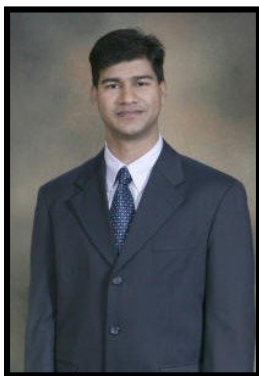


Meet the Vice Presidents: Associate Professor Lachman Tarachand



Associate Professor
Lachman Tarachand

Welcome to the first instalment of the Weekly's "Meet the Vice Presidents" Series. In this instalment, we will introduce you to our Vice President for Business Development, Associate Professor Lachman Tarachand.

A Pakistani by birth, Assoc. Prof. Lachman has been working in Malaysia as an academician for the past 12 to 13 years. He said that over the past decade, he has learnt a lot from Malaysians.

"I will always cherish the experience I have gained here," he told the Weekly in a recent interview. "Relocating to Malaysia was the biggest and toughest decision I had to make but I have no regrets. In fact, I feel so at home in Malaysia that when I return to Pakistan for the holidays, my family members actually ask me when I would return 'home', referring to Malaysia," he quipped.

Assoc. Prof. Lachman has travelled widely on business as well as on personal trips. Among his favourite activities to fill his free time are scuba diving and jungle trekking, or just being with nature.

An Electrical and Electronics Engineer by training, he has been with UCSI for the past eight years. He joined UCSI as a lecturer in the School of Engineering (SoE) in 1999, moving on to become Head of School in February 2000. A couple of years later, he took on the additional portfolio as Head of the Collaborative Affairs Department (CAD) and was subsequently promoted to Senior Director of the CAD and International Office while remaining the Head of the SoE. In 2005, Assoc. Prof. Lachman was appointed Vice President for Business Development, giving up his academic portfolio for an administrative one overseeing the University's overall marketing, sales, and collaborative affairs.

Asked if it was difficult to make the transition from after more than ten years as an academic to assume an administrative role, Assoc. Prof. Lachman said: "I am still getting used to it but it was not a decision that was made in haste. I had thought about it long and hard before accepting the appointment."



Assoc. Prof. Lachman making a point in his office during a recent interview with the Weekly.

"While my soul and passion are in Business Development, my heart is still in the SoE. I am still very attached to the School and try my best to help wherever I can."

As the Vice President for Business Development, Assoc. Prof. Lachman has been tasked with chairing the Organising Committee for UCSI's 20th Anniversary celebrations. "Through my 8 years with UCSI, I have seen many changes in staff, programmes offered, philosophies, facilities and services. As an institution of higher learning, UCSI has grown by leaps and bounds, having tread a truly remarkable 20-year journey," he said.

On the question of what his Organising Committee has in store for the celebrations, he said, "All campus activities this year would be held in conjunction with the 20th Anniversary celebrations. On top of these, we will be having our Family Day in May. Also in the pipeline are a 20th Anniversary Carnival some time in August, and a 20th Anniversary Gala Dinner at the end of the year."



Assoc. Prof. Lachman presenting a cheque to Mr. Ameer Khurram Rathore, Head of Chancellery at the Pakistan High Commission for the Earthquake Disaster Relief Fund