

## Youth invasion hits TU in *Jelajah Kampus* roadshow



Youth and Sports Minister, Khairy Jamaluddin, sharing a moment with TU School Of Architecture, Building And Design student Christal Wong Ching Ling, 18, during the brush-lettering session held at *Jelajah Kampus @ Taylor's University*.

by Clarissa Loi Pui Ling

**SUBANG JAYA** | Students and staff of Taylor's University (TU) revelled in a day full of exciting activities during the *Jelajah Kampus @ Taylor's University* roadshow on 20 October.

The campus was abuzz with plenty of free workshops, gallery exhibitions, talks, bazaars and live music performances by home-grown talents happening simultaneously throughout the event.

Youth and Sports Minister, Khairy Jamaluddin, was also present to officiate the event.

Featured acts like Talitha Tan and An Honest Mistake entertained the crowd, while inspiring personalities such as fashion designer Michael Luis Herrera and local actress Marianne Tan shared their stories during the *Meet and Cerita* sessions.

TU is one of the six higher education institutions across the nation selected for the programme as an avenue to showcase youths' talents on a grassroots level.

"TU was chosen as its own programmes and activities were a great complement to *Jelajah Kampus*' content," said Press Secretary to the Youth and Sports Minister, Regina Lee.

*Jelajah Kampus* is an initiative by the Youth and Sports Ministry

to revamp the *Rakan Muda* programme that aims to engage youths in the fields of entrepreneurship, environment, community, arts and culture, innovation, and entertainment.

"From the music performers and workshop organisers to the *Meet and Cerita* personalities and gallery artists, we engaged inspiring youths who would appeal to the crowd and inspire them to develop their own talents," added Lee.

Lee said the overall response for the *Jelajah Kampus* event at TU was terrific, with workshop slots filled till noon.

"We're thrilled that the participants were just as excited as we were to experience the activities we had in store," she added.

School Of Liberal Arts And Sciences lecturer Norshaila bt. Mohamad Razak said the workshops provided a space for Taylorians to try something new without fear or hesitation.

"We need more events that emphasise on practical activities as they are able to mobilise more people to come together," she added.

Workshops conducted by local entrepreneurs featured unique craft and artisanal activities such as brush

lettering, woodworks, chalk art, silk screening and leather making.

Taylor's Business School student, Nur Natasyah bt. Md Yunos, 20, said she was happy to support local artists and their crafts which emphasised application rather than theory.

"With practical work, you tend to gain a better appreciation for stuff made with your own hands, as you understand the value and memories attached to it," she said.

The workshop organisers were also floored with the positive responses.

"We were worried that the tools and materials prepared would not be sufficient; however, it turned out really well overall," said co-founders of Attached Leather Co., Nurhidayu Lamien and Mohamad Faiz Rosli.

Organisers of the leather-making workshop also said there was a sense of satisfaction knowing participants genuinely enjoyed themselves during the process of creating their own products.

*Jelajah Kampus* wrapped up its run for the year with two final stops at Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM) and Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI) on 7 and 21 November respectively.

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# SABD students tour Venice Biennale of Architecture in Italy

by Theodora

**SUBANG JAYA** | Taylor’s University (TU) School Of Architecture, Building And Design (SABD) students visited the 15th International Architecture Exhibition titled *‘Reporting From The Front’* at the *Giardini* and *Arsenale* historical venues in Venice, Italy during Activity Week from 22 to 30 October.

“The exhibition exposed the students to real architecture and design projects done by professional architects and researchers from around the world,” said Programme Director for Bachelor Of Science in Architecture, Mohd Adib b. Ramli.

Mohd Adib added that the trip aimed to promote experiential learning and Taylor’s Graduate Capabilities as part of teaching and learning for a few modules, namely Architecture Culture and History 1 as well as Architecture and History 2.



The annual study programme is part of Activity Week which opens to all students from different programmes within SABD. Picture Credit: Mohd Adib b. Ramli

“It’s a mind-blowing experience for me how each different talented architect tackles problems, ideas and methods in their presentation,” said SABD student, Chok Jia Jun, 20.

“Students were expected to gain skills such as the ability to perceive, analyse and define the reality of a living architecture structure

with historical and cultural significance,” he said.

Chok said students greatly benefitted from the trip as it enabled them to explore buildings that they only get to see from textbooks and photos and experience the intangible and tangible aspects that each building, city and streets created.

## TU Chess Club President wins IMU Open Chess Competition

by Ili Ruzanna bt. Iqbal

**SUBANG JAYA** | Taylor’s University (TU) Chess Club President, Jonathan Augustine Francis, has clinched the first prize at the International Medical University’s first Open Chess Competition on 5 November.

The 21-year-old School Of Education student emerged champion out of 110 players from universities such as Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, Sunway University and Kolej Tuanku Jaafar, including 13 TU representatives.

Augustine, who walked away with a trophy and RM200, said the journey was not about winning, but more of becoming a better chess player.

“Winning or losing doesn’t matter as long as we get the experience and meet other chess players.

“The more competitions we go to, the better we improve in terms



Augustine tries playing chess with different opponents to improve strategic planning skills. of training to compete in more and to discuss different prestigious chess competitions in chess strategies.

the future,” said Augustine.

TU Chess Club member and Business School student, Nicholas Koh Choo Kiat, 23, said he joined the competition to get the opportunity to play against students from other universities

“There are many good players out there,” said the 23-year-old Taylor’s Business School student.

Taylorian chess enthusiasts are invited to play the game from 1pm to 6pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays in front of the library.

## Befrienders: Youths at high risk for mental disorders

by Park Jung-A

**SUBANG JAYA** | Youths between the ages of 16 and 24 are at high risk of suffering from mental disorders that may lead to suicide due to stress and the inability to cope with challenges, President of National Council of Befrienders Malaysia, S. Gangadara Vadivel said.

He added that many people were only trying to fulfill the expectations of others.

“We need to look out for ourselves first, accepting your feelings and expressing yourself in any form is

important as only then you will open the gates for more,” said Gangadara at the International Emotional Well-Being Summit (IEWBS) 2016 in Taylor’s University (TU) on 11 November.

IEWBS aimed to highlight the importance of emotional well-being and to create a platform to share and learn from enriching experiences, research findings, and hands-on discovery.

“We want to create awareness on the importance of emotional

well-being among youths today by exposing the problem and the need for emotional resilience,” said Dean of Learning and Teaching, Integrate Teaching and Lifelong Learning Centre, Assoc Prof Dr Tang Siew Fun.

Taylor’s Business School student, El-Umar Mukhtar, 23, who attended the event, said the summit provided individuals with better understanding on emotional well-being which was something that was not emphasised in today’s society.

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# Trump's election raises concerns with ADP students

by Ili Ruzanna bt. Iqbal

**SUBANG JAYA** | Taylor's University's (TU) American Degree Transfer Program (ADP) students are concerned about pursuing their studies in the United States (US) after Donald Trump's presidency election win.

"It is sad to see the magnitude of Islamophobia in the US, and with Trump being president, it is not going to be easier for Muslim students," said fresh TU ADP graduate, Sureshram Mathurayar Ramayah, 23.

Former TU ADP student, Muhammad Imran b. Abdul Razak, 22, who is currently pursuing his studies in University of Pennsylvania, said it was definitely going to be tougher now for Muslims to get into US.

"Trump's election was emblematic of a much larger problem, which shows Americans aversion towards outsiders," said Muhammad Imran.

He said the support by Americans towards Trump's xenophobic sentiments is a huge reality check.

"I fear for the lives of Muslim Americans who managed to build a life here but are now being more marginalised than they were before," said Muhammad Imran.

With Trump's immigration policies all through his 17-month campaign, there are possible consequences on international students' visas.

School Of Liberal Arts And Sciences Acting Dean, Assoc Prof Dr



Muhammad Imran b. Abdul Razak (second from the right), 22, with his friends at Penn State vs. University of Minnesota American football match. Photo Credit: Muhammad Imran.

Anindita Dasgupta said the US has a rooted democratic system which is difficult for an individual to cast aside.

"I remain optimistic about the future of higher education in the US, and believe that it (Trump's policies) will most likely not have negative impact on international students," she said.

She added that they have been contacting their alumni currently studying in US and the US embassy in Malaysia for important updates.

"Our US alumni expressed concerns about the future of the OPT (Optional Practical Training) which

allows international students to work for a year in the US upon completion of their degree.

"But it is far too early for us to come to any conclusions at this time," she said, adding that there are still students who want to experience the high quality holistic education system in the US.

"In recent years, we have also seen a surge in students seeking to transfer to Canada and Australia," she said.

She added that they are widening transfer options for students so that they can choose a destination that fits them best.

## Students shine at The Alliance Talent Time Competition

by Clarissa Loi Pui Ling

**SUBANG JAYA** | Students from Taylor's, Monash and Sunway universities are lauding The Alliance's second intervarsity event, 'The Alliance Talent Time Competition'.

It gave participants from all three universities the opportunity to showcase their talents through an online platform.

"All the contestants are great at their own talents, and we're looking forward to collaborating with some of the student artists for future projects," said competition winners, Monash University's Heer Raj Prem Kumar, 20 and Asyraf Nair, 21.

The duo earned the top prize with an original rap song, *Tandas Busuk*.

Monash University's Lakshmi Mohana Krishnan, 20, Taylor's University's Rayyan Muqthadi, 22 and Ili Ruzanna bt. Iqbal, 22 bagged the second and third place respectively.

"The structure of the competition helps students who are terrified of performing live by providing them more confidence to go out and show people what they can really do," said Lakshmi.

The Alliance committee said the contest provided a good avenue to network and to strengthen ties between the three competing universities.

"The Alliance Talent Time competition represents a great opportunity to showcase talents from each university, as we have always wanted to improve the relationship between the three schools," said President of Taylor's University Student Council, Sarah Ngai Su Yin, 21.

Ngai added that The Alliance initially had plans to proceed with an Amazing Race themed event.

However, due to the different transitioning periods and tight schedules faced by the respective universities' student councils, the idea was put on hold, she said.

"Hence, the idea of The Alliance Talent Time Competition came up, whereby it would be a fully online-run competition," added Ngai.

The Alliance: Coalition of Voices is a massive initiative between the student councils of Taylor's, Monash and Sunway universities that began in April this year as an effort to unify and strengthen the voices of the student bodies that they represent.

# Nation's largest intervarsity hackathon to take place next year

by Edelyn Chow Wui Heng

**SUBANG JAYA** | Malaysia's largest intervarsity hackathon organised by a group of students called The Hacker's Union will be held at Sunway University from 20 to 22 January next year.

The hackathon, titled *Trailblaze Malaysia 2017*, will include participating students from 15 colleges and universities across Malaysia such as Sunway University (Sun-U), Taylor's University (TU) and Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM).

Project Leader and Sun-U Banking and Finance student Lee Eu-Gene, 22, said they aim to dispel any preconceived public views on hackathons.

"Most people when asked about what a hackathon is, will respond with 'a group of hackers who is trying to penetrate a computer system'.

"From that response, you'll see that the general public are quite unaware of what programmers or people in the IT field do," he said.

He said the hackathon also aims to encourage more women to participate in and engage with computer sciences.

"I conducted a poll in my university and found that only 15% of computer programmers are females.

"The industry would be so much more progressive and advanced if we have more female participation," added Eu-Gene.

Public Relations Manager and USM student Rebecca Lydia Vega said the hackathon is a nationwide competition with teams of three to four members competing to develop and build a working prototype of a proposed project.

"It aims to inspire participants to explore programming and coding as well as create a network of IT savvy youths across Malaysia," she added.

Chapter Manager of YouthHack Malaysia and co-organiser of the event, Eshaan Menon said he hoped to see The Hacker's Union and Youth

Hack Malaysia bring real societal and industrial impact through this event.

"This hackathon should be a landmark event and a highlight of the local tech community's yearly calendar," said Menon.

He said he believed the hackathon will be a success for the future of Malaysia's digital economy.

Committee member of The Hackers' Union and student from TU's School Of Computing And Information Technology (SOCIT), Chum Jia Hui, 18, said there is a communication bridge being formed between universities.

"I think this hackathon is the perfect avenue for budding entrepreneurs and developers to learn, gain experience.

"They will also be able to meet new people, regardless of whether they are totally new (to hackathon) or if they have done this before," said another SOCIT student Bryan Lee Kar Meng, 21.



## Juicify wins prize in ERM Singapore

by Natalie Chan Xin Ci

**SUBANG JAYA** | Team Juicify of Taylor's University (TU) walked away as the first runner-up in the country playoffs and clinched the consolation prize at the Enterprise Resource Management Challenge (ERMC) grand finals at the Singapore Institute of Management (SIM) University.

The group comprised five TU School Of Computing And IT (SOCIT) students; Lim Joei, 21, Tan Wilson, 21, Ng Limin, 21, Janice Chau Sian Lu, 21, and Eileen Tan Wan Chyn, 21.

They were recommended by the main organiser of Monsoon Academy, Alex Ong, to participate in the ERM Challenge.

"We found out about the competition after trying it out for the first time as a game.

"Joining ERM was given thought after noticing that we had high potentials in each challenge given," said Chau.

It was a team initiative to participate in ERM in SIM University after bagging the second prize in the country playoffs.

Eileen said team Juicify also faced challenges such as lacking in business knowledge and a server to practise, resulting in team strategies learnt based on trial and error during practice sessions leading up to the semi-finals.

"We weren't as privileged as other teams from Indonesia or Thailand where their universities bought a server from them specifically to practise at their own convenience," added Eileen.

SOCIT senior lecturer and advisor for team Juicify, Sharon Lee Pui Voon, said they took part because they had shown their potential.

"They are the top three teams in SOCIT who won the internal ERM challenge and most importantly, it is their interest to join the ERM Malaysia Challenge," said Lee.

ERMC was based on the Monsoon SIM Business Simulation Platform where teams consisting of five members compete in a virtual competitive business world to manage 12 simulated business modules.

The School of Science and Technology (SST) of SIM University together with Monsoon Academy hosted the event, which was sponsored by Singapore Asia Pacific (SAP).

## Columbia Uni Assoc. Prof: Community to improve schools

by Khaldoon Alwan

**SUBANG JAYA** | The community should help students to learn from educational opportunities outside classrooms to achieve their full potentials, said National Centre for Restructuring Education, Schools, and Teaching Co-Director, Dr Thomas Hatch.

He said part of the problem lies in society for believing that their only responsibility towards kids' education is merely putting them in schools.

"Part of the problem is that we think schooling is the solution to every problem.

"We should continue to improve on schooling alongside transforming the general conception of education," he said at a talk at Taylor's University (TU) on 8 November.

The session was organised by School Of Liberal Arts And Sciences (SLAS) and Malaysia's American Embassy as part of SLAS's *Impact Series* that dissects topics affecting TU staff and students.



Dr Thomas Hatch, Co-Director of the National Center for Restructuring Education, Schools, and Teaching and Associate Professor in Columbia University. Photo Credit: Farhin Farnaz.

Dr Hatch, who is also an Associate Professor at Columbia University, said educational institutions should not just prepare students for colleges and careers but also instill a broader set of society values in students.

Dr Hatch said one of the main challenges in higher education is that students need

to pass academic tests in order to advance to higher levels of learning.

"If you don't have SATS or A-Levels, you won't get anywhere," he said, adding that these tests were made for ranking instead of achieving potentials.

"We have to think of transforming the system so it prepares students for a better life," said Dr Hatch.

## Team Destiny clinches third place in Unilever FLL

by Tan Tee May

**SUBANG JAYA** | Taylor's University's (TU) Team Destiny won third place in the Unilever Future Leaders League (Unilever FLL) competition finals held from 24 to 27 October at Pullman Bangsar Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.

Team Destiny members consist of leader Andrew Ng Khai Wen, 20, Hailey Chung Wee Kye, 21, and Harvey Tan Shyan Yih, 19.

TU School Of Computing And IT (SOCIT) student, Ng said there were originally 150 teams that passed the first round which was an online audition.

"We were one of the top 10 teams chosen from the 150, so I feel very honoured to be given a chance to participate in this competition," added Ng.

The finals were a three-day camp where the top 10 teams had to present their final presentation of an improvised Rexona brand campaign to the judges.

After narrowing the list down to the top five, the teams had to present their campaign again to a different panel of judges.

Throughout the camp, participants were introduced to workshops such as *'The Art of Storytelling'* on social media, customer development, e-commerce and a Perfect Store tour.

Team Destiny broke the stereotype that the competition is catered for business students, being the only

team that did not come from a business course.

"It made me nervous because I didn't know much about finance and marketing, yet the excitement in me grew with every stage we passed," said Ng.

"It was definitely a rewarding experience for me, as it gave us a chance to network with top employers globally and learn more about the industry," he added.

Fellow TU SOCIT student Tan said the experience revealed an opportunity for the team to explore new skill sets.

"It made me realise that we can do so much more and should not be limited to the courses we study," said Tan.

School Of Communication student, Chung said the team was lucky to have gained insights into the working environment of Unilever.

"The workshops were very informative and opened my eyes to a whole new world to which the business industry operated in.

"I'm very glad I got to learn about it through a fun and practical way," said Chung, adding that she highly recommends students to join the competition because of the real-life experience it offers.

"You understand the impact of your ideas in reality, and it is motivating when your pitched ideas are taken seriously," she said.

Unilever FLL was a competition by Unilever that brought together students from all universities in Malaysia to experience a global business case competition.

Team Achieve from INTI International College Subang won first place as well as the opportunity to participate in the competition's finals in London going against other international teams.

There were four teams from TU that managed to advance into top 10 of the competition.

They were Team Destiny, Team Divergent, Team Tribus, and Team Good, Bad and Ugly.



From left: Harvey Tan Shyan Yih, Andrew Ng Khai Wen, and Hailey Chung Wei Kye proudly showing off their trophy.



# What's your yearly Christmas tradition?

by Lydia George Koshy

It's that time of the year again! Christmas trees are being put up, decorations are coming out and Christmas spirit is in the air.

When Taylorians were asked on what different Christmas traditions they practised yearly, this was what was gathered.

What better way to spend Christmas Day than to be a Christmas baby?

"My birthday is on Christmas Day, so I usually spend the morning with my dad's side of the family and we would go for a buffet lunch at a hotel.

"At night, it's with my mum's side and her side is huge so we would normally have dinner at home, but I get the best of both worlds on the same day," said School Of Communication student, Melanie Noelle, 20.

For School Of Education student, Nina Melissa, 22, not only does she attend church service on Christmas Day but she even performs too.

"We put up our tree together as a family towards the end of November. We also have a Christmas Eve dinner together while exchanging gifts.

"For us, Christmas Day usually starts with a Christmas church service at 8am, in which we perform together as a family every year," she said.



Christmas decorations at Mid Valley Megamall in 2013. Photo credit: www.heraldmalaysia.com

School Of Architecture Building And Design student Nur Emily bt. Ahmad Rahim, 22, visits different malls during Christmas. Now, that's an idea!

"I absolutely love the Christmassy feeling! I visit different malls each year to observe their decorations put up along with activities they have lined up for the crowd and it's wonderful!" she said.

The tradition in many families is to have turkey, but not for School Of Biosciences student, Jayshree Maganathan, 25, who has wild boar.

"My extended family comes down from Australia every year and we have a huge family gathering on Christmas Eve.

"We would have wild boar served as our main dish, complemented with wine.

"After that, relatives sing carols with their guitars; it's amazing," said Jayshree.

Taylor's Business School student, Catherine Yee Chooi Funn, 22, plays Secret Santarina.

"I house-hop as I prepare Christmas gifts for my close friends,

and I always hand it to them on Christmas morning at their doorstep.

"The first time I did it was funny; I turned out surprising my friends as they don't expect people showing up at their doors with gifts," she said.

Everyone who celebrates Christmas has their special tradition that they enjoy during this season. Christmas is the time of year when the world seems the most magical.

So, how will you be celebrating Christmas with your loved ones this year?

## Going old school: tabletop games to try

by Lam Hoc Leon

With the rise of board game cafés in Petaling Jaya and Kuala Lumpur, students flock to these places to enjoy and immerse themselves in tabletop gaming.

Places like Meeples Board Game Café at SS15, Board Game Depot at Lorong Ara Kiri, and Classroom Café at Damansara Uptown host a variety of tabletop games and sometimes have weekly events.

If you and a group of friends wish to enter into the world of tabletop gaming, it's never too late to start.

There are many types of tabletop games, ranging from fun card games to serious role playing games with an assortment of genres to choose from; mystery, comedy, horror, etc.

### Cards Against Humanity

This dark humour game begins with a judge, known as the 'Card Czar', drawing a black trivia question card from the deck while other players hold a hand of 10 white answer cards, and passes a card that represents their answer to the 'Card Czar'. The 'Card Czar' then chooses the winning answer card and the black card is then given

to the person who answered with the winning card. The next player then becomes the new 'Card Czar'. The game ends when a player has collected 10 black cards.

The ideal number of players for the game is six to eight participants, though it can go up to more. One game can last up to about two hours. A definite must try if you haven't already.

### Exploding Kittens

Players take turns drawing cards until someone draws an 'Exploding Kitten' and loses the game. The last player standing wins. The deck is made up of cards that allow you to avoid the Exploding Kitten card by forcing your opponent to draw multiple cards, peeking at cards and rearranging them before you draw, or even shuffling the deck.

The game gets more intense with each card drawn. It's a fast-paced and comical version of *Russian Roulette*. The game requires a minimum of two players and a maximum of four players. A round would last about up to 15 minutes.

### Avarium Academy

Set in a Japanese high school-themed battle board game, each player assumes the role of one of *Avarium Academy's* idols and tries to win the game by completing their idol's win condition or expelling all the idols from the school and be the last one standing. Players recruit student cards from the courtyard into their classroom to have them battle with other player's class.

*Avarium Academy* is a fast-paced battle board game that is suited for two to four players. The game was developed and published locally last year. It's not meant for casual fun as it can get quite competitive and most trading card games usually lasts about 20 minutes.

### King Of Tokyo

In this game, players play as mutant monsters, gigantic robots, and strange aliens; all of whom aim to destroy Tokyo while battling each other. At the start of each turn, you roll six dice, which will dictate the actions your monster is allowed to do. The player that occupies Tokyo earns extra

points, but must face all the other players' monsters alone. There are special cards that can be purchased in-game that have a permanent or temporary effect, such as the growing of a second head which grants you an additional die. To win the game, the player either destroys Tokyo by accumulating 20 victory points, or be the only surviving monster in-game.

The game has won multiple awards for three consecutive years. It is best played amongst four players, though the game can hold up to six players. On average, a game can go up to half an hour. The game is really fun and can get intense as the turns go by.

The next time you and a couple of friends want to hang out, head out to a board game café to try out these games as they are easy to learn and rather enjoyable.

Tabletop gaming isn't just about winning; it's about immersing yourself in the moment as a form of escaping life's problems - if only momentarily - one game at a time.



# Trigger warnings, a moral safety net

by Clarissa Loi Pui Ling

Too many Internet memes overloading your senses and sending you overboard with a serious case of getting #triggered? Being the adept net-dwellers that we are, we're probably well-acquainted with the average netizens' (extensive) use of the reaction and probably contributed our fair share of #triggered memes.

All jokes aside, trigger warnings have seeped into the blogosphere and attached itself as an expected display of common courtesy.

It's a far cry from its early days as a wary afterthought on fanfiction tags utilising sensitive topics, such as sexual assault, as a plot device.

Authors are expected to swaddle their readers in a protective blanket that hides offending material from their view, but it defeats one of the most significant roles of the Internet – being a platform to inform, educate and learn without the fear of censorship.

There's a lofty air of self-entitlement that comes with the infinite space of expression online. We tend to ignore beliefs that clash with our own; and many of us tend to whip up a twisted interpretation of free speech in order to justify our own views.

Basic respect gets thrown out the window because a few special snowflakes have the underlying sentiment that their opinions demand positive acknowledgement, but topics that are deemed offensive or harmful to their own perspectives deserve to be erased off the face of the web.

Ironically enough, the curation of content for more narrowly focused topics and the growth of niche communities seem to open up more ways for users to bypass trigger warnings. However, it seems that trigger warnings have given netizens all the more reason to flame on topics they personally find offensive or morally dubious.

YouTube's revamping of its content guidelines had the community in an uproar, where content creators claimed that its ridiculously stringent regulations were a form of censorship in disguise. Even educative discussions on current affairs such as natural disasters and wars were deemed inappropriate by the video hosting site.

We need to realise that we cannot shield ourselves from all the 'harmful' materials we see online, and that there are elements beyond our control.



Out in the Great Big Web, we are exposed to offensive and sensitive topics that are often beyond our control, but we can choose on how it is able to affect us. | Photo credit: YouTube

Take the recent banning petition involving popular beauty YouTuber Eugenia Cooney, whose gaunt and worryingly thin appearance drew flak from parents that she might influence her young audiences into the throes of an eating disorder in order to emulate her look.

Yet, Cooney has never once propagated diet tips of any sort; instead the witch-hunt and condemnation towards a person who might be struggling with psychological disorders shows a true lack of empathy.

It also reflects the human nature to sweep things under the rug to

prevent their perfect, safe and non-triggering bubbles from bursting.

It is, however, perfectly normal to feel uncomfortable.

Keep close to heart the golden rule of 'agree to disagree' that we cannot cater to everyone's preferences and interests, and vice versa.

Respect and rationalisation are key to approaching an issue considered sensitive.

After all, in the vast expanse of the Great Big Web where everyone is clamouring for their voices to be heard, being upset over online content may seem trivial in the long-run.

## TU strives to be user-friendly for disabled students

by Farhah Syamilah bt. Mazmil

The Taylor's Education Group has strived to build user-friendly campuses for all occupants, especially their students. One of the best examples is the Taylor's University (TU), which provides all disabled students with the necessary facilities and services designed to ease students' lives on campus. But is this true?

### Wheelchair access campus facilities

"They have basic facilities for wheelchair users but the we can't go freely anywhere on campus. For example, at LT19, there is no space to fit wheelchairs.

"However, the facilities are mostly user-friendly," said School Of Computing And IT student, Christina Kang Xiao Xi, 25.

### TU Counselling and Psychological Services (CPSC)

Disabled students are also provided with a consultant with TU CPSC, who assists in arranging a suitable classroom for them.

"They arranged all my classes to be located at LT11 and there would be an adjustable table for me to write on," said School Of Pharmacy student, Sharence Chua Chi Yuen, 20.

Besides classes and venues arrangement, CPSC also helps to

counsel the students in case they are having any problems or challenges as well as raise funds for disabled students' needs.

"Previously, I didn't have a suitable wheelchair but they helped me find someone who could help me to raise funds for a new wheelchair.

"We managed to raise the required funds and I'm excited for my new wheelchair which will be coming soon," said Kang.

### Access to laboratory facilities

As a pharmacy student, Chua requires access to the campus labs and facilities such as the lab tables.

"Recently, they lowered down one of the lab tables to suit my height. Another disabled friend and I were able to work together compared to previous times when the table was placed far away from all my classmates," said Chua.

School Of Biosciences student, Amelia Tan Cheng Wei, who also uses the laboratories, added that the lab assistants are also willing to help her with her practical work if she requires assistance.

### No elevator priorities

Similar with other disabled students, Chua said the campus



The lifts are one of the troublesome aspects of Chua's daily life on campus.

elevators have always been a hassle for her.

"The lifts can only go to certain floors and it takes very long. It is difficult for me whenever I want to go to class or the library. While most people can just take the stairs, my only option is the lift and the lifts are often full," she said.

### Abusing OKU Parking

Tan is disappointed with the non-disabled people who abuse the OKU parking lots by parking there because it causes her so much difficulty every time she goes to campus later in the morning.

"The guards understand my needs, so they would allow me to occupy

two regular parking lots if the disabled ones are taken.

"The problem arises when there are no two empty adjacent lots, so the guards often have to call the police to help me search for a wider lot where I can park my car," she said.

Tan added that she hopes that there will be stricter parking enforcement rules in the future.

Despite the basic facilities and services provided by TU, Vice President of TU Facilities, EHS, Security and Sustainability, R. Murali Rajoo assured that he is open to suggestions for improvement.

"If disabled students channelled their requests to us, we will be sure to address them," he said.



# The many forms of kindness

by Farhah Syamilah bt Mazmil

When was the last time you treated someone to a cup of coffee just because you thought he might need it? How about just saying 'thank you' to that cashier at your favourite shop?

Despite all the innovations in today's modern world, there's still one thing that people often overlook; kindness.

Kindness is something which everyone has the power to share yet it is not widely practised in the world. It isn't something difficult to do.

Thus, in conjunction with World Kindness Day on 13 November, here are some different forms of kindness that may come as a surprise to you which you can practise in your daily life.

## Do you need help?

"After a long day filled with classes, I saw my friend who was trying to sell desserts for a charity. After talking to her, she told me that she felt it was pointless because her stock wasn't selling as fast as she had hoped.

"As her friend, I helped her out and although we didn't manage to raise that much, it was better than before. This was the only time that I felt that I truly helped someone without expecting anything in return,"

said School Of Communication (SOC) student, Ahmad Azrul b. Tarmizi, 23.

## Forgive and forget

"I had a cousin who was envious of me ever since I graduated from high school because I've always known what my goals were and I had decided to actively pursue them.

"My cousin wasn't satisfied with me and tried to do things that painted me as the 'bad guy' in the family which turned them against me, especially during family gatherings.

"It became worse until at one point, I had enough and I didn't talk to her for years until recently during my uncle's funeral when I realised that our family members were decreasing in numbers.

"So I decided to let the past go and now our relationship is mended, despite the awkwardness," said School Of Engineering student, Anis Raihana bt. Abdul Aziz, 23.

## Don't be too hard on yourself

As humans, we can't escape from making mistakes and we can't beat ourselves up about how we've handled them in the past. Instead, we should always try to forgive ourselves.



Giving someone a compliment is also another form of kindness that would make someone's day.

"The kindest thing I've ever done, and am still doing, is learning to forgive myself.

"Forgive that one stupid thing you did five years ago because at the end of the day, you have to survive no matter what, and you can't do it unless you can uplift yourself," said SOC student, Dharshini Chandran, 22.

## Acknowledging good deeds

School Of Computing And IT, Ezra Alamsyah Rezky Abdullah, 20, was in the middle of a crowded train when he saw a man giving up his seat to an elderly lady. Although it was kind of

him, what happened next was what truly touched him.

"A tattooed man approached the guy who gave up his seat earlier and tapped his shoulder. He smiled at the guy and gave him a thumbs up.

"Their interaction made me realise that appreciation should be practised because no matter how small an act of kindness may appear, a small appreciation, giving a warm smile or even gratitude can do wonders," he said.

Do not underestimate the power of kindness even if it is not immediately apparent.

# We need to talk about you, Mr Private

by Edelyn Chow Wui Heng

Health issues are something that should be talked about more, with more efforts of awareness carried out. As November has come and gone, with an abundance of facial hair along with it, 'Movember' comes to a close.

The movement is an annual event to raise awareness on men's health issues such as testicular and prostate cancer. Yet, the topic still remains as a sort of taboo that shouldn't be talked about amongst men.

There seems to be a certain stigma that comes with talking about the subject matter, especially since it involves the male population.

Resident Consultant Urologist at Pantai Hospital Kuala Lumpur, Dr Ambikai Balan Sothinathan seems to think that the taboo of it all comes down to the issue of masculinity.

"That's the problem; they feel if they lose one of the testes, they become less manly - unable to provide sexually and rendered infertile. Some go as far as to think that they become more effeminate because one of your main hormone providers are taken out.

"All of these are just myths; by word of mouth from person to person," he added.

School Of Hospitality, Tourism And Culinary Arts student, Ryan Christopher Newman, 21, seems to agree with what Dr Balan had to say.

"A lot of men kind of associate their privates with masculinity, and when they know something might be up they get shy about it, though I don't know whether shy is the right word to describe it," he said.

Newman added that it might also be because men feel that losing their testicles would result in losing their identity altogether.

The belief that masculinity is being threatened when men open up about their issues and problems is a long-existing belief. Some might say that the birth of the stigma is attributed to the media's portrayal of men in talking about their issues. Such is the case for Design School student, David Ho Ming Aun, 20.

**"Culture plays a big role here. Sexual organs and sexuality in general are a taboo topic," said Dr Balan**

"The portrayal of men in media doesn't really seem to encourage such intimacy in seeking or providing advice among men. Even if you look in films, men are almost never shown hugging or being gentle with other men.

"There is always some sort of barrier between them; don't act too close or you'll be branded as gay, which is wrong because your actions don't define your sexuality," said Ho.

While the media may be a main contributor as to why the stigma exists in the first place, there are those that might argue that it is mainly the Asian culture that takes the phrase 'talking about your privates' a little too literal - the operative word being 'private'.

"It's probably because we are brought up that way from young; we don't really talk about sex education and the sorts of it.

"Parents don't really explain and take it jokingly even when kids are curious and ask about it," said Taylor's Business School student, Daniel Quah Chie Weng, 23.

"I'm not saying that people have to talk about it all the time, but it shouldn't be something that people should be ashamed to talk about," added Quah.

"Culture plays a big role here. Sexual organs and sexuality in general are a taboo topic. Talking to someone on certain subjects may not be as easily accepted by someone else," said Dr Balan.

School Of Engineering student Mohamad Haris b. Mohamad Subki, 19, feels that people should talk about

it more just so they are aware of it and can take the necessary actions to get checked regularly.

"I don't think it should be talked about every day, but a refresher once in a while is a good thing. So people know what it is, and how to get checked or treated.

"Even though some people know it exists, they might not know how often to get checked or if there are any symptoms at all," he added.

Newman, however, said men should be comfortable enough to talk about their health issues. "I think anyone should be able to talk about what they're going through.

"It's good to know more about it - to what extent prostate or testicular cancer affects men worldwide and in Malaysia, as well as the causes, symptoms and preventive efforts against it," said Newman.

All this talking about being able to open up about this would be of no use if you don't open up yourselves. After all, it's always easier to know that you are not alone in dealing with an issue, much less something as threatening as testicular and prostate cancer.

So, a message to all the guys out there: if you've shifted a little in your seat after reading this, it may be time to get to know your privates a little more intimately by being more open about it.





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## Nuno Do Carmo and his perception of the world

by Khaldoon Alwan

At the age of 19, Nuno Do Carmo, spent two summers in Nicaragua, Central America, digging latrines.

"I just went there to dig holes in the floor to make toilets basically; nothing very glamorous," said the lecturer of International Relations in Taylor's University (TU) School Of Liberal Arts And Science.

However, for Do Carmo, 33, this was an eye-opening experience. It was when his sense of community began to grow and he was intrigued to learn more about the world.

"There are people who have nothing, their hopes and dreams in life are to not die; this needs to affect us," he said.

Raised in Portugal in a low-middle class family in a "linear fashion" as he described it, Do Carmo's inquisitiveness drove him to start learning about the complexities of the world at a very young age.

"One thing we always did was to travel. My father always preferred to travel than to have luxuries in life," he added.

When Do Carmo was 16 years old, he went on his first solo trip to Hong Kong, Macau. After that, he believes it became a part of him. "This is how I am at my best - when I am abroad and I feel like I am challenged and I can add something, somehow," he said.

Do Carmo thinks that we, humans, are brought up in a very protective way. We create a comfort zone in our communities with the people that we know around the things we are used to; this gets replicated. In result, our knowledge of the world is very limited.

"There is a degree of identification and then you keep replicating these behaviours, which means the way we look at the world is related with how and where we were brought up," he said.

For almost half of his life, Do Carmo has lived in more than 10 countries in different regions of the world attempting to fathom the relations between different cultures.

"We need to have an inquisitive nature in ourselves, we need to ask 'why?', which doesn't mean things are going to be wrong, it only means you need to understand why they happen," he said.



Nuno Do Carmo, during his work with the UN in Timor-Leste, in an orphanage in Oecussi. Photo Credit: Nuno Do Carmo.

During his travels, Do Carmo has obtained different post-graduate degrees in European Public Affairs, Social Work, and Religious Beliefs, Values and Globalisation besides his bachelor's degree in Political Science. He is currently working on his PhD in Political Science and International Relations.

**"The world will change with little things, with small acts of care and love," said Do Carmo**

Do Carmo has come to believe that education is a continuous journey and no matter how different we are, we will still have so much in common.

"I tell my students I am here to teach them a lot but I am also learning a lot from them and that's the beauty of it. When you have countless races, religions, cultures and appearances, we all add something and learn from it.

"I don't want them to just be good students, I want more than anything for them to be good, moral people, and active members

in the improvement of society," he added.

Carefree, eccentric, free spirited, and aberrant are the words to portray Do Carmo. His distinct loose, curly hair and bohemian clothes capture people's attention.

However, Do Carmo believes that people should look past appearances and look to the essential part of a person; what they have inside, their values, and their posture in life.

"I understand I'm not the classical-looking lecturer and I can be a bit eccentric, but I feel that's important so students can be comfortable with who they are, no matter what others tell them to be," he said.

Societies with people who know what they are, what they stand for and what they believe in, even if it might go against the more accepted views in society, that is what Do Carmo believes we should have.

During his time in TU, Do Carmo tries to be as active as he can be to bring more awareness to students. Besides managing the Community Service Club in the American Degree Transfer Program, he organises a sequence of talks, the 'Impact Series', that dissects current affairs and topics that affect everyone. He also mentors social enterprise projects.

Do Carmo tries to get his colleagues involved in projects with

the underprivileged as he thinks that our community in TU is, fortunately, privileged, and therefore have a bigger responsibility to bring positive change and make a difference in the larger society.

"Here (in Taylor's) we have even more responsibility because we have a stronger ability to have an impact," he said.

The biggest paradox in our modern time as Do Carmo described it, is that we are progressively disconnected from each other.

"It's more difficult to talk to people, it's more difficult to have a sense of community. The world will change with little things, with small acts of care and love," he added.

Do Carmo's acquaintance has made him deduce that as a person, you have to completely deconstruct the world around you.

"We, rational beings in 2016, with all the information we have, with all the access, need to take a step back and look into what really defines us as people and reusing that to connect to someone else," he explained.

Finally, doubt is the way to be more open towards the world and understand it, according to Do Carmo.

"That's why my first class is always about doubt and doubting things around you," he said.



Nuno Do Carmo believes people should get past appearances and look into the essential part of a person. Photo Credit: Nuno Do Carmo.