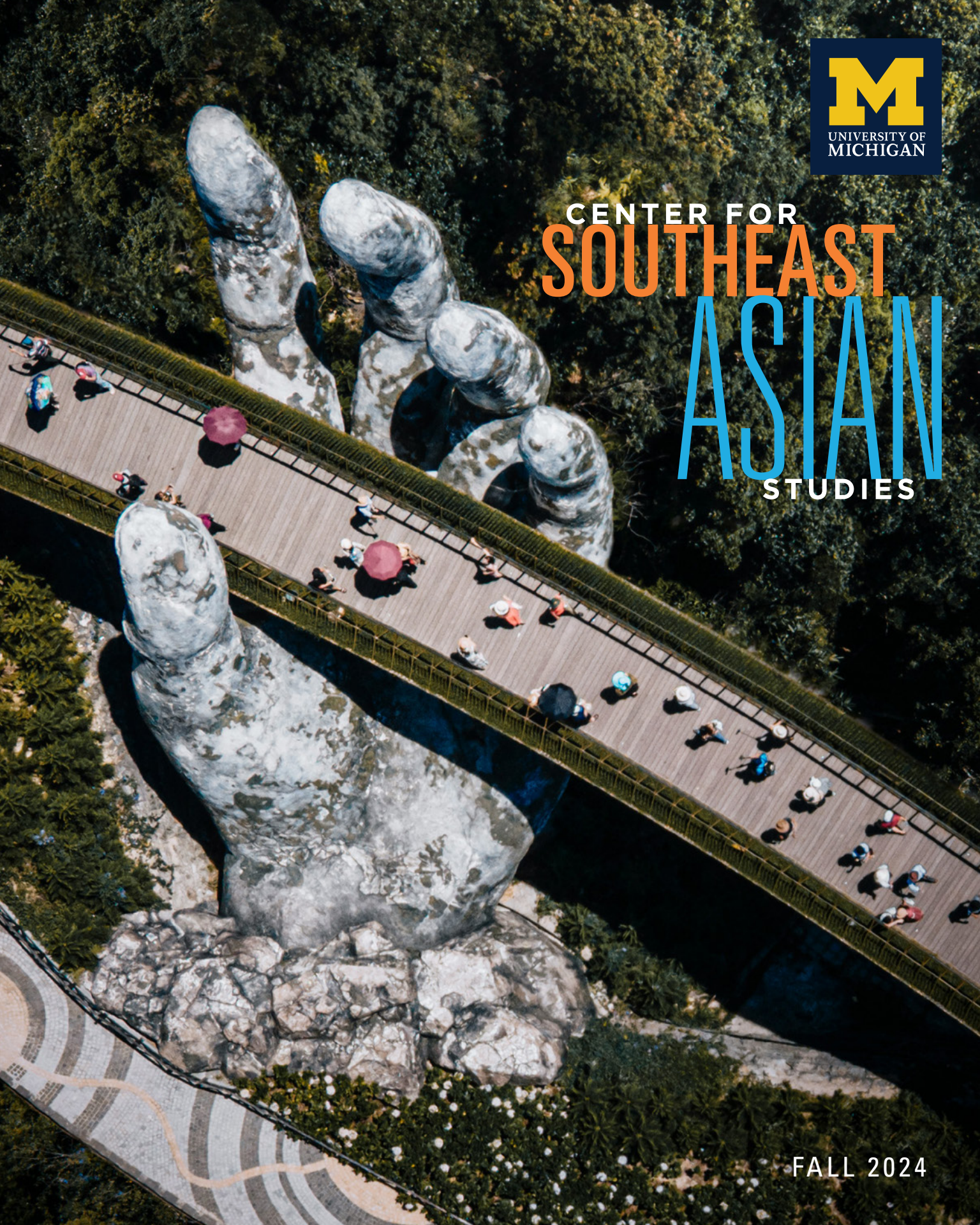




CENTER FOR
SOUTHEAST
ASIAN
STUDIES



FALL 2024

About the Center

CSEAS seeks to promote a broader and deeper understanding of Southeast Asia, its people, histories, practices, and languages. Founded in 1961, the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) at the International Institute is one of the oldest centers in the U.S. devoted to the study of the region. CSEAS supports the teaching of several languages less commonly taught, critical to areas of national need, and increasingly important in today's workforce. From its inception, the Center has been committed to creating a supportive environment where scholars, educators, students, and community members engage in dialogue related to Southeast Asia and interact with peoples of the region.

We support students in the field with resources for study, research, service, and employment. We are especially pleased to support PhD students' field research related to dissertations. Some of our awards include the Judith Becker Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Research on Southeast Asia, the Thai Studies Awards for Undergraduate and Graduate Research, SEA Language Scholarships, and Fulbright and FLAS Fellowships. We also support faculty research grants and bring scholars based in Southeast Asia to the University of Michigan.

From the Director



Dear CSEAS students, staff, faculty, and friends,

Welcome back for the 2024–25 academic year! I hope this has been a restorative summer, filled with new research and at least a bit of relaxation. For those who don't know me, I'm Mike McGovern, Professor of Anthropology. My main area of interest in Southeast Asia is in Myanmar, where I conducted research between 2016–2019. I served as interim Director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies in 2022–23, and am returning for a three-year term. I would like to thank Allen Hicken, who served as Interim Director during my sabbatical last year, and our fabulous staff, Jonathan Valdez and Do-Hee Morsman, for making smooth transitions between directors.

I'm delighted to announce that in addition to our Title VI reinstatement one year ago, we have just been awarded a Luce Southeast Asia grant for the next two years. Allen, Jonathan, and Do-Hee put together the successful resubmission over the winter break, which will fund several activities, including collaborations with other Michigan universities and colleges and a Scholars-at-Risk program designed to provide academics, journalists, and others producing sensitive work under threats of violence to have a year in relative peace among us in Ann Arbor.

The first Scholar-at-Risk arrived this July. Professor Saw Yu May, a geographer formerly working at Yangon University in Myanmar, will be a member of our Center for the next year. She will teach a course and give a talk as part of our lecture series. There is also a profile of her in this newsletter that I encourage you to read. We are also pleased to welcome Jefferson Ragragio, the 2024–2025 recipient of the Gosling-Lim



Speaking with Scholar-at-Risk Professor Saw Yu May. My interview with her appears on page 10.

Postdoctoral Fellowship, run by the Association for Asian Studies (AAS), based in Ann Arbor. Dr. Ragragio is Assistant Professor of Science Communication at University of the Philippines, Los Baños.

The past academic year included a number of painful goodbyes. They have included Professors Pete Gosling, Gunter Dufey, John O'Dell, and Gayl Ness. Pete, whose name adorns important endowments to the SE Asia library collection and the Gosling-Lim postdoc, was memorialized in last year's newsletter. You can read about Gunter, John, and Gayl and their work in this newsletter. Our former director and Pete's widow, Linda Lim, has contributed a wonderful reflection on this generation of Southeast Asianists for our newsletter.

In September, we bid a fond farewell to Do-Hee Morsman, the Manager of the five Asia Centers, including CSEAS. Although she has just gone a few floors away within Weiser Hall to take a new position, we will miss her wise guidance and excellent understanding of university and Title VI rules! Thank you, Do-Hee.

A happier type of goodbye was the festschrift conference that took place to honor Nancy Florida. Scholars from Indonesia, North America, and Europe participated in reflections on Nancy's work on colonial Java and postcolonial Indonesia.

Among our current faculty and staff, the awards have been nearly constant. This February, History professor Deirdre de la Cruz was named a Thurnau Professor, in recognition of her extraordinary

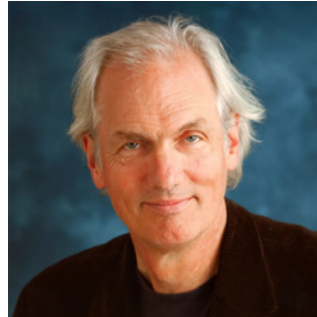
pedagogical contributions in the classroom and through her ReCollect/ReConnect project, undertaken with Prof. Ricky Punzalan of the School of Information. In April, Webb Keane gave his inaugural lecture as the George Herbert Mead Distinguished University Professor of Anthropology and was also elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In July, SEA librarian Fe Susan Go was awarded the University Librarian Achievement Award. The Committee congratulated her for "building a world-renowned SE Asia collection" and for mentoring generations of students, scholars, and librarians.

Lastly, I'm delighted to announce that Cesi Cruz, Associate Professor of Political Science, has come to Michigan. She will join our already strong complement of scholars working on politics in the region, especially on topics of gender, political parties, and influencing voters. Welcome, Cesi!

In short, I wish you a productive and fun academic year. We have a great lineup of speakers for the Fall and Winter semesters, Gamelan performances, and film screenings. You can find information about all of it on our Center website, Facebook page, and Twitter/X feed!

Mike McGovern
Director, Center for Southeast Asian Studies
Professor, Anthropology

Faculty Honors & Appointments



Webb Keane, Goerge Herbert Mead Distinguished University Professor of Anthropology, was selected to join the American Academy of Arts and Sciences as part of the 2024 cohort.

Students and colleagues of Professor Emerita **Nancy Florida** held a symposium in her honor entitled “The Resonant Power of (Con)texts: Rethinking Colonial and Post-Colonial Worlds through the Work of Nancy K. Florida” by the Department of Asian Languages and Culture on March 17–18, 2024.

In recognition of her extraordinary contributions to U-M undergraduate education, **Deirdre Leong de la Cruz**, Associate Professor of Asian Language and Cultures, and of History, joins four other faculty in being named Athur F. Thurnau Professors by the Board of Regents.



Melissa Borja was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in the Department of American Culture.

Odessa Gonzales Benson was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in the School of Social Work and Detroit School of Urban Studies.



Cesi Cruz joined the University of Michigan Department of Political Science as Associate Professor. (See page 11)



Trent Walker delivering remarks on the traditional Thai recitation of the Vessantara-jataka in an event organized by the Department of Fine Arts at the National Museum, Bangkok (June 2024).

Trent Walker (Assistant Professor, Asian Languages and Cultures) was awarded the Khyentse Foundation 2024 Prize for Outstanding Translation for his monograph *Until Nirvana's Time: Buddhist Songs from Cambodia* (Shambhala Publications, 2022).



Alyssa Paredes (Assistant Professor, Anthropology) was awarded a Humanities Initiative Award from the U-M Institute for the Humanities.

Nor Ismah was awarded the 2023–2024 Gosling-Lim Postdoctoral Fellowship in Southeast Asian Studies and spent the year readying her monograph project.

Affiliate Scholar **Soksamphoas Im** was hired as the new Associate Director of the Asian Studies Center at Michigan State University.

Affiliate Scholar **Amanda Flaim** was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure at Michigan State University.

SEA Subject Librarian **Susan Go** was awarded the University Librarian Achievement Award in July. (See next page.)

THAI STUDIES AWARDS Faculty

Allen Hicken
Professor of Political Science

Nachiket Chanchani
Associate Professor of Art History

Elizabeth Kuzma
Clinical Associate Professor of Nursing

Scott Stonington
Professor of Anthropology

April Bigelow
Clinical Professor of Nursing

Faculty News

Agustini led the 2024 40th Annual COTSEAL Conference here in Ann Arbor. (See page 15)

Dan Birchok, Associate Professor, Anthropology, U-M Flint) led a study abroad trip to Indonesia with research projects focusing on gender and sexuality. (See page 14)

Mike Hawkins published “Guns, Goons, and the Waterfront Priest: Remaking Manila’s Anti-Communist Docks in 1950,” in the *Journal of Historical Geography* and conducted research abroad in Manila in Summer 2024, interviewing cargo truck drivers who transport freight into and out of the Port of Manila.

Stuart Kirsch (professor, Anthropology) spent Summer 2023 in Cambodia, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam studying the challenges of protecting and restoring mangrove forests as an example of a nature-based solution to carbon sequestration. This was part of his research on the postcarbon transition, funded by the NOMIS Foundation.

Markus Nornes (FTVM/ALC) gave a weekend-long workshop on film subtitling for independent filmmakers at Riwanua, in Makassar, Indonesia. He also conducted research with the artist collective ruangrupa about their curation of “documenta fifteen” in Kassel, Germany.

Alyssa Paredes Alyssa Paredes (Assistant Professor, Anthropology) published, “Banana Ketchup: Food Memory and Forgotten Labor Across the Filipino Homeland/Diaspora Divide” in *Gastronomica: The Journal of Food Studies*. More than a history of the Philippines’ most beloved sauce and its inventor Maria Y. Orosa, the piece seeks to bring the politics of cultural memory and of labor struggle into dialogue. A podcast at Heritage Radio Network featured the article and an interview with the author as well.

Fe Susan Go Awarded for University Librarian Achievement

The Faculty Senate Office awarded the “University Librarian Achievement Award” to Southeast Asian Subject Librarian Fe Susan Go in July 2024. The University Librarian Achievement Award is an exceptional distinction awarded to an University of Michigan librarian who has demonstrated active and innovative career achievements in library, archival, or curatorial services.

Over Susan Go’s 40 years of service at the University of Michigan Library, Susan has distinguished herself in many areas as a passionate and innovative leader who has tirelessly positioned the University of Michigan at the forefront of Southeast Asian studies. She served in leadership positions in organizations such as the Committee on Research Materials on Southeast Asia (CORMOSEA) and the Southeast Asia Materials Project (SEAM). Both organizations are affiliated with the Center for Research Libraries and are focused on collaborative collecting as well as preservation of and access to rare or unique resources from the region.

One of the most unknown but tremendously important accomplishments of Susan in this area is her work on the transliteration systems for cataloguing Southeast

Asian scripts. While working to catalog the Gedney Library, Susan, together with Thai cataloger Sujira Prayoonhong, created the first transliteration scheme for Thai and submitted it to the Library of Congress in 1985 to be adopted as a standard romanization table used by libraries around the world.

“Susan has become a towering figure in the Southeast Asian Studies community across the globe and ... has earned a status of a legend and unparalleled role model.”

BARBARA ALVAREZ
Director of International Studies

Barbara Alvarez, Director of International Studies, states, “Susan has become a towering figure in the Southeast Asian Studies community across the globe and, as you will read in the letters of support, has earned a status of a legend and unparalleled role

model. First and foremost, she is an internationally revered expert in her field, who has supported scholars worldwide and mentored generations of librarians and students. She has built a premier Southeast Asian collection, one of the best in the world, and has been a driving force of constant improvement and innovation in description of and access to the research resources.

She has been known to carry parcels of books in torrential rain, knee-deep in flood waters, and to venture into territories occupied by armed guerrillas. Her avid collecting, whether undertaken at her office desk with a book catalog in-hand or on an adventurous acquisition trip in Asia, is always guided by her deep understanding of the research and teaching interests of U-M faculty and graduate students, disciplinary trends, and emerging topics.

Gunter Dufey

JANUARY 31, 1940 – MAY 15, 2024



Gunter Dufey, Professor Emeritus of Corporate Strategy, International Business, and Finance in the Stephen M. Ross School of Business, died peacefully in his Ann Arbor home on May 15, shortly after returning from his second home, Singapore, via a family gathering in his native Germany.

Gunter was born in Kempten, Germany, in 1940, the son of Eugen Dufey, an engineer, and Wilfriede (Herdel) Dufey, a teacher. Upon completing his undergraduate education at Universitaet Wuerzburg in 1964, he obtained Master of Arts and Doctor of Business Administration degrees in 1965 and 1969, respectively, at the University of Washington in Seattle.

He joined the University of Michigan Business School as Assistant Professor of International Business and of Finance in 1969, was promoted to Associate Professor in 1972, and to Professor in 1976, retiring in 2002.

Gunter's academic interests centered on international money and capital markets and on the financial policy of multinational corporations, focusing on issues of corporate governance, risk management, and the international expansion strategy of business enterprises.

He was a prolific researcher and published widely. One textbook, *The International Money Market*, co-authored with Ian Giddy, was popular among finance scholars and practitioners, and was translated into Japanese.

Gunter was a master teacher of complex financial topics and a pioneer in the study of

Asian-Pacific financial markets. He served repeated stints as a Visiting Professor at, among others, the International Management Institute (Switzerland), Universitaet des Saarlandes and WHU Koblenz (Germany), and Nanyang Business School, Nanyang Technological University (Singapore).

His leading role in the Pacific Rim Bankers' Program over many decades gave him unparalleled visibility and influence in Asian banking. He also consulted with and advised governments and international agencies, including the U.S. Secretary of Commerce and Department of Treasury, Japan's Ministry of Finance, and the World Bank.

Gunter was senior adviser to McKinsey Singapore's corporate governance practice in Asia and was on the board of directors of Fuji Logitech, Guinness-Atkinson Funds, and subsidiaries of Ally Financial.

Gunter's kindness, generosity, and sociability were legendary. An enthusiastic host, he continually opened his home, his table, and his wallet to family, friends and acquaintances, sharing his wisdom and advice and devoting time to helping others in ways big and small.

He was devoted to philanthropy and to providing opportunities for Asian students to study abroad, especially at U-M. He set up the nonprofit Education Exchange Ltd. in Singapore to provide financial aid and scholarships for their tertiary education in the United States.

Gunter and his life partner of 33 years, Priscilla Rogers, who preceded him in death on May 3, 2023, funded the Gunter Dufey and Pris Rogers Scholarship Fund at the Ross School, and supported many other funds across U-M. Priscilla was an Associate Professor Emerita of Management Communication in the Ross School.

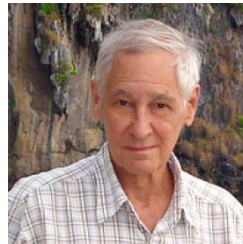
Gunter recently endowed the Pris Rogers Professorship in Strategic Communications in LSA. He was dedicated to his former students and other U-M alumni. Following his retirement, he spent nine months of every year in Singapore, where he was a faculty adviser and sponsor of the U-M Alumni of Singapore.

Gunter lived a full and rich life on three continents. He is survived by two brothers,

Klaus Dufey of Werneck, Germany and Hans-Peter Dufey of Höchberg, Germany, and their families. The countless others whose lives he bettered will miss him deeply and remember him fondly.

John Knodel

JULY 25, 1940 – JANUARY 10, 2024



One of the Population Association of America's (PAA) most steadfast supporters, one of demography's most productive scholars, and one of his generation's most generous mentors, Professor **John E. Knodel**, died on January 10, 2024, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He was 83 years old. John was born on July 25, 1940, in Mt. Vernon, New York, to Henry and Edna Knodel. John had one sibling, Richie, who died in 2005. John's first marriage, to Erica Wessling, ended in divorce in 1984. John was married to his second wife, Chanpen Saengtienchai, from 1992 until his death. John had no children.

John earned his Ph.D. in sociology from Princeton University in 1965 (at 25 years of age). He worked closely with Dr. Ansley Coale on the demographic history of Europe. Following his graduation from Princeton, John pursued a one-year post-doctoral fellowship at Free University of Berlin.

Upon his return from Germany, John accepted an invitation to join the sociology faculty at Rutgers University and renewed his association with Princeton as a Research Scientist in the Office of Population Research. He continued his studies of historical European fertility but around this time he was introduced to a different part of the world that altered his academic path and shaped the rest of his life.

In 1971, the Population Council and the Institute of Population Studies at Chulalongkorn University offered John a position in Bangkok. John quickly became one of the foremost experts on the demography of Southeast Asia (especially Thailand) - a region that was experiencing in real time some of the same seismic shifts in fertility that Europe had undergone hundreds of years earlier and that John had studied so masterfully. John's substantive interests also rapidly expanded from fertility to include mortality; migration; intergenerational relations; aging; the interactions between the HIV epidemic and demographic processes; education; and research methods.

After two years with the Population Council in Thailand, John spent a year at Brown University before joining the Sociology Department and the Population Studies Center at the University of Michigan, where he remained from 1975 to 2004 as regular faculty and afterwards as emeritus until his death. During this extremely productive period of his career, John solidified his relationships with his collaborators and with the major institutions focusing on demographic change in Southeast Asia, especially the College of Population Studies at Chulalongkorn University. He also pioneered research on demographic change (and many related topics) in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Myanmar, and created many opportunities for his U.S.-based colleagues and students in these difficult-to-access countries.

Major recognition for John's scholarship, teaching, and institution building includes the LS&A Excellence in Education Award from the University of Michigan; an honorary doctoral degree from Chulalongkorn University; election as Vice President of the PAA; and being named an Honored Member of the PAA.

Following John's formal retirement in 2004, he remained deeply engaged in research, mentoring, and institution building. John maintained an active affiliation with the Population Studies Center at the University of Michigan and with the College of Population Studies, Chulalongkorn University. John and his wife—and decades-

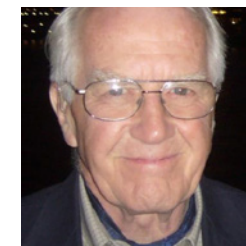
long collaborator, Chanpen Saengtienchai—continued their long-established yearly migration between Ann Arbor and Bangkok (and the nearby beach town of Hua Hin, where they kept a condo for what John would call "weekend getaways" but the rest of us would refer to as "short work trips."). John so loved his Michigan and Thailand friends and colleagues that he could never imagine permanently decamping for one location or the other.

Perhaps John's most enduring legacy is his mentorship and his commitment to institution building, especially in low resource settings. John was especially generous to students, postdoctoral fellows, and junior faculty, including several he mentored from the University of Michigan and from many other U.S. based institutions. He frequently collaborated with scholars from other countries.

A merit-making ceremony for John Knodel's life was held at Pathum Wanaram Rachaworawihan Temple in Bangkok, Thailand on January 17. A remembrance will also be included in the Memorial Service at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America in Columbus, Ohio, this April. Burial took place at Kenisco Cemetery in Valhalla, New York.

Gayl Ness

MARCH 19, 1929 – JULY 4, 2024



Dr. **Gayl Ness**, born March 19, 1929, in Los Angeles, CA, passed away peacefully with family by his side on July 4, 2024. He is survived by his wife Kathleen Bohn-Ness (nee Sheridan), his four children: Marc, Eric (married to Sue Ness), Yan Ness (married to Judith Spaly-Ness), and

Shanta Layton; six grandchildren; as well as Kathleen's four children, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Gayl's first wife, Jeannine Ness, preceded him in death in 2004.

At the age of 15, Gayl worked at a fire lookout station in Glacier National Park, an experience that instilled in him a deep appreciation for the outdoors. He cherished activities such as canoeing, sailing, camping, and chopping wood for fires, around which he would share captivating stories. Gayl served in the army during the Korean War, stationed in France, where he met and married his first wife, Jeannine.

Gayl dedicated his career to academic sociology, focusing on the intricate relationships between global population growth, economic development, and environmental change. He earned degrees from the University of Copenhagen (1955) and the University of California, Berkeley (BS with honors in 1952, MS 1958, and PhD 1961). His research journey began with the Institute of Current World Affairs in Southeast Asia, sparking a lifelong interest in the region.

In 1964, Gayl joined the Sociology department at the University of Michigan, where he spent his entire academic career. He contributed significantly to Sociology, the School of Natural Resources and the Environment, the School of Public Health. Gayl served as Director of the then Center for South and Southeast Asian Studies and as Chair of the University of Michigan Faculty Senate.

Throughout his career, Gayl authored seven books, including his final work, *An Ordinary Life at an Extraordinary Time*, which he completed in his later years. Gayl embodied optimism and enthusiasm throughout his life, quick to offer toasts, share dad jokes, and recount witty stories. His presence uplifted those around him, whether in the classroom, at the dinner table, or around a campfire where he discussed climate change long before it became a widely recognized issue. His profound knowledge and intellect were matched only by his generosity in sharing them.

Reflections for CSEAS by Linda Lim

I first met **Pete Gosling** (1927–2023), **Gayl Ness** (1929–2024) and **John Whitmore** (1940–2020) in 1977, after returning from dissertation field research in Malaysia and Singapore. An economics PhD student involved with the Union for Radical Political Economics (URPE), I had little to do with the Center for South and Southeast Asian Studies (CSSEAS). I knew of Gayl's and Pete's work on Malaysia, and was studying Indonesian, but boycotted classes when on strike with the Graduate Employees' Organization (GEO) union in February 1975.

In March 1977 the Center organized an "outreach" conference in Grand Rapids on The United States and Southeast Asia. Gayl and I spoke on the panel on investment, and I rode back to Ann Arbor with him, Pete and Russell Fifield. Gayl's wife Jeannine had invited me to a dinner at their home the next day, with Russ, Pete, Burmese visitors Mi Mi



1978 : GAYL NESS, PETE GOSLING AND LINDA LIM



2020 : GAYL NESS, PETE GOSLING AND LINDA LIM

Khaing and Sao Sai Mong, and Clifton and Dolores Wharton.

Clif, Gayl and Pete had met in Kuala Lumpur in 1961, when Pete and Clif were visiting professors at the University of Malaya, and Gayl on a postdoctoral fellowship. Pete later arranged for Gayl to be hired in the Michigan sociology department and they nominated Clif, an economist, to be Michigan's President, only to be told that "The University of Michigan is not ready for a Black President. We haven't even had a Jewish one yet." Clif instead became President at Michigan State, and the trio were subsequently jokingly referred to as "the Michigan Malaysia mafia." Clif moved to the State University of New York, then became Chairman and CEO of TIAA-CREF.

When Pete became assistant professor of geography after completing his Michigan PhD in 1958, he and political scientist Russ Fifield were the only two faculty at the University with Southeast Asia expertise. Pete was involved in getting Carnegie and Ford Foundation funding for, respectively, an Asia course and area studies centers, and a Center for South and Southeast Asian Studies (CSSEAS) was established in 1960. In 1962 his proposal for National Defense Education Act (NDEA) funding (the precursor of Department of Education Title VI centers) was successful, and he served as CSSEAS' director from 1962–66 (and 1971–72 and 1977–80).

Pete thus provided the entrepreneurship and fund-raising necessary to establish Southeast Asian Studies at Michigan, and at the Association for Asian Studies (AAS), for which he served as Secretary-Treasurer many times between 1963 and 1994. Gayl, who was equally energetic and also served a stint as CSSEAS director, referred to this as "Pete Gosling shaking the money tree". This included Pete obtaining large multidisciplinary research grants which

supported many PhD students in Thailand in the 1960s and 1970s. Both Gayl's and Pete's research focused on economic development, from agriculture in Malaysia to population in Thailand and the Philippines.

Development of area studies at Michigan and nationwide was enabled by the unprecedented expansion of U.S. higher education in the post-War economic boom. Gayl noted that he was one of 13 assistant professors hired in sociology here in 1964. This made room for area-targeted faculty positions, which Deans could be persuaded to create with the inducement of private foundation and federal funding support. That it was the heyday of the Cold War, the Vietnam War and the U.S. Peace Corps also helped Southeast Asian Studies, creating demand for language instruction.

Still, John Whitmore was denied tenure by the Michigan history department. A true scholar, he cared most about continuing his path-breaking research on Vietnam's early history. Pete secured grants from the State of Michigan to study the resettlement of Indochinese refugees, and from the Henry Luce Foundation to study American missionaries, employing John for some years as a program coordinator in CSSEAS. Later, a grant for the Vietnam Union Catalog involved him with the Graduate Library, for which he worked as a cataloguer until retirement. Thus enabled to continue his research, John became internationally recognized as a leading figure in Vietnamese Studies. At Michigan he co-taught a Southeast Asia history seminar with Vic Lieberman, and was always available to guest lecture, supervise theses, and mentor graduate students working on Vietnam.

Japanese automobile import competition in the 1980s devastated the State of Michigan budget, leading the University to abolish Pete's geography department in 1982, relocating him to anthropology.



1977 : JOHN & JOAN WHITMORE WITH PETE GOSLING



2021 : GUNTER DUFHEY, PETE GOSLING, PRIS ROGERS AND LINDA LIM

National concern about the U.S.' declining "international competitiveness" led to a new Title VI grant program on business and international studies. I was already teaching in the business school, so Pete and I successfully submitted a proposal for a Southeast Asia Business Program (SEAP) in CSSEAS, paralleling the East Asia Business Program in the Japan and China Centers, which included an MBA/MA in Asian Studies dual degree. Some Center faculty questioned the "ethics" of a program to educate U.S. business on Southeast Asia, though those countries, including communist Vietnam, were eager for foreign investment. Still, SEABP's grants supported CSSEAS during two years in the 1980s when it lost federal funding, and added enrollments to language courses. Several dual degree graduates later became the Center's largest donors. Pete served as SEABP's director until he retired in 1994 and the program moved to the business school. A large grant he obtained from the Luce Foundation added a Southeast

"Pete, Gayl, John, Gunter and Pris were notable for the spirit of equality and respect with which they treated Southeast Asians they taught, worked and interacted with... All were committed to sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm for Southeast Asia with constituencies beyond academia — government, schoolteachers, retirees, unionists, the business community, Southeast Asian-Americans, and the general public."

Asia course to my business portfolio, and reinstated a tenure-track position in history, for Rudolf Mrazek.

The business school was receptive to adding Asia courses, and to the MBA/MA, largely due to the support of finance professor Gunter Dufey (1940–2024), who had published a seminal article on Asia-Pacific financial markets in the 1970s, and taught, supervised and occasionally funded MBA/MA students. In 2002 Gunter retired to Singapore, where he was visiting professor at Nanyang Technological University, where his partner Pris Rogers (1949–2023), a professor of business communications, had ongoing research with local faculty collaborators. He became an active participant in, and financial supporter of, Michigan alumni activities in Singapore, Bangkok and Jakarta.

These colleagues whom I was privileged to know shared certain characteristics. The first was perseverance in pursuing Southeast Asian Studies, even without University support—John was denied tenure in history, while Pete's geography department, Gunter's international business program, and Pris' communications program were all closed.

The second was generosity. They all mentored students. In addition, Pete ceaselessly fund-raised for the benefit of others, Gayl volunteered to support visitors and teach SEAS 501 after he retired, John sacrificed income and status to advance scholarship and share his rare expertise, while Gunter and Pris provided scholarship support for Southeast Asian students, personally and through the Gunter Dufey

and Priscilla Rogers Scholarship Fund at the business school. Pete and I established the Gosling-Lim Postdoctoral Fellowship for Southeast Asian scholars at the AAS, and the Gosling-Lim Fund for the Southeast Asia Library at CSEAS.

The third characteristic these colleagues shared was their sociability. Southeast Asia scholars, visitors, students and alumni could always enjoy hospitality and lively conversation at their homes and sites in Southeast Asia.

Fourth was their penchant for inclusivity. All were committed to sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm for Southeast Asia with constituencies beyond academia — government, schoolteachers, retirees, unionists, the business community, Southeast Asian-Americans, and the general public.

Finally, Pete, Gayl, John, Gunter and Pris were notable for the spirit of equality and respect with which they treated Southeast Asians they taught, worked and interacted with. For me, an anti-imperialist radical Southeast Asian nationalist, this dispelled my initial discomfort with the hint of condescension and "cultural appropriation" associated with "white people studying Asia" that had kept me away from the Center as a graduate student 50 years ago. I even ended up as a Center director myself (in 2005–09).

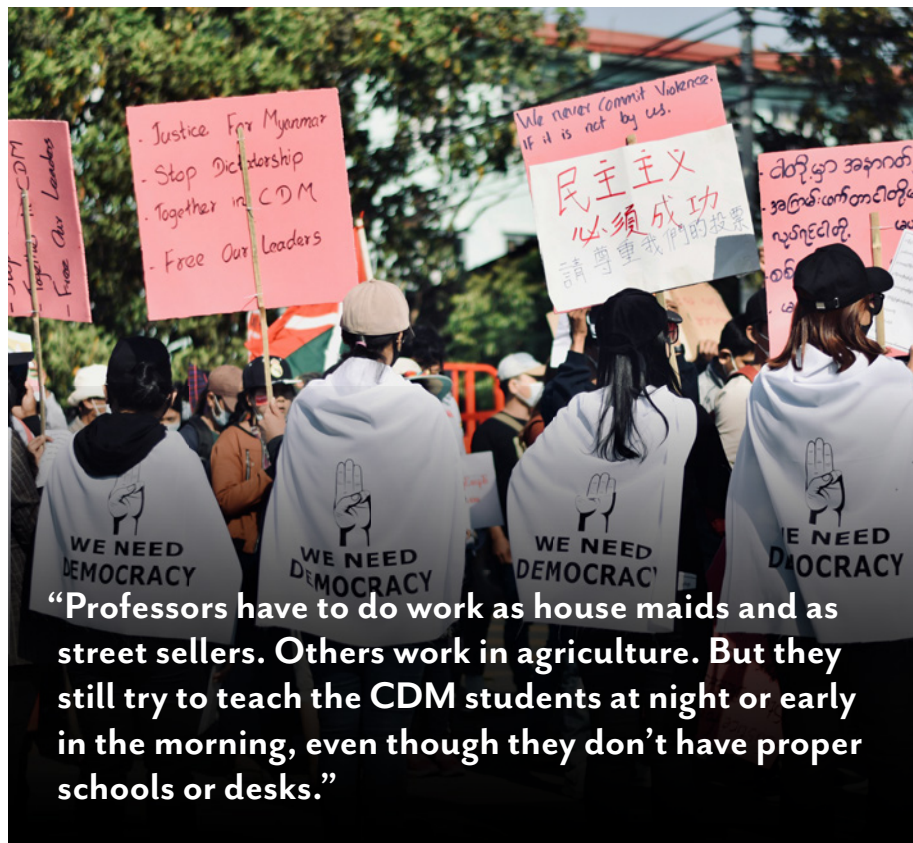
LINDA LIM, a native of Singapore, is Professor Emerita of Corporate Strategy and International Business at the Michigan Ross School of Business, and a longtime faculty associate of CSEAS.

In July, 2024, the Center welcomed its first Scholar at Risk, **Professor Saw Yu May** of Myanmar. Funding for this program was provided by the Luce Foundation and is supplemented by the Center’s Hughes Fund.

A Professor of Geography and of Water and Environmental Studies, she has been a member of the Civil Disobedience movement in Myanmar since the military took power in a coup in February 2021. As a result, she lost her job, her housing, was blacklisted, and is wanted by the authorities. CSEAS Director Mike McGovern interviewed her so readers could better understand the current situation in Myanmar.

Mike McGovern: Can you introduce yourself?

Saw Yu May: My name is Saw Yu May, I’m from Myanmar. I was a professor in the Water and Environment Department at the University of Yangon. But on Feb 1 2021 there was a coup in Myanmar where the military took over. Along with many of my colleagues, I participated in the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM). As a result, on May 21, 2021, I was removed from my work.



“Professors have to do work as house maids and as street sellers. Others work in agriculture. But they still try to teach the CDM students at night or early in the morning, even though they don’t have proper schools or desks.”

Tell us about the consequences.

When we were removed, we lost our salary, we could not teach any more. So we are secretly teaching the students who are also participating in the CDM movement. We are working in collaboration with the Ministry of Education of the National Unity Government, which is the opposing side to the military government.

Did you lose your housing?

In Yangon, we stayed at the hostel, which was for professors, lecturers, and so on, and this was blocked. I also could not enter the university.

Are there faculty who remained?

We have eleven faculty in our department. Eight participated in the CDM, but one went back to the faculty after two or three months. So there are four who stayed.

Did they tell you why?

One has her husband working in the military, she is the head of the dept. Another has her husband working on the military side. Another went back because of the socioeconomic strain [of losing their job].

What is the relationship between the military and the civilian population in Myanmar right now?

Many Myanmar women like marrying men from the military. It gives them more opportunities. This is my opinion. They get more scholarships, they can choose where they want to work. They can transfer to be near their husbands.

The administration is hierarchical, and so they get more opportunities.

What percentage of faculty are women in Myanmar?

About 70% are women in all departments. The reason is because the salary is very low so most men will not accept these jobs.

How much does a beginning lecturer [equivalent to Assistant Professor] make?

A full Professor made \$300–350/month before the kyat [Myanmar currency]

imploded. Now the salary is only worth \$50/month. It’s not enough to support a family.

How do people survive?

They do “tuition.” They make extra money by teaching supplementary sessions on their topics outside the university.

There are no research grants. If you want to do research, you must spend your own money. All of the research I have done, I used my own salary.

Even with the NLD [the government headed by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi that was ousted by the 2021 military coup], they gave a small amount of research money, but only for the most senior faculty (full Professors).

What is your home, Shan State, like?

Originally there were a lot of ethnic groups in Shan. It’s different from the rest of Myanmar. Even other minority states—Kayin or Kayah, for instance—are mostly just one group.

After 1962, there was a military coup. There were a lot of armed groups fighting the military. That continues until today.

These groups are fighting against the military. But they don’t have much money, so it is hard to fight successfully.

Many Chinese have migrated into northern Shan State. In Mogok there are many local people like the Lisu who have recent Chinese immigrants as neighbors.

Tell us about the Shan people.

In northern and Eastern Shan State, people don’t speak Myanmar language very well, but education is in Myanmar za ga [Burmese language]. They don’t understand, so many drop out. The least educated people are in eastern Shan State. Lahu, Akha, lgaw people can speak Shan, but not Myanmar.

Most Shan people don’t apply for government jobs. They don’t feel like they are treated equally. Also, The salary is low.

Do many go into Thailand or Laos?

Many go to Thailand. Not for education, but for job opportunities. Thailand has more jobs than Myanmar. Others go to China. Everyone is doing blue collar work. Construction, agriculture, housekeeping.

Has the immigration situation changed since the coup?

Thailand is not on our side. They are negotiating with the Myanmar military. There are mass arrests, and people are sent back, where they are arrested and put in prison.

Others like you have tried to leave the region.

Thailand is a problem to settle down. Many friends have wanted to go, but don’t have a passport. They have applied for a pink card work permit, but they [Thai authorities] check to try to eliminate CDMers [participants in the civil disobedience movement]. People without papers are exposed, and often cheated by their Thai employers. Others have no proper jobs or salary. Professors have to do work as house maids and as street sellers. Others work in agriculture. But they still try to teach the CDM students at night or early in the morning, even though they don’t have proper schools or desks. So the students are sitting on the ground.

This is happening in Chiang Rai. Most of these teachers are from central Myanmar.

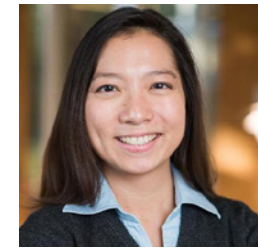
I myself used my younger sister’s identity card to enter Thailand, so I had no entry stamp in my passport.

There has been progress by the revolutionary forces since 10/27...

After the coup, thousands demonstrated against the coup all over the country. These demonstrations were led by youth, especially university students. These demonstrations were brutally suppressed, and many young people were killed, even though they were unarmed.

Many of those left went into the areas where there were armed groups opposing the central government. They learned to fight and use weapons. In Oct 2021, The NUG announced the existence of the PDF. It had around 60,000 fighters. They are divided into regional alliances.

Now the number is over 100,000. Last year, the military began forced conscription of young people. They were losing fighters in the military. So many young men and women ran away and joined the PDF.



Cesi Cruz joins U-M Political Science department

Cesi Cruz joins the University of Michigan faculty as Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science and the Department of Economics (by courtesy).

Professor Cruz received her PhD from the University of California, San Diego in Political Science. She received her BA and MA degrees in Political Science from McGill University. Before joining the University of Michigan, Professor Cruz previously taught at the University of British Columbia and, most recently, the University of California, Los Angeles.

She works on topics at the intersection of political science and economics, including elections, misinformation, gender, and inclusive development. Her research is based on fieldwork in Cambodia and in the Philippines and combines social network analysis, surveys, and field experiments. Her work has been published in outlets such as the American Political Science Review, American Economic Review, American Journal of Political Science, Economic Journal, and Comparative Political Studies.

Professor Cruz is a board member of Experiments in Governance and Politics (EGAP) and Empirical Studies of Conflict (ESOC). In addition, she serves on the executive board of Women Also Know Stuff, an organization promoting women’s scholarship in political science. Her projects and working papers are available on her website: www.cesicruz.com.

STUDENT NEWS

CSEAS MIRS GRADUATING CLASS OF 2024

Donna Hoang
Ruizhe Zhang
Chloe Damon

Gavin Ryan led an outdoor concert featuring carillon player and the Gamelan Kyai Telaga Madu and Gamelan Madu Biru at Ingalls Mall in April 2024.

MIRS SEAS graduate student **Trevor Orginsky** interned with the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations in Washington D.C.

MIRS SEAS graduate student **Shimon Likhtman** presented at Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs at Notre Dame University.

Patrick Peralta, Qian Qian Ng, Orven Mallari, and **Kai Ngu** presented at the first Harvard-Yale SEAS Graduate Student Conference (March 2024).

Political Science doctoral student **Patrick Peralta** workshopped a project at New York University's Asian/Pacific/American Institute on transnational memory activism efforts against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. Fieldwork for the project (supported by a CSEAS summer research grant) took place



Bryan Goh with conference panelists

from mid-May to mid-June, during which he conducted in-depth interviews with 24 activists in Metro Manila. On June 25, he co-presented archival research on the drug war during the International Network of Genocide Scholars Conference at the University of Southern California.

Since returning to Singapore, **Bryan Goh** immersed himself in the vibrant research scene. He served as chair and discussant for two panels with the Asia Research Institute, a workshop about “Shaping ‘Intelligence’ from the Bottom Up” (May 13) and a graduate student panel on religion for the 19th Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies (June 28). He also presented a paper at the AAS-in-Asia at Yogyakarta examining the globalization of Catholicism in Asia. Finally, his reflection piece, “Requiem for a Community,” was published on the blog of the Initiative for the Study of Asian Catholics (ISAC).

MIRS SEAS graduate student **Yudo Ramahdiyansyah** presented his paper, “Weaving Facts and Myths: Sundanese quests, force of national identity in Indonesia 1945–2021” at the 30th Annual Conference Association for the Study of Ethnicity and Nationalism at Edinburgh University in Glasgow.



Qian Qian Ng and Patrick Peralta at the 2024 International Network of Genocide Scholars Conference.

Awards

THAI STUDIES AWARDS, STUDENTS

Andy Buschmann
PhD Candidate, Political Science

Cheryl Thacker
MS Nursing

Ken Mathis
*PhD Candidate,
Lohatepanont Political Science*

Chao Ren
PhD Candidate, History

Trevor Orginsky
MIRS SEAS

Chantal Croteau
PhD Candidate, Anthropology

FIRST YEAR LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Micah Mooney
Thai Language

Zainab Ahmad
Filipino

Annelise Aponte
Vietnamese

OUTSTANDING LANGUAGE STUDENT AWARD

Riley Leongkaye
Thai Language

Kimberly Pham
Vietnamese

Gianna Limarvin
Indonesian Language

Isabelle Lamug
Filipino



2024 JUDITH BECKER AWARDEE

Chloe Damon

The 2024 Judith Becker Awardee was Chloe Damon, whose work focuses on gender and environmental change in highland Indigenous communities in northern Thailand. Damon recently graduated from the CSEAS Masters in International Relations and the Masters of Science in Information programs. She joined CSEAS MIRS in 2021 after graduating from Michigan State University.

Her paper, “Legal Status, Land, and Labor: Gendering Agrarian Transformation in Highland Communities in Northern Thailand,” examined the political, ecological, and social challenges in highland indigenous women’s agrarian lives. She also recently presented this work alongside Professor Amanda Flaim of Michigan State University at the 2024 Association of Asian Studies Conference in Seattle. Their paper was a part of the Land, Crops, and New and Emergent Indigenities in Southeast Asian Borderlands panel sponsored by Thai, Laos, and Cambodia Studies Group.

Damon graduated from the CSEAS MIRS program in Winter 2024 and recently began the PhD program in Cultural Anthropology at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Interning in D.C.

By Trevor Orginsky

This past summer, I had the opportunity to intern with the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, chaired by Senator Ben Cardin of Maryland, as part of the Democratic majority staff. This internship was made possible through a Ford School internship partnership. Specifically, I worked on the Asia/Cyber team, closely supporting legislative policy analysts. One of my key projects involved preparing briefing books for staff delegations traveling to South Korea, Mongolia, Vietnam, and Indonesia. By preparing briefing materials, which included memos on bilateral relations and compiling relevant articles, and with the guidance of my team, I gained a deeper understanding of U.S. foreign policy towards these countries. I also attended meetings with various NGOs, the Department of State, and foreign diplomats to support my team’s preparations for their regional travel.

Having previously interned at the Department of State, spending a summer on Capitol Hill gave me invaluable insight into the legislative side of foreign policy, especially working on a team focused on Southeast Asia. This experience, combined with my dual degrees from MIRS and the Ford School, along with my internship at the Department of State’s Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, where I covered Southeast Asia, and the year I spent living in Bangkok on a Boren Fellowship while working at UNICEF’s regional office, has prepared me well for a career in foreign policy with a regional focus on Southeast Asia. I am deeply grateful for the opportunities I’ve had over the past 2.5 years here at the University of Michigan and look forward to beginning my professional journey.



Trevor Orginsky with Senator Ben Cardin of Maryland

Trevor,
Thank you for your help on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Ben Cardin

U-M Flint students study abroad in Indonesia



From April 29–May 13, 2024 Professor **Daniel Birchok** and **Samara Hough**, the director of UM-Flint's Center for Gender and Sexuality, took University of Michigan-Flint students in the "Anthropology 398: Gender and Sexuality in Indonesia" course to Indonesia.

The students engaged with many different topics related to gender and sexuality in the world's fourth largest country and third largest democracy, primarily through field visits to various sites, NGOs, and communities.

They started their journey in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta, partnering with Atma Jaya Catholic University of Indonesia and visited HIV/AIDS and sexual health NGOs in Jakarta as well as with NGOs such as the National Human Rights Commission.

In Yogyakarta, the group participated in a conference with three great speakers from Gadjah Mada University: Sri Wiyanti Eddyono, Novi Kurnia, and Suzie Hadajani. They also visited sites such as Al-Fatah Islamic Boarding School for transgender women and Prambanan Temple.

Professor Daniel Birchok (far left) and Director of UM-Flint's Center for Gender and Sexuality Samara Hough (far right) visited Prambanan Temple, among other sites, during a stay in Indonesia with students from Birchok's course, "Gender and Sexuality in Indonesia."

40th Annual COTSEAL Conference



The Council of Teachers of Southeast Asian Languages (COTSEAL) held the 40th Annual COTSEAL Conference at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor on April 26–27, 2024. The theme of the conference was "Inclusive Southeast Asian Language Education: Addressing Diverse Teaching and Learning Needs."

Founded in 1984, COTSEAL is a professional organization dedicated to promoting the discipline of Southeast Asian language teaching on all levels: teaching, materials development, and research. COTSEAL is an affiliated member of the Southeast Asia Council (SEAC) of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS).

Indonesian language lecturer and COTSEAL president Agustini and the rest of the Southeast Asian language team, Aimekamon Bunmee, Irene Gonzaga, and ThuyAnh Nguyen led the hosting efforts for the hybrid conference. In-person attendees came from all over the Midwest and from as far as Hawai'i. This was the first conference to be held in the hybrid format since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Felix Kronenberg, the director of the Center for Language Teaching Advancement (CeLTA) and an Associate Professor of German in the Department of Linguistics, Languages, and Cultures at Michigan State University was this year's keynote speaker. Dr. Kronenberg's keynote provided an overview of the current situation of language teaching and outlined several enrollment and retention strategies that could help us not only defy, but perhaps even reverse, negative enrollment trends in language programs in the U.S.

TOP: Agustini and COTSEAL members with Keynote Speaker MSU Professor Felix Kronenberg. BOTTOM: All of the Day 1 in-person and virtual COTSEAL participants



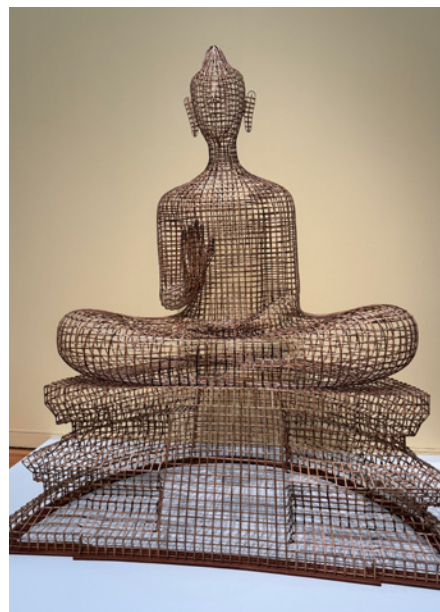
Angkor Complex at UMMA

On February 3, 2024, the University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA) presented the exhibition *Angkor Complex: Cultural Heritage and Post-Genocide Memory in Cambodia*. *Angkor Complex* was an expansive exhibition exploring the art of Cambodia and its diaspora through 80 works, created from the 12th century to the present day. It explored distinct formal strategies and artistic innovations that emerged in the face of and in response to colonialism, significant social upheavals, war, and genocide. The exhibition remained on view through July 28, 2024. It featured work from some of the foremost members of the modern and contemporary Cambodian art scene, including Vann Nath, Sopheap Pich, Svay Sareth, Amy Lee Sanford, and Leang Seckon, as well as significant historic works.

Angkor Complex: Cultural Heritage and Post-Genocide Memory in Cambodia was guest curated by Nachiket Chanchani, an associate professor in the Department of the History of Art at the University of Michigan. Supported by grants from the National Endowment for

the Arts, Michigan Arts and Cultural Council, University of Michigan Center for Southeast Asian Studies with the Title VI National Resource Center, and other agencies.

At the core of the exhibition is the history of Angkor Wat, a state temple built in honor of a Hindu deity in the heyday of the cosmopolitan Khmer Empire (802–1431). When it was constructed, this sophisticated and sacred architectural ensemble, with its richly carved stone buildings, stood in a city of nearly a million people. As the Khmer Empire declined and the region became centered around farming, the temple became a Buddhist monastery. In 1863, when Cambodia became a French



ABOVE: Sopheap Pich's Seated Buddha. Photo by Jonathan Valdez.

AT LEFT: Visiting artist Sopheap Pich with Professor Nachiket Chanchani welcoming guests to *Angkor Complex's* opening.

protectorate, France took Angkor Wat as its own cultural patrimony and began shipping architectural elements and sculptures to French art collections. After Cambodia gained independence in 1953, successive short-lived regimes used Angkor Wat as an emblem of the past prosperity of the Khmer people. Pol Pot (1925–1998), a leader of the Khmer Rouge, oversaw the most autocratic and oppressive of these regimes from 1975 to 1979. In these dark years, Angkor Wat and other places of historical significance were both the site of armed skirmishes and places of refuge for displaced individuals. Today, Cambodians regard Angkor Wat as a sacred center, national symbol, and a site of memory.

“Like Angkor Wat’s bullet-ridden walls, contemporary artworks from Cambodia and its diaspora bear the scars of a genocide and of related upheavals. They also allow us to critically appreciate the artistic strategies that evolved in response to significant generational trauma and to consider many of today’s global crises through the distinct lens of the Cambodian experience,” said Chanchani. “In Cambodia, sacred sculptures and edifices have long been acknowledged and experienced by walking around them in a clockwise circle. This rite is called circumambulation, and I invite audiences to the exhibition to experience the installation and the featured objects in the same way.”

“Angkor Complex provides a singular opportunity to engage with turning points in the distinct cultural and political history of Cambodia and the surrounding regions through an incredible range of objects. The works in the exhibition reflect both the ingenuity of historic makers and the depth and breadth of contemporary production by Cambodian and diasporic artists,” said Christina Olsen, UMMA’s Director. “At the same time, the exhibition invites consideration of today’s broader cultural, social, and political happenings and fosters dialogue about the lessons that can be taken from the pain and resilience of the Cambodian people.”

Southeast Asian Graphic Novel Recommendations

Papaya Salad
Thailand

Year of the Rabbit
Cambodia

Vietnamica
Vietnam/U.S.

The Best We Could Do
Vietnam/U.S.

The Golden Voice
Cambodia

In the Shadow of Giants
Philippines

A Revolutionary Mother
Myanmar



Graphic Novels Teacher Workshop

By Jonathan Valdez

On July 9–11, 2024, National Resource Centers (NRCs) from the University of Michigan and Michigan State University put on a workshop to help train Michigan teachers in using graphic novels to teach about different countries of the world in their classrooms. The workshop was supported by MSU’s African Studies Center, Asian Studies Center, and Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies and U-M’s East Asia NRC (comprised of the Lieberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese Studies, Center for Japanese Studies, and the Nam Center for Korean Studies), Center for Southeast Asian Studies, and Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies.

Sixteen K-12 teachers from all over Michigan came to East Lansing and participated in the three-day workshop. Led by U-M CSEAS Program Specialist Jonathan Valdez, the teachers learned about the history of comics, the field of comics studies, how to read a comic book page, and about different world regions from academic faculty who use comics in their teaching.

Valdez, who wrote his Master’s thesis on Asian American narratives in superhero comics, introduced the workshop saying “Comics, graphic novels, graphic memoirs, graphic history, cartoons, funnies, whatever we call them, have the unique opportunity to open up the history of the world in a unique and engaging way.”

CSEAS supported four teachers with book resources for their classrooms and with a generous stipend to help build their classroom resources. Copies of *The Golden Voice* written by Gregory Cahill and art by Kat Baumann were given to all of the workshop participants. Also, a copy of *The Great Hanoi Rat Hunt* by Southeast Asia region



Teachers participants of the first graphic novel workshop

workshop speaker, Professor Michael Vann of CSU Sacramento, and artist Liz Clarke, were given to the four CSEAS-supported teachers.

CSU Sacramento professor Michael Vann also gave a presentation to the teachers about his book on Vietnamese history and the utility of graphic novels in the classroom saying: “What it would take to say 10 academic text pages, I can show in 1 (page).”

The teachers also listened to presentations from local Detroit author Leila Abdulrazaq, who talked about her graphic novel *Baddawi*; Vanderbilt University professor We Jung Yi on Korean webtoons; Ohio State University’s Professor Fernanda Diaz-Basteris on graphic memoirs and life after Hurricane Maria from Puerto Rican authors; and Northwestern University librarian Gene Kannenberg Jr. on comics from African countries and how Black Panther comics can be used to introduce African history.

The workshop was supported by Title VI National Resource Center grant funding from the Department of Education and The National Consortium for the Teaching of Asia. Lesson plans created by the teachers involving graphic novels with Southeast Asian content can be found on the CSEAS website.



My Experience as a Boren Fellow in Indonesia

By Ian Kennedy

In 2023, I was fortunate enough to receive a Boren Fellowship to study Indonesian.

My fellowship was a part of the Indonesian Flagship Initiative Program (IFLI). Instead of a typical Boren Fellowship in which the recipient designs their language study program independently, IFLI is structured for the summer and fall terms. My summer program started at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute (SEASSI).

During SEASSI, I got very close with my IFLI cohort. During the summer part of IFLI, the relationships I developed with my cohort provided a solid support base for our fall semester in Indonesia. We took classes at Universitas Negeri Malang in Malang Indonesia. Malang is a university city in the eastern part of Indonesia's most populous island, Java, at the foothills of the famed Mt. Bromo. Being a mid-sized city by Javanese standards, Malang has a unique energy and does not feel too intimidating yet simultaneously feels very lively.

Our cohort also had the opportunity to go on weekend excursions every two weeks.

Our excursions included visits within Malang to places such as an Islamic boarding school and a local farm. We also went to further destinations such as Blitar, the birthplace of the famed first President of Indonesia Sukarno, and the Kawah Ijen volcano, renowned for its blue fire, crater lake, and sulfur mines.

After the fall semester concluded, the IFLI program officially finished. I elected to continue my Boren fellowship into the winter semester by working as a research intern in the international relations department for The Centre of Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). In the International Relations department, I had a fantastic opportunity to apply my language skills from the classroom to a true office environment, interacting with my Indonesian coworkers. I collaborated with the researchers on their work, writing briefs and analyses of world events. Additionally, I participated in CSIS' conferences, including a dialogue on conflict prevention in Southeast Asia. I met ambassadors and academics from around the world who were focused on Southeast Asia and had fascinating

conversations about issues facing Indonesia, Southeast Asia/ASEAN, and the world at large.

As an intern, I also got to work on my research. Using CSIS' resources and having the opportunity to consult with their researchers was very helpful in my research on global swing states. I wrote a piece for CSIS' publication *Indonesian Quarterly* comparing Indonesia and Brazil in the context of the U.S.-China geopolitical rivalry. This research, my work assignments, and the bonds I formed at the organization dramatically improved my Indonesian language skills and my knowledge of Indonesia's foreign policy. As a MIRS student electing to do a practicum, I felt fortunate to have had this enriching opportunity.

My Boren Fellowship was undoubtedly one of the most memorable experiences I have ever had. Whether it is the progress I made in learning the Indonesian language, my time observing and integrating into Indonesian life and the friendships I made, I will forever cherish my time as a Boren Fellow.



CSEAS Student Spotlight

hantal Croteau is a PhD candidate in sociocultural anthropology. She was recently awarded the Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship. Her dissertation research examines the subtleties of Buddhist-Muslim relations in Thailand through a focus on two genres of history-telling widely practiced in the region: kinship and spirit histories. Situated in Phang Nga, a province embedded in extractive industries, her dissertation analyzes how histories of kinship and spirit encounters shape and become shaped by dynamics of Buddhist-Muslim relations in southern Thailand, how the personhood of the imagined other—including spirits—is constituted or denied through these histories, and the different formulations of causality and moral obligation evoked through these histories. In attending to intimate narratives of kinship, intercommunal haunting, and care, her dissertation examines how people in Phang Nga craft stories about who they are and about relations of causality, personhood, and blame. Selections of her creative ethnographic work, based on her dissertation field research, can be found in *Practicing Anthropology*, the journal of the Society for Applied Anthropology, including “Yellow Flowers in the Grass” (2024) and “Sand-hopes, Bridges, and Fortunes” (2024).

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Making a gift to U-M CSEAS supports the programs and research projects that reveal the complexity and uniqueness of Southeast Asia today. It also supports the work of our world-class faculty and students who collaborate in providing new understandings of this increasingly important region.

To help in any way, make a donation to the CSEAS Strategic Fund.

Your gift helps. Any amount helps.

For example:

A \$100 gift supports a U-M student's registration to present their research at an academic conference.

A \$500 gift creates a Southeast Asia-specific curriculum module for Michigan K-14 classrooms.

A \$1,000 gift supports bringing a national expert on Southeast Asia to present to our students, faculty, and community members as a part of the CSEAS Lecture Series.

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