



The Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences (FASS) embodies a vibrant academic community of expert staff members as well as bright and creative students. *Discover FASS* will provide you with a glimpse of what FASS is all about. We hope you enjoy our FASS newsletter!

Design & Creative Industries Students' Short Film *Image* wins Dracula Digital Competition 2020



The Dracula Digital 2020 Trophy

Two FASS DCI students Sahriz Azim Sahrin (17B8113) and Sahira Shahminan (17B8108) who teamed up with FOS student Philip Lim Shen Huei was awarded top prize in the 2020 Dracula Digital Competition, a smartphone short film competition open to young people aged between 16 and 29 worldwide during the Dracula Film Festival 2020 held between 14-18 October. The screening of the winning short film entitled *Image* (2020, 3 min.) was shown during the 5th Dracula International Film Festival award gala.

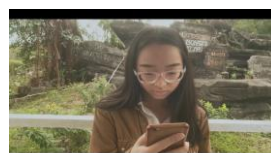
The keywords of the competition were "Thumb", "Oak" and "Iron". Participating filmmakers were required to use the three combinatorial words creatively to make a 3-minute short film in mystery, horror, or fantasy genre within three days using mobile phones, and then upload their films on YouTube for jury judgment. *Image* (2020) was selected as the winner by three professional filmmakers in Romania.

Another UBD team led by FASS DCI student Farhan Nizam (19B0002) was also among the finalists in the competition. This was the first time UBD students participated in a trendy film competition by using smartphones to create a visual storytelling.

You can watch the award-winning short film *Image* (2020) and other short films from the 2020 Dracula Digital Competition on the *Dracula Digital* official website: <http://draculadigital.ro>.



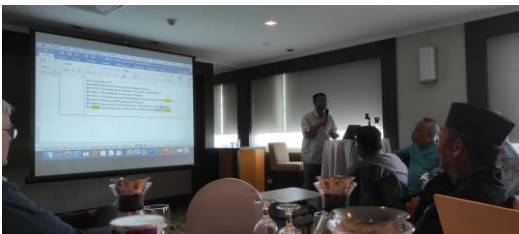
The FASS filmmakers while making 'Image'



Stills from the film 'Image' (2020)

FASS Academic Staff Holds FASS Retreat

FASS academic staff members held a faculty retreat on 3rd October 2020 at the Radisson Hotel in Bandar Seri Begawan. The retreat which ran from morning to afternoon provided a chance for academic staff members to discuss a revised structure for all the programmes in FASS namely Bahasa Melayu dan Linguistik, Design and Creative Industries, English Studies, History and International Studies, Kesusasteraan Melayu and Sociology & Anthropology. At the end of the retreat, academic staff from each programme came up with a revamped programme structure that aims to impart knowledge and hone skills that are highly marketable in a wide range of industries.



Farewell event in honour of Professor Deterding



Professor David Deterding

Professor Deterding's farewell event was attended by the Acting Dean of FASS Dr Debbie Ho, the Deputy Dean Dr Kathrina DP Hj Mohd Daud, Acting Deputy Dean Dr Siti Mazidah Hj Mohamad, colleagues from FASS and other faculties, former supervisees of the Professor's as well as other FASS students.

The event which was held in FASS and also broadcasted online via Zoom started off with the Acting Dean's farewell speech followed by a guest seminar by Ms Claire Goode of Otago Polytechnic, New Zealand via Zoom. Ms Goode's presentation was entitled "A review of the English language in Brunei: Use, policy, and status in education". The gathering ended with a discussion among the attendees about the status of English in Brunei and related issues and a closing remark by English Studies Programme Leader Dr Sharifah Nurulhuda Alkaff.

On 24th August 2020, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences held a farewell event for Professor David Deterding from the English Studies Programme, ending thirteen years of service with Universiti Brunei Darussalam. Professor Deterding came to UBD in 2007 to the then Department of English Language and Applied Linguistics. Since then, he has successfully supervised many MA and PhD postgraduates, some of whom have now joined UBD as academic staff members. He also introduced new modules at UBD including Forensic Linguistics as well as Advanced Phonetics and Phonology. He also served as Chief Editor for the FASS journal *South East Asia: A Multidisciplinary Journal (SEAMJ)* for a number of years.



David Deterding and former PhD supervisees



Group photo with FASS and other UBD colleagues during the farewell event

A farewell message from Professor David Deterding

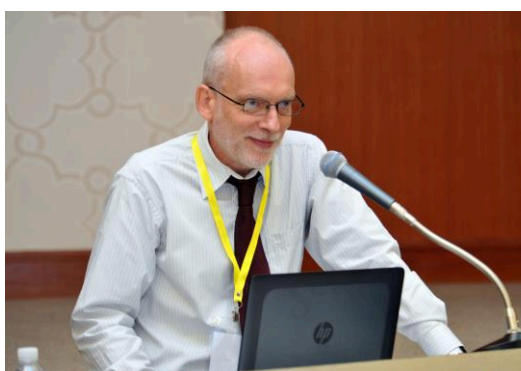
I joined UBD in 2007 and completed my service there in August 2020, and over that time I saw quite a few changes. First, we have seen the introduction of the GenNext degree. For people who were not at UBD at the time, it is maybe hard to appreciate how controversial the new degree structure was, and why many people were opposed to abandoning the existing multiple programmes. But it has proven successful, and it now seems entirely logical that all programmes should follow a common structure. One other clear improvement is the quality of the Internet connection at UBD: 13 years ago it was abysmal, but now it is (usually) quite reasonable. Another substantial change involves the mode of teaching: 13 years ago, we mostly used overhead projectors with transparencies, and now virtually everyone uses their own laptop computer with PowerPoint, greatly facilitating the presentation of a wider range of materials. Finally, when I originally came to UBD, most of my colleagues in the English Language programme were expatriates, while now they are mostly Bruneians. I see this as a positive step, though the loss of diversity in the teaching staff is one drawback.

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UBD of course faces many new challenges, not least involving the mode of teaching. The changes prompted by the Covid pandemic have seen greater adoption of on-line teaching, and maybe this is a positive step. The idea of dozens of students packed into a lecture hall listening to someone burbling on for two hours is surely outdated; and the greater availability of materials facilitated by Canvas is definitely a positive development, so maybe something good has come out of the pandemic. Still, many students will miss the experience of common classroom learning with their peers, and this shift in the university studying experience is something that UBD will have to resolve in the coming years.

The quality of the teaching and the quality of the research have continued to develop, and UBD is in a strong position to face the future. Of course, there are many challenges to be faced, but it will be interesting to see how the university deals with them and continues to evolve in the coming years.

~ David Deterding



David Deterding as keynote speaker at the English in Southeast Asia conference in 2015 hosted by FASS



With Forensic Linguistics students



Snapshot of final English Studies programme meeting with Prof Deterding via Zoom during COVID-19

Message of thanks by Acting Dean of FASS, Dr Debbie HO

Thank you all for attending this morning's farewell seminar held to honour Dr. David Deterding, Professor in the English Studies programme. I would like to convey a farewell message to Professor Deterding on behalf of our Dean, Dr Noor Azam, who's on a course currently and sends his apologies that he cannot attend this seminar. Professor Deterding joined the then English Language and Applied Linguistics department in 2007. In fact, he has been with us in FASS for some thirteen years and has contributed hugely to the changes in the university and faculty curriculum over that time. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight his contributions to the faculty:

(i) He lectures in modules such as Phonetics, Malay-English Translation, Forensic Linguistics and Research Methods and has supervised a considerable number of graduate students who have gone on to obtain their MAs and PhDs.

(ii) He has also taken on the task of vetting exam papers from the English Studies staff, which, I can assure you, is no easy undertaking.

(iii) Until recently, David was also the Chief Editor of our in-house journal SEAMJ which has seen the publication of a good number of articles and papers over the years.

(iv) He was also, up till recently, in charge of the FASS website and has done a remarkable job with it. Personally, I think it's one of the more impressive and user-friendly websites in the university.

(v) I don't think I need to mention his important contribution to mentoring young academics in the area of research and publications. He has shared generously his knowledge of publishing and research with all staff and has made a special effort to work with local young academics in joint publications of book chapters and journal papers.

I could go on and on about the many other contributions Professor Deterding has made as a valued academic staff member and colleague in FASS. I might also mention that he does it all voluntarily and quietly. Although he's not shy about airing his grievances, I have not heard a single complaint from him about his workload or tasks assigned to him. Thank you for your commitment to the English Studies and faculty over the years and we at FASS wish you all the very best in your future undertakings. Yes, we will certainly miss you, your professional work ethics, your abrupt manner and sometimes wry humour. But we will not say goodbye, as we will still have you as our Visiting Professor for the next couple of years or so. Thank you, David, Professor, valued colleague and good friend.

COVID-19 and Higher Education Experiences in Brunei Darussalam

On 11th August 2020, Dr. Najib Noorashid, a recent PhD graduate in Applied Linguistics from FASS and a core member of the International and Comparative Education Research Group (ICE) presented his research project entitled "COVID-19 and Responses from University Teachers and Students in Brunei: An Initial Overview and Implications for Research and Pedagogy" at the first weekly seminar for UBD Academic Semester I (2020/2021).

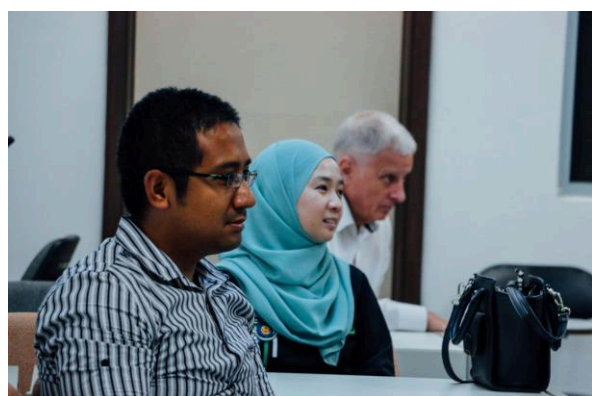
At the start of the seminar, Dr. Najib revealed the scarcity of scholarly works contextualising responses from higher education (HE) towards COVID-19 in Brunei Darussalam, even though similar studies have been undertaken at large globally. Thus, under the supervision of Senior Professor Phan Le-Ha (SHBIE, ICE) and Dr. Yabit Alas (Language Centre, ICE), his work-in-progress project attempts to investigate the impacts of COVID-19 on educators' and students' beliefs, experiences and coping strategies in UBD, including pedagogical and research challenges experienced by local and international students, and the academic community.



Dr Najib Noorashid



Dr Yabit Alas and other attendees



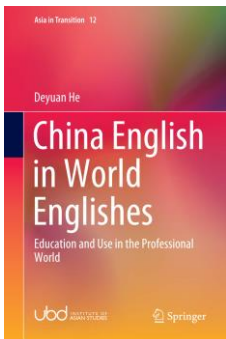
FASS academic staff at the seminar

His initial analysis found that there are pedagogical challenges in the immediate transition of face-to-face learning to online distance learning and some indications of psychological and sociological effects to the stakeholders. Dr. Najib also proposed the significance to endorse the educational affairs and situational management in Brunei Darussalam as the Sultanate has been receiving adulation by international communities for successfully 'flattening the curve'. The project aims to contribute towards creating a guideline for managing the current educational situation and becoming a future reference for relevant educational stakeholders in dealing with potential adversity.

Recent Publication: China English in World Englishes



Dr Paul Deyuan He, Senior Assistance Professor at FASS, has recently published the first English-language book on China English and its professional use, his latest SCOPUS-indexed monograph entitled *China English in world Englishes: Education and use in the profession world* in Volume 12 of “*Asia in Transition*” Springer book series. This book fills the gap in world Englishes studies in terms of the pedagogic implication of China English and its use in China’s workplace. With three triangulated research methods (namely, questionnaire survey, matched-guise technique, and focused interview), the book adopts an innovative research methodology that combines quantitative and qualitative data from 3,493 participants. Taken together, the participants still believe that the standardized Englishes are desirable model of English in China and that China English should be well codified and promoted before being adopted as the pedagogic model. In addition, the book proposes that the curriculum design of university English should include an introduction to the well-defined characteristics of China English and world Englishes. Last but not least, the book discovers that English has been used more widely and frequently in the professional world than before and has become increasingly important in China.



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