



Center for Southeast Asian Studies

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From CSEAS Director Professor Allen Hicken



This has been a rich, full year at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies. Over the course of the academic year we have hosted or co-sponsored more than two dozen separate talks, lectures, exhibitions and performances. These include an exhibition of photographs from Cambodia, a visit and keynote address from ASEAN Secretary General Surin Pitsuwan in conjunction with

the Asia Business Conference,

and a visit from Dr. Benedict Anderson. Our Friday noon lectures have addressed topics as wide-ranging as conflict in Southern Thailand, Filipino poetry, development in Indonesia, and the politics of history in Vietnam. New this year, the audio from many of our Friday noon lectures are available for listening at <http://www.i.umich.edu/cseas/events/multimedia>.

We are pleased to devote part of this newsletter (pp. 4-8) to a tribute to John Whitmore. John retired this year from the University after nearly 38 years of service. During this time he has been a steady force and constant advocate for Southeast Asian studies. As John retires from U-M we keenly feel the loss, but know that his role as mentor, gentle critic, and erudite scholar will continue.

In February we teamed with the Center for South Asian Studies to present *Urban Flow*—an inter-disciplinary, multi-media, theatre production that explored the changing nature of urban spaces and how these changes affect the daily life experiences of urban residents in South and Southeast Asia. U-M students from Southeast Asia and the United States partnered with faculty experts and two guest

directors to produce original script that was then prepared for the stage. You can read more about this innovative theatre piece on p. 9 of this newsletter.

In March we teamed with Georgetown University to organize and host a two day conference on Pluralism and Democracy in Southeast Asian Islam. The conference brought together prominent scholars and public intellectuals from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand and scholars interested in political Islam from across the University. The discussions tackled a series of difficult issues, including the relationship between religion and the state, what is “authentic” when it comes to religious belief and practice, and who defines what “authentic” is and is not. More details about the conference can also be found on p. 9.

The Center has been taking steps to boost language enrollments in our four SEA languages by organizing a scholarship program for undergraduate students who enroll in our language courses. The response to the call for applications was impressive, and we were able to make a total of eleven \$1000 awards for first-year language study, spread across all four of our languages. Our goal is to raise enough funds to be able to award \$15,000 in scholarships each year for each of our four languages, and thus secure the future of Southeast Asia language study at U-M.

Finally, as my term as interim director comes to a close I want to thank the alumni, students, faculty, and staff for helping make this such an enjoyable and productive year. Special thanks to the members of the executive committee, Christi-Anne Castro, Susan Go, Nick Rine, Gavin Shatkin, and Fred Wherry, and to the Center staff, Gigi Bosch, Cindy Middleton, and Charley Sullivan, for all their hard work and service.



Center for Southeast Asian Studies

1080 S. University, Ste. 3603

Ann Arbor, MI 48109

734.764.0352 (Phone)

734.936.0996 (Fax)

www.i.umich.edu/cseas



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Program News

New Southeast Asia Gallery at the expanded Museum of Art

On March 28, 2009, the University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA) opened a landmark 53,000-square-foot expansion and major restoration of its historic, 41,000-square-foot home, Alumni Memorial Hall. Designed by principal architect Brad Cloepfil and his team at Allied Works Architecture, the \$41.9 million transformation not only more than doubled the space available for collections display, temporary exhibitions, programs and educational exploration, but also fulfilled the Museum's mission to bridge visual art and contemporary culture, scholarship and accessibility, tradition and innovation.



found on a Thai altar dating to the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. Other objects in the collection are visible within the open space of the atrium, creating visually stunning interactions between pieces of art from different regions and eras.

Not all the objects are ancient. One of the Museum's newest acquisitions, made possible by the generosity of Guy and Nora Barron, is a modern piece by Cambodian sculptor Ouk Chim Vichet. Called *Apsara Warrior*, this imposing metal piece represents an Apsara dancer. Apsara dance, distinguished by stylized hand gestures and sinuous body movements, dates back to the first century, when it was performed for royalty to honor gods and dynastic ancestors. Along with all court culture, Apsara, both the dance and the dancers, fell victim to the Khmer Rouge policies of cultural cleansing, only recently re-emerging alongside other forms of classical Khmer culture. Vichet's *Apsara*, made of detonated AK-47s, wears the traditional headdress and poses on a heap of discarded guns while breaking another gun in two. The meaning of her gesture is unmistakable; this Apsara warrior stands for peace.

The expansion includes new gallery space, part of a multi-story atrium in the museum's new Frankel Family Wing, to display parts of the museum's Southeast Asia collections. The UMMA collection of Southeast Asian art is focused on Buddhist and Hindu sculpture from Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar and Indonesia. A recent major gift from the Doris Duke Foundation helped to expand the Buddhist art collection, which includes a complete set of Thai Buddhist altar and lacquerware, Chinese ceramics made for Thai market, and Burmese sculpture. There is also a small but significant collection of ceramics, including Neolithic wares of the Ban Chieng culture and Sawankhalok ware from Thailand; and Vietnamese trade ware.

Pride of place in the new space goes to the Bangkok-era Buddhist altar, pieces not originally part of the same grouping but that represent the types of objects that would have been

ASEAN Secretary General Surin Visits Michigan

The 19th annual Asia Business Conference drew over 600 participants from business, government, faculty and students on February 6-7. The keynote speaker for the event, Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, ASEAN Secretary General, delivered a talk on "Asia: Globalization and Transformation" to a packed house in the Ross School of Business' new Blau Auditorium. (Video of the speech is available online at <http://tinyurl.com/dhha7k>.) During his three-day stay in Ann Arbor, Dr. Surin also met with students from ASEAN and with Southeast Asian Studies faculty and graduate students at CSEAS. One goal of the visit was to promote stronger connections between ASEAN and the University, and ASEAN and the United States more generally. Discussions touched on how to increase American students' ties to ASEAN, and how to better foster ease of research by American academics, including multi-national projects. Center Direc-

tor, Allen Hicken, and Outreach Coordinator, Charley Sullivan, each met with Dr. Surin and discussed the vital roles that National Resource Centers like CSEAS play in promoting connections between the United States and Southeast Asia and in building a cadre of scholars and practitioners knowledgeable about the region and capable of constructive engagement with it. Dr. Surin was accompanied on his trip by CSEAS alumnus M. Rajarethnam (MA, 1971,) who is now the Special Advisor to Dr. Surin on Community Building and Outreach for the association. Both Dr. Surin and Raja were excited to find out from Prof. Emeritus and former CSEAS Director Pete Gosling that the name ASEAN had in fact been coined at Michigan, as Russell Fifield, long-time professor of Political Science, used it first in his book *Southeast Asia in United States Policy*, published for the Council on Foreign Relations in 1963.

Faculty News

Congratulations to **Agustini** (Indonesian Language) who has been appointed the Language Coordinator for Southeast Asian and Korean languages in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures. She will take up her duties in earnest after she returns from leading 15 undergraduates to Global Intercultural Experience for Undergraduates (GIEU) field sites in Bali and Central Java in May and June. agustini@umich.edu

In March, **Christi-Anne Castro** (Musicology) delivered a paper at the national Society for American Music conference in Denver about popular songs and songs of the American military during the Filipino-American War. During Fall 2009 she will be teaching a graduate seminar on music and nationalism from a global perspective. ccastro@umich.edu

Nancy Florida (Asian Languages and Cultures) returned to Java during the winter semester (hurray! it was great!) for a well-earned sabbatical after completing her duties as Chair of Asian Languages and Cultures. She has published an article in *Public Culture* 20: 3 (Fall 2008): "A Proliferation of Pigs: Specters of Monstrosity in Reformation Indonesia," and presented a preliminary paper on Rongggawarsita, Java's foremost "classical" poet at a conference in Budapest, Hungary in May. Nancy will offer a new course in the fall: "From Mystic Saints to Holy Warriors: Islam in Southeast Asia." nflorida@umich.edu



Nancy Florida in the Kraton Surakarta library

Webb Keane (Anthropology) gave the Annette Weiner Memorial Lecture at New York University and the D.R. Sharpe Lecture in Social Ethics at the University of Chicago, both in April 2009. His book, *Christian Moderns*, will be the subject of a special session at the Academy of American Religion annual meetings in the fall of 2009. He has also been awarded a University of Michigan Faculty Recognition Award. wkeane@umich.edu

Stuart Kirsch (Anthropology) was in Manila in March, 2009 to participate in an international conference on extractive industries and indigenous peoples, which was organized by the Philippines NGO Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education). In addition, he was an invited expert for a U.N. Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues workshop on Indigenous Peoples' Rights, Corporate Accountability and the Extractive Industries, also held in Manila. skirsch@umich.edu

John Knodel (Sociology, Emeritus) writes: "I am spending the winter semester in Southeast Asia to attend conferences, give guest lectures, and conduct collaborative research with the Faculty of Nursing and the College of Population Studies at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand and the Institute of Sociology, Hanoi, Vietnam." jknodel@umich.edu

Vic Lieberman (History) received an Honorary Fellowship in recognition of his scholarship from SOAS, University of London, in July. Vic continues to publish prolifically, with two articles coming to print in the last year: "Protected Rimlands and Exposed Zones: Reconfiguring Early Modern Eurasia," *Comparative Studies in Society*



Agustini, with her student Jason Lapadula

and *History* 50, 3 (July, 2008): 692-723; and "The Qing and Their Neighbors: Early Modern China in World History," *Social Science History* 32, 2 (Summer, 2008): 281-304. He also has several pieces currently at press, including the second volume of his award-winning work, *Strange Parallels: Southeast Asia in Global Context. c. 800-1830. Volume 2. Mainland Mirrors: Europe, Japan, China, South Asia, and the Islands* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009). Finally, he has written an article in honor of John Whitmore, (thoughts also reflected in a short piece on pp. 4-6 of this newsletter), "John K. Whitmore's Contribution to Vietnamese and Southeast Asian Studies," in Kenneth Hall and Michael Aung-Thwin, eds., *Essays in Honor of John Whitmore*. (forthcoming). eurasia@umich.edu

Linda Lim (Strategy) gave lectures on Asia in the global financial crisis to various U-M groups in the Fall, and at Stanford University's Shorenstein Center in January 2009. She also spoke at the Civil Service College, the Economics Society of Singapore, The Institute for Policy Studies and other groups in Singapore, where she conducted interviews for her research on Singapore's economy and the global financial crisis. Her article on "Singapore's Economic Growth Model – Too Much or Too Little?" is forthcoming.

CSEAS hosted three visiting scholars from Southeast Asia

Pitch Pongsawat was Hughes Visiting Scholar in the Taubman School of Architecture and Urban Planning and the Center for Southeast Asian Studies. Using some of his time to follow up on his recently completed dissertation from Berkeley, Pitch also taught two courses, SEAS 501 (Introduction to Southeast Asian Studies, in the fall) and SEAS 215 (Contemporary Social Issues in Southeast Asia, in the winter). Pitch's scholarship is wide-ranging, examining politics and geography in Thailand, and he was torn to be absent from Bangkok for the tumultuous and important events of the past year. Nonetheless, Pitch kept abreast of all developments, sharing them with many by email and his blogs, and continued to report for online news sites in Thailand during his time in Ann Arbor. Pitch gave an incredibly interesting talk at CSEAS in January on "The Internet and Censorship in Thailand," and participated in a roundtable on "Faculty Perspectives on the Current Political Unrest in Thailand" in April. Pitch was in demand as a speaker, visiting several other National Resource Centers during his time here, where he spoke both to general audiences and to Thai student and community groups about the political situation in Thailand. He will put these talks to good use as he returns to teach political science, including a course on Southeast Asian politics, at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok.

madpitch@yahoo.com

Parichard (Cherry) Tungusonelalit was our 2008-2009 Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant for Thai, assisting Thai language instructor Montatip Krishnamra, particularly with weekly sessions with the Advanced Thai students. As a condition of the award she also was able to take classes in Sociolinguistics and Language and Culture. Cherry is a superb cook, and her lunches brought to the Center will be sorely missed by the staff. Cherry writes "I love cooking because I love food. I always

believe that to have a superb dish is as precious as to fall in love with somebody. I started cooking my own food when I was 9 years old and I admitted that my mother was the inspiration of my first cooking. Every minute of cooking with my mother was a joyful moment."

cherrytp@umich.edu

Etty Prihantini Theresia was our 2008-2009 Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant for Javanese and Indonesian, and helped us offer Javanese language instruc-



Etty Theresia enjoying spring in Ann Arbor

tion for the third year in a row, much to the delight of several students. Etty is from Central Java, but spent the past two years working on relief efforts in Banda Aceh. A trained Javanese dancer, Etty performed golek at the Indonesian Cultural Night and sang with the gamelan, but also enjoyed learning salsa at the Michigan Union. Etty has returned to Indonesia briefly. She will be joining her future husband in Sana'a Yemen soon, where she hopes to teach English. epttheresia@yahoo.com

ing in the public policy journal *Ethos* (April 2009) and her chapter with Lee Soo Ann on "Globalizing State, Disappearing Nation—the Impact of Foreign Participation in Singapore's Economy" is in press in Terence Chong, ed., *Management of Success Revisited*, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore, 2009. Linda will be visiting Malaysia and Thailand for her sabbatical research on China's foreign direct investment in Southeast Asia. She

also co-organized the visit of U-M's Provost, Deans and senior staff to Singapore in May. lylim@umich.edu

Dean Yang (Economics, Public Policy) was invited to speak at a conference in March run by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (Central Bank of the Philippines) on his research on approaches to increasing the beneficial economic impacts of remittances by overseas workers, and is co-investigator on

a large-scale survey research project and field experiment involving international labor migrants from the Philippines who are working in Qatar. Along with Sharon Maccini (Public Policy) he has an article entitled "Under the Weather" coming out in the June issue of the *American Economic Review*, the premier economics journal, on the impact of early-life health shocks on Indonesian women. deanyang@umich.edu

Earlier this year, John Whitmore retired from the University of Michigan. His years of scholarship, and most importantly of mentorship, as a historian and as a teacher. Many of his students joined John at the AAS Annual Meeting in Chicago in April, and we have tributes and

An Appreciation of John K. Whitmore's Scholarship *

By Victor Lieberman

For over forty years, first as his teaching assistant at Yale University and for the last 25 years as an intellectual collaborator at the University of Michigan, I have been privileged to study Southeast Asian history with John Whitmore. I have come to appreciate first-hand the range of his research interests, his intellectual subtlety, his attention to corroborative detail, the originality of his regional vision, not to mention his productivity – a monograph, three co-authored volumes, another three edited or co-edited volumes, plus some fifty articles. Insofar as decades of scholarship can be compressed into a short essay, this appreciation of John's scholarship seeks to explicate his influence on Vietnamese and Southeast Asian studies.

However inadequate our understanding of Vietnamese history surely remains, it is easy to forget how extraordinarily limited scholarly understandings of precolonial Vietnam were when John began his research in the mid-1960s. In 1964 the standard regional history, D.G.E. Hall's *A History of South-East Asia*, devoted a total of seven pages to Annam and Tongking from earliest times to 1620. In essence these were accounts of kings and battles. That we have been able to move beyond this approach to consider broader issues of cultural localization, social and economic change, Vietnamese regionalism, and the evolving relation between Vietnam and other sectors of Southeast Asia is, especially for the period c. 1200 to 1600, in large measure thanks to John Whitmore.

His first research project, embodied in his doctoral dissertation and in a stream of essays and articles, focused on the development of the Le state in the 15th century, including those changes in ideology that have become known as the Neo-Confucian revolution. Whereas earlier scholars had paid scant attention to the social origins or factional

alignments of the early Le Dynasty (1427-1527) and had assigned no particular originality to Le political thought, John sensed that early Le government represented a watershed be-



tween an essentially pre-Confucian, pan-Southeast Asian phase and an expressly Neo-Confucian, more narrowly Sinic phase in Vietnamese history. The revolt against Ming occupation (1407-1427) that gave birth to the Le Dynasty John saw not as a national patriotic revolt, in the fashion of then current Marxist historiography, but rather as a movement by a profoundly rustic, partly literate, only nominally Vietnamese provincial elite based in Thanh-hoa in the southern uplands against a more cultured, Sinic-educated literati elite in the Red River delta who had thrown in their lot with Ming occupation forces. Following the expulsion of the Ming, the victorious Thanh-hoa military oligarchy dominated the court for three decades; but with the accession of Le Thanh-tong in 1460, a more balanced policy began to take hold. While continuing to honor Thanh-hoa families in the army, the new ruler, with self-conscious attention to Ming precedents and with deliberate appeals to literati sensibilities, instituted a variety of changes in organization and policy that moved Vietnam boldly in the direction of Chinese governmental norms.

Administratively, the Neo-Confucian revolution that began under Le Thanh-tong entailed a move from personalized rule toward a more bureaucratic capital structure, Ming-style organizations and tax registers in the provinces, a marked increase in written communications, and Ming-style military reforms. Culturally, Le Thanh-tong accelerated a shift away from a fluid, tolerant, eclectic Buddhist-Confucian-animist amalgam, toward a more rigid system of Neo-Confucian orthodoxy in which the emperor presented himself as moral exemplar and sought to transform the wider society through proper family relations and contagious virtue. Externally, a centuries-long tolerance of neighboring Indic cultures now yielded to a strident insistence that "barbarians" accept "civilized" norms. In practical terms this led to the 1471 dismemberment of Vietnam's ancient southern neighbor Champa and a dramatic acceleration of Vietnamese colonization. Although subject to both regional and temporal variation, the political and cultural norms, not to mention territorial ambitions, sanctioned by Le Thanh-tong provided a model for Vietnamese leaders well into the 19th century. Only from the late 1400s can we speak confidently of a Sinic, Confucian sphere in mainland Southeast Asia distinct from the Indic, Theravada sphere to Vietnam's west and south. Hence, the watershed significance of the new Le Dynasty which John was first to discover.

But how did Vietnam arrive at that 15th-century juncture? Important though they were, neither political contingencies at court nor Le Thanh-ton's personality, John insisted,

o, however, are not ending. Nonetheless, the occasion gives us the opportunity to pause and appreciate all John has done as an appreciations from many of them in the following pages.

were adequate to explain so momentous and sustained a shift. Having described early Le transformations, John decided to research the late Ly (1009-1225) and Tran (1225-1400) Dynasties to uncover what he assumed, correctly as it turned out, must have been subtle but profound economic, intellectual, and political changes over several generations that paved the way for early Le changes.

From c. 900 to 1220 family relations even at court were fluid and bilateral, rather than patrilineal. A Hindu-Buddhist cult of Indra, reminiscent of Pagan and Angkor, served to integrate local spirits. Capital religion lacked clear notions of orthodoxy, while blood oaths of allegiance provided a crucial ritual bond. Administration approximated the decentralized solar polity systems of Pagan and Angkor; literate procedures were conspicuously limited; while Buddhist religious institutions enjoyed much the same autonomy as in other pre-1250 mainland realms. In other words, notwithstanding unique Chinese cultural inputs, Ly Vietnam was part of the same Buddhist-Hindu-animist cultural zone as other states in both mainland and island Southeast Asia.

A major impetus to Sinic influence, John discovered, derived from the growth of foreign trade from the 12th to 15th centuries. Although the Ly Dynasty originally was based on the upper, mid-river portion of its territory rather than the coastal deltaic segment, a surge in Chinese commerce under the Southern Song (1127-1276) encouraged interior-coastal linkages within the Red River basin. Growing maritime trade also promoted Chinese mercantile and cultural influences closely linked to developments on China's own southeast coast. Founded by men of Chinese descent, the new Tran Dynasty (1225-1400) benefited directly from these trends. Specifically, the Tran for the first time awarded examination graduates more than ornamental posts, used Chinese-style population registers to penetrate village resources, and insisted on Chinese-style royal primogeniture, which stabilized succession practices. Yet the Tran also patronized earlier cultural forms and maintained an essentially aristocratic government in which personal favor, birth, and entourage were decisive. In other words, the Tran represented a transition between more indigenous and full-blooded Sinic modes of administration.

The intellectual counterpart to these sociopolitical changes, John demonstrated, was a growth in contemporary forms of Chinese Buddhism, followed from the 1330s by a turning away from Buddhist thought to classical Confucianism. As the 14th century progressed, Confucian influence became ever more dominant. This was the direct result, John argued, of a profound, multifaceted economic and political crisis which opened the country to disastrous Cham invasions from the south, which finally eviscerated



the Tran Dynasty, and which sent Vietnamese literati on a desperate search to discover a formula to restore harmony. From this crisis emerged, first, the short-lived dynasty of the minister Ho Quy Ly, who favored a peculiar form of classical Chinese thought; and then the aforementioned Ming occupation of Vietnam (1407-1427) designed to promote "civilization" in the disturbed lands of Vietnam. By building schools and patronizing scholarship, the Ming dramatically deepened literati influence in Tongking and nurtured that modernist, Neo-Confucian tradition of scholarship on which Le Thanh-tong later would draw for his revolutionary changes in official culture. These multifaceted developments from c. 1300 to 1427 John set forth in his monograph *Vietnam, Ho Quy Ly, and the Ming (1371-1421)* and in an extended series of articles.

If this were sum of John's research, we would be enormously thankful, but in fact John has not hesitated to carry the story of social and cultural adjustment forward well into the 16th century. In essence, he sees the 16th century as continuing the struggle between delta-based Sinophilic literati, represented by the Mac Dynasty that displaced the Le and held Tongking from 1527 to 1592, on the one hand, and more rustic, martial leaders who again hailed from southern uplands, on the other hand. As cultural heirs to the Le, the Mac sought to maintain Neo-Confucian law codes, schools, and examinations. Their defeat in 1592 saw a partial reversion to more martial, oligarchic traditions, but such was the prestige of literati culture that Neo-Confucian norms would again exercise a decisive influence in the late 17th, the late 18th, and most of the 19th century. And this influence would grow in the south as well as in the north. In short, John has placed the Neo-Confucian revolution in the context of four centuries' social and cultural development. Obviously, he is not the only scholar to have worked on the Tran, the early Le, or the Mac. But it is no exaggeration to say that our current understanding of four critical centuries of Vietnamese history, from 1200 to 1600, derives disproportionately from the cogently argued work of one scholar, John Whitmore.

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A Tribute to John Whitmore

An Appreciation of John K. Whitmore's Scholarship (continued from page 5)

Even this, however, hardly exhausts his contribution, for John has also produced a number of *longue durée* overviews. Especially valuable for students interested in "the big picture," these studies connect Vietnamese patterns c. 1200 to 1600 with those after 1600, and in many cases, offer pointed comparisons between Vietnam and Indic Southeast Asia, even Korea. Illustrating a wide range of intellectual interests and technical competencies, these overviews include a marvelous study – certainly the best monetary history of any Southeast Asian realm – of international bullion flows; a survey of changing female roles; an analysis of precolonial Vietnamese cartography; overviews of Vietnamese and Southeast Asian maritime trade; and a comparison between social organization in precolonial Vietnam and other parts of Southeast Asia. Finally, although an historian of precolonial Vietnam, John also has authored or co-authored several studies of Vietnamese immigrants to the United States, their struggles for upward mobility, and their economic prospects. Thus he has brought Vietnamese studies full circle to the contemporary era.

In short, through brilliant insights and sheer diligence, John Whitmore has fashioned an entire field of historiography largely in his own image. What is more, midway into his fifth decade of research, I am delighted to say, John's productivity seems only to be increasing.

* Documentation of sources in this article, are available on the CSEAS website: www.i1.umich.edu/cseas.

By Rebekah Collins

John Whitmore is my first teacher of Vietnamese history and literature. From him I learned not only of texts and scholars concerned with Viet Nam from ancient times to the present but also what it means to teach with generosity and selflessness. I respect John tremendously and am grateful to him for laying the foundation for my chosen career.

Eight years after I first became his student in the South and Southeast Asian Studies M.A. program at the University of Michigan, John remains an advisor and a friend. As a Ph.D. candidate in the same field at Berkeley, I still consult John on Viet Nam issues, and I always look forward to seeing him when I return to Ann Arbor, my hometown.

John is a scholar and teacher in the purest sense, doing what he does not for academic or personal reward but for the love of learning and sharing. He has exposed me to different aspects of the profession as well as educated me, inviting me to help organize a public lecture series on Viet Nam at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies in 2004 and giving me the opportunity to present my Master's thesis, which he prepared me to write through weekly independent study sessions wherein he gave freely of his time and knowledge. His perspective will be invaluable to my dissertation, and I will ask him to be an honorary if not actual member of my committee.

I am just one of many students John has guided with conscientiousness and magnanimity. It is an honor to join so many others in paying due tribute to a wonderful teacher and an exemplary man.

"I am just one of many students John has guided with conscientiousness and magnanimity. It is an honor to join so many others in paying due tribute to a wonderful teacher and an exemplary man."

By Kate Jellema

From the very first day I attended his Southeast Asian history seminar at Michigan, desperately trying to take legible notes about Vietnamese leaders whose names all sounded bewilderingly alike and Khmer leaders whose names all sounded confoundingly different, I suspected that John Whitmore's knowledge of Southeast Asian history was encyclopedic. Over the many years of my graduate career, my awe at the range of his interests and expertise continued to grow, more or less at pace with the thickness of the "Whitmore" folder in my filing cabinet. While best known for his work on 11th to 15th century Vietnam, he has written on everything from early Southeast trade patterns to communist historiography. His teaching takes him even further afield, to all corners of mainland and insular Southeast Asia. His scholarly range, as well as his refreshingly straightforward style, explains why syllabi for Vietnamese history courses often stay for centuries, indeed entire dynasties, within a canon made up nearly exclusively of works by Whitmore and students of Whitmore.

Despite this marvelous breadth, no one could describe John Whitmore as a dilettante. On the contrary, he studies the ancient texts with a keen eye for detail, reading, re-reading and reading them again, never afraid to reconsider accepted truths or critically revisit earlier conclusions. To my minor trepidation, he brought the same meticulous attention to detail when reviewing student papers. Although with a little distance I was always grateful for his care, I would

John has guided with conscientiousness in honor to join so many others in teacher and an exemplary man."
-Rebekah Collins

often cringe when reading his spare comments – the “between” crossed out and replaced by the more grammatically correct “among,” an incorrect date circled and noted with a single question mark, a missing reference called out with a suggestively underlined author’s name. Nothing, but nothing, got by him. I now know why so many of his former students continue to send him manuscripts for his careful review before they go to the publisher.

John’s comments on student papers often end with a brief word of encouragement: “Good. Keep going with this.” John rarely indulges in superlatives, and has no taste for melodrama, but he is a caring and quietly inspiring teacher. He taught me a love for the mysteries and rewards of parsing old texts, and showed me how an appreciation for history could immeasurably deepen my understanding of modern Vietnam – lessons I try to pass along to my own students. Throughout the tumultuous ups and downs of my fieldwork in Vietnam, John was a completely dependable voice of reassurance and reason. He continued to be a steady and optimistic presence throughout my write-up, long after any less saintly soul would have given up. “Good,” he would write to me at every critical juncture; “Just keep going.”

As John retires from U of M, I know the Southeast Asian studies community is hopeful that he will have more time to devote to his own scholarship. Perhaps we could turn his own words back on him: “Good job, John. Please keep going!”

By Ken Swope

I first met John when I got a job as a grad student employee in the Labeling Unit at the Hatcher Library. At the time John’s desk (as a cataloger) was right next to our unit. Given that putting labels on books is not that terribly onerous, we had lots of time to chat while working. While I initially thought John was a full-time librarian (which he was as well), I soon learned that he was not only a very prominent and respected historian of Southeast Asia, he also happened to specialize in the same era I was working on, the Ming (1368-1644) period. We got to know each other much better when John co-taught a course on Southeast Asia with Vic Lieberman that I took to broaden my Asian focus. In that course I became even more impressed with John’s humble erudition. Since that time, I’ve had the pleasure of participating in several conference panels with John and he served as a special outside reader for my dissertation (he was teaching at UCLA the year I finished). I have always benefitted from his excellent advice and suggestions regarding my work in Ming history.

But my fondest memories of John are more personal. I learned that we shared many interests during our time working together at the library. My wife and I ran into John at a Celtic music concert in Ann Arbor and we soon made it regular practice to attend such events with John. I don’t know how many shows we attended together at The Ark, but they remain some of my favorite Ann Arbor memories. John is also a huge baseball fan and we went to several Tigers games together at the old Tiger Stadium. My favorite memory of this was the time we bought the weekday afternoon special tickets for \$6.00 that included a free hot dog & coke. We got to the game early and settled down in the “Tiger Den” seats right behind the visitors’ dugout to watch batting practice. At that time the Tigers weren’t very competitive so it turned out that the actual seat holders never showed up. We had a blast and I got to see a whole different side of John as he heckled the umpires and opposing players. But we couldn’t leave our seats for the entire game because we knew they wouldn’t let us back in!

I’ve stayed in touch with John since graduating and we always get together when I get back to Ann Arbor. I’m thrilled that the Center for Southeast Asian Studies has decided to put together this tribute. I can’t think of anyone more worthy of the designations gentleman, scholar, and friend.



A Tribute to John Whitmore

By Keith Taylor

I first met John Whitmore six months after returning from service with the U.S. Army in Vietnam. I arrived in Ann Arbor in January 1972 to begin a graduate program. I remember sitting with John in his Haven Hall office (the old Haven Hall). As we talked, the sense of unease that was then my second nature began to fade a bit. I immediately understood that here was a scholar who was also a gentle, patient, sincere, and kind person. We discussed my future program of study. I recall leaving his office that first time with a sense of peacefulness at having found a place to rest my mind. John made me feel like I belonged where I was. He constantly stimulated my thoughts by giving me things to read or asking me if I had heard of something he thought might interest me. He is the most nurturing and encouraging mentor I can imagine.

During the next four and a half years, to a large extent my world revolved around John and the graduate library. I distinctly remember his lectures on Vietnamese history, which sometimes so excited me that I had to restrain myself from jumping up and clapping when the class was over. He never pushed me one way or another but was content to open up doors of thought for me to consider. I learned to

feel the weight of his comments on my work, to see how he wrapped his insights in layers of reflection. The Ann Arbor years passed quickly, and suddenly I realized that there were no jobs. I finished my dissertation as quickly as possible, desperate to move on before being caught in a sense of hopelessness. I am thankful that John did everything he could to assist me on my way. I left Ann Arbor happy to have overcome bouts of despair and to have completed what I came to do. Without John, I never would have achieved that. I gained from him the conviction that scholarly work is worth the effort. Consequently, I was not subdued by the fact that for five years I had no job in my field and for two of those years no job at all.

John has been a great source of inspiration for me. He has lived a persistent belief in the importance of scholarship, and this has given me confidence in what I do despite the vicissitudes of an academic career.

His encouragement has repeatedly made a difference in my life. The trajectory that my life has taken would surely have been quite different had I not found myself in John's office thirty-five years ago.

By Kenneth R. Hall

I was fortunate to number among John's first graduate students at Michigan in 1971-1972, whose experiences under John's tutelage were critical to our subsequent professional careers as historians, lawyers, government diplomats, missionaries, and military commanders. John challenged each of us to learn Southeast Asian history by coming to terms with the work of the colonial-era historians by always giving balance to the issues raised by Harry Benda and John Smail to be more sensitive to and aware of "indigenous" contributions to the region's developments. We were expected to use our diverse language skills to reexamine and explore the primary sources in light of the new social science research methodologies being articulated at the University of Michigan in the 1970s (characteristic of the unique interdisciplinary interactions that remain foundational to the success of the Michigan Center for Southeast Asian Studies).

In effect, we became a research team working under John's direction, not as graduate student-researchers for John's own publications, but as his scholar-partners in this endeavor. For me this resulted in a jointly edited volume *Explorations in Early Southeast Asian History: The Origins of Southeast Asian Statecraft* (Michigan Center for South and Southeast Asian Studies: 1976). That collection's dedication, "To our Southeast Asian friends," was highly appropriate, as this book, and John's career, has above all encouraged the efforts of Southeast Asians to write their own histories of the region.

In the early 1970s, in the midst of the prolonged Vietnam War peace negotiations, John's sensitivity to the issues and on-going debates relative to the history of Southeast Asia led him to be the first, and may I add well-chosen, American specialist in Vietnamese history to receive an invitation and travel to Vietnam to open scholarly dialogue with (North) Vietnam's historians.

John's past efforts alone merit the appreciation of his former students, but John's ongoing work is still setting the standards for all scholars of Vietnam's past. He has contributed a burst of quality new scholarship, reenergized by the significant new generation of scholars who have networked with John. Two years ago John responded to my challenge to apply the new "urban studies theory" literature to the study of early Vietnamese history, by writing an innovative paper that addressed the ritual and political networking between Hanoi and its secondary royal clan capitals. John's synthesis provided a reexamination of his own prior work on pre-1600 Vietnam, and supplied a needed window to embrace the new scholarship of Vietnam's past as could only be done by the senior scholar of early Vietnam's history. John continues to set the tone for all scholars in the field, who are, like myself, still very much John's students and appreciative colleagues.

Focus: Southeast Asian Voices: Islam and the City

Two major CSEAS programs this winter presented Southeast Asian voices on the region in compelling formats. Our Urban Flow project, a partnership with the Center for South Asian Studies, explored the lives of the expanding cities of South and Southeast Asia, presenting the writings of U-M students from South and Southeast Asia and other U-M students who have visited the region in an exciting piece of theater. Our conference on "Pluralism and Democracy in Southeast Asia: Muslim Voices from the Region," a partnership with the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at Georgetown University, brought five prominent Muslim thinkers and activists from Southeast Asia to Ann Arbor to discuss the evolving role of Islam from Thailand to the Philippines.

The three performances of Urban Flow in February 2009 were the result of nearly a year's preparation. As U-M students left for fieldwork and internships in South and Southeast Asia in summer 2008, they were asked to consider the role of the expanding city in Asia. Upon their return to campus in the fall, many chose to join U-M students from South and Southeast Asia in considering how to present the many aspects of life in these full and jostling spaces in writing that would be accessible to a Michigan audience. Taking part in a course to help with the writing, over twenty students worked with Urban Flow directors **Gulshirin Dubash** from Mumbai, India, and **Pornrat Damrhung** from Bangkok, Thailand on translating their impressions and experiences into written form and then into an initial script for the show, which received a first reading at the end of the Fall semester.

Struck with the power and honesty of much of the writing, and hearing the writers read it for themselves, the directors chose to recruit many of the student writers into the cast of the show. Rehearsals started at the beginning of the Winter semester, and South and Southeast Asian voices, language and accents helped bring the writings to life. The questions the play explored varied from a lighter end – why is it that Christmas can be such a big deal in non-Christian cultures – to the practical – what can, or should, an American student do when they see workmen climbing up electrical poles barefooted – to the serious – how are women's lives, whether as bankers or teenagers or maids or prostitutes, shaped by the city?

The play ran two performances for a general audience, and one outreach performance for students from Hartland High School, from Hartland Michigan. All three were filmed, and the Center will use the footage as the focal point of a curricular piece on cities and urban issues as part of our outreach offerings to middle, high school and

community college teachers.

A month later, the Center presented a conference that also focused on Southeast Asian voices, this time, on Islam. Much of the current popular American view of Islam is largely framed by perceptions of Islam as being Arab and Middle Eastern.

Southeast Asian Muslim voices and views have been particularly absent in American discussions on the subject, even as Americans have recently elected a President who grew up partially in a Southeast Asian Muslim home. This conference on Pluralism and Democracy in Southeast Asia addressed the cultural and political diversity of Islam in the region, where Muslims interact with a range of democratic freedoms and a variety of roles for Islam in the public sphere.

Our guests were **Ulil Abshar-Abdalla**, Founder of the Jaringan Islam Liberal (Liberal Islam Network), in Indonesia, and currently a doctoral student at Harvard; **Amina Rasul Bernardo**, Lead Convenor of the Philippine Council for Islam and Democracy and a Managing Trustee of the Magbassa Kita Foundation in the Philippines; **Mohammad Hannan Hassan**, Assistant Director of the Majelis Ulama Islam Singapura (Islamic Religious Council of Singapore); **Mohd Anis Md Nor**, Professor of Ethnochoreology and Ethnomusicology at the University of Malaya; and **Chaiwat Satha-Anand**, Professor of Political Science at Thammasat University in Bangkok.

Although they were together for the first time, the group coalesced quickly. Their presentations and discussions, joined by U-M professors **Allen Hicken** and **Alexander Knysch**, and guests **Tom Pepinsky** from Cornell and **John Voll** from Georgetown, were lively and thought-provoking, not only for the audience of faculty, students from around the region and the community, but for the guests themselves, who are hoping to gather again for a similar conference in Southeast Asia.

The conference sessions were filmed with funding from a grant from the Social Science Research Council, and will be available, along with the materials on Urban Flow, on the CSEAS website, www.ii.umich.edu/cseas, later this summer.



Undergrads Stephanie Williams and Jingga Inlora play women caught in the urban flow.

Alumni News

Rebekah Collins (MA, 2003) writes "I earned an M.A. thanks to the excellent teaching and guidance of John Whitmore, Victor Lieberman and Rudolf Mrazek, among others, then joined Berkeley's Ph.D. program in South and Southeast Asian Studies in 2004. This year, after a research semester in Paris, I'm in Viet Nam reading recent prose fiction for chapter two of my dissertation, *The Extraordinary Everyday: Contemporary Literature and Art from Viet Nam and its Diasporas*. My husband and our daughter are along for the ride. Noemie, who just turned one, likes to practice her "downward facing dog" poses and watch badminton in the park. We'll go back to Berkeley in the summer. I would love to hear from anyone working on Southeast Asian literature, especially modern and contemporary literature. collinsr@berkeley.edu

Congratulations are in order to **Kate Jellema** (PhD, Anthropology and History, 2007) on the birth of her first child. Please see Kate's tribute to John Whitmore on pp. 6-7 of this issue. katej@marlboro.edu

Jeremy Schiffman (PhD, Political Science, 1999) writes: "In 1999 I took up a faculty position at the Maxwell School of Syracuse University, where I have remained since graduating and am presently Associate

Professor of Public Administration. In 2003 I married Mia Ongkiko (now Mia Shiffman) and in 2005 our son, Aedan Bernard Shiffman, was born. My research has focused on global health policy, and the politics of health and population policy-making in poor countries. It has been funded by the Rockefeller, MacArthur and Gates Foundations. I



Noemie, who is extraordinary everyday

have had the chance to conduct research in many countries since finishing at Michigan, including Indonesia, India, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Malawi, Guatemala and Honduras, and my research has been published in a number of medical and health policy journals, including the *Lancet*, the *American Journal of Public Health*, *Social Science and Medicine*, *Population and Development Review*, and the *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*. In 2004 I was named Birkhead-Burkhead Professor of Teaching Excellence at Syracuse University. I also directed the Development and Social Transformation Forum at the Maxwell School for five years, a group that promotes dialogue and scholarly inquiry concerning social change in developing countries. jrshiffm@maxwell.syr.edu.

Gabriel Thoumi's (MBA/MA, Business & Natural Resources and the Environment, 2008) thesis, *Emeralds on the Equator: An Avoided Deforestation Carbon Markets Strategy Manual* has also published as a book in Indonesian, French, Portuguese and Spanish. It is available for free at http://news.mongabay.com/2009/0122-thumi_avoided_deforestation.html. Gabriel is now the Forestry Director at MGM International Group, LLC. gthoumi@gmail.com

Mary Louise Totton (MA, SE Asian Studies, 1996 & PhD, History of Art 2002) has a new book *Wearing Wealth and Styling Identity: Tapis from Lampung, South Sumatra, Indonesia* which was published in April by Dartmouth College and is accompanied by an exhibition of the same title that opened at the Hood Museum of Art April 11 and runs to August 31, 2009. The book and exhibition initiate a historical chronicle of tapis from the earliest mention of this textile type to the roles it fulfills in the twenty-first century, laying bare the complex networks of trade and the negotiation of cultural iconographies that have informed the making of this spectacular art. Located between the two maritime routes connecting East and West Asia, Sumatra was for centuries the source for much of the world's pep-

per. In the southern tip of Sumatra, the peoples of Lampung poured the profits of their trade into ceremonial materials and adornments. The ornate tubular dresses or tapis were hand-woven from cotton and silk threads, colored with ancestral dye recipes, embellished with gold- and silver-wrapped threads, embroidered with silk or pineapple-fiber threads, and appliquéd with mirrors and mica. These sumptuous garments communicated a family's global contacts, social station, and clan identity.

mary-louise.totton@wmich.edu

Eric Wakin (MA, 1990) has recently finished a PhD in U.S. history at Columbia University with a dissertation on guns and gun control in nineteenth-century New York City, and is currently the Lehman Curator for American History at Columbia. Between his Michigan masters degrees in Asian studies and political science and finishing his doctorate, he worked for various businesses, including a startup and Ernst & Young, in media, digital strategy and business development roles. His book *Anthropology Goes to War: Professional Ethics and Counterinsurgency in Thailand* was just reissued by University of Wisconsin Press. He lives in New York City with his family. etw2@columbia.edu.

Student News

Undergraduate Internships in Southeast Asia:

Tyler Frank, from Grand Rapids, MI and **Benjamin Woll**, from Glen Rock, NJ, both history majors, have internships this summer at 3M Malaysia, in Petaling Jaya. Tyler will work in Sales and Marketing and Ben will work with Customer Service. The internships are funded by the Center for International Business Education. **David Watnick**, a public policy major at the Ford School from Birmingham MI, will be an intern at the U.S. Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City. David applied to the very competitive State Department internship program after traveling to Indonesia last summer on the CSEAS Summer Seminar, and the consular staff noted his excellent preparation on Southeast Asia at Michigan as a major factor for his success in the competition. **Eric Couillard**, Asian studies major from Plymouth, MI will work with Tiny Toones in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. (See the back cover for a description of the organization). His internship is funded by the Experiential Learning Fund of the International Institute, through Clinical Law Professor **Nick Rine**.



Jason Lapadula, Jeremy Nolan and Andrew Silapasawan with Agustini, Thuy-Anh Nguyen and Letty Pagkalinawan

Alfred D. Moscotti Prize

This year's **Alfred D. Moscotti Prize** for excellence in graduate research in the form of a published or presented paper was, for the first time, shared by two graduate students this year. The winners are: **Anju Mary Paul**, Sociology: *'Stepping Stones' and 'Dream Destinations': Stepwise International Migration among Low-Skilled Filipino Domestic Workers*, and **Witchuda Srang-iam**, *Natural Resources: De-contextualized Knowledge, Situated Politics: The New Scientific-Indigenous Politics of Rice Genetic Resources in Thailand*.

Undergraduate Language Excellence Prizes:

Jeremy Nolan, Second Year Filipino;
Jason Lapadula, First Year Indonesian;
Andrew Silapasawan, Second Year Thai, and
Marwin Van, Advanced Vietnamese.

Undergraduate First-Year Language Scholarships Awarded:

Thanks to the generous support of our donors, CSEAS has awarded eleven undergraduates \$1000 scholarships to study first-year Southeast Asian languages in the 2009-2010 academic year. We hope this program will continue in the coming years, helping draw more students to these courses.

Filipino: **Jonelle Doctor**, (sophomore, Biology/Orland Park, IL); **Jasmine Mustafa**, (freshman/Coldwater, MI); and **Rita Razalan**, (sophomore/Rochester Hills, MI).

Indonesian: **Meredith Brandt**, (sophomore, Asian Studies/Atlanta, GA) and **Abbie Stauffer**, (junior, Linguistics/Dexter, MI).

Thai: **Brandon Frazer**, (sophomore, Asian Studies and Economics/Harrison Township, MI), **Amelia Raines**, (freshman/Dexter, MI); and **Emily Taylor**, (freshman/Stockbridge MI).

Vietnamese: **Christopher Dao**, (freshman, Pharmacy/Flushing MI); **Chrystina James**, (freshman/Toledo, OH); and **Trang Nguyen**, (sophomore/Madison Heights, MI).

New CSEAS MA's:

Congratulations to the newest Center alumni:

Robert Pfaff, December 2008. MA thesis title: *A Proposal to Enhance Value Creation through Consolidation of the English-Language Book and Periodical Industry in Thailand*. Thesis Advisor: Linda Lim. Robert has been working for some time with Asia Books in Bangkok, Thailand, and finished his thesis from there.

Tim Leahy, May 2009, MA thesis title: *Forging the Yoke: Preservation, Assimilation, and the Formation of Vietnam's Culinary and Gastronomic Heritage*. Thesis advisor: John Whitmore. Tim has been working in Ann Arbor for the past year and is currently checking into new opportunities.

Sandeep Ray, May 2009, MA thesis title: *When The State Stops Writing: Emergence of Individual Histories in Post-New Order Indonesia*. Thesis Advisor: Rudolf Mrázek. Sandeep will soon be headed to Jakarta to work with the 'Conflict and Development' team of the World Bank on a project on ethno-communal violence.

Student News

Ismail (Aji) Alatas (PhD, Anthropology & History) received an International Institute Individual Fellowship to allow him to travel to Indonesia this summer to examine identity formation outside the boundaries of the nation that emerged among Indonesian pilgrims through pilgrimage to Yemen. He presented a paper on the subject at Duke University this spring. ifalatas@umich.edu

Catherine Benson (PhD, Natural Resources) received a Fulbright to carry out doctoral research in Cambodia. She will attend SEASSI on a FLAS to study first year Khmer before leaving for Cambodia in the fall. csbenson@umich.edu

Hillary Brass (PhD, Anthropology) writes: "This May, I will be going to Yogyakarta, Indonesia, on a Rackham Student Research Grant to work on making contacts and familiarizing myself with the area for later field research." She will then return to Madison to study Javanese at SEASSI on a FLAS. hcbass@gmail.com

Bretton Dimick (PhD, Musicology) will conduct dissertation research next year on a genre of sung poetry called *ca trù* in Hanoi, Vietnam, with funding from Fulbright. This past year, he concluded his pre-candidacy work for a PhD in Ethnomusicology after being awarded a FLAS to continue language work in Vietnamese. Over the summer, Bretton married Alyssa Worsham, who graduated from University of Michigan Law School and took a job at Baker and McKenzie's office in Hanoi. bfdimick@umich.edu

Matthew Gallon (PhD, Anthropology), a student of Carla Sinopoli who began his life at Michigan as a South Asia specialist, has been living in Thailand for a year, studying Thai and developing an archeological project in the region for his dissertation. He has received a Rackham International Research Award to support his work there in the 2009-2010 academic year. mgallon@umich.edu

Dashini Jeyathurai (PhD, English and Women's Studies), will have her paper titled "Interrogating National Identity: Ethnicity, Language and History in K.S. Maniam's *The Return* and Shirley Geok-lin Lim's *Joss and Gold*" published in the Spring 2009 issue of the *Graduate Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* out of the University of Hawaii Manoa. jeyathud@umich.edu

Amy Kimura (PhD, Ethnomusicology) writes: "I've been in the field for dissertation research since September on a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship. I was in the Netherlands doing research in The Hague and Leiden, and since April I have been in Jakarta, working primarily at the National Library. In my travels I've seen lots of people with CSEAS ties: former visiting professor Ben Arps in Leiden, CSEAS MA (and current UC Berkeley PhD student) Shawn Callanan in Jakarta and former visiting artists Sigit Soegito and Yulisa Mastati in Central Java. tasalajalang@gmail.com

Joshua Monthei (MA, Urban Planning and South East Asian Studies) received an International Institute Individual Fellowship to allow him to travel to Thailand to examine the relationship between transportation planning and social inequality in Bangkok. Josh took part in the Center's Urban Flow project this year (the piece he wrote was about traveling by canal boat in Bangkok!) and assisted CSEAS Outreach Coordinator Charley Sullivan in creating educational materials on both the Urban Flow project, and on the abolition of slavery in Thailand. jmonthei@umich.edu

Sandeep Ray (MA, SE Asian Studies) is: 1. Graduating! Thesis title: 'When the State Stops Writing: Emergence of Individual Histories in post-New Order Indonesia'; 2. Starting work with the Conflict and Development study team of the World Bank in Jakarta; 3. Premiered his film, 'The Earnest Years' at the Center for South Asian Studies in March; and 4. Editing the footage of the Urban Flow project for use by the

Centers for South Asian and Southeast Asian Studies. sandeep@umich.edu

Joel Selway (PhD, Political Science) will graduate in August. His dissertation, entitled *Constitutions, Cross-cutting Cleavages and Coordination: The Political Economy of Health and Education Provision in Developing Democracies* focuses on how constitutional rules about how politicians are elected can affect health and education policies. Joel will begin a tenure-track position at Brigham Young University in the Department of Political Science in September. He will be involved with the Asian Studies Center there and has a personal mission to increase the university's attention to Southeast Asian studies. jselway@umich.edu

Kate Skillman (PhD, Asian Languages and Cultures) will spend her summer taking second-year Arabic at the U-M Summer Language Institute in Ann Arbor. Her Arabic study will allow her to read Javanese texts written in Arabic or in Javanese language and Arabic script (Jawi), and to develop a deeper understanding of quotations and keywords in Arabic which come up frequently in her discussions and research with Islamic teachers in Indonesia. kmskill@umich.edu

Rebecca Townsend (MA, SE Asian Studies) will study Advanced Thai with a FLAS award at SEASSI in Madison this summer. rmtownse@umich.edu

Nat Tuohy (MA, SE Asian Studies) will continue his study of Javanese with a FLAS at SEASSI. He was able to begin a formal study of the language with Etty Theresa, our Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant, during the academic year. ntuohy@umich.edu

Colleen Woods (PhD, History) will continue her study of Filipino at SEASSI on a FLAS award. She plans to write her dissertation on American influences on institution building in the Philippines in the decades following independence. woodscp@umich.edu

Thank You to our Donors in the past year. Your generosity supports the work of the Center on many fronts.

Javanese Performing Arts and Indonesian Studies

Anonymous (in support of a *selamatan* in Java honoring Judith Becker)
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**Faculty/Staff Gift*

Community Focus: Outreach and Enrichment through Paaralang Pilipino

The Philippine Study Group Student Association (PSGSA) has worked in various capacities at the Philippine American Community Center of Michigan (PACCM) since it opened in 2001. The group's involvement is focused around supporting Paaralang Pilipino, the cultural school that meets on Sundays during the academic year.

This year, PSGSA partnered with the Filipino American Student Association (FASA), composed primarily of undergraduates. Together they guide and mentor over 30 students at Paaralang Pilipino, between the ages of 4 and 18. PSGSA and FASA developed a new teaching curriculum for elementary Philippine History classes, and fostered creativity and documentation of the Filipino American experience in Michigan with the Paaralang Pilipino Filipino Youth Initiative (FYI).

In exchange for their volunteer work this year, PACCM and Paaralang Pilipino made a \$1000 donation to the Philippine Studies Endowment at Michigan. The donation recognizes the importance of Philippine Studies at U-M, and the impact it has on the Filipino community.



FASA member Tina Cocadiz holds the agong for one of her elementary Philippine History students. Kulintang was used to teach students about life and culture in southern Philippines.



Center for Southeast Asian Studies
1080 S. University, Ste. 3603
Ann Arbor, MI 48109
734.764.0352 (Phone)
734.936.0996 (Fax)
www.i.umich.edu/cseas



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In March, CSEAS sponsored an exhibition in the International Institute Gallery of photographs by U-M alumnus Stuart Isett on "Tiny Toones: The First Hip-Hop Youth Center of Cambodia."

Tiny Toones Cambodia uses breakdancing, Hip-Hop music, and contemporary art as creative tools to empower the youth of Cambodia to live healthier lives free of HIV and drugs, build a more promising future by furthering their educational opportunities, and become positive role models for their community. These goals are achieved through offering free classes in English and Khmer to supplement the children's regular education, and integrating HIV education and drug prevention in a fun, child-friendly approach. Peer mentors are available around the clock to provide positive support and to teach the Hip-Hop arts, including breakdancing, rapping, djing, and graffiti.

Tiny Toones Cambodia was founded by Tuy "KK" Sobil, born in the Thai refugee camps in 1977, and raised in Long Beach before being deported to Cambodia in 2004. He witnessed that the underprivileged youth of Phnom Penh faced many of the same gang and drug related pressures that he did in the U.S. Realizing that these children were at risk of repeating his own mistakes, he opened up his own home to serve as a youth center with breakdancing as the main activity. KK's goal and the mission of Tiny Toones Cambodia is to provide a positive environment for kids to focus their energy and creativity in the arts and education, so that they build self-confidence in their daily lives and feel supported in achieving their dreams.