

Bringing you the latest (and greatest) happenings from the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences!

[View in browser](#)





FASS PRESS

FEB 2026 ED.

17

駿  
馬  
奔  
騰

馬  
到  
成  
功

TUESDAY

恭喜发财

20



年初一



26



## CONTENTS

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>01</b> MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN                             | <b>07</b> NUS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND SUNWAY UNIVERSITY STUDENTS PERFORMING BERNSTEIN, SAINT-SAËNS & BEETHOVEN |
| <b>02</b> ANNOUNCEMENTS                                     | <b>08</b> FASS STARS  |
| <b>03</b> THROWBACK   | <b>09</b> ACADEMIC INSIGHT  |
| <b>04</b> CLAUDIA YANG PIANO RECITAL                        | <b>10</b> CAMPUS COFFEE HUNT  |
| <b>05</b> SIDE-B, A FEATURE FILM SCREENING & Q&A SESSION    | <b>11</b> LISTENER'S SPOTLIGHT  |
| <b>06</b> FASS RINGS IN THE LUNAR NEW YEAR AT SUNWAY SQUARE | <b>12</b> GUESS THE PAINTING  |



## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Friends of FASS,

It has been a vibrant month for our Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences. We began by celebrating the Lunar New Year together, followed by a series of remarkable achievements from staff promotions to awards earned by our staff and students.

We were also delighted to host a range of inspiring events, including a performance by world-renowned pianist Claudia Yang, a film showcase in collaboration with the Embassy of Spain, and a visit by the NUS Symphony Orchestra. At the same time, we launched the new semester with great energy at our new campus in Sunway Square.

This has truly been an active month, reflecting what our faculty community is all about: celebrating life through the arts.

I hope you enjoy this issue and stay tuned for upcoming events!

Best wishes,  
Prof. Mayco



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## FASS WELCOMES

**DR FAHIZAH  
SHAMSUDDIN**

**AS NEW DEPUTY DEAN  
(EMPLOYABILITY AND ALUMNI)**

WRITTEN BY: PEI YIN LIM



The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) is pleased to welcome Dr Fahizah Shamsuddin as the new Deputy Dean (Employability and Alumni).

Dr Fahizah currently serves as the Programme Leader for the new Master of Arts in Communication programme and is a Senior Lecturer specialising in Advertising and Branding. With experience across several industries—including aviation, telecommunications, and banking—she has developed strong expertise in brand strategy, advertising, and marketing.

PHOTO CREDITS: MR AUDRY LING

As a dedicated educator, she is passionate about fostering a dynamic learning environment that connects academic knowledge with real-world industry experience. By integrating practical perspectives into the classroom, she aims to better prepare students for the professional world.

Through her new role as Deputy Dean (Employability and Alumni), Dr Fahizah's leadership and commitment to student success are expected to further strengthen FASS's employability initiatives while deepening engagement with the alumni community. Her efforts will support greater mentorship and collaboration opportunities, helping to nurture the next generation of communicators and industry-ready professionals.

**The FASS Press Team extends its congratulations to Dr Fahizah on her appointment and wishes her every success in her new role.**

# CALLING ALL STUDENTS: SHOWCASE YOUR TALENTS! AT THE SPANISH STEPS TODAY!

WRITTEN BY: PEI YIN LIM

Are you a performer, busker, or volunteer looking for a space to showcase your talent or host events like club gatherings or exhibitions?

Our Spanish Steps await you! Located near the Sunway University entrance at Sunway Square, this versatile space becomes your stage to share your artistry with the wider Sunway community. Your performance will not only bring vibrancy and excitement to the area but also connect students with mall visitors, turning the space into a lively hub for everyone to enjoy.

## VENUE INFORMATION:

- Free of charge  
(Subject to availability)
- Booking availability:  
Every Friday to Sunday
- Available timeslots:  
12:00 PM | 3:00 PM | 5:00 PM

## INTERESTED?

For more details and inquiries,  
please contact:

- Joy: 017-3523328
- OR submit your interest via:  
<https://forms.gle/vjNkhEbWYP24Xnk78>



PHOTO CREDITS: ASSOC. PROF. DR ZUHAILI AKMAL ISMAIL

Submit Here!



**SUNWAY FILM STUDENTS AND INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS UNITE FOR ACCLAIMED SCI-FI SHORT FILM "THE WANDERER"**

*SUBMITTED BY: MR DAVID YÁÑEZ BARROSO (TEACHING FELLOW - DEPARTMENT OF FILM AND THEATRE, SCHOOL OF FILM AND PERFORMING ARTS)  
EDITED BY: PEI YIN LIM*



POSTER OF THE WANDERER (2025)

Set in a post-nuclear jungle where nature has reclaimed the ruins of civilisation, *The Wanderer* follows a lone scavenger haunted by memories of her past. When she discovers a feral enslaved boy, an unlikely bond forms, sparking a flicker of humanity in a desolate world. Drawing from Jack London's *The Scarlet Plague* and the director's own experiences, the film explores themes of memory, survival, and the fragile connections that persist after devastation.

Since its world premiere in November 2025 at Les Utopiales in France—Europe's largest science fiction festival—*The Wanderer* has charted an impressive festival trajectory. It continued to the Trieste Science+Fiction festival in Italy, the continent's premier event for the genre, before heading to Portugal for the 40th edition of Fantasioporto International Film Festival this February and March. With each stop representing a major sci-fi capital, the film is steadily making its mark across Europe.

In a groundbreaking collaboration between Sunway University's Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Digital Film Production (BDFPR) programme and seasoned industry professionals, *The Wanderer* (2025) has emerged as one of Malaysia's most exciting recent short films. Directed by BDFPR programme leader David Yáñez—who crafted the film under his moniker "Gwai Lou"—the 18-minute sci-fi drama represents a new model for hands-on, mentorship-driven film education.



MR DAVID YÁÑEZ AT  
TRIESTE SCIENCE+FICTION



LES UTOPIALES FESTIVAL



LES UTOPIALES SCREENING

More than a directorial achievement, *The Wanderer* stands as a testament to Sunway's pioneering approach to film education—bridging the gap between classroom learning and real-world production by placing students alongside working professionals and continuing the learning process back in the classroom with the Filmmaking: Genre Filmmaking class in which the new students work over the film project and develop new short films to expand the universe started by *The Wanderer*.

As the film continues its festival run, it not only elevates Malaysian storytelling on the global stage but also proves that the future of cinema is brightest when education and industry move forward together.

(ALL PHOTO CREDITS: MR DAVID YÁÑEZ BARROSO)

# CONTENT



## AN EVENING OF MUSICAL MASTERY: CLAUDIA YANG PIANO RECITAL

SUBMITTED BY: MS LEE ANGIE (SENIOR EXECUTIVE - ADMINISTRATION)  
EDITED BY: PEI YIN LIM



(PHOTO CREDITS: MS LEE ANGIE)

Sunway University hosted a memorable evening of classical music on 4 February, as distinguished pianist Claudia Yang performed a captivating solo recital at the Q-Lecture Theatre 360°, Sunway Square (Level 2). Presented under FASS, the programme featured works by Tchaikovsky, Chen Pei Xun, Schubert, and Gershwin, offering audiences a rich and varied musical experience.



The evening began with opening remarks by Prof. Mayco, Dean of FASS. The event was also graced by several VIP guests, including ambassadors and representatives from embassies such as China and Argentina, reflecting the recital's international appeal and significance.

PHOTO CREDITS:  
BMP STUDENT AVRIL NG

A special highlight of the night was the magnificent concert instrument on stage—a grand piano generously sponsored by Graceful Piano, whose support enriched the sonic depth and expressive quality of the performance.

The immersive 360° layout of the theatre allowed attendees to appreciate the performance from all angles, creating an intimate and engaging atmosphere as the recital unfolded.

This successful event was made possible thanks to the dedication of Mr Audry from the Engagement Unit and Mr Ferdinand from the Technical Unit, whose behind-the-scenes coordination and support ensured that the evening ran smoothly.

The Claudia Yang Piano Recital reaffirmed Sunway University's commitment to cultivating a vibrant, culturally enriched campus environment, bringing world-class performances to the Sunway Square community.

PHOTO CREDITS:  
BMP STUDENT AVRIL NG



**SIDE-  
B****A FEATURE FILM  
SCREENING AND  
Q&A SESSION**

*SUBMITTED BY: MR DAVID YÁÑEZ BARROSO (TEACHING FELLOW - DEPARTMENT OF FILM AND THEATRE, SCHOOL OF FILM AND PERFORMING ARTS)  
EDITED BY: ALEXANDRA SHA JEAN-MAE*

On 6 February, film-lovers, staff and students alike gathered around at 7 pm to attend a film screening and cultural evening at the newly built FASS Recital Hall at the Sunway Square campus, as organised by the Department of Film & Theatre (DFT) and the Spanish Embassy in Malaysia. The evening centred on Side-B, a feature film directed by Mr David Yáñez Barroso, Programme Leader for Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Digital Film Production (BDFPR), which invited audiences into a moving story of displacement, identity, and human connection.



LEFT: COCKTAIL PROVIDED BY THE SPANISH EMBASSY.  
MIDDLE & RIGHT: RECEPTION WITH THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR  
AND THE REPRESENTATIVE OF BRAZIL'S EMBASSY IN MALAYSIA.

Before the screening, a cocktail reception featuring Spanish cuisine was held in courtesy of the Spanish Embassy, which generously supported the premiere. Representatives from other Spanish-speaking and Latin American countries also attended, including Brazil, Venezuela, and Perú.



INTRODUCTORY SPEECHES FOR THE FULL HOUSE BY SPANISH AMBASSADOR JOSE LUIS PARDO CUERVO AND DPA LECTURER ANDY DARREL GOMES IN THE RECITAL HALL.



“Last February, I had the immense pleasure of bringing my first feature film, *Side-B*, to Sunway University for a very special screening. The event was doubly significant as it inaugurated the department’s brand-new FASS Recital Hall—a fantastic new space for the arts located in our new faculty building at Sunway Square.



Q&A SESSION HELD WITH THE DIRECTOR, MR DAVID YÁÑEZ BARROSO

The response was overwhelming. The hall was filled to the brim with students, staff, and members of the general public, and the energy was electric. The demand was so high that we had to scramble to find extra chairs to accommodate the steady flow of attendees eager to watch the film.”

*Side-B* follows Wang Li-Sheng, a young Chinese tourist who leaves everything behind to travel to Spain after meeting a Spanish girl online. When the relationship fails, he finds himself stranded—without money, without a passport, and without a partner—forced to confront life as an undocumented immigrant in a foreign country. His journey intertwines with that of Marisa, a warm-hearted dreamer who has made Spain her home, and Mioara, an immigrant from Bucharest searching for work and stability. Together, these three outsiders navigate the challenges of survival, adaptation, and belonging, ultimately becoming entangled in a complicated love triangle.

The film delves into the raw reality of life on the margins: the “Side-B” of society. It explores the unspoken struggles, the quiet resilience, and the unexpected connections that emerge when people are pushed to the edges. Shot in Zaragoza, a city Mr David Yáñez Barroso called home for several years, the story is deeply rooted in the textures and truths of everyday life, capturing the universal experience of searching for a place to belong.



FASS DEAN PROF. MAYCO SANTAELLA, BDFPR PL DAVID YÁÑEZ AND SPANISH AMBASSADOR JOSE LUIS PARDO CUERDO.

"It was a truly memorable night, turning the new hall into a vibrant cinema for a few hours. After the screening, we held a Q&A session where we discussed the film and the opportunities that the present moment offers for what I like to call "transnational cinema"—films that create a dialogue between cultures and languages, born from collaboration across different countries and traditions."

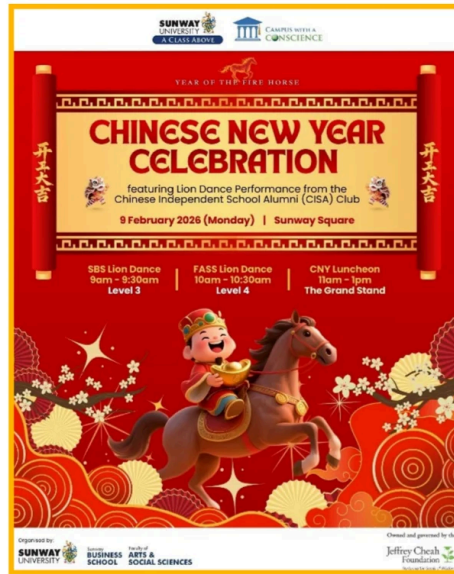
(ALL PHOTO CREDITS: MR DAVID YÁÑEZ BARROSO)

# FASS RINGS IN THE LUNAR NEW YEAR AT SUNWAY SQUARE

SUBMITTED BY: MS LEE ANGIE  
(SENIOR EXECUTIVE - ADMINISTRATION)  
EDITED BY: PEI YIN LIM

On 9 February, FASS ushered in the Year of the Fire Horse with a spirited Chinese New Year celebration at Sunway Square, held in collaboration with the Sunway Business School (SBS).

The festivities began with a dynamic lion dance performance by the Chinese Independent School Alumni (CISA) Club, first at SBS (Level 3) and later at FASS's brand-new administration office on Level 4—a meaningful blessing for the faculty's newly occupied space. The lively drumbeats, acrobatic stances, and vibrant lions drew a cheerful crowd of staff and students who joined in to welcome prosperity and good fortune for the year ahead.



(PHOTO CREDITS: SUNWAY BUSINESS SCHOOL)



(PHOTO CREDITS: CISA CLUB)

Following the performances, both faculties gathered at The Grand Stand for a warm and joyful CNY luncheon. Guests were treated not only to a festive meal but also to delightful performances by several of our own FASS students, who added a personal and creative touch to the celebration.

The event concluded with remarks from Prof. Mayco Santaella (Dean of FASS) and Prof. Lim Weng Marc (Dean of SBS), both expressing appreciation for the collaborative spirit and extending well-wishes for the year to come.

This celebration was made possible through the thoughtful coordination of Ms Angie (lion dance performance), Ms Logesh (luncheon arrangements in collaboration with Dr Stella Ong from SBS), as well as Mr Audry and Mr Ferdinand (music performances), whose combined efforts ensured a smooth and memorable event for everyone involved.

The celebration marked a wonderful beginning for FASS in its new Sunway Square home—filled with culture, community, and a renewed sense of togetherness.

# NUS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND SUNWAY UNIVERSITY STUDENTS PERFORMING BERNSTEIN, SAINT-SAËNS & BEETHOVEN

WRITTEN BY: ALEXANDRA SHA JEAN-MAE



PHOTO CREDITS:  
BACMAT STUDENT RUBY YONG RU XIN

Following a week of rehearsals and exchange in Malaysia, students from the National University of Singapore Symphony Orchestra (NUSSO), alongside nine students from Sunway University, performed their KL debut concert at Dewan Filharmonik PETRONAS, held from 8 pm to 10 pm on 28 February. Featuring works by Bernstein, Saint-Saëns and Beethoven, the collaboration brought together visiting musicians and Sunway performers in a concert that reflected both musical discipline and the friendships formed across the week.

Rehearsals ran from 25 to 27 February, in the FASS Arts Gallery, where students from NUSSO, Selangor Philharmonic Orchestra, Malaysian Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, as well as our own Sunway Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Music Performance (BMP) students and alumni, collaborated to rehearse Ludwig Van Beethoven's Symphony No. 5. These focused sessions called for quick adaptability and teamwork, while also giving Sunway students the valuable experience of working alongside visiting talents in a shared orchestral setting.

On the Saturday night of 28 February, the programme unfolded with Camille Saint-Saëns' Cello Concerto No. 1 in A minor, Op. 33, followed by Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Op. 67. Together, these two pieces allowed our Sunway students to engage with two major orchestral works in a professional setting that was both artistically demanding and deeply rewarding.



PHOTO CREDITS:  
BACMAT STUDENT RUBY YONG RU XIN

One of the Sunway BMP students who took part in the collaboration was Tee Yi Man, who performed in the final concert at Dewan Filharmonik PETRONAS. Reflecting on the experience, Yi Man shares how the rehearsals, performance process, collaborative learning, networking opportunities, and a glimpse into future career pathways have made a lasting impression on her understanding of professional musicianship.

“Through a collaboration between NUSSO and Sunway University, I was one of eight Sunway University BMP students who had the opportunity to perform with NUSSO for the final concert of their tour, which was held at Dewan Filharmonik Petronas. It was an enjoyable and also important experience for me, because learning to adapt to a different conductor and a different orchestra, especially within the short time frame of only three rehearsal days, is a crucial part of the skillset that performance musicians need. Playing under the baton of Professor Chan, I gained a different perspective on musicianship through his style of conducting and sharing of different musical ideas.

The most memorable part of the experience for me was the conductor Professor Chan’s decision not to conduct for the final encore piece: Dvorak’s Slavonic Dance No. 8, a fast-paced and exciting piece; he simply gave a starting beat and then walked off stage as the orchestra played. During rehearsals, Professor Chan explained that the spotlight should be on the orchestra itself and not on the conductor, and that he wanted the audience to experience and understand the competence of the orchestra by itself, thus his decision not to conduct for said piece.”

**SUBMITTED BY: BMP STUDENT TEE YI MAN**  
**EDITED BY: ALEXANDRA SHA JEAN-MAE**

“ FASS extends a warm congratulations to all the Malaysian and Singaporean student musicians for bringing this cross-border musical partnership to life with such discipline, generosity, and heart, and a special thanks to His Excellency Vanu Gopala Menon, Singapore’s High Commissioner to Malaysia, parents, Malaysian and Singaporean students alike, whose presence and support made the evening all the more meaningful!

# FASS STARS

## FROM COMMUNICATION STUDENT TO CAMPUS DIPLOMAT: **SHEREEN'S** JOURNEY TO BECOMING THE STUDENTS' VOICE

WRITTEN BY: PEI YIN LIM



Communication is often seen as a skill that begins from within — learning how to express our ideas, present our thoughts, and make our voices heard. But what happens when communication is no longer about speaking for yourself, but for an entire student body?



Meet **Sheeren Chang**, a young leader carving her path in BA (Hons) in Communication, and serving as Vice President of the Sunway University Student Council (SUSC) for the 2025-2026 term. In her role, she extends communication beyond the classroom, becoming a voice that bridges conversations between students and university management. Leadership, advocacy, and responsibility have become the core of her everyday campus routine alongside her academic journey.

In this month's FASS Stars feature, we get a glimpse into the resilient mind behind the bright voice echoing from FASS into the wider Sunway University community.

**1. How has your understanding of communication changed when representing the voices of many students?**

Communication, in my experience, is no longer about delivering messages with impressive vocabulary, but about how well the audience understands them. Representing the student body carries both responsibility and influence, as our words can shape outcomes. Through this, I've learned that evidence and statistics are crucial for effective communication, as they help university management understand the scale of students affected by a particular issue. This approach has also strengthened my confidence in classroom presentations, as I believe confidence does not come from perfect grades but from the depth of knowledge and research one holds.



**2. How do you stay connected with students and balance their concerns with university management?**

I start with what's closest to me — my own experiences and the people around me. Sometimes it begins with a friend's casual rant that draws my attention to specific issues, and I check whether others are facing similar concerns. At the same time, I recognise that situations are rarely one-sided. While students have their perspectives, university management also has valid reasons behind certain decisions. I make a conscious effort to understand both sides, as SUSC's role is to bridge this gap and find a fair middle ground. Beyond FASS, I also connect with students from other faculties. My council mates and I meet regularly to share and discuss concerns, which helps us gain diverse perspectives and better represent a wider range of student voices.

**3. What has been the most challenging part of speaking for the student body?**



One of the greatest challenges is building trust within the student community, so they feel comfortable engaging with the council and confident in our contributions. This is crucial, as representing student voices to university management requires meaningful, well-substantiated feedback.

We are grateful for students who actively share their insights, data, and experiences. Whether through consultations, town halls, or feedback forms, their participation strengthens our advocacy efforts. With this collective support, we can present concerns clearly and credibly, ensuring that student voices are effectively heard and represented to management.

**4. What motivated you to step up as Vice President in SUSC?**



Previously, I served as an Academic Affairs Executive during the 24/25 tenure, where I supported students' academic concerns by gathering feedback and working closely with the university management. This experience highlighted the importance of SUSC as a vital bridge between students and the institution, and showed me how even small actions can create a meaningful impact.

The student community has been my primary motivation for running for Vice President. I hope to continue working with the current tenure to strengthen the foundation for the upcoming term. I also hope to inspire a new team of students to step up and represent the student community, from bystanders to becoming an individual of action and purpose.

**6. What advice would you give to students who want to represent their peers in leadership roles?**

I believe it is important to first understand what stepping into a leadership role truly entails. It may seem glamorous, but responsibilities will reveal themselves over time and require consistent effort to adapt.

Before you commit to any role, ask yourself: "What impact do I want to make through this role?" and 'Why do I want to step into it?' If you can answer these questions, then what is stopping you from getting involved?

Through this reflection, you may realise that it is your passion that fuels your courage to step forward. While leadership can appear glamorous from the outside, it is the clarity in what you want to achieve and the purpose behind your actions that keeps you going. With that said, you can become a leader too.

Interested in leadership opportunities? Check out:

Sunway Student Leadership Bodies (SLB)

**5. What has been your most memorable experience in SUSC so far?**

I love seeing our team's passion as they discuss and refine even the smallest details, as well as their efforts to improve and support their initiatives. I also cherish the laughter, joy, and relief on their faces when an event comes to an end, which shows how much they genuinely care and value the outcome. Not forgetting our all-time favourite budget-friendly Rock Café and mamak sessions, where we always hang around after events. As our plates are cleared, a quiet sense of gratitude follows, along with a pat on the back in recognition of the hard work we've put in.



Sunway University Student Council (SUSC)

(ALL PHOTO CREDITS: BCO STUDENT SHEEREN CHANG)

# FOUR CORNERS OF A SQUARE

## INSIDE SUNWAY'S NEWEST CAMPUS!

WRITTEN BY: ALEXANDRA SHA JEAN-MAE, PEI YIN LIM

Since the new campus launch, it's been the talk of the faculty. For wandering students and curious newcomers, we recommend checking out these four trendy new spots, as there's more to discover beyond the classrooms at Sunway Square campus that you might already be familiar with!

P.S. Don't forget your cameras too — these spots aren't just fresh additions, they're also incredibly photogenic.

### 1. THE GRAND STAND & SPANISH STEPS, LEVEL 2



Looking for a spot to escape the dense campus crowd? Look no further than the Grand Stand and its iconic Spanish Steps — there's plenty of room for everyone. Whether you feel like walking, running, strolling, lounging, gathering with a large group of friends, or even taking a dance break, the space invites you to get creative with how you unwind.

Assignment deadlines creeping in instead? Fret not — nearby study areas are just within reach, with ample spaces to choose from, perfect for settling down for some last-minute work. Bathed in warm natural light from overhead skylights and framed by towering wooden pillars, the space comes alive with the ambient rhythm of footsteps and the soft chatter of passersby.

## 2. Q LECTURE THEATRE 360°, LEVEL 2



Much different from a standard lecture hall, the Q Lecture Theatre spans 360 degrees around a central circular stage, giving off a more immersive, intimate and almost theatrical atmosphere. With the speaker positioned at the centre, the space was thoughtfully designed to carry sound evenly in all directions, allowing every listener to feel equally engaged — even without a microphone! Combined with projection screens installed at four different corners, the carefully articulated design makes lectures, presentations, and speeches feel more dynamic and conversational.



## 3. THE SUNWAY LIBRARY BY BOOKXCCESS, LEVEL 2

The Sunway Library by BookXcess is an easy place to get lost in for hours, whether you settle into the rocking chairs along the edge of the bookstore, the mezzanine's balcony-side single desks, or the curved tables at the very centre.

The entire space revolves around coworking and sharing a study space for long hours with strangers around you, while also making it immensely comfortable to tune out background noise and focus on getting into the flow of your work. Every table is equipped with a comfortable variety of chairs, charging ports at almost every seat, and is never inaccessible to food, as the Kenny Hills Bakers, Good Mojo Smoothies, and the nearby Sunway Square Mall make quick snack, lunch, or dinner breaks easy before heading straight back to work under aesthetically dim lighting, suspended open books overhead, soft music and the low murmur of people all around.



## 4. RECITAL HALL, LEVEL 4



When the curtain calls, you know it's showtime. The tall, striking red curtains of the Recital Hall are the first to greet your eyes upon entry, their bold colour contrasting against the dark interior. This space is purpose-built for musical showcases and the performing arts, amplified by its dramatic and grand atmosphere. With a spacious backstage area, where the magic happens behind the scenes, each performance is elevated beyond what meets the eye within this state-of-the-art facility. Past events held in the Recital Hall include The World of Min Byung-Hun and Side-B film screenings, and with many more exciting showcases on the horizon — you won't want to miss the next show.

## 5. BONUS! — ROOFTOP GARDENS, LEVEL 6



Up on Level 6, there are two rooftop gardens: one on the West side of the building, next to the Exam Halls, and one on the South side of the building, past the glass prisms and classrooms. Best visited in the late afternoon, after the hot sun has softened, both gardens open into a breezy green space with enough silence that feels more 'hidden' from the rest of the campus, making it an easy place to sit and chat with friends, clear your head after classes, or simply to enjoy the view stretching out over the lake below.

Is that all the new building has to offer?

Hmm, not quite! Several new facilities and spaces are still in the works, tucked behind construction hoardings and other hidden corners waiting to be explored! Meanwhile, if you ever feel a little lost, the Sunway MyCampus app has the latest Sunway Square campus map to guide you through every nook and cranny. Let's keep our eyes open and our hopes high for even more exciting surprises as the campus continues to grow!

(ALL PHOTO CREDITS: BIA STUDENT ALEXANDRA SHA JEAN-MAE & BCO STUDENT PEI YIN LIM)

---

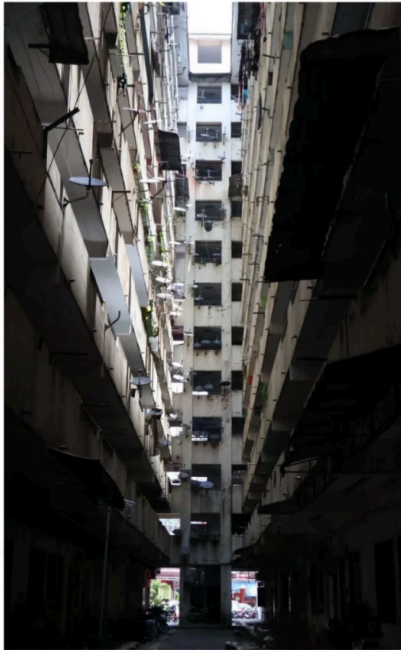


Before university, academic life felt like a hustle routine of classes, examinations and long hours spent burying my head in textbooks, trying to memorise every detail written on its pages. It was structured and predictable —until I entered my second year, when I was introduced to a Community Service course for the first time. I soon found myself organising a community project with a team of student volunteers like myself, carrying out an initiative that would engage directly with the Desa Mentari community. For someone who had never been involved in volunteering before, the experience felt unfamiliar at first, as what was once a distant concept became reality.

Looking back, I realised my lack of exposure was not unusual. According to an online survey conducted by the Institute for Youth Research Malaysia (IYRES) from March to April 2020, only 11% of youths between the ages of 15 and 19 were aware of and joined volunteering activities organised by the government, NGOs, and other individual organisations. Although the pandemic may have affected the results, the statistic still reflects a larger reality: many of us grow up with limited exposure to community service.

In a world where young adults like us have numerous expectations weighing on our shoulders, from maintaining academic performance to juggling part-time jobs, community service can easily feel like an extra burden. A common impression is that volunteering is something ordinary people are forced to do, while those with strong goodwill push themselves to do it out of obligation. For some privileged young adults, volunteering may seem like a waste of time and energy, while those who are less privileged may be occupied with sustaining daily responsibilities, leaving little room for unpaid service.

Despite these different circumstances, the outcome is often the same. Our generation has been taught that prioritising ourselves and our work is crucial to survive and succeed in the real world. Over time, this mindset has quietly nurtured a sense of individualism that distances us from the wider society around us. Whenever opportunities to serve the community arise, the question that often comes to our mind is simple: "Why should I contribute to society through community service? There is no purpose in doing it when there are no immediate rewards that benefit me personally."



It is undeniably true that community service rarely offers material rewards. However, what it provides instead can be far more meaningful. When we take part in initiatives that address various social challenges, we gain opportunities to give back to society, expand our social network, and develop a deeper awareness of the communities around us. At the same time, volunteering helps us build practical skills such as management, organisation, teamwork and communication, which aren't always fully developed within the classroom. While these benefits are certainly valuable, I believe the most meaningful reward we can receive from participating in community service ultimately comes from within ourselves.

Picture this: you are a rookie volunteer with no prior experience. Despite that, you started off by trying different forms of community service. Whether it is volunteering at a pet shelter or assisting at an elderly care home, you persist until you discover areas that align with both your interests and what you can offer. Gradually, you discover your passion for these services, and volunteering no longer feels like an act of charity towards those who are less fortunate, but rather a commitment you are motivated to work on.



Fast-forward through time, you start to see the impact of your contributions take shape within the community. What once seemed like small acts of service slowly grow into meaningful change, much like wildflowers blossoming across a deserted land. Having illuminated so many lives, you begin to feel a quiet sense of belonging and satisfaction. You may not always receive recognition, but knowing that your efforts have left a positive mark on the lives of others is what truly matters to you. In doing so, you not only fulfil the basic needs of a community, but also fulfil another important need within yourself—self-actualisation. This inner growth is perhaps the greatest reward you'll receive from participating in community service as an aspiring young adult.

Mahatma Gandhi once said, “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” This statement serves as a powerful reminder for students and young adults who are still figuring out their paths. Young adulthood is often filled with uncertainty. We explore different interests, question our ambitions, and slowly try to understand who we want to become. In the midst of this uncertainty, serving others can offer a surprising sense of clarity.

With this in mind, community service does not have to be strictly required, but it should certainly be encouraged and made more accessible to young people. Through these experiences, we gain the opportunity to grow into more compassionate individuals while contributing to a broader vision of improving the quality of life for others. Our contributions will not only strengthen the communities around us but also bring us closer to understanding ourselves and our purpose. Ultimately, the journey of serving others allows us to answer two important questions that define our formative years as young adults:

**Who do I want to become? And what kind of impact do I want to leave behind?**

(ALL PHOTO CREDITS: BCO STUDENT PEI YIN LIM AND JANICE SIM)



SUGGESTED BY:  
ALEXANDRA SHA JEAN-MAE

**Beans:** House blend of Indonesian, Colombian and Brazilian beans  
**Price:** RM 7.90 (incl. tax)  
**Location:** Beyond Coffee, Bandar Sunway



### PICCOLO LATTE

If you are a fan of dark roast beans, Beyond Coffee’s piccolo latte is a 6-oz cup of comforting but concentrated and intense brew with notes of chocolate and vanilla. It opens with a full-bodied profile, rounded by its low acidity and velvety texture, and ends leaving a lingering aftertaste of bitterness, likened to dark cocoa, that stays pleasantly on your tongue. This cafe in particular is one of the few on its block that open from 8 am, and additionally begins to serve hot foods from 10:30 am daily that pair nicely with their speciality coffee.



## PinkPantheress, Zara Larsson

Stateside + Zara Larsson



Do you have a song with a story? Share it with us — you might be featured in next month’s issue!

Get Featured!



Can you guess this month’s painting?



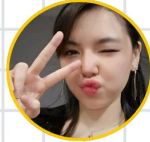
The Death of Socrates - Jacques-Louis David, 1787

# Thanks for Reading!



## About us

Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences Press (FASSP) is Sunway University's Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences 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.



ADVISOR/EDITOR

Lee Angie



WRITER

Alex



WRITER

Pei Yin



DESIGNER

Beatrice

Want monthly updates from us?

Subscribe!

### Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences Sunway University

5, Jalan Universiti,  
Bandar Sunway,  
47500 Petaling Jaya,  
Selangor, Malaysia



You received this email because you subscribed to our newsletter.

All Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences students receive this newsletter automatically, regardless of subscription status.

[Unsubscribe](#)

