



February 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

February has been an exciting month here at Sunway University, with many CNY activities plus new partnerships being explored with universities around the world (more on that in future newsletters). We are also gearing up for the next big student intake in late March. I hope you can join us for some of our public events this year!

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

Dramatic Storytelling for the Screen Workshop
- 4-8 March 2019
Register by 25 Feb [here](#).

Brightfeather Music in Malaysia
- 4-5 April 2019

For more information on SOA events, contact Sammy Chong
at sammyc@sunway.edu.my

Song Commission



RECENT ACTIVITIES

New Music for Piano Recital and Masterclasses

On the 18th and 20th of January, piano recitals and masterclasses were held in the Live Arts Space, Sunway University. The recitals featured two soloists: Nicholas Phillips, Associate Professor of Music at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and Ann Duhamel, Head of Keyboard Studies at the University of Minnesota, Morris. Both pianists are ardent advocates of new music. They enjoy working with and commissioning contemporary composers. The participants have expressed their enjoyment when listening to these new piano repertoire. It was definitely an eye opening experience during the masterclasses as well!



Mr Nicholas Phillips with a student from Sunway University during the masterclass.



Students with Ms Ann Duhamel at one of the masterclasses.

DPI Workshop

At the beginning of the year 2019, the marketing team of DPI Aerosol company reached out to SOAR (School of Arts Representatives) proposing a collaborative opportunity in which both parties agreed on a small collaboration - Chinese New Year Decoration Spray Paint Workshop. DPI Aerosol company sponsored spray paints from their gold series, together with the materials for the decorations. School of Arts Representatives were responsible to recruit participants for the workshop, as well as other logistics, such as the venue.

After much discussion and planning, the workshop was held on the 25th of January, in Sunway University, Level 9. Due to the nature of the workshop, it could not accommodate more than 15 people. As a result, there were a total of 10 attendees including the SOAR Committee members, which was the ideal number of people.



Attendees of the Chinese New Year Decoration Spray Paint Workshop together with representatives from DPI Aerosol Company.

The workshop started off with an introduction to the different series of

spray paints from the DPI Aerosol company. Attendees then started with making Red Packet Lanterns and decorating it using spray paint. Through the process of decorating the lanterns, representatives from DPI taught the participants the correct way of spray painting, and how to achieve different finishings using different combinations of spray paints. Other than decorating the lanterns, participants also spray painted Chinese characters and images using stencils. The characters and images also provided participants a platform to show off their creativity by combining different images, characters, and colours together.



Representative of the DPI Aerosol Company demonstrating spray painting techniques.



Attendees of the workshops with their decorative pieces.



Some of the decorations from the workshop.

Overall, it was a new experience for majority of the participants. With that, they left the workshop with new set of skills. The decorations made during

the workshop were kept as decorations for the Jom Makan! Chinese New Year Lunch organised by the School of Arts Representatives.

Jom Makan! Chinese New Year Lunch

Being in Malaysia where food plays a prominent role in the culture, the School of Arts Representatives decided to start a new series called “Jom Makan!” for students and staff members of School of Arts. This series of event will serve as a platform for students and staff members of School of Arts to have a casual gathering, getting to know one another better. This, will bring School of Arts closer together, building a tightly knitted community.

Introducing the Jom Makan! series is the Jom Makan! Chinese New Year Lunch. It was held on the 14th of February, at level 9, Sunway University. The buffet style lunch served Chinese food together with some typical Chinese New Year food such as Yee Sang, Mandarin Oranges and Fortune Cookies.



Buffet lunch setup and Chinese New Year Decorations

Students and staff members that attended the lunch event were able to mingle with one another through the casual lunch gathering. Even though not all students talked to staff members and vice versa, it still allowed the students to know the staff members and students from the different departments within School of Arts. The aim of the Jom Makan! series is to better connect everyone from the three departments within School of Arts.



Student and staff members from School of Arts enjoying lunch.



Group photo of the organising committee - School of Arts Representatives.

Communication Workshops

Mr Srikumar Ramayan, Senior Teaching Fellow in the Department of Communication and Liberal Arts, presented a series of Communication Workshops for Form 6 students from SMK Tinggi Klang on the 20th of February. It was a successful workshop as students commented that the workshop as a memorable and enjoyable session.



Mr Srikumar conducting the workshop.



Students start working on the activities instructed by Mr Srikumar.

INTRODUCING SOA STAFF AND STUDENT

Human Esmaeili



Mr Human with his virtual friend. PS. Guess which one is the real Mr. Human?

Being part of the School of Art's Centre for Research-Creation in Digital Media for 3 years, Mr. Human Esmaeili is a 3D Visualisation Multimedia Designer with more focus on Virtual Reality. Though he first pursued a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering, he took interest in 3D animation as well. Along the way, he taught himself 3D animation, and started working as a freelance artist as well as conducting courses and workshops with private organisations, teaching 3D modelling, animation, and industrial design. After finishing his degree in Chemical Engineering, he decided to join the Creative Industry and further continued his studies in the relevant field. In 2009, Mr. Human came to Malaysia to undertake his master's degree in Creative Media, in Multimedia University. He recently finished his PhD in Creative Media, focusing on sustainable design in the future generation of high-rise buildings.

One of the many projects created by the Centre for Research-Creation in Digital Media, in which Mr. Human is heavily involved, is to create the first large scale immersive virtual museum for cultural heritage in Malaysia. The process includes collecting valuable cultural objects unique to Malaysia, and to digitising them to be used in the virtual world. With the virtual museum, users will be able to interact with the digital objects in a way that is not possible in the real world. "This will be an initial step to start the idea of virtual museum in Malaysia using Virtual Reality" said Mr. Human as he explains the goal and the purpose of this research project.

While working on research projects, Mr. Human has been conducting workshops as well as presenting his research projects in international conferences. In 2016, during the Virtual Systems and MultiMedia (VSMM) Conference, he conducted two workshops held at Sunway University: Real-Time 3D Rendering and Macro Photography. In 2017, he spoke at the VSMM Conference once again at University College Dublin, Ireland, presenting his research paper 'Immersive Virtual Environments for Tacit Knowledge Transfer Focusing on Gestures' as well as conducting a workshop covering the topic of 3D Content Development for Virtual and Augmented Reality. For the year of 2018, his Conceptual Virtual Reality work, 'The Hidden Waterfall City', was exhibited during the Digital Heritage 2018 Expo and Congress, San Francisco, USA.

All these activities have provided Mr. Human an opportunity to be connected to the world of Creative Media through his experience in this field. He concluded that his achievements are tightly linked to the organization's achievements. Therefore, for the future, Mr. Human hopes to be able to extend the communication level and knowledge sharing to a broader audience with the help of Sunway.

Esther Yong Kar Hui



Yong Kar Hui, or better known as Esther, is currently in her 6th semester of the BA (Hons) Contemporary Music (Audio Technology). She can be seen as an all rounded person with her love of music, sports and her active presence in Sunway University. Esther is not only an active member of the Sunway Basketball Team, she is also a proud member of the Chinese Independent School Alumni (CISA) Club.

Throughout her years in Sunway University, Esther has demonstrated her love for music by organising and performing in various Sunway University events as well as events from outside of the University. Esther participated in Sunway's Got Talent alongside her coursemates, as well as performing for the Teachers' Appreciation Day and Teachers' and Staffs Annual Dinner. She is also one of the members of Saltee Band, which was formed under CISA club. With Saltee Band, Esther performed in various occasions such as during the Sunway University Chinese New Year Celebration, and other performances at Inti College, Subang.

As mentioned above, Esther is also a proud member of the Sunway Basketball Team. In 2018, she and her team members won the champion for the Mahasiswa Basketball Competition where she expressed her genuine happiness for being able to achieve something with the Sunway Basketball Team. Esther has also involved herself in some major projects within Sunway University. She participated in the Student Ambassador Leadership Track (SALT) for Chinese Independent Schools in 2018 as the Vice Project Leader. This year, Esther took up the role of the Programme Coordinator for the Sunway University Chinese New Year Celebration, organised by the CISA club. She was happy to be able to give Sunway students and staffs a great experience through this major event.

Currently, Esther is working on a musical short film -- 'Mahsuri Retold'. She is excited to see the end product of the musical retelling of the Malaysian legend, Mahsuri. In the future, Esther has mentioned that she would like to continue to be active in all the areas she has been involved in. She is especially grateful to be in the CISA club through which she has had many opportunities to enhance her skills. Esther hopes that she can achieve as much as she can before graduating from Sunway University.

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