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Tuan Haji Romli Abu Bakar  
*- A Passion To Inspire*



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# From the Editor

We are shifting gear.

With this issue we are going thematic. The theme for this issue is "The Arts".

There is a strong possibility that some people outside USM may not be aware of the fact that the University also engages in the education of arts subjects. So this issue covers mainly topics that are associated with the arts. We intend to continue this thematic approach in future issues. Articles from alumni which do not fit into this theme will be printed in later issues.

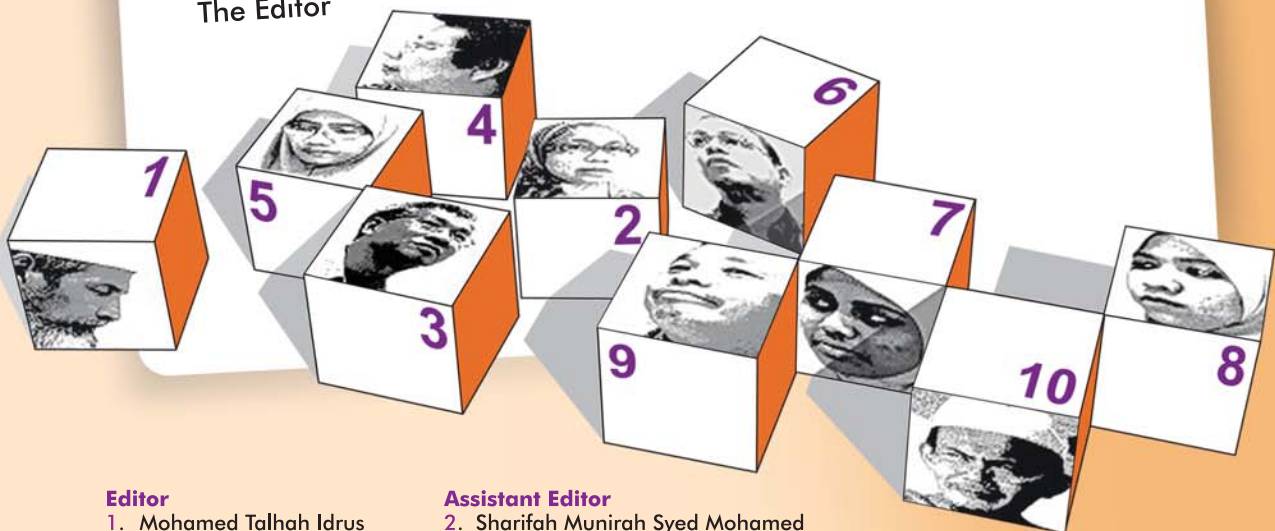
The adoption of a theme, however may still find regular departments like "Bridging Ideas" and "The Other Residents" not totally in synchrony with the theme. This will be further improved in future issues, wherever possible.

We have now recruited a resident designer to improve our presentations. Hope you notice the difference!

Do drop us a comment, or better still an article for future issues. Next theme, "The Spirit of '57".



The Editor



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1. Mohamed Talhah Idrus  
B.Soc.Sc. '74

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2. Sharifah Munirah Syed Mohamed  
B.Soc.Sc. '74

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Professor Chandra Muzaffar (Photograph by Zamhari Ahmad)

# Taming The Religious Storm

Mohamed Talhah Idrus  
B.Soc.Sc. '74

Sharifah Munirah Syed Mohamed  
B.Soc.Sc. '74

Yong Check Yoon

*The Leader* recently met with Professor Chandra Muzaffar, the first holder of the Noordin Sopiee Chair in Global Studies at the Centre for Policy Research and International Studies (CenPRIS) to establish ties and get a better picture of the direction he intends for the Chair.

## About The Chair

USM has chosen Professor Chandra Muzaffar to jumpstart the activities of the Chair. Chandra is an apt choice considering his international reputation and his beginnings as a USM political science lecturer in 1970. The tenure will be for two years and is renewable.

As the first holder of the Chair, Chandra has targeted religion as the theme of the Chair. He intends to push religion as a permanent agenda in discussions of globalisation.



Tan Sri Noordin Sopiee



### The Chair's Theme

Chandra feels that religion has always been an essential component of all cultures, especially in the East. Islam, more specifically, accommodates politics in its philosophy and practice something which is somewhat unpalatable to the West. This itself stresses the importance of sharing discussions and hence the theme of the Chair 'Religion in a Globalising World'.

As holder of the Chair, Chandra will draw discourses about religion as a political force at home and in the globalising world. He hopes that the future holders of the Chair will continue to make religion as a core component in their discourses.

### The Activities

The Noordin Sopiee Chair will focus its activities on seminars and lectures on global issues to be held in Penang and Kuala Lumpur. It will also publish the proceedings of these events, in addition to essays and opinions by individuals interested in the field.

The Chair will also counter the West's bigoted view of Islam and other Eastern religions, in particular the White House which the Chair perceives as being influenced by the Christian Rights propagandists.

A number of international scholars have voiced their interests to participate, starting with Karen Armstrong who will be coming in June 2007.

*Islam is closely knit into the Muslim's life as demonstrated by this crowd leaving a mosque near the Kuala Lumpur Twin Towers after Friday prayers. (Photograph by Mohamed Talhah Idrus)*



## Special Feature

Taming The Religious Storm

### The Centre and Alumni

Chandra, who graduated with a Masters in Social Sciences in 1974 has strong views about the need for Alumni to connect with their alma mater and actively contribute to its development. He seems happy that a number of alumni have already voiced their interests to contribute their writings for publications. However, he feels alumni need to contribute more to their alma mater by taking an interest in its development and contributing to its various programmes. In this respect, he hopes that activities of the Chair will gain support from the alumni especially when religion which is such an inextricable component of their culture is the theme of its activities.



*Prof. Chandra being interviewed by the Editor.  
(Photograph by Zamhari Ahmad)*



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### CenPRIS and Tan Sri Noordin Sopiee

The Noordin Sopiee Chair is the eighth Chair to be established in USM. It was officially launched in USM on 2 April 2007. Named after the late Tan Sri Noordin Sopiee, it is in recognition of the Penangite's contribution to research and discourse on global issues.


Noordin was a well-known figure in global issues and also a key contributor to the idea of Malaysia's "Vision 2020", and other national policies.

He was responsible for the setting up of the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) of which he was the Chairman until his death in 2005 after which ISIS continues with his vision.

Presently, the Chair is located in the former building of Centre for Policy Research in the main campus of USM. Chandra's appointment came after consultations with the Malaysian Prime Minister and Puan Sri Shamsiah Md. Hashim, the widow of the late scholar.

*Photo montage by Rusly Jamaludin*



A group of people, including men in dark traditional attire and women in light-colored traditional dresses, are gathered for an officiating ceremony. They are standing in a line, some with their hands clasped or in prayerful gestures. The setting appears to be an indoor space with large windows in the background.

*Y.B. Datuk Dr. Sulaiman Daud, Minister of Education at the officiating ceremony of the Muzium dan Galeri Seni on 21st January 1982.*

## Revitalising Artistic and Scientific Legacies in USM

*Dzulkifli Abdul Razak  
B.Pharmacy '76*

*We are the inhabitants of today who inherit from the past and borrow from the future generation.*

Malaysia is endowed with a rich and diverse cross-cultural heritage that can be taken as the epitome of a collective Asian artistic and scientific legacy. Our heritage can be appreciated as a melting pot of various traditions as manifested through its diverse forms of artistic heritage. We are the inheritors of priceless artistic heritage with intangible values that were handed down to us by our very own creative geniuses of the past. They came in various forms, from traditional houses, textiles, ceramics, metal arts, to musical instruments, performing arts, wood carvings, keris or daggers and many more. Most importantly, each different type of artistic heritage can also be appreciated as a creative manifestation of a scientific and technological mind. This symbiosis between art and science that has existed within our own cultural heritage reflects a harmonious synchrony of mind-brain, body and soul.

Unfortunately, some of us might have customarily tagged our traditional cultural heritage as 'pre-colonial artifacts' destined to be sealed behind the glass cases of a 'passive' museum. In some instances, they are read as primitive, dead, frozen and archaic objects, irrelevant to the imperatives of the 21st century. A similar reading has also been placed on museum as a state-sponsored institution which has occasionally been labeled as an isolated place for dead artifacts. Even though in some cases museums are to be partly blamed, this reading is also partly misplaced and purposely changed.

Instead of such a derogatory rendering, our cultural heritage should be appreciated and portrayed as critical clues and signifiers of both our artistic and scientific legacies. Central to the diverse legacies is a holistic approach towards 'designing a sustainable lifestyle' based on a multidimensional and transdisciplinary paradigm. The act of 'creating' within this paradigm is taken as a holistic symbiosis of art and science towards



A 1982 newspaper coverage of the museum.



the attainment of spiritual unity and a peaceful soul. It is an expression of a higher symbolic order, a cosmology based on tradition and spirituality, a converging force of intellectual rationalism with artistic wisdom. It is a synthesis of high tech and high touch, of form, meaning and function in searching for the truth. It is a synchronisation of frequencies of mind, body and soul, of man within himself, with his societal, his environment and most importantly with his intelligent Creator.

Interestingly, key formal features of this paradigm such as adaptive and modularity, non-linear and cyclical, multiple view-points and simultaneity, inter-connectivity and inter-dependency, multi-disciplinary and balance can also be found in many forms of contemporary design solutions and technological products. Thus, it is not surprising to propose that creative examples of the symbiosis between art and science can perhaps be better unveiled through our very own cultural heritage. The idea of sustainable development has already been inscribed in our own tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

To be fair and far from being parochial, Western forms of modernism were not totally rejected. In fact, the early history of modern art in Malaysia or Malaya and even Borneo as well as the Malay Archipelago itself has been marked by efforts made by our past artists to forge their

own eclectic fusion of Eastern and Western artistic traditions and values. Early forms of modern art in Malaysia provide numerous evidence of such fusion in many different methods. In doing so, they have collectively created unique forms of Southeast Asian modernism in the arts. Thus, it is imperative that we give a proper acknowledgement to their efforts.

Significantly, some of these priceless objects, whether traditional or modern, can be found in USM's own 'backyard'.

For the past 25 years, they have become silent occupants of a majestic colonial building which may at times appear obscured and marginalised - the USM Museum

and Gallery. We have in this building priceless legacies waiting to be revitalised, unveiled and honoured in a way that they deserve to be.



1971 - The first Chief Librarian, Mr. Edward Lim Huck Tee, standing in front of the former library building. The building was later converted into the Museum and Art Gallery.





*Their Royal Highnesses at the official opening of the Museum.  
(Photograph by Zamhari Ahmad)*

Therefore, the inauguration of the Museum and Gallery's new name as *Muzium dan Galeri Tuanku Fauziah* embodies more than just a change of name. It underscores three key significances. First, it is to honour USM's third Chancellor, DYMM Tuanku Tengku Fauziah Binti Almarhum Tengku Abdul Rashid for her royal contributions and caring support towards USM during her tenure as the Chancellor. Secondly, it is a tribute to the innovative efforts, labours and generosity of the above-mentioned pioneers and benefactors. Thirdly, it is a testament of the Museum and Gallery's present initiatives in revitalising its very own creative legacies, other than re-exerting its unique feature as a museum that advocates the intertwining between science-technology and art-culture in the context of sustainable knowledge as a unique feature of a leading university in this country. Such feature can be traced in its diverse display of traditional, modern and contemporary forms of artistic and scientific manifestations.



*Building B-01 Museum. One of the heritage buildings in Minden. The medical truck in front of the museum shows that the building was once a Military Hospital during British occupation of the campus in 1945.*



*The frontal view of the Muzium dan Galeri Tuanku Fauziah which is of new-classical style.*

### Revitalising Artistic and Scientific Legacies in USM

In a balanced way for the past one year, USM has been collaborating with experts in various areas to work on a new fine art gallery and other forms of physical upgrades, development of an online database, website and virtual tour. It has also embarked on extensive research for the first publication of its fine art collection, other than gradually developing a brand presence in both the local and international scenes. For several projects, the *Muzium dan Galeri Tuanku Fauziah* has collaborated with individuals, other government organisations, NGOs, foreign embassies, private galleries and institutions. Recently, it has also established an information network with university galleries and institutions in other countries in Southeast Asia, as well as South Korea, Japan, and China initially.

This inauguration is a momentous event and marker for the *Muzium dan Galeri Tuanku Fauziah*'s maturity and its fresh realignment with the imperatives and challenges of the 21st century. Beyond a mere facelift, the *Muzium dan Galeri Tuanku Fauziah* is still undergoing an intensive 'make-over' that includes upgrading its physical infrastructure, enhancing its resource and collection management, activating research and publication activities, developing a brand presence, establishing a strong national, regional and international network, as well as introducing new interactive and creative audience-development programmes.

In recent times, the *Muzium dan Galeri Tuanku Fauziah* has received a number of accolades. In an expo of museums in Malaysia held in conjunction with the World Museum Day Celebration in Langkawi last year, the *Muzium dan Galeri* was honoured as the most visited booth - a testament of its commitment in developing audience-friendly programmes. In addition, staff members of the *Muzium dan Galeri* have won several prizes and awards, including the recently 2006 ACU

(Association of Commonwealth Universities) Annual Awards for PR, Marketing and Promotion under the category of Best Design for Outreach Programme. These acknowledgments compliment USM's generic positioning as a garden of knowledge that can be accessed and enjoyed by the society at large.

*(Excerpt of the address of the Vice-Chancellor during the inauguration ceremony of the Muzium dan Galeri Tuanku Fauziah).*

"This inauguration is a momentous event and marker for the *Muzium dan Galeri Tuanku Fauziah*'s maturity and its fresh realignment with the imperatives and challenges of the 21st century."

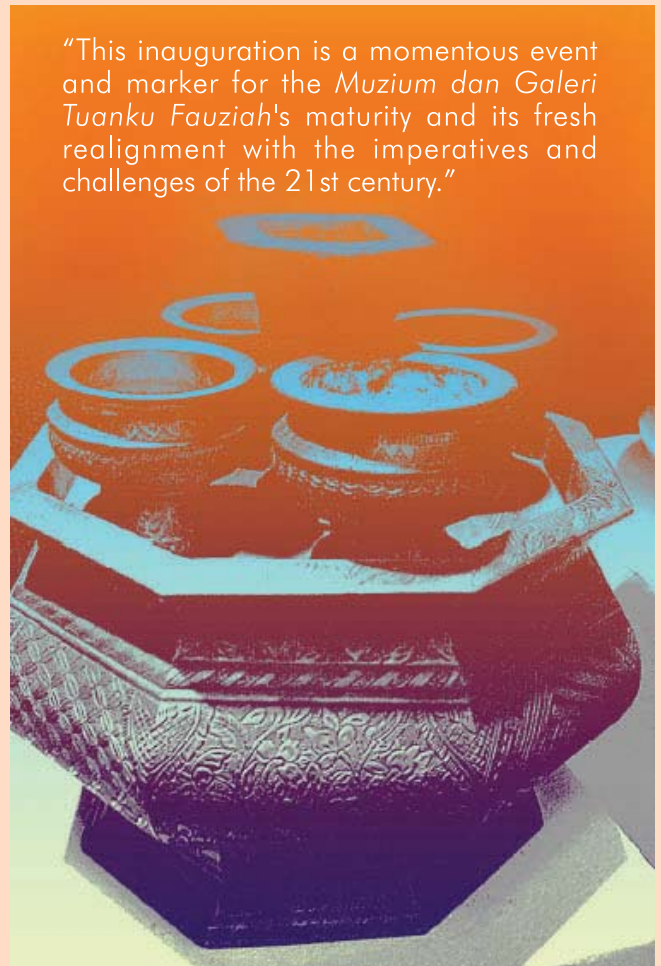


Photo montage by Rusly Jamaludin



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Tn. Hj. Romli - emphasizing the importance of knowledge.

## Hj. Romli Abu Bakar - *A Passion To Inspire*

Sharifah Munirah Syed Mohamed  
B.Soc.Sc. '74

Photographs by Zamhari Ahmad  
B.Mgmt '04

He is a man with many talents: a teacher, an artist, a musician, a thinker and a carpenter; virtues that God has bestowed to this humble person, Romli Abu Bakar. This unassuming personality came from the batch of pioneering students of USM.

For his passion and deep commitment, the media had written many stories of this remarkable man who manages a free tuition centre for the poor children in his village in Merbok, Kedah. The popular saying goes: Once a teacher is, always a teacher. That was what Hj. Romli did when he opted for early retirement from USM in the mid-90s. His wife who was also a teacher

and him started the free tuition classes when a few of the village children came to him for help in their studies as they were poor and could not afford to attend tuition classes. Started with 11 students in an old shack located in his backyard, words soon spread and the numbers increased to almost 200 students now. This man single-handedly manage the tuition classes without any expectation for monetary gains or rewards but only hoping that his effort and contributions would help upgrade the economic status of his village children. Hj. Romli beaming with pride mentioned that one of his students; Redzuan Mahazir, a civil engineering graduate from USM has designed and supervised the construction of the royal mosque in Perlis.



Hj Romli Abu Bakar - A Passion To Inspire

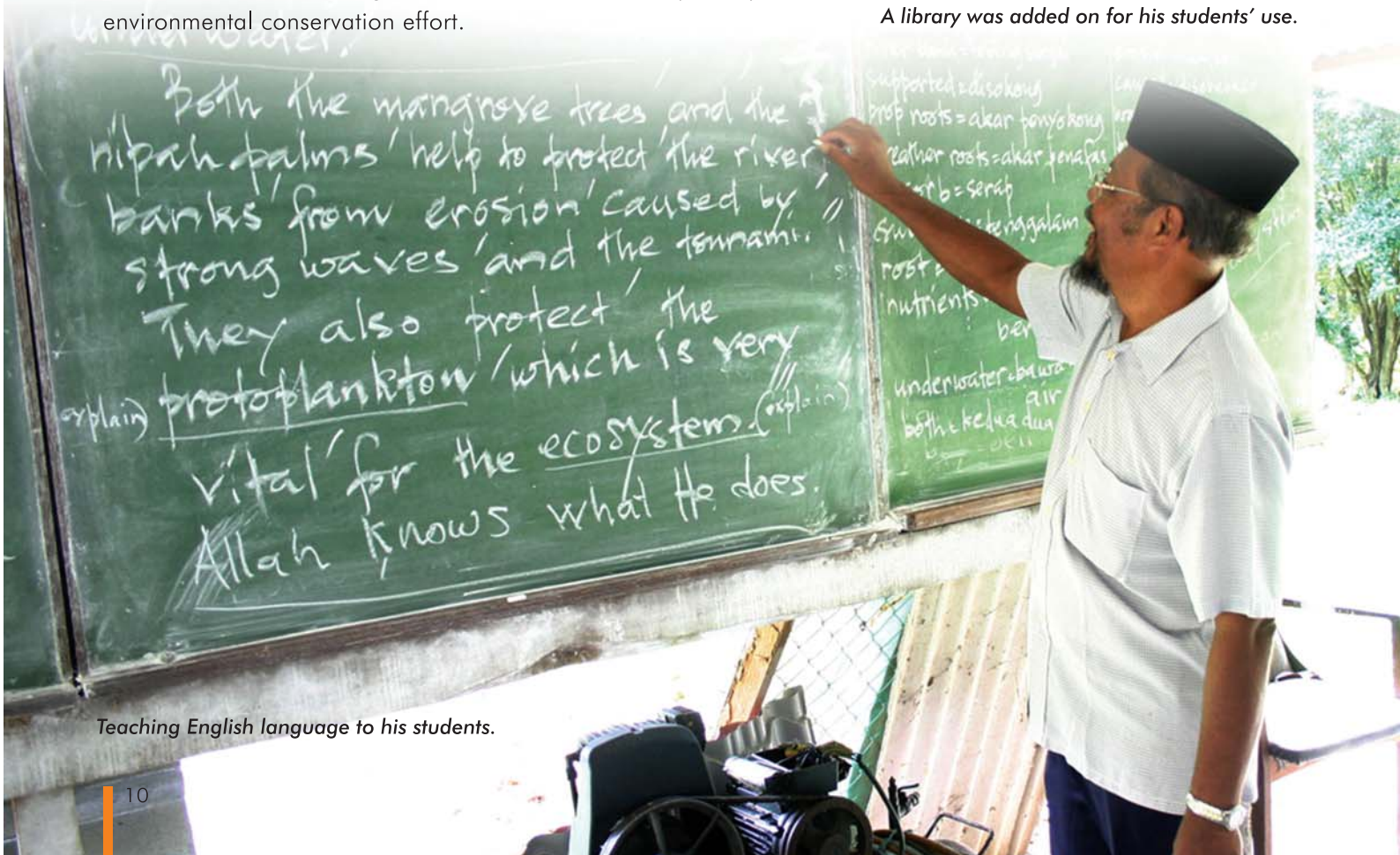
It has been 12 years since he started his tuition classes for the village children ranging from primary school to upper secondary. Through contributions from caring individuals and organisations, both local and overseas, Hj. Romli has managed to set up a library, a surau and a mini computer laboratory for his students. All these facilities were built using his own carpentry skills and with the help of the village folks. Recently, he has rented another piece of land for RM 500 per year to build another tuition centre for the hard-core poor who are mainly workers at the nearby palm oil estate. Hj. Romli has exhausted all his financial resources and are appealing to individuals especially the alumni and corporate organisations to help him build a 'surau', a walkway through the mangrove swamps and repair a boat donated to him. If properly developed this piece of land will make a good motivational camping site as this place is located by the Merbok River with mangrove swamps covering part of the land. Some foreign students from Ireland, Thailand, Norway and Argentina have visited the site and helped him build a small jetty for the boat to berth. According to Hj. Romli this is one project that he wanted it to be successful, that his fruits of labour being enjoyed by the village folks as well as local and foreign children to be involved especially in the environmental conservation effort.



The surau that was built by Romli in his backyard.



A library was added on for his students' use.



Teaching English language to his students.



Hj Romli Abu Bakar - A Passion To Inspire

# Romli Bakar — a remarkable Malaysian

COMMENT

By David Laviole



I AM watching a remarkable man. He is surrounded by children as he bends over his task, his sharp jungle knife in hand. With swift chops he cuts openings in pieces of dried bamboo to make jungle lanterns. The children's task is to fit the wicks, long pieces of string threaded through hollow reeds and then shoved carefully down through drilled holes. The larger boys pour a small quantity of oil through the holes he has made. He lets them install and light the lanterns themselves, cautioning them only not to place them too close to the thatched roof of the shelter. He does not check to see that they have done it properly; he knows that they will. They are his students. To everyone in his native village, young and old alike, he is "Pak Su", younger uncle, and they love him both for what he does and for what he is. I am learning his story and gaining some insight into the vision that drives him, even now as his 66th birthday approaches. Pak Su was born Romli Bakar in the village of Bujang, not far from Sungai Petani in Kedah. As a boy, he will not be worried about

been hard to tell from his friends. He worked in the padi fields; he hunted, fished and gathered food in the forest. But he was different: he had a goal. He did well in school, graduated and became a teacher himself. Although married by then, he saved from his modest salary and went to university.

It was the beginning of a remarkable career which saw him eventually become Deputy Registrar of the University of Science in Penang.

In 1995 he retired, built a house in Kampung Bujang, and settled in to indulge happily in his three worldly passions: painting, music and his family. From the house he built, he could look across the fields to where he was born. He was content.

One evening his life changed. Pak Su found a knock on his door at 11 pm. Three villagers had to knock on his door to get in. They were looking for a place to stay. He was the only one who could help.

ing which he examined each and saw in them himself so many years before.

Finally one of them said simply: "Tok Su, teach us." To a teacher there are no more magical words than these.

Scavenging wood and building materials, he and the boys built a large open air classroom behind his house.

Each day the boys would come to him after school to study and be tutored away from the crowded, hot conditions of their own small homes.

They would eat with their families and then return to Pak Su to work some more and sleep in a loft above the classroom.

Today these boys, now men with their own families, still return to Pak Su, for he has changed their lives.

One is now a lawyer; one is an engineer who has just completed the construction of a seven-million-ringgit mosque; several are teachers.

More and more children came and so did their parents. Pak Su has now run his learning centre for 12 years and smiles as he tells me that he has helped well over 200 children, more than half of them girls.

"The way our children in rural areas... he was... through school."

Those whom he has helped in the past now often return to take some of the burden from his shoulders.

A devout Muslim, Pak Su's face glows as he speaks of his four visits to Mecca and his gratitude that God has made him the instrument of change for his people.

His values are humanist; he believes strongly in tolerance and peace, and most of all, in keeping an open mind. And his faith fuels his belief in education.

"Do you know what God's first command to Prophet Muhammad was?" he asks me. "It was *Read!*"

The learning centre continues its work, but he now has a new priority. In a village near his own on the Sungai Merbok, he and the villagers, in one massive gotong-royong, have opened an outdoor education centre.

Their goals are simple. They wish it to be a place where local children will become motivated and learn about conservation, and where they can have a cultural exchange with non-Malaysian children.

A large space has been cleared and an artificial pond dug. A kitchen is in place as well as both an eating area and a sleeping area. There are tables and chairs, a

number of two-man tents have been donated.

Eventually, as funds become available, a platform on the shore of the pond will be built, allowing children easy access for swimming and fishing.

Walkways will be built throughout Pak Su's beloved mangrove swamps for nature walks and lectures. He is teaching conservation to the whole area.

To accomplish all this, Pak Su has had no corporate funding or sponsor. He acknowledges that he probably needs a website, but has had no time to build one.

Should you wish to contact him, try writing to Romli Bakar at 636A Kampung Bujang, 08100 Bedong, Kedah.

I watch the children crowding around him chatting, laughing, happy and confident.

Drifting over to the table tennis table he has set on its edge to serve as his chalkboard, I read one of his many musings:

"What the youngsters need to understand and be convinced of is that quest for knowledge is paramount and above all other enterprises."

His life is now dedicated to this goal. I have met a remarkable Malaysian.

## A New Sunday Time's coverage of Romli.

Hj. Romli is fondly known as Pak Su by the villagers and Tok Su by his students. He started his primary education in Kampung Bujang Malay School in Merbok. At the age of 13 he became an orphan but managed to continue his secondary education at the Bukit Mertajam High School until Senior Cambridge. To finance his education he worked at an iron ore factory from 7 p.m. till midnight to earn RM 1.20. After completing his Senior Cambridge examination with flying colours he joined the Penang Teachers College as he could not afford to further his studies due to financial constraints.

An opportunity to pursue his tertiary education came when he was 29 years-old, married with 2 children. He was enrolled in the School of Social Sciences USM as a 'Mahasitua' and obtained a

B.Soc.Sc.(Hons) degree. Upon graduation, he was offered a job as an administrative officer in USM. An experienced and capable person he rose rapidly to become the Deputy Registrar for Students Affairs and Development Division. As a Deputy Registrar for Students Affairs and Development, Hj. Romli was very popular

among the students as he treats his students as his own children and was always on the ground to tackle issues right at the bud. One major issue that he was to grapple was the emergence of the Al-Arqam group which was not only creating a social issue but also undermining the country politically. With the surge in students' population, racial polarisation was also increasingly becoming very apparent and Hj. Romli faced all the challenges with an open mind. He was instrumental in starting the archery club in USM.



The computer laboratory at the back of his house.

### Hj Romli Abu Bakar - A Passion To Inspire

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Hj. Romli opted for an early retirement at the age of 52 and returned to his village at Kampung Bujang, Merbok, to be with nature and to pursue his passions: family, music, carpentering, teaching and community work.

As he reminisces his students days in USM, Hj. Romli recollected that although he was a matured student with a family but he never miss the fun and mischief as an undergraduate where the campus community then was a big family with different races mingling without any barrier. USM campus during the 70's was like a foreign university with 80% of its academic staff consisting of foreigners either from the United States, United Kingdom, Japan or India. "Still we were happy family, maybe because at that time nobody practiced the I am holier than thou attitude," recalled Hj Romli. The campus then had a small population and was a fun place to study with many fond memories. Hj. Romli concluded his conversation with this phrases; "I grew up and matured in USM. It was USM that helped make me

what I am, what to do, how to do and for whom the rest is God's works." His advice for the students: "The greatest priority is to make the children understand and be convinced that the quest for knowledge is paramount above all enterprises. That is the essence of Iqra."

For those who would like to contribute or donate in cash and kind to Tuan Hj. Romli can do so through the Alumni Office or contact him at no. 636A, Kampung Bujang, 08100 Bedong, Kedah.



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*Students listening with rapt attention during one of their lessons.*



# Dato' Sharom Ahmat

## *A Leader During USM's Formative Years*

Hamima Dona Mustafa  
B.A. '73

*Sharom reading a citation for the late Tun Dr. Ismail during his conferment as the Honorary Graduant at the Second USM Convocation on 9 June 1973.*



Dato' Sharom Ahmat - A Leader During USM's Formative Years

It was a Saturday morning in May 2007. Dato' Sharom Ahmat ushered me into his split level house in Minden Heights and we sat at an eight-person dining table in the dining-cum-living room area. Sharom was dressed in a beige collarless T-shirt and matching cotton pants. My meeting with him that morning was to get his flashback on the School of Humanities for *THE LEADER*.



Sharom (seated third from right) during the Second USM Convocation in 1973.

The first time I met Sharom was in April 1972 when he joined the university as a Professor of History. He was to become the Dean of the School of Humanities in early 1973, replacing Professor Robert Van Niel, from the United States of America. As the secretary of the Humanities Society I was involved in organizing the tea-party to welcome Professor Sharom as the new Dean. The last item at the function was *Auld Lang Syne*. Dean, lecturers and students joined hands to sing the song.

Here, 34 years later, Sharom sat for the interview, calm and composed, always with a smile, looked as youthful as ever. His looks belied the fact that he had undergone a by-pass on December 15, 2006.

"It was during recuperation that I was able to reflect on a number of things. After forty-four years of working, I decided to relinquish all of my commitments, except that with the Socio-Economic and Environmental Research Institute (SERI)."

Getting to the point, I asked Sharom about his days with the School of Humanities.

According to him, his very first contact with USM was when he responded to the letter sent by Lim Teik Ghee, a lecturer, inviting him to participate in a History forum held at USM. Sharom spoke on Kedah and the role of the local history in Malaysian historiography. He remembered meeting Van Neil and N.A. Ogle, the Registrar during that time.

Not long after the forum, he received a call from the then Vice-Chancellor, Professor Hamzah Sendut, asking to meet him in Singapore where Sharom was based. Following that, he accepted Hamzah's invitation to join USM. Sharom was appointed History Professor,

and later, when Van Niel completed his term, Sharom became the Dean of the School of Humanities, beginning 1973 until 1976.

Recalling his first School Board meeting with about 30 academic staff members, he said, "The then school of Humanities was like one department rather than seven divisions under one School. I have never experienced such size and intimacy before. Nobody complained. When you asked for help people were willing to lend a hand. We worked happily as a team. The staff size, although small, did multi-tasking."

Sharom reminisced the excitement of doing new things in the Humanities, such as the establishment of divisions such as Communication, Fine Arts and Performing Arts.



### Dato' Sharom Ahmat - A Leader During USM's Formative Years

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He also noted the outspoken nature of the students as well student activism and "colourful characters" such as Fatimah Sham Hamid Tuah, the President of the Students' Union in 1974.

Sharom recalled the phone call he received from Hamzah who was attending a meeting in Genting Highlands. "I heard the students are protesting. Can you handle it?" asked Hamzah.

"I did not know what to do since this is the first time we had students protesting on campus. So, I met with Fatimah Sham," said Sharom.

He added, "I could empathise with the cause but did not agree with the means."

He expressed his relief when Hamzah returned to campus two days later to deal with the situation.

While holding the rein at the School of Humanities he made a point which concurred with that of Hamzah: "Don't rush the process of Malayanisation. Let's take our time to phase out the expatriates."

According to him, it was imperative that only the best candidates, not mediocre ones, be selected for the Academic Staff Training Scheme since they would eventually be the ones who would take over the expatriate lecturers' positions.

Another point that he and Hamzah were in agreement with was regarding the use of English as a second effective language.

In 1976, Hamzah set up a committee to look into the higher education system, specifically, regarding the use of Malay as the official language and English as second language.

According to Sharom, "In order for a language to be effective one must be able to read and understand, to write and to communicate."

He further emphasized, "One has to use the language. The language cannot be passive. Therefore, I proposed that twenty percent of what we do in the University should be in English."

During that phase of his tenure at the University, his suggestion warranted him the brand of "anti-nationalist."

"Looking at today's situation, my suggestion thirty years ago could be said to be far-sighted then," he lamented.

After his three-year-deanship at the School of Humanities, Sharom continued to serve under two more Vice-Chancellors: then Tan Sri Hamdan Sheikh Tahir and then Dato' Musa Mohammad.

He held the post of Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Students' Affairs as well as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Academic Affairs, Research and Development.

Again, as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor he was caught up with the excitement of seeing new things being accomplished, such as the School of Housing, Building and Planning, the School of Pharmacy, the Muka Head

research station for marine and forestry.

He felt "fulfilled" when he witnessed USM's "string of firsts", such as the school system, semester system, School of Applied Sciences, and the Medical School in Kubang Kerian.



*Sharom giving a farewell speech before leaving for Brunei in 1985.*



*Sharom Ahmat. (Photograph by Zamhari Ahmad)*



*Dr. Hamima Dona is currently a lecturer at School of Communication, USM and she can be reached at hamima@usm.my.*



*Prof. Robert Van Niel (third from right) the first Dean of the School of Humanities, with Hamima (fourth from right) and her family members on her graduation day in 1973.*

## Personal Glimpses of Those Pioneering Days

*Hamima Dona Mustafa  
B.A. '73*

"Those were the days," sung by Mary Hopkins in the early 1970s, could be an appropriate theme song for any flashbacks and reunions. Indeed, for those of us who were "pioneering students" from the School of Humanities (initially, School of Cultural Studies) and the School of Social Sciences, of the then Universiti Pulau Pinang, "those were the days" when we had to share the premises of the Malayan Teachers' College (MTC) in 1970 before moving to the Minden Campus the following year. The MTC allocated some space for the Universiti's administration offices. Other than that we had to share the MTC library, dormitories, dining hall, laboratories and the playing field.

Student-advicing for the 298 freshies was done in the MTC hall. I remembered registering for "French" with Mrs. Ann Hunter before moving on to the other tables to sign up for courses, such as literature, taught by Encik Khalid Taib and Cultural History of Southeast Asia, lectured by Mr. Sidhu. "Quantitative Methods" taught by Mr. Chee Kim Loy and "Psychology," by Dr. Paul Chang were compulsory for students from both Schools. Lectures for these two courses were held in the MTC auditorium.

I remembered being late for the oath-taking ceremony, also carried out in the hall, a few mornings later. Subra, one of the seniors in the orientation committee, showed me which side door to enter. The "freshies" were all standing up, ready to take the oath. I recalled stepping in beside Kuah Goon Oo, who gestured me to an empty space beside him.

During the two weeks of orientation, various programmes were drawn up for the freshies, from fora, debates, "gotong royong," to tea parties for the Poh Leong Kok Home. The finale was the Orientation Ball held at the Old Frees Building, Northam Road. Tengku Josephine Jawahir from the School

of Social Sciences was crowned Freshie Queen. The two runners-up were Siti Zaleha, from the School of Social Sciences, and Kokilambal Devi, from the School of Cultural Studies which later became the School of Humanities.

Although one used to hear about ragging in Universiti Malaya and Institiut Teknologi Mara, as far as I could remember, no one reported any ragging at Universiti Pulau Pinang, throughout the orientation period.

Some of the weekends were for dancing parties at the MTC hall. We used to practise with the band at a house which was converted into lecturers' offices, in *Jalan Utara, Bukit Glugor*, across the MTC. Mr. Chandra Pillai (now Prof. Chandra Muzaffar) and Mr. Vincent Lowe, had their offices there. They were "regulars" at the cultural shows which we used to organize. Also present were Mr. Ghulam Sarwar, Mrs. Ann Hunter and her husband, Keith, Encik Khalid Mohd. Taib and his wife, Puan Khadijah Zon. The songs popular then were those by the Bee Gees, such as "Massachusetts," and "Don't Forget to Remember." During one cultural evening, Sa'adah and Shaharuddin teamed up to sing "Let it be me," made popular by The Everly Brothers.



*Jose, as Tengku Josephine Jawahir was known, on her graduation day in 1973.*



*Drama Major and Minor students posing after their lectures.*



## Still Remembered

### Personal Glimpses of Those Pioneering Days

---



*A goodwill trip by students to one of the islands nearby.*

With the enthusiasm of Ghulam Sarwar, Ann Hunter and Vincent Lowe, the School of Cultural Studies put up a play, *The Sacrifice*, written by Rabindranath Tagore. I played the part of the queen whereas Mansor Ahmad was the prince. I failed to recall the others on the cast. We performed at the MTC hall for those on campus and at the Dewan Sri Pinang for the public. One other play, performed at the Dewan Sri Pinang as well as the community halls of Teluk Bahang and Balik Pulau, was *Utung Tatang Sontani's Si Kebayan*. For the first time ever, we, from the University, joined hands with the Penang Players to bring the play to the *rakyat*. The main character was played by Izhar Abdullah. I acted the part of his wife, Ijem. Gan Teik Chee, a Penang lawyer and a member of the Penang Players, Muhibah Ayob, my coursemate majoring in drama, and Harry Aveling, a literature lecturer, were also part of the team.

In addition, the Students' Union took the initiative to organize a cultural show to raise funds for those in need in Kedah. We stopped by Dr. Mahathir's house for dinner before proceeding to the hall in Alor Star where we were to perform. Kak Fatimah Sham headed the delegation.

Back then, our final examinations were held at the end of the academic year. We had to sit for ten papers, for two weeks. Perhaps, due to that we had more time to participate in various activities which were related to society's needs. When the floods hit Kedah, we were out in the University's jeep gathering provisions from members of the public. One such stop was at Penang Road. Mano, Syed Ahmad and a few others, took turns to announce through the hailer what we were up to from the back of the jeep.

Those were also the days when we had to employ lecturers who flew in during the weekends from Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. For those who majored in Communication, our lecturers, Jack Glattbach and Mike Anderson came

in from the Southeast Asia Press Centre in Kuala Lumpur. Robert Bittner flew in from Singapore. We also had a drama lecturer and a broadcasting lecturer from Kuala Lumpur, Saturdays and Sundays.

Those were the days when everybody seemed to know everybody else. We felt like a family. When the university band, "Tabula Rasa", played Santana's popular Black Magic Woman, at the party, named Groovy Night, the pioneers were about to graduate. The School of Humanities has established a firm footing. We held a farewell dinner at the Mandarin Hotel in Macalister road and I remember singing "Unchained Melody."

The first group of students from the School of Humanities and the School of Social Sciences were proclaimed "graduates" in the *Dewan Sri Pinang* in 1973. "Those were the days" never fails to bring back memories which bind quite a few people. Those who have been returning to campus, please, continue to do so. As for those who have not been back, please come, "for time can do so much. . ."



*The pioneering Humanities graduates during the Second USM Convocation in 1973 held at the Dewan Sri Pinang.*



*Dr. Hamima Dona is currently a lecturer at School of Communication, USM and she can be reached at hamima@usm.my.*

*Photographs by Muhibah Ayob B.A. '73*



# Humanities 1973

## The Pioneers



ARIFFIN OMAR



ABDULLAH  
MAHMOOD  
(Deceased)



CHEOK CHYE SIN



GOH GAI CHENG



HAMIMA DONA MUSTAFA  
(Currently a lecturer at School  
of Communication, USM.)



HASSAN BASRI  
MOHD. JAMIL



HASSAN MOHD



HERANI @ KHAIRANI  
ISMAIL SUKI



ISMAIL MAMAT



KOKILAMBAL DEVI  
RASARATNAM  
(Deceased)



KHAIRIYAH  
MAT TAMAT



KHOR SIEW KEE



KUAH GUAN OO



LENA KHAW SIEW TIN



LEE KIM HARE



MAZIDAH ISMAIL



MANSOR AHMAD  
(Retired as Associate  
Professor from USM)



MOHD. SHAFIEE  
HASHIM



MOHD ZAIN ZON



MUHIBAH AYOB





MOLLY MATHEWS  
(Deceased)



MOHAMAD  
OTHMAN



NORAINI RASHID



NOR HABILAH  
HASSAN



OTHMAN HAJI  
ABD. RASHID



ONG CHAI LIN



ONG JOO BEE



PARAMESWARI  
SUNDRAM PILLAI



PRIMALANI  
MUTHUCUMARU



RAJA ISMAIL RAJA  
MOHAMED



ROMLI IBRAHIM



SHAMSIAH  
MOHAMAD



SITI KULTHUM  
ABDUL KHALID



THILAIAMBAL  
SIVALINGAM



TUAN KAMARUZAMAN  
TUAN MOHAMED



TUAN IBRAHIM  
TG. ABDULLAH



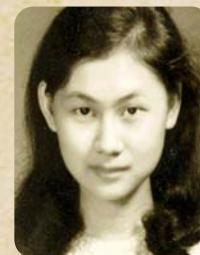
TAN LEE NAH,  
SHIRLEY



TENGGU MAZIEDAH  
KHAULAH TENGGU  
AHMAD



WONG LAN FOONG



WONG YUK YIN





# The Song of Life

Text and Photographs by  
Mohamed Talhah Idrus  
B.Soc.Sc. '74

*To every thing, turn, turn, turn,  
There is a season, turn, turn, turn,  
And a time to every purpose under heaven..."*

*The Byrds, "Turn, Turn, Turn" (1965)*



## The Other Residents

In the natural world, the death of an organism is good news to the living ones. The reason is that dead plants, animal remains or even soil particles are 'recycled' by various forms of life. Such fascinating and productive cycle is quite clearly demonstrated by USM campus' other residents.

While the campus residents produce wastes routinely, others put them into new uses. Wastefulness is an unfamiliar concept to them. Everything is consumed for a particular purpose.

Dead animals and insects, rotting wood, and pollen grains are consumed or put to new uses. Some birds even weave shreds of plastics into their nests. Morsels of food left behind by larger animals are picked up for use by life forms of the lower order.

Ants, bugs, worms and small organisms systematically prey on fallen leaves and other objects on the ground. Slowly, even large logs disintegrate to become new top soil. In the process of decay, fungi and mushrooms grow on them and helped to speed up the return of wood to earth.

A fallen branch may seem to have ended its purpose but its fibres are ideal materials for hornets to build their nests. Skinks and geckos, too, find such a branch a useful place to hang out while tailorbirds and shrikes find it an ideal place to stop and groom, or just to relax.

Higher up on the trees, dead branches are popular perches for many birds, especially starlings, mynahs, bee-eaters, barbets, and even kites.

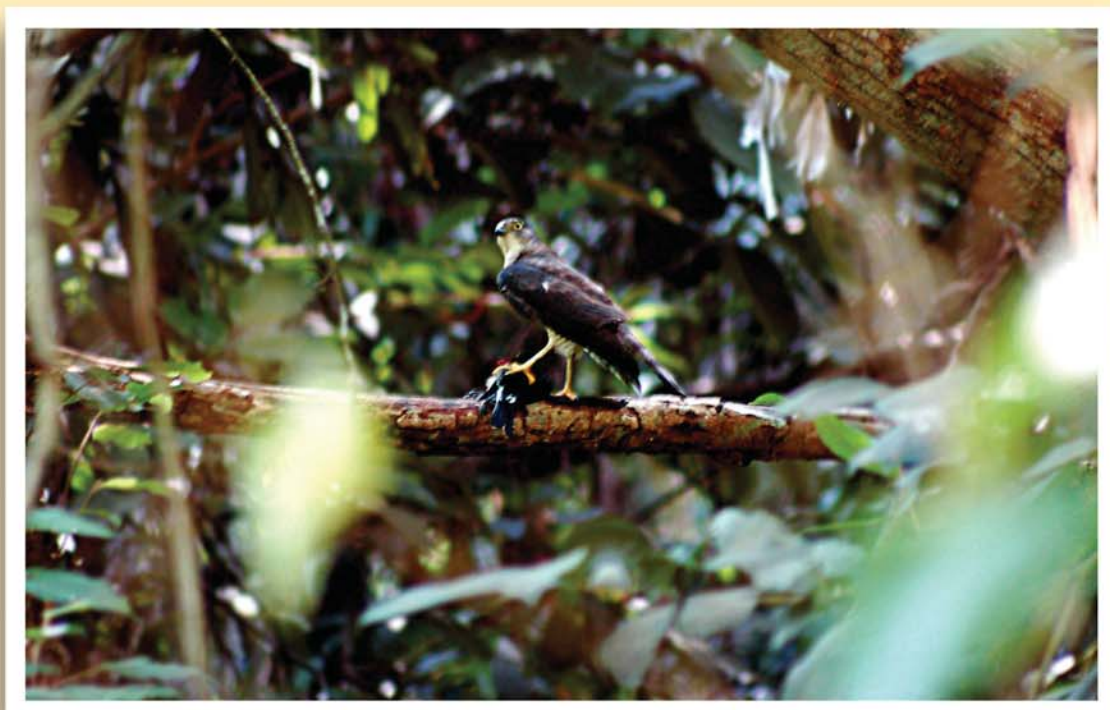
Ants, birds, bees, and many other residents are undemanding workers who keep the campus healthy. They fertilise our gardens, and control lower life-forms from becoming a pest at zero cost.

In performing their seemingly mundane chores, our campus' other residents sustain life. They prey and are preyed upon in a rhythmic cycle that resounds with the melodic pleasantness of a well written song.





*For a brief spell, this pool is resourceful for many birds, like this magpie robin which is enjoying a dip.*

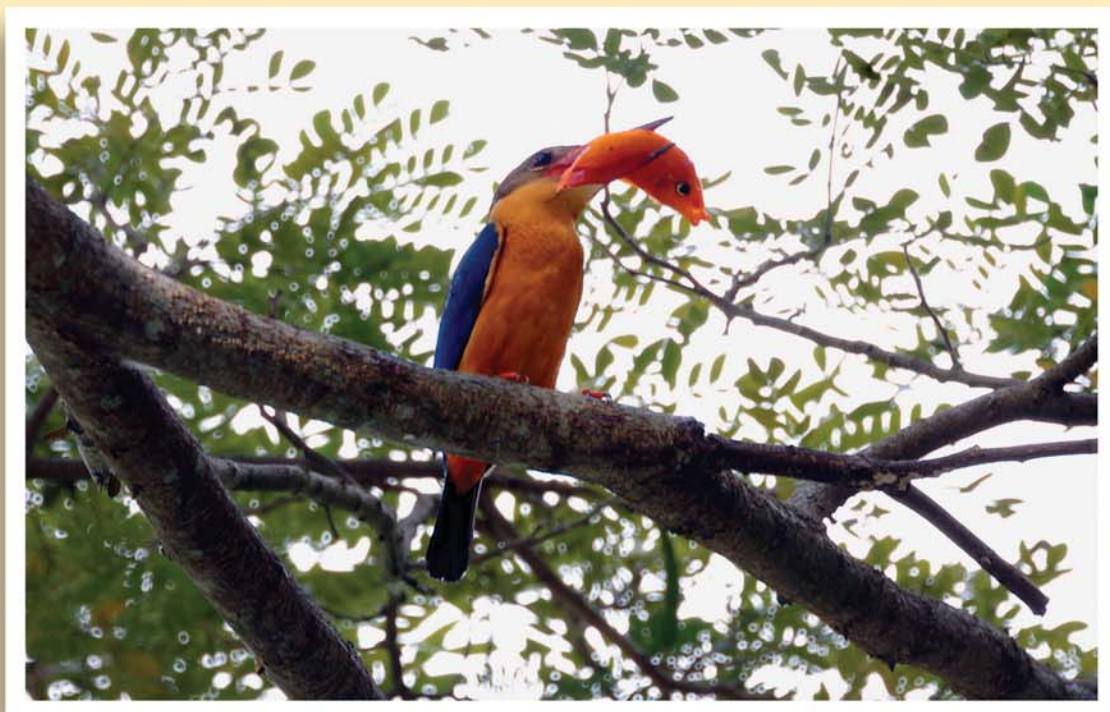


*This sparrow-hawk is one of the campus residents that effectively keeps the starling population in check.*





*After a heavy rainfall, this Nephylla spider in Bird Valley is having a feast collecting and processing trapped flying ants for later consumption.*



*The Stork-billed kingfisher never leaves Tasik Aman because of the abundance of fish in the lake.*





*Black ants that survive a grass-cutting session near the School of Housing, Building and Planning, cooperatively carry a grasshopper which perished during the same operation.*



*Between feedings, these starlings rest on dead branches behind The Department for Students Affairs.*





*A lone hornet diligently scrapes fibre from a dead branch for use in nest building.*



*The proximity of the nest to the sources of food ensures a better chance of survival for these young plant bugs.*

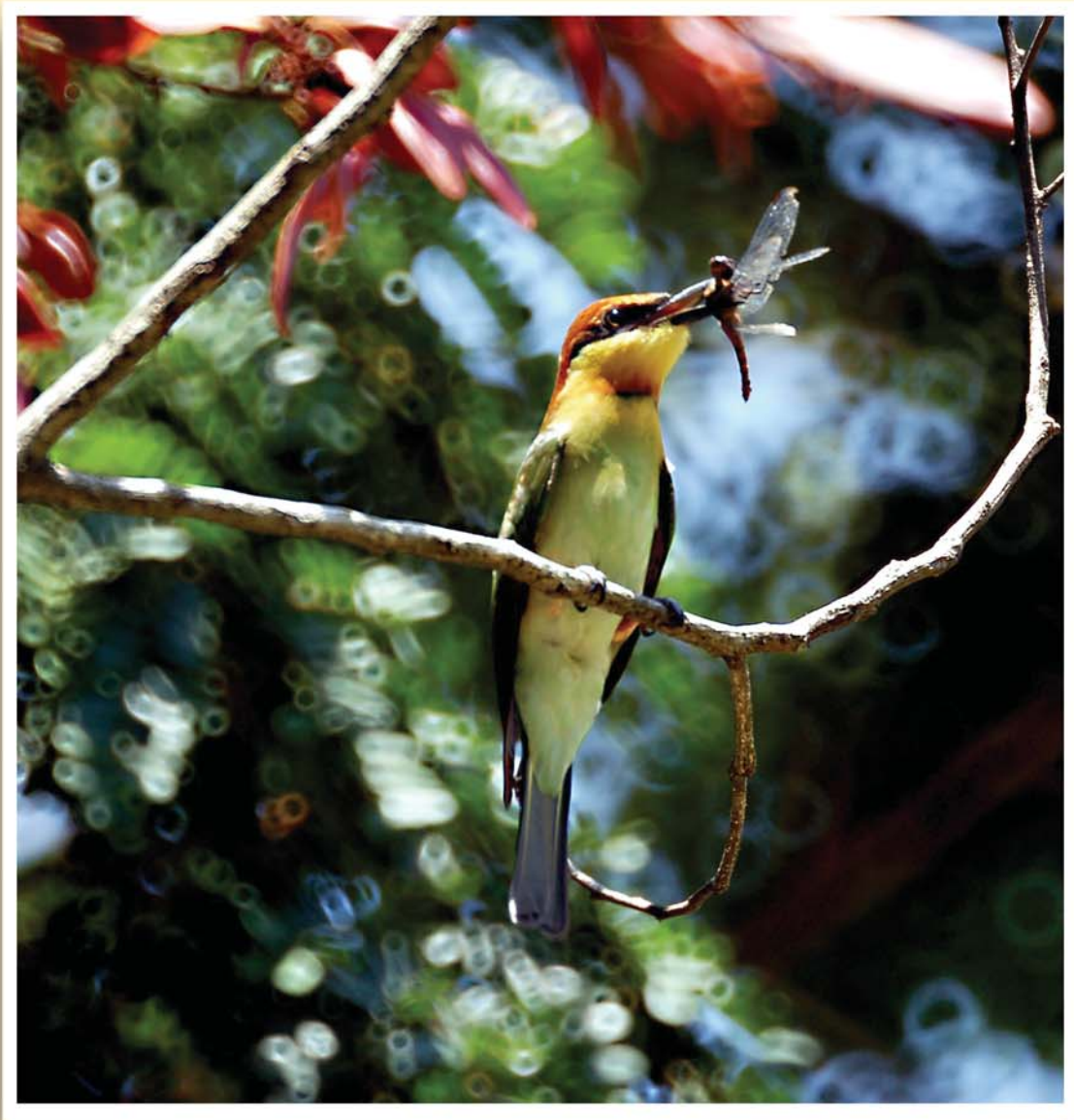


*Angsana pollens littering a railing are being cleaned up by an insect.*



*The tailorbird uses leaves, dried grass, feathers and cobwebs to make its nest.*





*A bee-eater preying on a dragonfly near Desa Gemilang.*



Mohamed Talhah Idrus is currently a lecturer at School of Housing, Building and Planning, USM. He can be reached at [mtalhah@usm.my](mailto:mtalhah@usm.my)

# Heartiest Congratulation

## **Dato' Ahmad Said bin Hamdan**

Dato' Ahmad Said bin Hamdan, a graduate from the School of Humanities 1975 has recently been appointed as the General Director of The Anti Corruption Agency (ACA). Ahmad Said was not new to the agency. He was the Deputy Director General of ACA from 1998 till his new appointment. Prior to that he was The Director of four states such as Sabah, Perak and Selangor.

Ahmad Said's achievement exemplifies the highest level of success that many of our alumni have attained. His involvement with USM and the alumni activities demonstrates the strong affiliation he retains towards USM.



## **Datuk Zainal Rahim Seman**

The State Development Director, Datuk Zainal Rahim Seman was appointed as the Penang Municipal Council President, effective May 7, 2007. Zainal, had served for 25 years in the government service, first as Senior Officer of Culture, Youth and Sports in the Federal Territory and later as South East District Officer from July 2004 till July 2005 before he was appointed state Development Director. He was born in 1957, in Perak and possesses a Master Degree in Public Administration from Universiti Sains Malaysia in 1997.

We the alumni of USM would like to convey our heartiest congratulations and welcome you to our fraternity.





*Nicol receiving a memento from the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dato' Dzulkifli Abdul Razak.*



*Nicol Ann David - The Squash Champion*

## Drawing Inspiration from a Young Sports Champion

**Mohd. Zulkarnain Mohamad Tajulariffin**

Nicol Ann David, the Malaysian squash superstar and officially the World Number 1 in women's squash, was recently in USM. She was specially invited for a talk on 3 February 2007 by Golden Key International Honour Society (USM Chapter) and Division of Academic and International Affairs, USM, as part of Golden Key's Honorary Members Outreach Programme.

In the ceremony, Nicol Ann David was made lifetime honorary member of Golden Key International Honour Society in recognition of her exemplary achievements. She talked about the importance of hard work, dedication and commitment in realising our goals in life. Her presence at the ceremony attracted a legion of admirers who took the opportunity to take pictures and shake hands with their idol.

It is hoped that USM students are able to draw inspiration from the presence of Nicol Ann David at USM.



*Nicol answering a question during an interview session.*



*Mohd. Zulkarnain Mohamad Tajulariffin is currently the Assistant Registrar at Institute of Graduate Studies (IGS). He can be reached at [mzulkarnain@notes.usm.my](mailto:mzulkarnain@notes.usm.my)*



# Going Bananas!

Haslina Haroon

*Photo inset showing a lamp shade made from banana fibre.*

The banana plant has long been a favourite of mankind. Although sometimes called a tree, the banana is actually a herbaceous plant, and is regarded as a plant of many uses. The fruit of the banana tree can be eaten raw or it can be baked, boiled, fried or steamed. The fruit when mashed is also an excellent and inexpensive alternative to store-bought facial treatment products. Banana leaves are often used as disposable plates and can be turned into your very own biodegradable umbrella. The various parts of the banana plant are also used in various rituals and ceremonies. At USM, years of research have produced yet another use of this ubiquitous plant - as paper.

According to the Dean of the School of Arts, Associate Professor Dr. Mohamed Najib Ahmad Dawa, banana paper is made from fibre inside the pseudostem or the trunk of the banana plant. Paper made from banana fibre is unique in that it is 30 to 40 times stronger than normal paper made from wood pulp. The paper can be used to make wrapping paper, paper bags, lampshades, screens and ceiling panels. It can even be used to absorb oil spills. Adnan Mat, a curator at the School of Arts and the person responsible for processing the paper, adds that the paper produced is also tougher and more durable and is free from acid, the presence of which can cause paper to degrade.

*Photo montage by Rusly Jamaludin*



### Going Bananas!



Associate Professor  
Mohamed Najib



En. Adnan Mat

According to Dr. Mohamed Najib, a village near Pulau Betong in Balik Pulau has been chosen as the site for banana paper-production for commercialisation purposes. The paper produced has also been brought to the attention of the Malaysian Handicraft Development Corporation, as the paper has the potential to be used in various craft products. He also hopes that the use of the paper can be extended to other industries, such as packaging, furniture production, healthcare and motoring.

For the moment, Dr. Mohamed Najib and Adnan can breathe a sigh of relief. Years of hard work have now begun to bear fruit and they can now indeed sit back and savour the sweet smell of success.



Banana paper lighting shades with unlimited shapes and forms.



Dr. Haslina Haroon is currently a lecturer at School of Humanities, USM. She can be reached at [haslina@usm.my](mailto:haslina@usm.my)



## From Plant to Paper

USM has been mulling over the idea of producing paper using the banana stem since 1996. The idea then slowly began to take hold and in 2001, the School of Arts embarked on research which examined the possibility of using banana fibre to produce paper. This serious attempt at realizing the idea was given a boost in 2004 with the co-operation of the Japan Foundation. With the assistance given by the Japan Foundation, researchers involved in the project discovered a conventional method of producing paper, that is, by using a number of traditional tools and equipment from Japan. It was with assistance from the Japan Foundation that the project finally got off the ground.

According to Adnan Mat, the process of making paper from the banana stem is rather simple as it follows traditional methods of paper-making. To produce paper from banana fibre, the banana stem is first cut and chopped into small pieces. To obtain the fibre, the small pieces of banana stem are then boiled. In the next stage, the fibres obtained are rinsed until the water runs clear. The fibres are then torn apart and separated, and then soaked in water. The mixture is then blended or beaten to produce the pulp, which is then soaked in water in a container for the next stage, which involves turning the pulp into paper.

This is done simply by straining out some of the pulp using a wire screen stretched onto a wooden, rectangular frame. The excess water should drain back into the container, and at this stage, the pulp should be evenly distributed on the wooden frame. The pulp that has settled on the screen is then pressed to get rid of excess water. The paper is then removed from the screen and is left to dry.

According to Adnan, one banana stem with a wet weight of 30 kilogramme is able to produce 17 kilogramme of fibre. Each kilogramme of fibre can be used to produce 10 sheets of A4 paper or 11 sheets of A3 paper.





Getting to know each other better.



Students telematch - PSU and USM.

# A Cultural Melting Pot

Noor Soraya Ahyaudin  
M.Comm. (Science and Environmental Journalism) '07



Happy faces - USM students and PSU students.

Malaysia is a multicultural nation with unique and diverse cultures to offer to the outside world. With the present move towards the internationalisation of higher education in Malaysia, the country has much to offer in terms of multiculturalism and education.

Intercultural competencies are indispensable in the international arena. Hence, knowing how to manage oneself in a culturally different environment is crucial. In the effort to disseminate the importance of cultural knowledge, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) has tapped into the country's diverse and unique communities to promote a better understanding of Malaysia.

USM currently offers a number of short-term programmes to the outside world to promote a better understanding of our culture and more importantly, our people. In doing so, USM stresses on the cultural diversity and identity of the population of Malaysia. Among the short-term

programmes offered are the Malaysian Study Programme, the Prince of Songkhla University (PSU) English Summer Programme conducted by the School of Humanities, the International Tropical Field School Programme organised by USM International Office and the School of Biological Sciences, and the City University of Hong Kong Youth and Society Project organised by USM International Office and the School of Social Sciences.

These are also programmes which emphasise the history of Malaysia and how Malaysians are committed to living together harmoniously in spite of their diverse background. Some of the programmes also introduce students to the



### A Cultural Melting Pot

ecology and the dynamics of the tropical environment and most importantly, the unique tropical biodiversity of Malaysia.

As a research-intensive university, USM is capable of providing enormous resources and information which can be beneficial to the campus community and the general public. By offering the short-term programmes, we can tap into our potential and gain knowledge on how to improve ourselves. It is hoped that the short-term programmes offered can be improved over time so that it can continue to attract students.

The programmes to be offered will be a joint effort between local and foreign students in promoting cultural understanding. This subsequently will assist not only international students in trying to gain a better understanding of our culture and society, but USM with its internationalization effort. Although the majority of our students are unable to experience a foreign culture, these short-term programmes can serve as an excellent platform for studying and learning about other cultures, that is, through exposure to international participants in our own country.

Within a highly complex cultural situation, USM is able to develop intercultural competencies that will help develop skills which are necessary in the context of international relations. A keen awareness of cultural differences among students will consequently move them toward enhancing their soft skills and cognitive ability in accordance with the needs of our education system and our country.



Noor Soraya Ahyaudin is currently the Assistant Registrar of International Office, USM. She can be reached at [noorsoraya@notes.usm.my](mailto:noorsoraya@notes.usm.my).



Local and international students visit Penang Hill during interaction programme.



Cultural exchange dinner with PSU at the Dewan Bankuet.

“Although the majority of our students are unable to experience a foreign culture, these short-term programmes can serve as an excellent platform for studying and learning about other cultures, that is, through exposure to international participants in our own country.”





## USM Toastmasters Club Launched

The USM Alumni Toastmasters Club was launched on 23 March at the Balai Pesiban Agung Room. The event was attended by representatives from the Club, the university, and Toastmasters International.

## The Malaysian Dilemma - Food and Us

A public talk organised by the Alumni Liaison Office was conducted by M. Rajen (B. Pharm.USM'85) on 17 April at the Dewan Persidangan Universiti. Titled **'The Malaysian Dilemma - Food and Us'**, Rajen spoke about a possible need to turn the existing food pyramid upside down as we strive for a healthier lifestyle.



## Outstanding USM Academics Given Recognition

Thirty-six USM academics received the awards under three main categories - Leadership, Publication (Journal), Research Product and Creativity. Dr. Abdul Gani Kanesan Abdullah (School of Educational Studies) and Associate Professor Mohammad Suhaimi Jaafar (School of Physics) received the *Anugerah Penyelidik Sanjungan*. The Vice-Chancellor Professor Dato' Dzulkifli Abdul Razak also received a special award for his appointment as the president of the Association of South East Asia Institutes of Higher Learning (ASAIHL) and also for being conferred the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Sciences from the University of Portsmouth, United Kingdom. The annual event, *Malam Anugerah Sanggar Sanjung* was held at the Grand Ballroom, Equatorial Hotel, Penang, on 20 March.



## An Audience With The Chancellor

In conjunction with the proclamation of the DYMM Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Ibni Al-Marhum Syed Putra Jamalullail as the forth chancellor of USM, a luncheon was organised at a renowned hotel for the student leaders and the disabled students to have an audience with His Royal Highness, the Chancellor. During the function, the disabled students put up a special performance for the Chancellor.



## Annual Athletics Festival

The USM Annual Athletics Festival (*Temasya Olahraga Tahunan*) was held on 24 February at the Athletic Stadium USM, Penang. The 50-event festival attracted the participation of about 2,000 students from all the campuses.

## Kung Fu Night: "Spirit of Martial Art"

The 30th Anniversary of the Kung Fu Night, with the theme "Spirit of Martial Art", was organised by the Kung Fu Club at the Dewan Tuanku Syed Putra, Universiti Sains Malaysia on 3 March. Watched by about 1,200 people, the performance involved 250 participants from various club such *Persatuan Seni Pertahanan Melayu* and *Silambam*.



## International Cultural Fiesta

The International Cultural Fiesta was organised by the Division of Academic and International Affairs on 3 March 2007. The festival, which aims to promote cultural appreciation among the multinational students of USM, attracted the participation of countries such as Thailand, Indonesia, Finland, Libya, Laos and Iran. Malaysia was represented by a number of ethnic groups who presented several cultural performances.

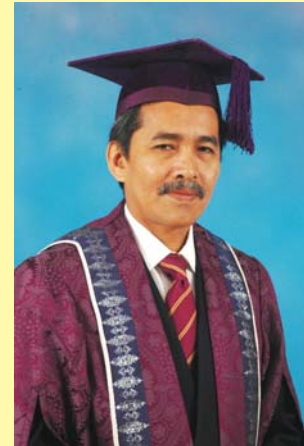




## A New Deputy Vice Chancellor (Students Affairs and Development)

Associate Professor Dr. Omar Osman has been appointed as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students Affairs and Development) of USM effective from March 4. Omar, formerly work as the Director of Corporate Development Division took over the post from Associate Professor Datuk Jamaludin Mohaidin who retired on March 3, 2007.

Omar joined USM in 1985 as a fellow under the Academic Staff Training Scheme and became a lecturer in 1989. He was the lecturer in School of Housing, Building and Planning (HBP). In year 2000, Omar was appointed as the special officer to former Education Minister, Tan Sri Musa Mohamad until March 2004 before rejoining the university in March 2005.

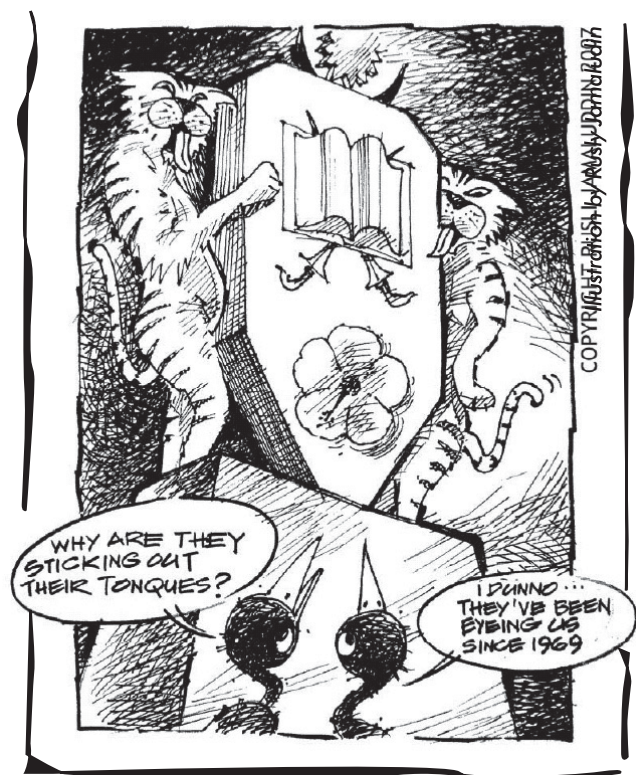


## Citrawarna Competition

The *Citrawarna* (Monument of Colours) competition invokes the creativity in cultural arts in the 12 presentations by graduates on 10 March at the USM Hockey Stadium. This year's theme was 'Mahasiswa Aspirasi Negara' (Graduates are the Aspiration of the Nation). The programme involved the participation of graduates from the main campus and also those from the Health Campus in Kubang Kerian and the Engineering Campus in Nibong Tebal. The Desasiswa Bakti Permai team grabbed the first place.

Compiled by Asha Suresh Chand, Yong Check Yoon, Haslina Haroon, Nur Fadhlina Misni and Nor Rafizah Md Zain.

## Survival In The Garden



## USM PUBLICATIONS 2007

### *Esei-esei Kritikan Feminis dalam Kesusasteraan Melayu*

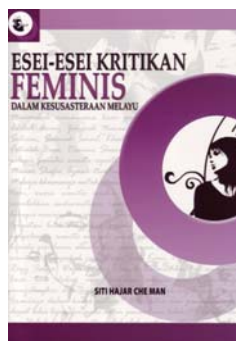
**Author:** Siti Hajar Che Man

**ISBN:** 978-983-861-315-6

**Price:** RM 51.00

**Synopsis:**

The book is a collection of essays in feminist literary criticism, focusing on Malay women in Malay literary works. The book aims to show that through the application of two methods of reading as proposed by Showalter, the experience and emotions of women characters can be understood in a more critical, fair and scholarly manner.



### *Pemaju Swasta dan Perumahan Kos Rendah*

**Author:** Nor'Aini Yusof

**ISBN:** 978-983-861-324-8

**Price:** RM 52.00

**Synopsis:**

Pemaju Swasta dan Perumahan Kos Rendah addresses the issue of private developers' involvement in providing low cost housing in Malaysia. It investigates the success of the policy which requires developers to build at least 30 percent low cost houses. This book explores the above issue by focusing on the characteristics of developers who build low cost housing and the behavior of developers when faced with the policy concerned.



### *Fundamental Research at USM Volume 1,2 and 3*

**Editor:** Abd. Aziz Tajuddin and Lim Koon Ong

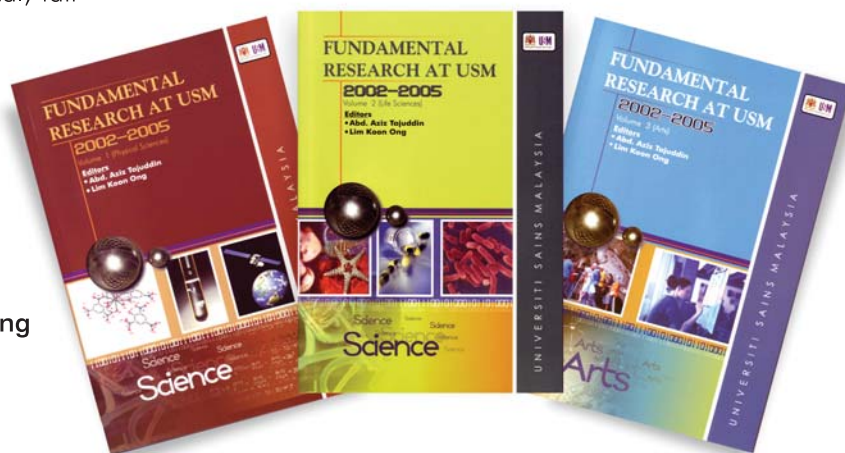
**ISBN:** 983-861-317-7; 983-861-320-7;

983-861-321-5

**Price:** RM 30.00 / Volume

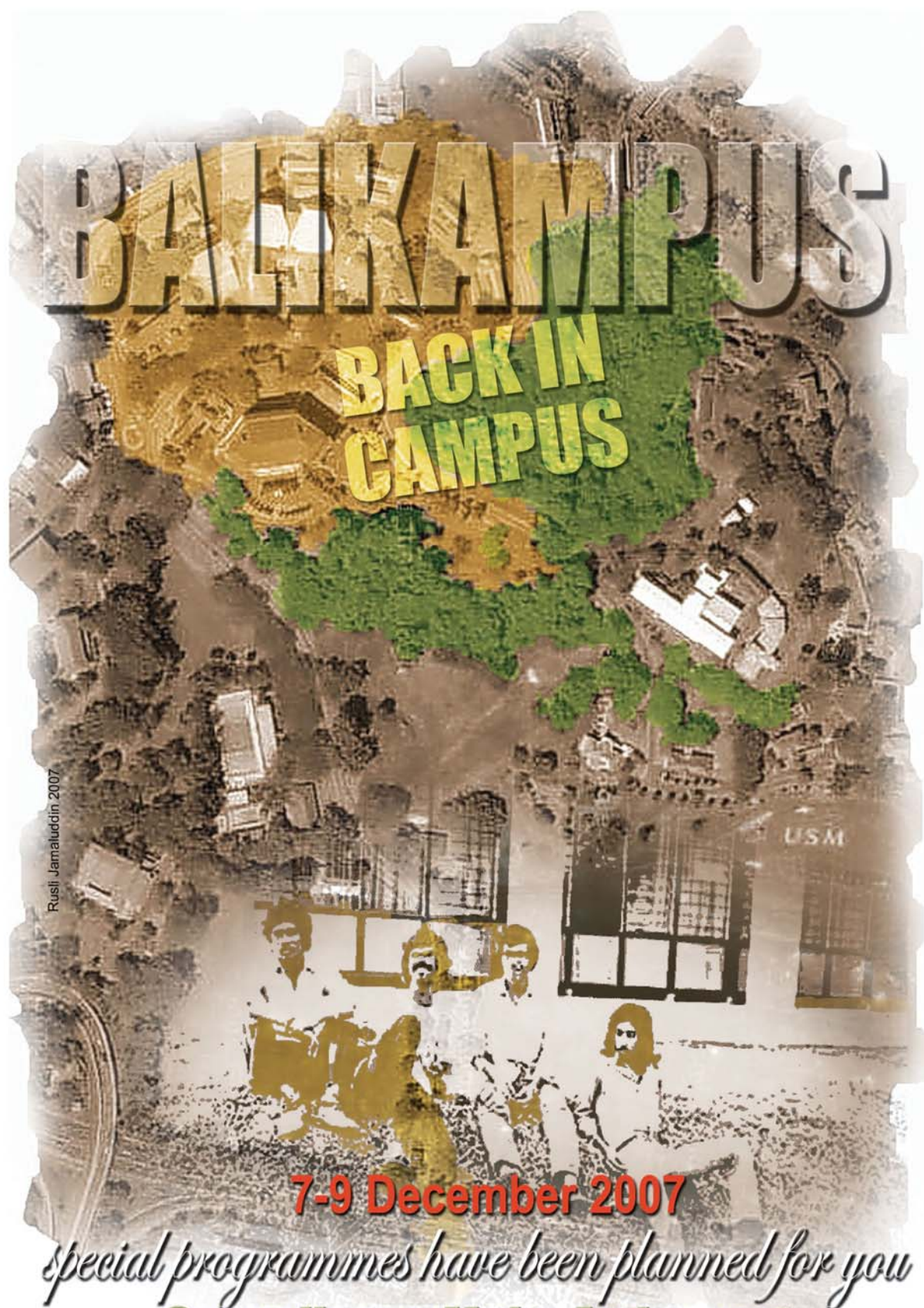
**Synopsis:**

Between 2002 and 2003, a total of RM7 million, under the Fundamental Research Grant Scheme, was given to Universiti Sains Malaysia by the Ministry of Education to promote fundamental research. A total of 88 science and technology-based projects and 15 non-science or technology-based projects were funded, resulting in 52 publications in ISI Journal Citation Reports and 41 papers in other journals. These studies are compiled in three volumes covering the Physical Sciences, Life Sciences and the Arts.



For further enquiries, please contact: Encik Norazam Ariffin Tel: 04-653 4424 or [na@usm.my](mailto:na@usm.my)





Rusli Jamaluddin 2007

**7-9 December 2007**

*special programmes have been planned for you*

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Kindly contact Alumni Liaison Office (ALO), Registry Level 5, Chancellory Building,  
11800 Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang. Tel: 04-6533113/3115/4315 Fax: 04-6588740

**PERSONAL DETAILS**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Identity Card No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Email 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Email 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Correspondence Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No. (Residence): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_ Post: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax No.: \_\_\_\_\_

**GRADUATION**

Undergraduate  Postgraduate Course: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby attach the cash /money order/cheque no.: \_\_\_\_\_ amounting RM \_\_\_\_\_ payable to PERSATUAN ALUMNI UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA for Registration Fees (RM20.00 for life)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date:

*For secretariat use only:*

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (on card): \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Card:  Printed  Posted

Mail to: **SECRETARIAT**  
**PERSATUAN ALUMNI USM**  
Bangunan D01, Universiti Sains Malaysia,  
11800 Minden, Penang.  
Tel/Fax: 04-6569370  
Email: alumnumsm@tm.net.my  
Web: www.alumni.usm.net.my

**ALUMNI ACTIVITIES**

- **USM Toastmasters Meeting**  
Every Tuesday on the first & third week of the month
- **Alumni Week**
  - Minden Campus, Penang  
16 - 22 July 2007
  - Engineering Campus, Nibong Tebal  
September 2007
  - Health Campus, Kubang Kerian  
September 2007
- **36th Convocation**  
Minden Campus, Penang  
15-19 August 2007
- **Get-Together**  
Minden Campus, Penang  
31 October 2007
- **Balikampus**  
Minden Campus, Penang  
7-9 December 2007

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!**

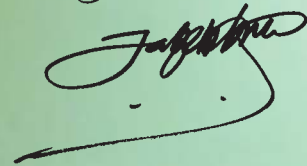


# Giving Back

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) has set up the Alumni Endowment Fund for individuals and corporate organisations to contribute towards the development and progress of USM. As an alumnus I am sure you would like to see your alma mater becoming a vibrant learning centre and a global university of distinction with state of the art resources and facilities. Every cent of your contribution will take USM closer towards realising the aspiration. Every donation will qualify for tax deduction.

*Let us together contribute generously and make USM a university of global standing*

*Sincerely*



Associate Professor Mohamed Talhah Idrus  
Editor  
The Leader



## My Contribution

Yes, I wish to contribute of RM \_\_\_\_\_ to the Alumni Endowment Fund.

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms): \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (O) \_\_\_\_\_ (H/P) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address : \_\_\_\_\_

## Mode of Payment:

By Cash/cheque/money order No : \_\_\_\_\_

(Please make cheque payable to Bendahari Universiti Sains Malaysia).

The receipt for this contribution can be used for tax deduction.

\*Kindly return the form with the payment to Alumni Liaison Office (ALO).

## Alumni Liaison Office (ALO)

Level 5, Chancellory Building

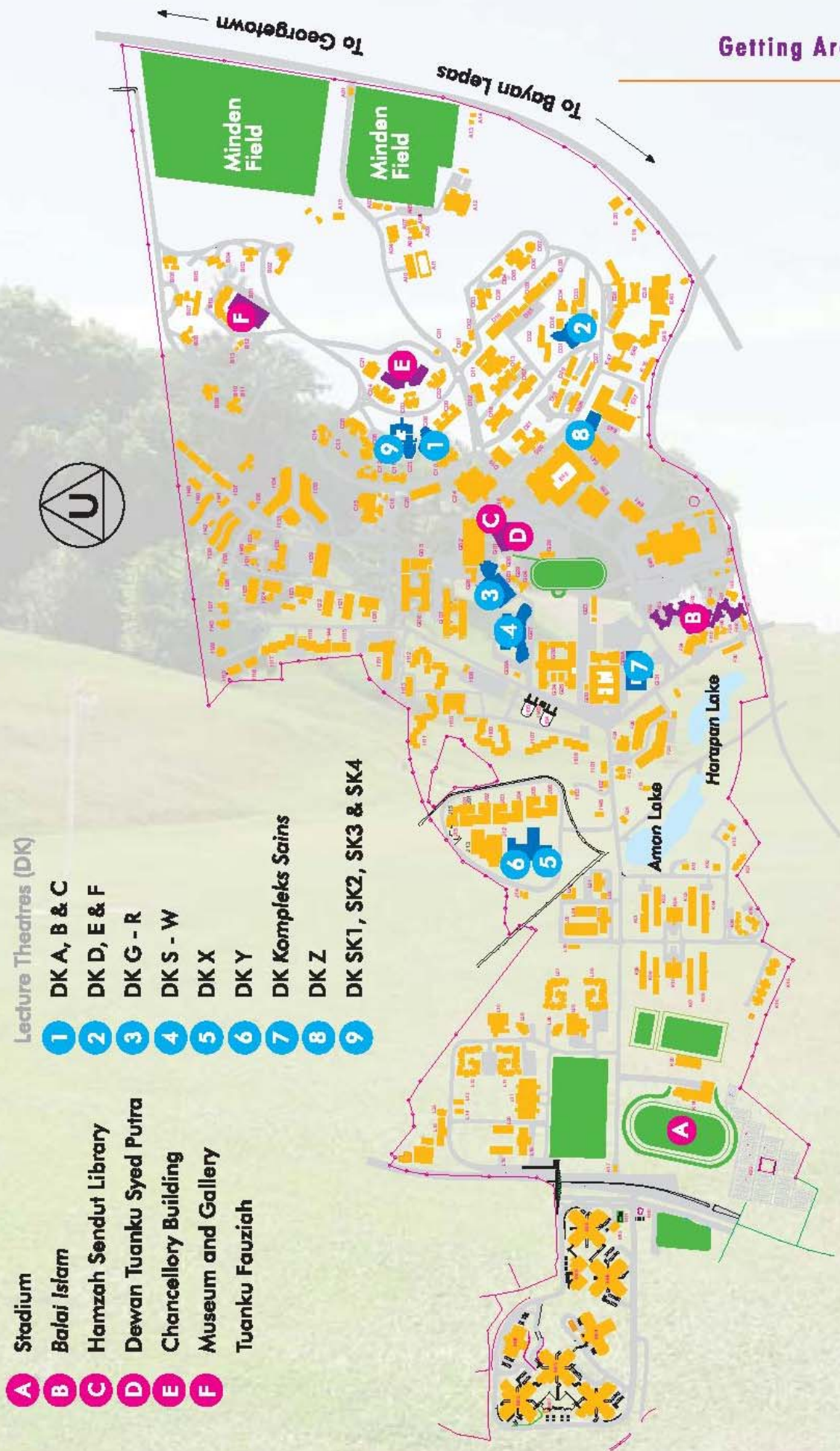
Universiti Sains Malaysia

11800 Minden

Penang

Tel: 04-653 3113/3115/4315 Fax:04-658 8740

For more information on the Alumni Endowment Fund, please visit [www.usm.my/alumni](http://www.usm.my/alumni).



Lecture Theatres (DK)

- 1 DKA, B & C
- 2 DKD, E & F
- 3 DKG - R
- 4 DKS - W
- 5 DKX
- 6 DKY
- 7 DK Kompleks Sains
- 8 DKZ
- 9 DK SK1, SK2, SK3 & SK4

- A Stadium
- B Balai Islam
- C Hamzah Sendut Library
- D Dewan Tuanku Syed Putra
- E Chancellery Building
- F Museum and Gallery
- Tuanku Fauziah



A woman with long, wavy brown hair is shown from the chest up, looking upwards and to the right. She is holding a paintbrush and applying paint to a canvas. The scene is set in a studio with various art supplies like paint tubes and brushes scattered around. The lighting is warm and focused on the woman and her work.

Day job: Human Resource Director

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