



## ENCORE · Vol. 2 | Issue 1 2026 Begins Here

Welcome to the first issue of ENCORE for 2026. This issue marks a fresh beginning for the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. You will see momentum. You will see people. You will see purpose.

The past year strengthened our Faculty. New appointments reinforced leadership, research integrity, and teaching excellence. New colleagues brought energy and ideas. Honorary and adjunct roles deepened our links to industry and global scholarship. These developments matter because they shape what you teach, what you research, and how students learn.

This issue also foregrounds community. Small initiatives, such as recognising birthdays, signal a larger commitment to care and belonging. Student achievements remind you why this work matters. From language competitions to experiential learning workshops, students continue to show initiative, creativity, and confidence.

Teaching and engagement remain central priorities. You will read about student led events that turned planning into practice. You will see examples of co creation, collaboration, and leadership in action. These are not add ons. They define the Faculty we are building.

As 2026 begins, the focus is clear. Strong governance. Meaningful teaching. Visible student experience. A collegial culture. This newsletter invites you to stay connected, informed, and optimistic about what lies ahead. If you need a lighter register after Christmas and the New Year, the latest edition of the Common Room awaits you at the very last page, hyperlinked at the word "community" on a headline. It captures how we laughed, quietly powered through while the year was turning.

*Dr Fuad Rahmat*

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### Featured in this issue:

FASS Spotlight |  
a reflection of  
key  
appointments in  
2025

New section |  
Community and  
Culture

Student  
Experience |  
Achievement in  
Teaching,  
Learning and  
Engagement

Student  
Experience |  
Community  
Engagement



## FASS Spotlight: Key Appointment Highlights | 2025

### Emeritus Appointment

- Professor David Goodwin appointed Emeritus Professor of the University of Nottingham
- Former Dean, Nottingham University Business School (Malaysia) (2023–2025)
- Appointment approved by Senate in November 2025

### Research Governance

- Dr Myint Moe Chit appointed Chair, Faculty Research Integrity and Research Ethics Committee (RIREC)

### Honorary and Adjunct Appointments

Strengthening teaching, research, and engagement across FASS:

- Professor Philipp Rauschnabel (AR/XR; Metaverse), Honorary Professor — nominated by Nottingham University Business School (Malaysia)
- Ms Tan Cheng Yi (Educational Psychologist), Honorary Fellow — nominated by School of Education

◆ Both appointments: 3 year term from 1 August 2025

- School of Politics, International Relations and Economics (SPIRE) - Dr Khairil Izamin, Adjunct Professor of Practice
- School of Humanities - Dr Sreedhevi Iyer, Adjunct Associate Professor of Practice

◆ Adjunct nominations remain open year-round via Heads of School.

### New Heads of School (from 1 October 2025)

- School of Politics, International Relations and Economics (SPIRE) — Dr Benjamin Barton
- School of Education — Dr Wong Tze Peng

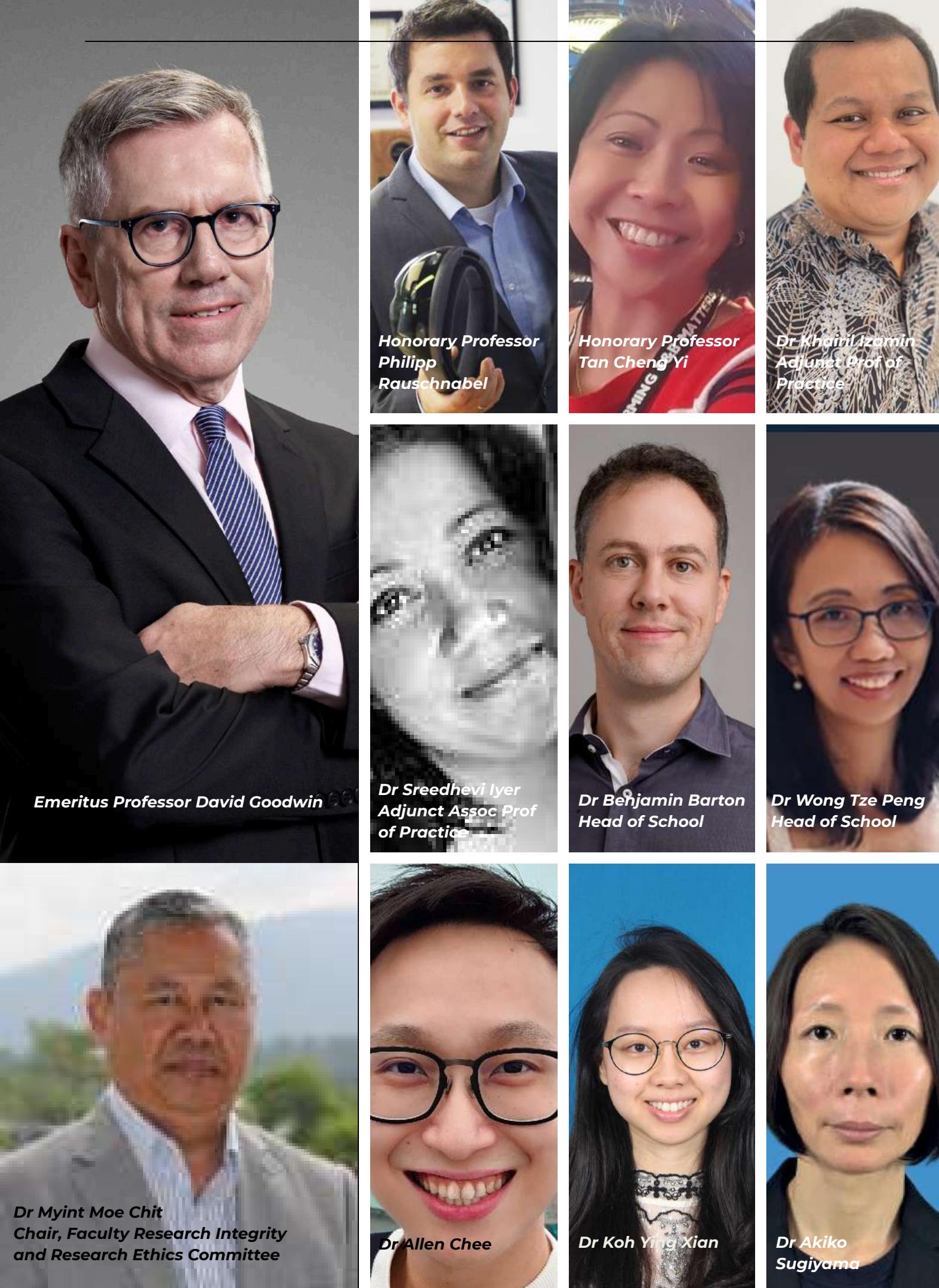
Focus ahead: shared priorities, teaching synergies, and cross-Faculty collaboration.

### Welcome to Our New Colleagues

- School of Education - Dr Allen Chee and Dr Koh Ying Xian
- School of Politics, International Relations and Economics (SPIRE) - Dr Akiko Sugiyama

◆ All appointments are effective from 2025 unless otherwise stated. The images capture (cont. page 3) appointments that support leadership, governance, and academic excellence across the Faculty.







## Community and Culture

### Celebrating our colleagues: recognising the people who make FASS through birthdays

Before 2025 came to a close, we reached out to colleagues to explore ways of acknowledging Faculty birthdays throughout 2026, a small but meaningful step towards recognising the people who make up our Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) community.

We look forward to seeing how this initiative takes shape in the year ahead. While individual birthday details will not be shared on public platforms, including ENCORE, we hope these shared celebrations will quietly foster connection, belonging, inclusivity and everyday moments of care across the Faculty.

As we look ahead, we also fondly recall wrapping up our final birthday celebration of 2025 with the Faculty Office team in December and look forward to the year of celebrations to come.



# Student Experience | Achievement in Teaching, Learning and Engagement

## UNM Students Secure Third Place at the 2025 Japanese Skit Contest

We are delighted to congratulate a team of students, led by **Ms Grace Amelia Stanley and her team** from the Languages Japanese 3A class, who won Third Place at the 2025 Japanese Skit Contest, organised by the Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur (JFKL) and the Embassy of Japan.

Their skit, inspired by the theme “amai” (sweet), showcased not only strong Japanese language proficiency but also creativity in screenwriting, acting, filming, directing, and editing. The final screening was held on 1 November 2025 and streamed live on JFKL’s Facebook page, featuring all five finalist teams.

Congratulations again to our students!

Visit the JFKL website for full list of entries and winners [here](#).



## Advocating Experiential Learning and Student Co-Creation in Higher Education

The UN PRME-UNESCO IESALC workshop, held at Sunway Business School, brought together stakeholders from academia, business, and international organisations to co-create forward-looking strategies for higher education.

Our students from Nottingham University Business School, **Ms Liana Leong, Ms Tan Wei Thong and team** engaged in discussions that moved beyond knowledge-sharing to emphasise experiential learning, reduced bureaucracy, and meaningful student participation in co-designing curricula and institutional strategies, aligning closely with the goals of the UN Summit of the Future.

Visit the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) LinkedIn page to read more about our students' participation [here](#).



# Student Experience | Community Engagement

## NUBS Fun Fair 2025 — A Day to Remember

On Monday 17 November 2025, **Nottingham University Business School** (Malaysia) hosted its very first Fun Fair, and it was a resounding success. The student led event aimed to raise funds for NUBS merchandise, the yearbook, and the Graduation Ball, while fostering a strong sense of community across the School.

Students demonstrated remarkable entrepreneurial spirit by securing the venue, planning activities, and even rallying lecturers to run booths. From lively games and delicious food to the surprise favourite of decorating gingerbread cookies, the day was filled with energy and creativity. The event's success was truly thanks to the NUBS team, everyone involved, and the nearly 100 participants who attended making it a memorable celebration of teamwork and shared purpose. Special thanks go to organising chairpersons **Ms Liana Leong** and **Ms Wei Thong Tan** for their dedication, and to **Ms Woon Chin Yeong** for her invaluable support. Appreciation is also extended to our lecturers and the wider committee for bringing this vibrant initiative to life.



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*We're glad to be sharing  
ENCORE with you.*