



The University of Michigan

Fall 2007

# Center for Southeast Asian Studies

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Singapore, 2006  
By Ryan Hoover



# From CSEAS Director Professor Linda Lim



Southeast Asians' interest in the University of Michigan, and U-M interest in the region, continues to expand and diversify. This past May, University of the Philippines President, Emerlinda Roman, and Deans of the UP

Administration and of Engineering, visited U-M, meeting with President Mary Sue Coleman, and giving a presentation at the Center, while Indonesian Constitutional Judge Dr. Harjono attended the International Judicial Conference at U-M, and gave a presentation on current changes in the Indonesian constitution.

In July, Dr. Mubariq Ahmad, Executive Director of the World Wildlife Fund, Indonesia, gave a presentation at the School of Natural Resources, co-sponsored by the Erb Institute on Global Sustainable Development, on WWF's large-scale "Heart of Borneo" conservation and sustainable development project; Dr. Tengku Aizan Tengku Abdul Hamid, Director of the Institute of Gerontology, Universiti Putra Malaysia, visited at the Institute for Social Research and the Institute for Gerontology; and Dr. Rosna Awang-Hashim, Professor of Cognitive Sciences and Education at Universiti Utara Malaysia, visited at the Women's Studies Program for two months. Dr. Forrest McGill, U-M PhD and Chief Curator of the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, visited the U-M Museum of Art to assess our Southeast Asia art collection. Meanwhile, many of our faculty and

students were busy in Southeast Asia, on research, internships, and study-abroad.

This Fall has been extremely busy, as the Center's programming increasingly attracts, and integrates with, other units throughout the University. Audiences at our Friday Noon Lecture visiting speakers series ([www.ii.umich.edu/cseas](http://www.ii.umich.edu/cseas)) have doubled to around seventy for each speaker, while over twenty attend the Fall Thursday evening lectures by our own faculty. Co-sponsors for our visiting speakers this Fall include the International Institute, (including the Islamic Studies Initiative, the Center for European Studies, and the Center for World Performance Studies), the Institute for the Humanities, the Global Health Research and Training Initiative, the University Musical Society, and the Departments of History, Anthropology and Political Science. The two-day visit of the Thai Ambassador, to give a public lecture, meet with students and faculty, and visit Michigan companies invested in Thailand, was co-sponsored by the Thai Embassy, the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, the Center for International Business Education, the Center for Comparative and International Law, Ford Motor Company and Guardian Industries. Eisenhower Fellow Dr. Suhasil Nazara, Director of the Demographic Institute of the University of Indonesia's Faculty of Economics, visited the Urban and Regional Planning department in November.

In the performing arts, we collaborated with the University Musical Society and other U-M units for a series of educa-

tional and outreach programs around the performances of Balinese gamelan-and-dance group Cudamani's Odalan Bali, and the Khmer Arts Academy's Pamina Devi.

Our faculty ranks, and the courses we offer, continue to expand, with Deirdre de la Cruz joining us in Philippine history, and three new language lecturers—Agustini (Indonesian), Joi Barrios (Filipino) and Thuy Ahn Thi Nguyen (Vietnamese). Our faculty also continue to excel in scholarship. Hearty congratulations to four junior faculty who had their book manuscripts accepted for publication—Allen Hicken, Sarita See, Gavin Shatkin and Frederick Wherry; to Henry Wright for receiving the Distinguished University Professorship award; to Allen Hicken for receiving the University Undergraduate Teaching Award; and to Webb Keane for his invitation to give the prestigious Edvard Westermarck Memorial Lecture in Helsinki.

On the visitor front, we welcome two Fulbright Language Teaching Assistants, Exsuperantia Yohanita Irene (Indonesian/Javanese) and Ornkanya Yaoharee (Thai), Fulbright Visiting Scholar from the Ukraine National Academy of Sciences, Nataliya Gorodnia, who is studying US-ASEAN economic relations, and Dr. Phong Nguyen from Kent State University, who will be our Center for World Performance Studies visitor in the Winter, teaching two courses on Vietnamese music and culture.

Thank you all for your continued interest in and support of our Center!

Linda



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# Program News

## Philippine Studies Endowment Established

In June 2000, a group of Philippine Studies faculty and representatives of the Filipino community in Michigan, particularly members of the University of the Philippines Alumni Association, met with then-CSEAS Director Judith Becker and with Professor Don Lopez of the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures to discuss creating a Philippine Studies Endowed Chair at the University. In the seven years since, now-retired Filipino language lecturer Deling Weller, EMU Emeritus Professor of Education Quirico (Ric) Samonte, and community representative Romy Aquino, all of whom were present at the initial meeting, have worked tirelessly to build what became known as the Philippine Studies Initiative into a permanent endowment.

This past summer, Deling and Romy came to the office with a check from the UP Alumni Association. Together with a generous gift from Emeritus Professor Gayl Ness, this check put the fund over the \$10,000 mark required to begin a formal endowment with the

University, and the Philippine Studies Endowment was born.

Over the years, the initial goal of endowing a professorship has shifted, partially because the \$2.5 million price tag seemed out of reach, but more importantly because the Philippine Studies professorship became a reality with funding from the College of Literature Science and the Arts. (Deirdre de la Cruz, currently at the Michigan Society of Fellows, will move into this position in the fall of 2009).

Instead, the endowment will help foster "the continued study of the Philippines and Filipino languages and cultures at the University of Michigan. Income from the endowment will support faculty research, teaching and curricular development about the Philippines at the University, student opportunities for research and training, and outreach to schools, the community and business."

"This really is quite a significant achievement," notes current CSEAS Director Linda Lim. "The endowment was put together without any single leadership gift. It represents



Linda Lim with Deling Weller and Romy Aquino

resents the support of many people in the community, of faculty members, and even of graduate and undergraduate students, who gave as they were able. Thanks to the hard work of Deling, Ric, Romy and so many others, there will always be money at the Center to support the study of the Philippines."

The first income from the endowment will be available by Winter 2009, though at the endowment's current funding levels, the income will be quite modest, about \$500 per year. In the meantime, the Philippine Studies faculty has reconvened to discuss how

the endowment should be managed and used in the near future, as well as to strategize about how to increase the fund's principal.

The Center invites any of you interested in helping continue to build the fund to contact Program Coordinator Charley Sullivan, himself a scholar of the Philippines, to discuss your interest. Charley can be reached at 734.764.4568 or [rowcoach@umich.edu](mailto:rowcoach@umich.edu).

And to all of you who helped make this long-held dream a reality, *maraming salamat po*.

## Graduate Certificate Program Approved

The Center will soon offer a Graduate Certificate Program in Southeast Asian Studies, recently approved through the Rackham Graduate School and pending approval of the President's Commission. The certificate is intended for U-M graduate-level students in LS&A departments and U-M professional schools, as well as students who have completed a graduate degree program from the University of Michigan or another university within the past five years. The goal of the certificate is to provide a program of study grounded in in-depth interdisciplinary understandings of Southeast Asia to graduate students whose academic and

career trajectories require area-focused knowledge and training.

The certificate requirements include at least fifteen credit hours of approved graduate-level courses, including SEAS 501, the Center's graduate-level "Introduction to Southeast Asian Studies." In addition, students must demonstrate basic proficiency in a Southeast Asian language, either through successful first-year coursework or by a proficiency exam.

"We're really very excited to finally get the certificate program through the ap-

proval process and to offer it to students," says Student Services Coordinator Gigi Bosch-Gates. "There's been significant interest in a certificate program from graduate students across the University. This will both help students show their proficiency and interest on their transcripts, and help the Center demonstrate more clearly the interest in Southeast Asian Studies among graduate students that we know to be strong."

If you are interested in learning more about the program, please contact Gigi Bosch-Gates at [gigib@umich.edu](mailto:gigib@umich.edu).

# Undergraduate Summer

By Charley Sullivan

This past June, 10 University of Michigan undergraduates spent 15 days in Thailand, interviewing women in Bangkok, Chiang Mai and Chiang Dao about their lives and work. The students had all taken a winter term course on "Contemporary Social Issues in Southeast Asia", which the experiential learning seminar was designed to help them explore further in the Thai context. I was the instructor for both courses.

Our time in Thailand began in Bangkok. We stayed in a Chulalongkorn University guest house for foreign students, arranged through U-M PhD alumna Trisilpa Bunkachorn, Associate Professor and Chair of Women's Studies at Chula, who also gave us a lecture on women in Thai literature. Our orientation session in-



Back Row: L-R: Chula English Major, Jessica Tate, Charley Sullivan, Justin Creeden, David Bennett

Middle Row, L-R: Amanda Canvasser, Taylor Martin, Stedine Laroque, Chula Professor Trisilpa Boonkachorn, Angela Sarb, Kimberly Chou, Jane Shim

Front Row, L-R: Chula Junior Pitsacha Meekhanon, Rungrit Maneethai, Stephanie Houh, Chula Professor Pornrat Damrhung

cluded "survival Thai" from U-M Thai language lecturer Montatip Krishnamra, and a discussion with Thai-speaking U-M alumni with long experience in the country. We were also greeted by Chula Professor, and recent U-M Artist-in-Residence Pornrat Damrhung, who had been a great help in arranging many of our visits in Bangkok.

To get us oriented to the city, Pitch Pongsawat, Chula Lecturer in Political Science and doctoral candidate in City and Regional Planning at the University of California-Berkeley, gave the group an introductory tour of Bangkok, designed to help us understand how the city works as neighborhoods, not so much next to each other on a map as they are connected by lines of transportation and divided by lines of class. Sophomore Angela Sarb described the day in our group blog (which can be read at: <http://mblog.lib.umich.edu/seas215thailand07>):

*Today we saw almost all of Bangkok - at least it seems like it. We saw high class malls to low class malls and street markets, housing from the elite to the slums, temple complexes and university campuses, tranquil parks and political protests; we ate food from street stalls and "cafés" to a very upscale restaurant; we took train, boat, and foot. It seems like if one word could sum up this city, it would be coexistence. Everywhere you look, post-modernity and pre-modernity, new and old, rich and poor, power and people, exist side-by-side and blend together to create this city called Bangkok.*

The next day, we began the seminar's project – speaking with Thai women about their lives and work. A visit to Wat Pho, a temple which specializes in the teaching of traditional Thai medicine, gave us our first interview, with Chutarat Jintawong, a 37-year old practitioner of Thai massage. Her income supplements that of her husband, who is in the Thai marines, but she enjoys the work, and helping her clients improve their health. One day she hopes to open her own restaurant, because she loves to cook and the money would be better, giving her two sons more options in their lives.

At Chulalongkorn University, the students interviewed Pitsacha Meekhanon (Tarn) a 20-year-old English major who hopes to become a translator, or a flight attendant – a job that would pay well and allow her to travel while still living (properly) at home with her parents, lasting just long enough until she has a husband "to protect [her]."

At Nice Apparel Company, a Nike supplier in the industrial suburb of Nonthabury, we interviewed Wannapa Poensoo (Lek), a 34 year-old seamstress who had been working there since she was 20. "My life," she said "is very simple. Nothing fancy." Yet she had clearly come a long way – from working in the fields with her parents since she was 12, after a sixth grade education, then moving to Bangkok at age 17 to work as a housekeeper, before beginning work at the factory. She and her soldier husband were waiting to have children until they were debt-free and financially secure, able to buy both a pickup truck and land back in her parents' village, where they were building a small apartment with seven separate rooms for rent.

At Mahidol University's Faculty of Nursing, the assistant dean, two physicians and two public health faculty members (all women), gave us an excellent presentation on the Thai health system. The students then interviewed Nattana Kulnatsiri, the Head Obstetrics Nurse at Siriraj Hospital next door, about her experience as a neo-natal and obstetric nurse, and her goals as a teacher of young nurses. Sophomore David Bennett wrote: "Love and kindness radiated from every part of her."

We visited and interviewed U-M alumnae, Kim and Jane Chongsatitwatana, BSE and BBA graduates respectively, who work in their two family businesses, Namnee Publishing (which has published both works by the Crown Princess and the Harry Potter series in Thai), and AA Footwear (which manufactures shoes for the Thai market under license for European designers Pierre Cardin and Geox). Our interview with Kim and Jane took place



# Seminar in Thailand



David Bennett and Stephanie Houh listen to Nattana Kulnatsiri, as Rungrit Maneethai prepares to translate.

in the sleek, ultra-modern boardroom of the newly constructed corporate headquarters for the family businesses in Bangkok's tony Sukhumvit neighborhood. The family also lives on the upper floor of the building, and much of the interview focused on what it was like to work (and live) in the family business, and on how Kim's and Jane's Michigan education both helped and created challenges for them in their work as young executives.

We then drove to the AA Footwear factory, on the outskirts of the city, to interview Samruam Kate-king (Taew), a supervisor who had worked there for 13 years, after moving to Bangkok at age 12 to work in a restaurant, a small grocery store, and then a garment factory. She and her husband, who works in the Jim Thompson silk factory, live in one room of a house in Bangkok, but own a small house up north where her teenage son lives with her parents and goes to school. She hopes her son will finish high school and then get a secure government job, particularly in the military. After that, she will focus on saving enough money to go home, perhaps to open a grocery store.

Our time in Bangkok was not only spent in interviews, however. We visited several famous tourist sites: the Jim Thompson house with its adaptation of traditional Thai architecture and its famous gardens by the *klong* (canal), the Joe Louis Theater for an evening of puppet theater, and Wat Phra Kaew (Temple of the Emerald Buddha), where a close reading of the stunning architecture and symbolism helped students begin to understand the complex mutually legitimizing relationship of the state, the monarchy and the Buddhist *sangha* (monkhood). We also went to the movies to catch the teen-age romance/thriller "I Love You 24/7," (in Thai with English subtitles), in which the dual-personalities boyfriend, the girl and the goofy sidekick all work at the local 7-11 (which you will find seemingly on almost every Bangkok street corner).



Kim and Jane Chongsatitwatana in the lobby of their family business.

The realities of life were highlighted by a visit to the Thai AIDS Treatment Action Group (TTAG), which advocates for access to AIDS drugs for PLWHA (People Living with HIV/AIDS) in Thailand. TTAG's co-founder, with Pisan Suwannawong, is U-M MA alumna Karyn Kaplan, who gave us a presentation on AIDS in Thailand, and particularly on the challenges faced by the HIV/AIDS community in terms of both social stigma and access to treatment. The heart of the day came from the opportunity to speak with members of the TTAG staff about their experiences with the disease, and then just to have lunch with them, sharing time together, laughing and joking. Stephanie Houh wrote about one of them:

*[Amnat] was chosen to be a subject in a test of an experimental anti-retroviral drug. The test helped him recover from the thirteen infections he suffered from when he was most sick. The experience drove him to participate in AIDS education and activism. Amnat is a very cheerful and lively person... It is... amazing to see how easily he can put his experiences aside to joke with us about his children and his co-workers.*



Kamon Uppakaew, Amnat Chamchern and Karyn Kaplan at the Thai AIDS Treatment Action Group

Having completed our time in Bangkok, we boarded a "Sprinter" train for a 12-hour ride through the Thai countryside to the northern city of Chiang Mai. We were met by U-M PhD alumna Bonnie Brereton, who had arranged our schedule, and for our stay at the guesthouse of Payap University. A walking tour through the city the next day immediately showed the smaller, and in many ways more approachable, scale of Chiang Mai. Even though it is Thailand's second or third largest city, Chiang Mai is less than five percent the size of Bangkok, and life moves at a less frenetic pace. (Nonetheless, many Chiang Mai residents feel the city has been growing at a swift and even unmanageable pace, driven by increased investment from Bangkok, an influx of rural migrants seeking work, and a large growth in tourism.)

Our first interview in Chiang Mai, however, was far from the "bustle" of the downtown. We visited the beautiful courtyard of the "forest temple" of Wat Ram Poeng, where we interviewed a Buddhist nun, Mae Chii Akkayanee. The Mae Chii (an honorific for women who have taken Buddhist vows) has a degree in economics and law from Ramkhamhaeng University in Bangkok, and had worked with a Thai firm doing international busi-

*continued on page 4*

# Undergraduate Summer

ness. But 13 years ago, following a long interest in meditation, and seeking answers to questions she had about life and death, she became a nun. Her demeanor was striking, and she gave well-considered answers to our questions in a quiet, measured and unrushed voice, as if practicing a form of the conscious meditation to which she has devoted her life.

Jaifah Fah, on the other hand, is a whirl of external energy. Jaifah is an entrepreneur and international businesswoman, introduced to us through colleagues of U-M Sociology professor Frederick Wherry, who researches the Thai handicraft industry.



*Jaifah Fah runs an international housewares business from her family's wooded compound in Chiangmai*

Jaifah's company designs hand-made modern wood and lacquerware objects that sell in home furnishing stores such as Bloomingdale's, Neiman Marcus and Anthropologie. It competes with Chinese manufacturers (who undercut Thai prices and copy their designs) through quality and branding enabling them to command higher prices and pay the higher wages demanded by Thai craftsmen. Jaifah herself contributes to the marketing through her image as a young, college-educated, innovative Thai artist and English-speaking businesswoman who shows her collections frequently in Europe and on her website,

[www.jaifah.com](http://www.jaifah.com). Recently married, she very much enjoys playing with her two young children, who are slowing down some of her work at the business.

A visit to Empower, a sex workers' organization/union, was both challenging and enlightening. We interviewed a sex worker organizer known "all over the world" by her professional name, Ping Pong. In our interview, Ping Pong distinguished between adults who actively choose to go into sex work as a profession with both standards and skills, and those, including children, who are trafficked and forced into prostitution. Empower bargains with employers to create acceptable and safe work standards. It also provides sexual health education and screenings, practical advice, English and Japanese language lessons and classes on internet skills, for its members wishing to work in the more remunerative foreign tourist sector of the market. For Ping Pong herself, sex work has been a step up, both into satisfying skilled work, and into the middle class. She no longer works in bars but handles five "private clients", has traveled throughout Southeast Asia and Europe, and bought several houses for her parents, herself and her children, whom she is putting through university.

Sarawanee Sukhumvada (Nok), a lecturer in English at Chiang Mai University, from an elite family, and educated both in Thailand and the United States, shared with us her recent research on women's stories and the image of the "ideal Thai

woman", drawing lessons from her own life and experience as well as from Thai tradition and literature. She helped students to understand the difficulties of placing Western labels—such as "feminism" – on Thai society. "The word 'feminist' has not yet sunk into Thai society," she said. "It is a very Western concept. Traditionally, we have been born into a duty, and we do it. It is viewed that the argument against this construct is 'feminist'. I am comfortable with the word, but it connotes a very negative term. This is a very delicate issue."

Another delicate issue, Thai citizenship, was highlighted in our interview with "Tom", a 22-year-old Lahu hill tribe woman living at a Christian NGO that provides shelter, education and training to young women who have been trafficked both for work and for sexual exploitation. "Tom" herself had not been trafficked but had been brought to the Center by family members at the age of 13, to keep her from being trafficked. "Tom" had completed high school but could not go on to university as she wished, due to lack of documentation of the Thai citizenship which should be hers by birth. She had technically "lost" her citizenship, after her mother died, when her father had registered his daughter from his second marriage, with "Tom's" name and identity—a circumstance which keeps her unable to travel easily, even within Thailand, and about which she is understandably bitter.

Our final interview was cross town at Payap University, where we spoke with Kannaporn Akarapisan (Pam), a program administrator in the University's program for foreign students. Educated at Western Michigan University, Pam is Muslim, wears a headscarf, and lectures about both Islam and political science. She answered students' questions about women in Islam, and about being a Muslim in Buddhist-majority Thailand, noting that coming from an educated middle-class family in the north, rather than the now-troubled south, she never felt discriminated against for her religion.

In the middle of our time in Chiang Mai, we spent two days in Chiang Dao, a small town an hour to the north, where a Bangkok theater group, Makhampom, has a facility offering educational programs for student groups from abroad and for community-based activist theater groups working on local issues. The scale of Chiang Dao, which we explored on bicycles, allowed students to see how the various elements of the town come together to create a sense of place, in this case, very far in feeling from Chiang Mai, and a world away from Bangkok. The Makhampom complex is located in the middle of rice fields, on the other side of the village from the Buddhist temple school, in the shadow of a large mountain believed locally to be the home of very powerful spirits, and thus riddled with caves full of Buddhist and other images. Other hills around are home to both hill tribe peoples and to newly developed small-scale plantations about which the hill tribe peoples and the non-resident owners are in conflict.

Here the students interviewed Kaam, a hill tribe woman and community activist from the village of Ba-Dang, where she has lived for over 20 years, was married and has raised her children. But because Kaam and most of her fellow villagers came originally from a district close to the Burma border, they have been unable to register their presence properly with local authori-



# Seminar in Thailand (continued)



Flooded rice fields below the mountain in Chiang Dao.

ties, so there are frequent clashes with the non-resident Thai “owners” of the land they occupy. Kaam was arrested for being a leader of her village’s protests and her court case is pending. She earns a living doing agricultural day work in the fields around Chiang Dao and making and selling handicrafts to tourists.

We also interviewed Pongjit Saphakhun (Jon), an actress, community activist and senior staff member at Makhampom, who lives in Chiang Dao with her Australian husband and their young daughter. Jon has studied and performed overseas, but she told the group that she grew up as a farmer’s daughter, ashamed of her dark skin and rough hands, and reluctant to have her father visit her university dormitory since other students would see he was a country man, simple and unsophisticated. Much of her work now is dedicated to helping young people be proud of the knowledge gained through their childhood in the fields.

After our week in the north, we took the night train back to Bangkok, where our debriefing session with CSEAS Director Linda Lim revealed how much the group, and our local informant from Bangkok, Rungrat Maneethai (Hmoo), U-M M Sc. in Mechanical Engineering, had learned. Beyond the lives and work of the individual women interviewed, we had been introduced to issues of the status of women, minorities, rural migrants, the stateless, people of the lower classes, and AIDS patients, in relation to the role of the state in their lives, and were greatly impressed by the strong motivation of individuals and families to improve their lot, even in the most difficult of circumstances.

With ten students on the trip, there are clearly multiple views of what was gained through this seminar. Junior Kimberly Chou summed it up this way in the blog:

*I’m surprised at how much I took away from the experience, how much I learned as well as how much I began to miss Thailand (especially Chiang Mai) once I left. Without this specific trip, I doubt I*

*would have done more than the “tourist” visit if I ever happened to trek to Thailand, and the opportunity to see the lives of women through so many different lenses was truly something I appreciate more and more as each day passes. We all have a tendency to see things through an American-college-kid-filter, and even for those of us who have been to Asia (at least for me), through impressions of already-familiar places. I’m very happy, and incredibly appreciative, after the fact, that I was able to go and this trip was able to happen. And how else would we all have been able to see a true Thai romantic comedy about 7eleven?*

It is clear to me that this was a very valuable introduction to Southeast Asia for the students, on so many levels, from discovering the deliciousness of mangosteens and walking into their first Southeast Asian wet market, to getting beyond tourist perceptions of Thailand by having the opportunity to speak with Thai people about the complexities of their lives and situations. Increasingly, it is this guided and focused exposure to the region that I feel will help get undergraduates interested in the region for the long run. The students are now working on writing up profiles of the women we interviewed, and using them to curate an exhibition of images and text tentatively entitled “Fifteen Thai Women” that will be shown in the International Institute Gallery in January, and to develop a web resource for middle and high school students that will be included in the CSEAS website in the winter term.

The students and I would like to thank all the people who made this seminar possible, from the women we interviewed and who shared a part of their lives with us, to our local guides and advisors in Thailand, and the staff and faculty of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies who helped administer the course and plan the trip. We are also keenly aware of the financial support that made this experience possible. The majority of the funding came from the International Institute’s Experiential Learning Fund, supported by an anonymous private donor. A travel grant for one student was provided by the U-M Global Health Research and Training Initiative, and the Gerald and Louise Winfield Memorial Trust gave a \$6000 gift that covered the expenses of two more. My travel and the winter course were both underwritten by President Mary Sue Coleman’s Multidisciplinary Learning Team Teaching Initiative.



Decoding the architecture of Thai royal and religious power at the Wat of the Emerald Buddha, Bangkok

*The Center very much would like to be able to continue to make such funded opportunities for faculty-guided seminars available to Michigan undergraduates, and we hope to do so again in the summer of 2009, ideally travelling to either Indonesia or Malaysia. If you are interested in helping make this a reality, please contact Linda Lim at [lylim@umich.edu](mailto:lylim@umich.edu) or Cindy Middleton at [csmiddle@umich.edu](mailto:csmiddle@umich.edu).*

# Faculty News

## Focus: New Language Instructors

Following the retirement of Deling Weller and Nga Nguyen, and Menuk Sudarsih's departure to the University of Colorado, the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures and the Center are happy to welcome new instructors for Filipino, Indonesian and Vietnamese to Ann Arbor this fall.

**Agustini** comes to Ann Arbor to teach Indonesian from Arizona State University, via Jogjakarta. Born in West Kalimantan (Borneo), she moved to Jogja after high

of the monthly Indonesian Potluck series. Asked how things are going, she answers simply, "So far, so good . . . by which I mean So Fun and So Good!"

[agustini@umich.edu](mailto:agustini@umich.edu)

**Joi Barrios** joins the faculty to teach Filipino language while on leave as Associate Professor at the University of the Philippines (UP), where she served as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs of the College of Arts and Letters from 2003 to 2006. After obtaining her Ph.D. in Filipino and Phil-

ippine Literature from UP in 1998, she taught at UCLA, UC Irvine and the Osaka University of Foreign Studies as Visiting Assistant Professor. Joi has published several books, among them, the bilingual poetry collection *To Be a Woman is to Live at a Time of War (Ang Pagiging Babae ay Pamumuhay sa Panahon ng Digma)*, 1990, and the critical work *From the Theater Wings: Grounding and Flight of Filipino Women Playwrights*, 2006. She was Founding Editor of the Flash Publica-

tion Series (Publikasyong Iglap), which has published poetry books on recent issues such as human rights and cheating in the Philippine presidential elections. In 1998, she received the Weaver of History Award from the National Centennial Commission Women's Sector, as one of the 100 women who contributed to the Philippines' development in the 20th century, and she received the TOWNS (The Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service) Award in Manila in 2004. Joi writes "I am privileged to follow the footsteps of Prof. Naylor and Mrs. Weller, and have this opportunity to teach excellent students, work in a well-run department with a supportive chair, be amongst a community of brilliant Filipino American scholars who have been immensely kind to me, and have access to the amazing manuscripts on the Philippines at the Bentley Library." [jbarrios@umich.edu](mailto:jbarrios@umich.edu)

**Thuy-Anh Nguyen**, U-M's new lecturer in Vietnamese language, most recently taught English at Hanoi University, where she also served as language coordinator for VASI (Vietnamese Advanced Study Institute) and for the Foreign Service Institute, teaching Vietnamese to diplomats at the American Embassy in Hanoi. Previous to that, Thuy-Anh spent four years at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, teaching Vietnamese both at the university and at SEASSI and earning a Masters degree in Southeast Asian Studies. Before her stint in Madison, Thuy-Anh held a variety of positions in her native Hanoi, teaching English at several universities and Vietnamese at the United Nations International School, and working for both the government and NGOs as an administrator and translator. Thuy-Anh has experience in adapting technology to classroom use, including exploiting Wiki-technology, blogs and instant messenger services as language learning opportunities, while still carrying a passion for literature and poetry, including giving presentations on "The Voice of Love from Female Poets: A Glimpse of Vietnamese Poetry."

[tanguyen@umich.edu](mailto:tanguyen@umich.edu)



Our new language lecturers, braced for the Michigan winter. (l-r: Joi Barrios, Thuy-Anh Nguyen and Agustini)

school to attend university, working for various organizations teaching English while she pursued her degree. Following her graduation from Sanata Dharma University, she worked in two privately run schools for teaching English, one of which she opened with her husband, Heri. She also joined the faculty of Sanata Dharma, teaching English at all levels. With an Ambassadorial Scholarship from Rotary International, Agustini was able to attend Arizona State, where she received a Masters degree in Education and taught both English and Indonesian languages. At Michigan, Agustini has already forged ahead both academically, presenting at the 2007 Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association (RMMLA) convention, in Calgary, Canada on the role of attaching affixes to root words in Indonesian, and socially, carrying on the coordination

## Other New Faculty:

We would like to welcome **Donald Freeman**, the new Director of Teacher Education at the School of Education. Don came to Michigan this fall, after working for the past 25 years with World Learning, an NGO previously known as the Experiment in International Living. In particular, he worked with the School for International Training (SIT), which is World Learning's graduate school. SIT also runs study abroad programs to 30 countries in the Global South. These programs are community based and theme based, rather than tied to universities, but they do carry university credit. Don has experience in many parts of the world, and has worked and taught in both Indonesia and Thailand, specifically with refugee resettlement education programs.

[donaldfr@umich.edu](mailto:donaldfr@umich.edu)



# Faculty News

**Kevin Chung**, Professor of Plastic Surgery in the Medical School, spent eight years in Singapore and one year in Indonesia as a child. Over the past few years he has been back to Singapore, and to Vietnam twice and Cambodia once to teach hand surgery, which is his specialty. He was supposed to go to Burma as well until US sanctions prohibited it. He remains highly interested in Southeast Asia. [kechung@umich.edu](mailto:kechung@umich.edu)

**Allen Hicken**, Assistant Professor of Political Science, received the University Undergraduate Teaching Award this fall at a special awards dinner at the Rackham Graduate School. The award is designed to honor faculty early in their careers who have demonstrated outstanding ability in teaching undergraduate students.



Part of the citation for this award reads "During his five years as assistant professor, Allen Hicken has established an impressive record as an undergraduate teacher, advisor and curriculum innovator. Evaluations for his undergraduate courses are among the highest in the department and perhaps in the University. He is described by students and colleagues as the most dedicated and professional teacher they ever have encountered in the University. Students call Hicken's courses very challenging but engaging and rewarding. Because of their experience, they want to take more courses on Southeast Asia, study its languages, and travel or do internships in the area." [ahicken@umich.edu](mailto:ahicken@umich.edu)

**Webb Keane** has been invited to give the Edvard Westermarck Memorial Lecture in Helsinki in October. The annual lecture rotates between anthropology and sociology, each discipline providing the lecturer in alternate years. Previous lecturers from anthropology have included Marshall Sahlins, Mary Douglas, Eric Wolf, John Gumperz, Jean Comaroff, Sherry Ortner, George Marcus, and Arthur Kleinman. [wkeane@umich.edu](mailto:wkeane@umich.edu)

**Stuart Kirsch** was promoted to associate professor of anthropology with tenure; he will spend 2007-2008 at the Program in Agrarian Studies at Yale University, where he plans to work on a book examining conflicts between indigenous

peoples and mining companies. This past summer, Stuart helped the Center with our outreach to the Midwest Institute for International Intercultural Education (MIIE), offering a workshop for community college educators on his research on conflicts in mining areas. [skirsch@umich.edu](mailto:skirsch@umich.edu)

**Montatip Krishnamra** attended the American Council for Teachers of Foreign Languages Conference in San Antonio this fall and was recently inducted as a new member of Rotary International Ann Arbor Chapter. Montatip is preparing to take some of her Thai language students to Bangkok this summer. [montatip@umich.edu](mailto:montatip@umich.edu)

**Linda Lim** conducted company interviews in Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur in July for her research on how Southeast Asian manufacturers are affected by and adjusting to competition from China in the textile and garments export industry. She also met with U-M alumni and local university administrators in Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, and gave lectures on US-China economic relations and the implications for Southeast Asia, at Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman in Malaysia, and to the U-M Alumni Association of Singapore. [lylim@umich.edu](mailto:lylim@umich.edu)

**Paz Naylor**, retired Professor of Linguistics, will be in London and Leiden in November and December, where she'll be meeting with editors about the book she was invited to contribute to the London University Oriental & African Language series. Once they give her the go ahead, she'll head to Leiden to get it in 'camera-ready' form for the Publisher, John Benjamins. [pnaylor@umich.edu](mailto:pnaylor@umich.edu)

**Gayl Ness**, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, continues to work with the Asian Urban Information Center of Kobe, Japan (AUICK) ([www.auick.org](http://www.auick.org)). He writes, "we work with nine Asian cities on a sustained basis in research, training and information dissemination. Our SE Asia cities are Kuantan, Malaysia; Khon Kaen, Thailand; Surabaya, Indonesia; Danang, Vietnam; and Olongapo City, The Philippines. I've been in two workshops this year, where one senior city administrator from each of those (plus 4 more) is in attendance". Gayl will be teaching a Freshman Seminar in the Winter term on "Population, Development and Environ-

ment: The Making of our Modern World." [GaylNess@aol.com](mailto:GaylNess@aol.com)

**Nick Rine**, Clinical Professor of Law, is on leave from U-M this year, and is working in Arizona ("warmer than Ann Arbor, drier than Cambodia"), teaching and helping to organize clinical teaching programs at a new school, the Phoenix School of Law. 2007 marked the tenth anniversary of the operation of the Program for Law and Development in Cambodia, which Nick coordinates. The program supports graduate and professional student summer internships in Cambodia. This past summer, students worked with a varied array of programs and organizations including ECPAT (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking); the United Nations Development Program; Ministry of Land projects to establish a land registry system to protect land titles; the Community Legal Education Center and the Cambodian Women's Crisis Center. The twelve students working in Cambodia in 2007 were from Law, Public Policy and Architecture and Urban Planning. In past years, the program has also supported students from Business, Natural Resources, Public Health and Social Work. Nick will be organizing the Cambodia program again for the 2008 summer. [nickrine@umich.edu](mailto:nickrine@umich.edu)



**Henry Wright** was awarded a Distinguished University Professorship which recognizes exceptional scholarly and/or creative achievement, national and

international reputation, and superior teaching skills. Henry will be the Albert Spaulding University Professor of Anthropology. He has focused his research on the emergence of social hierarchy and the formation of states, but he has addressed many other questions about cultural evolution, human settlement patterns and historical ecology as well. He is involved with a CSEAS initiative on training Southeast Asian archaeologists and serves on the CSEAS Executive Committee. Henry's scholarly work includes seven books and numerous articles and chapters. Honors include a MacArthur Foundation Award and membership in the National Academy of Sciences. [hwright@umich.edu](mailto:hwright@umich.edu)

# Student News

## New Graduate Students:

**Jessica Allen** is originally from Mapleton, Utah, but moved to Michigan from Cheyenne, Wyoming. She did her undergraduate work at Brigham Young University where she majored in Public Health Education and minored in International Development. She is currently a dual masters student in Social Work and Public Health. She lived in China teaching English, and the Philippines as an intern, and her interest lies in Southeast Asia, particularly Cambodia where she lived for two years doing volunteer missionary work and was an intern for a Maternal and Child Health NGO. Jessica speaks Khmer and looks forward to working there in the future as part of development projects and aiding in developing a socially just infrastructure. [jessiann@umich.edu](mailto:jessiann@umich.edu)

**Hillary Brass**, PhD student in Anthropology, is originally from northeastern Indiana. She attended the University of Notre Dame as an undergraduate and completed degrees in anthropology and Japanese in 2006. After graduation, she taught English with a Fulbright Teaching Assistantship in Bali (an interest generated through an anthropology course taught by Jerry Sullivan, the older brother of CSEAS program coordinator, Charley Sullivan). As a result, her area focus switched from East to Southeast Asia, and specifically Indonesia, with an interest in language issues of gender, age, and code-switching. Hillary received a FLAS to study Advanced Indonesian this year. [hibrass@umich.edu](mailto:hibrass@umich.edu)

**Eric Brown** is a first-year PhD student in Linguistics. He received his BA in Linguistics from the University of California, Berkeley and is originally from Southern California. He is mainly interested in situations of language contact and change and his specific interest in Southeast Asian studies includes the history and phylogeny of the Tai-Kadai language family, multilingual communities, and Southeast Asian immigrant languages in the United States, Australia and Europe. [ericeric@umich.edu](mailto:ericeric@umich.edu)

**David Duong** and **Heather Moehle**, who both worked on public health projects in Vietnam as undergraduates, are currently in the MPH program in the School of Public Health, and both continue to do research on Vietnam. Also joining the Masters program in Public Health is **Drew Riley**, who is interested in global reproductive health, with a particular interest in Southeast Asia. [duong@umich.edu](mailto:duong@umich.edu), [hmoele@umich.edu](mailto:hmoele@umich.edu), [rileydr@umich.edu](mailto:rileydr@umich.edu)

**Kristin King** began a Ph.D. in Epidemiology at the School of Public Health this summer. She has lived in China and traveled throughout Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, and Indonesia. She earned her MPH from Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health with a concentration in Global Population and Reproductive Health. During her time at Rollins, she completed research on HIV/AIDS in China and tuberculosis in Indonesia. As a Ph.D. student, she plans to work with Dr. Sioban Harlow to study the reproductive health of women laborers. [krisking@umich.edu](mailto:krisking@umich.edu)

**Scotty McLoughlin** began a PhD in cultural anthropology this fall, planning to focus on a Philippine Christian hinterland community and examining, among other things, the role of history as cultural practice, how people use history in relationship to both religious experience and nationhood. Scotty's undergraduate degree in history and anthropology is from the National University of Ireland Maynooth, where he also completed a Masters in

anthropology. His Masters thesis focused on the world's fairs in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, tersely titled "Confucius and the head-hunting savage of Assam: Contradictions and Syntheses of the Irish Experience at World's Fairs 1851-1908." [scottmcl@umich.edu](mailto:scottmcl@umich.edu)

**Jack Merchant** joins the Department of History as a doctoral student, having finished his MA in Southeast Asian Studies this past summer. Jack's focus will be on early 20th century Vietnam, particularly looking at nationalism and literature in the French colonial period. Jack studied Vietnamese in Hanoi this past summer, and is returning to Vietnam for the end of the fall semester and the winter, both to carry out research and to get married. [merchand@umich.edu](mailto:merchand@umich.edu)

**Kate Skillman**, MA in Southeast Asian Studies, entered the PhD program in Asian Languages and Cultures, working with Nancy Florida. She received a FLAS to study Arabic at U-M this summer

## Focus: Our New MA Students

**Kerry Brewer** is a North Carolina native and 2006 graduate from the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill with a BS in psychology. She plans to explore the intersection of psychology, the anthropology of development, and mental and physical health in Thailand. Traveling to Thailand twice in the past year, she became interested in observing the everyday lives of Southern Coastal Thais and hopes to gain perspective on their management of rapid social and economic change, its relationship to the subjective assessment of their lives and their resulting health-related behaviors. Kerry completed her first year of Thai language at SEA-SSI this past summer. In the future, she hopes to cycle all of the back roads in Thailand having 1500km under her belt already.

**Josh Monthei** was born and raised in suburban Detroit, a short 25 minute drive from Ann Arbor. Four years after graduating from Kalamazoo College with a BA in Sociology, he is returning to school to pursue a student initiated dual Masters degree in Southeast Asian Studies and Urban Planning. His goal is to investigate the development of urban transportation systems in Thailand and how non-governmental organizations plan to incorporate the local citizenry into the transportation planning process. He completed his second year of Thai language at SEA-SSI this past summer, and received a FLAS for Advanced Thai this academic year. [jmonthei@umich.edu](mailto:jmonthei@umich.edu)

**Sandeep Ray** spent his early childhood growing up in a small town adjacent to a rubber plantation in Malaysia and then attended elementary and secondary school in India. He attended Hampshire College in Massachusetts where he designed a major in Filmmaking and Anthropology and has pursued a career in documentary filmmaking since graduating in 1993. He has filmed in India, the United States, Indonesia and in the Kalahari. During his MA studies Sandeep will focus on Indonesia where he has spent time working on ethnographic film projects in Java and Kalimantan. He received a FLAS for beginning Indonesian this year. [sandeep@umich.edu](mailto:sandeep@umich.edu)



# Student News

while she finished her Masters thesis, "Spiritual Discourse in New Order Indonesia: Interactions between Nationalism and Spirituality," and found time to train for and complete a marathon.

[kmskill@umich.edu](mailto:kmskill@umich.edu)

**Jonathan Yip**, originally from the San Francisco Bay Area, spent his undergraduate years at the University of California, Berkeley, where he majored in Linguistics and German. He is currently a doctoral student of Linguistics and his particular interests include phonetics, phonology, and the relation between the two areas. He plans to focus on the study of Southeast Asian languages, which he feels are often underrepresented in the field.

[jonyip@umich.edu](mailto:jonyip@umich.edu)

## Continuing Students

**Ankit Agarwal and Anuja Mandore**, both Masters in Industrial and Operations Engineering students, spent the summer in Jakarta on a U-M Tauber Institute internship project on the development and implementation of lean manufacturing strategies for porcelain tableware manufacturer PT Indo Keramik Inti Widya, directed by Mr. Terry Soetandar. Anuja says of their experience, "Exposure to a country, language and culture so intriguing and yet so misunderstood, was truly exciting. It also revealed the magnitude of the scope to apply educational concepts in this part of the world. We thoroughly enjoyed our experience."

[ankitagr@umich.edu](mailto:ankitagr@umich.edu), [noonie@umich.edu](mailto:noonie@umich.edu)

**Jan Bernabe**, PhD student in American Culture, was awarded a 2007 Rackham International Research Awards for study in the Philippines on the ways Philippine artists image death and bodies in visual art. This summer he also presented a paper on "Improbable Topographies: Marlon Fuentes' Face Fusion Series and the Visual Archives" at the Global Photographies: Histories, Theories, Practices Conference at the Institute of Art, Design & Technology in Dublin, Ireland. He is in the process of completing his dissertation "Improbable Visions: Filipino Bodies, U.S. Empire, and the Visual Archives," and is currently teaching as an instructor at the Cornish College of Arts in Seattle. [jbernabe@umich.edu](mailto:jbernabe@umich.edu)

**Daniel Birchok**, PhD student in Anthropology & History, received a Rackham

International Research Award and a Fulbright-Hays Dissertation Research grant to support his dissertation research on Islamic practice in Aceh, Indonesia, since Independence (1945). After spending the fall in Ann Arbor, and watching as much of his beloved Pittsburgh Steelers as much as possible, he has recently left for Banda Aceh, where he will be based for the rest of the academic year.

[dbirchok@umich.edu](mailto:dbirchok@umich.edu)

**Alex Cannon**, PhD student in Musicology, received a grant from the Center for World Performance Studies to spend two months conducting research in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, where he also took lessons on the *dan tranh* - a seventeen-stringed zither - with *dan tranh* master Nguyen Vinh Bao. He then went to Solo, Indonesia, where he took gamelan lessons in order to prepare to serve as the gamelan GSI during the 2007-2008 academic year. During the winter term, he will teach the ensemble and lead it during their Winter concert, which will take place on March 28, 2008 in Hill Auditorium. Alex gave two paper presentations at conferences during the Winter 2007 term, one at the University of Texas, Austin entitled "Sight and Sound: the Visual Imagination in Music," and the other at the Midwest meeting for the Society for Ethnomusicology, held at Indiana State University. [amcannon@umich.edu](mailto:amcannon@umich.edu)

**Andy Conroe**, PhD student in Anthropology and History, is currently living in New Haven, Connecticut and teaching in an adjunct position at Trinity College in Hartford and at Southern Connecticut State University, as he writes his dissertation on generational identity, activism, and political violence in postcolonial urban Java. He spent this past summer back in Jogjakarta, Central Java, conducting follow-up research with a grant from the Roger Dashow Fellowship Fund.

[aconroe@umich.edu](mailto:aconroe@umich.edu)

**Bretton Dimick**, PhD student in Musicology, was in Hanoi this summer studying Vietnamese language and music with funding from the Center for World Performance Studies. [bfdimick@umich.edu](mailto:bfdimick@umich.edu)

**Jennifer Epley**, PhD student in Political Science, presented her research on religion and political participation in contemporary Indonesia at the Midwest Political



Cebu, Philippines, 2006; Photo by Ryan Hoover

Science Association (MPSA) conference in April 2007 and the American Political Science Association (APSA) annual meeting in September in Chicago. She has also created a wiki-website called "Indopedia," and invites anyone with Indonesia-focused scholarship and knowledge to contribute more content to the site. Please see:

[http://editthis.info/indopedia/Main\\_Page](http://editthis.info/indopedia/Main_Page).

Jennifer is spending the academic year in Melbourne, Australia and will return state-side in August 2008. [jepley@umich.edu](mailto:jepley@umich.edu)

**Marco Garrido**, PhD student in Sociology, participated in the Advanced Filipino Abroad Program in the Philippines this summer. He won awards for Best Debater and Best Research Presentation in the program. Marco received a FLAS award to study Advanced Filipino this year. [garrido@umich.edu](mailto:garrido@umich.edu)

**Jumin Kim**, PhD student in Sociology, spent this past summer in Bangkok, studying how one low income community in the central part of the system participated in a housing development project coordinated by a hybrid NGO. Located in a central part of the city along a 7-mile canal, this community is noted as a "successful" model of the project, leveraging its membership in a community network with a strong leadership core as well as its symbiotic relationship with a progressive district office. [jumin@umich.edu](mailto:jumin@umich.edu)

**Amy Kimura**, PhD student in Musicology, spent the summer in Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia at the COTIM language program on a fellowship through Fulbright-Hayes. At COTIM, she presented a paper entitled "Perkembangan Wayang Modern: Melindungi atau Mematikan Tradisi?" ("The Development of Modern Wayang: Protecting or Killing Tradition?").

*continued on page 10*



# Student News

She also travelled to Java and to play in a wayang in Banyumas with last year's Javanese artists in residence, Mas Sigit Sabdo-prijono and Mbak Yulisa Mastati. Amy is studying Advanced Indonesian on a FLAS fellowship this year as she works on her dissertation. [akimura@umich.edu](mailto:akimura@umich.edu)

**Adeline Koh**, Ph.D. Candidate in Comparative Literature, received a Rackham International Research Award to spend the summer researching in various archives in the U.K. and in Singapore for her dissertation on the impact of British colonialism on Singaporean and Malaysian cultures. She will present a portion of her research at the 12th Biennial Conference on the Literatures and Cultures of the Asia Pacific Region, at the University of the Philippines. In the meantime Adeline will be moving to Singapore to begin a postdoc at the National University of Singapore in January. [amkoh@umich.edu](mailto:amkoh@umich.edu)

**Tim Leahy**, MA student in Southeast Asian Studies, spent 3.5 months in Hanoi this summer, studying Vietnamese privately with a professor from the University of Linguistics. He also received an International Institute Individual Fellowship for preliminary thesis research on food culture in Vietnam. This entailed participant observation and informal interviews with managers and owners of various eating establishments in Hanoi and living with a Vietnamese family for the summer, eating lunch at home daily and taking family vacations with them. He was also invited into people's households for meals at which he asked questions about food products and culinary techniques. Tim also had the rare opportunity to attend a "family feast" in honor of deceased relatives. [timpleahy@umich.edu](mailto:timpleahy@umich.edu)

**Min Li**, PhD student in Anthropology, visited two important shipwrecks in Indonesia dating to the 9th and 10th century during a spring research trip. He designed and taught a summer class on the archaeology of trade ceramics in early global trade, centered on Southeast Asia and the Guthe collection from the Museum of Anthropology. His paper on the metal cargo of the Cirebon shipwreck (10th century) will be published in the *Palace Museum Journal* (Beijing) later this year. [limz@umich.edu](mailto:limz@umich.edu)

**Piyarat Mullard**, PhD student in Architecture, presented her dissertation proposal in May, then returned to Thailand to collect data for her study in Bangkok. In August Piyarat was part of the organizing committee of a symposium on "Architecture, Art and Culture in Suvarnabhumi," jointly organized by the college of Architecture of King Mongkut Institute of Technology Ladkrabang (KMITL), Khon Kaen University, Naresuan University, Chiangmai University, and Silpakorn University. U-M professors Robert Marans and Gavin Shatkin, and alumna Bonnie Brereton participated in the conference as keynote speakers. [pnanata@umich.edu](mailto:pnanata@umich.edu)

**Andrew Shephard**, JD student, worked for the U.S. State Department in Tokyo and interned at the Bangkok offices of Chicago-based law firm Baker & McKenzie. He is in his third and final year of law school this fall. He hopes to go into Public Interest law upon graduation. [shepharda@umich.edu](mailto:shepharda@umich.edu)

**Megan Ryan**, MPH student, had an Internship at the United Nations Population Fund in Bangkok, Thailand this past summer, where she worked on reanalyzing the 2006 Thai National Reproductive Health Survey to assess factors determining duration of breastfeeding in ever-married Thai women. She also participated

in organizing the launch of World Population Day, attended a gender-maintreaming budget workshop, and helped to complete an internal survey monitoring data collection practices for the UNFPA. [memary@umich.edu](mailto:memary@umich.edu)

**Witchuda Srang-iam**, PhD student in Natural Resources and Environment, received the Southeast Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture Asia (SEARCA) PhD Research Scholarship which will allow her to carry out a 2-month internship and present a seminar on her research in the summer of 2008 at SEARCA, Philippines. [witchuda@umich.edu](mailto:witchuda@umich.edu)

**Kharis Templeman**, PhD student in Political Science, received a dissertation fellow grant equivalent to seven months of financial support from the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy located in Taipei, Taiwan for his comparative work on opposition party success and failure in dominant-party regimes in Taiwan, Japan, Mexico, and Malaysia. [kharist@umich.edu](mailto:kharist@umich.edu)

This summer three U-M graduate students traveled to Indonesia to work for WWF-Indonesia on sustainable finance issues. **Monique Tobia**, a 2007 SNRE graduate, conducted a field study on Payment for Environmental Services on the island of Lombok. **Gabriel Thoumi** worked on developing carbon markets through avoided deforestation pilot projects in Indonesia. His article about avoided deforestation was published in the Jakarta Post in late July. **Christopher Theriot** assisted the Corporate Engagement and Policy Unit of WWF, working on projects such as Indonesia's debt for nature opportunity with the US government and tapping global companies to support re-forestation projects in Indonesia's Sebangau National Park on the island of Borneo. In August, the Michigan team gave a joint presentation called "Zamrud Katulistiwa: Bringing Back the 'Emerald of the Equator' and Building a Sustainable Future for Indonesia." [m.tobia@gmail.com](mailto:m.tobia@gmail.com), [thoumi@umich.edu](mailto:thoumi@umich.edu), [ctheriot@umich.edu](mailto:ctheriot@umich.edu)

**Alice Yao**, PhD student in Anthropology, spent this past summer working in the collection of Batak texts from the Bartlett Collection at U-M, which represent one of the most comprehensive collections of ancient manuscripts from Sumatra. Alice made a complete inventory of the scrolls and bamboo sticks (on which the writing is inscribed) in the collection. To better understand the types and purposes of our Batak collection, she also examined H.H. Bartlett's diaries from 1918 (housed in the Bentley Library), which provided some clues into the provenance and functions of these manuscripts. She was able to determine the subject matter for some of these texts (haruspicy or chicken oracles, calendars, laments) and of their possible origins. [yaoa@umich.edu](mailto:yaoa@umich.edu)

**Mira Yusef**, MA student in Southeast Asian Studies and MSW student, continued her preliminary research this summer on migrant Muslim Filipino women in Sandakan, Sabah funded by NSEP David Boren Fellowship. She also visited and interviewed Filipino deportees in Zamboanga City, Mindanao, Philippines. Mira hopes to finish her Masters in Social Work by December 2007 and Masters in Southeast Asian Studies by May 2008. [myusef@umich.edu](mailto:myusef@umich.edu)

**Colleen Woods** is in her second year of the PhD program in History. She is no stranger to U-M, having earned her BA here in 2003. She has a FLAS for Filipino this academic year. [woods@umich.edu](mailto:woods@umich.edu)



# Alumni News

## Focus: Alumni in Malaysia and Thailand

Linda Lim and Pete Gosling met with numerous alumni and friends of the University in Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore this past July. Below are news of some, and photos of others.

**Rose Ismail and Khalid Mohammed** of Malaysia were both Michigan Journalism Fellows in the 1988-89 academic year. Khalid was then a news editor for *Utusan Melayu*, the leading Malay language newspaper in Malaysia and Rose lead writer for the *New Straits Times*, the lead-



*Khalid Mohammed and Rose Ismail*

ing English-language newspaper. Khalid's study project during his Fellowship year was race and the Middle East, while Rose studied women and Islam. Upon their return to Malaysia, Khalid became Chief News Editor, then Deputy Editor-in-Chief of his newspaper, succeeding to the Editor-in-Chief position in 1998 during the Asian financial crisis. Every year, he would visit the U.S. when then Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammed spoke at the United Nations General Assembly, and also accompanied Mahathir on his other international travels. Khalid remains the longest-serving Editor-in-Chief of *Utusan*, which has a subscriber base of 500,000, the largest in the country, and still writes a weekly political column. Rose became Features Editor, then Associate Editor, for the *New Straits Times*. She traveled widely in her job, including to Palestine, to South Africa when apartheid was lifted, and to the Middle East. She rose to become Deputy Group Editor before

leaving to set up her own two-year-old Salt Media Consultancy, which publishes books, reports and magazines, writes speeches and devises media strategies for companies and government agencies. Rose is also one of the founders of the NGO Sisters In Islam, who studied the Koran in their effort to create a space for women's rights within the religion. Sisters In Islam conducts research and advocacy activities.

[Rose.ismail@gmail.com](mailto:Rose.ismail@gmail.com)

**Amnuay Viravan** (U-M MBA 1954, MA Economics 1957, PhD 1958, Hon. Doctorate of Laws 1990) has had a long and distinguished career in business and public service in Thailand, including two terms as Deputy Prime Minister in the 1990s, two terms as Minister of Finance, one term as Minister of Foreign Affairs, and many positions in the Thai government as an economic policy maker. He has also served and continues to serve on the boards of many Thai and multinational corporations, and is the longtime Chairman of the Board of the Saha-Union Public Company. Dr. Amnuay is also an active leader in the Thai and international non-profit and academic communities, including serving as chair of the Siam University Council and of the Foundation for Research of Thailand, as past President of the American Universities Alumni Association, as a former Governor of the Asian Institute of Management and a member of the Visiting Committee of the U-M Business School since 1988. He has received many honors including royal decorations and honorary degrees. He remains active in retirement, enjoying sports-related travel and participating in NGO projects, and has fully recovered from heart bypass surgery in March this year.



*Linda Lim and Dr. Amnuay Viravan*

**Richard Bernhard** (CSEAS MA 1994) has been living for the past 12 years in Bangkok, where he is Associate Executive Director of the Kenan Institute Asia, a non-profit organization engaged in economic and social development work in Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. Most recently, Richard has been working on developing sustainable tourism after the tsunami in southern Thailand, delivering corporate social responsibility services and overseeing entrepreneurship development programs. Richard's wife Rie Atagi (U-M Ed.D. 1995) has been working as a consultant on education projects for international organizations. Their children Kira (8) and Kaden (6) are in school in Bangkok.

[richardb@kiasia.org](mailto:richardb@kiasia.org)



*Thailand Thai Studies Alumni at Chulalongkorn University  
L to R: Montatip Krishnamra, Trisilpa Boonkachorn (PhD Comp. Lit.), Kingkarn Thepkanjana (PhD Linguistics), Pornrat Damrhung, Linda Lim*

**Catherine Fortin** (PhD Linguistics 2007) defended her dissertation, "Indonesian Sluicing and Verb Phrase Ellipsis: Description and Minimalist Explanation" in June. She has moved to Northfield, Minnesota for a two-year post as Visiting Assistant Professor of Linguistics at Carleton College.

**Jenny Gaynor** is teaching at the State University of New York – Buffalo. This fall she is teaching upper-level undergrad courses on Folk Heroes and Historical Martyrs and Culture, and on Memory and the Uses of the Past. In the spring, she will teach Asian Civilizations (1500 – present, or 1800 – present, "my turn," she says), and a graduate course, Approaches to Maritime History. The Maritime History class should be especially fun, but she also thinks the Civilizations course will be more interesting since "I was just bequeathed a box of relevant slides and can find ways not to digitize them myself." [jlgaynor@buffalo.edu](mailto:jlgaynor@buffalo.edu)

**Beckah Gluckstein** (BA Theater and Southeast Asian Studies, 2007) is in Tuban, East Java, teaching at Universitas PGRI Ronggolawe (Unirow) for the year, or possibly two. Tuban is a small town, but Beckah is finding the people very welcoming and pleasant, and they have opened their houses and families to her, particularly during Lebaran. She recently returned from a wedding in Jakarta. "The family bestowed upon me the *kebaya* and *kain* they had lent me!" she writes. "I was quite shocked. The wedding was really interesting because it was traditional Javanese and Acehnese." Beckah encourages any U-M students interested in travelling to or working in Indonesia to contact her. [beckgluc@gmail.com](mailto:beckgluc@gmail.com)

**Kate Linebaugh** (BA History 1993) is a Knight-Wallace Journalism Fellow at U-M for 2007-08, studying "Asia's wealth gap: capital, consumption and rising inequality". After graduation, Kate, who studied Indonesian language at U-M, moved to Surabaya, East Java for a year-long Princeton-in-Asia internship at an NGO, after which she worked as a legal assistant in Jakarta before starting a career in journalism. In 1997, she joined Dow Jones Newswires and spent the next three years reporting on the fall of Suharto, the collapse of Indonesia's



Rosyati Ahmad (Ana), Tang-Kok Lee, Dr. Oai-Peng Chia (Visiting Scholar 1980s), Mohd Anis Mohd Nor (PhD 1990), Linda Lim, Olida, Abdul Hamid Abdullah (PhD 1979) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, July 2007

economy, and the independence of East Timor. In 2000, she moved to Hong Kong with Bloomberg to cover investment banking and capital markets. After Sept. 11, she reported on developments from Pakistan for four months, and Kabul, Afghanistan for one month. She joined *The Wall Street Journal* in Hong Kong in 2004 as the regional investment banking and deals reporter, covering Aceh after the 2004 tsunami, the rise of China in global capital markets, and the explosion of capital available to the region's economies. [kateline@umich.edu](mailto:kateline@umich.edu)

**Kate Jellema's** (PhD History and Anthropology, 2006) latest publication is one of a series of essays on "Living with the dead: the politics of ritual and remembrance in contemporary Vietnam" published in the *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* 38(3), 2007. The section also contains articles by Mike DiGregorio, Le Hong Ly, Shaun Malarney, Nguyen Thi Hien and Oscar Salemin. This is a beautiful collection of essays on the process and importance of ritual in Vietnam, from individual and family levels to community and state levels. [katej@marlboro.edu](mailto:katej@marlboro.edu)

**Carrie Morris**, received her MFA in Art in August 2007, and is currently carrying out research in Indonesia on a Fulbright fellowship. [emorr@umich.edu](mailto:emorr@umich.edu)

**Ronit Ricci** (PhD Comparative Literature 2007) is at Columbia University's Institute for Comparative Literature and Society

as a postdoctoral fellow during the fall, 2007 semester. In January she will move to Singapore with her family to be a postdoctoral fellow at the Asia Research Institute for 1-2 years. [rricci@umich.edu](mailto:rricci@umich.edu)

**Justin May** completed his PhD in Economics and is now an assistant professor at the College of William and Mary. [jbmay@wm.edu](mailto:jbmay@wm.edu)

**Laichen Sun** (PhD History, 2000) writes from California State University, Fullerton. "For two years I am going to the Asia Research Institute at National University of Singapore on a Visiting Fellowship. My main goal is to turn my dissertation "Ming-Southeast Asian Overland Interactions, c. 1368-1644" into print. In addition, I will be involved in several conferences and workshops and, hopefully, travel to Vietnam, Thailand, Burma and Yunnan. I consider my Michigan years crucial to my education and career, and would like to thank wholeheartedly all the people, including Vic Lieberman (and Sharon), John Whitmore, Susan Go (and John) and Tom Trautman, who helped and supported me and my family in one way or another. We all cherish our fond memories of Michigan. Having enjoyed too much sunshine and beach, my family and I miss more Michigan. Indeed, to quote my six-year-old son Michael who was born in Ann Arbor: 'I like Michigan because there is snow there!'" [lsun@fullerton.edu](mailto:lsun@fullerton.edu)



# Support Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Michigan

The University of Michigan Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) is a recognized world leader in the scholarly study of Southeast Asia. U-M faculty involvement in the region since the 1870s spurred development of leading University library and museum collections, and a parade of distinguished faculty such as Bill Gedney, Pete Becker and Russ Fifield trained generations of leading scholars on the area. Today U-M continues a tradition of distinguished faculty associates throughout the University, in the humanities, social sciences, and professional schools, and offers introductory to advanced language instruction in four major regional languages. Building on these established strengths, extending them to new areas, and expanding both faculty and student ranks on what is still a relatively under-studied though dynamic part of the world, requires constant investment. We invite you to help us in this mission by participating in the targeted opportunities described below.

## **Named Center Directorship**

Income from an endowed Center directorship will help assure the future of Southeast Asian Studies at the University, enabling us to maintain our national and international leadership in producing high-quality research, training academic and professional specialists, and contributing to much-needed public education on the region.

Goal: Named Center Directorship: \$2 million

## **Center Discretionary Fund**

Unrestricted gifts to this fund permit the Center to respond to new needs and opportunities as they arise, allowing a flexibility to offerings and initiatives that keeps programming current.

Goal: \$20,000 per year

## **Indonesian Studies Initiative**

Indonesian Studies has long been a particular strength at the University of Michigan. Funds donated to the Center's Indonesian Studies Initiative will support faculty and student research, and teaching and public programs on Indonesia at the University, including those presented by the Javanese Gamelan and Performing Arts program.

Goal: \$5000/year.

## **Philippine Studies Endowment**

Initiated by generous gifts from the Filipino community in Southeast Michigan, this endowment supports the continued study of the Philippines and Filipino languages and cultures at the University of Michigan. Income from the endowment will support faculty research, teaching and curricular development about the Philippines at the University, student opportunities for research and training, and outreach to schools, the community and business.

Goal: On-going support to build the endowment.

Endowment value as of October 2007: \$10,500.

## **Thai Studies Endowment**

Initiated with a \$100,000 gift from the Government of Thailand, this endowment serves to increase faculty, graduate and undergraduate student interest and involvement in Thailand and support Thai Studies at the Center and the University as a whole. Income from the endowment will support faculty research, teaching and curricular development about Thailand at the University, student opportunities for research and training, and outreach to schools, the community and business.

Goal: On-going support to build the endowment.

Endowment value as of October 2007: \$100,000.

## **Graduate Student Support**

Our graduates over the past 50 years have taught and founded programs of study in major universities across the United States and around the world. We continue to attract the very best young students interested in the region, and finding ways to adequately support their education is more critical now than ever before. We seek to fund:

*Named Scholarships for CSEAS MA and departmental PhD students* allow us to offer reliable support for students in a broad range of country and disciplinary fields, and to attract the very best students to Michigan.

Goal: up to five \$20,000 named scholarships per year.

Endowed Named Scholarships: \$400,000 each

*President Mary Sue Coleman has a 1:2 challenge* for gifts in support of scholarships for graduate and professional school students for a limited time, so your gift will automatically increase by 50%.

*An endowed fund for graduate student research* supports field study and internships in Southeast Asia and participation in professional conferences.

Goal: \$10,000 per year; or \$30,000 for a multi-year named pledge. Endowed Named Fund: \$200,000

## **Undergraduate Initiatives**

Michigan's superb undergraduates have few opportunities to "discover" Southeast Asia on their own. These funds provide incentives for undergraduates to avail themselves fully of our excellent faculty and library and language resources, setting these students on course for a life-long interest in the region.

We seek to fund:

*Undergraduate Experiential Fellowships in Southeast Asia*, allowing faculty to lead undergraduate research experiences in Southeast Asia, and undergraduate students to propose and carry out their own diverse field projects in Southeast Asia.

Goal: \$20,000 per year, or \$60,000 for a 3-year named Fellowship Fund. Endowed Named Fund: \$400,000.

*Undergraduate Language Scholarships* encourage undergraduates to choose one of our four language offerings from the nearly 70 languages taught at Michigan, provide incentives to continue beyond a second year, and support summer language study.

Goal: Twelve \$1000 scholarships annually, three for each language, or \$4000 each for named four-year scholarships. Endowed Named Scholarships: \$20,000 each.

Please contact Charley Sullivan at [rowcoach@umich.edu](mailto:rowcoach@umich.edu) or 734.764.4568 if you are interested in making a gift.

# Philippine Studies Endowment Donors

We would like to thank the following individuals, associations, businesses and trusts who made donations towards the establishment of the Philippine Studies Endowment. Your gifts assure that there will always be support for the study of the Philippines at the University of Michigan. *Maraming salamat po!*

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Photos of Ifugao 'Blessed Mother' and 'Joseph' stained glass renderings in Don Bosco Church, Lagawe, Ifugao, by Cynthia Marasigan. Background image of Timacdog farm in Lamut, Ifugao by Lesly Saucedo.



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