

# UCSI Has Loads Of Talent

It was a lot of fun at UCSI's Prom Night with a group of students showcasing their singing prowess on stage.

Does UCSI have talent? Of course it does!

And this was displayed during the finals of the University's *UCSI's Got Talent 2009* competition, held in conjunction with the university's Hollywood-themed Prom Night.

Ahmad Nahri (Malaysia) emerged as the winner, taking home with him the prize money of RM1000 cash. Iliya Ibrahim (Nigeria, Foundation in Architectural Studies) came in second. Ahmad and Iliya were among five finalists who qualified after receiving the highest number of votes online.

The other finalists were Celine Tan (Malaysia, Mass Communications) Abigail (Nigeria, Business Administration) and Lydia ctavia Yushmano (Indonesia, Mass

Communications).

The shortlisted contestants were judged by celebrity judges, Christien New, his gorgeous wife, Lavin Seow and R&B singer and songwriter, Liang. All the judges were impressed with the level of talent and professionalism demonstrated by each of the contestants.

Iliya performed a rap song he had written about UCSI University and its students, Lydia sang Whitney Houston's *I Will Always Love You*, which was dedicated to her father, while Celine sang a song she had written specially for the Prom Night. Abigail sang Kelly Clarkson's *Because of you* and Ahmad sang his trademark song, Jason Mraz's *Butterfly*.

All of the finalists and semi-finalists jointly sang Micheal Bolton's *Go the Distance* at the end of the event.

Over 35 students auditioned in the first round of the competition more than a month ago. Fourteen students made it to the semi-



finals, comprising those with a wide range of talents, from magicians and dancers to actors and singers. The top five were chosen based on online votes via the University's website.

"Not everyone could come to the semi-finals, so it was important to ensure every contestant received their fair share of the votes based on their performance," said Kendrick Ng, Publicity Director of the Student Council, organiser of the event.

"This was how we came about to use UCSI University's YouTube channel, so that the public can view each of the performances,

and judge for themselves who should be in the top five." Late last year, UCSI University started to actively participate in a social networking site, Facebook, and YouTube to be better connected to students, and to encourage interactivity.

According to Ahmad, the YouTube videos were the single most important factor that gave him a spot in the top five. "I am still so new at UCSI University, and didn't know that many people, so it would have been difficult to garner enough votes. I am really thankful for the chance to be in the top five, and I owe it all to UCSI University's YouTube". Ahmad, who is a first year English Language and Communications student, plans to continue doing music as a minor.

The night of glitz and glamour also saw students dressed to the nines, Hollywood-style. Jackie Chiong Swee Hung and Cassey Soo Yiing Ying were declared Prom King and Prom Queen respectively.

Videos from the semi-finals are still available for viewing on UCSI University Youtube at <http://www.ucsi.edu.my/youtube>