

info kampus



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Konvensyen KMK (m.s. 4)



inside !



Mesej Dr Abg Ridzuan

URDC Research Workshop 1

Konvensyen KMK

American Students at UiTM Sarawak

Our Website launching

HEA Retreat

Kesatria students scale G Kinabalu

Humour in the Classroom

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Students Exchange Programme

Cindy Wee

A group of 12 American students invaded my BEL 200 class and quickly took their seats. My students were quiet for once and did not know how to react. To make matters worse, the crew from NTV 7 zoomed into the class next. It did not take long to break the ice and everyone was let loose to interact and the atmosphere was transformed into real conversation in English!

The American students from the University of Missouri, University of Florida, University of Kansas, Vanguard University and University of Arizona were here for a short stint in the campus from 22 to 31 July 2004 for the first batch of students and from 1 - 7 August 2004 (second batch). They were here on the student exchange programme with aims to encourage exchange of culture, create friendship between Asia and America, encourage exchange in learning experiences and encourage tourism. Steven Mak, a student from the University of Kansas described his time in Malaysia as interesting and said, "I have learned some new words in Malay language and also about the customs. But what I find very astonishing and wonderful is how everyone in Malaysia is always nice, caring and helpful. The nature and surrounding areas are very beautiful and the wild life is just magnificent. The schools are filled with nice and smart students. I will recommend my friends to visit Malaysia and meet the wonderful people and their culture."

"I have found the mix of ethnicities and religion quite interesting. Eating with my hands was different at first, but I like it. I also enjoy eating the spicy food and other foods that I cannot get in the US. Learning the traditional dance has been difficult but very fun too. I am very pleased by the hospitality and warm hearts of those we have met here" says Jonathan Louie Rachele Conn, a widely traveled student commented, "I've really liked the fact that this campus has people of different backgrounds and everyone dresses modestly".



Anna Ho, American Chinese born in California who is planning to become a doctor speaks Mandarin and Cantonese also echoed Rachel's comments that students are very kind and friendly and the food is tasty. Andre Nagy from Missouri was certainly pleased to be here and said, "UiTM is the best university I have visited, and if I was able to study here I would love it". Terry Daffron, who is of American and Korean parentage, majored in graphic design, has published a book, likes to eat nasi lemak and had a great experience at UiTM.

The sports science students (D2R) enthusiastically made new friends instantly and were proud to share anything under the sun with the American students. They were glad to have the opportunity to get to know them and these were what they said about the whole experience:

"They are all students like us but they are very knowledgeable and proud of their country."

"My perception towards the Americans has changed, they are actually very nice people."

"I never knew they also eat rice and not live on potatoes daily".

It's good to have this student exchange programme so that we can learn more about each other and they are not as bad as we have seen or heard on the mass media."

"It's a great chance to meet people from other countries and I can practise my English naturally"

"I force myself to speak to them in English because that is the only language that we can communicate with each other".

Besides going to classes, the American students also visited places like the Sarawak Cultural village, pottery factory, Semenggok National Park, Gunung Gading National Park and Kem Pueh.

They also had the chance to learn the traditional dance and music; besides playing the traditional games like sepak takraw, congkak. They also demonstrated Frisbee to our students.

Cik Norazlin Abdullah, the programme coordinator certainly had her hands full during this time but was very positive about this programme and together with Encik Robert Adan of National Travel System Agency hope to continue with this programme and in future bring our students to America.

"After a hearty longhouse style breakfast, we knew the real challenge lied ahead of us. Everyone was so enthusiastic and got ready at the dock – no delay. We got into the long boats again to go up the Sg. Limbang River for almost an hour to Stargate – the gateway to Gunung Buda or the "Starbuck" of Prof. Dr. Wan. Wasn't he missing his coffee! Told to ensure no reduction or increase in the numbers of our team, the science group went first on to a four-wheel along an 8 km timber track to the Buda Camp, so that they could start their work. The rest of us volunteered to trek, hoping to be picked up as it returned for the second and third batch. With the hot sun on our back and the steep gradients of the track, we gave up after 3 hours' walk with so many stops and disappointed that only less than 2 km covered. Actually, it was the lure of the stream of the clear cool water.

The four-wheel returned after picking up Nazaruddin Hamit who arrived at Limbang in the morning, Lim and our packed lunch at Stargate. The rest of the journey to the camp on the four-wheel drive came with the majestic view of Gunung Buda and Gunung Benerat. We also caught a glimpse of the hornbills flying past." PM Dr Margaret Chan (UiTM Sarawak Expedition)

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HEA Retreat (p 8)



Our Own Fitness Centre (next issue)



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" Berbekalkan ilmu, keazaman, ketaqwaan dan yakin segalanya boleh, kita akan lebih memahami erti kemerdekaan." Prof Madya Dr Abang Ridzuan