



School of Arts Press

September 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

Our staff and students have been busy again, and we hope all readers of this newsletter will consider attending one or more of our many upcoming events listed below. Likewise, please help us share these events with other interested individuals. All you need to do is forward the newsletter and suggest that they click the Subscribe link at the bottom if they would like monthly newsletters.

Sincerely,
Don Bowyer, Dean
Sunway University School of Arts

UPCOMING EVENTS

Talk Show: Theatre? Can Make Money Meh
- 3 October 2019
- 11:30am -12:30pm, Rooftop Theatre

Luncheon Concert by Suter Ensemble Chamber Music
- 3 October 2019
- 1-2pm, Live Arts Space

Chamber Music Masterclasses
- 3 October 2019
- 2-3pm, Live Arts Space

Media Talk: Nomophobia (Smartphone Addiction)
- 3 October 2019
- 2-4pm, JC 1

Piano Masterclasses by Dinara Klinton
- 16 - 17 October 2019
- 10am, Live Arts Space

Piano Recital by Dinara Klinton
- 20 October 2019
- 4pm, JC2

Glitz & Glam - SOA Night
- 18 October 2019
- 6.30pm, Holiday Villa (Subang) Grand Ballroom

Saxophone Recital by Tasuku Noguchi
9 November 2019
- 6pm, Live Arts Space

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

STUDENT AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations to Dr Pauline Leong once again, for having her article titled *The Impact of New Media on Free Speech in Malaysia* featured on The Edge Weekly! Check out her article below:

The Impact of New Media on Free Speech in Malaysia

Article 10 of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) states that "everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers". This means that people should have the fundamental liberty to express themselves in any form through any media. In Malaysia, that right is found in Article 10 of the Federal Constitution, that "every citizen has the right to freedom of speech and expression".

Freedom of speech is essential in a democracy, which is a system of government "of the people, by the people and for the people", as declared by Abraham Lincoln in his Gettysburg address. Therefore, it is important that people be allowed to speak on how their country is governed and have as much information as possible to choose the right leaders. Diversity of thought and opinion is critical in a democratic state where the best ideas compete in the "market place" for public attention and acceptance. In modern society, the media function as a public space for such arguments and counter-arguments, in the hope that truth will eventually emerge from such exchanges.

Public opinion reside in the media, which makes them extremely influential. Malcolm X once said, "The media's the most powerful entity on earth. They have the power to make the innocent guilty and to make the guilty innocent, and that's power. Because they control the minds of the masses". Unsurprisingly, the former Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition was able to govern Malaysia for 61 years since independence, partly due



New Media and Free Speech

BY DR PAULINE LEONG
School of Arts
Sunway University

to its control of traditional media - print, television and radio.

However, the emergence of the Internet in the early 1990s slowly broke the media monopoly. In 1996, the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) was created to attract technology and investments from international corporations, which could spur conditions for knowledge transfer to local companies. The then BN government had hoped that the introduction of information communication technologies could catalyse economic growth.

Nevertheless, the Internet is double-edged sword. While there are benefits, it also has its own set of values and culture such as independence, freedom of speech and the disdain for regulation. Digital rights activist John Perry Barlow's Declaration of the Independence of Cyberspace states: "Governments of the Industrial World, you weary giants of flesh and steel, I come from Cyberspace, the new home of Mind. We are creating a world where anyone, anywhere may express his or her beliefs, no matter how singular, without fear of being coerced into silence or conformity".

Consequently, authoritarian governments have found it hard to control the "creature" that they introduced. From being just a tool for economic growth, digital media brought about changes in the democratic process, allowing more citizens to participate in discussions and enabling alternative views to emerge. This broke the traditional media monopoly, threatening BN's political dominance. During the 1999 general election, in the wake of Anwar Ibrahim's seeking as deputy prime minister, Malaysians turned to new media for alternative information

via e-mail lists and usenet newsgroups. Online news portal Malaysiakini was formed during this period. Mobile phones and short message service (SMS) emerged during the 2004 general election, followed by blogs in 2008 and social media, especially Facebook, in 2013. The watershed 2018 general election saw the use of Facebook Live and WhatsApp, and the toppling of the once-dominant BN.

With Pandora's box now opened, everyone is able to voice out in cyberspace. However, unlike traditional media, which has trained editorial gatekeepers who conduct quality control on published content, the Internet is like the Wild Wild West. Biases and gossip that used to be within the private confines of home or coffeshop talk are now publicly laid bare. "Keyboard warriors" in the Malaysian cyberspace, some of whom hide behind the veneer of anonymity, post inflammatory comments. Death and rape threats have appeared. Technology may have progressed but the mindsets of some have not.

There are those who long for the "good old days" when the media was more controlled and less messy. However, chaos and cacophony of voices in the public sphere is part of the democratic process. After 61 years of authoritarian rule, it is not surprising that Malaysians have not learned the basics of respectful communication as previously there was limited public space to learn and practise it. The turmoil in public discourse is part of the country's maturation process. English author Evelyn Waugh once said, "I disagree with what you have to say, but I'll defend to the death your right to say it". With time, it is hoped that Malaysians will be able to imbibe this philosophy in their interactions.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SOA NIGHT!

SCN and SOAR are organising the very first SOA Night for our fellow SOA-ians on 18 October 2019! All SOA students are most welcomed to join this meaningful event to make wonderful memories with friends and lecturers; outstanding student works will be receiving an award too! Students are welcome to bring 1 guest (non SOA student/your better half/a friend) at the pricing below:

RM95 per pax

*Ticket price is inclusive of an International buffet for the night

If you have a group of friends who will be joining the night, you may also buy a whole table (10 pax) at RM90 per pax!

Find the poster below for more information!

SCN SOAR
SCHOOL OF ARTS REPRESENTATIVES

Exclusive School of Arts Night

GLITZ & GLAM

18 OCT

Holiday Villa (Subang)
Grand Ballroom
6:30PM - 9:30PM
Early Bird RM95/pax

TABLE
OF 10

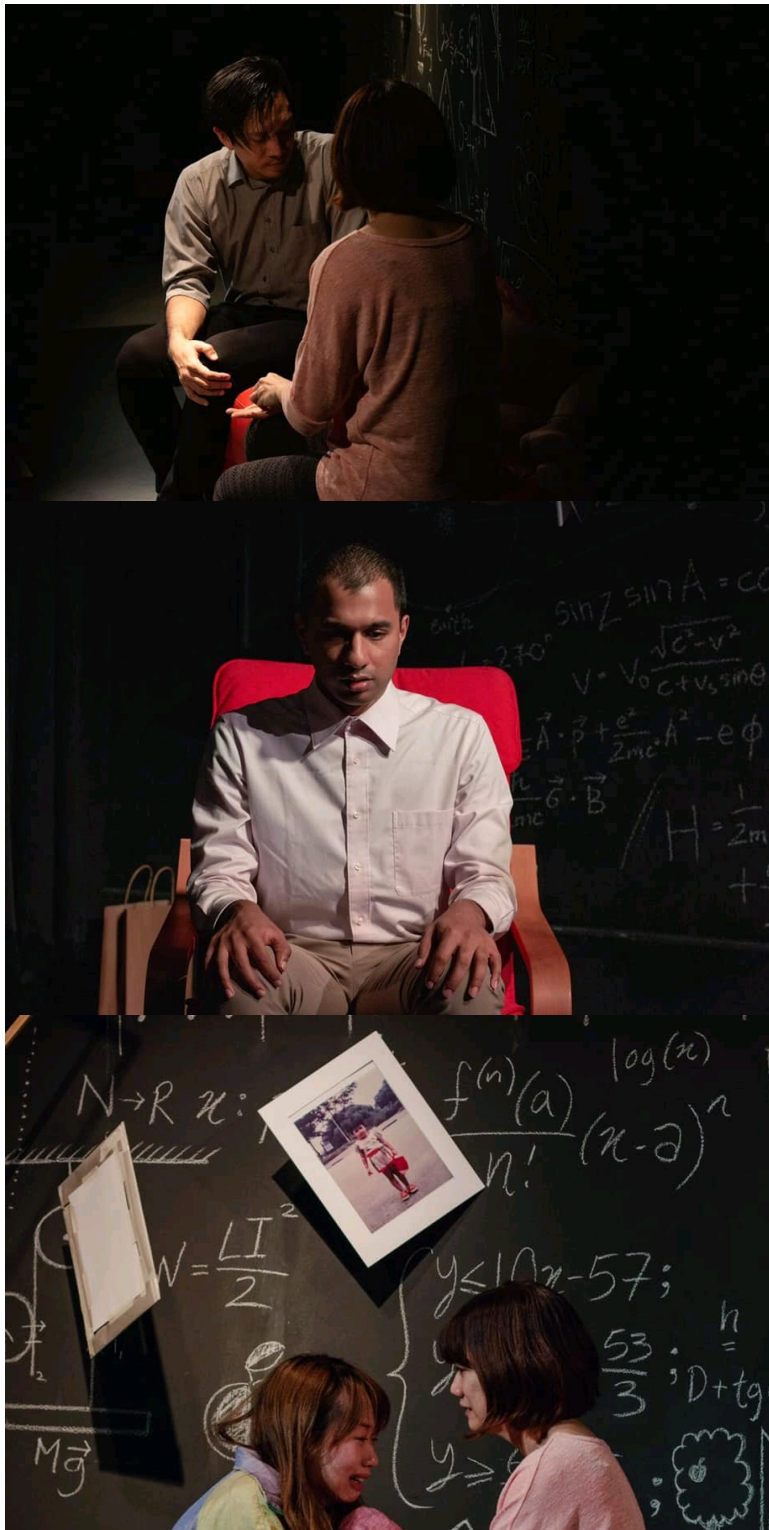
~~RM95~~
RM90/pax

For ticket purchasing and inquiries:
Jack (017-9914833)
Meescha (014-9695667)

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Mr Wolf Showcase

Last August, the Department of Performance and Media (DPM) presented Mr. Wolf by Rajiv Joseph at the Rooftop Theatre, Sunway College. This performance saw the collaboration among local theatremakers: Phraveen Arikiah, Lee Min Hui, Esther Liew Alfred Loh and Alexis Wong, with our recent Diploma in Performing Arts Alumni: Asher Au (Director), Gienne Ung (Production Manager), Nedd Ung (Co-stage Manager) and Frederick Tan (Co-stage Manager). Audiences consisted of the Sunway community, KL theatremakers, and the public.





Scenes from the play.

Design Workshop in Taiwan

From 23 July to 2 August, a cohort of students from the Department of Art and Design (DAD) led by fellow lecturer Dr Perline Siek, flew to Taiwan for a study trip. The students visited the National Taipei University of Technology, Tatung University, and Taiwan Design Center.

At Tatung University, students attended design workshops conducted by Tatung University's Dr Maggie Lin (for jewellery making) and Sunway University's Dr Perline Siek (for branding of jewellery). Students also presented their final jewellery products at the end of the week, scroll down to have a look!



Students attending jewellery making and branding workshop in Tatung University.



Students listening to explanation by instructor.





Student explaining his end product to his fellow coursemates and lecturers.



Examples of students' final jewellery products.

During the weekend, students were given free time to chill out at beaches and famous markets in Taiwan.



Students enjoying their time at one of the famous markets in Taiwan.



Students and lecturers pose together for a group photo.

In the following week, students attended another cultural based design workshop. They also went out for a field investigation at a nearby temple as part of their research and enjoyed an 18-minute 4D animation movie. After two days of hard work, the students presented their findings. After attending two workshops in a week, students visited the Taiwan Design Museum to observe various art exhibits not only from Taiwan but from other countries in the world.

The 10-day trip to Taiwan was a fruitful one as students were able to learn from one another, especially with people around the world -- China, Taiwan, Thailand. Students were also able to produce amazing products though given a tight timeframe to complete.



Students attending the cultural design workshop.



Students posing in front of the Taiwan Design Museum.

Forum on Anti Fake News Act

The Anti Fake News Act (AFNA) was enacted in April 2018 by the previous BN administration as a legislative measure to halt the dissemination of fake news which threatens the country. However, critics and human rights activists have argued that the law undermines freedom of expression. Furthermore, the lack of clarity in defining “fake news” allows potential abuse.

However, supporters of AFNA believe that the Act still has utility as fake news is currently generated and disseminated at alarming rates, especially in cyber-space. In fact, the Opposition senators in Dewan Negara (Upper House) rejected the repeal of AFNA when it was tabled by Members of Parliament in the Dewan Rakyat (Lower House). The senators believed the law is still necessary as democratic institutions can be compromised because of targeted misinformation, and that the political landscape will be further polarised because of fake news.

To discuss this issue, the Malaysian Institute for Debate and Public Speaking (MIDP), in collaboration with the Institute of Journalists Malaysia (IOJ) and SUHAKAM (Human Rights Commission of Malaysia), organised a forum on 14 September, 2019 at Atria Shopping Mall in Damansara Jaya to discuss if AFNA is a necessary evil in Malaysian society to mitigate the impact of fake news.

Dr Pauline Leong, from the Department of Communication, was invited to moderate the panel discussion which included Ms Firdaus Husni, Chief Human Rights Strategist, from the Malaysian Centre for Constitutionalism and Human Rights (MCCHR); Dobby Chew, Project Coordinator from human rights group Suara Rakyat Malaysia (SUARAM); and New Sin Yew, a lawyer from AmerBON Advocates. It was an interesting discussion on the topic, followed by a question-and-answer session from the floor.



Dr Pauline Leong as the moderator for the panel discussion.



A group photo of Dr Pauline Leong and the panelists for the forum.

INTRODUCING SOA STAFF AND STUDENT

Professor Bradley Freeman



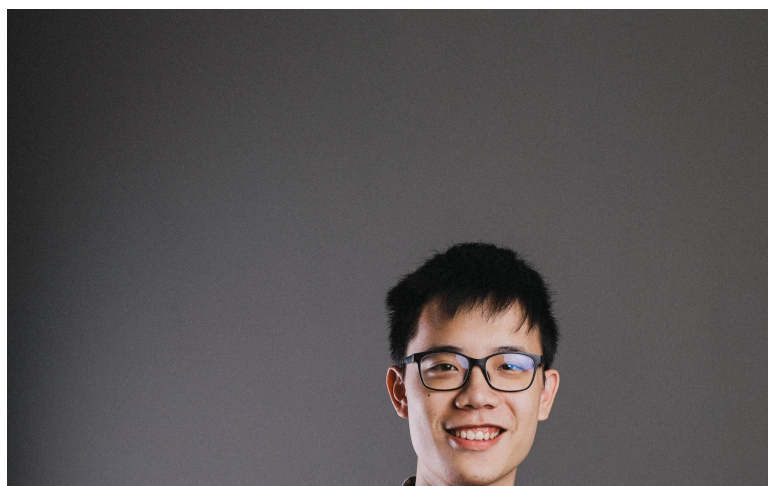


Prof. Bradley Freeman from New York is our newest addition to the School of Arts. His most recent posting was in the Communication School at the American University in Dubai, where he stayed for six years. Prior to that, he had been at Nanyang University in Singapore for seven years. With his experiences in Dubai and Singapore, he decided to come to Malaysia because he feels that it comprises elements of both Dubai and Singapore, places with which he was already familiar.

Something special about Prof. Bradley is that he has started radio stations at every university where he has worked. It has become a custom for him to be involved in campus radio (FM and AM stations) and podcasting. He also founded Blue Duck Records where he won gold and platinum awards, selling millions of CDs. Though he has been successful in the music industry, he has chosen to pursue a career in education as he strongly believes that “education is how society will progress”. Given his experience, Sunwaynians can soon look forward to our very own radio station - SunFM!

Other than looking to start a radio station in Sunway, Prof. Bradley also has a broad vision for the Department of Communication (DOC) with emphasis on a few areas. One key area is that courses must continue to touch on current digital and social realities. Another area is addressing aspects of social responsibility, helping our students and staff members to do their part as global citizens. Lastly, all courses should seek to incorporate case studies and examples from Southeast Asia, drawing on local resources such as articles and textbooks by Southeast Asian authors whenever possible. On top of the three main areas of improvements, Prof. Bradley is also looking into how to attract more students to the Department of Communication and how current students can connect better with alumni. The ultimate goal Prof. Bradley has for Department of Communication is the new addition of new electives and new programmes. With Prof. Bradley’s experience and guidance, the Department of Communication can definitely look forward to positive developments, matching the vast and rapid changes within the communication field itself.

Kam Carlson





Meet Carlson, a third year student from the BA(Hons) in Communication programme, majoring in Public Relations and Project Management. He enjoys playing sports, particularly captain ball but he enjoys playing music as well. While trying to strike a balance between his studies, his music and the societies he is involved in, he is also learning to manage his time to make the most out of his university life.

Carlson is currently an active member of the band named TY:DEL, which stands for “Thank you, delete”. It has a meaning of being thankful for the old memories and deleting it to move on to a new chapter. With the band, he was able to perform in various events in and out of Sunway University. Some notable performances include performing for Sunway Freshies Night for two consecutive years (2018-2019), the largest 30-hour famine camp in 2018 and recently for Ben & Jerry’s grand opening in Sunway Pyramid. Besides having a passion for music, Carlson is also a member of the Sunway University Captain Ball Club where he plays for leisure. Other than that, he is also active in the Sunway Christian Fellowship where he leads the club as the president. He expresses that he has gained and learned many things by joining the club. He also learned to garner compassion for different members and be inclusive of whoever has joined.

As a student in the Department of Communication, Carlson compliments the facilities, especially the studios for students from the School of Arts. Besides using it for coursework purposes, he and his friends often hangout in the studio whenever they have free time in between classes. Carlson is also grateful that he has coursemates and lecturers who are caring, helpful and supportive of what he does, especially in knowledge sharing. Also being in the Public Relations and Project Management major, Carlson alongside his coursemates have organised a campaign titled Beyond Labels to raise awareness about the social biases in our society. During the campaign, he took up the role as the Head of Volunteers where he was able to meet and work with students from the Diploma in Communication. “It was a fruitful experience for me working with them, where friendships and connections were built,” said Carlson. Carlson also mentioned that he and his coursemates will be organising another event called 23:59 Fashion Drama, so stay tuned to their Instagram page @23.59_su as well as their Facebook page 23:59 Fashion Drama!

Carlson thinks that the Department of Communication and Sunway University has provided him a good learning platform to grow as an individual. “Adopting the willingness to learn has always been the main thing that has guided me throughout where I have been,” said Carlson. He also enjoys working with different people to learn new things as it helps him to be more patient. With that he expressed his gratitude towards the department for providing him with the different avenues and opportunities to practice his skills and unlock his potentials.

CONNECT WITH US

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