



School of Arts Press

May 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

The School of Arts is pleased to announce that our first PhD degree has been approved by the Ministry of Education. Beginning in August we will accept students into the Doctor of Philosophy in Creative Arts Media, a PhD by research that allows for a broad range of research-creation outputs across the Cultural and Creative Industries, from traditional research about the arts and research-based interpretations of existing art works to research activities that form an essential part of a creative process or artistic discipline and that result in the creation of new artistic works.

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

Beyond Labels Bazaar
- 28-29 May 2019

- 10am, Walkway between University and College Foyer

Beyond Labels The Story Behind
- 12 June 2019
- 7.30pm, JC 2

Hidden Figures Fashion Walk
- 19 June 2019
- 6.30pm, Art Gallery

Lunchtime Concert @ SunMed by Music Performance students
- 26 June 2019
- 12.45pm, SunMed Lobby

Lunchtime Concert by the Wicked Music People
- 27 June 2019
- 1.15pm, Live Arts Space

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

STUDENT AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS



Recently, the George Hess Ensemble released *The Light Ahead*, an album of eight original compositions by faculty member Professor George Hess. Professor Hess describes the music as “smooth jazz fusion,” and says “it documents my musical, professional and personal journey over the last 20 years. Each composition marks a significant event in my life.”

Along with Hess on guitar and guitar synthesizer, the Ensemble features Singaporean Ramu Thiruyanam on MalletKat, Marina Zaini on acoustic and electric bass and Malaysian legend Louis Pragasam on drums. The album was recorded in the CMAT studio at Sunway University and represents the first of many albums to come out of CMAT. The album was made possible by an internal grant from Sunway University.

The Light Ahead is available on Bandcamp [here](#), as well as iTunes, Spotify and other streaming sites. Be sure to go give it a listen!

RECENT ACTIVITIES

New Sound Installation!

Check this out! If you have yet to notice, a permanent sound installation can be found at the entrance of the School of Arts admin office now!

Students and staff can now listen to music while chilling at the bench provided!



MoU between Sunway University and Sunway Theme Parks

A Memorandum of Understanding between Sunway Theme Parks and Sunway University has been signed on 26 April 2019 at Makerspace, Sunway University. The event started off with a sharing session from Professor Donald Bowyer, the Dean of School of Arts, in which he talked about what the School of Arts is doing and what fields it encompasses. Senior Executive Director of Sunway Education Group, Dr Elizabeth Lee and Senior General Manager of Sunway Theme Parks, Mr Calvin Ho were then invited to share their welcome notes, where both expressed their sincere gratitude on the collaboration, and hope to have more collaborative activities in the future. Following the speeches was the official signing of the MoU, which was held under the witness of the media, students and staff present at the venue. After a photography session, a Q&A session for the media was held. When asked about internship programmes for Sunway University students in Sunway Theme Parks, Dr Elizabeth Lee has answered with “there are many opportunities for students from all programmes to have their internship with Sunway Theme Park!”

Student Kee Kher Wei from BA(Hons) in Design Communication was also invited to take a group photo together with the VIPs. She has contributed in the design and production of a piece of merchandise. The merchandise is currently sold at Sunway Lagoon’s gift shop. She said that her inspiration for this idea was that she wanted to showcase Malaysia’s unique coffee shop culture, which includes the Chinese Kopitiam as well as the Indian and Malay Mamaks.



MoU signing between Dr Elizabeth Lee and Mr Calvin Ho. Photo source: Sunway University Facebook page



Group photo of VIPs together with Kher Wei and her merchandise. Photo source: Sunway University Facebook Page

Study Trip to Bangkok

Students from the BA(Hons) in Design Communication went to Bangkok for a

4-day study trip this month. Lead by two lecturers, the students visited Rangsit University, where they were genuinely welcomed by the College of Design. Later, students were also brought to the Objects of Desire Store (ODS) which houses lifestyle products and home decorations from award winning and emerging Thai designers. On the second day, they went to TCDC (Thailand Creative and Design Centre) for data collection and to discover study materials within the space. They also explored the Chang Chui Creative Park, a marketplace with an upcycling concept. On the following day, students visited the Good Design Store where they learnt about packaging design, and also the Open Book Store, which had a unique space which boasts creativity.



Design Communication students at Rangsit University.



Students having a meeting with the lecturers from College of Design in Rangsit University.



Students at the TCDC (Thailand Creative and Design Centre) for data collection.



Students visited the ODS, a place which houses unique household and lifestyle items from Thai designers.



Students taking a group photo at the Good Design Store.



Students listening to a sharing session.

High Court Field Trip

Some 25 students from the Department of Communication had a hands-on experience during a field trip to Kuala Lumpur High Court Complex on 14 May 2019, accompanied by Dr Pauline Leong. The purpose of the visit was to expose the students to the judicial process and court system in Malaysia, as part of their Law and Ethics in Communication as well as Political Communication units. When the students arrived, they were welcomed by Puan Haleez binti Hasnan, a Senior Assistant Registrar, and her staff. During the briefing, Puan Haleez explained to the students about the Malaysian judiciary system, including court etiquette such as bowing when entering and leaving a courtroom.

Next, the students were brought to the magistrates' court where they met Tuan Taufiq Bin Affendi Chin, a magistrate judge. The students were able to

explore different parts of the court, from the witness stand, to the lock up and also the dock where the accused sits during trial. Tuan Taufiq also shared his experience as a judge and some of the interesting court cases that he has adjudicated on. The students also asked questions and learned that the jury system that they often see in the media is no longer practised in Malaysia. In fact, the last jury trial was the case of Maznah Ismail, also known as Mona Fandey. She was found guilty of the murder of a politician in Pahang, by chopping him up into 18 parts and burying him under the storeroom of her house; she was later sentenced to death. It is believed that the sensational nature of the trial was one of the reasons that led to the abolishment of the jury system in Malaysia.

Puan Haleez had earlier informed the students that the trial of former Prime Minister Najib Razak was ongoing within the complex, but security was tight and there was limited space for the public in court. The students were a bit disappointed that they were not able to see the actual trial, but at 4pm, they managed to catch a glimpse of the former Prime Minister, who smiled and waved at them, as he left the court after his trial ended for the day. Overall, it was an interesting learning experience for the students.



Communication students gathering in front of the High Court for a group photo.

INTRODUCING SOA STAFF AND STUDENT

Laila Kheidar



Coming to the third year with School of Arts under the Department of Art and Design as a lecturer and programme leader for Bachelor in Interior Architecture is Dr Laila Kheidar. Dr Laila is a person who has a multicultural background who speaks 5 different languages. She specialises in the field of built environment as well as in the area of heritage and conservation management.

Dr Laila was involved with higher education since 2006, working on interior design and cultural development projects. On this ground, she was one of the founders that established the Women Handicrafts in Yemen from 2013 to 2017 to ensure sustainability, development and engagement of women in rural areas to become financially independent. Through promoting the products at international exhibitions and creating links with the European market, Dr Laila successfully became the first exporter with grand quantities and qualities of the local market. As a result, women communities expanded.

Since joining the School of Arts in April 2017, she was involved with the university activity and implementation programs. In 2018, Dr Laila successfully obtained her Doctorate of philosophy from UiTM Malaysia. With all this, she was the project manager for the event -- MIID Students Saturday 2018. Hosted by Sunway University, in collaboration with MIID, this interior design event included 900 participants from 20 Malaysian universities and colleges. On an international level in the line of her expertise, she was invited for a sharing session and a workshop at two universities in Taiwan; first was at the Tung Fang Design University, on the event of “Bauhaus Design Centre Workshops”, while the second one took place at the Overseas Chinese University.

Back in March 2019, Dr Laila participated in the Lancaster University International Partnership Development Programme. Though it was her first time in Lancaster, Dr Laila claimed that “it was a good experience to see what our collaborative university environment is like”. When it comes to teaching, Dr Laila strongly emphasises on group work and engaging with students within the classroom environment. Dr Laila also expressed that outdoor experiences are vital for Art students. Therefore, field trips and on-site observation of the architectural elements are a must in her classes. One of the most recent visits was to the KTM headquarter, Mosque Negara and the Islamic Art Museum of Malaysia.

Once again, she highlighted that the learning process is not only about notes and lectures, but also about research, collecting data and on-site observation with sketching. Dr Laila hopes that she will be able to incorporate more technology in her method of teaching as the education is moving from 4.0 to 5.0, ultimately bringing our students’ level of education to cope up with this rapid change and global market demand. This would give students an upgraded experience. Adding on to that, she concluded that “if you cannot go out to the world, then find someone that brings the world to you”.

Kee Kher Wei





Kee Kher Wei is a second year student from the BA(Hons) in Design Communication. She loves animals and has a strong passion for art and design. In high school, she actively participated in many activities that involved art as she always loved creating art through her two hands and her imagination. She loves to draw and make DIY items and believes that inspirations come from everything around us, whether it is films, music or etc.

“Since the first day I studied here, the lecturers have always been more than helpful,” says Kher Wei. Kher Wei also mentioned that the lecturers in the department are very knowledgeable and are very willing to teach and guide her when she is in doubt. She feels grateful that she met supportive lecturers that allow her to expand her knowledge and skills in the creative arts. In class, Kher Wei gets along with her coursemates as well, which makes her look forward to classes everyday. She shared that getting to know your coursemates is a good way to learn from each other.

Kher Wei’s biggest achievement in Sunway University was the opportunity to merchandise her artwork. As mentioned in one of the above articles, Kher Wei’s artwork -- a magnetic puzzle game of a Malaysian-Chinese style ‘kopitiam’ was made as a merchandise for Sunway Lagoon. She felt that it was a great honor for her to see her work getting approval and that certainly fueled her confidence and motivation for her personal and professional development.

As for her personal accomplishments, Kher Wei hopes to learn how to observe and detail her art. Throughout her study in Sunway University, Kher Wei has learnt that research is a significant factor in design. In order to perfect illustrations, she has spent a lot of time and effort on her artworks as well as doing tons of research beforehand. Learning the skills during her degree has definitely helped her improve her performance. Kher Wei expressed her gratitude once again for all the help and guidance from people around her who have been encouraging her to be what she is today. Kher Wei hopes to have more opportunities to learn from amazing people that she will meet in the future. She also shared with us her motto, “Never stop learning!”

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