma or a degree.

The programme at Sunway College offers all four levels of this non-specialist general business education allowing access to many MBA programmes.

For more information on any of the above-mentioned programmes, contact the Sunway College Information Centre at 03-56358622, fax 03-56358633 or visit www.sunway.edu.my.