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## ENCORE: THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES NEWSLETTER



Here's ENCORE Issue 4, a look at how our students, staff, and Schools continue to inspire, innovate, and show up for one another.

Welcome to the latest dispatch from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. This issue is a live record of momentum. We track excellence as a tangible and active force. We witness an Emeritus Professor carrying the mission forward. We see students translating classroom theory into the soil of community gardens. We follow researchers who are crafting practical tools for public healing and digital readiness. This is the foundational work of building. We are building green spaces, smarter policy, ethical media, and more critical minds.

In these pages, we trade abstract commentary for concrete evidence. Our faculty hosts high-level OECD policy dialogues. It dissects the complexities of modern global trade wars. We pioneer a new frontier in AI education through a direct partnership with Alibaba Cloud.

These stories are not isolated successes or random achievements. They are the deliberately connected nodes of a living faculty. This is a community actively shaping its own world and the world beyond our campus. It proves a central truth. The most vital academic work is the kind that refuses to stay confined on the page. It must move into the seminar room, the policy debate, the community center, and the public conversation. Those seeking the New Common Room, simply find it hyperlinked at 'Engagement' in a headline on the final page.

Associate Dean Admissions, Recruitment & Marketing and Faculty Global Engagement Lead,  
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University of Nottingham Malaysia

*Dr Fuad Rahmat*

### Featured in this issue:

New Emeritus Professor  
in FASS

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## Dean's Executive Office

### Emeritus Appointments

We are pleased to share that **Professor David Goodwin** has been appointed **Emeritus Professor of the University of Nottingham**, following approval by the University's Senate in November 2025.

**Professor Goodwin** previously served as **Dean of Nottingham University Business School (Malaysia)** from early 2023 until his retirement in early 2025, following a distinguished career at RMIT University and Victoria University in Australia.

Although now based in Melbourne, he will continue to contribute to the Faculty's research performance and is expected to visit Kuala Lumpur in February 2026.

Please join us in congratulating **Professor Goodwin** on this well-deserved appointment.



**Emeritus Professor David Goodwin**



## FASS Spotlight | Research and Policy Engagement

### UNM Hosts OECD for Educational Policy Dialogue

UNM's **School of Education** continues to strengthen its role in shaping policy conversations in Malaysia. On 14 November 2025, Dr **Tiong Ngee Derk**, Director of Research, hosted **Dr Randall Jones** and **Kazuyoshi Ohnuma** from the OECD for a wide-ranging discussion on Malaysia's education landscape, contributing to the forthcoming **OECD Economic Monitor Report (2026)**. The session brought together invited experts AP Dr **Tee Meng Yew (Universiti Malaya)** and **Professor Dr Niaz Asadullah (University of Reading)**, alongside School representatives Dr **Wong Tze Peng** and Ms **Koh Ying Xian**.

For deeper context on the topic, readers may refer to Dr **Tiong**'s long-form article:

[On the State of Education in Malaysia and What it Means for the Country's Economy.](#)



## Faculty Achievements 2025 | Community and Recognition

### FASS Staff Awards 2025: Celebrating Excellence Across Our Faculty

The Faculty came together in late October 2025 to honour colleagues who demonstrated exceptional service, engagement, teaching, and research impact. The event opened with a welcome address by **Dean of Faculty, Professor Joanne Lim**, and was attended by 41 staff from across all FASS Schools and the Faculty Office. **Provost and CEO Professor David FitzPatrick** joined the celebrations for networking and lunch, while Associate Dean **Dr Subarna Sivapalan** emceed the ceremony. Organised by the **Faculty Office team**, the afternoon concluded with a focused staff forum on Faculty research priorities, chaired by **Dr Dag Yngvesson**.

This year's award recipients were:

#### Community and Partnerships

- Dr Saizi Xiao (SPIRE)
- Dr Tricia Yeoh (SPIRE)

#### Outstanding Outreach

- Dr Hamza Shahab (NUBS)
- Mr Victor Tiong Kung Ming (NUBS)

#### Outstanding Service

- Ms Kristal Lee (FASS Admin)
- Ms Hasnita Tajuddin (FASS Admin)

#### Research in Action

- Dr Tiong Ngee Derk (School of Education)

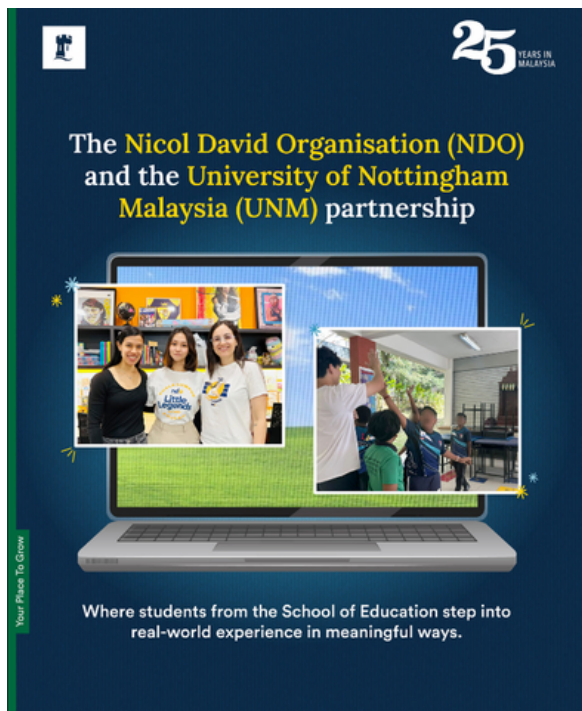
#### Teaching Inspiration

- Dr Chai Xun Yu (School of Education)
- Dr Suria Selasih Angit (School of Education)

Congratulations to all awardees, your dedication, leadership, and impact continue to strengthen our Faculty's excellence and community.



## Student Experience | Community Engagement



### Giving Back, Growing Forward: UNM and NDO Internship Experience

Through its partnership with the **Nicol David Organisation**, UNM offered hands-on community engagement opportunities to Education students. **School of Education** students, **Mr Wyai Hon Lye** and **Ms Si Tao Tay** applied classroom learning in real-world settings, working closely with local communities and discovering what it means to be educators with heart and purpose. Their stories reflect UNM's commitment to experiential learning and social impact.

[Read more of their sharing on UNM Linkedin here.](#)

### Building Bridges for a Shared Future: UNM Hosts Regional Youth Workshop

The **School of Politics, International Relations and Economics (SPIRE)** recently hosted the "A Global Community of Shared Future" Youth Brainstorming Workshop, bringing together 150+ students to explore ideas on regional cooperation, cultural understanding, and sustainable development. Organised in collaboration with the **Student Recruitment Department** and external collaborators, the **Southeast Asia Research Centre for Humanities (SEARCH)** and supported by the **Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Malaysia**, the workshop featured cross-border-trade simulations, stakeholder role-plays, and discussions on governance, infrastructure, and international collaboration. The event deepened students' understanding of regional issues and underscored UNM's commitment to community engagement and cross-cultural learning.

[Full news story were published on UNM's website](#)



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## Research Impact | Academic Insights

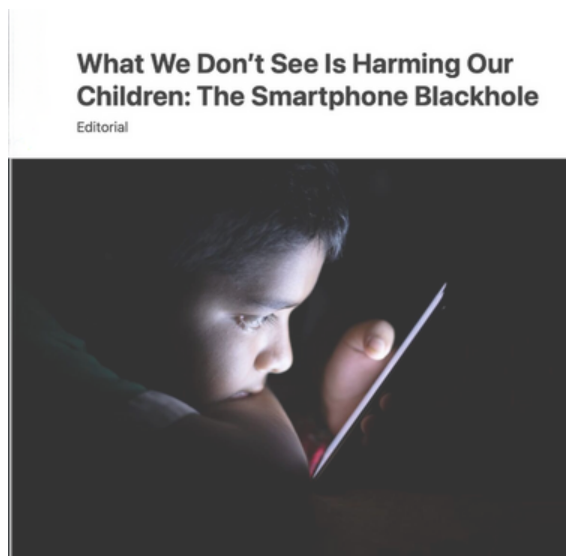


### Research Spotlight – Responsible Media Reporting Can Be a Path to Healing

**Ms Wen Li Chan** from **Nottingham University Business School's** latest research investigates how compassionate, accurate media coverage, especially in sensitive cases like suicide can support healing rather than harm. Her interdisciplinary work underscores the power of ethical journalism to foster care, empathy, and public understanding in times of crisis.

[!\[\]\(e2376d476d06eb31946dc01a69a4403a\_img.jpg\) Read her full insights on UNM Linkedin here](#)

## External Engagement | Academic commentary



### The Blackhole of Social Media and Our Children

In a recent feature, **Dr Tricia Yeoh** of the **School of Politics, International Relations and Economics (SPIRE)** explores how early and unmanaged smartphone and social-media use among children can harm their development and well-being. She calls for collective digital parenting, not just individual restrictions and suggests alternatives like “landline pods” to foster real communication and reduce online harms. Her article, co authored with **Dr Chua Sook Ning** of **Relate Malaysia** urges parents, educators, and policymakers to prioritise context, communication and community when navigating youth digital lives.

[!\[\]\(8bba887393ca45b761e5cb49e755e762\_img.jpg\) Extracted from Dr Tricia Yeoh's LinkedIn post](#)

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## External Engagement | Industry Partnership



### UNM and Alibaba Cloud Partner to Build the Next Generation of AI and Big Data Experts

Spearheaded by the **School of Politics, International Relations and Economics (SPIRE)**, UNM has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with **Alibaba Cloud** to advance AI and big-data education. The partnership will provide students with hands-on industry exposure through structured internships, an on-campus Innovation Lab, and industry practitioners appointed as adjunct professors, preparing graduates for Malaysia's and ASEAN's rapidly evolving digital economy.

[!\[\]\(d3fb9f94af8b26d1c844efa9a98805b0\_img.jpg\) Read the full feature on UNM's website](#)

## External Engagement | Academic Insights



### SPIRE Hosts 2025 Global Economy Lecture — “Trade Wars in the Trump Era”

The **School of Politics, International Relations and Economics (SPIRE)** recently hosted a significant event: the 2025 Global Economy Lecture featuring **Professor David Jacks (NUS)**, titled “Trade Wars in the Trump Era: What Economic History Can — and Can’t — Tell Us? Are we back in the 1930s?” The lecture reviewed historical parallels, explored Asia's vulnerabilities and opportunities amid shifting global trade patterns, and underscored the importance of diversified trade pacts and support for SMEs in today's uncertain world.

The event was sponsored by **Wiley** and attracted participation from the broader SPIRE community, bringing global political economy debates into the classroom and beyond.

[!\[\]\(d5d7044e5caf6907399af2dced8d6ff8\_img.jpg\) Recap and key insights shared via SPIRE's official LinkedIn page](#)

# Teaching, Learning and Engagement



## Green Learning Seminar – Growing Sustainable Classrooms Together

UNM hosted the **Green Learning Seminar: Building and Growing Green Spaces for schools** on 31 October 2025, bringing together invited educators, school leaders, and university students. Co-organised by the **School of Psychology, Faculty of Science and Engineering** and the **School of Education, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences** the seminar explored how eco-gardens, greenhouses, and school-based green initiatives can enrich teaching and learning across the curriculum.

The event marked the official launch of the Greenhouse Toolkit for Schools, developed by **School of Psychology** student **Ms Ashley Yau Rui** and her team through an **Environmental Sustainability Initiative Grant**. Keynote speaker **Dr Alberto Luis August (School of Education)** shared practical strategies for integrating green spaces into everyday classroom practice, while **Dr Chong Shue Ling** and **Dr Lee Eun Hee (School of Psychology)** spoke on green identity and collective environmental stewardship.

With representation from eight international and public schools across Selangor, participants left with a complimentary thumb drive containing the toolkit and a Green Knowledge Certificate, supporting the next steps toward greener, more sustainable learning environments.

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES NEWSLETTER TEAM</b>                                                                 | <b><u>NOTTINGHAM.EDU.MY/SOCIAL-SCIENCES</u></b>           |
| University of Nottingham Malaysia<br>Block E, Orange Building,<br>Jalan Broga, 43500 Semenyih,<br>Selangor. +603 8924 8040 | <i>Thanks for being part of the<br/>ENCORE community.</i> |