

LANGUAGE PRIZES 2016/2017

The prizes were set up in AY2009-2010 to honour the achievements of top students in the Arabic, Chinese, German, Japanese, Korean, Malay, Tamil and Thai language programmes. These prizes are funded by donations. Awardees will be awarded book prizes. The prizes aim to recognize top students who have performed consistently well and to encourage the students to continue with their language learning efforts. The Centre would like to congratulate the following students who have received the award for 2016/2017



FASS AWARDS CEREMONY 2017

Nabilah Bte Ithnin with Associate Professor Suthiwan Titima, Director of Centre for Language Studies

S.A.T. Alsagoff Arabic Language Prize – Nabilah Bte Ithnin

I am very pleased, honoured and humbled to accept this award. Special thanks to my Arabic teacher, Ustaz Omar, for selecting me and always being a patient and an understanding teacher.

I enthusiastically look forward to Arabic classes every semester and this is undoubtedly because of the dedicated, engaging and understanding tutors. Learning Arabic is truly one of the best decisions I have made in my university life.



FASS AWARDS CEREMONY 2017

Koh Xian Yao Nicholas with Associate Professor Suthiwan Titima, Director of Centre for Language Studies

CLS Bahasa Indonesia Language Prize – Koh Xian Yao Nicholas

“Winning this language prize after six semesters of Bahasa Indonesia (BI) class is the proverbial icing on the cake. Learning BI has been a priceless and invaluable experience. The best friends I have met in university all come from BI class. The teachers - we call “Ibu” (mother in BI) - were practically our mothers or grandmothers. BI classes were always looked forward to, and I dreaded the end of each semester as it meant that another BI module was coming to an end. Finally, I received countless opportunities to visit and learn in Indonesia to deepen my understanding and knowledge of the culture and language. Winning this prize is a bonus to all that I have gotten from this journey. To my “Ibus” - Ibu Fanny, Ibu Johanna, Ibu Indri and Ibu Yuke, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your commitment, patience and friendship; my success is only because of your hard work. Thank you!”



FASS AWARDS CEREMONY 2017

Zuhairah Binte Zulkifli

CLS Chinese Language Prize – Zuhairah Binte Zulkifli

I am thankful and honoured to receive this language prize. Receiving this award would not have been possible without the constant guidance and encouragement by my teachers throughout the past three years. Although Chinese lessons are challenging, my teachers as well as classmates made lessons highly enjoyable and meaningful for me. Other than just learning the language itself, I have gained a lot of invaluable knowledge about Chinese culture. This award is definitely a motivation for me to continue learning this beautiful language.



FASS AWARDS CEREMONY 2017

Neil Joseph Lecaros Yap with Mr Lee Kang Yam, Chief Learning Curator, The Flame Centre Pte Ltd

CLS German Language Prize – Neil Joseph Lecaros Yap

Receiving the CLS German Language Prize was a great honour. I am glad the CLS recognises the time and effort that students have put into language modules. I would not have been able to achieve this if not for my teachers, who have always made the learning process an enjoyable and rewarding one. Furthermore, the Language Immersion Award offered by the CLS was also invaluable in my learning experience. I strongly believe that learning a new language with the CLS is an enriching journey that should not be missed.



FASS AWARDS CEREMONY 2017

Mak Kai Feng Darren with H.E Mr. Jawed Ashraf, High Commissioner of India

CLS Hindi Language Prize– Mak Kai Feng Darren

It was a great honour to receive this award. I am thankful for the guidance and resources of NUS CLS and my teachers Ms Sadhana and Dr Sandhya. This course has not only been one that taught me the language, but various aspects of Indian culture as well. The prize awarded by the Indian High Commissioner in Singapore also serves as a motivation to keep working hard and expand my learning. This award is not the endpoint, but another milestone for the long learning journey I look forward to, and I hope that more students will take up the courses at CLS to also experience this joy of learning a new language.



FASS AWARDS CEREMONY 2017

Goh Yi Li

Japanese Association, Singapore Medal & Prize AY2016-2017 – Goh Yi Li

I was exposed to the Japanese culture since I was 11 years old. What got me really interested in Japanese Language was of course, mainly anime and manga. For my four years of study in NUS, I pursued 6 CLS Japanese Language modules over 3 years and even though the modules required 6-7 hours per week, through consistent effort and self-motivation, I managed to complete all 6 modules. The prize means a lot to me because it feels like my years of effort is finally acknowledged, and I am very honoured to be awarded this prize. I am currently working in Japan, and I would say proper Japanese Language education really helped me on my job. I hope to be able to continue utilising Japanese in my future career and not let what I have learnt go to waste.



FASS AWARDS CEREMONY 2017

Lim Sue Rou with Associate Professor Suthiwan Titima, Director of Centre for Language Studies

CLS Japanese Language Prize – Lim Sue Rou

The award definitely came as a surprise – I didn't even know about its existence until I was informed by CLS. The award also came as a bonus – winning it or not doesn't make my Japanese learning journey any less meaningful. I entered university with zero knowledge in Japanese, and I still remember in my first few Japanese classes I could barely introduce myself. Now, I am able to communicate in considerably fluent Japanese, and I landed myself a job in a Japanese MNC months before I graduate. In anyway, I am extremely grateful for NUS and CLS. If not for the meticulously crafted Japanese Language Programme and the most dedicated *Senseis* I have ever met, I would never be where I am today. Language is the key to the world. Being a Malaysian, where most people around me speak at least three languages effectively, I personally experience the power of languages – I urge you to embrace it and create the key for yourself.



FASS AWARDS CEREMONY 2017

Ong Choo Chin with Mr Hong Soonchang, Minister-Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Korea

CLS Korean Language Prize – Ong Choo Chin

"I am honoured to have been awarded the CLS Korean Language prize because it is definitely something I have never dreamt of receiving - not because I did not put in sufficient effort, but because I feel that every classmate had put in equal effort and are equally proficient in the Korean language. I am extremely grateful for the dedication of all the Korean language teachers in creating the curriculum; for always delivering classes in fun and engaging ways. Korean language classes have been a huge part of my university life and they are something I always look forward to each week. I must also say that I have learnt more than just Korean language from these wonderful teachers who are really great mentors, always encouraging and motivating all of us amidst the stressful times near the mid-terms and final exam periods. I have also made many wonderful friends through studying the Korean language - be it through the modules, through student exchange or through other related events. Learning Korean at NUS is undoubtedly one of the best decisions I have made and the process of doing so had definitely brought me many amazing memories. Thank you to all and the CLS for adding yet another happy memory to my university days at NUS!"



FASS AWARDS CEREMONY 2017

Tania Chattopadhyay with Associate Professor Suthiwan Titima, Director of Centre for Language Studies

CLS Tamil Language Prize – Tania Chattopadhyay

My native language is Bengali, but being surrounded by some close Tamil friends in school, I was intrigued to explore and learn the Tamil language. I took Tamil 1 and Tamil 2 in NUS. Learning a new language was far from easy, and though I made many mistakes, I was determined to practice more and improve. It was a very enjoyable journey and made me discover and appreciate a new culture altogether. I feel so proud and happy to have achieved the CLS Tamil Language Award and to even be able to speak to a stranger in Tamil today! I would like to thank my teacher, Mrs Saba, for encouraging her students and believing in our abilities. I am glad to have had the opportunity to learn and understand this beautiful language.



FASS AWARDS CEREMONY 2017

Celia Goh Shi Min with Associate Professor Suthiwan Titima, Director of Centre for Language Studies

CLS Malay Language Prize – Celia Goh Shi Min

"Learning Bahasa Melayu has been a challenging but fulfilling journey for me. Not only did I learn about the language, I also learnt about interesting literature pieces like the pantun and the sajak. The lessons were very interesting and I found myself looking forward to every lesson. I am also very thankful for the precious friendships that I have forged in class. My friends have been very supportive and encouraging throughout this journey. It is an honour and privilege to receive this award and this would not have been possible without the continuous support of Dr Aishah, Cikgu Sew and Cikgu Dulkifli. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their time and dedication. I am really thankful to be given the opportunity to learn and appreciate this wonderful language."



FASS AWARDS CEREMONY 2017

Tan Hui Ling

CLS Thai Language Prize – Tan Hui Ling

"I am truly honoured and humbled to be awarded the CLS Thai Language Prize. Learning a new language has exposed me to a new culture and it allows me to see the world from a different perspective. Although it is not easy for me to learn a new language, I have never regretted this choice of mine because the lessons are always fun and engaging! I am really thankful to my teachers, who have put in a lot of effort in ensuring that we are coping well and what's more, they are always patient with us!"