



Indian Graduates Association  
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

# Newsletter

(for Members Only)

Issue 10: March 2009

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## Editorial - The common denominator

Greetings!

Many of us are increasingly driven to wonder if we have a greater purpose than toiling just for continued existence. Instead of marching to our own drummer, many feel the need to just keep marching just to make it in society and meet our obligations.

In my own march to meet my obligations, I've had the pleasure (and horror!) of interacting with many people. I've constantly tried to understand if these people really say what they mean and mean what they say. More often than not, the answer is NO on both counts.

Think about how many times, after a meeting or discussion (be it work- or community- or social-related), or following a public speech or press conference, do you ask, "Is that *really* true? Did he *really* mean what he said?"

While your gut tells you that what you heard is trustworthy, the relief you feel tells you something else. It's probably reminding you that much of what we hear is carefully packaged to avoid the hard work of honest disagreement. This is a dance with deception that's equivalent to lack of integrity. We see lack of integrity in many relationships. Just read our mainstream newspaper. Today's tells of a 'democratic tree' (not sure if the tree needs fertilizer, or some other agronomic intervention to keep it going!). Last month's highlighted voyeurism!

Think about a man on his deathbed who confesses to his wife about an adulterous

affair that occurred many years before. He dies with a clear conscience. He was honest. But is this riskless confession a manifestation of integrity or just another self-serving violation of his marriage vows?

Nor does living based on a consistent set of principles tantamount to integrity. Adolf Hitler and the murderers of Sri Lankan Tamils and Bosnians also strove for their principles.

Stephen Carter, a Yale Law School professor and author of the book *Integrity*, wrote: "We care more about winning than about playing by the rules." Indeed, this is such a powerful observation, and affects everything from the media and education to politics and personal life.

Integrity is the building block of good citizenry. Integrity is beyond honesty. Without integrity, the whole architecture of leadership will crumble. Integrity is the glue that holds us all together. And yes, integrity must always be the common denominator when interacting with people, regardless of goals, actions or personalities. If you lack integrity, nothing else you say matters (period)

Cheers

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### Editorial Team

Dr Siva K Balasundram  
Ms Jeyanny Vijayanathan

**Too many people overvalue what they are not and undervalue what they are**  
-- Malcolm Forbes

## Activity Report

### An Afternoon with Datuk Vinod Sekhar

- Held on November 8, 2008 at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, UPM
- Organized in collaboration with TheMind Association (<http://www.themindassociation.org/>)
- 310 participants
- Objectives: i) to promote excellence among the Indian youths using a role model approach  
ii) to facilitate interaction and sharing of ideas between Indian youths and a successful Indian businessman
- Press coverage:  
<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2008/11/8/nation/2493004&sec=nation>  
<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2008/11/10/nation/2503824&sec=nation>



### • Higher Education Seminar: 'Strengthening Your Stride'

- Held on January 10, 2009 at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, UPM
- Organized in collaboration with TheMind Association
- 330 participants
- Objectives: i) to educate school leavers (and their parents) on tertiary education options available in Malaysia  
ii) to expose participants to alternate education pathways, i.e. technical and vocational training  
iii) to help students realize that it is important to set career goals and focus on achieving them
- Topics deliberated:
  - Opportunities for Tertiary Education: Local and Overseas Prospects*  
by Prof Dr Mohd Fauzi Ramlan (Director, Student Affairs & Development, Ministry of Higher Education)
  - Local Public Tertiary Education: Opportunities and Strategies*  
by Pn Rahmah Hussain (Director, Student Admission, Ministry of Higher Education)
  - Opportunities in Technical and Vocational Education/Training*  
by Mrs Sukanya Siva (Manager, JM Education Counseling Center / IGAUPM Member)
  - Private Education in Malaysia: How To Make The Correct Choice?*  
by Assoc Prof Elansolan Mohan (President, National Association of Private Educational Institutions)
  - Career Motivational Talk: What It Takes To Get There?*  
by Mr Karunanidhy (Managing Director, Kurnia Muda Sdn Bhd)



*I make the most of  
all that comes and  
the least of all that  
goes*  
-- Sara Tisdale

## New Members

Our membership drive is beginning to bear fruits. Never before have we seen such a surge! We wish to welcome the following new members to IGAUPM:

- **Jessintha Vasanth**  
(M0136)
- **Uthayakumar Murugan**  
(M0137)
- **Vasanth Kumari Neela**  
(M0138)
- **Ganesan Vadamalai**  
(M0139)
- **Jeevananth Paliah**  
(M0140)
- **Vijayaletchumy Subramaniam**  
(M0141)
- **Ramesh Sadiappan**  
(M0142)
- **Mahenderan Appukutty**  
(M0143)
- **Mano Verabathran**  
(M0144)
- **Amutha Ramadas**  
(M0145)
- **Abhimanyu Veerakumarasivam**  
(M0146)
- **Sanath Kumaran**  
(M0147)
- **Greetha Arumugam**  
(M0148)
- **Selvamalar Selvaraju**  
(M0149)
- **Pupathy Uthrapathy Thandapani**  
(M0150)
- **Clements Pehhnnudds Jayaseelan**  
(M0151)
- **Jeyan Vasudevan**  
(M0152)
- **Puspa Ramloo**  
(M0153)
- **Parameswari Namasivayam**  
(M0154)
- **Karthigaesu Muthaya**  
(M0155)
- **Jayanthi Arasan**  
(M0156)
- **Isthrinayagy Krishnarajah**  
(M0157)
- **Murugan Nagu Pandithan**  
(M0158)

## Congratulations to ...

- **Dr Sharmili Vidyadaran**  
(currently IGAUPM Secretary)

for being granted the L'Oreal Malaysia For Women In Science Fellowship Award in November 2008. The award is given in recognition of women who contribute to scientific progress.



Dr Sharmili's achievement was highlighted in the mainstream media; see the following links for details:

<http://thestar.com.my/lifestyle/story.asp?file=/2008/11/20/lifeliving/2432627&sec=lifeliving>

<http://www.sun2surf.com/article.cfm?id=28247>

<http://www.sun2surf.com/article.cfm?id=28247>

Dr Sharmili scored another high recently by being promoted to Senior Lecturer.

Let's hope for more good things to come your way ... best wishes!

## Random Information

### Public Lecture

*Green Energy Solutions: Where Do We Go from Here?*

(organized by International Society for Southeast Asian Agricultural Sciences - Malaysian Chapter)

- Date: March 17, 2009
- Venue: Faculty of Agriculture, UPM
- Speaker: Y Bhg Datuk Vinod B Sekhar  
(President & Group CEO of Petra Group)

For further information, check out:

[http://www.agri.upm.edu.my/files/ISSAAS-public%20lecture\\_March09.pdf](http://www.agri.upm.edu.my/files/ISSAAS-public%20lecture_March09.pdf)

### Herbal Asia 2009

- Jointly organized by Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) and Gitex (M) Sdn Bhd
- Date: April 30 - May 3, 2009
- Venue: Martrade Exhibition & Convention Center, Kuala Lumpur

For further information, check out:

[www.herbalasia.com.my](http://www.herbalasia.com.my)

FaceBook update ...

Our FaceBook group has expanded steadily; from 39 to 111 members within 5 months. We encourage you to sign up. Here's the link: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=26348701948>



*If you would not be forgotten as soon as you are dead and rotten, either write things worth reading, or do things worth the writing*  
-- Benjamin Franklin