

Writer: *Suhaida Halamy*

From the beginning, I have never had the opportunity to teach them in person since Semester 1. Our interactions took place exclusively online. Instead, I relied on gossip and rumors from other lecturers who had taught them before, offering positive and negative feedback about their attitudes and academic performance. The absence of face-to-face contact left me unsatisfied, yearning to connect with my students truly. Finally, when they reached Semester 5, I seized the chance to teach them directly and observe their progress. The anticipation was palpable as I eagerly awaited their performance.

Most of them excelled, shining brightly in their studies, to my delight. Witnessing their achievements filled me with pride and joy. However, some still needed more effort to reach their full potential. Nonetheless, the experience of finally being able to guide and instruct them in person was invaluable. It deepened our connection and reinforced the importance of nurturing each individual's growth. I encouraged and supported them with renewed determination as they embarked on their academic journey toward a brighter future.

To strengthen our bond, the students and I organized a special activity called "Berbuka Puasa" for this year. It was a much-awaited event, especially as this semester marked their last as students together. The day finally arrived, and after our IMD313 class on Wednesday evening, April 12, 2023, we headed to KFC near Aiman Mall and arrived around 6 p.m.

Our group of 34 had the entire second floor reserved, and we occupied most of the tables. The anticipation for the meal was high as we ordered four bucket sets and some additional potato wedges. The KFC staff members were incredibly accommodating and efficient, handling our large order cheerfully. The students were very helpful; Nadya, Irene, Izzat, and Ezad stepped up to take the counter orders while Syahwani, Victoria, Sally, and Anna purchased more drinks for us all.

BREAKING FAST WITH

Mentee

Making memories during Buka Puasa

As the clock ticked, we waited eagerly to break our fast together. The time was almost 6:40 p.m., and I asked Nazmi to recite the doa Berbuka Puasa, seeking blessings for all our endeavors in life. With the signal to begin, the students started savoring their meals, and I ensured everyone had enough to satisfy their hunger. Amidst the delightful chaos, laughter, and chatter, the students captured the moments, taking selfies and group photos with their buddies. Seated at their tables, they relished the joy of each other's company while indulging in their meals. I joined in the fun, moving from table to table, sharing jokes and teasing with the students, cherishing these moments of togetherness.



A smile is worth a thousand words



Fostering lasting bonds between lecturers and mentees during the holy month of Ramadan

Gratitude filled the air as we enjoyed the evening together, savoring the delicious food and cherishing the camaraderie that brought us closer

As 7:30 p.m. approached, we finished our meal and prepared to leave KFC. But before parting ways, we couldn't resist taking more photos to preserve the memories of this beautiful time spent together. We bid farewell with hearts full of happiness, knowing that this shared experience had brought us closer as a group.

Gratitude filled the air as we enjoyed the evening together, savoring the delicious food and cherishing the camaraderie that brought us closer. This memorable gathering was a testament to the strong bonds we had built, and it would forever remain etched in our hearts as a treasured moment of unity and friendship. Alhamdulillah, we all felt joy and gratitude as we created beautiful memories during Buka Puasa. This event won't be our last gathering, and we can continue to create more cherished moments through various activities. I wish them all the best in their studies and future endeavors, and I am confident our bond will endure. Insyallah, we will meet again to celebrate each other's successes. Until then, see you when I see you!

