

PROFESSOR DR. MURNIZAM HJ HALIK

PERSON I ADMIRE

My supervisor, Professor Paul Webley. He didn't just supervise me so I can get a PhD, but he imparted and taught me so much more on leadership in academia. He is the one who showed me that it is no harm to show respect to everyone, as you will get respect in return. It is okay to have fun when working, acknowledging that we are not made from kryptonite like superman, so all our strength and weakness are due to us being a human.

MY GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS

I started a conference (SEAP 2009) when I was the Head of Research Unit, UPPsiKS. My initial target was 200 participants but beyond my wildest dream, we managed to attract 350 participants from all over the world. It was one of the well managed and successful conference held by SPKS.

Also, as some of you might probably know, SPKS undisputedly won the Best Stall Award two times in a row during UMS Hari Raya Open House beating over 30 excellent competitors comprising of schools and departments in UMS. It is a triumph based on creativity and teamwork. Creativity because every year we came up with different and unique concept, and the sweetest of all, we spent less money than some of the schools and departments. You cannot win without a good team, so naturally we participate as a group regardless of our position at the school.

Finally, my personal satisfaction mainly due to my profession as a psychologist, was when I managed to change the mindset of the whole of UMS in terms of how we celebrate Maulidur Rasul. Previously UMS celebrate Maulidur Rasul by doing a procession in a brand new Baju Melayu, followed by talk by invited ustaz and announcement of best procession winner, most participants et cetera. I changed the format where we focused on how Prophet Muhammad would want his birthday to be remembered by. The answer is simple enough; we help those who are less fortunate as means of our celebration of his birthday. I am honoured to be given the opportunity to do something beneficial for UMS.

MY FAVOURITE QUOTES

"It's better to keep your mouth shut and appear stupid than open it and remove all doubt"

Mark Twain

"Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life"

Confucius

"He who does not hope to win has already lost"

Jose Joaquin Olmedo.

"Success is falling nine times and getting up at the tenth"



MY PASSION IN LIFE

My singular biggest passion in life is books. I love to read and this desire to read has made me collect numerous book. Enough books to make a mini library in my house. Hundreds and hundreds of books and I have read 90% of it all, page to page. Reading is an important virtue of life and I recommend it to my students. It is a way of exercising the brain, a mild jog but with many benefits. I also play snooker and pool which is find to be a great way to meet new friends. This game teaches you problem solving and steadiness, a great aid in life. I also love music and I can play the guitar, drum and keyboard. I have learnt this all on my own with no tutor and no assistance. I even learnt the piano and drum during my most busy time in Exeter, United Kingdom. Students must know that it is easy to enrich yourself and it is just a matter of time.

MOST MEMORABLE TIME SPKS

My most memorable time in SPKS was during the construction phase of this building (SPKS). I was the Deputy Dean of the School of Psychology and Social Work then, and we were presented with a choice of buildings. I was very much involved during the architectural design of the building. We were finally presented with two options to choose from, a three-storey building or a two-storey building. After much consideration, we decided to go with the two-storey design with a resemblance to the psychology 'psy' trident symbol. Then to watch this decision of our slowly take shape feet by feet, meters by meters, and floor by floor into the building to which we work and teach now, is by far the most memorable time of SPKS for me.

MY ADVICE TO THE STUDENTS

Whatever you learn in class is only half of what you going to use in the real world. The other half is what you experience at the university. How you work together with colleagues when completing your assignment, you learn about teamwork and expressing your opinion in a group. Presentation is part of some courses requirement, grab the opportunity as this is a way for you to practice public speaking. Your involvement in activities at school or hostel level will teach you how to get a job done, a very important asset in an employer. Most important of all, university is the final place where you can afford to make mistake and learn from it, without the pressure as what you will experience later in the real world.



A well-loved Dean of the School of Psychology and Social Work