



SIM KWAN CHOO (fourth from right) with the other winners of the PASS Leader award.

UCSI student wins international leadership award

BY KEVIN TAN

KUCHING: UCSI University student Sim Kwan Choo is taking leadership to a whole new level. The Faculty of Management and Information Technology student was one of four students to win an Australian Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS) Leader Award as an Outstanding Senior Leader.

PASS helps students to master and integrate subject content through effective learning and study strategies. Through the programme, students develop skills in problem-solving, critical thinking and evaluation as well as improve their communication skills.

Sim, along with nominators Christine Wong, manager for the

Centre for Learning Excellence, and Dr Irene Tan, Director for the Centre for Learning Excellence, recently travelled to Australia to receive the award at the 6th National PASS Forum that was held in Gold Coast, Queensland.

Sim has been part of the PASS programme for four semesters and facilitates Java Programming 1, one of UCSI University's most challenging subjects. He is the first student ever from an Asian university to win the award, which is divided into Senior Leaders and New Leaders. He said he was excited about the award and had never expected to win.

"My first and only intention to become a PASS Leader was to help my friends and other stu-

dents pass this difficult subject," he said. "I decided to become a PASS Leader simply because I really want to help students to pass this subject and move on to the next level."

Christine Wong and Dr Irene nominated Sim based on his effective facilitating methods and strong organisational and leadership skills. They said each session was carefully planned to maximise learning and information retention.

"Sim is one of those students, who, each time you see him, will have a smile on his face. He is very polite and always willing to lend a hand," said Christine. "He makes the PASS sessions comfortable for students to speak up and ask questions."

The PASS programme started two years ago at UCSI University. Unlike many of its counterparts in Australia, UCSI University PASS Leaders are not paid and work on a volunteer basis. Since its inception, the PASS programme has successfully reduced the failure rates for subjects such as physics in Foundation of Science, Media Law and Ethics in Mass Communications and several math-based subjects.

Built on the principles of audacity, perseverance, integrity and excellence, UCSI University is a leading institution of higher learning with campuses in Kuala Lumpur, Terengganu and Kuching. Started in 1986, UCSI University is the flagship institution of the UCSI Group

conglomerate. It is made up of 10 faculties and an A-Levels academy with more than 60 programmes in disciplines including medicine, pharmacy, architecture, computer science, liberal arts and music. Its student body is comprised of more than 9,000 students with an international cohort from more than 70 countries. With Graduate Attributes including ethical and civic responsibility, leadership skills and a strong knowledge of disciplines, UCSI University is committed to producing well-rounded graduates with the hard and soft skills necessary to be successful in life. For more information, visit the UCSI University website at <http://www.ucsi.edu.my>.