

Keeping Up With The Alumni, also known as KUWTA is a newly launched series which we SUSC get a chance to interview alumni from the different schools of Sunway University, to get tips and tricks on how to juggle YOUR university life along with your academics.

We officially kick it off with our first school - School of Arts. We are more than grateful to have Mr Graeme who studied digital film production in Sunway University and is currently working at a Digital Agency, where he runs ads and campaigns with us.

We started it off with our interviewer - Chloe raising a question regarding the tips and tricks he could share with our fellow Sunway students on how they too can have a great time and enjoy their university life. Mr. Graeme addressed the concerns by sharing what had made his university life memorable. He pointed out how having a great group of friends that one could surround themselves with, will help them lead a great life in university and even in the work life after university.

After that, Chloe continued with her next question regarding Mr Graeme's favourite subject and his reasoning behind his choice. Mr. Graeme stated that his favourite subject was short film, in digital film production, that he took in his Year 2. Students were required to shoot a short film together and it was personally a memorable one for Mr. Graeme as it gave him a chance to become a director of photography. Since he was placed in a role of leadership, he was in charge of shoot plans and managing the overall process of the film. For someone who had only been a producer who ran logistics and administrative matters, being a director on set was a very memorable for him throughout his university journey. Mr. Graeme made sure he thanked and gave a shout out to his teammate during this interview as they had a great time tackling this project. One of the incidents that took place and still remains unforgettable was when one of the talents was unable to show up during the shoot the next day. This situation pushed Mr. Graeme to stress out a night before the shoot. He went to Sunway's famous Mamak shop Shaaz that night, where he saw an uncle sitting next to him. Mr. Graeme went up to him and requested for help, hoping the uncle would want to join the shoot the next morning at 8am. Unexpectedly and fortunately, the uncle agreed and showed up the next day at Sunway University for

the shoot despite the short notice. Mr. Graeme was more than grateful towards this uncle as it was as though like a blessing in disguise.

As short film was his favourite subject, Chloe asked Mr. Graeme what the hardest subject was for him and how he coped with it. Mr. Graeme answered Chloe's question stating that script writing was the hardest subject for him as in Sunway, they require students to not only write a nice story but also to have a good flow and thought process to it. Mr. Graeme then further elaborated by mentioning that since his personality is more inclined towards hands-on implementation rather than advanced planning, he had a hard time getting out of his comfort zone where it made him uncomfortable to stand out in this subject. He wasn't satisfied with the marks obtained for this subject as a lot of effort was needed to score well. He then realised he is not someone who is suitable for script writing. Regardless of all the hustle, Mr. Graeme stated that he enjoyed the class and the process of challenging himself to think better and differently, which leads to a great learning experience.

We then moved on to a question that we felt that all students would appreciate, which was if there were any YouTube channels or websites that Mr. Graeme personally used for assistance throughout his university life and self improvement. Chloe was mesmerised when Mr. Graeme showed his favourite app, Google Calendar, that was packed with events and activities. He advised that keeping life on a good schedule is very important as he could track the daily productive activities and also to keep track of his rest. Mr. Graeme is someone who works even during late night and often lack rest, so he advised us to always set a cutout point to make sure to allocate sufficient time for recovery and relaxation. In terms of YouTube channels, Mr. Graeme recommended Linus Tech Tips and Potato Jet as he enjoys watching tech reviews and the various methods of using the technology like phones and cameras to further improve his work. He also stated that he likes Potato Jet as they provide proper reviews of cameras, and they did not fail to make it funny.

As a quick intermission, Mr Graeme was asked to pick between team coffee or tea and he revealed that he was in team coffee without hesitation! He shared that he brews his own coffee everyday and he even gave a shout out to two good coffee places around campus which is AfterBlack and Beyond Coffee. A special

recommendation by Mr Graeme himself: the ice americano single origin from Beyond Coffee.

Moving forward, Mr Graeme generously offered us with advice for his fellow Digital Film Production students. The first advice is to start assignments early, even if it is due two months later. Because, as a full coursework-based course, keeping assignments to the end would just result in cramming two to three assignments together. He advised students to finish any written assignments in the first month to make time for video shootings and editing in the remaining semester period. Mr Graeme's next advice is to always meet new people, because university is the best place to build connections with others such as unimates and lecturers from different courses. Not looking down on anyone, even the quietest students in class, was something that Mr Graeme emphasized strongly. He also mentioned that we should always be ready to talk and help someone out. Mr Graeme also emphasized on intentionality when making friends, not just with the sole purpose of connections for future job opportunities, but to build genuine friendships.

To wrap up, Mr Graeme was asked to share some career advice for those stepping into the industry as well as finding a future career. Hustle was the first thing Mr Graeme mentioned. To start working and exposing oneself to the industry even when in university is crucial as he believes that experience is what makes one stand out and unique after graduating as it puts you on top of the list. Another tip shared by Mr Graeme is to flourish CVs with experiences and activities in and out of university. He has also set a benchmark for students graduating from film production, which is to have a mixture of school assignments and outside experiences.

SUSC is honoured to have Mr Graeme with us sharing his personal experiences, advice, tips and tricks for all the Sunwayians and we hope our fellow Sunwayians find this episode of KUWTA helpful and encouraging. Stay tuned for the following episodes of KUWTA to hear stories and get more insights from our alumni.