

## MoA between UM and Mahidol University

Prof. Dr. Stefanie Pillai, Assoc. Prof. Dr Jariah Mohd Jan, Dr Surinderpal Kaur, and Dr David Yoong were at the International Seminar for Education for Ethnic Groups at Mahidol University, Thailand, where a MoA between UM and Mahidol was signed on the 30th of January 2019. The MoA will see greater cooperation between the two universities in the areas of research, knowledge and human capital exchanges. A day after the signing of the MoA, the delegates were taken to a rural community to experience and learn about the cultural revitalisation efforts being undertaken to preserve and maintain traditions, local knowledge and identity.



Prof. Dr Banchong Mahaisavariya, Acting President of the Mahindol University, and Assoc. Prof. Dr Jariah Mohd Jan, Dean of the Faculty of Languages and Linguistics, UM

## Voluntourism Abroad

A group of 24 volunteers from the University of Malaya spent time in January 2019 in Desa Wisata Lubok Sukon, Aceh, Indonesia, where they helped the people to plant paddy. This maiden programme was organised by Sekretariat Sukarelawan UM (SEKRUM) and was named 'Voluntourism Abroad'. The programme was in collaboration with Universitas Syiah Kuala, Aceh, Indonesia. The Faculty of Languages and Linguistics would like to commend Muhammad Irsyad Zaini, a final year English Language undergraduate, for taking part in this meaningful programme. "This programme is unique because it combines both the aspects of volunteerism and tourism. We not only benefit as volunteers, but also get closer to the culture and history of the local community," he said. The Faculty is extremely proud of him and hopes that many more will follow in his footsteps and carry out similar community engagement programmes.



UM Volunteers planting paddy in Aceh

For more, visit <https://kampusuols.com/article/424277/Uni-Kita/AKTIVITI-KAMPUS/Mahasiswa-SEKRUM-teruja-tanam-padi-tradisional-di-Aceh>

## **4-week English Language Programme for Daejin University, Korea, 26 December 2018 - 25 January 2019**

This programme was an intensive communication-based course in English for 20 undergraduate students from Daejin University. Under the tutelage of 4 instructors from the Language Unit, the students developed confidence in expressing ideas effectively using appropriate structures and vocabulary in English through pair/group work, discussions, presentations and debates. Using video and oral presentations, they also shared experiences from recreational activities such as their homestay at Kampung Parit Bugis and a field trip to Malacca.

The highlight of the closing ceremony was the drama presentation. The students created the plot, prepared the script, backdrop/props, managed the light/sound effects, and gave a memorable performance. Overall, the students enjoyed the programme and Daejin University intends to send more students in future.



Daejin University Students Presentation

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## **AsTW (ASEAN in Today's World) Programme**

The ASEAN in Today's World programme was held in the University of Malaya from 20 February 2019 to 7 March 2019. This inter-university event, which was largely funded by Kyushu University, saw students from a few ASEAN nations (Laos, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia, Indonesia) and non-ASEAN nations (Japan and China) participating in knowledge exchange and cultural learning. Formal language lessons took place in the morning at the Faculty of Languages and Linguistics, where students were divided into groups according to their learning preferences. Those who opted for English had their lessons facilitated by Dr Cecilia Cheung and Dr David Yoong. Those who opted for Malay had their lessons taught by Dr Mat Zaid. Students who chose Japanese were taught by Dr Wong Ngan Ling and Mr Ong Shyi Nian. After lunch, students attended another set of classes at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.





Dr Mat Zaid giving a lesson in Malay



Dr David facilitating an English lesson class

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## Featured Research: From Grabbing-and-Going to Engaging Communities

Prof. Dr. Stefanie Shamila Pillai is a firm advocate of the need to move away from a ‘grab-and-go’ research model to one that engages communities and gives back to them. To this end, she has been working with members of the MPC (Malacca Portuguese) community to help with revitalisation efforts. Also known as Papiá Cristang, MPC is considered an endangered language in UNESCO’s Red Book of Endangered Languages. The main motivation to sustain the language is the awareness that language loss can lead to a loss of cultural heritage and community identity. Thus, the survival of this language is a pressing concern for the Portuguese-Eurasian community in Malaysia. One of the most recent endeavours is a book published by UM Press, *Beng Prende Portugues Malaká (Papiá Cristang) – Come Let’s Learn Portugues Malaká (Papiá Cristang)*. The book was a collaborative project between a University of Malaya team headed by Prof. Pillai and the Malacca Portuguese-Eurasian Association (MPEA).

She is currently working with several community members to develop a dictionary of English-MPC as a mobile application. This will create an easy-to-access resource for those who want to use the language, particularly younger members of the community.



Prof. Dr. Stefanie Shamila Pillai (left) and her research team



Data collection in Malacca

For more on MPC:

- See archived materials at the Endangered Languages Archive  
<https://elar.soas.ac.uk/Collection/MPI130545>
- Listen to podcasts on BFM (Lingo Episode #10: Kristang Part 1 <https://www.bfm.my/lingo-episode-10-kristang-part-1.html> and Lingo Episode #11: Kristang Part 2 <https://www.bfm.my/lingo-episode-11-kristang-part-2.html>)
- Watch Al-Jazeera's report on MPC at <https://youtu.be/QQXtF3gjnac>
- Read <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/saving-endangered-languages-in-malaysia>

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## Collaboration with Spanish Speaking Countries

On Thursday, December 13 2018, FLL met the embassies of Spanish speaking countries and Aula Cervantes, Kuala Lumpur, at the FLL Conference Hall to discuss the proposed introduction of Spanish in public schools in Malaysia. Among those present were the ambassadors of Colombia and Peru, heads of mission of other Spanish speaking countries, and Prof Madya Dr Jariah Mohd Jan, Dean of FLL, who chaired the meeting. H.E. Mauricio González López, Ambassador of Colombia to Malaysia, presented to the faculty six Spanish books published by EAFIT, a leading university in Colombia.



Delegates from Spanish speaking countries with FLL Academicians



## Malacca Portuguese Dictionary Mobile App

BibePortMal is a mobile app that was launched on International Mother Language Day 2019. The app is a dictionary of Malacca Portuguese and will be available to download from the App Store and Google Play Store by the end of March 2019. The dictionary was developed in collaboration with representatives from the Malacca Portuguese-Eurasian Association and with funding from a prototype grant from UMCIC. The app is an important resource that will help to ensure that this endangered language continues to be used and learnt.

The dictionary enables users to search for words in Malacca Portuguese or English. The app has the following features:

- audio recordings of Malacca Portuguese words
- example sentences in Malacca Portuguese and their English translations
- images for selected words
- word of the day



At the launching with  
AP Dr. Jariah & Prof. Dr Stefanie



BibePortMal Mobile Mpp

## Developing a Professional Research Dissertation



A four-hour workshop was conducted by Dr. David Yoong from 9.30 am - 1.30 pm on 14th February 2019 at the Asmah Haji Omar Learning Space. Designed for postgraduate students, the workshop, entitled 'Developing a Professional Research Dissertation', discussed ways to write a professional research dissertation. Students from various faculties in the University of Malaya were taught how to develop and deliver their research. If you have students who are struggling with dissertations ask them to look out for and attend this workshop. It should help bring them one step closer to completing their dissertations.

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## Funding Your Research in Germany

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Germany is known for its ingenuity and strength in engineering and science. Naturally, this derives from a strong foundation in fundamental and cutting-edge research.

Join the info session conducted by UM and DAAD Kuala Lumpur to find out more about:

- How to further your postgraduate studies in Germany
- Germany's research landscape
- The portfolio of the various research institutes
- Funding opportunities provided by DAAD and other bodies
- How to reach out to potential German partners

Registration: <https://goo.gl/forms/xgRrKa8oYxyUW4Q2>

**SPEAKER: MR. BRIAN TRENAMAN**  
**DIRECTOR OF DAAD INFORMATION CENTRE KUALA LUMPUR**  
**DATE: 24 JAN 2019 (THURSDAY)**  
**TIME: 10.30 AM**  
**VENUE: AUDITORIUM ASIA EUROPE INSTITUTE (AEI)**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA, KUALA LUMPUR**

On the 24th of January 2019, Mr Brian Trenaman, who is part of the German Team at FLL, gave a talk in the Asia Europe Institute Auditorium. He spoke to researchers and potential postgraduate students about the many opportunities for research, research funding, and postgraduate studies in Germany.



## *Anugerah Tokoh Siswa 2018*

*Anugerah Tokoh Siswa* is an award given by the Ministry of Education, Malaysia, to student leaders of public universities in recognition of volunteerism, academic achievement, scientific innovation, and sporting achievement. Muhammad Irsyad Bin Zaini, a final-year English Language Department student, has been nominated for *Anugerah Pemimpin Sukarelawan (Terbuka)* and will be representing Sekretariat Sukarelawan Universiti Malaya (SEKRUM). A panel of judges will choose the winner after interviewing the nominees and examining the documentation of their projects.

This is what Muhammad Irsyad has to say:

*It is a great honour to represent the University of Malaya (UM), the leading university in Malaysia, and to be considered alongside influential student leaders from across Malaysia. For the past 4 years, I have focused on volunteer activities and have been involved in numerous projects in Malaysia and abroad because I believe that we must be sincere in everything we do, for only then will we achieve something of value. I thank the Student Affairs & Alumni Division of UM for the opportunities, my friends in Sekretariat Sukarelawan Universiti Malaya (SEKRUM) for their support, and especially my parents for instilling in me the love of helping people in need.*

Congratulations, Irsyad. We wish you all the best!



Irsyad's interview  
by a local media



With a foster family in Kg Solob,  
Sipitang, Sabah

## Tamil Language Programme: *Pesta Ponggal*

A *Ponggal* Festival was organized by the Tamil Language Programme for the first time in the Faculty of Languages and Linguistics on the 17th of January 2019. Tamils all over the world celebrate Ponggal or the harvest festival in gratitude to nature. Competitions such as making Ponggal, tying flowers and *thoranam*, making posters, making *kolam* and eating sugar cane were held. The Deputy Dean (Research and Development), Dr. David Yoong Soon Chye, who was present as a special guest, said such events are opportunities to witness the celebrations of different cultures in Malaysia. After the closing ceremony, guests enjoyed a banana leaf meal.



Students cooking Ponggal rice



Students enjoying a banana leaf lunch

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## Tamil Language Programme: *Majlis Makan Amal*



Students' cultural performance



Receiving a gold medal from the Dean

The Tamil Programme organised a *Majlis Makan Amal* on the 19th of January 2019 at the Midlands Convention Centre, Shah Alam. This was the second time the event was held. Its main purpose was to generate funds for activities and upgrades to the Tamil Resource Room. In addition, this event celebrated the achievements of students on the Dean's List. It was officiated by the Dean, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jariah Mohd Jan. 350 people attended the event, including representatives from NGOs and corporations as well as Tamil philanthropists. The Dean said that such activities not only provide a platform for students to showcase their talents but also create career opportunities.



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## English Language Programme Alumni Sharing Session

The English Language Department organised an alumni sharing session for its final year students on the 21st of December 2019. It was an informal chat session during which they asked Mr Lee Jia Wei questions about career opportunities for linguistics majors. Mr Lee described how his experience as a student of the English programme helped to prepare him for further studies and working life.



Students & lecturers with alumni



Students engrossed in the sharing session

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## Chinese Language Programme Alumni Sharing Session

The Chinese Programme of the Department of Malaysian Languages and Applied Linguistics organised an alumni sharing session on the 10th of December 2018 at Dewan Mengkula. 47 undergraduate students met 4 alumni. Ms How Lee Choon, president of the UM FLL Chinese Programme Alumni Association, donated RM1000 to the Chinese programme for the constructing of the Chinese Garden.





## German Language Programme Sharing Session

31 students attended the 2nd German Language Programme Alumni Sharing Session on the 12th of December 2018. 4 alumni were invited: Hajar (who graduated in 2014), Azfar (2017) and Pei Ru and Yasmin (who just completed a double degree programme with HTWG Konstanz). All four shared their experiences of studying at FLL and related how the programme and university life had helped to prepare them for the working world. Hajar said 8am classes and assignments had prepared her for work as a Simultaneous Interpreter at the Malaysian Parliament. Azfar told the students that although they might face some setbacks such as failing course(s), they could still succeed. Yasmin described student life and experiences in Konstanz while Pei Ru talked about the importance of a good CV when applying for internships or jobs. The students took the opportunity to ask questions during the Q & A session.



Alumni who were invited to share their experiences with students

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## Excursions with a Konstanz Exchange Student



Christmas was around the corner and a Konstanz exchange student got to experience how Christmas is celebrated in Kuala Lumpur! On the 13th of December 2018, three third year students took the opportunity to show Sofie the Christmas decorations in the shopping malls before going for a movie and having dinner together. Of course, they also spent time taking pictures and enjoying the popular Family Mart ice cream.

## German Language Programme: Making Christmas Cards

With Christmas around the corner, students of TIG1001 in the German Language Programme made their own Christmas cards on the 4th of December 2018. Their instructor, Ms Koh Yi Chern, provided materials and tools. Some of their cards were put up on the notice board beside GL31.



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## German Language Programme Farewell Party

The three graduating students, Iffah, Sha and Phoebe, with the help of their friend, Sakinah, organized a “last-minute farewell party” at Latar Siswa on the 18th of December 2018. The four lecturers in the German Programme were invited to a lunch cooked by the students. Students and lecturers had a good time catching up and talking about the students’ plans after graduation. Each student was given a story book as a farewell gift by the Programme Coordinator.



Group photo with the graduating students



## English Language Department Farewell Party

On the 4th of January 2019, the English Language Department (ELD) organised a farewell lunch at Rumah Universiti for ELD staff who retired in 2018. The faculty would like to thank Prof. Dr. Kamila binti Ghazali, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kuang Ching Hei and Dr. Tan Siew Kuang, for their hard work in making the faculty what it is today and wish them all the best in their future endeavours!



Staff and retirees of the ELD

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## Bakawali First Floor New Year Party



On the 18th of January 2019, staff whose offices are on the First Floor of Bangunan Bakawali, FLL, decided to have a simple floor party to celebrate Christmas, New Year, the end of Semester 1, the upcoming CNY, and to welcome their new floormates. The party was initiated by Dr Patricia Riget and Mr Ong Shyi Nian. Everyone--including visitors--brought a little something to the party, which was held on the corridor outside the staff offices. Although the party was quite impromptu and simple, food wasn't. We had Nasi Dagang with fish curry, fortune cookies, CNY mandarin oranges, tong sui, imported choco-biscuits, samosas, cheese cake, KFC, fizzy drinks, jasmine tea, and delicious dessert to top it off. It was a good time to have a little celebration together.