

Gaining a competitive edge

TIEW Kee Yee is no stranger to adversity. His stellar academic and co-curricular achievements stem from an ironclad determination to achieve. Diagnosed with Type 2 spinal muscular atrophy disease that causes the weakening of muscles, Tiew depends on a wheelchair to get around.

Yet he continued pursuing his education despite knowing his condition would not improve.

"Knowledge is my only chance to ensure I have a competitive advantage," says Tiew.

His resolve to earn a degree saw him enrolling in UCSI University's BA (Hons) Accounting degree under the Faculty of Business and Information Sciences (FoBIS), and was announced as the recipient of the inaugural Chancellor's Gold Medal Award, an honour on par with that of the valedictorian, at UCSI University's 27th Convocation ceremony held early this month.

Tiew is thankful that his experience at UCSI has turned him into a confident young man from the boy who had experienced difficulty expressing himself.

Creating quality graduates

To ensure students such as Tiew are equipped with a competitive edge for the working world, FoBIS periodically reviews its programmes.

"The industry leaders we spoke to have said that they are looking for graduates with financial knowledge in addition to a business degree," reveals Melissa Migin, dean of the Faculty of Business and Information Science.

Coupled with the fact that the financial services sector is targeted to raise the country's gross national income by a staggering RM121.5bil by 2020, Migin and her team realised the need to equip their students with sufficient financial knowledge.

Thus, FoBIS has designed a new range of programmes to meet this need: Bachelor of Financial Economics (Hons), BA (Hons) Accounting & Finance, BSc (Hons) Actuarial Science & Finance, BSc (Hons) Finance & Investment and BBA (Hons) Islamic Banking & Finance.

FoBIS emphasises hands-on learning, which is in line with

UCSI's praxis university approach that advocates the application of theory to practice.

While its two-month co-op attachments for every study year send students to intern with some of the best names in the industry, FoBIS also brings in industry

professionals to deliver lectures to students on the ins and outs of the industry as well as organise forums, seminars, workshops and talks by key industrial partners such as Securities Commission Malaysia, Apple and Tricor.

As a testament to its esteem, FoBIS also has an excellent relationship with accrediting and professional bodies such as the Association of Chartered Certified Accountant (ACCA), Certified Practising Accountant (CPA) Australia, the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA), and the Chartered Tax Institute of Malaysia (CTIM). This has resulted in professional papers exemptions for many of its business degrees.

■ For more information, call 03-9101 8882 or visit www.ucsiuniversity.edu.my



Melissa Migin, dean of the Faculty of Business and Information Science, talks about FoBIS' focus on giving an edge to its students.