

SCHOOL OF ARTS PRESS



SUNWAY UNIVERSITY — JANUARY 2020



ABOUT US

The School of Arts at Sunway University offers a variety of disciplines, ranging from Advertising and Public Relations to Design, Architecture, Film Production, Theatre and Music.

We are preparing a new generation of students and researchers in the domain of creative digital media (CDM), merging core attributes of the arts, sciences, humanities, media and technology.

School of Arts Press (SOAP) is a monthly newsletter in which we provide information on student and staff achievements, past events as well as a notification platform for upcoming events!

School of Arts Press — **Advisor/Editor:** Rachel Ong (SOA Arts Project Manager)
Writers: Sophia Alyssa & Annie (Nguyen Phuc Thao Nguyen) **Design:** Sophia Alyssa

CONTENTS

03	DEAN'S MESSAGE	08	TIM MOORE'S LECTURE RECITAL
04	UPCOMING EVENTS	09	CELEBRATING FRANK ONG
05	NEW FACES OF JANUARY 2020	11	UTHM VISITS SOA
06	LUNCHTIME CONCERT WITH MANABU TAKASAWA	12	INTRODUCING SOA STAFF & STUDENT
05	DR. PERLINE'S ARTWORK ON EXHIBITION		SUFFIAN AYUB NICHOLAS CHONG

”

**GONG XI FA CAI FROM THE SUNWAY
UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF ARTS, WHERE WE
CONTINUE TO BE
BUSY SUPPORTING THE ARTS!**

**SEE BELOW FOR STORIES ABOUT RECENT
PERFORMANCE VISITS FROM AMERICA AND
JAPAN AND ABOUT OUR ART & DESIGN
LECTURER, DR. PERLINE SIEK, PRESENTING
HER ARTWORK AT DIRAJA ISTANA LAMA SERI
MENANTI NEGERI SEMBILAN.**

**PLEASE FORWARD THIS EMAIL TO ANYONE
WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING A
MONTHLY REVIEW OF UPCOMING EVENTS
AND PAST SUCCESSES IN THE SOA. LINKS TO
SUBSCRIBE OR UNSUBSCRIBE ARE INCLUDED
AT THE BOTTOM OF THE NEWSLETTER.**

- PROF. DON BOWYER

“

UPCOMING EVENTS!

AFTERNOON CONCERT EVOLUTION OF A CATHEDRAL

EXPLORING THE RESONANT SONIC ENVIRONMENT
IN THE LAST DAYS OF THE SHOOTING STUDIO



Kenny Lim, clarinet
(guest performer)



Dr Andrew Filmer, viola
(SOA Lecturer)

Evolution of a Cathedral

6 FEBRUARY 2020
2:30PM - 3:30PM
Shooting Studio, Level 1
Sunway University

Machine Curation and AI

10 FEBRUARY 2020
5:30PM
Lecture Theatre 2, Level 1
Sunway University

UBERMORGEN Machine Curation & AI

Exploring the artistic potential of Artificial Intelligence

Guest lecture by
Prof. Hans Bernhard

10 FEB 2020
5.30PM

Lecture Theatre 2 (L1), Sunway University.



FREE ADMISSION



The Interest Are At Stake

21 FEBRUARY 2020
8:00PM - 10:30PM
Live Arts Space, Level 9
Sunway University

NEW FACES OF JANUARY 2020

School of Arts welcomes all new January 2020 intake students! As part of the school's orientation program, the School of Arts Representatives (SOAR) hosted around 70 new students to their Welcoming Party.

SOAR opened the party with a "Number Card Game", an icebreaker where each of the students will get a card with a specific number, and later had to team up with other players to match the total numbers that were mentioned by the moderator.

After the games, SOAR gave an introductory presentation about SOAR, explaining about the role of SOAR, and how the committee serves the School of Arts and its students.

A tour of SOA's facilities were given towards the end to help freshmen familiarise themselves with the school. Since 2019, SOAR has been assisting SOA admins during orientations, guiding the new students to perform their iZone subject enrolment.



LUNCHTIME CONCERT WITH MANABU TAKASAWA



School of Arts had the opportunity to host Prof. Manabu Takasawa (piano) for a lunchtime concert that took place on the 9th of January in Live Arts Space.

Prof. Takasawa presented a 55-minutes piano lecture-recital on American composers from the 1800s to the early 1900s. One notable piece was "The Battle of Manassas", by the talented blind African-American slave named Thomas "blind tom" Wiggins (1849-1908). This piece was almost experimental, where Wiggins, breaking conventions of piano playing during that period of time, simulated different sounds on the piano to represent soldiers marching, the respective sergeants of the North and South, and bombs in the lower register of the piano. Besides that, this piece also sampled famous folk tunes such as Yankee Doodle and the United States of America's national anthem, the Star Spangled Banner.

Prof. Takasawa also played a composition by the first woman composer in the US, named Amy Beach (1867-1944).

Manabu Takasawa is Professor of Music at the University of Rhode Island. His interest in music education has taken him to performances in regional elementary and secondary schools in Rhode Island as well as schools in Japan, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. He also served as the director of the Young Artists and Chamber Music Competitions for the Music Teachers National Association Eastern Division. In 1992, he nailed his debut with a solo recital at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and since then, Prof. Takasawa has performed in many places around the world like the United States, Europe, and Asia.

DR. PERLINE'S ARTWORK ON EXHIBITION



Dr Perline Siek explained her concept to Yamtuan, Yang de-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan and his eldest son, Tunku Ali Redhauddin during the ceremony.

Dr Perline Siek (Department of Art and Design) was selected as one of the artists to present her painting in the Honourable Exhibition held at Diraja Istana Lama Seri Menanti (Sri Menanti Royal Museum) Negeri Sembilan from 11th January 29th February 2020.

With the theme “Alam Beraja” (Monarchy), the exhibition stimulated the interest of many political members to come and witness the many artworks on display.



Photo taken with Tunku Ali (Right).

TIM MOORE'S LECTURE RECITAL



Mr. Moore and Prof. Don Bowyer

On the 15th of January 2020, the Department of Performance Media welcomed a pianist and arranger, Tim Moore from Southeastern Missouri, USA. Moore presented a lecture-recital in Live Arts Space to music students in School of Arts. He played a number of solo jazz standards, and two pieces with the dean of the School of the Arts, Prof. Don Bowyer on the trombone. One notable piece they performed together was "Someday My Prince Will Come".

Following the performance, Moore did a Q&A session addressing students' inquiries regarding jazz music, life as a musician after graduation, and his journey and experience on the cruise ship. His experiences piqued the interest and curiosity of students.

Currently, Moore serves as a Music Director on Holland America Cruise Line Westerdam. He possesses a Bachelor's Certificate of Performance Studies from the University of North Texas in 2016 and has 10 years of experience in performing and teaching music. . Moore has performed extensively in the Dallas area and at sea with various cruise lines.



JANUARY 2020 - 09

CELEBRATING FRANK ONG

NEXT PAGES

Performances - 10
Frank Ong's
Children - 11

A TRIBUTE CONCERT

Celebrating Frank Ong was a tribute concert dedicated to the late Frank Ong that had passed last December 2019. The event took place on the 19th of February (Sunday) in Jeffrey Cheah Hall 3, Sunway University at 3PM. Many of Frank Ong's friends, colleagues, students, fans, along with his family, attended the concert in remembrance of him.

A welcoming speech by Dr. Mayco Santaella kickstarted the event and speeches from Frank Ong's longtime friends would later ensued, reminiscing about their life knowing him and sharing good times with him. Mr. Paul Augustin, a close friend of Frank Ong and the founder of Penang House of Music shared about Frank Ong's life in The Spinifex and Brownwood, a band that Frank Ong was previously part of. He also shared messages from Johnny Wee, William Clark, Goh Boon Hoe, Brian Fernandez, Tan Chin Hock, Peter Woo, Baba Azmi, and Jerry Loh, whom were former bandmates of the two respective groups Frank was in.



Mr. Shun sharing his memories with the late Frank Ong



Performance by Dr. Andrew Filmer & Mr. Azmyl Yunor



Performance by students of Music Performance

Mr. Shun, a former member of the Alleycats shared that he had last been with Frank Ong at his home. The news of his passing was a complete shock to him. He expressed that it was a very personal loss for him as Frank Ong was a bandmate, a respected musician, a childhood friend, and a brother. He mentioned that when they were in school, they would take every chance they got to be together to play music and improve themselves. Mr. Lee Man Kit, a childhood friend of Frank Ong since he was 8 years old, shared an anecdote that while they were about 9 to 10 years old, they would use Milo cans as drums while Mr. Shun was with his guitar alongside Frank Ong and played music for themselves.

”

**HE WAS OUR NUMBER ONE FAN AND
OUR BIGGEST SUPPORTER
- KIRTHANA**

“

The tribute concert was also filled with performances by former ICOM students, School of Art's academic staff Dr. Andrew Filmer and Mr. Azmyl Yunor, as well as the students from the CMAT. In between these performances, each of them has taken the time to share their own fond memories of the beloved lecturer and colleague. Kirthana, a student of Frank Ong shared that he truly left a mark on all of them as students, and that he was their number one fan and their biggest supporter that pushed them to take on every possible opportunity.

Frank Ong's children, Jas, Harris and Myra spoke of their father at the end of the concert. They recollected that their father was always a humble man that loved and cherished music, a "reluctant celebrity", they said jokingly.

The eldest son also shared that his father was very interested in philosophy and literature. He enjoyed learning, and this was the reason he had gotten himself into academics because he wanted to impart his knowledge and support young musicians. They thanked everyone that came in memory of their late father and shared their greatest appreciation for everyone that celebrated his life as a musician, a colleague, a teacher and a friend.

Jas, Harris & Myra giving an ending speech about their late father.



UTHM VISITS SOA FACILITIES



Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM) made an official visit to School of Arts on the 21st of January 2020.

JANUARY 2020 - 12



INTRODUCING SOA STAFF & STUDENT

SUFFIAN AYUB

Mr. Suffian Ayub is a senior lecturer with the School of Arts' Department of Communication. He has been with Sunway University for five years and currently teaches a range of first year and final year subjects such as Principles of Mass Communication, Public Relations and serves as a supervisor for students' final year projects. Mr. Suffian received both his Bachelor's degree in English (2002) and Masters in Corporate Communication (2008) at Universiti Putra Malaya (UPM) and he is currently a PhD candidate at Universiti Teknologi MARA in Shah Alam.

Mr. Suffian expressed that research is something that he loves to do, especially being an academician himself. This interest encompasses the research on media, youth, health communication, and the behaviour of information seeking. He enjoys watching movies that were made in the 80s and 90s. He feels that these movies had lesser digital and visual effects permeating the screen, providing a lot more focus on the dramatisation and character building.

Mr. Suffian shared that in his spare time, he loves to doodle, and would often showcase his artwork on social media platforms like Twitter (@travelingbraces) and Instagram (@travel.doodle). This particular interest had provided him with lucrative work opportunities, where he was able to gain profit from being commissioned. His art, as well as his writing had also been featured on Gaya Travel magazine.



Mr. Suffian enjoys being in the School of Arts for its "good working environment, state of the art facilities and awesome colleagues" and that for him personally, the university stands in a class of its own as the support system and all-round curriculum is something that could not be easily found anywhere else. He added that with the "strong support in research and partnership, Sunway University is truly a class above".

As of now, Mr. Suffian is focusing more on health communication related research. He has also recently completed a significant research in collaboration with the Ministry of Health Malaysia, UKM, UniMAP, and UPM, where the end result of the research is to establish a health literacy index for the country. He hopes to further improve his research skills, and with that being able to apply for research grants to expand his research. Mr. Suffian is also in the midst of planning for his sabbatical application upon the completion of his PhD studies in order to gain more knowledge and experiences abroad.

NICHOLAS CHONG

Nicholas Chong is a second year Communication student from Penang. He admits that he still feels overwhelmed being in the midst of the city and Sunway. He first attended the University of Nottingham Malaysia for two years before he enrolled himself for a Degree in Sunway University. Nicholas enjoys learning about history, reading, watching videos and hunting for old copies of propaganda films. He claimed that one can compare it to reading fiction but argued that fiction often pales in comparison to the many ridiculous, audacious, and heroic tales that history would offer even to this day.

In November of 2019, Nicholas was recently appointed as the President of the School of Arts Representatives (SOAR), a body that acts as students' representatives. SOAR strives to become a body that students of the School of Arts (SOA) are able to rely on to promote themselves and address issues that may arise as they are the intermediary between the students and the administration.

When asked on what made him take on that role, Nicholas responded that he simply wanted to improve the existing structure. "No system or body is perfect" he stated. He saw improvements that could be made and opportunities that could be taken to further enhance students' experience within the school. He plans to focus on standardisation and marketing within SOAR, formalising and streamlining the Standard Operating Procedure, as well as creating a better awareness of the student body.



Being in SOA for Nicholas was nothing short of interesting. He confessed that although he's not a fan of learning theories, the people around him ensures that, in his words, "not stale". He appreciates the fact that the lecturers are as equally interesting as the students that are in the classroom, filling the space with a variety of skills and quirks.

One of his highlights of being part of the school was the friends that he has made. He shared that the people are of many origins and there are many things to learn of and from. Nicholas mentioned that he would like to form a network of friends that he can rely on for both a personal and professional relationship. Lastly, he would like to contribute back to the environment that has helped him grow as a person, which was the reason why he became a representative in SOAR.