

Sunway University School Of Arts

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School of Arts Press

*January 2019 Edition*

## 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!

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

As we celebrate a new calendar year, and prepare to celebrate the Chinese New Year, we are delighted to share information about all the exciting things happening in the School of Arts at Sunway University. We've been busy already this month with a couple of guest American pianists giving master classes and recitals. We also welcomed 54 new students to the School this month, and celebrated the promotions of three of our lecturers.

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.

Sincerely,  
Don Bowyer, Dean  
Sunway University School of Arts

## UPCOMING SOA EVENTS

Jom Makan! SOAR Chinese New Year Lunch  
- 14 February 2019

For more information on SOA events, contact Sammy Chong at  
[sammyc@sunway.edu.my](mailto:sammyc@sunway.edu.my)

## STUDENT AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

### Staff Promotions

Congratulations to three lecturers from the Department of Performance Media who were recently promoted! Dr George Hess has been promoted to Professor, Dr Mayco Santaella has been promoted to Associate Professor, and lastly, Dr Andrew Filmer has been promoted to Senior Lecturer!

Our lecturers' hard work have been acknowledge and they truly deserve their new positions! We wish them good luck in their future work!

## RECENT ACTIVITIES

### School of Arts Representatives (SOAR) 2018-2019 Installation Ceremony

Back in November of 2018, Sunway Arts Faculty Committee (SAFCOM) officially dissolved the team for the term of 2017 to 2018. The outgoing team of 2017 to 2018 ran a few events, specifically the welcoming parties each semester for the incoming new students.



*Outgoing team of SAFCOM 2017-2018*

With that, SAFCOM has also rebranded itself to School of Arts Representatives (SOAR) to better represent the student body of the School of Arts. The team is made up of 7 people: President - Nicole Cheong, Secretary & Treasurer - Kelly Goh, Public Relations and Events Director - Sophia Alyssa, Public Relations and Events Member - Amanda Tan, Creative Content members - Karen Chang and Rachelle Ashley, Student Relations Director - Nur Liyana.



*Incoming team of SOAR 2018-2019 with School of Arts staff members.*

Similar to SAFCOM, SOAR aims to be the bridge of connection between the students and staff members within the School of Arts. When students have problems regarding the facilities, the academics or whatever within the School of Arts, they can approach the members of the student committee who will bring forward the feedback to the upper level management.

In addition to that, the student representatives aim to organise both academic and social events that will bring the students of the three different departments together. This will allow the students to inspire one another, as well as creating a tightly knitted community within the School of Arts.

The team has been working hard thus far in terms of organising events for the year of 2019. One of the events is the Chinese New Year lunch that is a part of the Jom Makan! series. It will be held on the 14th of February. Other than that, there are few academic and social events that are already lined up, so do stay tuned to find out more!

## SOAR Welcoming Party Jan 2019

As part of the tradition of School of Arts, the student committee of School of Arts (School of Arts Representatives - SOAR) holds a welcoming party for all the incoming students of the new semester. The tradition still stands strong in the year of 2019 as the welcoming party was held on 3rd January. Though the batch of January 2019 was a small group, it allowed the students to know one another better through the games and bonding session.

The welcoming party started off with an introduction by the president of SOAR (Nicole Cheong) regarding what SOAR is and the aim of the student committee. Shortly after that, everyone including the committee members played group games to get students interacting with one another. This group game session allowed SOAR committee members and the new intake students to get to know one another better, marking the start of new friendships.

After the game sessions was the School of Arts facilities tour. This tour showed the new students what facilities School of Arts have for each department, and where they are located. This ensures that the new students will not be lost as they start their classes.





*SOAR committee members with students from the January 2019 intake.*

## 7th Asean International Chopin Piano Competition Winners Gala Concert

On 23 December 2018, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah, the wife of our current prime minister visited Sunway University to perform a duet together with Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin Tuanku Muhriz for the 7th Asean International Chopin Piano Competition Winners Gala Concert. The concert was a collaboration between Sunway University and the Chopin Society of Malaysia where the winners of the competition also were able to showcase their talents during the concert. Sunway University offered two of the winners, Chai Zi Qing (Malaysia) and Zhu Hanyuan (China) with BA(Hons) in Music Performance scholarships worth RM75,000 each.



Tun Dr Siti Hasmah playing the violin on stage.



Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin Tuanku Muhriz performing on stage together with Tun Dr Siti Hasmah.

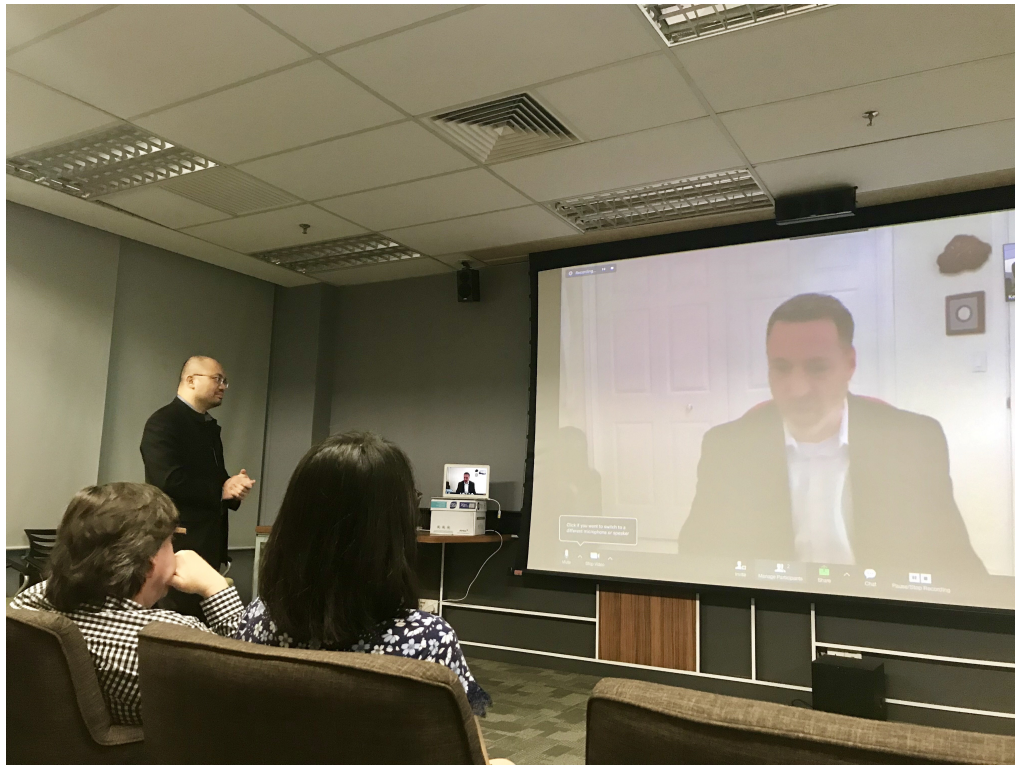


Tan Sri Dato Seri Dr. Jeffrey Cheah pose for a photo with the winners of the 7th Asean International Chopin Piano Competition.

## Music Taster Days

Music Taster Days, which took place last December, was organised by Sunway University's School of Arts to attract secondary school students and music teachers within Klang Valley, with the objective of exposing our classical music degree to the general public. The goal of this event was to enhance the enjoyment of playing their musical instruments, foster a deeper appreciation for music and to learn to work together with a supportive community of enthusiastic music educators. One of the highlights was the webinar with Kevin LeFohn in which participants were able to converse with the great pedagogue on violin techniques.





Webinar session with Mr Kevin Lefohn.

## Graduation Showcases in December 2018

Here we have another batch of graduates from Sunway University's Diploma in Interior Design (DID), Diploma in Graphic Multimedia (DGM) and Diploma in Fine Arts (DFA) showcasing their artworks in Sunway Pyramid last December. Scroll through to see what they have showcased!

Diploma in Interior Design have produced a Graduation Showcase titled "Retrospective", reflecting back on the skills that they had required and putting their knowledge into generating new and fresh ideas within Interior and furniture design. In this project, students revive what is in the past developing new concepts for a heritage space, hence the adaptation of the meaning Retrospective: looking into the past, incorporating new ideas and preserving what is valuable.

DIPLOMA INTERIOR DESIGN

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# RETRO SPECTIVE



LG2, Central Avenue,  
Sunway Pyramid

DEC 10 - 12  
10 a.m - 10 p.m

D TAN YONG WEN  
E SHALINI ANDREA  
S HUMAIDH MOHAMED  
I WAN AHMAD FARIS  
N NURHANANI ADRIANA  
E LEONG CHING YOONG  
R  
S NUR ERDINA ALYSSA

Venue Sponsored By:

**SUNWAY PYRAMID**  
Your Unique Lifestyle Adventure

Organized By:

Department of  
**Art & Design,**  
School of Arts



*Official poster for RETROSPECTIVE Graduation Showcase from DID students.*



DID students pose with lecturers and Professor Don Bowyer.



SELF  
Sendiri  
自己  
나 자신  
わたし

# Sendiri

A Fine Art showcase

12 - 14 December 2018

Sunway Pyramid (in front of nandos)

10AM - 10PM

Venue Sponsored By:

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Department of  
**Art & Design,**  
School of Arts

Jeffrey Cheah  
Foundation  
Nurturing the Seeds of Wisdom

*Official poster for 'Sendiri' Graduation Showcase by DFA students.*

The graduating batch of students from DFA showcased a fine selection of works that was composed of different nationalities, ethnic backgrounds, and diverse experiences.

The theme for the December 2018 showcase was "Sendiri" (Self), with each of the graduates taking a personal vision of how they view and feel the world around and within them, and putting it into external form by using visual language with self-expression.

The works on display also showcased their own creative version of visual language that reflects the diverse approaches to subject matter, media, techniques for self-expressions.

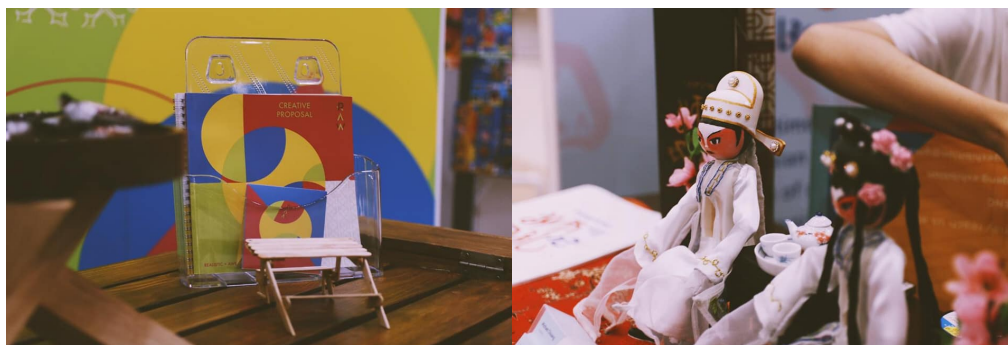


*Graduating students pose for a photo with their lecturers.*



*Official poster for GENG Graduation Showcase by DGM students.*

Lastly, we have the final year students from DGM who introduced their exhibition titled "Geng". Refer to the photos below to see what they have presented!



*Student artworks for display.*



*Final year students from DGM pose for a photo with lecturers.*

## INTRODUCING SOA STAFF AND STUDENT

### Pauline Leong Pooi Yin



Dr Pauline Leong is a senior lecturer with the Department of Communication and Liberal Arts (DCLA). Her areas of interest and research are media law, ethics, political communication, journalism and new media.

Last November was an extremely busy month for Dr Leong. Firstly, she moderated a panel discussion on Ethics and Working Challenges in a New Malaysian Landscape: Towards an Independent Media Council, organised by Gerakan Media Merdeka (Geramm), a media watchdog organisation. Dr Leong was also part of the organising committee for the symposium on Cultural Diversity, Identity and Nationhood: Malaysian Perspective on 24

November 2018 at UKM. The purpose of the symposium was to discuss about cultural diversity, and Dr Leong chaired one of the sessions which focused on Interfaith Perspectives on Malaysian Cultural Diversity.

Dr Leong was also invited to present on the topic of Journalism Ethics and the Reporting of Suicide at the Mental Health and Safe Reporting workshop. In her presentation, Dr Leong discussed about the Werther effect and the issue of copycat and suicide contagion due to media reports, which is linked Bandura's Social Learning Theory. She also shared, with the audience, the role of media in reporting news and guidelines on how to cover and present suicide incidents in the news. Lastly, she was also a panellist at the Jeffrey Cheah Institute on Southeast Asia (JCI) forum on Social Media in the 'New Malaysia'.

When asked about her teaching experience in the School of Arts, Dr Leong said that SOA students are interactive and engaging in discussions, which makes the class more lively. She added that DCLA has a nice work environment with good facilities and friendly colleagues. Dr Leong is also happy that a number of Sunway University programmes are linked with Lancaster University, which enables greater cooperation and possibilities to develop research.

In 2019, Dr Leong is looking forward to the publication of her book, *Malaysian Politics in the New Media Age* by Springer Nature Singapore. She is also working with the Catholic Research Centre to publish a book on Transcultural Adaptability and Engagement among Catholics of Tamil and Chinese Heritage in Peninsular Malaysia. She will also be completing and publishing her research findings on online hate speech as well as satire in Malaysia. Dr Leong is also in the process of developing a new Digital Journalism programme for the School of Arts.

**Kelly Goh**





Kelly Goh is currently a second year BA (Hons) Digital Film Production student from Johor. As a student of School of Arts, she is also the acting secretary and treasurer for the School of Arts student body committee - School of Arts Representatives (SOAR).

Back in 2018, she has had the opportunity to embark on her first SEASHORTS film festival in Penang together with her fellow course mates in Sunway University. The film festival showcased a series of films from different parts of Southeast Asia and Japan. "It was an eye opener [for me] to [see] the more expressive side of Asian culture that we rarely see", said Kelly. Other than that, the film festival was also a platform for her to bond with her fellow juniors.

Studying in the Digital Film Production programme in School of Arts has allowed Kelly to direct her first shot film. Given her quiet and introverted personality, directing a short film proved many challenges for her. However,

the experience she gained from producing the short film has definitely proved the worth of her and her team's hard work. The opportunities provided for students in the film programme also allowed Kelly to experiment with different fields within the film industry; helping her to fully discover her interests and career goals.

## CONNECT WITH US

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