

Tinta Alumni

FROM KUALA PILAH TO SOUTH KOREA

By
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Assalamualaikum and Salam UiTM to all!

I would first like to give my thanks to the editors of this magazine for allowing me to share my past experiences as a student at UiTM Kuala Pilah. *I hope that this article can help ease the worries of the new students who are finally seeing the campus for the first time after the Covid-19 pandemic.*

My name is Hamizan Azmi, or more colloquially known as Mika by several lecturers and friends, and I studied at UiTM Kuala Pilah for my BSc (Hons.) in Biology (2017-2020). For me, Kuala Pilah was definitely not the first campus I had in mind when I got the offer for my degree, however I did not regret it one bit. It is true that UiTM Kuala Pilah is a smaller campus compared to others such as UiTM Shah Alam, but it because of the small campus, environment and friends I have made along the way that allows me to call UiTM Kuala Pilah a home away from home. Since the numbers in my batch are small, we managed to bond with each other well. *We created memories with each other from the very first day until the day we went on our own successful different paths.*



Me and my lab mates during degree

As a batch we also went on several educational trips, including a trip to the 4th International Plant Breeding Conference, and the Ulu Bendul Recreational Park. Each time a trip is announced, all of us will be excited to site visit and apply our knowledge hands on. On the trips, we were given group tasks to complete while also enjoying ourselves. *Furthermore, I also participated in an Inbound-Outbound programme in Indonesia, a collaboration programme with Andalas University (UNAND), Padang, Indonesia and Biosmarteam Kuala Pilah. During the Inbound-Outbound programme, I participated in the information exchange session where both universities exchanged findings and results of the projects done. We also volunteered to a "sekolah pondok" where we spread the knowledge of science and the real-world application of it to the students there.*



Inbound-Outbound programme at UNAND



Gain a lot of experience in UNAND



Archery event held by Royale Reccers

Whilst staying in the dorms, I also joined in a lot of extra-curricular activities held by various clubs available in UiTM Kuala Pilah. **One of the clubs is the Royale Reccers club, a recreation club that held various outdoor activities.** The activities ranges from archery to hiking. During the archery event, we learned the proper techniques to hold a bow, and the safety precautions. Of course, being biology majors at heart, we even tried to learn (unsuccessfully) which muscles are involved in the sport. Out of all the clubs, I was also the AJK for the Royale Reccers club, and the Bahasa Arab Society.

Other clubs also organised fun events and activities such as the language week, bowling competition and SUKOL. For the language week, I joined the *kalam jamaie* (Arabic Choral Speaking) and had so much fun that I became part of the organisers for the next semester's event. During the HBU course code, our batch were also involved in *kawad kaki* competition. We also learned survival skills by going into the forest and learning various edible plants, survival knots and in jungle cooking skills. As a student, I was also being a part of the Caretaker Committee, the placeholder for the Jawatankuasa Perwakilan Pelajar (Student Representative Committee).

It was an unforgettable experience to hold a leadership position at UiTM Kuala Pilah. I learnt invaluable skills from managerial skills to interpersonal skills from holding events for the students. Through that, I managed to become part of the facilitators for the Minggu Destini Siswa (MDS) or Student Destiny Weeks 2018 and helped students throughout the process of transitioning to university life.

During my final year of degree, only the first half of the academic year was spent on campus, while the remainder of the academic year was spent in our homes quarantined due to the pandemic. In the first half of the final academic year, we spent our time doing our internships and preparing for our final year projects. My initial final year project (FYP) proposal was not able to be carried out due to the pandemic and closure of laboratories. **However, with guidance of my supervisor, Dr Ida Muryany, I was able to continue with a topic that is related to my proposal. The topic for my thesis was "Lactic Acid Bacteria in Raw Cow's Milk: A Review" where I reviewed articles on the LAB present in raw cow's milk from various countries including Malaysia, Thailand and the USA.**



Ecology Assignment at the hill



Final degree class



Wonderful friends from my class in UiTM CNS

During the pandemic, classes started to shift online instead of being held physically. Classes became more taxing and demanding due to the lack of physical interaction with lecturers and batchmates. However, with the final submission of my FYP online and the last online class held on a random Wednesday at my room in 2020, I completed my degree in Biology at UiTM Kuala Pilah. For that I would like to thank my lecturers and fellow batchmates, for always supporting and helping me throughout my degree.

Now, thanks to my education, and lecturers in UiTM CNS Kuala Pilah Campus, I am writing this article at a café in South Korea. I am here furthering my education in Masters in Biology at Kyungpook National University under the Global Korean Scholarship.

To the readers still fighting to complete your studies, know that all the struggle is worth it in the end. Don't be afraid to be confident and chase your dreams, and use what ever resources you have.



Volunteer work at an elderly home

Learning survival skills



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