

## Top choice for higher education

### Studying in KTAR and UTAR simply the best for many families

**KAMPAR:** Former journalism student Fang Shook Ying (*pic*) is only happy to follow in her father's footsteps by pursuing her tertiary studies in Kolej Tunku Abdul Rahman (KTAR).

The 24-year-old said her father had advised her to pursue higher education at KTAR because as a graduate from the college, he should know its benefits.

"My father is aware of the quality



of education offered at KTAR because he studied there in the late 1980s," Fang said. "He would always tell me that it is easy to enter KTAR but it is difficult to leave the college with a certificate," she said.

Fang, who graduated last year, said she had enjoyed the two-year learning experience at KTAR.

Another journalism student, Hong Woon Shang, 25, said Universiti

Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) was her first choice because of its affordable fees.

"I only needed to pay about RM30,000 to complete my studies," she said.

"After taking our family's financial condition into consideration, my older brother suggested that it would be best for me to study at UTAR."

Hong said she did not want to be a financial burden to her parents, both of whom had retired.

"I also obtained a National Higher

Education Fund Corporation loan that was enough to cover the school fees and my living expenses."

Chen Kah Lok, 51, said he felt relief when his son chose to study at UTAR.

"The engineering course he took up in UTAR is so much cheaper compared to those in other private institutions," he said, adding that such courses might cost up to 30% more.

Chen, who works as a supervisor at a furniture shop, said so far, his son had not asked for more money.

## KTAR – a strong foundation for Goh's success

**PETALING JAYA:** Project financial controller Steven Goh has certainly come a long way from the time when he first enrolled in Kolej Tunku Abdul Rahman (KTAR) for a diploma in business administration in 2000.

At that time, the college set up by MCA was the most affordable option for his middle-income parents.

Today, Goh works in a multinational corporation after having gone on to complete his degree in Britain and handles projects dealing with nuclear safety and control worth over US\$500mil (RM1.5bil).

"The college laid a very solid foundation for me, enabling me to excel in my studies in Britain. After completing my post-graduate studies in 2005, I was recruited into a British glass manufacturer and received sponsorship to pursue a Chartered Accountant professional qualification," he said in an e-mail interview.

Goh, who currently lives in Boston, United States, with his wife and son, said the relevant and up-to-date education provided by KTAR as well as its lecturers sparked in him the confidence to aim for higher goals.

"One thing that stands out from my experience in KTAR is that although the cost is much lower than many private colleges, the quality of education is not compromised," said the 31-year-old, who is currently studying for an Executive Global MBA qualification.

"My diploma was recognised by the American university of my choice. In fact, I'm still applying the theories learnt during my diploma in my current MBA studies," he said, adding that the two-year diploma course had cost about RM5,000.

Offering accessible and affordable education to everyone, regardless of race or social background, was a sign that a country was doing well, pointed out Goh.



**Platform to brighter future:** Goh with his wife Cindy Xu and son William.