



UBD Spectrum 2022: INFINITE by Design & Creative Industries students



The Vice-Chancellor of UBD at the opening ceremony



Student's illustration of Brunei and its 7 Puaks

UBD Spectrum 2022: INFINITE is organised by fifty-three final year students from the Design and Creative Industries (DCI) programme as their graduation exhibition. The exhibition is categorised into eight different creative clusters – *Product Design, Digital Arts & Design, Media Production, Fine Arts, Installation, Publication, Conceptual Architectural & Interior Design*, and *Fashion & Textiles*. After months of rigorous planning, the exhibition finally opened its doors to the public on 23rd May 2022.

The motto of this year's UBD Spectrum, '*Exploring The Unbounded Depth of Creativity*', encapsulates the diverse creative works and activities the students have participated in, leading up to the exhibition day. They continued the digital zine legacy of their predecessor by publishing two volumes of *The Creative Issue*, which feature mini-games, interviews, starter-pack articles, recommendations, and other creative industry-related reports and write-ups. In the coming weeks, two more volumes of *The Creative Issue* will be published.

The students also introduced four signature mascots

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named Cyan, Amber, Ruby, and Ashen, each having its own distinctive traits and personalities. These iconic mascots were born out of a necessity to communicate and engage with the audience creatively and playfully whilst acting as a marketing technique. As such, these mascots have made consistent appearances on Spectrum's social media platforms and official merchandise collection, consisting of tote bags, pens, pencils, limited edition INFINITE Eid Envelopes and INFINITE Stickers.



A DCI student showcasing his work



More creative work on display

The UBD Spectrum 2022: INFINITE Exhibition will be held until 23rd June 2022, on Mondays to Thursdays and Saturdays with operating hours starting from 9:00AM to 12:00PM and 2:00PM to 4:00PM. Entry to the exhibition is free of charge and is open to the general public. Throughout the one-month long exhibition, each creative cluster will hold *Gallery Talks*, where students discuss the creative journey of their respective projects, following the research, ideation, and development that went into its final conceptualisation and production.

UBD Spectrum 2022: INFINITE wishes to express its sincere gratitude to Datastream Digital Sdn Bhd (DST) for their generous sponsorship and support, fundamentally encouraging the growth of our creative industry. This opportunity for students to develop their potential will undoubtedly contribute to the goal of Brunei's *Wawasan 2035* in producing educated, highly-skilled and accomplished Bruneians.

The event is held in compliance with the Ministry of Health's current guidelines and standard operating procedures (SOP) for COVID-19. For more information and updates regarding the Spectrum 2022: INFINITE exhibition, follow @ubdspectrum on both Instagram and Twitter.



The DCI students behind UBD Spectrum 2022 and their lecturers

Discussing Brunei's Translation Climate at *Kongres Antarabangsa Bahasa Melayu*

In conjunction with the national *Bulan Bahasa 2021*, Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka (the Malay Language and Literature Bureau) organized *Siri Kongres Antarabangsa Bahasa, Sastera dan Budaya Melayu* (The International Congress of Malay Language, Literature and Culture Series). The congress was streamed weekly via Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka's Facebook page and Zoom every Monday and Wednesday, at 10.00 am, from March 14 to June 22 2022. Speaking at the seventh session was Dr Siti Badriyah Hj Mohd Yusof on her working paper *Gerakan Terjemahan Abbasiyah dan Kebolehsesuaiannya terhadap Iklim Terjemahan di Negara Brunei Darussalam: Satu Catatan Reflektif* (The Abbasids Translation Movement and its Adaptability to Brunei Darussalam's Translation Climate: A Reflection).



Dr Siti Badriyah Hj Mohd Yusof (R)



Attendees at the 7th congress session

Her paper outlines the potential for translation as an industry in Brunei, highlighting the current translation climate in the government ministries and centres, particularly the Language and Literature Bureau, education institutions, as well as in non-government sectors. Within the framework of Islamic Governance, Dr Badriyah recontextualized the merits of the Abbasids Translation Movement into the current translation scenario and discussed the prospects of implementing this success at all governing levels involving human capacity, knowledge, and infrastructure including technology.

Journey as a Folklorist: On Dr Maslin's "Folklore & I"

In an event organized by Mahakarya Institute of the Arts Asia, Dr Maslin Hj Jukin/Jukim was invited to share his insights as a folklorist in a sharing session titled 'Folklore and I'. In this session, he reminisced his journey from listening to tales from the elderlies thereby developing a growing passion to preserve and promote this heritage by creating public awareness and through teaching and publication. This event took place on May 11th 2022.



Dr Maslin Hj Jukin/Jukim

FASS lecturer awarded the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action's Postdoc Fellowship



Dr Rinni Marliyah Hj
Amran

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Postdoctoral Fellowship is the European Union's flagship funding programme for postdoctoral training of researchers. This year, a total of €242 million was awarded to 1,156 researchers holding a PhD to work on projects addressing a wide range of global challenges such as climate change, health, migration, the fight against cancer, smart cities, soil and healthy oceans. The European Research Executive Agency (REA) received 8,356 applications for this year's call.

FASS lecturer Dr Rinni Marliyah Hj Amran was one of those selected for the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship under which she will be carrying out a 24-month research project titled 'Petro-Ambiguity: Oil, Environment and National Identity in the Bruneian Imaginary' at the University of Oslo as host institution. In brief, Dr Rinni's research looks at the diverse perceptions of oil through literary and cultural representations in Brunei, how oil shapes notions of the environment and national identity and vice versa within the context of increasing anthropogenic climate change awareness. She is supervised by Professor Sissel Furuseth who leads the Critical Petroaesthetics research group, to which Dr Rinni is affiliated as guest researcher. Dr Rinni welcomes any enquiry via e-mail at rinni.amran@ubd.edu.bn.

PhD student from FASS awarded Asian Graduate Student Fellowship 2022



Zayani binti Zainal Abidin

Zayani Zainal Abidin is awardee of the Asian Graduate Student Fellowship 2022 (AGSF) at the Asia Research Institute (ARI), National University of Singapore (NUS). The fellowship will run for six weeks virtually, from 13 June – 22 July 2022, where Zayani will be carrying out her project titled 'It's Mean' and 'That's Mean': What Do They Mean? She will also present her research paper at the Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies on 18 – 22 July 2022.

Zayani is a current PhD student in Applied Linguistics at FASS, UBD. Her PhD research on linguistic creativity and hybridity in Brunei English. Together with Dr Salbrina Hj Sharbawi, Zayani co-authored *Language and the Malay Muslim Identity: An insight into Brunei* (2021) and *Language and the Malay Muslim Identity: The Investigation Continues* (2021) in the Thought Paper Series of the Journal of Islamic Governance of UBD. Zayani's passion for research covers corpus linguistics and sociolinguistics. Zayani has also worked as a teaching assistant for the undergraduate module AN-4318: *World Englishes* at FASS.

FASS student wins UBD Silver Medal Award

Ak Ahmad Zawawi bin Pg Hj Asmali who graduated from FASS in 2021 was recipient of Universiti Brunei Darussalam's Silver Medal Award. This was in recognition of his outstanding results and for obtaining first class in Bachelor of Arts in History and International Studies.

Ak Ahmad Zawawi joined the History and International Studies programme in 2016 and admitted that he did not know what he was getting himself into at first. After graduating, he could say with confidence that UBD has benefited him in ways that he could never have imagined. According to Ak Ahmad Zawawi, "Apart from helping me to improve academically, UBD has also aided me in my personal growth. Working with fellow UBD students in a myriad of different projects has taught me, among others, the value of leadership and coordination".



Ak Ahmad Zawawi bin Pg Hj Asmali

He further reminisced, "Discovery Year for me was exceptionally memorable as I was given the chance to study abroad in the UK for a semester at Bangor University. There, I took the opportunity to participate in cultural and community bridging events. From this experience, I learned to be more cosmopolitan and avoided an insular outlook. Equally as memorable was my internship spent at the Brunei History Centre. I felt that I was reacquainting myself with my Bruneian roots when I was working there".

Ak Ahmad Zawawi also describes how he is eternally grateful to the lecturers of UBD for their guidance in his four and a half year journey. He would like to thank his family for always being there for him during his highest of highs and lowest of lows. Finally, he also adds, "I reserve my last thanks to those who I interned with at the History Centre. I shall forever treasure your friendship."

FASS lecturer presents at Northeast Modern Language Association Convention



Dr Sarah Ghazali

FASS Lecturer in English Studies Dr Sarah Ghazali recently presented at the Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA) Convention in Baltimore, Maryland. The convention was held from 10th to 13th March 2022, with Johns Hopkins University as its local host institution. The opening address was given by award-winning author Valeria Luiselli, and the keynote speech was delivered by Professor Judith Butler, Maxine Elliot Professor in the Department of Comparative Literature and the Program of Critical Theory at the University of California, Berkeley. The in-person convention hosted more than 1500 scholars in the humanities from around the world. *(cont'd next page)*

Dr Sarah presented a paper titled "Decolonizing Dark Academia: Lessons from Decentering the Campus Novel," where her paper looked at the emerging aesthetic concept of dark academia and its relationship with the campus novel genre.



One of the panel sessions attended by Dr Sarah at the convention

The panel was a highly attended session and led to interesting discussions on the influence of popular culture in promoting the humanities today, in the face of its growing demise against contemporary preference for STEM subjects. This paper has also been accepted for publication in an edited collection focusing on the dark academia concept (forthcoming 2023). In addition to paper presentations, the four-day convention also hosted workshops, roundtables, panel sessions, as well as mentorship sessions and special author events. Dr Sarah benefited greatly from the many mentorship workshops that were conducted to support early-career female academics. She also gained inspiration from

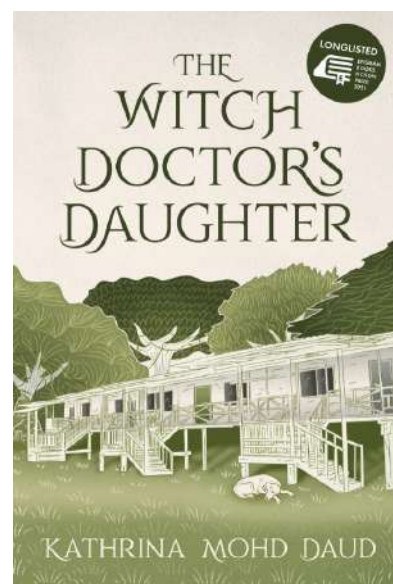
attending specialised pedagogy workshops, particularly in considering the concept of care in the classroom, as well as procedures on organising university-wide initiatives integrating reading and literature. Dr Sarah would like to express her gratitude to the University Conference Leave and Conference Grant and FASS UBD for supporting her participation at the convention.

Recent FASS publication: *The Witch Doctor's Daughter*

Dr Kathrina Mohd Daud's second novel, *The Witch Doctor's Daughter*, has just been published by Epigram Books in Singapore (May 2022). The book was longlisted for the Epigram Books Fiction Prize in 2021, and is a coming of age story about Safiyya, a young woman from Kampong Ayer whose mother sees jinn, and whose father pretends to. The book is available primarily through the Epigram Books website: <https://epigrambookshop.sg/products/the-witch-doctors-daughter>. It should also be available locally by June, and as an e-book later in the year.

Early reviews have called it "deeply moving" (Ng Yi-Sheng, multi award winning author of *Lion City*), and "a beautiful, exuberant coming-of-age tale" (Sunisa Manning, author of *A Good True Thai*).

Dr Kathrina's first novel, *The Fisherman King*, was also published by Epigram Books in 2020, and was a finalist for the Epigram Books Fiction Prize.



Dr Kathrina's second novel published by Epigram Books

Brunei English: A Badge of the Modern Brunei Identity

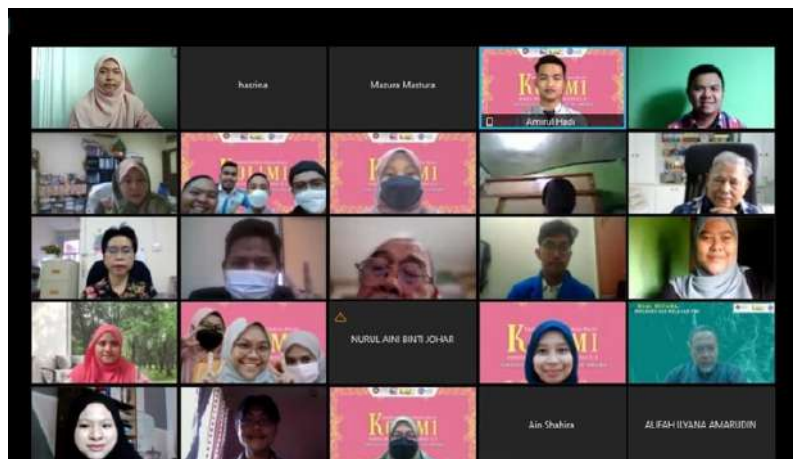


Dr Salbrina Sharbawi

In Dr Salbrina Sharbawi's recent talk on *Brunei English: A Badge of the Modern Bruneian Identity*, she explains how English in Brunei amongst young Bruneians is not simply a case of American English shaping its phonology, as previous studies have suggested. Rather, a dynamic linguistic change is at play involving a number of linguistics processes, consequently resulting in a South-east Asian English variety with uniform idiosyncrasies. Her research explores the developmental path of English in Brunei, from a language of the colonies to one that is now regarded a badge of the modern Bruneian identity.

Final-year students present at Kolokium Lima Minit Bahasa Melayu 2.0

Six Malay Language and Linguistics students presented in the *Kolokium Lima Minit Bahasa Melayu Antarabangsa 2.0 (KOLIMI 2.0)*, an international online seminar organized by Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris, Tanjung Malim, Perak, Malaysia (UPSI). Held on January 19th 2022, this online event was attended by final year Malay linguistics students from Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris, Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara, and Universiti Brunei Darussalam. Each student presented their final year project in a five minute video format to be given



Students at KOLIMI 2.0 held virtually

feedback by a group of selected assessors from UPSI. Among the titles presented were *Inovasi Leksikal dalam Bahasa Iban di Negara Brunei Darussalam* by Zulfadzlee Zulkiflee, *Analisis Semiotik dalam Video Promo The Origins of Coco & Oyen* by Mohd Adi Fu'ad Mohd Ramlee, and *Penglibatan Politik Rakyat Brunei dalam Teks Laporan Tujuh Serangkai* by Seri Wafiqah Asnola.

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