



CAUSEWAY

2020



AN ANNUAL PUBLICATION BY THE CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE ASSOCIATION

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Outgoing President's Letter

Kuang Xueyan

It is hard for me to say goodbye because I have truly grown fond of CUMSA in the past year. My experience managing the organisation has definitely been a memorable one, which was only made possible by those who have supported me and the committee.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow committee members: Jansen, Tommy, Vanessa, Isaac, Eugene, Kai En, Ziyang, Emma and Daniel, as well as the graduate representatives Joel, Ian and Ming Li. Our committee was a creative batch, who introduced some awesome new initiatives like the pub quiz and pidge-a-wang-wang welfare event. I hope that some of those new events will become a tradition. With the hard work from all of you, we were able to make some amazing events possible, for example Orientation, Ski Trip, Oxbridge games, Singapore Festival and D&D, just to name a few.

I would also like to thank our sponsors – Singapore Global Network, Rajah & Tann, NUS Graduate School for Integrative Sciences and Engineering, Duke NUS, and Shopee – for their continued support.

Our sponsors enable us to host a variety of events for the Singaporean and Malaysian community in Cambridge. CUMSA will always welcome you to host recruitment events in Cambridge and have a chat with the people in the community.

Due to COVID-19, this year has been a particularly challenging time for the new CUMSA committee. They have had to adapt to the new normal, and brainstorm ways to continue organising events with social distancing restrictions. I trust that they will come up with innovative ways to keep in touch with the community, and ensure the welfare of the Singaporean and Malaysian community in Cambridge during this difficult time. All the best to Rachel and her committee!

For those who will still be in Cambridge this year, let's stay strong as a community and look forward to when we can eventually reunite face-to-face. For those who are graduating, I wish you all the best with your future endeavours – do keep in touch with CUMSA. I hope that you enjoy the rest of the magazine and let it bring back some amazing memories!

Incoming President's Letter

Rachel Tan

Over time, CUMSA has grown in its strength, boasting over 340 members and many active participants in our events each year. This year, we face unique circumstances that require us to adapt our events according to various government guidelines. But despite that, we have exciting ideas in store, and we hope that you can continue to lend us your support!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank in advance all the dedicated members of my committee. We will put in our best effort to every event and initiative we plan this year. Additionally, I would like to thank the members of Xueyan's committee, who executed many wonderful events throughout the previous year that our members thoroughly enjoyed.

On behalf of CUMSA, our committee would also like to thank all our sponsors for the past year - Rajah & Tann, Overseas Singapore Unit, NUS Graduate School for Integrative Sciences and Engineering, Duke-NUS Medical School and Shopee for their support for the events we plan, as well as for this magazine. Without the support of our sponsors, our society would not be able to host many of our events, and we hope to have our sponsors' continued support for the incoming committee for the year ahead!

I hope you enjoy reading this year's publication of Causeway, and perhaps it can serve as a little, heart-warming reminder of Cambridge. Do continue to stay in touch with the friends you have made in your time here. Many thanks for all your support!



Artwork by Jansen Tan



Pub Quizzes

BY EUGENE CHIA

Do you know where Singapore's last surviving Kampung can be found? Or which MRT station experiences the highest footfall on weekends? These are some of the challenging trivia questions faced by the participants of CUMSA's inaugural pub quiz.

Inspired by the University Challenge and other societies' themed quizzes, we decided to host a uniquely Singaporean trivia night. The format was simple yet thrilling – members paid £1 to enter the quiz, and at the end of the night, the winning team took home the whole pot of money.

The turnout for the first pub quiz was beyond heartening – more than 30 showed up to vie for the title of the "most Singaporean" Singaporean. The atmosphere in the pub was lively and vibrant as members engaged in intense discussions about the answers to the tricky questions posed. They tried their best to name and accurately locate all of the expressways on a map of Singapore and racked their brains over GRC locations.

The winners walked away with enough money for one Thai Food Truck meal each, but even the non-winners left in high spirits.

Participants had a great time mingling with each other and learning more about the little things that make our sunny island special.

Riding on the success of the first pub quiz, we held a second one in Michaelmas 2019, which drew an even larger crowd. As it was one of the first CUMSA events of the new academic year, it provided a platform for seniors to meet freshers, to warmly welcome them to Cambridge.

The second pub quiz also saw some of our members bringing along non-Singaporean friends, and exposing them to our local culture. The baffled smiles on their faces said it all – they had a wonderful time learning about local army lingo and the confusing web that is Singlish!

All in all, the pub quizzes – a new initiative by the 2019/2020 CUMSA committee – sought to provide a casual, social setting for members to come together and catch up with one another (possibly with some alcohol in hand). More than that, however, they generated increased interest in our little red dot, and helped CUMSA members reconnect with their Singaporean identities in a unique and exciting manner.

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Garden Party

BY CHONG KAI EN

The CUMSA Garden Party was held on the 16th of June in 2019, once again at the Churchill College field. It was an event that held much significance for us – after the Pub Quiz, it was only the second event organised by the new committee, and our very first large-scale event. Furthermore, as the final event of the academic year, it also served as a farewell for graduating students (who were granted free entry) and a celebration of the end of Tripos.

The theme for the Garden Party was boho chic (I too had no idea what that meant), and we decided on a simple setup of a few tentage areas for the food and band, decorated with fairy lights. CUMSA themed drawstring bags were also given out to attendees – a practical door gift that would remind graduates of their time here.

On that day, about 80 students gathered to commemorate the end of the academic year, and the beginning of the summer holidays. The air was abuzz as members excitedly discussed their plans and caught up with each other after a trying exam season. While the weather forecast had not seemed too promising, thankfully, rain stayed away, though the wind did cause some mishaps with the tentage.

For Singaporeans, food is perhaps one of the most important aspect of any event, and to that end, a delectable spread of sandwiches and pizza were catered from Aromi – a student favourite for Italian-style sandwiches in the afternoon. There was also ice cream from Jack's Gelato and of course, plenty of drinks – both alcoholic and non-alcoholic. Ultimately, we were pleased to see that without skimping on the quality, there was plenty of food to go around that was enough to even satisfy the most famished of attendees.

A live band comprising CUMSA undergraduates performed popular tunes as we settled down on picnic mats, enjoying each others' companionship before everyone started flying to various places for their internships, summer schools, and holidays. As the afternoon passed, a group began kicking around a soccer ball, and more joined in, such that a casual game evolved into a full-on battle. Meanwhile, others continued relaxing on the grass, watching in amusement as they continued their individual conversations.

A peaceful serenity soon settled over the scene, leading to the inevitable packing up and farewells, which was perhaps made somewhat more bittersweet.



Continued on next page



Photos by Reuben Goh

Freshers' Tea

BY EMMA SOH

On August 16th 2019, CUMSA welcomed a new batch of freshers at our annual Freshers' Tea, this year held at Anglo-Chinese School (Independent). The Freshers' Tea is the first of several orientation events for incoming freshers, where freshers have the opportunity to get acquainted with CUMSA, get some tips to prepare for their big move, and to hear from other CUMSA members about various societies in Cambridge.

After a warm welcome and introduction to CUMSA from our President, the committee quickly dove into some useful tips before the freshers' departure to Cambridge, ranging from where to buy household appliances, to the various Asian supermarkets available in the city. Then came the hotly anticipated briefing for the upcoming Freshers' Orientation Camp, before the committee passed the baton to other CUMSA members to share about the various societies they are involved with in the university.

Passionate talks about rowing, volunteering opportunities, access initiatives, and many more, provided freshers with just a snippet of the exciting clubs and societies they could look forward to. We also welcomed our sponsor, AIA Singapore, who shared about their student insurance plan, to ensure that freshers were ready and prepared before embarking on their Cambridge journey.

Finally, we concluded the session with a small reception, with seniors and freshers mingling over finger food and drinks. Freshers had the opportunity to meet fellow college-mates, course-mates, and hear from seniors about their experiences at Cambridge. As they bade their farewells to one another, the seeds of new friendships had started to sprout, with freshers making their first steps together on a new journey ahead.





Orientation Camp

BY JANSEN TAN

CUMSA aims to provide incoming freshers with an opportunity to form a strong support network, establishing and solidifying friendships before they leave home to embark on a new chapter of their lives. As the last event to be held in Singapore before university begins, the freshers gathered on August 23rd for the 3-day, 2-night adventure that was to come.

Themed "Super Smash Camb.", the orientation was packed full of fun activities for all three days. From the onset, each orientation group quickly bonded and forged their identity by painting their group flag, with each group represented by a beloved and iconic video game character as another topic of conversation to reminisce over. Guided by their orientation group leaders (OGLs), the freshers embarked on their first main activity of the camp, a night trail along the Changi Fairy Point Trail -- after all, what better way to bond than from a night walk along the beach.

Through the various puzzles at each location, the freshers worked together to uncover the secrets of the fictional mysterious disappearance of Mr. Pacman, which involved finding clues, decoding messages, and knowing the ingredients needed to make a Singaporean delicacy -- curry. The end of the first day brought the freshers to Changi Village Hawker Centre for some supper time with their new friends.

The second day was when the real action began as orientation groups competed against one another, exploring various downtown landmarks to play games in an Amazing Race-style excursion. Amidst Singapore's heat and humidity, the various games fostered strong bonds as freshers tried their best in picking up candy with chopsticks or remembering the logos of different Cambridge colleges. Through these games, the freshers got to see the light-hearted sides of one another, as well as showcased any party tricks they may have.



Following CUMSA tradition, the inaugural barbeque marked the second and final night of the camp. After bonding with their peers for the past day, the freshers met with new faces as seniors were invited down to join for a barbeque. With freshly grilled food and the warm barbeque fire, freshers and seniors mixed about to find their college families and friends to share tips and interests, reassuring the freshers that this feeling of homeliness is what will welcome them with open arms even when far away from Singapore.

Hearing the questions asked by freshers, it gave the seniors the chance to reflect and contemplate the experiences they have had in Cambridge, exchanging words of wisdom and advice. Certainly, it was this part of the camp that always shows how CUMSA has served as a constant, familiar source of comfort in a foreign country. After all, it was these seniors that felt the warmth and support from the CUMSA community and it was also for this reason that many of them participated in the camp as facilitators, group leaders, and committee members, to pass the kindness they received on to their juniors and be the pillar of support for them.

On the final day, the freshers took a bus down to Siloso Beach for the last activity of the camp. Different orientation groups were once again pitted against one another but this time with the added splash of seawater. Without the apprehension and unfamiliarity the freshers may have felt on the first day, it was clear how everyone put in their all in the games, as seen when they were dashing onto a wet slide or running towards a giant flamingo floatie.

After three days of games and laughter, we're certain that orientation wasn't just a smash, but a "Super Smash".



Warwick Summer Games

BY ISAAC ONG

Warwick Singapore Society organises the Warwick Summer Games at home in Singapore every summer break.

For many, it's an unrivalled opportunity to meet fellow Singaporeans studying in the UK without having to take a long, cold – and probably expensive – train ride in the middle of term. Despite being straight out of orientation camp and not having matriculated yet, participation by freshers was encouragingly high.

That fine Saturday morning, participants converged on Bukit Gombak Stadium. With smile all around as they held the CUMSA banner high for a group photo, the fun began.

A wide selection of all the usual sports was on offer, including Football, Badminton and Frisbee. Courtesy of the creative folks at Warwick SingSoc, an unprecedented event aroused much excitement – the Bicentennial Games. Intended to evoke nostalgia and celebrate our rich history in conjunction with our Bicentennial, participants could try their hand at Jenga and other Kampong-style games.

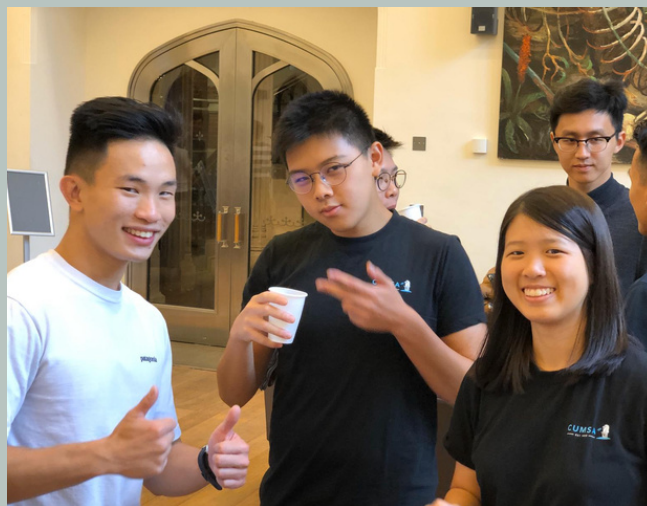
CUMSA put on a strong showing in sports like Football and Badminton, where they emerged second and first in their groups respectively. CUMSA members also had the chance to play alongside other universities with the introduction of combined teams, including the affectionately named Team 'Cambwick' for frisbee.

Freshers' Squash

BY VANESSA CHUANG

As always, Freshers' Week 2020 was jam-packed. New students scurried around town to purchase essentials, donned their gowns for the very first time at Matriculation, and immersed themselves in a flurry of socials — CUMSA's included. Our annual Freshers' Squash is always an exciting affair: following each fresher's big move (10,808km away!), it provides the first opportunity for them to meet and mingle with fellow Singaporeans in their new environment.

The event aims to extend a warm welcome to all new students — undergrads and postgrads alike — and dispel any emerging homesickness. Unfortunately, our initial plans to host a picnic at Jesus Green were foiled by overcast skies and a classic Cambridge drizzle. Nevertheless, committee members gamely lugged jerrycans of freshly-made Milo peng to the Old Divinity School at St John's College.



As Singaporeans streamed into the venue, the air gradually filled with excited chitter chatter and a comfortingly familiar accent. Newly-minted CUMSA members gathered around seniors to learn about Asian food haunts, conducive study spots, and more. Across the room, attendees helped themselves to various tidbits and sipped happily on their chocolate-malt beverages, while bobbing along to a specially curated Singaporean playlist.

All in all, thanks to the high turnout of both freshers and seniors, the event was a resounding success. As old buddies caught up with each other, enthusiastically narrating their summer adventures, existing friendships were nourished. For others who were meeting for the first time, warm conversations quickly established rapport, paving the way for new bonds.





Oxbridge Games

BY ISAAC ONG

The Oxbridge Games is our annual sports day jointly organised by the Singapore and Malaysia societies of Oxford and Cambridge. This year, the responsibility of hosting the games was passed onto us and our counterparts, the Cambridge University Malaysia Society (CUMaS). Over the course of a day in the middle of Michaelmas Term, teams representing each university competed across a range of sports and games.

The fun of Oxbridge Games starts far before the event. Diverse teams comprising Singaporeans and Malaysians from all degrees and year groups are formed from the start of the term. The more eager ones even took the time to arrange for practice sessions, giving their members a great chance to unwind weekly and make new friends in the midst of their hectic schedules. For those friends who had already been playing their respective sports together for some time, what better reason could there be to put off another supervision essay for a few hours!

On the day, our friends from Oxford braved the morning cold and the three-hour bus ride to arrive in Cambridge in the late morning. We started the day with a competitive hike – well, our first event was held at the University Sports Centre, so it was pretty much the same thing.



The events were spaced out to allow everyone to support their peers at the different venues, and to provide some downtime to meet up with friends. Football and Basketball at the Sports Centre, Badminton at Kelsey Kerridge, and Table Tennis at St Catharine' sports grounds (where is that even?!) were on the day's menu, amongst others. For those who didn't fancy braving the cold, we held competitive board games at St John's. In between, participants were happy to explore our charming town, experiencing the joys of lounging on Jesus Green or sipping a cup of heavenly coffee at Bould Brothers.

We ended the day with a sumptuous Asian dinner, spread across two of our favourite restaurants – 72 China and Seven Days. Our tired participants feasted on a selection of Chinese dishes, and most importantly properly cooked, fluffy white rice. Regardless of the result – Cambridge took the rather interestingly designed trophy for the keeping this year – we said cheerful goodbyes to our Oxford counterparts. The road to the next Oxbridge Games begins.

Studying Medicine in Duke-NUS Medical School in Singapore



Lead image: Professor Ooi Eng Eong (center) and his team in their laboratory at Duke-NUS Medical School.

Although it may be small, Singapore has a big reputation for world-class medical education and research. From learning with innovative teaching methodologies, to being trained under an experienced clinical and research faculty, medicine is one of Singapore's top academic disciplines. Singapore's rapid development over the span of just a generation has turned it into a thriving hub for education excellence that offers a quality of life that's hard to rival.

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In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the world has witnessed a dramatically changing medical and healthcare landscape.

Doctors who are fluent in science, medicine and are able to facilitate a two-way process of translating scientific findings into clinical applications and clinical observations into basic science investigations are essential. This is where clinician scientists or 'Clinicians Plus' come in. While Duke-NUS's primary commitment as a medical school is to train outstanding clinicians or Clinicians First, they are in fact nurturing these competent, world-class clinicians to eventually become Clinicians Plus who will become leaders in the healthcare community.

Duke-NUS boasts many 'first-in-the-worlds' in its fight against COVID-19, and Professor Ooi believes the School's world-class research has an important impact on its medical students, and the ways in which they are mentored and nurtured, as they train to eventually become clinician scientists. He said: "Access to technology and being able to build on foundational evidence from past research would be an excellent place for students to start their own research and develop their thesis. Think critically and broaden their approach so they can be effective in meeting the challenge of future healthcare needs in both Singapore and the rest of the world."



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Best Regards,
Admissions Team
Duke-NUS Medical School

Formals and Swaps

BY DANIEL TAN

What's Cambridge life without some warm, cosy formals? This year, CUMSA organised a society formal in Michaelmas 2019 on the 23rd of November.

Tickets were snapped up quickly – thanks to the support of the CUMSA community – we managed to have a full house at Emmanuel College! The event was a success with CUMSA members and their guests enjoying a three-course meal complete with wine from the college.

On the day of the formal, students quickly filled up the dining hall donning their gowns, ready to socialise and relax over a nice evening meal, especially after the busy Michaelmas Term. To end the event, a massive group photo was taken and fortunately, everyone managed to fit.

As the night was still young, many of us parted ways in our groups for some after formal bars or socials to celebrate a successful term.

Similarly, we were excited to have organised 2 society swaps as well, one with the Cambridge Taiwanese Society (CTS) in Michaelmas 2019 on the 25th of November and one with the Cambridge University Malaysia Society (CUMaS) in Lent 2020 on the 10th of February.

The events were great with the opportunity to mingle with our friends from CUMAS and CTS at Jesus College and Peterhouse respectively. As we continue to foster inter-society friendships, CUMSA looks forward to organising more such swaps with other societies in the future.





Movie Night

BY EUGENE CHIA

Many of us may not remember life during the painful 1997 Asian Financial Crisis, but what allowed *Ilo Ilo* to resonate with those at our inaugural CUMSA Singaporean Movie Night was its subtle yet powerful portrayal of the dynamics within a local family. The film was centred on the complex relationship between a young boy and his family's domestic helper, but revealed many more deep-rooted familial tensions as it unfolded, which tugged at many viewers' heartstrings.

CUMSA organised a Singaporean Movie Night for the purpose of creating a new touchpoint with our unique way of life – not just for the Singaporean community in Cambridge, but also for the wider student community. Many would concur that film is one of the best ways to understand a culture.

To kick-start the Movie Night series, no film was more apt than Anthony Chen's *Ilo Ilo*, which won the Camera d'Or award at the Cannes Film Festival. Not only was this Chen's debut feature film, but it was also the movie that propelled Singaporean filmmaking onto the global stage.

The film screening took place in a cosy TV room in Christ's College, with snacks and drinks offered to members attending the event. Almost all of the seats in the room were occupied with members wanting to either catch the movie for the first time or relive this incredibly emotional family drama.

At the end of the movie, there were few dry eyes in the room as members were moved by the raw and powerful relationship between the boy and his family's domestic helper.

It was an extremely effective way of helping members reconnect with their Singaporean identity and also served as a testament to the Singapore's incredibly rich culture. With a multitude of iconic 'made-in-Singapore' films, the Singaporean Movie Night could very well become a permanent fixture in future CUMSA event calendars.



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Ski Trip

BY ISAAC ONG

Borne out of a belief that the best way to deal with a cold European winter is to embrace it, the CUMSA Ski Trip celebrates the end of Michaelmas Term with a bang! Snow-capped mountains, fireplaces and hot chocolate are aplenty in this annual tradition. For many, it's a great opportunity to try out a sport that's as exotic to the average Singaporean as walking outdoors in a t-shirt and slippers is to many of our friends from Uni.

Building on overwhelmingly positive feedback from previous years, we travelled again to the beautiful French town of Tignes. This year, we managed to pull off the unprecedented logistical feat of collaborating with two other SingSocs to make this trip happen – Oxford and Warwick. While incomparable to the absolute spectacle that is Varsity, happening just a town away, the air at the cosy UCPA Tignes ski lodge was brimming with anticipation.

The daily schedule consisted of two half-day sessions of skiing, one of which would be under the guidance of UCPA's friendly resident instructors. Lessons for both skiing and snowboarding were available, tailored to every ability level. With a 140-strong contingent, everyone from complete beginners to those with moves fit for a Red Bull promotional video had a group to enjoy the experience with. Those who needed a break from hours of unrelenting skiing – and perhaps life in general – were perfectly free to spend an afternoon in the lounge with an arsenal of Netflix series at the ready.

One thing most people notice immediately about skiing is the hunger that immediately ensues. That was never a problem since, after all, we were in France. A free-flow buffet was available for all our meals, with a formidable daily selection of delicacies. With our appetites satisfied, many of us chose to explore the charming town of Tignes. Ski shops, vintage bars and odd grocery stores dotted the landscape, beckoning from behind a gentle screen of falling snow. Walking those streets with the mountain range's dark silhouettes watching over us was an awe-inspiring experience, if anything.

As the days went by, most adapted well to the steep learning curve. At least, to the extent that we spent more time on our feet than face-down in the snow. Venturing away from the gentle learning slopes served by the mini-travellator (affectionately known as the 'Magic Carpet'), we followed our instructors further afield. Tignes is connected with the neighbouring town of Val d'Isere via the mountains, giving us ample ground to explore. For those more acquainted with the slopes, there was much to enjoy as well. An alpine bar with booming dance music, and a café with panoramic views over the slopes were amongst the many highlights.

Within the blink of an eye, a week of gravity-defying fun was over and we parted ways. Some headed for Singapore's sunny shores, and others to traverse the rest of the continent – but the scenic peaks of Tignes would always occupy a special place in all our hearts.



"The scenic peaks of Tignes would always occupy a special place in all our hearts."

Isaac Ong
CUMSA Sports Secretary '19/20



Photo by David Hawley on Unsplash

CNY Dinner

BY CHONG KAI EN

Chinese New Year – For many Singaporeans, it is a joyous occasion, a rare opportunity to gather together with distant relatives, snack on delicious goodies, and the last remnants of the holiday season to spend time celebrating with their friends and family before the year truly starts.

While being in Cambridge means that that is not possible for the most part, many Singapore students here have still tried to recreate that experience by having hotpot sessions with their friends, attempting to make their own traditional Chinese New Year snacks such as pineapple tarts, and even having some form of makeshift yusheng (魚生).

This year, CUMSA tried to go one step further and organized a CNY dinner for the Singaporean students in Cambridge. On the eve of Chinese New Year, 24th January, 70 students gathered at Gourmet House – a favourite among Singaporean students here due to its scrumptious Chinese dishes – to enjoy an 8-course meal including delicacies like black pepper beef (黑椒牛柳) and Sichuan boiled fish (水煮魚).

In addition, red packets containing chocolate coins were distributed, a welcome throwback to younger days – many students would surely remember receiving something similar from their primary school teachers.

In the end, it was a truly enjoyable night for everyone – a good opportunity for friends to meet and share stories of what they were up to during the winter break, before the term got truly hectic, and a chance for acquaintances from different colleges and courses to reconnect and catch up.

While the food may not have been very Singaporean, and our families may have been 11 thousand kilometres away, the atmosphere on that night was definitely warm and familiar, an encouraging start to the second term in Cambridge.



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SingFest

BY CHONG KAI EN

The sky was already turning dark when I arrived at St. Andrew's Baptist Church. A queue had already formed at the entrance to the waiting area, a palpable sense of excitement hung in the air as the attendees chatted about the dishes that they were looking forward to.

Instead of sticking with the standard Asian Food Festival that CUMSA had been organizing for many years, the committee decided to focus on Singaporean culture, and expanded the scope of the event beyond food, to include local music and traditional games as well. This time, it was truly a cultural festival on a grander scale.

The publicity this year had also been ramped up – informational posters about the food and games that were going to be available were posted on social media in the days leading up to the event, and a riddle contest on Singapore's history, transport system, and geography, was posted to give students the opportunity to obtain free tickets. The hype resulted in widespread eagerness to see what was in store on the evening of the 15th of February.

As I made my way through the waiting area, I decided to stop by the kitchen, where the sounds of kitchen utensils clanging were non-stop. Several teams of student volunteers were in there placing the final touches on the dishes that they had painstakingly prepared. They had been hard at work since the afternoon, cooking for the 160 or so attendees. In fact, they had been busy preparing for the festival many weeks before – each team of two to four students were in charge of a single dish, and had to source for ingredients and test out the recipes several times before they met their expectations.

Inside, a team was enthusiastically frying *chai tow kway* (fried carrot cake) – preparing both black and white versions of the dish, using handmade carrot cake (or to be more accurate, radish cake) sourced from a stall in Chinatown, London. Another team was carrying a large pot of fragrant *bak kut teh* which had been simmering since the night before to the dumbwaiter to be brought up. Satisfied with the progress in the kitchen and not wanting to distract the teams still intensely focused on their culinary masterpieces, I decided to head up to the main hall where the festivities were in full swing.



As I entered the upper hall, I was greeted by an unceasing flurry of activity. To my left, there were people trying out several traditional games, including *chaptah*, pick-up sticks, and five stones. There was even an exercise mat serving as a mock IPPT station, with some attendees enthusiastically doing push-ups. To the right was a gigantic cut-out of Singapore, with several iconic landmarks marked out. Post-it notes were provided for people to pen down their thoughts and well-wishes for Singapore to stick onto the cut-out. There were even postcards designed by a committee member that were distributed, for anyone who wished to send messages back home.

As I made my way to the front, a band comprising Singaporean undergraduate engineers, *Felicia and the Disappointments*, began performing several popular tunes by local artistes, such as Jasmine Sokko and Gentle Bones.



There was even more food at the front of the hall – *popiah* and *roti prata* accompanied with chicken curry for starters, authentic Hainanese chicken rice and Hokkien mee with plenty of fresh prawns, and homemade *muah chee* and pandan chiffon cake to top it off. Each team had definitely worked hard on their dish – all were flavourful and true to their origins, and by the end of the night, they had all been polished off.

As I sipped on my iced milo and milk tea that another team had prepared, another student band, *Bose's Nose*, performed Chinese songs by JJ Lin and JC, as well as their own version of the popular internet song 'We Live in Singapore', which some participants even sang along to. As the night wore on, a Kahoot quiz was held, with winners obtaining prizes such as a chilli crab tissue box holder, the Singaporean MRT card game Off Track, amongst many others.

It was a night that truly celebrated our Singapore culture, and one where everyone enjoyed themselves tremendously, with awesome food and even better entertainment.



Dinner & Dance

BY VANESSA CHUANG

Fun fact: Cambridge warps time. In this quaint old town, Lent term — eight intense weeks of lectures, supervisions, and coursework — somehow feels like an eternity. As its end approaches, and holiday travel plans draw closer, excitement increases exponentially.

As a prelude to the Easter break revelry, CUMSA organised a Dinner and Dance on the final Sunday of Lent. The event was held at Revolution, one of the city's most popular restaurant-bars, for the third year in a row.

After multiple CUMSA formals, with strict dress codes and inflexible seating arrangements, our members embraced the casual, relaxed vibes of D&D. They proved that they did not need suits, ties, or fancy dresses to look amazing — their denim jackets and white sneakers more than did the trick.

Upon entering the venue, members were greeted by a prosecco reception and drink vouchers. As they sipped on their beverage of choice, many took the opportunity to catch up with old friends and snap pictures at the Singapore-themed photobooth.

Music and mirth soon filled the room. Guests were treated to electric performances by some of CUMSA's most talented members — Felicia and the Disappointments, Bose's Nose, as well as Christel and Zhe Xuan.

Further inside the clubroom, others had congregated around the sumptuous buffet spread. They delightedly indulged in an assortment of Western food — from cajun sweet potato fries, to sticky BBQ wings, to beetroot burger sliders.



Of course, no CUMSA D&D is complete without a round of *Don't Forget the Lyrics*. Guests cheekily *sabo*-ed their friends to sing along to 90's boyband hits, Disney classics, and Singaporean favourites. As raucous laughter and booming choruses echoed throughout the venue, Revolution transformed into — for a few moments at least — a massive *Teo Heng* studio.

The event was also a significant milestone for the organising committee, as it marked the end of our term at CUMSA's helm. Xueyan, the outgoing president, delivered an effusive speech to thank members for their unwavering support throughout the year. She then passed on the baton to Rachel, the incoming president, and her committee.

With handover complete and CUMSA in good hands, there was just one thing left to do — dance the night away. Flashing strobe lights and heart-thumping music set the perfect scene for guests to unleash their smoothest moves. The exhilaration on their faces said it all — D&D had been a blast, but the party was just getting started.



Photos by Zhao Zijun and Raine Low

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