

“It’s not about how much we have lost, It’s about how much we have left.”

- TONY STARK.



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THE PATH

CENTER FOR PRE UNIVERSITY STUDIES/ VOLUME 6 / 2020 / JUNE





WELCOME! STUDENTS OF MAY 2020

AUTHOR: MISS NORLAILA NAJWA BINTI RAHMAN

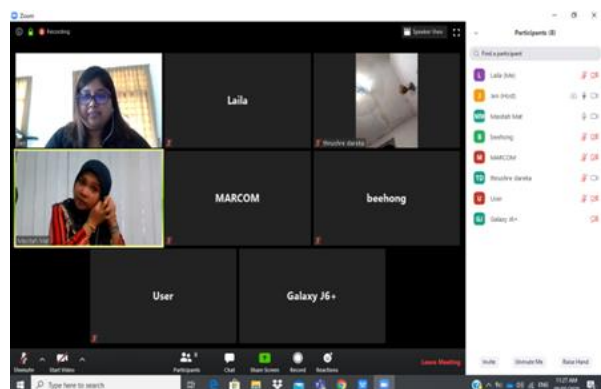
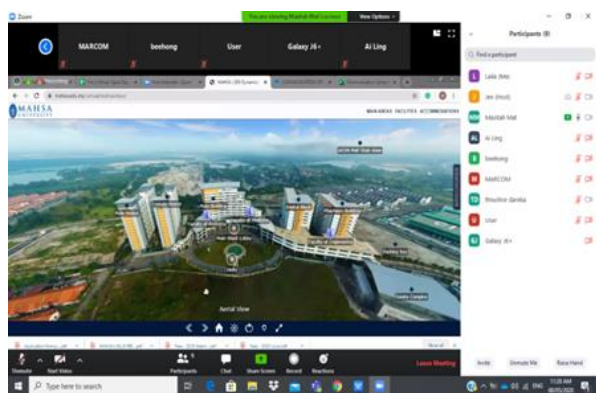
As Covid-19 crisis continues to progress, the ordinary orientation for new students has been rearranged to an e-orientation among higher education institutions. On May 13th, a meet and greet session between Centre for Pre-university Studies and 33 new students from May 2020 intake was held virtually via Google Meet. The event started at 11.15 AM where Madam Masitah binti Mat, assistant director of Centre for Pre-University Studies gave her welcoming speech. She was delighted to see the new students and hoped that the students can adapt quickly to the vital transition from school-based learning to university-based learning. Two lecturers – Mdm Siti Salmiah and Mdm Siti Azwani – were chosen to be the mentor for May 2020 students. These mentors have a very huge responsibility to ensure the students can finish the foundation on time and continue with degree progression. Mdm Siti then took over the faculty briefing, where she explained in detail regarding online classes, timetable, examination, laboratory safety rules, and so on. The students were very engaging and enthusiastic; they asked lots of questions about the online classes as it is their first time experiencing e-learning. Mentors also created a Facebook group for the students as an easy-access platform for respective subject lecturers to channel their information regarding classes and interact with the students. Ice-breaking session between students and lecturers was also included in the meet and greet session. We hope that the students will enjoy studying here and make lots of new friends to kick start their foundation studies. There can't be a better time for new beginnings. All the best!



SCIENCE OR BUSINESS? WHICH ONE?

AUTHOR: MISS NORLAILA NAJWA BINTI RAHMAN

Every month, MAHSA University will organize major open days during the weekend to attract potential students. Due to the pandemic Covid-19 crisis, we changed our open day to a virtual one to keep up with the new norm. On May 8th, the Centre for Pre-University Studies and MARCOM team has successfully conducted virtual open day via Zooms with our potential students. The event started at 11 AM. Mdm. Masitah, assistant director for Pre-U, lead the open day by giving her speech regarding the foundation program. Centre for Pre-University Studies offers two foundation program which is Foundation in Science and Foundation in Business. Both science and business are promising career fields, however, students need to find out their passion in which field and work hard for it. Foundation is a one-year program that provides a fast track to a degree program. It also gives a glimpse into university life and students will have the opportunity to learn from experienced lecturers. Six students were interested in our program and attended the virtual open day. It is good for students who are still unsure about their study field to explore their options further and asked as many questions as they need about their desired courses. After a talk session from Mdm Masitah, Ms. Sha from the Business Development team took over and explained to the students regarding fees, financial assistant, scholarship, rebate, and so on. She also brought students to MAHSA University virtual tour where potential students can look inside MAHSA campus's facilities. Centre for Pre-University Studies look forward to meeting potential students, so do join us in the next virtual open day!



LIFE AMIDST WINNING STREAKS: WHAT ITS LIKE BEING LIM WIN NIE

AUTHOR: TIM HEATH



There is a saying that goes, do not judge a book by its cover. That is indeed true. However, some people are open books. But that doesn't mean there's nothing more than just what is written on the page. Sometimes you must read between the lines to discover the hidden gem. Because there is always more than what meets the eye.

That is the case for Lim Win Nie.

Upon first glance, Win Nie may seem like your average 19 years old. Graduated high school with flying colors, lead several school clubs and organization, and now studying at MAHSA University. Pretty standard narration of a young adult stepping into the world, right?

Well, not quite. Because one, not many 19 years old graduated school with a long, impressive list of achievements under their belt; and two, not many of them excels both in academic and extra-curricular.

Win Nie, however, did those. Besides maintaining outstanding results in her studies, she also participated in a total of 52 extra-curricular activities (and winning most of them!). But she did not stop there, of course. After getting 9A+ in Malaysian Certificate of Education (SPM), and earning herself a scholarship from JPA, she continues to paint her winning streaks in her pre-university year. She was one of the top 5 finalist of MAHSA Host Idol 2020, a Master of Ceremony of Centre for Pre University Studies Annual Dinner and MAHSA University Grand Convocation July 2019, and danced for a good cause at Malaysian Science Association For Cancer Research (MACR) Scientific Conference performance.

I could keep on listing her achievements and participation, but we would be here for a while. So I decided to talk to the woman herself – to find out more about her success story, and what it takes to get there.

Q: You have an impressive list of achievements. Which of your achievements that you are most proud of and why?

W: The most heart-felted winning for me, is the second runner-up of the National Chinese Debate Competition in my last high school year. This is because I had been trained for almost 5 years long since I was Form 1 and eventually with all the blessings from our beloved friends and family members, the dedication of our coaches and the great teamwork we had established all the way along this journey, we finally able to proof ourselves on the stage in that year.

The National Chinese Debate Competition was held at Crystal Crown Hotel, Petaling Jaya in 2018. Apart from being the second runner-up, Win Nie also scored the title Best Debater of the quarter final round.

“Not many 19 years old graduated school with a long, impressive list of achievements under their belt; and two, not many of them excels both in academic and extra-curricular.”



Q: You joined a lot of competition and activities. What personally motivates you to join them?

W: This is because somehow through the participation in all those different activities and competitions, I am able to learn and pick up whole lot of new things which others might not have the opportunity to experience them. Moreover, as an outgoing person, I enjoyed the stage a lot. That said, I would like to bring joy and happiness through my performances and perhaps I can cheer the others up and make more new friends!

Q: Which competition left the most impact on you?

W: I would say that it was the Innovation Competitions. I was only given a chance to take part in some of the innovation competitions when I was already Form 4. This kind of competitions were not really meant for primary and secondary level students and mostly participated by the college and universities students, hence my inability to join before that.

We were guided by one of our beloved Biology teachers from fundamentally zero till we had won the best group in one of the categories for Kedah Young Science Innovate Competition with our project. These competitions really widen my horizons as we managed to visit other booths and see how creative and innovative the ideas that other participants had projected in their respective project. Plus, the competition was really intense. Sometimes we might need to compete with more knowledgeable college students, and even professors from universities!

Q: Some students are not interested in joining extracurriculars activities because they think it is too time consuming or might disturb their focus in studies. How do you manage your time for studying and joining extracurricular activities?

W: For me, I will prioritize whatever comes first and distribute my time evenly according to the time I had afterwards. I might be slightly busier than others but since most of the extracurricular activities I participated in are mostly academic-based – which means I am actually implementing what I had learn in both my studies and my extracurriculars activities – it seems to help me to refresh the knowledge I had learned in my brain. Even if it doesn't, I will take it as a healthy way of passing time, to make my life worth more than just staying at home doing nothing!

Q: Why do you think it is important for students to participate in non-academic activities?

W: We get to make new friends with similar interests, whom might be the one to motivate us when we were facing the hard times in pursuing our targets and dreams. It will also enable you to utilize your personal quality time in a more interesting way, which helps you to decide what you want to be other than just being a book-smart person.

Q: What are some of the lessons that you gain from your road to success?

W: I learn to be more determined and be willing to sacrifice for what I am pursuing. I also encourage myself to step out of my comfort zone and appreciate every chance I had been given by the others.

“I am able to learn and pick up whole lot of new things which others might not have the opportunity to experience them.”

Q: When things get tough, how do you cope?

W: I will try to make a list and sort things out. This way, I would know what to do and what should I accomplish in order to hit my target or fulfil my everyday tasks. When I get really stressed, I will also listen to some music I liked to chill things out.

It is indeed important to know how to organize your schedule to not overwhelm yourself with tasks. However, if you do find yourself in a pile of unsettled tasks, take a breather and unwind for a bit before tackling them again – just like Win Nie did. If you find that you really cannot cope by yourself, reach out to friends, family, or even your lecturers for help.



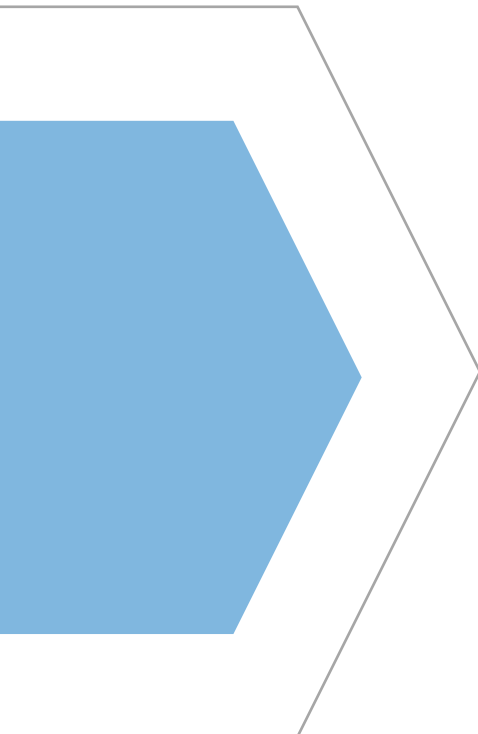
Q: What is your next goal in life? Where do you hope to go from here?

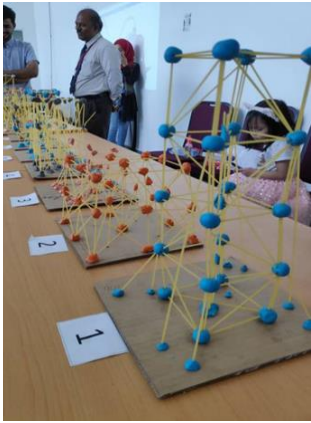
W: I would like to pursue a degree, and if everything goes on well, to study DDS. Hopefully one day I can contribute to the society and help the people in need in my profession. And perhaps if I'm already working as a qualified dentist for some time, I will opt to learn some new hobbies which make my life even more interesting during my off days.

Q: Advice to other students out there?

W: Believe in yourselves and never give up, you will eventually mold and sculpt yourselves into the person that you want to be in the future!

And there you have it – a glimpse of the labor of success that brought Win Nie to where she is today. It is no easy feat – it takes time, discipline, and a lot of hard work – but when there is a will, there is always a way. Hopefully, we all can take a page out of Win Nie's book and use it as a guidance or motivation to craft our own success story.

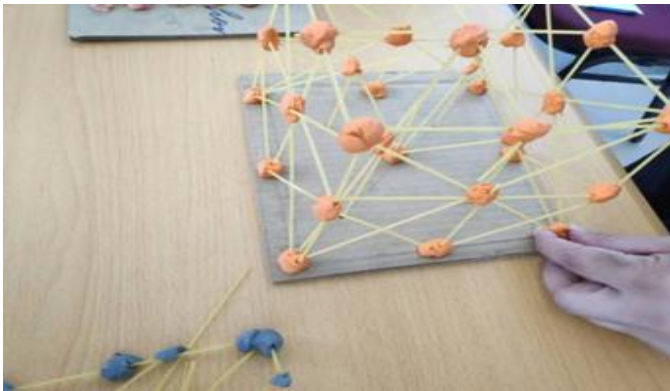




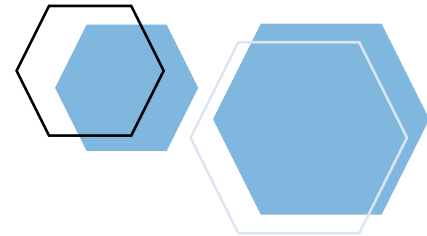
MASTER THE ART OF BUILDING

AUTHOR: MISS NORLAILA NAJWA BINTI RAHMAN

In conjunction with Career Month, the Faculty of Engineering organized a competition called ‘Spaghetti Tower Engineering Challenge’ on 14th March 2020. The competition took place at the Spine, Level 2, MAHSA University. It is open to all university and school students where they need to join a maximum of 2 people in a group. University students need to pay RM30 per group while school students need to pay RM10 per group. Two students from Foundation in Science which are Gan Khai Ping and Desmond Ng Wei Kin represented Centre for Pre-University Studies and join the competition.



In this competition, each team is supplied with 50 sticks of dry spaghetti, one paper tape, and scissor to design and build their spaghetti model towers in a limited time frame which is 30 minutes. They need to work in a team, brainstorm, carefully planning the structure to create a unique and amazing spaghetti model tower in consideration of limited materials. As the competition started at 9.30 am, all the teams work very hard to make the tower. Some of the tower structures collapsed halfway and the teams are left with only a few minutes to build the new tower with different structures. Pressure starts to grow as they need to complete the tower in time. Truth to be told, building a tall spaghetti tower is tricky and super challenging as it can easily collapse under various circumstances. This competition challenges your creative problem-solving abilities and how you responded to the pressure of the competition within limited time. Our students didn’t win the competition but I’m sure they learned a lot from the competition.



GO OUTSIDE, TAKE A HIKE!

AUTHOR: MS NORLAILA NAJWA BINTI RAHMAN



Bukit Gasing Forest Park is extremely popular among hikers in Semenanjung Malaysia. It is located between Selangor and Kuala Lumpur. In conjunction with Emotional Awareness Month, Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment organized a hiking program called “Happy Trails - Hike & Clean at Bukit Gasing on 22nd February 2020. Every faculty need to send their students to participate in this event and two students from Foundation in Business which are Ali Hazetq Zuhairy bin Azrin and Danial bin Zahid volunteered to join as they enjoyed hiking as outdoor activities so much! The event started at 7.30 am as they need to hike early in the morning before the sun came out. Hiking might be tiring and not enjoyable for some of us but for those hikers, they took this as one form of exercise while enjoy seeing the spectacular view along the trails that many people won't get those experiences. The joy when they successfully reach the top of the trails was amazing! It feels like one achievement has been unlocked. Feeling the fresh air and seeing the greenery view really can soothe our mind and reduce stress. Hiking also makes you strong as you can burn your calories along the way, and it will be more fun if you do it with your friends. Hiking is very easy to start as it is inexpensive, so do start now and lead your life healthily.





MICROCOSMS: BENEFITS BIOREMEDIATION RESEARCHERS

AUTHOR: ALEXANDER RAY RAYIAPPAN

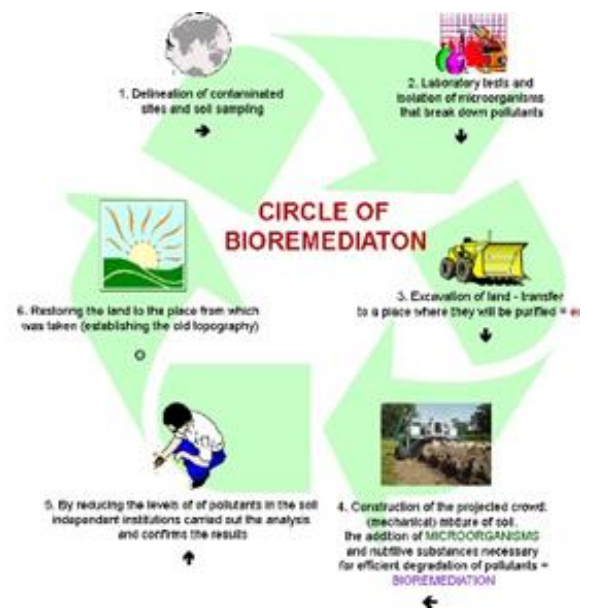
Scientists are continually researching innovative ways to biodegrade different chemical compounds under a myriad of environmental conditions. Industry is continually creating new kinds of chemicals, many of these will inevitably make their way into the environment. To stay one step ahead of new environmental pollutants, bioremediation researchers must continue to develop new clean-up strategies.

How can scientists study bioremediation of a new chemical that has never made it into the environment? They obviously cannot pollute large areas nor wait for a large-scale disaster like the Exxon Valdez spill before testing their theories about how to clean up this new chemical. One of the most practical approaches to learning about new bioremediation strategies is to make a microcosm, an artificially constructed test environment designed to mimic real-life environmental circumstances. Some microcosm consists of small bioreactors—about the size of a 5-gallon bucket—containing soil, water, pollutants and microbes to be tested for their bioremediation abilities. A microcosm may be as small as a few grams of soil in a test tube, but they are more often scaled up to resemble larger environments. For example, large ponds, which may be indoors or outdoors, or soil plots that are prepared to prevent escape of pollutants outside of the test facility can be used as microcosms. By carefully designing microcosms bioremediation researchers can attempt to stimulate, in a small model scale, a site that needs to be cleaned up.

When indigenous or genetically engineered organisms with bioremediation potential have been identified, studies in bioreactors or on small isolated areas of land or water can be crucial for determining whether these organisms will effectively clean up pollution in larger settings. By carefully manipulating the environmental conditions in the microcosms, scientists can test the ability of organisms to degrade different pollutants under varying conditions including moisture, temperature, nutrients, oxygen, pH and soil type.

Microcosm studies may even involve testing experimental microbes on polluted groundwater or contaminated soil that is placed into the microcosm so the rates of degradation can be monitored, and the clean-up time can be evaluated. Scientists can also carry out experiments to study the bioremediation of mixtures of pollutants at the same time.

In an attempt to produce the best clean up results, scientists will analyze data gathered and design new experiments. A clean up approach that demonstrates success in a microcosm is not guaranteed to success in the field. Nevertheless, by testing bioremediation approaches in microcosms, much valuable time and money can be saved before deciding whether a clean-up approach is likely to have any chance at succeeding in cleaning up a polluted environment in the field.

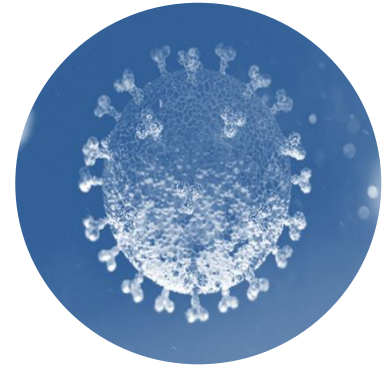


GAME SECTION

Case of the Current Pandemic: How much do you really know about Coronavirus? The newly identified coronavirus has triggered a pandemic of pneumonia-causing disease, not to mention an intense strain on health systems, mayhem on financial markets, a global economic malaise, and a surfeit of misinformation. Since Malaysia is now entering the rehabilitation phase of Movement Control Order, most of us are now well-informed about the virus. Try answering the not-so-common questions below to test your knowledge about the global threat.

Question 1: How long does the novel coronavirus survive outside the body?

- a) A week in the air and on surface
- b) Several hours to days
- c) Up to two and half weeks

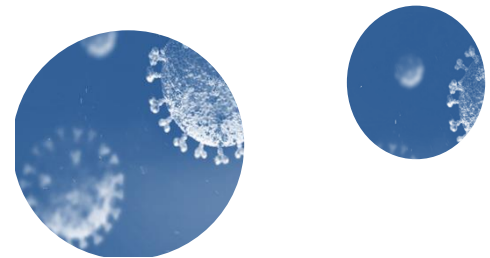


Question 2: Which is more important for preventing infection?

- a) Frequent handwashing
- b) Wearing face mask

Question 3: What percentage of people confirmed to have Covid-19 develop mild or moderate symptoms?

- a) 20%
- b) 40%
- c) 80%



Question 4: What is a fomite?

- a) A hospital-grade disinfectant
- b) A disease carrier
- c) A contaminated object or surface
- d) An immunity-boosting supplement

Question 5: Can my dog gives me COVID-19?

- a) Yes
- b) No

Answers:

- 1) b
- 2) a
- 3) c
- 4) c
- 5) b

Did you get everything correct?

Find detailed explanations of every answer at:

<https://www.bloomberg.com/features/2020-coronavirus-quiz/>

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

MAHSA UNIVERSITY IS COMMITTED TO HAVE MONTHLY ACTIVITIES BASED ON THEME. **COME JOIN US!**

Month	Theme	Organizer
July	Health Awareness Month	School of Medicine
August	Unity Month	School of Nursing
September	Diversity Month	Centre for Education and Languages
October	International Gastronomy Month	School of Hospitality
November	Empathy Month	School of Business
December	Innovation Month	School of IT

**WRITE US
YOUR
ARTICLES /
OPINIONS /
POEMS**

- ☑ Have opinions or perspectives wants to voice out?
- ☑ Want to write up on some interesting articles?
- ☑ Want to join the fun of creating a puzzle?

NOW YOU CAN!

Send your materials or manuscripts to us!

Email: norlailanajwa@mahsa.edu.my

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