



SCHOOL OF ARTS PRESS
Newsletter

SUNWAY UNIVERSITY

FEBRUARY 2023



About us

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

Issue highlights

In this month's issue, SOAP highlights multiple MoU signings, lecturers' achievements, collaborations, and the School of Arts' Convocation Ceremony!

The School of Arts Press

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Message From The Dean

The month of February sees the signing of multiple MoUs as the School of Arts continues to build connections and recognition among reputable industry partners. Our academic staff members have also received recognition via keynote speeches and original artwork presentations.

Meanwhile, we've seen yet another batch of our students graduate at the recent convocation ceremony - complete with our CMAT student Rebecca Lo elected as class valedictorian! I would like to take this moment to congratulate the students on a job well done and wish them all the best as they step into the next phase of their life.

PROF. MATTHEW MARSHALL



MoU Signed Between Sunway University, Euroasia Association, and Trinity College London

On February 3rd, Sunway University signed MoUs with Euroasia Association of Performing Arts and Trinity College London. Euroasia aims to develop the classical music scene in Malaysia, so talented young musicians can take part in jointly hosted competitions. Besides, the university is also now home to a new quartet ensemble-in-residence. Music Performance students will have the opportunity to learn from their guidance and professionalism.



Trinity College London, on the other hand, is a leading provider of external music examinations. The collaboration means Sunway students will gain a more comprehensive study of music pedagogy. Being trained as both performers and teachers, they will ideally obtain a Sunway University Music Performance degree and a Trinity College London teaching diploma upon graduation.

The School of Arts harpsichord was also launched during the event. This makes Sunway the first university in the country to own the historical instrument. For now, there are plans for the harpsichord to be painted green with an “awan larat” motif, which is often associated with wisdom and humility.



(Photo source: Sunway University)

Dr Goh Presented Senior Citizens' Flood Experiences Trailer and Paper at the AECC

As a keynote speaker at the ASEAN Education Cities Conference (AECC) on the 11th and 12th of February, Dr Goh Yi Sheng from the Department of Art, Design, and Media revealed the trailer for "UNDERSTAND". It is a video that raises awareness on senior citizens' flood experiences. It aims to prompt the creation of an age-inclusive, disaster-resilient urban space for the ageing population. Students participated in the project as well. Meanwhile, she presented a talk on "Understanding Citizens' Needs During Natural Disasters" with Assoc. Prof. Dr Catherine Lee from the Department of Communication. It identifies senior citizens' needs during natural disasters, the findings of which contribute towards optimising the design and performance of urban disaster management in Malaysia.



(Photo source: Dr Goh Yi Sheng)

“Soaring High”, Dr Fiona Wong’s Sarawakian Artwork Presented at the AECC

Dr Fiona Wong produced an original piece of artwork titled “Soaring High”, done in ink and acrylic paint on canvas. It was presented as a memento by the Founder and Chairman of Sunway Group, Tan Sri Dato’ Dr Jeffrey Cheah, to the Premier of Sarawak, the Right Honourable Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Raman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg during the AECC. Inspired and motivated by the Sarawakian spirit, Dr Fiona reflected her identity, affinity and affection for her home ground Sarawak, as well as being a member of the Sunway family, in her artwork.



(Photo source: Dr Fiona Wong E Chiong)

Dr. Adrian Lee

Directed an Interview with Dato' Sri Siti Nurhaliza

On February 14th, Dr Adrian Lee from the Department of Film and Performing Arts directed an interview session with Dato' Sri Siti Nurhaliza in collaboration with Sunway Business School! The interview was conducted by Dr. Shenba Kanagasabapathy from Sunway Business School for Vikatan in India. He was assisted by Ashok Vasu and Utrraa Kumaru who are both BA (Hons) Digital Film Production students, as well as Thineshwaran Ramachandran who is a student from BA(Hons) Contemporary Music (Audio Technology).





(Photo source: Sunway University)

School of Arts Hosts University of Tasmania Music Students

On February 15th, music students from the University of Tasmania visited Sunway University, where they attended lectures presented by Sunway academics about Malaysian cinema and music. Dr Adrian Lee talked about his book *Malaysian Cinema in the New Millennium*, and paranormal elements in local films and culture. Mr Roger Liew continued the supernatural theme by touching on the topic of ghosts, which were featured in his film *Adam Ashburn's Showreel* (2022). This was followed by a sharing session about the industry by Mr Azmyl Yusof, who commented about one of Sunway's student films. Additionally, Dr Mayco discussed Malaysian compositions and contemporary performances.



(Photo source: Assoc. Prof. Dr Mayco Axel Santaella)

School of Arts

February 2023 Convocation

School of Arts students found themselves donned in caps and robes as they attended the convocation held on February 23. The valedictorian was Rebecca Lo from Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Contemporary Music (Audio Technology), who answered a few questions we had for her:

1. How did it feel like being elected as valedictorian?

Class of 2023, it was my greatest honour to represent you - although it came as quite the surprise, honestly! I definitely felt extremely encouraged, having known my every effort throughout this journey has not only been recognised, but rewarded. I'm so very grateful for the people both above and around me who have supported me, guided me, and believed in me, because I wouldn't be where I am today if it weren't for them.



(Photo source: Rebecca Lo)

2. Is there any message you would like to share with the Sunway community?

Education is a gift, one most take for granted and few truly value. We've been handed a platform many can only dream of having, in an environment most conducive for learning, thus we ought to take advantage of this opportunity, stretch our capacity, and strive to reach our fullest potential. As beneficiaries of Sunway Education Group's academic endeavours, we've experienced first hand that education is indeed a gift - one we have had the privilege of receiving and one we must now pass on to the next generation.

3. Do you have any advice for other undergraduate students when it comes to university life?

As obstacles come your way, learn to find the balance between taking it as it comes, fighting for what you deserve, and trusting that what is meant to be will be. Never forget that the weight of your grades is shy in comparison to that of your growth, and that graduation shouldn't be the end goal, rather the start of something new. Rest in the assurance that one day you'll look back at these years and realise they serve as a testament of your tenacity, determination, and resilience - you ought to be very proud of you!

4. What hopes do you have for the future?

Amidst discovering my place in the industry, I'm actively pursuing post-graduate studies in hopes that one day I may be a part of an upcoming movement that provides equal opportunity for students to explore creative careers. That being said, ultimately, I've only ever dreamed of becoming a good wife, so at the end of the day I suppose my one wish would be that all the above contribute to me becoming just that :)



(Photo source: Rebecca Lo)

A few SOA graduates also shared their messages:

Qarlene Rishiqa from BA (Hons) in Communication

I would like to thank Dr. Padma, Mr. Lyon, Ms. VG, Mr. Kumar, Ms. Yesu, Dr. Zul and my other lecturers for being so supportive during my entire degree journey. I'm also very grateful for my friends and classmates; they have taught me a lot about myself and life in general. I appreciate everything I experienced in the past 3 years and to those currently studying, all the best (you'll make it, I promise hehe) ♥



(Photo source: Qarlene Rishiqa)

Anis from BA (Hons) in Communication

Dear lecturers and classmates, thank you for the good times and the bad times, I had fun and thankful for everything, it helped me a lot standing from where I am today <3



(Photo source: Anis)

***Congratulations to all
School of Arts graduates!***

Music Scholars

Perform for Convocation Ceremony

Adding on to the festivities, scholars from the Department of Film and Performing Arts had the opportunity to perform during all four sessions of the convocation ceremony! BA (Hons) Music Performance student Alyssa Chong and BA (Hons) Contemporary Music (Audio Technology) students Caleb Wong and Ryan Pynam captivated audiences with their trio performance on violin, acoustic guitar, and vocals. They also had the opportunity to meet with Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr Jeffrey Cheah and Prof. Dato' Elizabeth Lee who congratulated them on their performances. Many congratulations on a job well done!

(Photo source: Sunway University)



Dr Andrew Filmer

Visited the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

In conjunction with the signing of a MoU, Assoc. Prof. Dr Andrew Filmer from the Department of Film and Performing Arts visited the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire for three days of teaching and co-coaching classes for violins, violas, and chamber music. As he continues with his visit, Dr Andrew will be focusing on observing the activities on the campus and building strong connections with the Conservatoire.



(Photo source: Assoc. Prof. Dr Andrew Brian Filmer)



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February 2023 issue of the
School of Arts Press Newsletter.**

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