

This is the second issue of the 2015/2016 edition covering news throughout the second semester of the 2015/2016 academic year. We hope you enjoy our FASS newsletter!

EVENTS

FASS Fun Run – Get Faster with FASS!



"Get Faster with FASS!" was the slogan for the Fun Run held by Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences on 20th April 2016. The event is an accomplishment for both FASS and Badan Pergerakan Mahasiswa/Mahasiswi (BPM) FASS as its success was based on the great collaboration between both parties. A great crowd was gathered in front of the Chancellor's Hall along with the support of the Vice Chancellor, Datin Dr Dayang Hjh Anita Binurul Zahrina binti Dato Seri Setia Hj Awang Abdul Aziz, the Senior Management Team, lecturers, administrative staff as well as FASS students. As the clock hit 4.30 pm, the event started off with a warm up session conducted by male BPM FASS members Ahmad Abd Rasyid Bin Hj Zasmi and Mohammad Fauzan Ikhwan Bin Mohd Som. This was followed by another warm-up session incorporating the theme 'Silat' performed by Haji Muhd Azli Azhar Bin Hj Md Samri, Ak Md Syafiq Bin Pg Shahrom, Md Khairul Izzuddin Bin Idris and Mohammad Nasrun Nizar Bin Saifulbahri.



The run was led by Professor Dr. Ayub followed by the Vice Chancellor and the participants which started from the entrance of the Chancellor's Hall crossing over Taman Rakis and continuing on to the Faculty of Science and then back again to the starting point.

UBD Spectacle 2016

The UBD Spectacle Art and Design Graduation Show 2016 was the 4th annual art exhibition held by the final year Art and Creative Technology students. This year 40 students participated in this event which was launched on 13th April 2016. The aim of this exhibition was to showcase the works of talented student-artists and expose contemporary art on a different level to the public. The Spectacle covers topic ranging from personal to broader issues. Each of them carries different meanings behind their artwork and it was interesting to see how each artist executed them.

Since its opening, the Spectacle team has been graced the presence of the Vice-Chancellor of UBD, Datin Dr. Hajah Anita Binurul Zahrina binti Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wajiya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abd Aziz, the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Global Affairs) Dr Joyce Teo Siew Yean, Mr. Ahmed Ali Sirohey of the High Commission for the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

On 26th April 2016, the Princess of Pahang, Malaysia, KDYTM Tengku Puan Pahang Darul Makmur Tunku Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah binti Almarhum Sultan Iskandar, the US ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, Mr. Craig Allen also visited the art gallery together with Public Affairs Officer of the US embassy, Dr. Edward Findlay. There was also a visit by the iCUBE on 14th May 2016. A month after its opening, the Spectacle reached up to more than 3000 visitors.

Through the Spectacle, it is hoped that the public can be reached by educating them and making them realise the impact art can have on people and the society. In sum, it is an enriching experience for the students who are a part of it.



KDYTM Tengku Puan Pahang Darul Makmur Tunku Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah binti Almarhum



The Vice-Chancellor of UBD viewing the art exhibitions



Mohammad Hazwan Hj Awg Madial's GT13 Composition - Interactive art installation.



Amalularifin Junih's Minaret of Identity - Art installation.



Safinaz Syazwani Hj Ja'afar's The Internal Healer - Islamic art installation.

STAFF NEWS

Shared Glory with Diversified Splendours: The Group Exhibition of ASEAN-China Academies of Fine Arts



TAFE Campus



*Dr Martie Geiger-Ho's
Postmodernism Big Bang style*



*Assoc. Prof. Dr Shui Kong Ho's
Luminosity of Eternal Peace*



The exhibits at Tianjin



*Dr Martie Geiger-Ho & Assoc.
Prof. Dr Shui Kung Ho*

From 25 May till 5 June 2016, Associate Prof. Kong Ho and Dr. Martie Geiger-Ho participated in the first invitational Group Exhibition of ASEAN-China Academies of Fine Arts held at the Museum of Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts in Tianjin, China. This exhibition not only showcased their recent paintings with the ASEAN art academies and Chinese visual art community but also helped other participating art faculties in ASEAN countries and art academies in China to appreciate the art development in Brunei Darussalam. There were 40 participating teaching artists from nine invited ASEAN countries, including Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam; and eight art academies in China, including China Central Academy of Fine Arts, Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts, Sichuan Fine Arts Institute, Xian Academy of Fine Arts, Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts, China Academy of Art, and Hubei Institute of Fine Arts, participating in this pilot group exhibition in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of ASEAN-China dialogue relations. The related academic visits to the art facilities and graduate and undergraduate exhibitions of Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts definitely helped to have a better understanding of the higher art education and contemporary art development in China. The educational exchange seminar also fosters the establishment of Alliance of ASEAN-China Academies of Fine Arts and future collaboration on ASEAN-China interscholastic exchange of teaching, research and studying visits on art with participating ASEAN universities and art academies. Moreover, the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding in relation to this Alliance ASEAN-China Academies of Fine Arts should benefit FASS and our Discovery Year students to enable research with and study at the Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts in the near future.

Field Research on North Borneo Material Culture in Sabah, Malaysia

From 21 to 27 of April, Dr Rui Oliveira Lopes, Assistant Professor at Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Universiti Brunei Darussalam, conducted field research in Sabah, Malaysia with the aim of collecting primary data on North Borneo material culture. This fieldwork research is in connection with the Research Grant approved by UBD for a project entitled "The value of cultural heritage and appropriate museology in the formation of cultural identity. Art, museums and (in)tangible heritage in Brunei Darussalam" (UBD/ORI/URC/RG(334)U01).

The aim of this project is to assess how the exhibition of material culture and other means of intangible heritage representation can contribute to the value of cultural heritage in Brunei Darussalam; to examine which are the appropriate museum practices for the preservation and promotion of Bruneian tangible and intangible cultural heritage; to conduct a survey and inventory on Bruneian traditional arts and to study their impact in contemporary society; to elaborate a comparative analyses on the approaches to museum development and curatorial practices in Brunei Darussalam, Sabah (Kota Kinabalu), Sarawak (Kuching), and Central Kalimantan (Palangka Raya); to conduct research on shared material culture in this areas; to plan an educational and itinerant exhibition with material culture, audio and visual recordings with the aim to promote Bruneian cultural heritage and draw public attention to the importance of preserving cultural traditions.

During the fieldwork in Sabah, Dr Rui Oliveira Lopes visited villages in Trusan, Lawas, Sipitang, Tuaran, Kota Belud, Kudat, Ranau, Tambunan, Keningau, Tenom, where he interviewed informants belonging to North Borneo indigenous groups, such as the Lun Bawang / Lundayeh / Murut, Kedazan-Dusun, Rungus. This fieldwork was a great opportunity to collect data on the material culture that still makes part of the heirloom of these groups and to study the means of object conservation and transmission of intangible knowledge. The collection of a significant amount of data, including the photographic inventory of many objects produced in or imported to Brunei, provides new insights about the cultural and artistic importance of the objects, the iconographic meaning of the designs. In addition, the information collected also gives a better knowledge to the impact of the international trade that connected China, Thailand and Vietnam with North Borneo, and a clearer understanding on the cultural identity of the Bumiputera in Brunei.

Dr Rui Oliveira Lopes also had a meeting with the Borneo Heritage Research Unit at the Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Heritage, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, where he presented a seminar entitled "Issues in Conservation and Curation of Borneo Material Culture and Intangible Heritage". In his presentation, Dr Lopes discussed about the role on museums in the display of culture and the conservation of tangible and intangible heritage, addressing to the need of pursuing new ways of museological discourse through the combination of technology and a contemporary perspective over the cultural identity of indigenous groups in Borneo.



Dr Rui Oliveira Lopes



FASS lecturer awarded scholarship & wins competition

Daniel Wee, a FASS lecturer in Philosophy, has recently returned from completing his Ph.D. at the University of Otago, New Zealand. His thesis involved an attempt to resolve a debate in the philosophy of language that has been underway since the 1950s. The question of the debate concerns whether the words of a language spoken by a lifelong solitary individual could ever be meaningful. In essence, the debate revolves around the problem of what is necessary for words to possess meaning, and whether interpersonal interaction or shared word use is one of those necessary conditions.

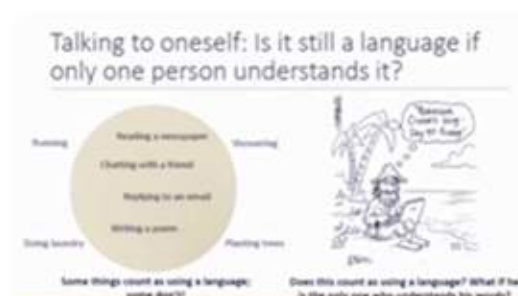
Daniel was a recipient of a number of awards during his time at Otago. He was awarded a University of Otago Doctoral scholarship to cover his tuition fees for his three year candidature, as well as a postgraduate publishing bursary after his thesis submission to support the writing of a journal article. Towards the end of his first year, he also participated and won the University of Otago three-minute thesis competition, which is a competition open to all masters and doctoral candidates of the University to explain their thesis in three minutes or less to a lay audience. As a result of winning this competition, Daniel later went on to represent the University of Otago at the Trans-Tasman three-minute competition at the University of Western Sydney.



Daniel Wee



Speaking at the thesis competition



One of Daniel's slides from his winning speech

STUDENT NEWS

Discovery Year experience: Universiti Pekalongan (UNIKAL)

Maydelyn Ling who is from the Socio-Anthropological programme spent her Discovery Year involved in a Community Outreach Programme at Universitas Pekalongan (Unikal) in Indonesia. According to Maydelyn, her experience at Unikal gave her a whole new perspective on life and helped her become more independent. Being surrounded with friendly people with so much positive energy helped her believe in herself to be able to do almost anything.



Breaking boundaries with students to speak more English

The programme provided at Unikal was full of diversity. There were four pillars in the programme which are education, economics, health and environment. The education pillar, for example, was not just a typical English class to teach just the basics of the language in one of the local secondary schools there. Instead, the goal was to break the boundaries of the students in order to make them more willing to speak and communicate in English. Since the majority of the pupils spoke in Javanese, English became a rare language to use for their everyday lives. This made the mission to teach English more challenging.



Helping out at the village clinic (under the Health pillar)

Maydelyn had to devise methods to make the students speak which included making them role-play as an interviewer who had to gather as much information in English as possible. Another method she used was to tell them stories and let them interact with her in English as far as possible. She describes the great relief she felt to see how the students had great initiatives and were willing to perform their best! Being able to reach out to the students was a rewarding experience. She explains how the experience allowed her to acquire management skills, it enabled her to convey simple but clear messages and it taught her self-control when dealing with impromptu situations.

Another programme was called Kuliah Kerja Nyata (KKN) done together with Unikal students. One main goal of the programme was to improve the lifestyle of the villagers in those four pillars. For instance, in the economic pillars Maydelyn and others gave a demonstration on making use of the environment to make profit for the village funds. Since the village was surrounded with banana trees, they made banana crackers and Piscok which is a fried banana with chocolate toppings. The equipment to make these were given free of charge to the villagers in the hope that they will continue the small business for their village. Maydelyn explains how this experience made her discover the value of being in a team and to contribute as much as she could because of the big difference it could make if she succeeded.

There were any other programmes that Maydelyn joined whilst doing her COP and she explains how she learned many valuable lessons during that time. She also believes these lessons cannot be acquired in other places. Therefore, she hopes that other UBD students will take up at least one Community Outreach Programme at Unikal.

Discover Year experience: Brunei History Centre

Students from the Faculty Arts and Social Science and Academy of Brunei Studies did an internship for three months at the Brunei History Centre as part of their Discovery Year. They were jointly supervised by FASS lecturer Associate Prof. Dr. Hj Asbol Hj Mail, Dr. Hj Tassim Hj Abu Bakar and officers from the Brunei History Centre.

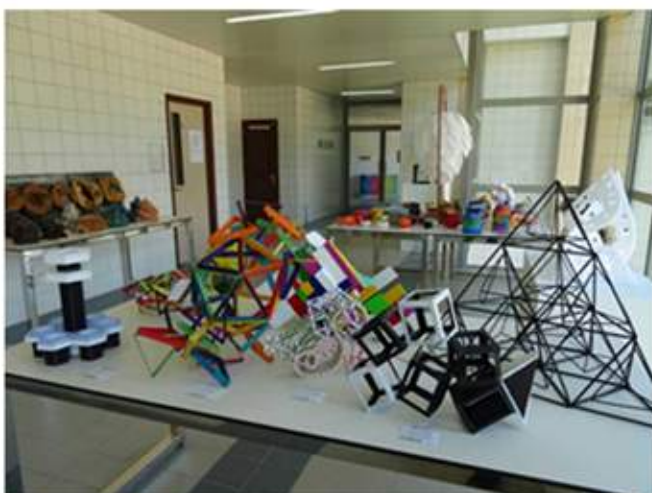


The students with their supervisors during the final report presentation in May 2016

The students gained useful knowledge and experience throughout their internship, especially related to research. Universiti Brunei Darussalam would like to take the opportunity to thank and appreciate Brunei History Centre for their utmost support for the success of the Internship.

Art and Creative Technology Undergraduate Art Exhibition: Ceramics and Sculpture

On March 28, the Art and Creative Technology 2nd Semester 2015-16 Undergraduate Art Exhibition: Ceramics and Sculpture held an exhibition at the newly opened FASS 1.89 Teaching Gallery.



The objective of the exhibition was two-fold: the first was to share the best student project artworks that were developed following project briefs in modules AR-2204 Sculpture and 3D Design, and AR-4305 Ceramics and Product Design; the second was to provide students with the opportunity to see what their work looks like in a gallery setting. Furthermore, all of the students in Dr. Geiger-Ho's two classes were required to participate in the setting up of the gallery so that they could acquire the important skills necessary for selecting artworks and arranging those works into an attractive exhibition.

Minggu Generasi Genius / Genius Generation Week



bpmFASS's Minggu Generasi Genius was held for about a week, from 21st to 26th March 2016. The event aimed to inspire people to let their "inner genius" shine through as well as to show that learning is not limited to academics only but persists in all aspects of life. The event focused mainly on activities and exhibitions by inviting organizations such as 1stopwildlifeBrunei, AIDS Council, and SCOT. Several UBD clubs were also invited for the "One Day, One Club" activity where they were given a booth to showcase their club for one day only. The clubs who participated were the Rugby club, Kendo club, Dance Culture Club, Korean Culture Club and the Varsity Orchestra Gulintangan club. Some of the main activities held throughout the event included a motivational talk, a sharing session, a blood donation drive, tutorials from selected vendors, a survival game called "Brain Quest: Get out, Genius!", and a talent show. Cikgu Ali Yusry, UBD Toastmasters and Yul Japar more popularly known as 'BabuSiNur' were invited as speakers for the motivational talk held at the Inspiring Hall in the Student Centre.

Meanwhile, the sharing session was chaired by Mia Suria, the founder of the Brunei Islamic Fashion (BIFASH) magazine, held in the hope of inspiring people to never give up on their dreams as they may achieve them one day. The tutorials comprised of a cooking tutorial by JeonBrothers who taught how to make the Korean Kimbap, a hijab tutorial lead by CoveredbyAnnisa and a calligraphy demonstration by Eli Kaligrafi and Zayn Calligraphy. The 'Brain Quest: Get out, Genius!' activity was a survival game which aimed to train people to do critical thinking under a limited amount of time was held at Multi-purpose Hall for three days only (23rd until 26th March 2016). Lastly, the talent show entitled "Malam Ini, Kita Punya" concluded all activities throughout the week which was held on a Saturday night in front of the Chancellor's Hall. The set list included both local and international students from UBD as well as local talents outside of UBD who showcased their skills of singing, dancing and beatboxing.



Environment and Geography Students in RS and GIS World



Dr. Shafi Noor Islam with some of his Geomatics students

On 19th and 20th April 2016, 46 Environmental Studies and Geography students successfully completed their group projects in GIS world which they prepared themselves in the GIS lab using the ArcGIS 10.3 software. The students were divided into 16 small groups and every group worked on a GIS project.



These students are now familiar with Remote Sensing (RS) and Geographical Information System (GIS) and their application in different Geographical and Environmental issues, functional activities. In addition, they are able to operate ArcGIS 10.3 efficiently and are able to prepare their own project map using ArcGIS 10.3 software and to simulate, model, monitor, manage, and plan activities.



The same students, led by Dr. Shafi Noor Islam, also made a field trip to Kota Batu in the Bandar area to investigate urban land cover and land-use changes using Remote Sensing (RS) imagery in field level.

Festival Sastera by Malay Literature Students

Festival Sastera the 6th was held from April 15 to 17 2016 at Balai Sarmayuda, Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka Berakas and was organized by the Malay Literature students of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Universiti Brunei Darussalam who take the course AS-2203 (Pengurusan Sastera) and AS-1304 (Sastera dan Media) under the guidance of FASS lecturer Awang Mohd. Zefri Ariff bin Mohd. Zain Ariff. This project was done in collaboration with the Brunei Youth Council (MBB) and Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka, Brunei. The festival was organized to raise awareness regarding the importance of arts. In addition, this project aimed to enhance student ability to be pro-active and competitive in this era of globalization for economic development in accordance with the theme for this year: 'Arts Innovating Economy' (Industri Sastera Menginovasi Ekonomi).



Panels of the Forum 'Industri Sastera'



Wedding of Wira and Melor



Another scene from Teater Sirih



A scene from Pak Saloi



Pak Saloi with the deer

The first day of the festival began with the opening of sales outlets in the afternoon session, followed a 360 seconds short film presentation in the evening session.

A total of 15 short films including Reminder, Obsessions, If Only, The Keep Sake, Horizon, The Hero, Deadly Beautiful, Buli, Distance, Never Forgotten, Old Drawing, Faith, Love, He For She and Emma were produced in a variety of genres and techniques. Each short film was restricted to a duration of six minutes (360 seconds) only.

The inauguration of the festival was held on the second day of the event with Yang Mulia Dayang Hajah Nortijah binti Haji Mohd. Hassan, the Acting Director of Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka as guest of honour. The inauguration was followed by a forum entitled 'Industrial Arts' (Industri Sastera). Members of the panel included Malay Literature lecturer, Awang Mohd. Zefri Ariff bin Mohd. Zain Ariff of FASS, Awangku Mohammad Noor Sham @ Awangku Hidie bin Pengiran Hidup from the Brunei Youth Council, Awang Haji Muhammad Nawaz bin Haji Awang Ali, a Pengurusan Sastera student and Hasnawe bin Awang Adi Nulazmi, a Sastera dan Media student.

Educational trips by Geography & Environmental Studies students

Three field trips were supervised by Dr. Shafi Noor Islam for Geography and Environmental Studies students at three different locations in Bandar Seri Begawan. The first field trip was organized for students from module AV-2201 Introduction to Quantitative Methods. Students collected different environmental and soil and land erosion related data. The soil erosion impact sites were observed at the hill site of IBM Centre.

The second field trip was arranged with the students of module AV-4308 Landuse and Development -- over 84 students participated in this field trip on 19th March 2016. The students observed the land use in the rural areas of Kampong Batang Perhentian and Wasan.



Dr. Shafi Noor Islam and his students collecting soil samples from rice field for their next research on soil quality, fertility and rice cultivation possibility in Brunei



The rice field at Kampong Batang Perhentian



Students investigating the rice harvesting process in a paddy field in Brunei

The final field trip was to Kota Batu and the bandar area on 26th March 2016 with the module AD-4308 Landuse and Development students and Module AV- 2308 Geomatics student. 120 participated and they visited the Malay Technology Museum to learn about the history of Brunei specifically in the development of residential houses and technology.



At the Batang and Wasan Agricultural crops cultivation and paddy cultivation project area



Group photo after investigating the urban landuse pattern and land agglomeration process.

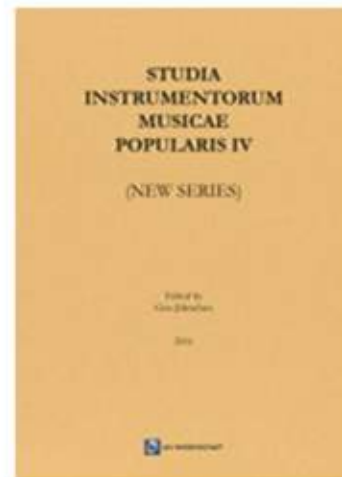
RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Kuda Kepang Performance in a Singapore Malay Wedding

Low Kok Wai of FASS has recently co-published an article entitled 'Kuda Kepang Performance in a Singapore Malay Wedding' in the fourth volume of *Studia Instrumentorum Musicae Popularis*. This journal offers papers on two main themes presented during the 20th symposium of the ICTM Study Group on Musical Instruments held in Luang Prabang, Laos, from 10-13 June, 2015. The first theme is "Dance Instruments – Song Instruments" and considers the complexity of many local music tradition, a big part of which include dance alternating with songs. The idea to deepen insights on instrumental functionality from the perspective of performative demands is, therefore, of utmost importance, especially in times of increasing substitution of live music through fixed and pre-produced media items. The second theme is dedicated to "Emotional Implications of Instrumental Sound". This topic includes cross-disciplinary studies that investigate instrumental sound with regards to music psychology, acoustics and social behaviour, dynamics of aesthetic norms within communities, ethnic labelling, gendering / age grouping of musical instruments according to sound qualities, or any associative structuring in the perception of instrumental sound.



Low Kok Wai



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Brunei - Malaysia Forum 2016

Universiti Brunei Darussalam will be hosting the Brunei-Malaysia Forum 2016 from 16 to 17 November 2016. This forum is the second international collaboration between the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences University of Malaya (UM) and Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD). The forum intends to provide the opportunity for academics and postgraduate students from both UM and UBD to present their research and scholarship with a view to fostering future collaborative research and joint publications in reputed international journals. The overall theme of the Brunei-Malaysia Forum 2016 is "Integrating Asia through knowledge exchange".

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www.ubd.edu.bn



office.fass@ubd.edu.bn



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[FASS_UBD](#)



+ (673) 2463001



+ (673) 2461528