

8 course focus



Fennie Lee Jia Xian (front left) with (from left) Dr Ch'ng Sue Inn, Dr Yeong Lee Seng and Dr Chia Wai Chong, winners of the silver medal at the International Invention, Innovation and Technology Exhibition (ITEX) 2015 for their invention A Better Way to GOTO.

Learn and grow tech skills

FENNIE Lee Jia Xian, 22, graduated with the BSc (Hons) in Computer Science from Sunway University last year.

The former student of Penang Chinese Girls' High School received a scholastic award and was also valedictorian.

She became interested in computer science in secondary school, where information and communication technology (ICT) was offered as a subject.

Despite people telling her that information technology (IT) was a male-dominant field, Lee was impressed and inspired by one of her female teachers who created the library and co-curricular system at Lee's school.

Lee says that during her time in Sunway's BSc (Hons) in Computer Science programme, she found problem-solving to be the most interesting.

"A simple or complex problem requires a combination of analytical, logical and critical thinking and the organisation of different parts or pieces of a programme to communicate to each other," she says. At Sunway University, students are



Fennie Lee Jia Xian.

encouraged to collaborate with the academic and research team on various projects.

Hence, Lee had the opportunity to collaborate with three lecturers from the Faculty of Science and Technology.

Their invention A Better Way to GOTO earned a silver award at the I.C.T and Multimedia category in the International Invention, Innovation and Technology Exhibition (ITEX) 2015.

"I had a week of learning iOS software development and learnt enough to perhaps start a simple project. Yet, with the trust and advice of my lecturer, I decided to take a risk and started my competition prototype using my newly gained skills," says Lee.

"During my preparation, my lecturers gave me their full support and encouragement. When I faced technical difficulties, they got involved and helped me progress. It was a different experience teaming up with lecturers as they are more experienced."

In the end, the two programming codes coded by Lee and lecturer Dr Chia Wai Chong were put together and functioned well.

"While working on the prototype, I received support from other lecturers in preparing materials for the presentation such as posters, booklets and hardware. The joint effort earned us a silver medal," says Lee.

"The journey was a valuable experience. At that time, I had not taken the examination for the iOS certification, so it felt like a big achievement."

Lee's time at Sunway University went beyond just studying. She was active in extracurricular activities, being a member of Sunway University's Toastmasters' Club and Sunway Student Volunteers, assistant creativity manager of the Statistical Analytics Systems (SAS) Club and senior peer leader in the Peer Assisted Learning Program (PALP).

Lee says that her out-of-classroom activities helped improve her leadership, problem-solving and communication skills, enabling her to be more effective and productive when communicating and working with people from diverse backgrounds.

She is currently working as a user interface and user experience designer at Hilti Asia IT Services (HAITS), providing global IT support for Hilti.

Her responsibilities include performing user behavioural and usability studies, providing conceptual ideas on various user experience topics, designing user interface and logos as well as performing front-end web development.

During the programme, students will be exposed to various programming languages and a development environment focused on object-oriented design and experience different subjects such as artificial intelligence and computational intelligence, digital image processing and computer vision, software engineering and software architecture, human computer interaction and other fundamental subjects such as computer organisation, database and computer networks.

The BSc (Hons) in Computer Science at Sunway University equips students with important knowledge and hands-on skills, including analytical, problem-solving, algorithmic, modelling, solution design and development skills. These skills prepare them for their future jobs and open up a variety of career pathways.

The Faculty of Science and Technology supports and encourages students to participate in various competitions, hackathons, conferences, talks, events and even provide some the opportunity to be a research assistant.

■ For more information, call 03-7491 8622 or e-mail info@sunway.edu.my or visit sunway.edu.my/university/FST.

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