



THE ROAD NOT TAKEN

THE ROAD NOT TAKEN

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, And sorry I could not travel both And be one traveler, long I stood And looked down one as far as I could To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair, And having perhaps the better claim, Because it was grassy and wanted wear; Though as for that the passing there Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay In leaves no step had trodden black. Oh, I kept the first for another day! Yet knowing how way leads on to way, I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh Somewhere ages and ages hence: Two roads diverged in a wood, and I— I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference.

- Robert Frost



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FOREWORD

We'd like to start off with a staple of the MUSA Editorial team - the Kite Joke:

One day, a boy went to the barber to get a haircut. He asked the barber to give him the latest, most fashionable haircut. So the barber cut his hair in the shape of a kite (what an idiot). Next day, the boy went to school but his friends mocked his hairstyle relentlessly. Feeling disheartened, the boy started crying and running towards the field. He ran and he ran and then....... he flew away.

OK, don't judge us. We have an arsenal of lame jokes to keep us entertained. Now back to the serious matter - the theme. The team pondered hard over what this semester's theme should be, setting us on a quest to seek something which is ever so essential to all of our lives.

We realized that people face numerous decisions to make daily. Every option taken is an alternate forgone. Each option we take changes the course of our journey - life. Most of you would have at some point in your lives have wondered, "what if I had taken the other option, how different my life would've been." And that's when we realized that we should dedicate this issue to all our choices, and those forgone. While everyone reflects on the choices they make, spare a thought for "The Road Not Taken".

We had an amazing experience producing this issue and hope you equally enjoy it. We'd like to hear from you about what you felt about this issue. Do let us know. We won't bite, promise.

"The hardest thing about the road not taken is not knowing where it might have led."
- Lisa Wingate



Photograph by Andy Lau Chuen Weng

THEMES OF THE MONTH

What is Theme of the Month? The editorial board proudly presents the Theme of the Month competition where students can showcase their creativity and get rewarded for it.

How does it work?
Each month, we released a theme that complements the main theme of this semester's issue of Monga (i.e. The Road Not Taken). The themes for the months of March, April and May were Passion, Choices/Regrets and Success/Failure respectively.

All students of Monash Malaysia were encouraged to submit a creative piece based on these themes be it an essay, poem, photograph, sketch or illustration.

All submissions that were received were uploaded on Mondo, and the best piece was chosen from each theme. The winning entries are featured right here in Monga! The winning contributor of the aforementioned entries were also awarded a gift card worth RM 50 from Starbucks or H&M.

We thank all the participants for their contributions and we hope to see more great works from our peers next semester!

Passion | Choices & Regrets | Success & Failure



Theme of the Month: Passion Winner: Nadya Priguna Poernama

My passion is to draw. It makes me feel calm as if I'm deep under the water and at the same time it leads me to a never-ending discovery and imagination, just like the Universe.

Desiderata 2.0

All of our choices lead us to where we are now.

All of our choices define who we are now.

Regret only comes when an unknown opportunity was missed, And will never come by again.

It is in our nature to always wonder what if.

Through our entire lives, we were forced to choose,

Our personality, our appearance, our friends, our significant other, And oh. so much more.

Regret only comes and clouds over our consciousness

In the thought of missing all the possibilities.

This is inevitable.

Some choose to live on edge, surrounded by thrill and danger Riding with devils with their arms spread wide.

Some choose the path of safety, for those who fear the unknown Playing hide and seek with angels.

No matter how one lives their life.

Regret would only come sweeping in

When seeds of envy and insecurity are watered.

But do we really regret all the choices we made, or didn't make? All the things we chose structure the way we are in the present. We are all where we're supposed to be.

Happiness will only come if contentment is found.

The universe will unfold as it should.

Theme of the Month: Choices and Regrets Winner: Febriana Ramadhanya

Titled Desiderata 2.0, it is mainly based on Max Ehrmann's prose Desiderata, although only focusing on this month's theme of choices and regrets.

Theme of the Month: Success/Failure

Winner: Ronald Fedora

LETTERS OF LOVE by Fedora

The letters written below each represent a piece of someone's life. Each story is unique in their own way, but may connect from one to another through the mysterious strings of fate that we unravel day by day.

Неу,

I love you. Be my best friend, my lover, my one and only, my everything.

I stare into the pages written very simply in black ink.

A bubble of happiness rises up inside me, it steadily grows warm and violent. My heart feels like it might burst apart any minute.

"I love you too."

The quiet days suddenly flow with starry thoughts of you beneath the eternal blue of night.

That night I tell her that I love her. That night she smiles and says yes. That night is the start of a new beginning...

"A beginning of a journey together."

We tried but the world was against us. We lasted as long as we could, but there was just no future in all of this.

Today is September 15, 2012. The night is quiet and the moon soars as it watches the starless sky beneath where there are only tears wetting a dry, lonely world. She cries, "What choice do we have?"

We were young and naive. We were from two different worlds, neither our parents consented to the relationship. We had sacrificed so much and risked so much, yet there seemed to be endless more to come...

"This is goodbye," the dam of my eyes almost broke. She stares at me with a face I no longer recognise. A heavy sadness clings to her face like a mask. I broke her. I broke myself.

"I know."

The heart's anguish whispers a painful melody...

"Love alone isn't enough."

I don't think this will ever work out. There is just too much pain between us. Goodbye.

Today is March 27, 2015. The humidity of Kuala Lumpur hangs in misty permanence that seems to defy the deafening downpour. I stare beyond the window glass in the confines of my room hoping to find comfort between the sheets of falling rain. There is none.

I carry a dull ache inside of me. Guilt stretches my heart like plastic, slowly folding it infinitely smaller—so small that perhaps I can store it away in some hidden corner of myself that I have yet known. I just want to see him again. I sigh a dry remorse from a mistake that was not even my own.

"I know."

The heart's longing shouts a silent despair...

"I love him more than he loves me."

One and a half years ago I told myself that I would never be able to love the same way again. I broke the heart of the only person who ever loved me.

After all the mistakes I made in the past, I am still scared to love again. But knowing that someone like you is real gives me the courage that I thought I will never find.

When you are looking for someone else to be the person in your heart, maybe I could be the one to mend your loneliness. Even if I am not that person for you, I will always be someone you can always call a friend. And if all you need is time, I will wait however long it takes.

"Thank you, because of you I can love again."

I still love you. Make me whole again. Please?

I cry myself to sleep every night, drowning in the sparkling depths of memories bygone. Each time I wake up, I miss him. He is there, but never there.

A stream of tears flow down my cheeks like a river that bleeds the contents of my heart.

Should I drown in this river of tears and drift away? Should I wait still, dig a hole to bury myself among the sands that is ever-washed inward by the currents?

I want to walk forward. Let the little stepping stones in my life carry me. Let me carry what little left I have in my heart. I am tired of the rain.

But the rain keeps falling anyway...

"How can love fail me so?"

I AM SICK AND TIRED OF YOU. When I need you the most, you ignored me and complained. When I was there for you, not ONCE did you say thanks. I HAD ENOUGH OF THIS AND—

I shut my ears. Tears well up in my eyes. There is no more peace in this house.

My father shouts, and my mother retaliates. Words hurt. A lot. They hurt not only to the people that they are meant for, but also to those who helplessly listen to them.

He is a hurting man; "blame" becomes the only language his tongue ever knows.

She wishes she could die, so she wails and always looks back; he wishes that he is rid of her, so he leaves and never looks back.

Even if the broken pieces will never be whole again, they are always my parents.

I want to hope. I will wait for the tears to dry up, and our world lights up once again like it used to be. I am not afraid of the rain.

At the end, a rainbow will find its way...

"When love fails, to love becomes a choice."

Little things seemed to smile brilliantly, memories and smiles dance around you, none but a sweet a delight in the endless flow of time.

Today is Valentine's day. The world is slowly turning before us, up high on the ferris wheel. Singapore's skyline spans across the horizon like a glittering diamond shattering the dark of night.

In this moment the world is ours. I gaze into her eyes and see my world beyond that gentle darkness. I love her.

"I love you."

"I know."

The heart's melody plays a beautiful serenade...

"This moment is forever ours."

You will always be in my heart though an ocean stood between us. I'll return. I'll be rich. We'll start a family, and we'll be happy forever.

The messages stop coming, time freezes, and my life comes to a still. Dry tears, an endless list of "what if"s, and a purposeless life become my reality. I would have waited him forever; but now, until forever comes to an end, we will always be apart.

I chose to believe in his promise, but dreams are but sand dunes in the shifting winds, high and grand, but dry, and ever-changing like the desert. He gave his life for his dreams, and with it, took mine to a faraway place.

What good are words when you're not even here to keep it?

I want to hope. I will see him again, feel his hands, his warmth, see him smile, and see him makes my heart dance. Now, only the rain comes to visit me.

And the rain takes me away...

"I will see you soon, yea?"

Theme of the Month: Honorable Mentions

A Rock Climber's Drug

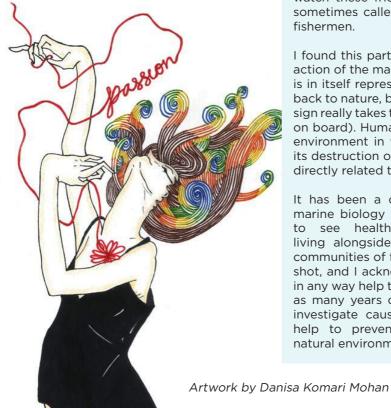
By Ronald Fedora

I held the summit. Before me rest Nature's breast. There sea blows a passion's kiss, Stirs in me a simple wish.

The heart winds a melody, "Climb again and higher still." Hot with passion's malady, The summit holds me.

Lone heights I then held, High above peerless with pride. Will time sand for passion's end? ..."No," declare the summit's air.

I down this simple answer. 'Twas not summit that holds me... But that I find passion's drug in the joy of the climb.





by Febrianne Sukiato

I took this photograph in June 2013 while I was on vacation with my family in Oslob, Cebu. Oslob is one of those unique places where magical things really do happen: at a near daily basis, young whale sharks gather to be fed by local fishermen, seemingly without fear of being caught or harmed in any way. It really is a true marvel, both in a sense that whale sharks do not usually exhibit this kind of 'tame' behavior and the economic blessing the small town had experienced from the flood of tourists that come pouring in to watch these friendly giants (as they are sometimes called) interact with the local fishermen.

I found this particular sight stunning. The action of the man feeding the whale shark is in itself representative of people giving back to nature, but the 'free wifi on board' sign really takes the cake (there was no wifi on board). Humans CAN interact with the environment in ways that do not involve its destruction or harm, and my passion is directly related to this.

It has been a dream of mine to study marine biology and conservation. I want to see healthy human communities living alongside equally healthy natural communities of flora and fauna. It's a long shot, and I acknowledge that, but if I can in any way help this cause, I will contribute as many years of my life to do so. I will investigate causes, educate people and help to prevent future destruction of natural environments. This is my passion.

THE FAILURES IN SUCCESS

by Ailyn Low

The tears fell slowly down his cheeks, When he realised he had failed. Having succeeded for the past few weeks He could not prevail.

At least that's what he thought. When his world slowed down, During the spur of the moment, All he could do was frown.

The success made him cocky, But the failure humbled him. They said he became bossy, And his ego filled to the brim.

People say that there can be no success When there's no failure. But I think it's the attitude to the success, That is of an important nature.



"Failure makes one hide in shame."

Artwork by Chan Hui Qin.



IN SEARCH OF MAKASSAR & TORAJA



On the 24th of November 2014, I hopped onto Flight AK332 and left Kuala Lumpur in search of Makassar and Toraja, two lands I have never heard of, together with 17 other students from all around the world, a chaperone, and a pathfinder. I'm not sure what got me into signing up for this. Perhaps it was the enthusiasm of a first year student, or maybe the craving to experience new things at this stage in life?



For first-time travelers of the "In Search Of" series organised almost yearly since 2004 by lecturer Dr Yeoh Seng Guan, many naturally did not know what to expect of it. Would it be fun? Exciting? Scary? Mind-boggling?



After a tiring flight of nearly 4 hours, we arrived at Ujung Padang, Makassar where five friendly student guides greeted us. Under the hot and humid weather, the unforgettable journey began with a pete-pete (a type of public transport) ride from Sultan Hasanuddin International Airport to Pondok Suada Indah, a hostel we called home during our stay in Makassar.

WALKING THROUGH CHINATOWN OF MAKASSAR

We kick-started the trip with a walk through the Chinatown of Makassar. Chinatown was not like the Chinatown we imagined to be, such as the one in big cities. Every shop has a signboard displaying its name in Bahasa Indonesia, rather in big Chinese characters. The Chinese characters are usually not noticeable, if written.

Chinatown was home to many significant Buddhist temples of different designs and historical background of their own. We had the opportunity to explore them as our local guide, Ms Yuli, helpfully led the way and explained the hidden stories of Makassar's Chinatown under the blazing hot sun. It turns out that Makassar is built upon the Dutch influence during the colonisation period.

A HUMBLE UNIVERSITY AND A BOOK VILLAGE

We paid a visit to Sultan Hasanuddin University on Day 3. The university was humongous, yet very well shaded by the trees, giving the area a close-to-nature touch. We were lucky to have met two student activists, Rial and Fahmi, who are also the fellow students of one of our guides. Rial is the leader of the student activist group, Himpunan Mahasiswa Ilmu Hubungan Internasional (Student Assembly of International Relations) whereas Fahmi is the head of the university's debate society. They enlightened us with the student activists' movements in Makassar. This student group faces many obstacles when fighting for rights, one of them being the discouragement of society towards their acts of demonstration as they are still students. Although the Sultan Hasanuddin University does not encourage student activism, so far, no student has been expelled for participating in demonstrations.

Kampung Buku (Book Village) was the name of a man's backyard filled with books. Known better as Pak Jimpe, he voluntarily bought books from around the world, and helped with translating and publishing them so that people who want to learn from reading can





conveniently obtain books from his backyard. He did this out of his own will in order to encourage people to read more. To him, knowledge always comes first, and money would be forever behind knowledge.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

Throughout our days in Makassar, we encountered a few different non-governmental organisations namely Komisi Untuk Orang Hilang dan Korban Tindak Kekerasan (KontraS), Komuniti Sehati Makassar (KSM) and Arsitek Komunitas Makassar (ARKOM).

KontraS mainly focuses on issues regarding human rights in Indonesia such as violence acted out by police forces, violation of land rights and also religious conflicts. On the other hand, KSM is an NGO that helps to protect human rights in the LGBT community in Sulawesi because many in the LGBT community have been ill treated, discriminated, and were victims of violence.

During our discussion, opinions were exchanged, and a lot was gained such as learning how to view cultures and societies from a different perspective in order to understand them. Throughout these discussions, we had the chance to know how the condition is like in countries like Switzerland, India, Sri Lanka, and even Malaysia. As a human being, I now know what, why and how these people are fighting for basic human rights which can vary so much between one society and another because of the difference in culture. The fact that we all come from distinctive backgrounds, yet we are united in fighting for a similar cause, truly amazes me.

Last but not least, we met a group of architect students who volunteer to help rebuild a village named Kampung Pisang after discovering that the villagers were struggling to obtain a comfortable living place that they can call home. The villagers of Kampung Pisang are mostly migrants from other parts of Indonesia which were not aware of the land issues when they moved to the village. The problems arose where the landowners decided to rebuild the village and sell them without consulting the villagers first. Although they were offered the opportunity to move into high-

rise apartments, the villagers opposed the idea as it involves cultural clashes. Without proper employment and paperwork, the villagers are not entitled to land rights and government loans. Therefore, ARKOM's role is to help to ensure that the villagers and the government both attain a beneficial situation for both parties.



TORAJA: UNREVEALED SECRETS

Toraja. What a simple name; yet filled with magnificent stories and culture unbeknownst to the world.

We started our 10-hour bus ride when the sun was on the eastern skies, and arrived at Toraja when the moon was right above our heads. Despite the distance, the pit stop halfway through the Torajan mountains provided us with cups of Torajan coffee, tea and some local snacks, warming our tummies as we witnessed the breath-taking view of the scenery beneath us.

THE GRAVES OF TORAJA

On the first day in Toraja, we were visitors to gravesites of different designs and symbolism. The visit to the babies' gravesite was truly an eye-opener for all of us. Babies, when they die, are buried in a tree trunk, typically jackfruit trees due to its soft texture of its bark by nature, to represent the unformed teeth of babies which are like bones that have not been fully-formed. The grave is then sealed with tree fibres made from the bark of palm trees. The position of the grave is based on the social status of the family, hence the higher the status, the higher the hole carved for the baby. Besides

that, the grave had to be facing the opposite direction from where the human mother lives because the dead babies are then deemed to belong to nature. I wasn't sure if the wind or the surrounding green trees helped, but it did feel a little creepy knowing the new tree was said to be the new mother for the babies who left this world at such a young age. However, the Torajans do not practise this tradition today because of the improved conditions and the building of clinics and hospitals. This tradition ended when the last baby was buried in the tree almost 50 years ago.

Social status is a really important factor in the Torajan community. During our visit to other gravesites, our tour guide, Pak Arru, explained that tau-tau's (effigies) are made only for late chiefs of the community or people of equal status to represent the people who passed away. These coffins are placed inside caves which are carved into the mountains and they are carved at a level that is high to be seen from a distance. Looking at the gravesite from a distance makes me feel like I just jumped into a book written on Toraja, because everything seemed so surreal; me being there to witness the culture of the Torajans that were otherwise, without this trip, forever a secret kept away from me and my city life. With my knowledge of this, the world doesn't seem to be so small, and I feel like there are so much more hidden mysteries of different places in the world.

THE SLAUGHTER

Have you ever witnessed the slaughtering of a buffalo live in front of your very eyes? Most of us who did so probably have no way of "un-seeing" this ritual ever.

In Toraja, when a person dies, it is important to make the death ritual as grand as possible, especially for those of a high status in the community. A family can take up to a few years to prepare the death ceremony for the deceased. Family members will be busy earning money and collecting them for the purchase of buffaloes to be slaughtered on the day of the death ceremony. To Torajans, buffaloes are considered a symbol of wealth



and social standing. The more powerful the deceased, the more buffaloes are slaughtered, and therefore, the faster the soul of the deceased reaches Puya (afterlife). Buffaloes are bought at a very high price while friends, family and neighbours in exchange for attending the ceremony gift pigs to the family of the deceased. Besides these preparations, the family also has a duty to inform relatives and villagers of the ceremony, to which they will allocate time to return to attend.

Before the slaughter, pigs that were tied to bamboo sticks were brought into the arena to acknowledge the donor. For me, the slaughtering of the buffaloes seemed to have impacted me more compared to the pigs. The slaughter process was so gory and sitting at the front row, everything seemed so surreal. Seeing the first buffalo go down was difficult but us travellers attempted to accept the situation in silence as opposed to the other attendees who were cheering. As the third and fourth buffalo were slaughtered, one by one, we started leaving the area because the entire ritual became too overwhelming for some. This part of the trip was the most challenging for all of us, including those who have watched documentary videos of the aforementioned ritual online and assumed that they were prepared enough for this. It was a stage of clash of emotions. For Torajans, on the other hand, was a normal occurrence. In fact, this has been a significant part of their culture for many years.

Before we knew it, the trip ended like a blast of wind

John Dinzy





carrying a collection of noises from different places, each are stories unbeknownst to strangers, but to us, it was something untold about these places being told to 19 lucky travellers.

The 14-day journey was filled with activities until it felt as though 24 hours just wasn't enough. The exhaustion from rushing to places, taking down notes and absorbing as much information as our brains could behold, going for a 4-hour mountain hike in the rain and learning how to take care of yourself when there is insufficient essentials such as water, is all part of the package. It is also part of a once-in-a-lifetime experience, part of an amazing journey that you will never, ever forget.

The "In Search of" series has been ongoing since 2004. This 2015, a group of travelers will embark on a journey to Myanmar for the "In Search of Yangon" study trip in June.

For more stories of In Search of Makassar & Toraja, visit our blog: insearchofmakassartoraja.wordpress.com



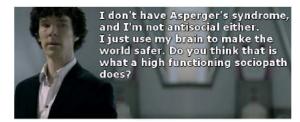


WHAT IF's

by Sharanya Ramaswamy

Unless you've been living under a rock for the past decade, at one point in your life you would've heard about the multiverse theory or what is better known as parallel universes. The idea behind the multiverse theory is that there are so many universes co-existing that it could actually be playing alternative realities of your life. For instance, somewhere in an alternate universe, you might own a pet dinosaur or perhaps somewhere out there Lee Pace fancies you (a girl can dream). Of course it could also be something quite horrifying. Imagine you don't even exist (now that's a thought that will keep you thinking). The multiverse theory is the source to very controversial debates in the physics world. However, the aim of this article is not to drone on about the various possible arguments you can make for the debates but rather this article aims to get your heads out of your assignments for just a couple of minutes so you can give your imagination a whirl. So here are a couple of scenarios you'd probably wish you were in and might just be in some other universe far away.





The Sherlock dream

Wish you'd been disciplined enough to read god knows how many books and observe people from a distance instead of fraternizing with them? Well, fear no more. It's possible that in one of the many universes out there, you might just be the anti-social high-functioning sociopath you've dreamt of becoming. That's right, even someone who is as relatively dumb-witted as you (in comparison to said sociopath) could be somewhat of a genius in possession of highly-advanced observational skills and not to mention the ability to irk someone with just a glance. So don't beat yourself up for not being.



The witty comeback that got away

I'm sure however witty you may think you are, at one point in time you've all been in the situation where you came up with an epic witty comeback two days after you needed it. Don't deny it. It's moments like these when we truly hate ourselves for looking hella ridiculous. It's moments like these that you know others would've forgotten after a couple of minutes but eat you up at night regardless. We all like basking in the glory of a good burn but when that doesn't work out for us; we drown in our sorrow (or something a little less dramatic). Fortunately, you can take solace in the fact that in another universe, the other version of you has got your back and covered that impressive comeback it took you so long to think of.

Fame, name and glory

Who hasn't imagined this scenario a hundred times? Whether it is winning an Oscar or a Nobel Prize, we've all given it some thought. There are certain choices we could make in our life that get us there. Every small decision changes our path and without even realizing it, we may just have taken a decision that takes us off the road to fame completely. Of course, there is a certain amount of luck involved in it as well, but I do believe at the end of the day, wherever you are is a consequence of your actions. Nevertheless, in a parallel universe, you might actually have taken a completely different approach of how you're living your life and ended up on top. Now mind you, I'm not saying you're definitely happier in the other universe but it is something to think about.



Obviously there are plenty more scenarios to cover but if I went through each and every one of them, you wouldn't be reading this article right now cause it wouldn't be done so instead I'll leave it to your wild imagination to decide what your life might be like in another world in another universe.



THE UNIT NOT TAKEN

by Saw Ray Mond

Two units diverged on the course form, And sorry I could not take both classes And be one student, sat as long I could And read as much about one unit as possible To where the words don't make sense anymore;

> Then ticked on the other, to be fair And perhaps I took the better option, Because it was easier and had no final; Though as for that, the assignments there Had made them both just as hard,

And both units after asking I'd found That in the semesters before no one failed. Oh, I'll just do the other for another semester! Yet knowing how my unit will lead to what major, I doubt if I should ever take it.

I shall be telling juniors with a sigh Somewhere semesters and semesters hence: Two units diverged on the course form and I – I took the unit less taken by, And that has not really made a difference.

ALL ROADS LEAD TO REGRETS

by Lee Jian Yun (Sarah)

"She read about people she could never be, on adventures she would never have." - Pushing Daisies

We seem to have an inexplicable fascination for quotes. We see them included in speeches given at assemblies and in the body of motivational texts. We purposefully look them up, as if trying to reach into the philosophical stratosphere for seemingly sage remarks that will somehow encapsulate our thoughts befittingly. Most are peppered with utilitarian themes of strength, perseverance, carpe diem and happiness. The message has always been to not wallow in sadness, sorrow or regret. Woe to the person who even gives in to such a thought.

So what do we do? We drum these axioms into our heads. We conjure up the image of a fully liberated person with a sense of purpose and achievement. This is a person who takes chances and leaves very little room for regret. This is a person who does not let the cares of the world hinder her from following her dreams. When life throws her curveballs, does she let them stop her? No, she is her own master and captain of her destiny. She is the perfect poster child for all the Eleanor Roosevelt and Nelson Mandela quotes strewn on graphics all over social media. She is the person that does one thing everyday that scares her and rises every time she falls. You want to be her. You strive to be her. But try as you might, you always fall short of it.

What comes next is that we become hard on ourselves. We crumble in confidence when we

cannot align ourselves perfectly to these wise adages which are surely the keys to eternal happiness – or so they say. We make important life decisions. We regret. The world tells us we should not have regrets and that having them merely mires us in misery. Ours are not so easily rid of and that bothers us.

Instead of discarding regret completely at the door, perhaps some form of it is necessary in order to move forward. Yes, you should never be controlled by regret. Instead, use regret to your benefit. Ponder and reflect on it. Learn from whatever mistakes that have borne out of the choices you have made. Embrace disappointments. It is in these lows which will allow you to appreciate contentment when it eventually comes around. To avoid regrets is to avoid taking chances, and isn't that what living is all about?

Most attribute Robert Frost as having championed his readers to take the road less travelled. What people fail to notice in the poem is that both roads are actually the same ("And both that morning equally lay / In leaves no step had trodden black") and that even years later, the speaker is still wrought with whether or not he has made the right choice ("I shall be telling this with a sigh"). He will always still wonder about what could have been. So, if even Robert Frost himself writes about the inevitably of regret, why should we fret? After all, don't we all love taking life advice from poets and philosophers?



Un jour de plus.

by Jade-E Lim

When something means so much to you, and you're so afraid you'll lose it.
When you can feel it slipping away, but there's nothing you can do to stop it.

When a gap forces itself into the friendship you hold dear, When you can feel them forgetting, When they don't say the things you want to hear.

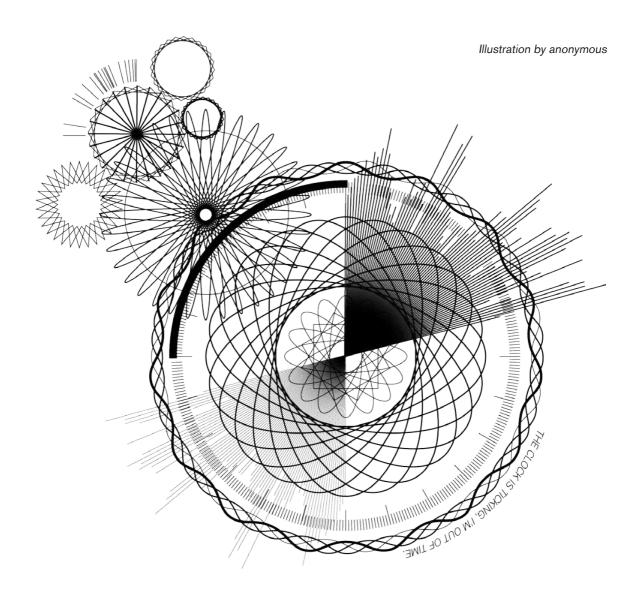
When you want things to last just a little bit longer, When all you hope is for things to get just a little bit better. When you look at their faces wishing they would remember yours forever.

When you learn never to take anything for granted, When you realize that one day, all you'll have left are memories created.

When there are so many things left unsaid, When the day ends but those things remain only in your head.

When the songs you sang are the things you swore, When you wish you had just **one day more.**





DYSTOPIAN PASTICHE

by Kevin Richard

The body as the pastiche for activism against voluntary assumptions (Embarkation On)

Patience is a virtue compounded on by the protraction of the epochs

Virtue by the patience of the psyche

For whether or not mirth subsists, forlornness in eternity

'But what we have thou gavest, and what thou gavest take'

The mortification of the venerated.



Follow your bliss and the universe will open doors for you where there were only walls.

- Joseph Campbell

I've met a few people in my time here who've told me that they're studying their course not out of personal choice, but because they were forced.

This issue's focus is the road not taken, and would probably have folks in a similar position thinking, "what if I had followed my passion, studied something else and chosen a different career path?". Perhaps you not pursuing your passion might be the best thing after all.

There are many reasons to this; firstly, you might not be aware of what your passion truly is. Often people have a fleeting attraction towards a particular activity and end up thinking that it is a life-long passion of theirs. As time passes, they may get bored and this fling they call passion will be over. As a result, they may not be interested in it in the long run. It would be foolish to immediately set out on a career path in which you will lose interest eventually.

Similarly, people often have multiple passions, and it becomes difficult for them to then decide which passion of theirs to set a career in. Similarly, pursuing multiple passions may not be feasible, as it would mean rationing your energy and focus, meaning that you will succeed neither here nor there.

Always remember, "Never half-ass two things. Whole-ass one thing" -Ron Swanson

Most importantly, following your passion may not be a viable career option (read: you will not make enough money). Many people have passions, such as butterfly spotting, which do not pay enough (or anything). Now you may think that as long as you are doing what you love, it is enough to keep you happy, because money is not the key to happiness.

If so, you could not be more wrong - money is essential to happiness. While the concept of happiness is rather abstract, on an elementary level, happiness is a state of contentment with oneself

and one's life. Fundamentally, you can only be happy if your basic necessities (food, shelter, clothing) are fulfilled. You may not need luxuries, but you cannot make do without the necessities.

These necessities cost money. Now, if you do not even make enough money to acquire these necessities, how can you be content with your life. And if you are not content, how can you be happy. Possibly, following your passion may result in making you more miserable than happy at the end of the day.

Having said all that, I agree with Joseph Campbell. And so should you. If your passion is something which truly makes you happy, results in a feasible career, and is something you can sustain an interest in it forever, then by all means, do what you love.

This written piece is in no way to discourage you from following your passion, but just a gentle caution that doing what you love may not always lead to being successful professionally.



Photographs by Chin Tzer Haw



EXCHANGE: AN INCOMING PERSPECTIVE

by Benjamin Hussin







Earlier this year, Monash University gave me the opportunity to undertake a semester abroad in Malaysia. On the twelfth of February this year, I arrived at KLIA. At this stage, I was unaware of exactly what my experience was going to be like. At first there was a lot to take in, however as the days passed and my knowledge of Malaysian culture began to grow, I began to feel confident that this semester was going to be one to remember.

In a matter of weeks, the Malaysian lifestyle became my lifestyle and before I knew it, I was experiencing Malaysian culture at its finest i.e. the amazing food, the friendly people, the night-time walks to the local mamak and the constant use of the word 'lah'.

After settling in to Sunway Monash Residence, a group of us decided to get back on a plane for a short journey to Langkawi and Penang. These islands were beautiful; the beaches of Langkawi glistened and the food and street art of Penang were something far different to what I had seen back in Australia. However, the week flew by and we were back on the way home – only this time home was in Malaysia.

The next few weeks saw the commencement of the first semester at Monash. I felt like I was beginning my degree all over again, struggling to find classrooms and walking in to rooms filled with unfamiliar faces. With club sign-ups commencing in the early weeks, there was an opportunity to meet more people who shared similar interests. I joined Radio Monash with a friend and after auditioning, we now do weekly shows. The next club on the list was Monash Exchange Club (MONEX). Through MONEX we went on a tour of Kuala Lumpur, which included a visit to Batu Caves and KLCC. The tour ended with dinner and a night out in Chinatown.

This set the scene for what was to be one of many weekends spent exploring Malaysia. Visits to Chilling Waterfalls, Malacca, Perhentian Island and East Malaysia as well as attending the Malaysian Formula 1 (F1) Grand-Prix and the Holi Festival were all on the list of to do adventures.

Chilling Waterfalls took a one hour or so trek through bushes to reach. The hike was long and tiring. However, the scenery and refreshing swim under the waterfall in the end made it all worthwhile.



A week later, it was SDS Holi Festival with MONEX arranging buses for us to and from the event. For many of us exchange students, this was the first Holi Festival we had attended and we could not wait to ruin our fresh white t-shirts bought from Sunway Pyramid the day before. And that, we did. We left the Holi festival with not only having witnessed a traditional colour festival but also with paint-stained skin for the next few days.

Back on campus, the group of students on exchange had the privilege in undertaking the Inter-Cultural Enrichment Program (ICEP). Included in this program was a day-trip to Malacca. With a guided tour of the main city we learnt about the history of Malacca and the local Malaccan stories from our guide. All-in-all, ICEP significantly helped us improve our knowledge of Malaysian customs.

The day after our Malacca visit, it was race day for the Malaysian F1 Grand-Prix. A group of us made our way down to the Sepang Circuit to watch the race. Being Australian, I was of course cheering on fellow Aussie Daniel Ricciardo. Unfortunately, the race did not go his way but it was still a great day at my first international F1 race.

Before I knew it we were back on campus and then the mid-semester break had arrived. The break meant an escape to the Perhentian Islands. The flourishing aquatic life surrounding the islands was impeccable. The creatures we saw included sea turtles, sharks and an array of tropical fish. Yet once again, before long it was back to campus and the start of those dreaded mid-term tests.

For a couple of weeks after the mid-semester break there was not so much travelling done as the workload began to increase. Yet weekend nights out and ventures into the city became more frequent as there was always one day left to finish assignments. Eventually it was week eight and we were blessed with a four day weekend due to Labour Day and Wesak Day public holidays. This provided a perfect opportunity to head over to East Malaysia and explore Borneo.

The highlights of our visit to East Malaysia included Semenggoh Wildlife Park where our timely arrival allowed us to witness the feeding of the endangered orang-utans. We took a kayaking trip 11km down a river, had lunch in a longhouse and spent a day exploring Bako National Park. After returning back to campus, there were more midterm tests and more work to catch up on.

That brings us to today, writing this piece and reflecting upon my time on exchange so far. I can say it has been an experience of a lifetime filled with great stories and a bunch of new friends. The opportunity to study abroad is one I would recommend to anyone around the world. Malaysia truly has a lot to offer and a return visit in the not-too-distant future is a must.



by Sagar N. Bhambhani

After a lively discussion with my friend the other day, a question was raised: is our university degree enough to groom us to face the world better? My friend and I agreed that merely obtaining a degree is not sufficient, that students should make an effort to supplement their academic knowledge. A significant number of students around the world spend their summer vacations taking up summer classes, in an attempt to finish their degree quicker, or worse, do nothing purposeful. (LEAST ADVISABLE, BUT MOST FUN!)

I'd implore to these individuals to read on and consider an alternative: taking up an internship. Simply put, an internship is a form of temporary employment, (between 10-12 weeks) where you work under a mentor/supervisor in a company. The benefits of doing an internship significantly outweigh the benefits of finishing your studies quickly.

Augment your academics

Acing a unit does not equate to you truly understanding the subject. More often than not, there are many aspects of the business world you cannot truly understand without experiencing it yourself. The internship will not only reinforce whatever you have learnt, but also teach you things even the best schools can't. In addition, after completing an internship, you will realize that you have learnt some things, which your respective subjects do not teach, but are still relevant to you.

Audition for the real job

Many companies are on the lookout for the best talent. However, gauging the true potential of an applicant just from the CV is rather difficult, as most HR practitioners believe. Doing an internship will allow the company you work in a glimpse of what you are truly capable of. If they feel you are suitable for them, they make you an offer. Even when applying to another company (one where you've not worked before), an internship will give you some advantage, as companies know that you have some experience over those who have not done any.

INTERNSHIP? INTERNSH*T? GET ON WITH IT!!

Dress rehearsal for the real job

Related to the previous point, an internship will also expose you to what it feels like to work in the real world, in that specific occupation. Thus, you will avoid a rude awakening once you start working full time. It will allow you to truly assess what you feel about that specific position. If you do not like it, you could still change your majors (if possible) or adjust your remaining units, to allow you to pursue an alternative career path.

Networking

Putting yourself out there will let the world see who you are. Quite often, even as an intern, you will be expected to deal with clients directly, which could result in some positive outcome, like being offered a job by them. An intern colleague of mine was once offered a job at the client's company, because they appreciated the quality of work he did for them.

Similarly, networking is useful because you meet people with a variety of skill sets from whom you yourself could learn or ask for help when you need it. This is crucial especially if you are thinking of starting up your own business and will need talented individuals to work for you – you could hire your colleagues or ask them for advice.

Diversify your skill set

Internships present you with an opportunity to gain skills in an area you are not majoring in. This will allow you to gain invaluable experience in an area you are interested in, without having to really waste your time trying to read up on it, or even taking up a particular unit. An internship does not have to be in a corporation; it could be in an NGO or governmental department too. A few of my

engineering friends recently completed their internship in an environmental protection NGO.

As it is, you cannot take up any internship in the coming holidays (June-July), as the duration is too short. However, you should take some time to consider whether you would want to do summer school or an internship during the summer break. If you decide that you want to do an internship, then identify a specify industry you would like to work in. Subsequently, do some research on the industry itself, identifying the companies you would want to work in or the companies working in your specific area of interest (especially for engineering and science-based companies).

When doing research on companies, keep a lookout for any information on internships – when are they offered (time), which positions/ departments are offering, application deadline, etc. If this information is not readily available, get in touch with the company's HR staff and find out about the internships and any requirements they might have. It is good to apply to more than one company; just in case you do not get an offer from one company, you still have a chance at others.

While pursuing an internship will mean sacrificing your vacation time, it would undoubtedly better prepare you for what lies ahead. So go on and do an internship!

The world is your oyster; see it for what it really is.



THE ROAD NOT TAKEN

Written by Ailyn Low | Photograph by Andy Lau Chuen Weng

You've come to a fork in the road. Which path do you chose to walk on? One is green and blooming with wild flowers. Maybe you'll take this road and stop to smell the Plumbagos once in a while. The other is a yellow brick road that's covered with gold you don't possess. Maybe you'll take this and collect the loose gold gravels along the way.

You try to look beyond it to see what is at the end of each of the roads but to no avail. Both seem like an endless journey. You do not know the danger that lies beyond what your eyes can see. But, alas, you have to move on. You have to decide which road you'd rather take.

We've all been at our own personal crossroads - where we have to make decisions that would alter our lives. We're forced to make decisions without knowing the consequences despite knowing the little details about what would be expected.

You know the flowers you'd be able to smell and the gold gravels that you'd be able to touch but you would never know the real challenges that you'd face walking down those roads. We're called to plan our course without even knowing what's at the end of the rainbow.

So which road do you take? Do you go ahead and follow Frost's poem and take 'The Road Not Taken' or do you follow the path that has been trampled on by others in the past? Here's a secret.

It's not about choosing the road less taken but rather what you make of the journey to the end.

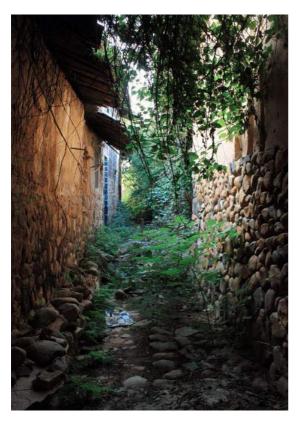
Whatever road that we choose, we would never be able to predict for certain how life would be at the end of the tunnel. Both roads may not be very different from each other but both would have given different outcomes, different trials and different rewards. We choose the path we think benefits us the most and start our journey on it.

What matters is what you make of it. You could go running to the end of a beautiful road but if you go by without appreciating the little details, whether good or bad, you'd blame the road and regret not taking the other.

So, Monashians, remember to pause and smell the flowers while you're still in Monash. Pause now and take a moment to appreciate.

Appreciate the beauty of having an education. Appreciate the friends you have. Appreciate how you've been given the opportunity to learn from your failed relationships. Appreciate having straight HDs. Appreciate failing in your units and learning from it. Take in the good and the bad. Appreciate the little details in your own life.

That's when you've really journeyed through the road not taken - The road crafted by you.



Photograph by Low Jie Min



Wind Resistance.
Photograph by Josh Kuan.



Photograph by Andy Lau Chuen Weng

EXCHANGE: AN OUTGOING PERSPECTIVE

by Mateen Qadri







For Semester 2, 2013 and Semester 1, 2014, I was extremely lucky to have been given the chance to go on exchange at the University of Warwick in the United Kingdom. The University of Warwick (pronounced War-ick) is located in Coventry in the West Midlands. It is not, as much as the name may suggest, in Warwick. Located centrally, it is about 2 hours by train from London. When I received the exchange offer, I immediately took it because Warwick was an excellent university with great faculty, and the exchange would provide me an experience that would be unforgettable. It lived up to all my expectations.

At Warwick, I was enrolled in the School of Engineering. Most of the modules I took were third-year level units, except for an immensely interesting fourth year module on mathematical and computational modeling. However, it was slightly awkward to adjust to the academic system at Warwick which had less emphasis on assignments. It wasn't all work though, as Warwick has a plethora of clubs and societies such as the debating society, Model UN, and the odd Cheese and Chocolate society.

I've learnt a lot from my exchange experience, and as a result I would implore everyone to consider going on exchange. Primarily, it helped me develop an understanding of cultural relativity, and to engage and appreciate different cultures. It also gave me some independence and autonomy, which helped me to instill selfreliance into myself. This is important especially within the context of Monash because a large number of people live at home and commute to university, thus inhibiting their ability to be independent. Believe me, I've lived at home, and I can say that the experience taught me a lot more about being self-reliant. It also helped me pick up skills that I would not have otherwise. For example, I learnt how to stitch, cook, fish, and the technique of punting.



Going on exchange also served as a great opportunity to show prospective employers that I have not hesitated in expanding my horizons. It showed that I can adapt, adjust and integrate into a new society – a very important trait given the globalised nature of society at this moment.

Most of all, I have developed a realisation of how lucky I was to have access to the education that I've always had. Many people take it for granted, even though there are massive inequalities in education where people don't have access to the same opportunities and services that we, at Monash, have. We need to realise this and start helping those who don't have the same opportunities that we do. The exchange program changed my motivations drastically and helped me develop a more nuanced understanding of the world we live in. As cliché as it might sound, the exchange program changed me.

I would not have been able to go for exchange without the immense assistance provided by Selwyn and Gina from Monash Abroad. I'd also like to express my deepest gratitude for those people who have made the experience unforgettable: Natasha, Jessie, Devina, Adil, Manceypants, Pallot, Kimbo, Bulldo, and last but definitely not the least, Emilia.

Oh, and Paris is horrible. Rome is enchanting. Zagreb is beautiful. London is alright.

Also, it's pronounced the River Thames (Tem-z).







STREETS OF BANGKOK

Photographs by Tan Wen Jie







































by "Carm =)"

Somehow, Standing at the edge of this road It is not the end There is more waiting ahead Ahead of this edge of the road.

However, Looking back at the journey rode It felt almost an end There was once a moment A life changing moment it was.

At the beginning, Choosing to take this journey It was never easy There were so many worries Worries of how life would be

At the same time, Pondering the road that was not taken It might have made things different There the worries continued Continued to keep those thoughts awake.

But then,
Pulling through on this journey
It was clear that it was the right road to be
There were no regrets
No regrets to be at the edge of this road.

So now, Say goodbye to the road that was not taken.

by "Eos"

As I strolled down the beautifully manicured path,

Smooth and definite unlike the maze; The surrounding was serene and the track predetermined,

How wonderful was the journey of my childhood days!

Little did I know that the tranquility would not last.

Ahead of that journey laid two paths; Smooth, broad pavement or winding, narrow trail?

Reasoning and intuition disagreed on the choice to be made.

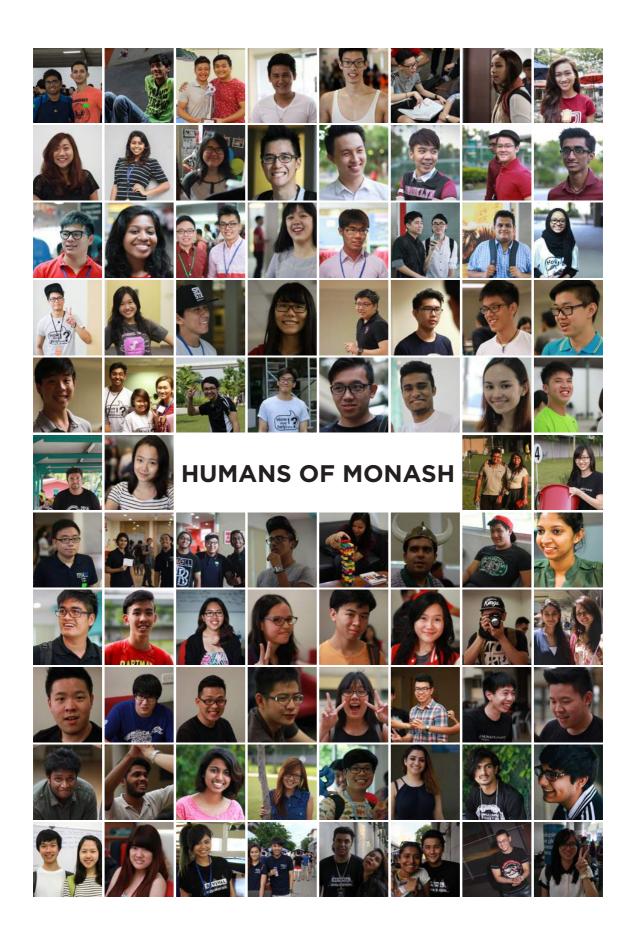
I held my breath and took my first step, Intuition drowned reasoning, 'the narrow trail it is!'

Scratches are inevitable and falls are unavoidable,

The manicured path was then deeply missed.

'Take the broad pavement', many would suggest,

'The journey is smooth without all these mess'; The choice is mine, I will not protest It will end with an unprecedented fruit of success.



HUMANS OF MONASH MALAYSIA



"My parents know that I've been feeling all sorts of down for the past week because school & assignments & reports & research.

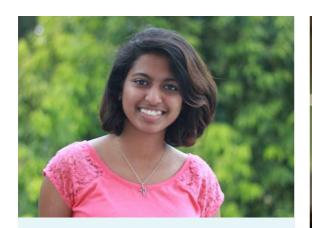
The night after my mid terms, my dad came into my room and said 'I don't want you to be so worried about school. Just try your best and if you fail, it's okay, we can always try again. Mum and Dad will always be here to support you. We want you to enjoy your life and be happy. God will take care of the rest.'

Then, I realised that I might just have the best parents of all time."

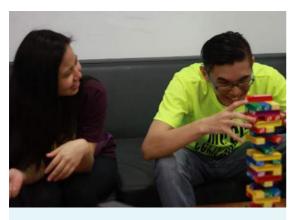


"What's the meaning of your tattoo?"

"Usually before you launch an arrow, you have to pull it back. That's my definition of how life is. Before you achieve greatness, you have to go through hardship. That one line connecting to the bow shows that life can only take halfway and you'd have to work out the extra half."



"I'm a feminist, but it doesn't mean that I hate men."



"Are you guys together?" *They laughed*

"Are you guys almost together?"

Laughed even more



"Can I ask you about your balloon?"
"Yeah, I got it from an event yesterday."
"Why did you tie it there?"
"It's to make my bag lighter.. cause it's filled
with helium."



Communication is key. I met him during orientation and today we are really good friends. We Skype every night.

If I didn't communicate with him, we wouldn't be such good friends."



"What do you think about the Music Festival line up?"

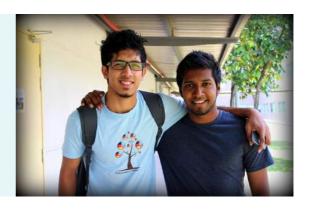
"Uhhh.. we don't know. It's our first time going to a rave."

"Oh.. did you tell your parents?"

"No."

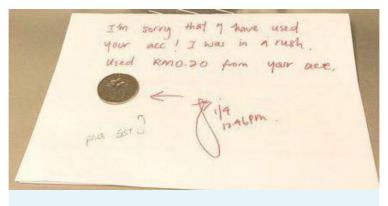
"We came for a common cause."

Taken by Anushiya, during Monash ICC Cricket Match: Australia vs. India.





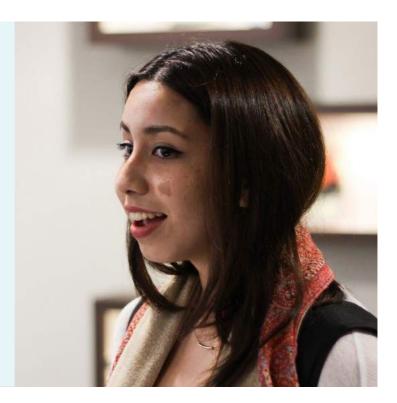
"What are you guys discussing about?"
"We are arguing about whether Singapore is better than Malaysia."



#FaithInHumanityRestored #MonashMalaysia #Library #RandomActsOfKindness

"I'd say studying is important because you don't just get things handed to you; you need to be skilled enough to get them."

"It sounds a little cheesy..."
"No, I truly believe that one needs to work hard in order to be successful."





"Why are you running?" "Meeting, meeting!"

"Do you have a girlfriend?"

"Yeah."

"Did you both meet in Monash?"

"No, we met before this. But she just came in."

"So was her decision to join Monash becau-"

"No no no, it wasn't because of me. I know what you were going to ask."





"We met at the mamak through a mutual friend. She digs music and I dig music and I play music so she comes to my shows and we talk about music. We had an acoustic show and she joined us once. She played the rain maker for us. It was really fun."



"We love the Malaysian weather, and we love this place. It's fantastic. This place is more chill than back home in Aussie."

"I don't have much I would like to change about my past. I've received good guidance from my parents and great support from friends. I do have slight regrets but nothing that would make me change my decisions so far."





"I have this irrational fear that sometimes people see through me and know what I'm thinking. Like, they can read my mind, then think that my thoughts are stupid and laugh at me. I am aware and know that this isn't possible, but I just can't help feeling this way."



"Getting a girlfriend is more difficult than walking on a tight rope, but I'd still love my girlfriend more than walking on the rope."



"Have you heard of Humans of New York?"

"What is that?"



"Do you have any regrets in life?"
"I don't have any regrets. Just lessons to be learnt."

"Most people are afraid to choose the road less taken because they are afraid that they might fail. Failing is a possibility but we shouldn't let it stop us from trying to accomplish what most people wouldn't even consider. After all, with greater risks, you may also reap greater rewards. I think you shouldn't be afraid to give something impossible a try because with the right amount of work, nothing is impossible."





"I wish I could start college all over again. Every semester has been the same, skipping lectures, putting off work until the mid sem break. I would prepare myself better if I had a second chance at this."



"What is the one thing you'd want right now?" "Power."



"I guess I've got a tiny problem with self-confidence. I've always thought it is better to have zero publicity than to have even 1% of bad publicity, so it was quite a big deal for me when I decided to run for elections. Then I realised that people will find shit to say about you or your work no matter what, because you can't please everybody. I'm learning to just do my best without worrying too much about what people are going to say. "



We met in 2008, in China. We both lived there. There's a lot to connect with because we are both Indian but were brought up in Shanghai. I came here first and then she came and we didn't even know we were in the same university until she found me. We don't exactly know him, he's just always there and we can't get rid of him.



"Tell me something interesting about yourself." "I am a very uninteresting person."

Editor's note: This picture generated quite a few response from students who know her, and they've vouched that she is, in fact, not uninteresting at all.



"My passion is fitness. I'm currently taking a course to be a personal trainer. There is no age limit to fitness."



Photograph by Low Jie Min



Photograph by Andy Lau Chuen Weng



Photograph by Tan Wen Jie



2015 Semester 1

Here is a non-exhaustive list of the events that had taken place on campus so far!

MAR 7

ORIENTATION BASH

MAR 26

26

IT MINGLE NIGHT

MAY 6 ENGINEERING & BUSINESS MOVIE NIGHTS

MAR 9

C&S WEEK

GIVEAWAY

WOMEN'S WEEK

ENGINEERING COOKIE

APR

MED SOCIAL NIGHT

MONASH MUSIC

MAY 11

NIGHT

NIGHT

MONASH CULTURAL

PHARMACY MOVIE

MAR 18

SCIENCE FUSION NIGHT

APR 15

SCIENCE MOVIE NIGHT

MAY 13

RETRO THEME DAY

MAR 19

ENGINEERING BUDDY-BUDDEE APR 16 MUSA AGM

FESTIVAL

MAY **21**

STARLIGHT CINEMA

MAR 20

MIDWEEKMINGLE

APR **25**

DISCOVER MONASH

POOL TOURNAMENT

MAR 21

FMM CONFERENCE

APR 28

IT MOVIE NIGHT



ORIENTATION BASH SEMESTER 1, 2015

Coverage by Jade-E Lim, Hao Bin & Tan Wen Jie

On the 7th of March 2015, over 200 bright-eyed first year students arrived on campus for the first orientation bash of the year. Upon arrival, they were served breakfast and then split into eleven groups of nineteen. They then journeyed to Outbac Broga for the Orientation Bash!

The day was filled with several exciting activities like rock climbing, kayaking, and an "Amazing Race". The goal of the race was to go through several obstacles in order to obtain materials needed to make a cup of hot Milo. Examples of the materials included matches to start the fire, a spoon and Milo packets for.. well, the Milo. The fastest team to complete the race wins!

After unexpected rainfall, the participants adjourned to the field for the barbecue dinner. Soon after, a bonfire was lighted and the instructors from Outbac Broga put on a breathtaking fire performance, complete with fire breathing and fire eating. The show ended at about 10pm and the participants journeyed back to campus exhausted but satisfied with the events of the day.























48 | Monga: The Road Not Taken





























ORIENTATION BASH @ OUTBAC BROGA 7TH MARCH 2015











CLUBS & SOCIETIES WEEK

Written by Alvin Tan & Chong J-Mee

C&S Week for Semester 1, 2015 was held on 9th March to 13th March 2015 to much excitement from both students and clubs and societies alike. Much effort were put in by the C&S Division Committee in preparation for this special week, where clubs & societies of Monash University Malaysia opened booths to showcase their uniqueness.

The week was specifically for the recruitment of new members and the renewal of existing members. The race was on to register new and old faces on the first day (Monday) at 10.00am when the booths were officially opened. Traffic was heavy as students were eager to quench their curiosity. More fun was imbued into the C&S Week as performances were held for three days (10th-12th March) between 12.00pm to 2.00pm each day.

The clubs and societies that entertained the audiences were Monash Dance Fusion Club, Tae Kwon Do Club, Music Club, and Aikido Club. Many were awed by their respective performances which varied from alluring dance acts, to stunning martial arts and even an awesome live band.

Besides that, the clubs and societies also competed for the Best Booth Award for the most creative decoration or ideas and the Most Popular Booth Award for obtaining the most Facebook 'likes'. The clubs and societies were eager to decorate their booths with some arriving early Monday morning (some even on Sunday) to get their booths ready. In the end, Monash Dance Fusion Club won the Best Booth Award by votes from the C&S Division Committee. The Most Popular Booth Award was won by Monash University Chinese Cultural Society for having the most 'likes'.









































MID-WEEK MINGLE

Written by Sharanya Ramaswamy

It's raining... for the 100th time this month, which is no surprise thanks to the tropical location of Malaysia. I guess there has to be a price to pay for summer all year round. As I sit in my room despising the rain, I ponder on whether I should even bother attending the mid-week mingle now that the blasted rain has ruined my spirits or whether I should just stay dry inside and start a Lord of the Rings marathon. Seeing that I wrote this article, I'm sure you can guess what I decided to do. I courageously mustered all my will power to leave dry land to see what my evening held and I must say it was a great decision indeed.

When I reached the foyer, everyone was still hanging around their usual clique and you could see chunks of people in their own tiny groups not doing much mingling as the event suggested. However, in just a short while, everyone was registered, grouped and away from their comfort zone of people.

The activities arranged were very entertaining despite seeming slightly unorganized. The first game was human bingo. I unfortunately did not win and I don't mean to sound bitter but I bet the winners cheated. I mean how are you supposed to find a stranger who wears contact lenses

or a stranger who would do squats for you right? Ok, so maybe I'm a little bitter about it. The second activity was a relay of sorts. Team members had to go back and forth from one end to another while performing a series of tasks with the added pressure of not letting their teammates down. I feel that this activity really helped people break through that initial awkwardness because 'ain't nobody got time fo dat' when you're in it to win it. The last game was just messy and I didn't even know when the game began or ended but no one minded because we were all getting along just fine. Finally it was dinner time. Good food accompanied with good music really set a good vibe.

I must really give props to the MUSA members for setting a good atmosphere throughout the event and really helping Monashians, especially newbies like me, break out of their shells. All in all, I had a good time and I'm sure everyone else who participated did as well. I'm certainly looking forward to more of such events.







































FMM SELANGOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP & INNOVATION CONFERENCE

Coverage by Kevin Richard

'From Young Entrepreneurs to Successful Tycoons'

Monash University was proud to host the Federation of Manufacturers Malaysia (FMM) Entrepreneurship & Innovation Conference 2015 on the 21st of March. Participants (industry professionals and students alike) were given the privilege of hearing from successful industry executives as well as partake in interactive learning workshops with prominent FMM Selangor Entrepreneurs.

Close to 200 participants were in attendance as the day began with introductory welcomes from YBhg Dato' Soh Thian Lai, the chairman of FMM Selangor and Prof. Mahendhiran Nair the Deputy President (Strategy) of Monash University Malaysia. The launching of the event was headed by Dato Menteri Besar Selangor, YAB Tuan Mohamed Azmin bin Ali.

This was followed by success story sharings by YBhg Dato' Michael Tio, the Group Chief Executive & Managing Director of PKT Logistics Group Sdn Bhd and YBhg Tan Sri Dato' Sri Lim Wee Chai, the Chairman of Top Glove Corporation Berhad.

After lunch, the participants were given the chance to sit for an interactive session with one of the 10 prominent FMM entrepreneurs listed below.

- Dr Helena Eian: Managing Director, Accel Graphic System Sdn Bhd
- Mr Jacob Lee: Managing Director, Asli Mechanical Sdn Bhd
- Mr Peter Toh: Director, Frosco (M) Sdn Bhd
- YBhg Dato' Nathan Suppiah: CEO, Isus
 Dentomedic Industries Sdn Bhd
- Encik Abdul Samad Ibrahim: COO, Kulitkraf Sdn Berhad
- Ir A K Woo: Managing Director, Master Jaya Engineering Sdn Bhd
- Dr Neoh Vee Heng: Managing Director, NETC Asia Resources Sdn Bhd
- YBhg Dato' Andrew Goh: Director, Taik Sin Timber Industry Sdn Bhd
- Mr Chan Cheu Leong: Managing Director & Group CEO, Wah Seong Corporation Berhad
- YBhg Dato' Soh Thian Lai: Group Managing Director & CEO, YKGI Holdings Berhad





2nd April 2015 MONASH MUSIC FESTIVAL '15

"Awesome."

That was the only thing first-year student Lee Ka Vei could say when asked about the Monash Music Festival. The Monash Music Festival was held on the 2nd of April to a sold out crowd and it blew our minds. There was a risk of rain throughout the day, but it seems as though even Mother Nature was ready to jump, sweat and dance throughout the night, as the skies remained clear.

As evening arrived, so did the people. They had already begun queuing up to get their wristbands by 5PM. The various food trucks and stalls, as well as the Red Bull stands were ready to serve the party-goers. Organisers distributed glow sticks and all sorts of other party gear for free, making it feel like a full-fledged music festival. Monash was ready.

First up on stage was Tasha Aleia. Wooing

the crowd with her voice, her performance got us in the mood for more. Up next was the local pop-punk band, An Honest Mistake. Lead singer Darren Teh, with his long pink hair, got the whole crowd head banging to their sick tunes. This was reminiscent of the times when bands like Fall Out Boy and Simple Plan were making a name for themselves back in the early 2000s.

Acoustic songs? Check. Punk rock? Check. Then it was time for some beat boxing, as the Human Hi-Fi came out, using only their mouths and a microphone for some dope beats. Even classic Chinese songs weren't spared as they gave their own spin on a golden Chinese oldie. More contemporary pop hits such as Uptown Funk followed. I would however suggest disinfecting the microphones they used before using them for other events. Just sayin'.

DJ Silent was up next. He got us all in the mood for partying as he dropped the beats.







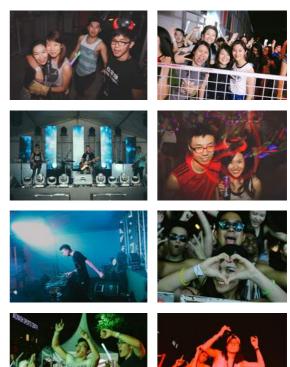


Written by Saw Ray Mond | Photographss by Hao Bin, Kevin Richard, Jade-E Lim, Jonathan Lim and Ravin Shanmugarajan



This was the part where the Red Bulls being handed out during the event came in handy. Everyone in the crowd raved and partied. Technical issues failed to dampen the mood; instead it just got everyone asking for more. BATE and Goldfish carried on and some really energetic souls danced and jumped throughout the night. If it were not for the excitement of the night that made Monashians extremely energized, then it may have been the fact that the critical due dates for most assignments had just passed.

The Monash Music Festival was amazing, and I doubt many would deny that. Credit must be given to the organisers for going way above expectations, as well as the crowd for the support and for creating the amazing atmosphere throughout the night. I had a great time and I know everyone else did too; now time to go back to my books *cries*.











SIETT











TASHA ALEIA













GOLDFISH



















DISCOVER MONASH

Photographs by Jonathan Lim















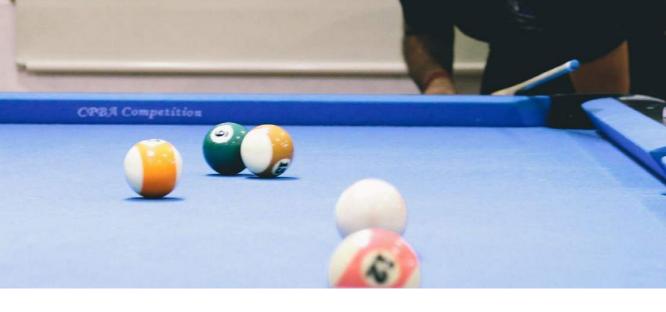












MUSA POOL TOURNAMENT

Photographs by Kevin Richard













MY ANGEL FROM THE STARS

Coverage by Jade-E Lim & Hao Bin

'My Angel from the Stars' is basically a fancy name for a speed dating event, or rather, as the organisers prefer to call it, a "social interactive event with a twist". (The reason they refused to let anyone call it a speed dating event was because they were afraid they wouldn't get enough female participants.)

The event started on the 22nd of April, where a booth was set up with fifty envelopes taped across three boards. Guys and girls who signed up were randomly assigned a number between one and fifty and similar numbers were paired together without the participants knowing. (In case you didn't get that: Guy #49 was paired with girl #49 but they didn't know who they were paired up with.) They were assigned to either the roles of "angels" or "mortals" and throughout the week, they were able to leave notes or gifts for their counterparts in their numbered envelopes.

A week after, on the 29th of April, the girls were gathered in the exam hall and the guys were gathered in front of the library. They had a short ice-breaking game and were later blindfolded. The guys then entered the exam hall and were randomly paired with a girl, both blind-folded, and they were able to 'speed date' for 5 minutes. Then, the guys were again randomly paired with another girl. After 5 turns, the guys were then led to the girl of the same number (Guy #49 finally gets to meet girl #49) and their blindfolds were removed.

After friendly conversations and exchanging gifts (and phone numbers) between angels and mortals, the participants adjourned to the cafeteria for free food!

Overall this 'social interactive event' was a big success and we hope it helped the guys from School of Engineering meet some girls. (Just kidding!)





























MONASH CULTURAL NIGHT

Coverage by Jade-E Lim & Kevin Richard

MUISS's Monash Cultural Night: The Decennial was held on the 10th May 2015 at PJ Hilton. The night was filled with lively performances and vibrant colours as most of the students of Monash who attended were dressed in various traditional attires. Students from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Mauritius were among the few who proudly represented their countries by performing in group dances and bands. There was also a fashion show that included the traditional costumes from countries such as Thailand, Japan and even Egypt. The last performance of the night which brought together students from many different countries was a fitting end to an enchanting night.

The event was very entertaining, although it dragged on a little too long. Needless to say, students are already looking forward to the next Cultural Night.

































The Decennial

Bringing it way back downtown!











RETRO THEME DAY



















Retro Theme Day | 67

























FASHION REVOLUTION

by Kevin Richard





If you noticed an odd trend happening around Monash on the 24th April 2015, it was most probably due to the Fashion Revolution Day. Some students were seen wearing their shirts inside out throughout the day. The reason for this was for people to stop and ask "Who made my clothes?"

Two years ago on that same date, 1129 people were killed and thousands more were seriously injured when the Rana Plaza Factory complex in Bangladesh collapsed. It was the world's largest garment factory accident, but it was not the first. Many more incidents of a similar nature have occurred. Conditions were poor, regulations were not met, and the workers were being treated inhumanely and paid disastrously low wages for their work.

It was time that we stood up to challenge the multi-billion dollar corporations to figure out if they pay adequate attention to providing suitable working conditions for everyone involved in the making of their clothes, at every level of the value chain. Monashians took to social media and joined activists from over 70 countries to raise an awareness to inspire change and reconnect the broken links in the supply chain.

On the aforementioned day, Monashians posted selfies showing their respective clothes' label onto their social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram in order to join the revolution by using the hashtag #FASHREV. In doing so, they are required to tag the particular brand that they are sporting and ask them #whomademyclothes?

Hopefully Fashion Revolution Day has highlighted to these brands the need to always be aware of the rights of their workers and may go a long way in ensuring fair treatment for everyone.

IIDEX 2015 Competition (Bronze Medal) 27th-30th April 2015

Title: 'Innovation of Assessment and Feedback in care Communication using Google Glass' by Ho Weng Han, Chua Xin Ni, Chew Esyin, Lee Pei Lee

Invention, Innovation & Design Exposition (IIDEX2015) is an annual International Exhibition and Competition organized by Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM). The theme for 2015 is, "Bridging Innovation to Maximize Commercialization".

F-Secure Network Security Competition

Two teams of students from the School of Information Technology took part in the Digital Freedom Fighter IT Security Competition Malaysia 2015.





Industrial Talks

- Re-defining the next Generation IT Architect by Mr. Yip Je Sum, Independent Consultant
- Cloud computing on the Windows
 Azure Platform by Dr Wong Chek Yoon,
 Independent Consultant
- The Art of Programming & Parametric Manufacturing by Mr. Göran Rydqvist, VP R&D, Configura

Telemedicine Innovation Challenge

Three students from the school of Information Technology have been shortlisted to participate in the 2015 Telemedicine Innovation Challenge jointly organized by Monash University, Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC), and CREST. Chuan Leong Foo, Eddy Cheng Han Ng, and Chen Hui Lee, together with their mentor, Dr. Sylvester Olubolu Orimaye have proposed and are currently working on a mobile algorithm and application that detects close proximity between a mobile device and a person using symptomatic related signals around the person for doctor's visualization and/or diagnosis.

School of IT Mingle Night



SoIT Movie Night (Avengers)



MuPhas Health Campaign (15th -17th of April 2015)









HIGHLIGHTS

- Health Talks
 - 1. What is STD and Contraceptives
 - 2. Oral Contraceptives
 - 3. Acne and YOU
 - 4. Role of Pharmacists in Retail
- Health Booths
 - 1. Oral Contraceptives
 - 2. Sexually Transmitted Diseases
 - 3. Cardiovascular Diseases
 - 4. Stop Smoking
 - 5. Acne-Free You
- 6. Health Screening
- Health Exhibition
- Photo Booth
- Movie Screening

MuPhas Mingle Night (6th March 2015)



National Pharmacy Quiz



A team of five people Lok Kok Hou, Eunice Lee, Jeremiah Chin, Shirley Lim and Windermere Ong took part in the national pharmacy quiz held at Cyberjaya University College of Medical Sciences, and won 6th place out of 21 competing teams!

Pharmacy Movie Night



Who doesn't want free Fast 7 movie tickets and snacks?

Engineering and IT Leadership Program (EILP)



OUTBAC Broga



Team Building Workshop



Mentor Mentee Night



OUTBAC Broga

Engineering Movie Night



Buddy Buddee Night



Photographs by Chin Tzer Haw

S.O.B MOVIE NIGHT













Ever wonder where you should go for international exchange? Follow Shen Yeng's (middle) footstep to Copenhagen University @ Denmark!

Let it snow~ Let it snow~ She is completing her final semester of study in Bachelor of Science (Biotechnology) in Copenhagen University.





Science activities for School of Science on Discover Monash Day!



School of Science FUSION NIGHT - where permanent bonds are made.



School of Science Fast & Furious Night on 15th April 2015 at TGV Sunway Pyramid.



School of Science won on MUSA day!



Best Graduate Award Ceremoney for April graduation 2015 (School of Science).

From left, Ms. Hoo Jing Ying, Ms. Serene Ng, Prof. David James Young (Head of School), Ms. Chong Wei Teng, Mr. Tan Jun Xiong, Ms. Loh Karr Muun



Interning at the UN was an impossible dream come true! I got to apply knowledge from my studies in a real life setting and be part of a global process.

The feeling of walking into the UN daily is indescribable and amazing! Interning in Kenya allowed me to experience the country, culture and meet people from all over the world that widened my networking. I am truly glad for this opportunity as it definitely will help me in my future endeavours" - Cassandra (Bachelor of Science)

MBBS SOCIAL NIGHT (2nd April 2015)







Intervarsity Medical Quiz Challenge (25th April 2015)

- Monash sent 2 teams of Year 2 MBBS students, both teams obtained 8th place among 19 teams from 11 local and private universities. Universities that took part include MSU, UKM, Mahsa, UiTM, Lincoln and Segi.





Psychology Charity Bake sale (19th - 23rd May 2014)

Cupcakes and brownies were sold with interesting quotes and facts related to psychology and mental health. The purpose of the sale was to raise awareness about mental health in Malaysia and to clear up some common misunderstandings about people affected by mental disabilities. Profit of the sale was donated to Pusat Penjagaan Kanak-kanak Cacat Taman Megah.





Movie Night (21st August 2014)

The movie chosen was 'Lucy'. Before the movie started, a short introduction was given regarding the '10% brain usage' psychological myth which was depicted in the movie to bring awareness and debunk this misconception.



Stress Talk (22nd August 2014)

A practicing clinical psychologist was invited to give a talk regarding stress management. The purpose of the talk was to spread awareness about handling stress and share techniques on managing stress as well as how to help others to cope with stress.



Sheep Night (26th September 2014)

This event was held for students to mingle in a themed game setting. Players were given a card that were their characters for the rest of the game. The 'Good' roles will have to find the 'Evil' roles to stop the 'White Sheeps' from being eaten using manipulation and deceit.





Psycho Run (20th March 2015)

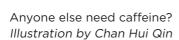
The main purpose of this event was to introduce basic psychology knowledge to the participants and pique their interest in psychology while providing a platform for them to interact with each other.







Adventure. Illustration by Chan Hui Qin







TEAM MONASH



Team Monash: Ultimate Frisbee

Alarick Weng Singh
Gun Chin Hwa
Yeoh Yih Ming
Tneh Yu Wei
Ruzain Bin Mohd Suffian
Yap Jian Shen
Lim Wooi Teck
Alvina Too Yit Hui
Krystle Chang Jen Peng
Ooi Zher Yew
Elena Ng Yee En
Hazel Hah Chien Yie
Jesslyn Ding

Team Monash: Grappling

Thein Segaran
Nicholas Su
Justin Tang
Nicole Kimberlyn Attenborough
Hui Keng Fai
Abang Dzulqarrnaen
Franklin Foo
Chew Chee Chan
King Yang
Lim Shuh Jiun
Shrinnah Lim

Team Monash: Basketball

Nelsen Willyanto Rahardi Lim Ri Xiong Seow King Lim Chin Yun Han Chong Koon Meng Alexander Lim Zhi Chin Cody Su Fong Fatt Sai Zhong Hong Giovanno Hartono Pok Say Wei Eric Yii Bing Hung Ng Zhong Shun Justin Nicholas Amalopanathan Nicholas Ng Wei Jern Tse Shui Zun Kelvin Samuel Mardianto Wong Hon Fei Chua Lucas Ng Zhang Jack Kukuraj Tharmasegaram



























Find out which house you belong to...
What are the last two digits of your Student ID No.?

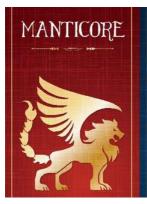
01-25 MANTICORE

26-50 LEVIATHAN

51-75 CUELEBRE

76-00 OPINICUS

Cheerleading . Tug Of War . Futsal . Basketball . Badminton . Netball . Pool . Table Tennis . Frisbee . Cricket . Athletics . Swimming . Dodge Ball









Monash Student Council (MSC) comprises MUSA, MUISS, C&S and MUPA. Our offices are located at the Monash Sports Centre, Level 2.

What is MUSA?

Monash University Students association (MUSA) is the student organisation that serves as the recognised means of communication between the students and the academic as well as the administrative authorities of the university. MUSA sets out to provide the best student life attainable to all Monash University Malaysia students.

http://facebook.com/musapage

What is MUISS?

The Monash University International Student Services (MUISS) is a diversified international student body that represents the international student community of Monash University Malaysia. MUISS seeks to foster a common identity between the myriad of nationalities, ethnicities and cultures within our university, and they organise events such as Cultural Night, KL tour, etc.

http://facebook.com/MUISS.Sunway

What is C&S Division?

The Clubs and Societies (C&S) Division manages a range of different clubs and societies in Monash University Malaysia, and aims to enhance student life through a wide range of extracurricular activities. The C&S Division also organises the Clubs and Societies Week every second week of the semester, as well as the Monash Cup tournament.

http://facebook.com/CnS.Monash.Malaysia

What is MUPA?

The Monash University Postgraduate Association (MUPA) serves as a bridge between postgraduates/honours students and the academic/administrative authorities of the university. MUPA strives to protect, promote and develop the interests and welfare of postgraduate and honours students.

http://mupa.monash.edu.my



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Monga: The Road Not Taken

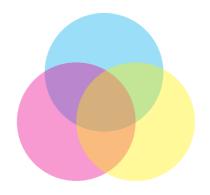
Crafted with cookies and coffees, by MUSA Editorial Board: Hao Bin, Jade, Sagar, Kevin & awesome subcommittees

Anyone wishing to contribute their skills in photography, design, writing, illustrating, art, etc, or wishing to submit their work to be published, are welcomed to email us at musa.editor@monash.edu

UPCOMING ISSUE: YOU.

WE WANT YOU TO:

- JOIN EDITORIAL COMMITTEE
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- EXPRESS YOURSELF
- TELL US YOUR STORY
- GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK
- BE PART OF SOMETHING AWESOME
- BE YOURSELF.



fb.com/humansofmonashmalaysia





