



ENCORE: THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES NEWSLETTER



ENCORE · Vol. 2 | Issue 2 A New Month of Shared Momentum

As we proceed into the new year, this edition continues to showcase the vibrant energy and collaborative spirit that define our community. We are delighted to introduce new colleagues bringing fresh expertise in digital cultures and performing arts, while extending our deepest gratitude to departing members for their invaluable contributions.

This issue also shines a light on outstanding student accomplishments, from prestigious academic prizes to thought-provoking essay competitions. We also highlight meaningful external partnerships and research initiatives that extend our impact beyond campus, alongside enriching global exchanges and industry insights that shape the student experience.

Each story underscores our shared commitment to excellence, innovation, and inclusivity. Thank you for being part of this journey. We hope these pages inspire you as much as they have inspired us in curating them. As usual, regular readers can expect to find a link to the Common Room - in what is likely our zaniest issue yet - where the word "experience" is at the final page.

Have a great month everyone!

Dr Fuad Rahmat

Associate Dean
Admissions, Recruitment and Marketing
Faculty Global Engagement Lead
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
University of Nottingham Malaysia

Featured in this issue:

FASS Spotlight:
Welcoming New
Colleagues and
Thanking Those
Moving On

Student
Achievements |
External
Engagement

External
Engagement
and Research &
Knowledge
Exchange

Student
Experience |
Global
Engagement

Student
Experience |
Teaching and
Learning

FASS Spotlight: Welcoming New Colleagues and Thanking Those Moving On

We are pleased to welcome **Associate Professor Dr Suruchi Mazumdar** to the **School of Humanities**. Her teaching and research focus on media-politics, social movements, digital activisms, and everyday digital cultures, with particular attention to how marginalised communities across South and Southeast Asia contest citizenship and nationalism through digital platforms.

We also warmly welcome **Ms Melizarani T. Selva** as the new **Head of the Performing Arts** pathway. A prize-winning playwright and performance poet, her work explores migranthood, minority identity politics, and digital extremism in Southeast Asia. She brings a strong creative and scholarly vision to the pathway as it enters its next chapter.

In addition, we welcome **Mr Zainal Abidin Zainun** to his role as **Interim Faculty Manager**, to our **Faculty Office** effective 15 January 2026. We look forward to working closely with him as he supports the Faculty's teaching, learning, research, external engagement and operational priorities during this period.

At the same time, we extend our sincere thanks to **Dr Nur Sheena Baharudin** and **Dr Sergio Camacho** for their dedicated service to the School of Humanities. **Dr Nur Sheena** joined the School in 2019, contributing significantly to literary studies and performance scholarship.

Dr Sergio Camacho has been with the University since 2013. During his tenure, he led the University's strategy for music and performing arts, developed and upgraded performance facilities, established the University of Nottingham's Malaysia–China–UK intercampus arts collaborations and designed and accredited the BA in International Communications Studies with Performing Arts. Thank you, Sergio for the amazing work throughout the years. We are much richer today for it. We wish you all the best!



Dr Suruchi
Mazumdar



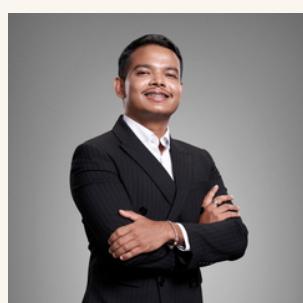
Ms Melizarani
T. Selva



Dr Nur Sheena
Baharudin



Dr Sergio
Camacho



Mr Zainal Abidin Zainun



Student Achievements | External Engagement

Celebrating Excellence: CPA Book Prize Awards

We were pleased to recognise our outstanding students at the CPA Book Prize ceremony, presented by Ms Charlotte Lim, Business Development Manager, CPA Australia Malaysia.

This year's recipients are:

- **Ms Souvmeya Saravana** — Accounting Information Systems (AIS)
- **Mr Wyatt Wong Le Wei** — Intermediate Corporate Reporting (ICR) and Management Accounting (MA)
- **Ms Sylvia Gan Siaw Wei** — Taxation 1

Each recipient also shared a study tip for the NUBS community, featured in the accompanying visuals. Congratulations to all awardees on this well-deserved achievement, your commitment to excellence reflects the values of our School and serves as an encouragement to your peers.



Student Achievements | External Engagement

Celebrating Young Voices: 2025 UNAM–UNM Tengku Rithauddeen Essay Competition

We were proud to celebrate the winners of the 2025 *UNAM–UNM Tengku Rithauddeen Award Essay Competition*, co organised by the **United Nations Association Malaysia (UNAM)** and the **School of Politics, International Relations & Economics (SPIRE)** at the

Centered on the theme “*Meaningful Education for a Nation’s Progress, Innovation and Inclusiveness*,” the competition showcased thoughtful and forward looking perspectives on the role of education in shaping inclusive societies. The prize-giving ceremony was attended by **Provost and CEO Professor David FitzPatrick**, alongside distinguished leaders from **UNAM** and featured a special presentation by Tia Leonorra Puyang Anak Romi Chai, who shared her First Prize winning essay with the audience.

Prize Winners list below

- First Prize: Tia Leonorra Puyang Anak Romi Chai
- Second Prize: Amber Lee Jun Lynn
- Third Prize: Siaw Hui Jin

Commendation Awards:

Ayuni Hazirah Daniel Liting · Nur Alya Maisarah Mohd Azizan · Clarisse Ching Xuen Yen · Jasmine Tan Sze Min · Qarmila Qiasatina Mohamed Nasir · Yap Yen Jun · Rania Zabedee

Congratulations to all winners and participants for their insightful contributions and sincere thanks to our partners for supporting initiatives that foster dialogue on education, innovation, and inclusivity.

External Engagement and Research & Knowledge Exchange

Strengthening collaboration links: UNM Engages with the Spanish Embassy

On 19 December 2025, **Ms Hazel Ng**, our Spanish language convenor, met with His Excellency José Luis Pardo Cuerdo, Ambassador of Spain to Malaysia, to discuss the Spanish language programme at the University and explore potential avenues for Embassy support.

Also present was Mr Pablo Llamas, Coordinator of Aula Cervantes in Kuala Lumpur. The discussion reflects UNM's ongoing commitment to strengthening international partnerships that enhance language learning and cultural exchange.



Securing Support for Community-Led Conservation and Cultural Revitalisation

We are pleased to congratulate **Dr Karma Tashi Choedron (Savinder Kaur Gill)** (Project PI) and **Dr Nur Rafeeda Daut** from the **School of Politics, International Relations & Economics (SPIRE)**, together with **Professor Tapan Kumar Nath from the School of Biological and Environmental Science**, on securing a RM50,000 grant under The Habitat Foundation (THF) Sustainability Pillar (2026–2027).

Their project, Restoring Roots: Community-Led Ecotourism and Cultural Revitalisation in Kampung Simpai, Southeast Pahang Peat Swamp Forest, focuses on strengthening indigenous knowledge, supporting sustainable livelihoods, and advancing community-driven conservation in a vital peat swamp ecosystem. The grant will enable meaningful collaboration with local communities, fostering cultural resilience while safeguarding ecologically significant landscapes.

Restoring Roots: Community-Led Ecotourism and Cultural Revitalisation in Kampung Simpai, Southeast Pahang Peat Swamp Forest

For the **Jakun** of **Kampung Simpai**, ecotourism becomes a tool for healing landscapes, livelihoods, and living heritage. Through **community-led design** and **participatory research**, the project **co-creates Jakun-centred experiences, revitalises Indigenous knowledge, trains local guides, and restores peat swamp habitats**, strengthening sustainable livelihoods while elevating the community's role in conservation and national dialogue.

Location Kampung Simpai, Mukim Bebar, Pekan, Pahang

Student Experience | Global Engagement

Welcoming Shanghai Jiao Tong University Students to UNM

We were delighted to welcome 24 students from Shanghai Jiao Tong University's 2+2 programme to the University of Nottingham Malaysia in 17–18 November 2025.

Colleagues from **Nottingham University Business School Malaysia** — **Dr Myint Moe Chit**, **Mr Ganesh Kumar Nadarajah Pillay**, **Ms Wen Li Chan**, and **Dr Shu Han Tan** conducted interactive workshops in marketing, management, and business analytics. The sessions offered students a first-hand experience of learning at the University and were met with thoughtful questions and encouraging feedback from the visiting cohort.

The visit concluded with a certificate presentation by the Dean of Nottingham University Business School, **Dr Frédérique Bouilhères**, marking a meaningful close to the two-day programme. We thank the students for spending this time with us and hope the visit sparked new ideas, ambitions, and possibilities for the journeys ahead.

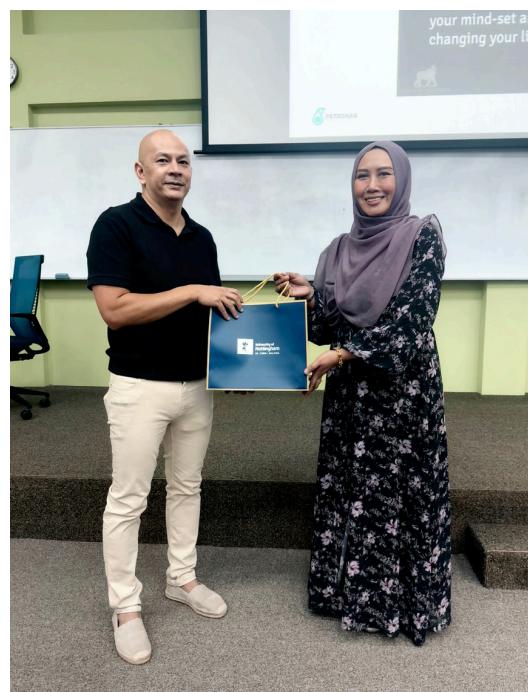


Student Experience | Teaching and Learning

Engineering the Mind for Success: Industry Insights for Foundation Year Students

Foundation Year students in the Critical Thinking and Study Skills (CTSS) module gained valuable industry perspectives during a guest lecture by **Dr Khalik M Sabil**, Senior Manager at Petronas Research Sdn Bhd, held in January this year. Titled Engineering Your Mind for Success, the session explored how mindset, discipline, and strategic thinking underpin both academic achievement and professional growth.

Students responded enthusiastically, noting the lecture's practical relevance and strong links to real-world challenges beyond the classroom. The session enriched the CTSS module by reinforcing the importance of transferable skills in shaping future academic pathways and career readiness.



FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES NEWSLETTER TEAM	<u>NOTTINGHAM.EDU.MY/SOCIAL-SCIENCES</u>
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