



The University of Michigan

Winter 2007

# Center for Southeast Asian Studies

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Photo by Ryan Hoover



# From CSEAS Director Professor Linda Lim



2007 is turning out to be a good year for the Center. The U.S. Department of Education reinstated our Title VI National Resource Center status and funding through August 2010, and Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs

gave us a gift of 3.5 million baht for Thai Studies, which we will use to establish an endowment to fund education, research and outreach activities on Thailand (additional contributions are needed). We thank you for your donations in response to our annual development letter, the bulk of which we have used to provide funding support to Center MA students.

Our focus in this Newsletter issue is on undergraduates, and the exciting developments in undergraduate programs and education about Southeast Asia (pp. 2-3.) This winter we inaugurated a new multi-disciplinary, team-taught undergraduate course on Contemporary Social Issues in Southeast Asia. Undergraduates who participated in our summer 2006 research abroad program visited the class to discuss

their experiences in the region. A one-credit summer extension will bring 10 of this year's 40 enrolled students to Thailand in June to study women's work and health. The undergraduate NGO Crossing Borders initiated in our Center has moved to the School of Public Health but we will continue to work with them as they bring undergraduate teams to Vietnam for public health work in the summers.

On the language front, we received a gift to encourage undergraduate language learning, and our Thai lecturer Montatip Krishnamra received a competitive award from the Office of International Programs to bring students enrolled in Thai language to Thailand in summers 2008 and 2009. We celebrate the achievements of our retiring Filipino and Vietnamese language lecturers, Deling Weller and Nguyen Thi Nga (p. 1), who have contributed so much to our students and our program, and are sorry to bid farewell also to our Indonesian lecturer Margaretha (Menuk) Sudarsih, who is moving on to the University of Colorado at Boulder. We look forward to welcoming their successors and two new Fulbright Language Teaching Assistants in the Fall.

Center programming continues to be rich and varied, and increasingly co-sponsored with numerous units throughout and outside the

University. This Winter semester, in addition to our ambitious Ramayana Across Asia series of events involving many sponsors, visiting faculty and students (p. 4-5), we hosted two overseas academics in the LS&A Citizenship-At-Risk lecture series, as well as internationally-acclaimed Singapore theater director Ong Keng Sen, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development Dr. Jomo Sundaram, U.S. Ambassador to Thailand Ralph (Skip) Boyce, and former UN Representative to Cambodia Dr. Benny Widyono (inside back cover). For the academic year as a whole, Center staff and faculty organized 55 public lectures/conference sessions/panels/ workshops/ performances, 9 private meetings, 15 student/outreach/ community events, and weekly language tables, a slight decline from the previous year due to staff cuts and the temporary loss of NRC funding in the Fall.

I hope you will enjoy reading here about our ever-active faculty, students and alumni, and also contribute news of yourself and others that we may include in future issues of this Newsletter. As always, we look forward to your participation, your suggestions, and your continued support!

With best wishes,  
Linda Lim, Director



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## Adelwisa (Deling) Agas Weller and Nguyen Thi Nga Retire



*The Southeast Asian Studies community at Michigan will look quite different in the fall, as long-time language instructors Deling Weller (Filipino) and Nga Nguyen (Vietnamese) have both announced their retirements from the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures. With twenty-five years of teaching between them, Deling and Nga have provided language instruction, cultural knowledge and research support to both graduate and undergraduate students. Both teachers are well-loved and respected by their students, and we are glad to share reflections of two of them here.*

### **Why Co Nga is better than Foucault**

By Michael Wachtel, MA '96 & MBA '98

Teaching one's native language to beginning students is a challenging endeavor. One must endure hours of gross mispronunciation, creative grammar, and fascinatingly dull conversation topics. I had the privilege of studying Vietnamese with Co Nga from 1994-1998 during which time I am sure I frequently butchered her language almost beyond recognition. Yet Co Nga greeted her students every day with enthusiasm, a sense of humor and a smile.

My four years of graduate study left me with two masters degrees and the ability to converse with bankers on portfolio management theory, to debate with historians the solar polity theory of the Classical Southeast Asian states, and to drop obscure Foucault references with relative ease at anthropologists' cocktail parties. Yet even with that reserve of knowledge spanning the gamut from practical and trivial to completely esoteric, the only reason I ever received any offers of employment was because I spoke Vietnamese. For this I owe Co Nga a great deal of gratitude and thanks.

Michigan loses a great ambassador for Vietnam but the impact Co Nga has made on the hundreds of students lucky enough to have studied with her will last a lifetime. On behalf of all Co Nga's students, before and since, I offer my heartfelt thanks for her years of enthusiasm and endless patience. I wish her many more years of health and happiness.



### **Ginang Weller, the Constant Gardener**

By Lesly (Burgamy) Saucedo, B.A. '01, & Cynthia Marasigan, PhD Candidate, History



Ginang Weller is a gardener, nurturing many beautiful plants. She knows her plants' scientific, English, Filipino and Ilocano names. She knows what each of her plants need – sunlight, shade, or both. She knows that some plants blossom just once, for a short period of time, while others blossom year after year. Ginang Weller gives each plant the kind of attention and care it needs to reach its potential – as she has been doing for her students for over 10 years.

In Ginang Weller's garden, our learning experience was enriched by the cultural experiences she introduced in our classroom – singing songs, cooking, translating books, interviewing family/community members, and much more. She fostered in us a sense of social responsibility, getting us involved in the Philippine American Community Center of Michigan, helping us establish the Philippine Study Group Student Association, getting us involved in taking students to the Philippines through GIEU, and more. She'd often ask us what we thought about a particular issue, then say "That's a good idea, why don't you do something about it?"

In her career at U-M, Ginang Weller has been a constant gardener. And while her students have thrived under her attention, it is time for her to tend other fields. Now you'll see her tending the field of Philippine Studies, as she continues to advocate for more faculty who specialize in the Philippines, for increased usage of the valuable Philippine collections at U of M, and for contributions to the Philippine Studies Initiative fund at the CSEAS.

Ginang Weller, sana'y mamulaklak at sumibol ang mga binhing ipinunla mo para sa Philippine Studies sa U-M.

### **Award-winning Outreach Effort**

CSEAS led a collaborative outreach effort, sponsored by the Detroit Free Press and Ford Motor Company, to produce a 24-page supplement/resource material called *Asia Today: Many Faces, Many Places*. The supplement targets grades 7-12 and explores the past achievements of China, India, Japan, Korea, Philippines, and Vietnam and the international role they will play in the future. As the world moves ahead in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Asian nations are carving out new roles of significance in international affairs. The outreach program includes a 4-page insert on Asian Americans of Achievement, a 12-page teacher guide, a classroom poster, and additional online resource materials.

Since September 2006, the outreach effort has touched over 12,000 students across Michigan, and was ordered by approximately 250 teachers this academic year. The supplement won second place in the "Newspaper in Education" category for newspapers with over 100,000 circulation at the annual conference of the Central States Circulation Managers Association in Indianapolis. It is also a finalist in the EdPress (Association of Educational Publishers) competition and will be entered in the Newspaper Association of America Foundation competition next year.

# Undergraduate Southeast Asian Studies at U-M

## New Southeast Asia course engages U-M undergraduates



*caption forthcoming*

At the crossroads between China and India, Southeast Asia is at the forefront and center of a host of global issues, including ethnic and religious diversity; human rights conflict; democratization and terrorism; infectious disease; rapid economic development and its environmental consequences; and of course globalization. These "hot button" issues were at the heart of a new course offered in winter 2007 by the Center.

"Contemporary Social Issues in Southeast Asia" (SEAS 215) taps into the University's strong faculty resources on Southeast Asia. In its first iteration, the course brought together ten full faculty members from a variety of LSA departments and professional schools for a coordinated series of lectures and classes designed to introduce lower-level undergraduates to Southeast Asia. Many were our core faculty Southeast Asia specialists, including Allen Hicken, Webb Keane, Linda Lim, Nick Rine, Gavin Shatkin and Fred Wherry, while others, including Arun Agrawal (Natural Resources and Environment) Sioban Harlow and Rachel Snow (Public Health), and Ashutosh Varshney (Political Science) are specialists in other regions who are beginning to do research on Southeast Asia.

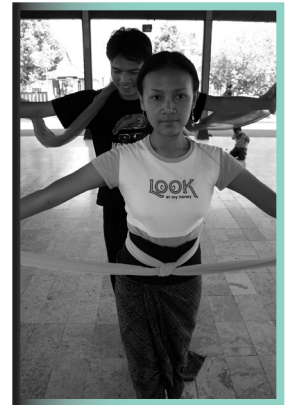
The course was strongly successful with undergraduates, who filled all of the forty offered spaces. Jessica Tate, a freshman from Fargo, North Dakota who is also studying first-year Thai, was excited about what this new course had to offer. "I particularly enjoyed the guest lecturers and the questions being raised in the class. It's made the region interesting to me, and the topics raised really got people talking in the room." Brian Bae, a senior and recent graduate in Business Administration from Livingston, New Jersey said "I'm really glad that I took this class, for I did gain a lot of insight and background knowledge on Southeast Asia that makes me all the more eager to travel there someday. It has been an educational, yet incredible journey this semester."

Aside from group design of the course by faculty, an innovative approach to linking the course together was the development of a "Sounding Board" of twelve undergraduates at Southeast Asian universities in Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. These students were able to participate from afar by signing into the course's CTools website and sharing their thoughts with the Michigan undergraduates in the course through email, bulletin boards and chat rooms, though in the end, instant messaging proved to provide some of the most fruitful exchanges (thank you, Yahoo!). Their participation provided a Southeast Asian voice as the course moved from topic to topic and from discipline to discipline. This access to local insight as well as cross-cultural exchange allowed students to learn about Southeast Asia in a unique way that is not limited to traditional classroom methods, and allowed them to ask questions about topics not covered directly in the course.

SEAS 215 was developed not only to help spur undergraduate interest in Southeast Asian studies at Michigan, but also in response to President Coleman's Multi-Disciplinary Learning and Team-Teaching Initiative (MLTT), which provides resources to attract research faculty to teach undergraduates in interdisciplinary courses. "The course really helps meet a number of University and Center priorities," says

Linda Lim. "It allows colleagues from various disciplines to work together in introducing our specific area and professional knowledge to undergraduates, whom some of us otherwise never teach. We hope this will encourage students to explore other Southeast Asia area, language and relevant disciplinary courses."

As an extension of the course, ten students in the course will travel to Thailand with instructor Charley Sullivan for two weeks at the end of June. They will spend time in Bangkok and Chiang Mai, looking at the lives of Thai women of a variety of ages, professions and social status, and in particular, examining issues of women's health and women's work. The Center's contacts with U-M alumni in Thailand will offer particularly rich connections for visits. During their time in Thailand, the students will interview and photograph ten Thai women, and will create an exhibition of photos and text about Thai Women's Lives upon their return to Ann Arbor. This extension course has been generously funded by the International Institute Undergraduate Experiential Learning Fund, the Multi-Disciplinary Learning and Team Teaching Initiative, the Global Health Research and Training Project, the Gerald and Louise Winfield Memorial Trust, and with some of the funds for undergraduate initiatives received from our generous Center donors (please see the list on p. 14).



*caption forthcoming*

## U-M Undergrads Studying Southeast Asia

*Four students enrolled in U-M Office of International Program's CIEE Study-Aboard program at Khon Kaen University, Thailand in Winter 2007. They are Christopher Dadok, Loang Leuthvilay, Ruth McNeille and Erin Schlitts.*

**Matthew Cooper** studied at the **National University of Singapore** in Winter 2007. He reports, "Studying abroad in Singapore has been a more exciting experience than I had ever thought before arriving here. Singapore itself contains a diverse mix of people, cultures, and activities, has a great urban environment for a college student, no language barrier, and many of the comforts of home. It is an easily accessible (and inexpensive) gateway to all of Southeast Asia. Traveling to and exploring countries like Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam on weekends and breaks is something I won't ever forget. I can't think of a better opportunity to experience so much in just four months."

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Nine undergraduates will be volunteering in Phu Tho, Viet Nam, this summer with the Crossing Borders student NGO, which has relocated from CSEAS to the School of Public Health. **Greg Cohen, Adam Herman Martin, Andrea Horton, Joseph Michael Martin, Suzanne Ogawa, Nithya Maria Joseph** and **Jennifer Lixey** will be part of the "Food Choices" team living in Dieu Luong Commune. **Joe Xinyue Xie** and

*continued on page 3*



# Undergraduate Southeast Asian Studies at U-M

continued from page 2

**Blake Movitz** will be part of a team studying weaning from breast feeding, living in Van Khuc Commune. All these students participated in a non-credit Winter term course on Vietnamese language, history, politics and culture to prepare for their summer work. The course was designed and arranged by **David Duong**, co-founder of Crossing Borders, who completed the undergraduate portion of a joint BA/MPH program this semester, and featured guest lectures by CSEAS faculty.

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

**Rebecca Gluckstein** is graduating with a BFA in Acting and a BA in Asian Languages and Cultures with a concentration in Southeast Asia. She has been accepted into the COTIM Advanced Indonesian program in Manado this summer, but will forgo it to accept a two-year position with Volunteers in Asia, teaching English in Indonesia. Becca's interest in Indonesia began when she started studying Javanese dance, first with Wasi Bantolo, and then with Yulisa Mastati. She has performed in the last three gamelan/dance/puppetry shows.

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

**Ye-Jin (Christina) Kim** received an International Institute individual fellowship to Malaysia. Christina will serve an internship with Tenaganita, a Kuala Lumpur-based NGO that works on women's labor issues, particularly among foreign workers in Malaysia.

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

**John Leahy** won first prize in the undergraduate section of the U-M Library's student book collection competition, for his collection of first-person narratives of American involvement in Vietnam during and after the Vietnam War. The published works were interpreted through the experiences in Vietnam of John's father in 1967-68, and of John himself in summers 2004 and 2005, when he received a CSEAS travel grant to Vietnam to work on healthcare issues with two NGOs, East meets West, and Project Vietnam. John, who graduates this semester, studied Vietnamese language at Michigan for two years, and hopes to spend some time in Vietnam working on healthcare issues and language while applying to medical school.

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

**Diana Parker** is graduating with a Southeast Asian Studies major from the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, where she studied Indonesian language to the advanced level. She received a CSEAS Summer Fellowship in 2006, which she used to look at

## Southeast Asian Students at U-M



SEA Night Food court

Southeast Asian student groups are alive and well at U-M, and they provide more than just a place for students from Southeast Asia to hang out with folks from home. Both as individual groups, and combined into the Southeast Asian Network (SEA-Net), these groups host a number of public events each year that help expose the university community to Southeast Asia.

Foremost among these is Southeast Asia Night, which, now in its third year, has become a favorite student activity on the Ann Arbor campus. Arranged this spring around the theme of festivals, the 2007 SEA Night attracted over 2000 people to an evening of food, informational displays and cultural performances from Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. In the fall, PERMIAS hosted an Indonesian Cultural Night at the International Institute, which included superb Indonesian food, a gamelan and dance performance, the Thai Students Association offered their annual Loy Kratong celebration with Thai food and *kratong* making, and the Vietnamese American Students held their very popular *pho* night. In January, the Thai Student Association put on an evening of Thai food (yes, there is a common theme here) and theater, with a

labor unions and foreign workers in Malaysia, before attending Advanced Indonesian abroad at COTIM in Manado. Diana hopes to find a teaching job in Indonesia, but has also been offered a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship in Hong Kong.

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

**Abigail Smith's** Senior Honors Thesis in Political Science, "Trade and Identity: A Comparative Analysis of Thailand's Free Trade Agreements with Australia, China, Japan, and the United States" was awarded the Victoria

hilariously funny and very well acted performance of Sang Tong (The Golden Prince of the Conch Shell), a popular folk tale brought into the 21<sup>st</sup> century through amazing use of projected graphics, and battle scenes in black-light, but still giving a nod to Thai theater with somewhat sappy love songs. In March, the Filipino American Student Association held a 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary alumni reunion weekend, which included a day of workshops and, yes, a dinner.

The SEA-Net students also partnered with CSEAS to help educate Michigan high school students about their home countries by taking part in World Language Week at Hartland High School. Twenty SEA-Net members visited students in their foreign language classes, talking about their own high schools in Southeast Asia as a way of helping expose the Michigan students to life on the other side of the world.

### U-M Southeast Asian Undergrads Online:

**Filipino American Student Association:**  
[www.umich.edu/~fasa/](http://www.umich.edu/~fasa/)

**Malaysian Student Association:**  
[www.umich.edu/~umimsa](http://www.umich.edu/~umimsa)

**PERMIAS (Indonesian Students Association):**  
[www.permiasmichigan.com](http://www.permiasmichigan.com)

**Singapore Student Association:**  
[www.portal.umssa.org](http://www.portal.umssa.org)

**Thai Students Association:**  
[www.umich.edu/~thailand](http://www.umich.edu/~thailand)

**Vietnamese Students Association:**  
[www.umich.edu/~vsawww/](http://www.umich.edu/~vsawww/)

Voss Memorial Scholarship award for the best undergraduate thesis written by a woman. Abby was also the only student to receive Highest Honors for her work in Political Science this year. She carried out her research for the thesis in Thailand last summer as the recipient of one of CSEAS' Undergraduate Summer Fellowships, attended the OIP study abroad program at Khon Kaen University and studied Thai language at U-M. Her thesis work was directed by Allen Hicken.

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

# Faculty News

**Christi-Anne Castro**, Assistant Professor of Ethnomusicology received an honorable mention for the Woodrow Wilson Career Enhancement Fellowship.

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

**Deirdre de la Cruz** has accepted a joint ALC-History position in Philippine History and Culture. She will join us in the tenure-track position in September 2009 at the close of her fellowship at the Michigan Society of Fellows.

**Jennifer L. Gaynor**, Visiting Assistant Professor of History, announces that she is a contributor to Jerry H. Bentley, Renate Bridenthal, Karen Wigen, ed., *Seascapes: Maritime Histories, Littoral Cultures, and Transoceanic Exchanges* (University of Hawaii Press, 2007). [jgaynor@umich.edu](mailto:jgaynor@umich.edu)

**Allen Hicken**, Assistant Professor of Political Science, announces that his book *Building Party Systems in Developing Democracies* is forthcoming from Cambridge University Press. Allen also has a number of journal articles and book chapters recently published and in press, three of which are: "How do rules and institutions encourage vote buying?" and "How effective are institutional reforms?" in Frederic C. Schaffer, ed., *Elections for Sale: The Causes, Consequences, and Reform of Vote Buying*, Lynne Rienner 2007 and "Stuck in the mud: parties and party systems in democratic Southeast Asia," *Taiwan Journal of Democracy*. (December 2006). He presented "The Politics of Economic Recovery in Thailand and the Philippines" at the authors' workshop for *East Asia Ten Years After the Crisis*, at the University of California, Berkeley (November 2006), and "Political Party Regulation and Party Development in Southeast Asia" at the authors' workshop for *Political Party Development in Conflict Prone Societies*, at The Clingendael Institute, The Hague, Netherlands (October 2006). He received the Pierce Scholar Award (with Megan Reif), for "Vote Buying and Vote Compelling: Electoral Institutions and the Interaction of Violent and Non-violent Electoral Manipulation", and the Undergraduate Teaching Excellence award at U-M. [ahicken@umich.edu](mailto:ahicken@umich.edu)

**Stuart Kirsch**, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, will be on sabbatical for the 2007-2008, following up on his earlier fieldwork in Papua. [skirsch@umich.edu](mailto:skirsch@umich.edu)

**Paul Kramer**, Visiting Associate Professor of American Culture, received an American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Fellowship for the 2007-2008 academic year; and has accepted a tenured associate professor position at the University of Iowa for the following academic year. His book, *The Blood of Government: Race, Empire, the United States, and the Philippines* (The University of North Carolina Press, 2006) book has won two prizes, the Stuart L. Bernath Book Prize from the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAHR) for the best book on the history of American foreign relations; and the James A. Rawley Prize from the Organization of American Historians (OAH) for the best book on race relations in US history.

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

**Joseph S.C. Lam**, Professor of Musicology, spent a month in April-May at the Department of Chinese, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore, as a Visiting Scholar, a program which brings senior scholars to Singapore to promote international scholarly exchange.

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

**Gavin Shatkin**, Assistant Professor of Urban Planning, announces that his book *Collective Action and Urban Poverty Alleviation: Community Organizations and the Struggle for Shelter in Manila*, was published by Ashgate Press in March 2007. Two journal articles in press are: "Global Cities of the South: Perspectives on Growth and Inequality," *Cities* (2007) and "The City and the Bottom Line: Urban Megaprojects and the Privatization of Planning in Southeast Asia," *Environment and Planning* (2008, in press), which he presented at the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Annual Meeting in Fort Worth, Texas (November 2006). Gavin also presented "Global Cities of the South: Emerging Perspectives on Growth and Inequality," at the World Planning Schools Congress, Mexico City (July 2006), and "The Privatization of Urban and Regional Planning in Southeast Asia" at the International Planning History Society Conference in Delhi, India (December 2006).

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

**Carla Sinopoli**, Professor of Anthropology, Director of the Museum of Anthropology, and Southeast Asia Curator, presented a paper on "Asian trade ceramics in North America: Archaeological collections at the University

of Michigan Museum of Anthropology" at the Conference on Chinese Export Trade Ceramics in Southeast Asia, sponsored by the Asia Research Institute of the National University of Singapore, in Singapore in March 2007.

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

**Magaretha (Menuk) Sudarsih**, Lecturer in Indonesian, has accepted a position at University of Colorado-Boulder to develop a new Indonesian language program. We are sorry to see her go, but look forward to keeping in touch. [sudarsih@umich.edu](mailto:sudarsih@umich.edu)

**Dr. Lois M. Verbrugge**, Institute of Gerontology, has received an Institutional Linkage Award from the Center for International Rehabilitation Research Information and Exchange (CIRRIE), for collaborative research on disability among older persons, between the Institutes of Gerontology at UM and at Universiti Putra Malaysia, whose Director Dr. Tengku Aizan Tengku Abdul Hamid will visit U-M in July 2007 to present seminars and take survey research courses, while Dr. Verbrugge will visit Malaysia in Fall 2007. [verbrugg@umich.edu](mailto:verbrugg@umich.edu)

**Frederick Wherry**, Assistant Professor of Sociology, announces that his book, *Global Markets and Local Crafts: Thailand and Costa Rica Compared* is forthcoming from Johns Hopkins University Press. Fred has also published "The Export of Cultural Commodities as Impression Management: The Case of Thailand," in Ulrike Schuerkens, ed., *Globalization and Transformations of Local Socio-Economic Practices* (Routledge 2007), and "The Play of Authenticity in Thai Handicraft Markets," in Daniel Thomas Cook, ed., *The Lived Experiences of Public Consumption* (Palgrave-Macmillan 2007). He spoke at the Spring 2007 Conference of the Yale Center for Cultural Sociology, and is scheduled to present papers this summer at the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (Copenhagen), the American Sociological Association (New York), the Consumption Studies Research Network (New York), and the Social Science History Association. Fred has received faculty research grants from Rackham and from the Center for International Business Education to continue his research on the handicraft industry and small-and-medium enterprises in Thailand. [ffwherry@umich.edu](mailto:ffwherry@umich.edu)



# U-M Programs and Faculty Activities in Thailand

Our Fall 2006 issue highlighted some of our faculty and graduate students working on Thailand, whose latest news may be found in the Faculty and Student News sections below. Here we profile additional faculty-led activities and programs on Thailand.

## College of Engineering

The Chemical Engineering department has a long-standing program (since 1993) with the Petroleum and Petrochemical Technology College of Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. The partnership involves U-M faculty teaching courses at Chula and supervising the research of Thai MS and PhD students, who also come to Michigan for a semester or a year. Participating faculty are Chemical Engineering professors **Bryce Carnahan**, **Scott Fogler**, **Erdogan Gulari**, **Ron Larson**, **Johannes Schwank**, **Jim Wilkes**, and **Ralph Yang**, and Materials Science and Engineering professors **Richard Laine** and **David Martin**. [gulari@umich.edu](mailto:gulari@umich.edu)

## School of Nursing

For over seven years, the School of Nursing has run a "sandwich" program in which PhD students from Thailand and other countries spend a year at Michigan after completing their course-work in their home countries. The program allows them to develop their dissertation proposals under the mentorship of U-M faculty members, who are invited to serve on their dissertation committees at their home institutions. Prof. **Shake Ketefian**, Director of International Affairs at the School, is responsible for the program, selecting 6 to 8 Thai students a year, matching them with UM faculty based on mutual research interests, and monitoring their progress. U-M faculty and students also visit Thailand and these other countries to experience education,



research and health care provision and environments, and to engage in collaborative research. [ketefian@umich.edu](mailto:ketefian@umich.edu),

## School of Public Health

**Dr. Kathleen Ford**, Research Scientist, Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, was Visiting Professor at the Institute for Population and Social Research at Mahidol University in Bangkok, Thailand, from 2005 to 2006. Her visit has produced the following papers: "Mortality and Household Income" (with P. Rukumnuaykit and C. Kanchanachitra), published in *Mortality in Thailand* from IPSR; "Sexual Partners and Condom Use of Migrant Workers in Thailand" (with A. Chamrathirong), presented at the International Conference on AIDS, in Toronto in August 2006, and forthcoming in the volume *AIDS and Behavior*; and "The Impact of Migration and Remittances on Household Wealth in Thailand" (with A. Jampaklay and A. Chamrathirong), presented at the March 2007 meetings of the Population Association of America. Kathy's many previous publications include several on AIDS and AIDS prevention among sex workers and drug users in Bali, Indonesia. [kford@umich.edu](mailto:kford@umich.edu)

## Institute of Social Research

The University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce in Bangkok's membership of ISR's Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) will allow scholars at their University access to all the data resources at ICPSR. They hope eventually to extend their membership to additional universities in Thailand. On April 9-10, a high-level team from the University visited ISR to discuss archiving and processing social science quantitative data files as they are now working with government statistical agencies in Thailand to produce public-use files for their research community. They met with Peter Granda, archivist at ICPSR. [peterg@umich.edu](mailto:peterg@umich.edu)



## In Memoriam

We are also sad to report the passing of two prominent scholars of Thailand with Michigan connections.

**Betty Gosling**, U-M PhD in Art History 1983, passed away in February 2007 in Ann Arbor. A leading scholar of Thai art and the author of two ground-breaking books and numerous articles, Betty for many years contributed to a lively discussion on the history of Sukhothai art and architecture. Her final work, *Origins of Thai Art* (2004) carefully examines the cultural contexts in which Thailand's art evolved. Betty will be remembered not only for her academic contributions but also for her warmth and graciousness.

**David Wyatt**, who taught Southeast Asian history at Michigan from 1968-69, and at Cornell (where he obtained his PhD) from 1969-2002, passed away in Ithaca, NY, in November 2006. A major scholar on modern and pre-modern Thai history and civilization, David served as Director of the Southeast Asia Program and Chair of the History Department at Cornell, and as President of the Association for Asian Studies (1993-94). His book *Thailand, A Short History* (1984, 2003) set the standard for the study of Thailand and the Tai lands beyond its present borders, and was accompanied by many other writings, including *Studies in Thai History: Collected articles* (1994), *Chiang Mai Chronicle* (1995), *Siam in Mind* (2002), and *Books, Manuscripts and Secrets* (forthcoming 2007). David was also a leading supporter of Southeast Asia libraries, helping the Michigan library devise the Thai transliteration system now used by the Library of Congress, and serving as interim curator of the Echols collection at Cornell; in 2005 Ohio University acquired his collection of 15,000 volumes on Southeast Asia.

Photos by Ryan Hoover



caption forthcoming

By Linda Lim

A four-part series of Winter 2007 events organized by the Center for Southeast Asian Studies with the Center for South Asian Studies broke new ground in utilizing collaborations across geographies, cultures, disciplines, performing arts forms and physical spaces to explore and celebrate the Ramayana, a foundational epic tale in many countries of our two regions.

The series began with a **Symposium on the Ramayana in Performance Across Asia** on March 28 at the International Institute, which was attended by about 70 people. Netherlands Visiting Professor Bernard Arps, who chairs Javanese linguistics and literature at Leiden University, discussed three textualizations of the Ramayana in Java: a Sanskrit poem in Old Javanese dating from 900 AD, a late 18<sup>th</sup> century adaptation sung in modern Javanese, and a commercial audio-cassette (which he played) recording the singing of twenty (of several thousand) stanzas, from Bali in the 1970s.

Dr. Mandakranta Bose from the University of British Columbia, specialist on Sanskrit dance in India and editor of a recent book on *The Ramayana Revisited*, showed recent vegetable-dye folk paintings from West Bengal, and video-clips of Ramayana dance-dramas in Bengal and Kerala, to illustrate the dominant representation of Rama

as a "calm, unshakeable" figure of kingly authority, serenity, honor and control, upholder of *dharma*, state power, and gender identities and roles.

Pornrat Damrhung, professor and former chair of Dramatic Arts at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand, and CSEAS' Center for World Performance



caption forthcoming

Studies and Women's Studies Visitor for Winter 2007, focused on the Ramayana's importance to the individual artist and the artist's need to "break through the form to communicate with the audience", given the Ramakien's role in legitimating king and state in Thailand, and its association with the very identity of the country. She showed a video-clip of a female dancer in traditional costume performing a typically-constrained court dance in parallel with a male dancer in blue jeans whose liberating contemporary dance movements played out "what is inside" the "ideal woman".

The panel discussion which followed was moderated by Stephen Rush, professor of jazz music and dance at the UM School of Music, Theater and Dance. Speakers noted that the Ramayana's mass popularity endures because it is both an "action-packed narrative" attractive as entertainment, and also purveys ethical moral values. But they also noted that these values can be contentious, particularly in the context both of Asian diasporas and of cultural globalization.

On April 3, a **Lecture/Demonstration on Sita/Sinta/Seeda: the Ramayana in Women's Bodies** took place in a dance studio in UM's new Walgreen Drama Center. Performing artists Pornrat Damrhung, Yulisa Mastati and Sreyashi Dey showed how the role of a female heroine like Sita is embodied by female performers in court dance in Thailand and Java, and in the Odissi dance tradition of India, respectively.

The discussion which followed was moderated by Susan Walton, Director of our Javanese gamelan and faculty member in the Residential College and the School of Music, Theater and Dance. It highlighted the similarities between the controlled, subtle Thai and Javanese expositions and their contrast with the lively Odissi style, but also noted that all three forms owed much to female temple statuary. Many of the 30-plus audience were Dance students who enthusiastically participated in a short master class on Javanese dance taught by Yulisa.

On Easter Sunday, April 8, an audience of over 1,500 gathered in Hill Auditorium for **Sinta Ablaze, a multi-media performance of the UM Javanese gamelan**, led by visiting Indonesian artists at the School of Music, Theater and Dance, Sigit Soegito and Yulisa Mastati, Gamelan Director Susan Walton, and sixty gamelan musicians, narrators, shadow puppeteers and Javanese dancers performing a *wayang sandosa* version of the Ramayana. Sigit's original script was translated into English by Prof. Nancy Florida and Center MA graduate Shawn Callanan.

Among the principal dancers, CSEAS Program Coordinator Charley Sullivan played the large and fearsome demon Rawana, Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant Rorik Wahyudhanti was perfect as the elegant Rama, Musicology PhD student Alyson Jones was equally





*caption forthcoming*

puppets projected on to a huge white screen, accompanied by vivid and often humorous dialogue.

April 13 and 14 saw the culmination of the series on campus with **Chasing A Tale: Ramayana Performances from India and Thailand**, held in the Digital Media Commons of the Duderstadt Center. The 100-seat theater was full for both double performances. In **Sri Rama Smaranam**, professional dancer and Ann Arbor resident Sreyashi Dey and her troupe (including her talented 13-year-old twin daughters) performed three dances in Odissi style, giving homage to Rama and vividly telling the story of the Ramayana through their body movements, facial expressions and hand gestures.

In **Seeda, Tell Our Stories**, Pornrat Damrhung's Women Studies and Theater students performed a contemporary English-language theater piece directed by Pornrat, and based on a piece she had previously performed in Thailand, but with the Ann Arbor script modified and largely produced by the students themselves. The performance delved into, challenged, overturned and acquiesced to the stereotypical concepts of a "perfect woman" (Sita), "perfect man/husband/ruler" (Rama), and "perfect life" in a universalistic social context, while incorporating traditional Thai music, dance movements, costuming, text and artistic sensibility, as well as photo and text projections on the sexual exploitation of women and children in Thailand and its neighboring countries, and on the loss of mothers' children in war.

Together with **Sinta Ablaze**, the performances showed the transformative impact of an ancient narrative shared and continually remade by different peoples in different places, times and cultures, enabling us to understand why the Ramayana has been cherished by cumulatively billions of people and over thousands of years, and is still a living tradition that speaks to contemporary women's (and men's) lives even in today's young America, both in theme and practice.

Michigan schoolchildren were included in the semester theme through school outreach visits by Sigit, Yulisa, and Charley, who took a short version of the Ramayana in both puppetry and dance to elementary and middle schools in Ann Arbor, Northville and Bath, Michigan. The presentations were scaled for appropriate ages, with the elementary school show called "The Missing Princess" while the middle school version was

perfect as Sita, while Yulisa Mastati shone as the mythical bird Jatayu. Advanced Javanese dancers played Hanuman's monkeys while dancers from the beginning class performed a folk dance in celebration of Sita's recovery and return (before calling on Rama to burn her). Other characters and action were undertaken by large shadow

more ominously titled "Sinta's Abduction." Their six performances for five schools reached over 1,500 students and were exceptionally well received. The students' favorite puppet was that of "Sponge Bob Square Pants" who made a guest appearance while Rama searched for Sinta by the seashore.

Thanks are due to CSEAS and CSAS Program Coordinators Charley Sullivan and Rohit Setty, who took the initiative to design, plan and execute the series, as well as to marshal the large amounts of human and financial resources required to pull it off. Behind the scenes, the class-based performances could not have taken place without the support and volunteer participation of the local Indonesian and Thai town and student communities, linking Ann Arbor's South and Southeast Asian communities not only with each other, but also with our U-M programs on these areas.

Besides CSAS and CSEAS, the series was sponsored by: Arts on Earth, the Department of Asian Languages & Cultures, the Center for World Performance Studies, the Institute for the Humanities, the Institute for Research on Women & Gender, the Office of the Vice-Provost for Academic Affairs, the Residential College, the College of Literature, Science & the Arts, the School of Music, Theater & Dance, the Stearns Collection of Musical Instruments, and the Women's Studies Program.



*caption forthcoming*



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# Graduate Student News

**Daniel Birchok**, MA in SEAS 2004, will begin dissertation fieldwork for his PhD in Anthropology and History, in the Indonesian province of Nangroe Aceh Darusalam in Fall 2007. Dan's research focuses on how those making and opposing claims made by Indonesian Muslims about proper Islamic beliefs and practices link them to specific times and places through historical narration. He has been awarded the Rackham International Research Award to carry out his dissertation field research in Aceh from October 2007 to November 2008. [dbirchok@umich.edu](mailto:dbirchok@umich.edu)

**Elisa Collins**, MA in Education (Science Education) and MS in Natural Resources and Environment (Conservation Biology) dual degree student, received an International Institute individual fellowship to conduct field research in Mindanao, Philippines on the effects of a soil conservation program on biodiversity by sampling arthropods. [buglady@umich.edu](mailto:buglady@umich.edu)

**Andrew Conroe**, PhD student in Anthropology and History and MA in SEAS (2001), presented a paper entitled, "Disinherited Generations: Encountering Familial and National Histories of Violence in Post-New Order Indonesia" at the Southeast Asian Studies Graduate Student Conference at Cornell University in March of 2007. He will spend the summer in Yogyakarta, Central Java, conducting follow-up research for his dissertation on generational identity in Indonesia. [aconroe@umich.edu](mailto:aconroe@umich.edu)

**Jessica Craft**, MA student in Southeast Asian Studies (SEAS), will spend the summer studying Malay at ATMA, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, and exploring options for her thesis on trade and the history of the Indian community in Malaysia. [craftj@umich.edu](mailto:craftj@umich.edu)

**David Duong**, Masters in Public Health student, will be volunteering this summer with other Crossing Borders students in Dieu Luong Commune, Phu Tho, Viet Nam. [duong@umich.edu](mailto:duong@umich.edu)

**Marco Garrido**, PhD student in Sociology, will be studying at the Advanced Filipino Abroad Program at the De La Salle University in the Philippines this summer. He will also be doing an internship at the Institute for Popular Democracy. [garrido@umich.edu](mailto:garrido@umich.edu)

**Mya Gosling**, MA in SEAS 2005, is completing her Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies with a three-month internship this summer in Bangkok at the Somdetphraphanwassa

royal museum. Mya won third prize in the graduate section of the U-M Library's student book collection competition for her collection of books on the Thai Ramakien (Ramayana). [mgosling@umich.edu](mailto:mgosling@umich.edu)

**Stuart Gross**, JD 2004 and MA student in SEAS, worked as a litigation associate for Shearman & Sterling LLP in New York City for the past year and a half. He wrote a lengthy review of Sebastiaan Pompe's *The Indonesian Supreme Court: A Study of Institutional Collapse*, which will be published in the American Journal of Comparative Law this summer (2006), and coauthored a piece with Oxford University professor, Christopher McCrudden, titled "WTO Government Procurement Rules and the Local Dynamics of Procurement Policies: A Malaysian Case Study," which will be published by the *European Journal of International Law* this spring (2006). In May 2006, Stuart left Shearman for a one year clerkship in the chambers of Hon. Samuel Conti in the Northern District of California (Federal District Court).

**Brendan Kavaney**, MBA/MA in SEAS 2007, is completing his thesis on "The role of government in Thailand's banking sector" and has accepted a U.S.-based position as General Engagement Manager with HCL Technologies, a leading Indian IT services company. [bkavaney@umich.edu](mailto:bkavaney@umich.edu)

**Jumin Kim**, PhD student in Sociology and Social Work, will spend this summer in Bangkok, volunteering and doing field research with the Community Organizations Development Institute, supported by student research fellowships from Rackham and from the Center for International and Comparative Studies. [jumin@umich.edu](mailto:jumin@umich.edu)

**Amy Kimura**, PhD student in Ethnomusicology and GSI for the gamelan, has been accepted into the COTIM Advanced Indonesian program in Manado this summer. [akimura@umich.edu](mailto:akimura@umich.edu)

**Kevin Ko**, MA student in SEAS, has been accepted into the COTIM Advanced Indonesian program in Manado this summer. [kevinko@umich.edu](mailto:kevinko@umich.edu)

**Kelly Kuo**, MD student, will be volunteering this summer with other Crossing Borders students in Van Khuc Commune, Phu Tho, Viet Nam. [kellykuo@umich.edu](mailto:kellykuo@umich.edu)

**Timothy Leahy**, MA student in SEAS, received an International Institute individual fellowship to spend the summer in Hanoi learning language and conducting preliminary

field research for his MA thesis on culinary developments in Vietnam. [timpleahy@umich.edu](mailto:timpleahy@umich.edu)

**Li Min** and **Ji Rachel Lee**, PhD students in Anthropology (Archaeology), presented their paper on "Revisiting the celadon cave: A social archaeology of celadon wares from the cave burials of southern Philippines," co-authored with Yang Zhishui and Wang Xiaoyun, at the Conference on Chinese Export Trade Ceramics in Southeast Asia, sponsored by the Asia Research Institute of the National University of Singapore, in Singapore in March 2007. [limz@umich.edu](mailto:limz@umich.edu), [jrachlee@umich.edu](mailto:jrachlee@umich.edu)

**Ian MacKenzie**, MBA 2007, is volunteering with the NGO PLAN (whose CEO is U-M alumnus Tom Miller) in Vietnam, based in Hanoi, this summer, doing an impact assessment on a pilot program on child savings accounts. He will then travel throughout South and Southeast Asia before taking up a consulting job with the Boston Consulting Group in Chicago in September. [ikmac@umich.edu](mailto:ikmac@umich.edu)

**Adam Mele**, MA in SEAS 2007, is completing his thesis on "The Familiar and the Foreign in Christian Indonesia", and will go on the job market thereafter. [adrome@umich.edu](mailto:adrome@umich.edu)

**Jack Merchant**, MA in SEAS 2007, spent Christmas break at the Institute of Linguistics in Hanoi, Vietnam on a Rackham graduate research grant, which enabled him to complete his MA thesis on "Nguyen Du's Tale of Kieu in Historical Perspective". Jack will enter the PhD in History program in Fall 2007. [merchand@umich.edu](mailto:merchand@umich.edu)

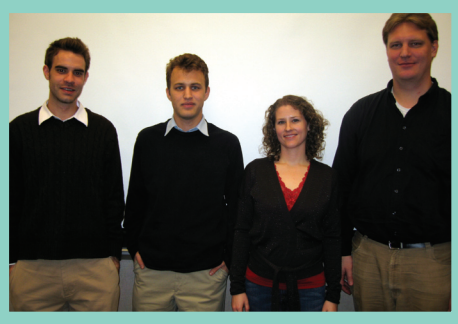
**Heather Moehle**, Masters in Public Health student, will be volunteering this summer with other Crossing Borders students in Van Khuc Commune, Phu Tho, Viet Nam. [hmoehle@umich.edu](mailto:hmoehle@umich.edu)

**Carrie Morris**, MFA student, has received a Fulbright Scholarship to study and conduct workshops in shadow puppetry at STSI in Solo, Indonesia from August 2007 - May 2008. [emorr@umich.edu](mailto:emorr@umich.edu)

**Piyarat Mullard**, PhD student in Architecture, is interested in the relationship between domestic space and the role of women in Thai society. For her dissertation research, she will combine the information collected from rural villagers, mural painting, and folklore of central Thailand to explore how religious cosmology and gender role influence the spatial utilization and perception of home. [pnmullard@gmail.com](mailto:pnmullard@gmail.com)



# Graduate Student News



MA Students: Adam Mele, Jack Merchant, Kate Skillman, Brendan Kavaney

**Megan Ryan**, Masters in Public Health student (International Health Epidemiology), received an International Institute individual fellowship and a Global Health Research and Training grant for an internship at the United Nations Fund for Population Activities in Bangkok Thailand, where she will work under the supervision of Dr. Wassana Im-Em, the Assistant Representative of UNFPA Thailand, to reanalyze the 2006 Reproductive Health Survey for Thailand, produce a policy brief advocating the survey's main findings, and review and recommend improvements to the survey design. [memary@umich.edu](mailto:memary@umich.edu)

**Jeremy Saul**, PhD student in Asian Languages and Cultures, received a FLAS award for Winter 2007. Jeremy was competitively selected to represent all students taking Indonesian classes in North America in a Malay/Indonesian speech competition held by the Ministry of Education of Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur in March 2007, with 25 contestants from 25 nationalities. [rjsaul@umich.edu](mailto:rjsaul@umich.edu)

**John Scott-Railton**, MS in Architecture and MA in Urban Planning student, received an International Institute individual fellowship and a William Davidson Institute Global Impact Fellowship to work with Cambodian NGO Sahnakum Teang Tnaut on a project to integrate handheld GPS units into community-based mapping of informal settlements in the city. John will also be collaborating with Teang Tnaut and the Urban Poor Development Fund (a member of the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights), to make a citywide map of informal settlements. [railton@umich.edu](mailto:railton@umich.edu)

**Joel Selway**, PhD student in Political Science, continues with his Fulbright-Hays-funded dissertation research in Thailand on former Prime Minister Thaksin's reforms, including in health care, education, and rural credit systems. Joel's paper which won the Center's Moscotti competition for best graduate

student paper in 2006 was recently published in the journal *Southeast Asia Research*. [jselway@umich.edu](mailto:jselway@umich.edu)

**Andrew Shepard**, JD student, has an internship with Baker & McKenzie in Bangkok this summer, as well as working for the U.S. State Department in Tokyo, Japan. He will be entering his third year in law school this coming fall. [sheparda@umich.edu](mailto:sheparda@umich.edu)

**Kate Skillman**, MA SEAS 2007, is finishing her MA thesis on "Religious Discourse in Late New Order Indonesia", and will enter the PhD program in the Department Anthropology in Fall 2007. Kate received a Rackham travel grant to present a paper on "Human rights: a legal anthropological study of state-centered discourse on religion, rights and freedom in Indonesia", at the Graduate Student Conference at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois in February. [kmskill@umich.edu](mailto:kmskill@umich.edu)

**Witchuda Srang-iam**, PhD student in Natural Resources and Environment, is conducting field research in Nan, northern Thailand, for her dissertation on "Biodiversity knowledge and the management of rice diversity in Thailand: toward the interplay of material and cultural knowledge." [witchuda@umich.edu](mailto:witchuda@umich.edu)

**Joanna Tatomir**, PhD student in Anthropology, served this past year as Head Graduate Student Instructor for "Introduction to Biological Anthropology". Last summer (2006) she started her dissertation fieldwork on Thai traditional medicine, dietary intake and breast cancer in Thai women, working with the oncology department at Ramathibodi Hospital in Bangkok, and will be continuing her data collection there this summer (2007). [jtatomir@umich.edu](mailto:jtatomir@umich.edu)

**Gabriel Thoumi**, MBA and MS Natural Resources and Environment dual degree student, will spend two months this summer volunteering with the World Wildlife Fund in Indonesia, working on carbon sequestration and carbon trading under the Kyoto Protocol, and on relationships between public and private sector coffee growers. He has initiated a large Michigan team including Brihannala Morgan, MS; and Chris Theriot, MS to work for the WWF Indonesia this summer in Jakarta and Kalimantan. [thoumi@umich.edu](mailto:thoumi@umich.edu)

**Wendy Tng**, PhD student in Philosophy, received an International Institute individual fellowship to study existing government policies and public opinion in Singapore on the issue of minority rights, to compare with the

Western model of the rights of minority groups in liberal democracies. [wendytng@umich.edu](mailto:wendytng@umich.edu)

**Stephanie Waters**, Masters in Public Health student (Health Behavior and Health Education), received an International Institute individual fellowship to do her public health field placement at the Mae Tao clinic in Mae Sot, Thailand, where she will be helping the clinic with their Health Communication and Adolescent Reproductive Health programs among mostly Burmese refugees. [stephwaters4@hotmail.com](mailto:stephwaters4@hotmail.com)

**Xingxing Yan**, Masters in Public Policy student, received an International Institute individual fellowship for an internship at the Trade and Investment Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok, researching the impacts of bilateral and regional trade agreements of Asian developing countries on poverty reduction, industrial promotion and sustainable development. [yanxx@umich.edu](mailto:yanxx@umich.edu)

**Alice Yao**, PhD student in Anthropology (Archaeology) who is completing her dissertation research on archaeology in Yunnan, will spend the summer researching and documenting the U-M Museum of Anthropology's Bartlett Collection of rare Batak (North Sumatra) manuscripts, for a virtual exhibit. [yaoa@umich.edu](mailto:yaoa@umich.edu)

**Mira Yusef**, MSW/MA in SEAS dual degree student, is in Malaysia as a Boren Fellow. She is taking intensive Bahasa Melayu and Indonesian at Institut Alam dan Tamadun Melayu (ATMA), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) from January to June 2007 while pursuing research on Muslim Filipinas in Sabah. In February Mira presented a paper at the Borneo Border Crossings Conference in Miri, Sarawak and at the Voices of Islam in Southeast Asia Conference in Nakhon si Thammarat, Thailand. She returns in Fall 2007 to complete her dual degree. [myusef@umich.edu](mailto:myusef@umich.edu)



SEA Photos by Ryan Hoover

# Alumni News

**Jon Blumenauer**, MBA/MA in SEAS 2002, has returned to his hometown of Portland, Oregon, after working in Indonesia, Thailand and Belgium, and spending several months traveling in the region. Jon is now busy establishing a sustainability consulting practice, including project-based sales and marketing work with Tropical Salvage, a Portland-based company which salvages wood in Indonesia, produces furniture there to sell wholesale in the US, and is also developing a conservation project there. (Jon's MA thesis was on deforestation in Indonesia.) Jon has also joined the board of directors of an environmental group called Northwest Earth Institute. [jblume@umich.edu](mailto:jblume@umich.edu)

**Bonnie Breton**, PhD Buddhist Studies 1992, now lives in Chiang Mai, Thailand, where she is working on several research projects. She recently received a grant from the James Thompson Foundation for research on village temple murals and shadow theatre in Northeast Thailand. In March, Bonnie presented a paper at the Annual AAS Meeting in Boston as part of the panel, "Images, Texts, and Corpses: Aesthetics and Economics in Buddhist Funerals in Thailand and Cambodia." [brereton.b@gmail.com](mailto:brereton.b@gmail.com)



Shawn Callanan (Left) with Prof. Susan Walton

**Shawn Callanan**, MA in SEAS 2006, completed his thesis on "Mas Marco: Mata Gelap, Crossing Language" in December 2006. Shawn will be attending the University of California at Berkeley for a PhD program in Indonesian Literature in the fall. He is currently in Tucson, Arizona doing some translating work and playing in the Fine Stream Gamelan, but he returned to Ann Arbor this April to help with the translation of the script for the *wayang sandosa* performance, and to lend his voice as the narrator for Rawana. [scallana@umich.edu](mailto:scallana@umich.edu)



Gamelan and Puppet Screen, April 2007

**Paul Cheung**, PhD in Sociology 1983, is currently the Director of the United Nations' Statistics Division which has the responsibility of advancing the global statistical system. He coordinates global statistics activities, including global databases, and facilitates the development of national statistical systems in all regions. Prior to joining the United Nations, he was the Chief Statistician and National Statistical Coordinator for Singapore, and held teaching positions in National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University. Paul has also served as elected President of the International Association of Official Statistics and Chair of the Governing Board of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific. [paul.cheung@un.org](mailto:paul.cheung@un.org)

**Paul Churchill**, MBA/MA in SEAS 1994, has left Campbell's Soup, where he was a category marketing director based in Cambridge, UK, and is moving with his family (Elisabeth, Patrick and Alex) to Germany, where he will be Head of Marketing for Central Europe for the sports lifestyle company, Puma. [pr\\_churchill@hotmail.com](mailto:pr_churchill@hotmail.com)

**Martha Gordon (Masterman)**, MBA/MA Southeast Asian Studies 1999, has recently returned to work full-time after taking 1.5 years off to be with her two young children, Finley (4) and Madie (2). She is working as a consultant at Arbor Strategy Group, which specializes in

strategic brand innovation for the consumer packaged goods industry. Her husband, Scott, has recently taken a new position as well, as a Senior Project Engineer for General Motors. [marthalgordon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marthalgordon@sbcglobal.net)

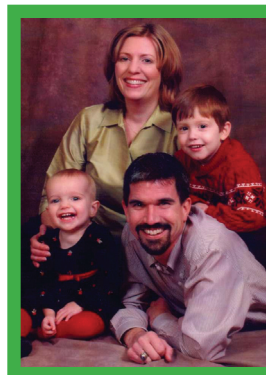
**Patrick Griffin**, MBA/MA in SEAS 1998, is also moving with his family (Jill, Graham and Greta) to Europe to run the UK, France and Spain branch sales offices of Escalade's office products division, which makes products like high-security shredders. [pgriffin@escaladesports.com](mailto:pgriffin@escaladesports.com)

**Siafa Kpowor Hage**, MA in SEAS 2006, completed his thesis on "The Mayaguez Hostage Crisis: Political Opportunity or National Security Crisis?" in December, and has relocated with his family to Liberia, which he fled in 1990 due to the civil war. Siafa is currently the project manager of the Liberia Renaissance Education Complex (LREC), a non-profit organization working to build a state-of-the-art educational center [www.liberiaschool.org](http://www.liberiaschool.org), where he is responsible for all aspects of construction, administration, logistics, government relations and legal affairs. He plans to start his own business, and to apply to law school at the University of Liberia. [skhage@hotmail.com](mailto:skhage@hotmail.com)

**Rosesukontha Khannabha**, PhD studies in History, taught at Silpakorn University before moving to Thammasat University, where she teaches undergraduate and graduate students in Southeast Asian history, Chinese history, and historiography, and has served as Head of the History Department, Director of Graduate Studies at the Faculty of Liberal Arts, committee member of Chinese Studies at the East Asian

Institute, and of the Southeast Asian Studies program. Rosesukon recently translated into Thai, with Suneek Grima, Bart Erdman's *Truth and Fiction in the Da Vinci Code* (Oxford University Press, 2004). The 247-page translation, including 50 pages of explanatory notes, was published by Kobfai in June 2006. Rosesukon's two sons are studying and working in the U.S. [rosebkk@yahoo.com](mailto:rosebkk@yahoo.com)

**Kenneth MacLean**, PhD in Anthropology 2006, is finishing up his two-year postdoctoral fellowship at the Institute for International and Comparative Studies at Emory University in Atlanta, and will move on this Fall to a tenure-track position at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts. As Assistant Professor in Clark's interdisciplinary Department of International Development, Community and Environment, Ken will teach both undergraduates and graduates on Social Change. Ken will be accompanied by his wife Dr. Juliet Feibel, Associate Director of the higher-education consortium Imaging America (which is moving from U-M to Syracuse University), and their children Ascher (4) and Camilla Rose (1). Ken has recently published "Manifest Socialism: The Labor of Representation in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (1956-1959)," *Journal of Vietnamese Studies* 2(1): 27-79, and "Spaces of Extraction: Actually Existing Governance along the Riverine Networks of Nyaunglebin District," in *Myanmar: the State, Community and the Environment*, eds. Trevor Wilson and Monique Skidmore (Canberra: Asia-



Martha Gordon family



# Alumni News

Pacific Press, Australian National University), and given presentations at the Association for Asian Studies (Boston), University of California-Berkeley, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (Singapore), and the Association of American Geographers. [kmaclea@emory.edu](mailto:kmaclea@emory.edu).

**Atsuko Naono**, MA in SEAS 1996, PhD in History 2005 is a visiting research associate at The School of Oriental and African Studies in London, working on smallpox vaccination in British Burma. [atsuko.naono@virgin.net](mailto:atsuko.naono@virgin.net)

**Norman Owen**, PhD in History 1976, and Assistant Professor of History from 1976-81, was research fellow at Australian National University from 1982-86, when he took a position at the University of Hong Kong, retiring as Professor of History in 2004 but retaining an honorary position there. Norman and his wife Roberta now live in Durham, North Carolina, where Norman has been Visiting Professor at Duke University, Guilford College, and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, continuing to teach history. Norman has published numerous articles and seven books, most recently as editor and co-author of *The Emergence of Modern Southeast Asia: A New History* (University of Hawaii Press, 2005). [ngowen@nc.rr.com](mailto:ngowen@nc.rr.com), [ryowen@nc.rr.com](mailto:ryowen@nc.rr.com)

**Pat Pranke**, PhD in Buddhist Studies 2004, has accepted a tenure track position at the University of Louisville as an assistant professor of Asian religions in the Religious Studies Program. [ppranke@umich.edu](mailto:ppranke@umich.edu)

**Ronit Ricci**, PhD in Comparative Literature 2006, will be moving to Singapore this summer to work at the Asia Research Institute at NUS. [rricci@umich.edu](mailto:rricci@umich.edu)

**Aaron Stern**, PhD in Political Science 2006, moved in February 2007 from the General Accounting Office to the U.S. Agency for International Development, where he is a Foreign Service Officer. Aaron will be in Washington D.C. for 12 to 18 months, before being posted to a USAID Mission abroad (he's hoping for Southeast Asia.....), with his wife Ying, and their daughters Anya (6) and Arin (4). [sterna@umich.edu](mailto:sterna@umich.edu)

**Richard Sussman**, MA in SEAS 1974, has worked as a park planner for the Southeast Regional Office of the National Park Service for the past 26 years, the last six as Chief of the Planning and Compliance Division. Richard and his wife Dorothy, who married during their Peace Corps days in Batu Pahat, Johor, live in Atlanta, where Dorothy works at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in environmental health.

They have happily raised two children, Laura and Matthew (U-M BA 1996), and have three grandchildren. Richard has made visits to Malaysia to visit friends, and to Thailand to design a training program for the Thai park service, and in 1999 he and Dorothy traveled throughout the region. The trips have enabled Richard to practice his Thai and Malay, and he keeps up with news of Malaysia especially through the internet. [Rich\\_Sussman@nps.gov](mailto:Rich_Sussman@nps.gov).

**Scott TenBrink**, Masters in Urban Planning 2005, and his wife Karen are thrilled to report the birth of their son Leif Michael, on March 13, 2007, in Bangkok, where Scott and Karen have



Scott TenBrink family



been living since Scott's graduation in May 2005. Read all about it and their life in Thailand on [www.petalsong.net/blog](http://www.petalsong.net/blog). [scott@petalsong.net](mailto:scott@petalsong.net), [Karen@petalsong.net](mailto:Karen@petalsong.net).

**I Gusti Agung Wesake-Puja**, MA in SEAS 1991, served the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Second Secretary responsible for multilateral affairs in Vienna, Austria (1992-95). He then returned to the Ministry in Jakarta (1995-98), where he was in charge of human rights matters, continuing with this responsibility as Counselor at Indonesia's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva (1998-2002), and as Director of Human Rights at the Ministry in Jakarta (2002-06). He served as a member of the negotiating team with GAM (Free Aceh Movement) for peace in Aceh, until this was successfully concluded in Helsinki in August 2005. Since February 2006 Ambassador Puja has served as Ambassador/Deputy Permanent Representative in Geneva, taking care of United Nations matters. He and his wife have two teenaged sons who speak French fluently! [wesaka.puja@ties.itu.int](mailto:wesaka.puja@ties.itu.int)

**Errata from Fall 2006 issue**

**Michael Wachtel**, MBA/MA 1998. Mike's email is [l.michael.wachtel@citigroup.com](mailto:l.michael.wachtel@citigroup.com)

## Winfield Memorial Trust Gift Supports Undergraduate Programs

We are grateful to Daniel and Margaret Sullivan for a gift of \$6,000 from the Gerald and Louise Winfield Memorial Trust that will be used to fund the participation of two undergraduates in the CSEAS travel-course in Thailand this summer. The Winfields, Margaret's parents, were Presbyterian missionaries who taught at the university level in northern China in the 1920s and 1930s, and continued to be involved in education all their lives. Gerald Winfield received his PhD in Public Health at Johns Hopkins University, and later worked in Burma in the early 1950s, and then coordinated USAID family planning and international development projects in Asia, including with one with U-M professor Henry Meyer in Indonesia. Louise Winfield was author of *Living Overseas*, a 1962 publication of the Public Affairs Press, which was a major resource for Americans living abroad in Asia and Africa in the 1960s, and which drew heavily on the Winfield's time overseas both in China and in Burma. Daniel's father Philip Sullivan had BA and MA degrees in Economics from U-M and taught at St Johns University in Shanghai from the late 1920s until the Japanese invasion of the European concession. He failed to get his PhD from U-M when his thesis on Communist labor unions in 1930s Shanghai was lost twice during World War II en route to Ann Arbor. He taught in the wartime U.S. government Asian Studies program at East Quad, including teaching perhaps one of the first courses to systematically cover Southeast Asia taught at U-M. Dan Sullivan served as a

foreign service officer in, among other places, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta, Cebu and Singapore, and Margaret used her time accompanying him overseas to carry out several significant writing projects, including a book on Singapore called *Can Survive, La!* that documented the disappearing world of traditional hand crafts made in family workshops in the increasingly globalizing Singapore of the 1980s. Margaret is currently the director of a program run by the United States Indonesia Society (USINDO) called the Aceh School Project, which is in the final stages of building a new high school in Banda Aceh. Attached to Universitas Syiah Kuala (UNSYIAH), the Lab School will be a model community school, educating students primarily from the severely earthquake- and tsunami-damaged area surrounding the university, and a laboratory school, providing university students in UNSYIAH's College of Education and Teaching (FKIP) opportunities for pre-service practice teaching under the supervision of master teachers. Both families have a longstanding commitment to the education of young people on Asia, and the Sullivans, through the Winfield Memorial Trust, are glad to be able to support the exposure of a new generation of students to seeing and understanding Southeast Asia up close with this donation.

## THANK YOU to our 2006-07 Donors!

### \$1,000 and above

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand  
(for Thai Studies Endowment)

Hirofumi Ando,  
Pete Gosling,  
Patrick Griffin,  
Linda Lim,  
Gayl Ness,  
Richard J Smith,  
Richard Sussman,  
Michael Wachtel,  
Jay Yoshioka,

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### Under \$1,000

Kirsten Alcer,  
Michael Aung-Thwin,  
Richard Bernhard,  
Theodora Bofman,  
Bonnie Brereton,  
Robbins Burling,  
Brent Carey,  
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Francisco Sy,  
Lt. Michael Tiefel,  
Susan Walton,  
Marina Welker,  
Robert Whitman

### Totals received

Director's Discretionary \$14,750\*  
Graduate Student Support \$5,100\*  
Undergraduate Initiatives \$6,600  
Javanese Performing Arts \$675  
Philippine Studies Initiative \$120  
Thai Studies Endowment \$99,658.31  
\*Disbursed to Center MA students



Dan and Margaret Sullivan, with Charley and Linda



# CSEAS News

## Distinguished Visitors



US Ambassador to Thailand: Steve Biegun (Ford), Liam Benham (Ford), Peter Walters (Guardian), Ralph (Skip) Boyce (US Ambassador)

**Ambassador Ralph (Skip) Boyce**, U.S. Ambassador to Thailand since 2004, and previously Ambassador to Indonesia, shared his views on the current political situation in Thailand with fourteen invited Thai Studies faculty and students, and executives of Guardian Industries and Ford Motor Company. The lunch discussion, sponsored by the companies and the US-ASEAN Business Council, was held at the Ross School of Business on March 28.



**Dr. Ariel Heryanto**, U-M MA in Southeast Asian Studies (1984) and Convenor of the Indonesia Program at the University of Melbourne, presented an LS&A/International Institute Citizenship-at-Risk lecture on "After Authoritarianism: Ethnicity and the Reconfiguring of Citizenship in Indonesia" on April 9, discussing the long absence and recent sudden

emergence of the Chinese minority in Indonesia's literature, films and popular culture.

**Dr. Jomo K.S.**, retired University of Malaya Professor and U.N. Assistant-Secretary General for Economic Development, gave the opening keynote speech on "Business,



Government and Development in Asia", at the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Asia Business Conference at the Ross School of Business on February 2. Jomo's visit was co-sponsored by the Center and by the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy. He also met with various Michigan faculty and with Malaysian students.

**Ong Keng Sen**, internationally-acclaimed theatrical director from Singapore's Theatreworks, visited Ann Arbor in January to direct the opera *Silver River* (composed by U-M's Bright Sheng with libretto by David Henry Hwang) for the University Musical Society. His presentation at the Center on "Collaboration across borders in art and culture in Southeast Asia" showed projects bringing together traditional and contemporary Asian artists from theatre, music, dance, video, visual arts, documentary film and ritual, including an arts exchange project in Laos and excavation of the local Ramayana tradition.



**Dr. Benny Widyono**, Indonesian economist, discussed his experiences as UN Representative to Cambodia during the UN's Transitional Authority there, at the Center on March 30. His book, *Dancing in Shadows: Sihanouk, the Khmer Rouge and the United Nations in Cambodia*, is forthcoming from Rowman & Littlefield. Benny also spoke at Telluride House, guest-lectured on post-conflict Cambodia in Prof. Nick Rine's class, and gave a talk about his long UN career, both at the Law School, which co-sponsored his visit.



Benny with Cambodian Law School visitors L to R: Khieu Seng On, Eang Sopheak, Meta Sy

## SEA Library News

### Technological Advancements:

The University of Michigan Library/Southeast Asia Division is one of the five Southeast Asia collection libraries that received a grant from Technological Innovation and Cooperation for Foreign Information (TICFIA) of the Department of Education. Our project involved a two-week training seminar for Filipino librarians at the University of San Carlos' Cebuano Studies Center in Cebu City. The seminar covered the latest techniques in preservation, conservation and digitization that will result in the creation of an online archive of unique images and textual materials. Copies of the digitized materials will be hosted by the Library and mirrored to the parent organization that will be called the Southeast Asia Digital Library. A follow-up seminar is scheduled later this year.

A breakthrough for Thai scholars and students – you can now search in both the transliterated and Thai script forms! Through the excellent work of the Southeast Asia Division's Sujira Messanga (Noi), we have cataloged recent Thai materials in both script and transliterated form; a boon to Southeast Asia languages that is in non-Roman script Michigan is the only library in the United States that presently has this capability.

### Notable Collections Received:

- Sao Saimong collection of Burmese materials
- General Dey collection of Philippine captured materials as well as American life in the Philippines
- Indonesian Haj: the pilgrimage to Mecca from the Netherlands East Indies, 1872-1950
- Dutch Political Conflict with the Republic of Indonesia, 1945-1949

### New Films Received:

- Blowpipes and Bulldozers
- Bombies
- End of Empire: the Fall of Singapore
- Made in Thailand
- Modern heroes, Modern slaves
- Rising above: women of Vietnam
- Stop the Traffick
- Surname Viet, Name Nam
- The Tenth dancer



Image from Ryan Hoover: *Behind the Scene*.

Ryan Hoover's images are available for purchase. You may see more of his work and contact him through [www.pbase.com/rhoover](http://www.pbase.com/rhoover)



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