

CENTER FOR
SOUTHEAST
ASIAN
STUDIES

Fall 2020 Newsletter



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About the Center

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

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

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear CSEAS Community,

What an extraordinary first year I have had as director!

The 2019–2020 year was marked by COVID-19's disruption of our daily and normal lives, regardless of geographic location, institutional rank, and disciplinary focus. Beginning in March, we cancelled our programming for the safety of all community constituents. Our students and faculty quickly pivoted to online remote learning and teaching, and some researchers prematurely left Southeast Asia, their fieldwork interrupted. In the face of continuing restrictions, students have adjusted their thesis work and language training, and faculty have sought ways to continue projects while supporting students' success. I remain impressed by how CSEAS faculty and students have figured out how to thrive in this unprecedented and singular age.

We kick off the 2020–2021 academic year by welcoming Mary Gallagher, the new International Institute director, and our second cohort of Masters in Regional Studies students. The "new normal" mode of remote and virtual presents an opportunity to connect in innovative ways with our partners in Southeast Asia and at other institutions. Despite the turbulence, in this prospective year, CSEAS will still offer the usual regional, national, and international programming that you have come to expect, taking advantage of our community's resilience and boundless spirit and of the rapid development of remote technology.

On the following pages, we proudly highlight our 2019–2020 faculty and student accomplishments and our academic and cultural programming, including the Friday Lecture Series, the Gamelan performance, the MENA-SEA Teacher Program, and the public discussion of the Washtenaw Reads book choice, *Dear America: Notes of an Undocumented Citizen*.

Our times are marked by loss of varying kinds. In the grip of this pandemic, one thing is certain: we are all in this together. COVID-19 has reminded us of the interconnectedness of our lives and the shared responsibilities toward wellbeing. Throughout the year, we will keep you informed about how our students, faculty, and stakeholders are making sense of and responding dynamically to our new and fraught times. Stay engaged with us, reach out, and "lean into" these uncertain times.

LAURA ROZEK

*Director, Center for Southeast Asian Studies
Associate Professor, Environmental Health Sciences,
Global Public Health and Nutrition*

LIBRARY UPDATE

The Faces of the Southeast Asia Unit in the Library

While Susan Go is the public face for the Library's Southeast Asia Unit, it would not be possible for her to run the unit efficiently without the cadre of people that is behind the scene.

Sujira Meesanga Prayoonhong (Noi)

received her BA degree in Architecture from Sinlapakorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. After practicing architecture for a number of years, she came to Eastern Michigan University (EMU) for both BS and MA degrees in computer science. She began to apply her technical knowledge to the library when she received an NEH grant to catalog the Thai Gedney Collection of books in 1987. She provided the unit with the most professional service in this project. She has continued to do so for over three decades in a wide variety of much-needed support regarding Thailand, Laos, and Southeast Asia broadly—quite an accomplishment.

Lien Dang

hails from Hanoi via Belgium and France. She is a graduate of the Academy of Finance in Hanoi, Vietnam, and did her U.S. schooling at EMU in Ypsilanti, Michigan. She has been our Vietnamese language cataloger for the last five years.

Hery Budiman was born in Purwokerto in Central Java, Indonesia. He moved to Yogyakarta to pursue his BA at Sanata Dharma University in the English Education Study Program. Since 2017, he has worked in the Southeast Asia Program, International Studies, as an Indonesian language informant.

Alyssa Chua comes from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and is a student of computational cognitive science in the College of Literature, Sciences, and the Arts. She is our Malay expert and handles material primarily originating from Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore. She is the person who knows the ins and outs of the library computer system and makes sure that the titles are inputted correctly and sent to labeling.

Robert Aung is a junior student studying computer science. He has been working at the Southeast Asian department at the library for over one year. His work consists of transliterating Burmese book titles to English and summarizing the books to input information into the database.

A Glimpse of Southeast Asia Titles

Acquired Before COVID-19

VIETNAMESE BOOKS

Độc nhãn tướng quân Nguyễn Bình - như một huyền thoại / author, Nguyễn Ngọc Bích; published in 2017. Biography of general Nguyễn Bình of Vietnam (Democratic Republic) in the Indochinese War, 1946–1954.

Cộng đồng người Hoa, Hoa kiều ở châu Á = Ethnic Chinese and sojourner Chinese community in Asia / author, Trần Khánh; published in 2018.

Ca khúc Hà Nội thế kỷ XX và những năm đầu thế kỷ XXI / many authors; published in 2010. Collection of Vietnamese popular songs on Hanoi capital, Vietnam, and biography of Vietnamese composers.

Cẩm nang nghi lễ truyền thống Chăm Ninh Thuận = A guide of Cham traditional rituals in Ninh Thuận province, Vietnam / author, Quảng Văn Đại; published in 2016.

Viết và đối thoại / author, Trần Mai Hạnh; published in 2019. Collection of articles on Vietnamese society, and interview of journalist Trần Mai Hạnh.

Kha Vạng Căn : chủ tịch đầu tiên của thành phố Sài Gòn - Gia Định / author, Diêu Ân; published in 2018. Biography of politician of Vietnam (Democratic Republic) in Vietnam history 1945–1975.

Miền Đông Nam Bộ từ khởi thủy đến đầu thế kỷ XXI / editor, Hồ Sơn Đài; published in 2018. History, civilization and society of Southern, Vietnam.

BURMESE BOOKS

Sikkhā tō' cha rā tō' U" Jo' On' e* 'Atthuppatti : The Biography of Rev. Dr. U Zau Awng / author, Mon' Am' O (Tó' Van' Rvhe Man'"); published in 2018. Biography of Christian scholars.

Mran' mā nuin' nam' e* da sa ma mrok' samma ta krī' Ū' Van' Mran' / author, San' Thvan' (Lhāññ' Kū'"); published in 2018. A biography of Myanmar's tenth president U Van Myint.

Sū tui' mran' so Man' Su Van' (Cha rā krī' Man' Su Van' nhạc 110 praññ' 'a mhat' ta ra cā myā'") / published in 2019. History and criticism of Burmese literature in 20th century.

Pyū hū saññ' mha' / author, Mān' Sac' Nrim'"; published in 2019. Sources of history, antiquities of Sagaing (Burma : Division) and Pyu (Burma).

Si cap' mran' nham' = Independent Journal of Burmese Scholarship / published in 2016

Ma Ma' E' tui' te" u yyāñ' / authors, Tan' On', Buil' ka le" [and 9 others]; published in 2013. Biography of Burmese singers.

INDONESIAN BOOKS

Aristo-modernis dari Timur : Paku Alam V, westernisasi, dan paradoks Kebudayaan / authors, Sudibyo [and 4 others]; published in 2018. Account of Paku Alam V, prince and ruler of Kingdom of Pakualaman, Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Ahok : Akal politik sehat / author, Meicky Shoreamis Panggabean; published in 2016. Biography and public opinion about Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, Governor of Special Capital Region of Jakarta, Indonesia.

Jokowi Memimpin dengan Hati / author, Keen Achroni; published in 2017. Biography of Joko Widodo, the 7th president of the Republic of Indonesia.

41 Warisan Kebesaran Gus Dur / author, M. Hanif Dhakiri; published in 2010. Thoughts of Abdurrahman Wahid (Gus Dur), a Muslim scholar and the 4th president of the Republic of Indonesia.

Pak Harto, Saya dan Kontainer medik udara / authors, Raman Ramayana Saman, and Imelda Bachtiar; published in 2017. Biography of Marsma TNI (Purn.) Dr. H. Raman Ramayana Saman, Sp.M. He is a military doctor in Indonesian Air Force who initiated and embodied human surgical efforts in the air.

Tan Malaka, Pergulatan menuju Republik 1925–1945 / author, Harry A. Poeze; published in 2000. Biography of Tan Malaka, an Indonesian hero, who had an idea about the Republic of Indonesia for the first time.

Why Aceh opposed Indonesia : a short biography of founder of ASNLF, Hasan Tiro / author, Murizal Hamzah; published in 2018. Biography of Tiro, Hasan Muhammad, a revolutionary in Aceh (Indonesia).

SINGAPOREAN BOOKS

Qing qian shi dao, xin xi min jiang = Ubin-our heart and soul / editor, Xiao Sunxi; published in 2018. Biography and social life and customs of Chinese and Malays (Asian people) living in Ubin Island (Singapore).

Xue ni fang zong : Zhuang Xuefang / authors, Su Zhangkai, Yang Minghui, Du Hanbin; published in 2017. Biography of singers, actress Zhuang Xuefang in Singapore.

Xiao chi / author, Huang Zhuolun; published in 2018. Singaporean essays (Chinese) of food in literature.

Tao sheng yi jiu : Huai Ying shi ji / author, Huai Ying; published in 2013. Literature and poems of Singaporean author.

Shopping for antique & collectibles: Singapore & Malaysia 2003/4 / published in 2003. Directories of antique dealers in Singapore & Malaysia.

Imperial creatures : humans and other animals in colonial Singapore, 1819–1942 / author, Timothy P. Barnard; published in 2019. History of human ecology in Singapore.

Uncovering Seletar / authors, Eugene Wijesingha [and others]; published in 2018. Pictorial works about the history of Seletar (Singapore).

MALAYSIAN BOOKS

Ketene' : cerita lisan etnik Kenyah / author, Juna Liau; published in 2019. Folk literature of Kenyah (Southeast Asian people) in Sarawak (Malaysia).

Neofeudal UMNO : politik dan pembangunan luar bandar / authors, Mazli Bidu & Dr. Jamaie Hamil; published in 2018. Political, social conditions, and rural development in Malaysia.

Corruption and crime in Malaysia : perception or reality? / author, Akhbar Satar; published in 2018.

Boria : from passion play to Malay-Jawi Peranakan parody / author, Wazir Jahan Karim; published in 2018. History of Malay theater, drama, songs in George Town (Pulau Pinang), Malaysia.

PHILIPPINE BOOKS

Kulto ni Santiago / author, Kristian Sendon Cordero; published in 2018. Filipino and Bikol short stories.

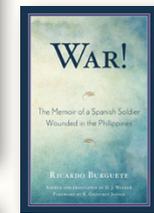
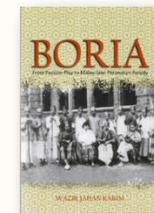
English-Bahasa Sūg dictionary = Anggalis-Bahasa Sūg kitab-maana / author, Benj. S. Bangahan; published in 2015.

Kakanyahan ng Malolos : pamana ng bayan ng Malolos sa mga Pilipino / authors, Christian Natividad, King Cortez; published in 2019. History of Malolos (Philippines).

Cebuano folk song (Pakitong-kitong); Maguindanao folk song (Kaisa-isa niyan); Ifugao Folk song (Ed-Eddoy) / edited by Felicidad A. Prudente; published by Tahanan Books in 2019. Various folk songs from the Philippines.

War: the memoir of a Spanish soldier wounded in the Philippines / author, Burguete, Ricardo; published in 2020.

Southeast Asia politics : issues of the past defining the challenges of the present / edited by Noel Ma. Morada and Teresa S. Encarnacion Tadem; published by Manila : Third World Perspectives in Politics in 2019 (On its way).



Community press and its revolutionary tradition / author, Georgina R. Encanto; published by University of the Philippines Press in 2019.

THAI BOOKS

Nakhōn rat Thai bon phāēndin Suwannaphūm = Glorious Thai kingdoms since 13th century / published in 2019. History and civilization of Thailand.

Pax homonibus : A history of the mission of Siam and Laos / author, Robert Coste; published in 2019. History of Catholic church mission of Siam and Laos.

400 pī tai thalē Čhanthabūn : læng bōrānakhadī tai nam Rūa Bāng Kachai 2 = 400 years beneath the Chanthaboon sea : Bangkachai II wreck site / author, 'Cēpprēm Watcharāngkūn; published in 2017. Antiquities, Underwater archaeology in Chanthaburi province, Thailand.

Thai pidok : prawattisāt kānmūāng sangkhom rūam samai khōng Phutthasātsanā Thai / author, Phinyaphan Photčhānalāwan; published in 2019. History of Buddhism in Thailand.

Thūt farang ton Krung Rattanakōsin / author, Sathāpat Sahathēwakān; published in 2019. History of Thailand and the impact of foreign relations with the West during the early nineteenth century.

Lang 6 Tulā ... : wādūai khwāmkhatyāēng thāng khwāmkhīt rawāng khabūānkān naksurksā kap Phak Khōmmiunit hāēng Prathēt Thai / author, Thikān Sīnārā; published in 2019. After the event of October 6th, 1976 and the political conditions of Thailand between the students and the Communist Party of Thailand during 1976–1982.

FULBRIGHT FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING ASSISTANTS

An-Hien Doan

An-Hien Doan has been an English instructor at the Department of Foreign Languages at Quy Nhon University (Quy Nhon City, Vietnam) since 2012. Her academic interest is Multiple Intelligences in English Language Teaching, which is her major for her bachelor's and master's degrees.

Currently, An-Hien assists Vietnamese classes at the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures as a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant. She also enjoys participating in plenty of workshops related to multicultural communication, feminism and climate change on the campus. Throughout the Fulbright program, the workplace culture of the Southeast Asian Language Program gives An-Hien a strong impression. She thinks her supervisor and coworkers are remarkably professional, supportive and caring. After the FLTA Program, she plans to resume her teaching career in Vietnam. An-Hien hopes to apply and share the insights gained at the University of Michigan (U-M) with her students in her hometown.



Lidya Pawestri Ayuningtyas

Lidya Pawestri Ayuningtyas is from Jakarta, Indonesia. She has taught English and Indonesian to foreigners at State Polytechnic of Jakarta since 2015, from which she graduated in 2011. She then continued her studies at the University of Indonesia for a bachelor's degree and University College London for a master's degree. She loves going to cultural events at U-M which she thinks are unparalleled. In Ann Arbor, people are exceptionally kind and fun to be around. The lectures are inspiring and the lecturers are so passionate about what they teach. After completing the FLTA Program, she hopes to continue her career as a lecturer and continue to study at a doctoral level in another continent.



STUDENT GROUP SPOTLIGHT

The Vietnamese Student Association

CSEAS is proud to feature one of the university's Southeast Asian student groups, the Vietnamese Student Association (VSA), which celebrates and shares Vietnamese culture with the U-M community. To learn more about this engaging student org, we spoke with Jason Ngo, one of VSA's public relations representatives, and Marilyn Padua, a recent U-M graduate and VSA alumna.

VSA hosts a variety of events that focus on culture, community service and advocacy, and interaction between members of the organization. For instance, VSA members, as well as other students outside of the organization, can participate in and/or watch the annual culture show, *Đêm Việt Nam* (A Night in Vietnam, or DVN for short). Historically, VSA has held its show at the Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, but in 2020 was fortunate to perform at the Power Center. According to Marilyn, DVN is a way for members "to showcase, with the performing arts, the beauty and transformation of Vietnamese culture over time, from traditional Vietnamese songs to the modern-day V-pop. Through the skit that is incorporated throughout the culture show, we try to showcase the experiences of Vietnamese Americans to shed light on the common struggles that many of us face in our day to day lives. The skit is a way for us to open up dialogue and bring the community closer together."

Considerable planning and preparation go into VSA events. The process for planning DVN is year-long, starting as soon as the new DVN executive board members are elected. Smaller events, such as Pho Night, fundraising events, and collaborative events with other student organizations, usually take 3-4 weeks of active planning. Since reserving



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM: VSA's Fall 2019 Mass Meeting; VSA's annual culture show, *Đêm Việt Nam* (courtesy of Brian Lin photography); VSA's "Paint the Rock" event.

campus spaces is highly competitive, VSA strives to create a timeline at the beginning of each semester to reserve rooms well in advance.

Overall, VSA offers students the opportunity to come together and share their cultural backgrounds and experiences. Jason joined VSA because he came from an area where Vietnamese representation was very low and he wanted "to interact with other people who shared a similar heritage." Interaction within the VSA community not only promotes an embrace of Vietnamese culture but often results in strong and lasting friendships. Marilyn will remember most the belonging and joy whenever she spent time with VSA members. "From pulling all-nighters in the UGLI, to running around frantically trying to serve pho as fast as we could during Pho Night, the memories I've made with the VSA community are unforgettable." She also made

some of her best friends through VSA at U-M and even friends from VSA in other states, such as Indiana and Illinois.

Both Jason and Marilyn explained that VSA positively shaped their experiences at U-M. VSA helped Jason grow as an individual and "has helped me find a second family away from home." He's been happier on campus because of it. This year will be his second year on the executive board, which "has helped me grow as a leader." Meanwhile, to Marilyn, VSA was a community that made her "become comfortable with being uncomfortable": it pushed her to the limit, made sure to support her throughout her journey, and offered a safe space for her to be vulnerable. She also noted that she loved "seeing friendships develop at our events" and was happy that she made people feel welcomed and appreciated in the community, just like she had been welcomed.

“Unneat” Histories of Malaysia: Josh Chun Wah Kam Remembers Saints, Inscribes Heroes

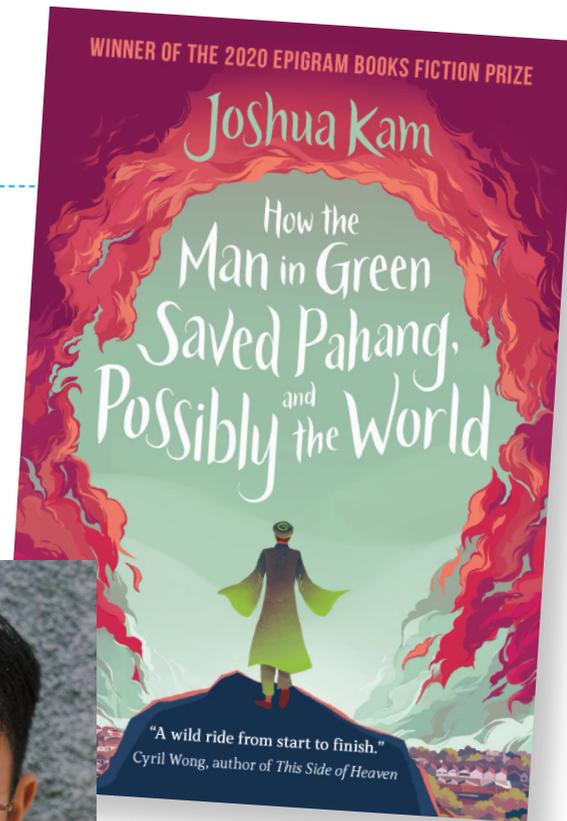
CSEAS student **Josh Chun Wah Kam** was born in Montana, but grew up in Kuala Lumpur to Malaysian parents. He spent his undergraduate years at Hope College in Holland, Michigan, and in 2019 conducted research in Indonesia under the Fulbright Program. Besides Javanese literature at U-M, he studies the ways Southeast Asian classical literary traditions push back at boundaries of gender, sexuality, and faith, subverting both indigenous and colonial aristocracy. Here, Josh shares about his personal and academic experiences.

Tell us a little about yourself.

That’s a big question! A lot of my work as a scholar, at least, is tied to the ways I’ve had to engage with my own identity, and have had to challenge myself to build solidarities bigger than my own “niche” of identities. Malaysian Chinese and gay, I am from a country where corporal punishment and jail time are frequently wielded against LGBT people, but I am also very much navigating the privileges of class, color, and legality that permit me to be where I am and do what I do. My scholarship, then, reflects this attempt to connect marginalized histories and see



where intersecting communities interact beyond colonialism’s net. Outside of my direct areas of expertise, I have spent a lot of time trying to get a fuller sense of ancestry and place. [I have learned that], alongside Chinese Singaporeans and Malaysians who were “industrious” and “loyal to England,” were robust communities of anti-capitalist women and freedom fighters. Against the staid images of traditional Malay society



thrived villages full of artists and others we’d probably call non-binary or trans today. It’s not neat history, and a great deal of the ways I understand those ancestral ties comes from the study I do.

What inspired you to write your novel, *How the Man in Green Saved Pahang, and Possibly the World*?

Reading about these alternative heroes of Malaysian history moved me deeply. I think something about Sufi literature and Maoist women’s memoirs from 1950s Malaysia were also incredibly influential. I’m from a Christian tradition that dwells very deeply on the saints—on the idea that the human body and human actions matter enormously and deserve to be inscribed as models and sources of hope. Orthodox Christians dwell on iconography as a way of hopeful

remembrance, and perhaps mine is an attempt to remember my own saints, inscribe my own heroes.

What kind of research did you do for your book?

Much of it came about organically from research in both Indonesia and U-M’s Hatcher Library! I’d received funding in my undergraduate studies—thanks to some lobbying by amazing professors—to do research in Ann Arbor about *Hikayat Hang Tuah*, the iconic Malay epic, and that work certainly has inspired many of the characters and discussions in the novel.

How long did it take you to write the novel? How did you balance responsibilities while working on this book?

Four months writing, eight months editing. I actually had a brief summer between graduating and the Fulbright award, so it worked out perfectly to write daily for that period.

You are the youngest winner of the Epigram Books Fiction Prize, one of Singapore’s largest literary prizes. How does that feel? What was your reaction when you won it?

More shock than anything. It’s a lot to take in. I’m honored, but glad the ancestors get a chance to speak (I hope!) through me.

Your book concerns itself with the communist and LGBT communities of Malaysia. Why was this focus important to you?

Who else should I speak of if not the people who did—and do—see the links between homophobia, transphobia, capitalism, and western imperialism? I’m not looking just to write of “niche” intersections, but to write of what happens when those seemingly niche identities spill over, overlap and grow solidarity. I wanted to write something that was big enough for a whole lot of Malaysians.

Do you plan to continue writing other similar books?

Yes! One’s in the works; it is set in eastern Michigan and explores imperial academia.

Carillon and Mentorship Defining Experiences at U-M

Nee Chucherdwatanasak is a PhD candidate in historical musicology. Her research examines the current scene of classical music in the United States. She is also interested in cross-cultural approaches that Asian composers, particularly those from Southeast Asia, have adopted in their compositional process. Ms. Chucherdwatanasak recently wrote to CSEAS about some of her defining experiences at U-M.

“My most memorable experience was when I performed one of the compositions written by King Bhumibol (Thailand’s previous king) on the carillon in commemoration of the first anniversary of his death in October 2017.

I plan to graduate in the spring of 2021. Then, my husband and I, as well as our toddler, will move back to Thailand and teach at a university. U-M has equipped me with valuable experiences and an exceptional education to be a successful educator. The mentorship that I have received in particular from my advisor, Charles Garrett, professor of musicology at the School of Music, Theatre & Dance, has greatly inspired me to be not only an instructor who provides great insight into musical topics, but a mentor who cares deeply about students’ well-being.”



FLAS Fellows 2019–2020

Congratulations to our 2019–2020 academic year Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellows. Through the support of U.S. Department of Education Title VI funding, CSEAS was able to provide tuition support and stipends to undergraduate and graduate students studying beginning, intermediate, or advanced level training in the less commonly taught languages of Southeast Asia. Our Center’s fellows studied Burmese, Indonesian, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese. Congratulations to our students on obtaining this prestigious award!

Jasmine An

Tamara Bingham

Chantal Croteau

Maria Cristina Guytingco

Cole Howe

Joshua Kam

Tiffany Lee

Courtney Liss

Paige Newhouse

Eitan Paul

Jennifer Rollison

Megan Ryan

Thu Tran

Moniek van Rheenan

Mai Ze Vang

Lai Wo

FACULTY NEWS

Collaborating about Vaccines across Cultures and Institutions

By Abram Wagner
Research Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology at U-M

In February 2020, prior to COVID-19's freeze on international travel, I had the opportunity to visit three institutions in two different countries in Southeast Asia. The purpose of the trip was to visit with different researchers whom I had only met electronically but with whom I had already started working on joint research projects. My trip itinerary included:

February 19–20
Banda Aceh, Indonesia
—Syiah Kuala University

February 21–24
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
—Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)
—Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR)

In Banda Aceh, Indonesia, I met with two colleagues (Dr. Harapan and Dr. Amanda Yufika) with whom I've previously published research on vaccine decision-making in Indonesia. On the first day in Indonesia, we discussed, along with a group convened by the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences,

potential future research projects and grant opportunities. A large focus would be on religious barriers to vaccination. Aceh Province is an autonomous region in Indonesia that has sharia law, and many Muslims in the area believe that some vaccines contain haram (i.e., forbidden) material.

On the second day, Syiah Kuala University convened a mini-symposium entitled “Infectious Disease Updates: From Molecular to Public Health.” Several individuals from Syiah Kuala University presented on their own research areas—from arboviruses to vaccine-preventable diseases in Indonesia—and I gave a talk entitled, “Vaccination: Struggles Worldwide.” The talk was attended by faculty and students from the medical school.

I then flew to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to visit a researcher, Dr. Yogambigai Rajamoorthy. I made presentations at two universities in the Greater Kuala Lumpur area—Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), where Dr. Rajamoorthy

Visiting Batu Caves in Malaysia



BELOW: Attendants and participants in the symposium “Infectious disease updates: From molecular to public health” at Syiah Kuala University, Banda Aceh, Indonesia, February 20, 2020. MIDDLE: Presenting at UPM, Serdang, Malaysia, on February 21, 2020.



Presenting at UTAR, Kampar, Malaysia, on February 21, 2020.



Visiting a marketplace in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Banda Aceh • Syiah Kuala University



was a student, and Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), where Dr. Rajamoorthy is currently on faculty in the Department of Economics.

At UPM, I presented on the “Effectiveness of influenza vaccine and Tamiflu” and on “Constructing epidemiology studies during outbreaks.” And at UTAR, I presented on “Degradation of maternal antibodies in infants.” For both sets of presentations, there was an audience of faculty and students from the university.

I appreciate CSEAS for funding this trip with support from their Title VI National Resource Center grant. It was my first time in this corner of the world. The hospitality of my hosts and the food and culture of this region were wonderful, and I hope to visit again after the current COVID-19 pandemic passes.

In the meantime, I am continuing my research work with collaborators from these regions. Currently, I am engaged in an internet-based survey of attitudes towards vaccination in several countries, including Malaysia and Indonesia. My collaborators from these regions are consultants on this project, funded through the National Science Foundation. Additionally, I am seeking funds from the Fulbright Foundation to continue (remote) work on the relationship between religion and vaccination in Indonesia, which may become more important as the COVID-19 vaccine is introduced in the near future.

Hughes Fellow Mia Baguisi's Archival Research in the Time of COVID-19

Maria Margarita (Mia) Mercado Baguisi is a graduate student in history, working on her master's thesis at De La Salle University in Manila, Philippines. During Winter 2020, she spent several months at U-M as a CSEAS Hughes Fellow, conducting archival research. This interview occurred in May.

What is your research about?

My research is about the *Guardias de Honor de Maria*, a confraternity that was established by the Dominicans in the Philippines during the colonial era and turned into a religious movement between the late 19th and early 20th centuries, at the height of political turmoil in the Philippines and across Southeast Asia. To address the problem of the historiographical literature and current

perspectives' mere descriptiveness about the *Guardias de Honor*, I make use of the concept of mimesis in order to explain how localized ("Filipinized") religion born from syncretism of Pre-Hispanic religion and Catholicism, which the *Guardias de Honor* embodied, functioned as subversion to imposed colonial culture and religion. Through my reinterpretation of this movement, I show the wide range of measures that Filipinos used to actually empower and maintain their indigenous belief system/traditions while adhering to Christian doctrines and rituals.

What has been your experience at the Bentley Historical Library?

For researchers and scholars interested in the Philippines, a visit to the Bentley Historical Library is an absolute must. There are vast amounts of source material relating to the Philippines and Southeast Asia. I had the opportunity to explore documents of high-ranking colonial officials of the Philippines in the Joseph Ralston Hayden Papers, Harry Hill Bandholtz Papers, James Alfred LeRoy Papers, and the Dean C. Worcester Collection, among many others.

The [library's] excellent staff and archivists were always accommodating and contributed to the supportive atmosphere. My experience at Bentley also defined the research I want to pursue and undertake in the future.

What has it been like to do research during COVID-19?

The COVID-19 outbreak severely limited my access to the archival repositories. When it was announced during the second week of March that the university had cancelled in-person classes and closed most of its facilities, such as the libraries, I was in disbelief. In fact, I was slated to deliver a

talk at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. With all of the facilities closed, it has been such a regret not to research at the archives. In spite of this, I am thankful and satisfied that I had the chance to review the contents of the aforementioned collections. As a history student/researcher, it also feels quite unreal to be living through a pandemic; such events are deemed "historical moments" because they deeply affect and change societies. This all the more puts into focus what we can learn from past pandemics in order to be better prepared for whatever lies ahead.

It has been certainly challenging for me to move forward with my research since most historical source material can only be accessed through microfilm or archival repositories. However, I was able to carry out more than half of my data-gathering before the closure. I'm glad that I was able to plan well ahead and prioritize acquiring relevant primary sources from the rare collections housed in the Hatcher Graduate Library, particularly the U-M Special Collections Research Center, and in the Bentley Historical Library. For the most part, I have been continuously working by shifting to digital sources in online repositories. Apart from that, the most I can do to handle this situation and remain productive is to organize previously collected data, translate needed documents, and constantly revise my work.

How have you enjoyed your time in Ann Arbor and at the International House Ann Arbor (IHAA)?

I was ecstatic to conduct historical research in one of the most distinguished universities in the U.S.! There are a lot of things to love about Ann Arbor, IHAA, and, especially, the U-M! One of the most fascinating things about Ann Arbor is that you get exposed to people from around the world. I found it enjoyable to interact with a wide range of people and learn about their culture, history, and individual talents. Throughout my four months spent here, I have also been extremely fortunate to experience two absolutely beautiful seasons: winter and spring. I saw both the intricately shaped

snowflakes and dainty spring blossoms. Since I grew up in a tropical climate, experiencing negative-degree weather felt surreal (luckily, this year had a "milder" winter)! Regrettably, [when] things went haywire, my exposure to the city became limited.

Now I consult digital sources while holed up in my apartment, try to keep myself healthy, and take the occasional stroll/jog around the neighborhood with a mask, of course. Vulnerability to the virus and its high mortality rate have made me terribly anxious and afraid. However, I've been incredibly lucky to call IHAA my shelter throughout this ordeal. Despite being a thousand miles away from home, I never felt alone because I have been surrounded by exceptionally kind, caring, and open-minded people from all over the world who looked out for each other. Although my time here has honestly been a mix of both pleasant surprises and unexpected twists and turns, it has been very memorable in a largely positive way.

What have you enjoyed the most about the Hughes Fellowship?

My experience as a Hughes Fellow this year strengthened my motivation and inspired me to push forward with some of my future career goals. I've also gained a lot of perspective about the historical research I want to pursue in the near future. If not for this fellowship, I would not have gained enough insight on how to improve, but also overall knowledge and capacity for historical research and writing. I cannot thank enough the U-M, CSEAS, and everyone else who supports this program for providing Southeast Asian scholars the opportunity to conduct research at the Bentley Historical Library, Hatcher Graduate Library, and all the other repositories. Thank you so much for believing in me and for having me at your institution.

CSEAS OUTREACH

Vulnerability in Curricula across Disciplines and Regions

In March 5–6, 2020, CSEAS' NRC funding supported the **U-M/UPR Pedagogical Workshop** (previously the U-M/UPR Outreach Collaboration Symposium) for K–16 in-service and pre-service educators at the Rio Piedras campus of the University of Puerto Rico, the only public institution of higher education on the island and a minority-serving-institution. This year's theme, "Integrating the Concept of Vulnerability into the Classroom," saw some 14 cross-disciplinary presentations from scholars at U-M and UPR, as well as a series of interactive pedagogical workshops and curriculum design studios led by Darin Stockdill of the Center for Education Design, Evaluation and Research at U-M's School of Education. One of these panels—"Vulnerability and World History"—featured Puerto Rican teachers who had participated in the NRC-funded U-M World History and Literature Initiative in December 2019.

Our center funded the talk of U-M area specialist Jennifer Rollison, titled "The Secret Legacy of War: Integration, Acceptance, and Belonging. Challenges for First and Second Generation Southeast Asian-American Immigrants." CSEAS also contributed significant funding to the travel of U-M Latin American and Caribbean Studies Librarian Edras Rodriguez-Torres, who offered resources and suggestions to teachers and graduate students throughout the symposium as they tuned curriculum modules and brainstormed new ideas. Rodriguez-Torres'

expertise in digital and open-access primary and secondary source materials served the workshop participants in real-time and helped maintain the workshop's momentum.

This workshop built on previous iterations to expand its interactive and collaborative components, increasing our relevance and reach among Puerto Rican K–16 educators. We were delighted by the results. Though it is extremely difficult for Puerto Rican teachers to take off two consecutive school days to attend this workshop in full, we counted the highest attendance of K-12 teachers in the history of this collaboration. The in-person audience boasted more than 40 educators, scholars, students, and educational administrators, not counting live-stream attendees. One attendee wrote, "The participation of local teachers discussing current challenges and ideas was perfect." Sheykirisabel Cucuta Gonzalez, Director of the Social Studies Program in the Puerto Rican Department of Education, expressed to our staff her deep support for this event and its restructured mission. Gonzalez is looking forward to future collaborations with even more Puerto Rican educators. CSEAS also saw increased interest in Southeast Asian education too with some 92% of interviewed attendees expressing a high likelihood of incorporating Southeast Asian content into their future teaching. About 71% reported a strong likelihood of using the curriculum toolkits specifically designed in this workshop. 86% of those interviewed made new professional contacts.

In summation, the symposium was hugely successful, and we look forward to strengthening the ties between U-M and UPR, and the larger community of Puerto Rican educators.

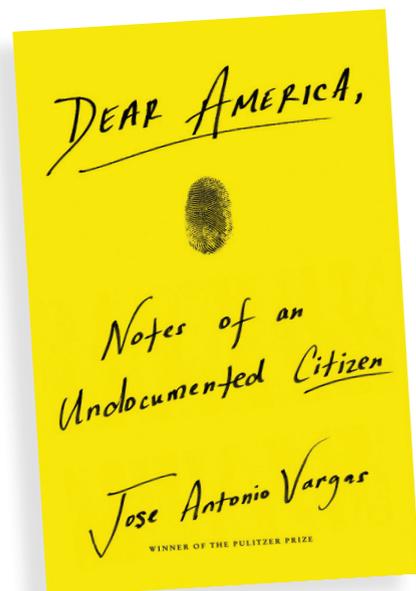


CSEAS Hosts Public Discussion of *Dear America*

By Rima Hassoneh
Outreach Coordinator

Filipino-American and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jose Antonio Vargas has been regarded as the “most famous undocumented immigrant in America.” But his story, he writes, is merely “one of an estimated 11 million here in the United States.” Part memoir, part reportage, *Dear America: Notes of an Undocumented Citizen* portrays the author’s “lying,” “passing,” and “hiding” in America, experiences shared, he argues, by all undocumented people. (Vargas learned that his green card was fake and that he had been smuggled into the United States from the Philippines, during another teenage rite of passage: applying for a driver’s permit.)

Dear America epitomizes Washtenaw Reads’ 2020 theme of “Everybody Counts.” (For more information about Washtenaw Reads, visit: [Washtenaw Reads](#).) The seven participating communities and libraries invited Vargas to speak at Washtenaw Community College on the evening of



January 30, 2020. To celebrate the program and to increase local engagement with this book and national debates about migration, CSEAS hosted its own public discussion on the 27th, with Marlon James Sales, postdoctoral fellow in Critical Translation Studies at U-M, and Rima Hassoneh, CSEAS’ outreach coordinator.

Forty-five people from all walks of life packed the room in Weiser Hall on that Monday evening. After refreshments and pastries from the central-campus restaurant Silvio’s, everyone settled in for the collective conversation. The two hosts offered overarching questions before leading the audience in a lively one-hour conversation about the book’s themes and main concerns. *Dear America*’s description of what it means to be Filipino—to “fit everywhere and nowhere at all”—resonated deeply for members of that community and for many others in the crowd. Calling the book “gorgeous,” Sales emphasized the multiple losses that the author and countless others have suffered in the pursuit of life in the U.S. Filipinos, Vargas points out in the memoir, have a long history of service to and sacrifice for the U.S. “With the promise of U.S. citizenship and full veteran benefits, more than 250,000 Filipino soldiers fought under the American flag [against the Japanese], playing a crucial role in achieving victory,” he writes. However, “the Rescission Act of 1946 retroactively took away these soldiers’ status as U.S. veterans. ... It took more than sixty years to rectify the injustice.” One of Vargas’ own sacrifices was a full relationship with his mother, with whom, 26 years later, he had not yet been reunited.

As part of its Title VI educational outreach related to the “Everybody Counts” event, CSEAS distributed 60 free copies of *Dear America* to Grade 6-12 libraries, teachers, as well as to members in that evening’s audience. Some of those copies were autographed by Vargas later that week at Washtenaw Reads’s main event, which drew over 400 persons.

Michigan Teachers “Journey” to Southeast Asia and the Middle East

By Rima Hassoneh
Outreach Coordinator

The **MENA-SEA Teacher Program** is a teacher-outreach collaboration funded largely by a Title VI National Resource Grant awarded from the U.S. Department of Education. To recruit from across the state and region, the program usually pays for the overnight lodgings of cohort teachers traveling long-distance. In its inaugural year the program revolved around a dedicated and passionate cohort of six Grade 6–12 educators admitted in a competitive application process.

The teachers were: Greg Dykhouse (History, Black River Public School, Holland), Kiersten Gawronski (English, Saline High School, Saline), Colleen Kalisieski (English, All Saints Catholic School, Canton), Amy Perkins (A.P. World and A.P. U.S. History, Lakeshore High School, Stevensville), Gabrielle Popp (Special Education English, Beacon Day Treatment, Southgate), and Alison Sullivan (World Geography and World History, Traverse City East Middle School, Traverse City).

The program gave Kalisieski “the opportunity as a teacher to step back into the role of learner, reflect upon my teaching practice, and incorporate the experiences and perspectives of my fellow educators as I think of ways to bring this new knowledge back to my classroom.” Starting in September 2019, every month on a Saturday, the teachers assembled on U-M’s Ann Arbor campus to

enrich and revitalize their teaching together around the topics of religious and cultural diversity in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and in Southeast Asia (SEA). Together they participated in workshops with U-M faculty and graduate students who were area specialists, engaged with readings and multi-media resources, toured the Arab American National Museum in Dearborn, and visited Yemeni- and Hmong-owned family businesses. The Center for Education Design, Evaluation and Research at the School of Education also partnered with the program to lead pedagogical discussions with the teachers about how to integrate the new content knowledge and skills into their teaching while meeting state standards. By the end of the program on June 26th, the cohort had 25 trainings by scholars, artists, and community leaders, and qualified for 22 State Continuing Education Clock Hours from the Michigan Department of Education.

An invaluable component of the program was world-class artistic performances. In January, for instance, cohort teachers experienced “As Far as My Fingertips Take Me,” a one-on-one encounter through a gallery wall with

“I am the only teacher who teaches my topics at a very small school. ... I am very excited to network and learn with like-minded, dedicated educators and experts in two fast-growing and very important regions of the world.”

KYMBERLI WREGGLESWORTH *Onaway Secondary School*

artist Basel Zaraa, born a Palestinian refugee in Syria, their arms touching without seeing each other. These performances enriched the teachers’ instruction. “My students were so engaged to hear about my experience with the interactive art performance,” reported Sullivan. “They were fascinated!”

Each of the nine sessions had a different focus or theme, including genocide, art as protest, and religious minorities under colonial rule. Prompted to identify a favorite

session, one teacher exclaimed: “Pick one? Any and all! Each has been dynamic, thought-provoking, and exceptional.” The question of choosing a favorite, Perkins protested, was “like asking a Catholic mother to pick her favorite child. I can’t pick. ... Honestly, I can’t tell you the number of times our Saturday sessions and assigned reading have directly impacted my weekly instruction. It’s also worth noting that the entire experience has energized me intellectually in a way that seems to have affected and inspired my students as well.” And about October’s session with Burmese human-rights advocate Wai Wai Nu, Dykhouse wrote, “I thank you for the wonderful day... to consider together some challenging and problematic material. As I reflected yesterday on Wai Wai Nu and her Women’s Peace Network, I continued to be impressed with initiatives taken by young people around the world. I intend to share her story with my students.”

In March, COVID-19 disrupted the full range of the program, including the in-person, cultural, and artistic activities. Nevertheless, the academic presentations continued online

of Mary (mother of Jesus) had direct connections to concepts I address in my World Mythology class. Connecting the ideas Dr. de la Cruz presented, such as the imagery and meaning of Our Lady of Caysasay and Our Lady of Guada, to Babylonian priestesses and Greek oracles means that my students can expand their world view of these concepts in addition to seeing that these ideas are universal: important to humans 5,000 years ago and today.”

The eighth session on May 30th focussed on graphic literature about the two regions. The teachers met with Leila Abdelrazaq, Palestinian author and artist born in Chicago and currently living in Detroit. The group discussed her debut graphic novel, *Baddawi*, which is about a boy raised in a refugee camp in northern Lebanon after his Palestinian family, like thousands of others, fled their homeland in 1948 after the establishment of the state of Israel. On that day Maya Barzilai also presented about how she teaches *Baddawi* and graphic literacy. She is Associate Director at the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies and Associate Professor at the Department of Middle Eastern Studies. Barzilai’s research focuses on twentieth-century postwar Hebrew and Yiddish literature, German Jewish thought, translation theory, and visual culture.

The program also equipped each teacher with *The Best We Could Do*, a memoir that visually documents author Thi Bui’s family’s escape after the fall of South Vietnam in the 1970s and their painful new lives as refugees in the U.S. Teaching with graphics can promote empathy and understanding of the experiences of migration, and Popp was eager to do so with both texts. “Immigration is a topic that comes up often in my classroom through my students’ personal stories as well as the literature we are reading,” she noted. “I am looking forward to the session because we will be delving more into resources my students can directly use.”

> continues on page 14

Plans for an afternoon walking tour of Hamtramck with Detroit-based documentary photographer and filmmaker Razi Jafri were obviously suspended, though not cancelled (in the works—*Inshallah*—are a Spring 2021 in-person reunion and tour of this Michigan city’s thriving immigrant character). Instead, the cohort virtually discussed with Jafri and Justin Feltman their documentary film, “Hamtramck, USA.” The film is about life and democracy in the U.S.’s first Muslim-majority city. A number of Sullivan’s students joined the conversation with the filmmakers, who were keen to hear their impressions, particularly since they hope to produce accompanying educational resources. The MENA-SEA Teacher Program looks forward to more collaboration with Feltman and Jafri, who will in Fall 2020 begin an M.F.A. program at the Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design.

Both CSEAS and CMENAS are federally designated National Resource Centers (NRCs). At the close of the program, each member created educational resources about both regions based on their year-long experiences; these resources will be shared publicly and freely with teachers across the nation via the NRC websites. Each participant also received a \$1000 honorarium. The program would have culminated in GEE0 (Global Exploration for Educators) trips to Morocco and Bangkok-Hanoi but, due to COVID-19, they have been postponed until July 2021.

The program has grown, to admit in 2020-2021 eight teachers from Interlochen, Onaway, Hartland, and Dearborn, to name a few towns across our state. Kymberli Wregglesworth of Onaway Secondary School sums up the immense value and impact of the MENA-SEA Teacher Program for educators: “I am the only teacher who teaches my topics at a very small school. ... I am very excited to network and learn with like-minded, dedicated educators and experts in two fast-growing and very important regions of the world.”

CSEAS EVENTS

Video recordings of some of these events are now available to watch.

PLEASE VISIT

ii.umich.edu/cseas/news-events/events/videos.html

CSEAS Friday Lecture Series

SEPTEMBER 20

Beyond the East-West Encounter: Inter-Asian Intimacies and Estrangements in Colonial and Postcolonial Burma, 1850–1950

SPEAKER: *Chie Ikeya, Rutgers University*

OCTOBER 25

Last Flight to Bangkok: Reflections on 60 Years in Southeast Asia

SPEAKER: *Gayl D. Ness, University of Michigan*

NOVEMBER 8

‘Why should I keep loving you when I know that you’re not true?’ A Cinema of Hiraeth

SPEAKER: *Gerald Sim, Florida Atlantic University*

NOVEMBER 15

Crafting Theravada Buddhism: Touch and Material in the lives of Thai Buddhists

SPEAKER: *Anthony Lovenheim Irwin, University of Michigan*

JANUARY 31

The Deep Constitution: Militant Constitutional Identity and the Afterlife of Martial Law in Thailand

SPEAKER: *Eugénie Mérieau, Harvard Law School*

FEBRUARY 7

Decomposing a National Language: Pluralism and the Origins of the Vietnamese Language

SPEAKER: *John Phan, Columbia University*

FEBRUARY 21

Becoming Brokers: Explaining Thailand’s Growing Brand in Global Health.

SPEAKER: *Joseph Harris, Boston University*

Thai Movie Night

SEPTEMBER 26

Ploy / ‘พลอย’

DIRECTOR: *Pen-Ek Ratanarung*

OCTOBER 24

The Blue Hour / ‘อนธการ’

DIRECTOR: *Anucha Boonyawatana*

NOVEMBER 21

How to Win at Checkers (Every Time) / ‘พี่ชาย My Hero’

DIRECTOR: *Josh Kim*

JANUARY 30

By The Time It Gets Dark / ดาบคะนอง

DIRECTOR: *Anocha Suwichakornpong*

FEBRUARY 27

Censor Must Die

DIRECTOR: *Ing Kanjanavanit*

Gamelan Events

OCTOBER 9

Indonesian Gamelan Festival

DECEMBER 8

Javanese Gamelan Concert

Co-Sponsored Events

OCTOBER 16

Roundtable on Current Events in Thailand

SPEAKERS: *Dr. Peerasit Kamnuansilpa, Dr. Supawatanakorn Wongthanasu, Dr. Sirisak Laochankham, Mr. Narong Kiettikunwong, Khon Kaen University*

NOVEMBER 8

The Vietnam War: What Happened and Why It Still Matters

SPEAKERS: *Professors Keith W. Taylor and Olga Dror, University of Michigan*

NOVEMBER 20

Why Are Buddha Statues So Big? Space, Time, and Unusual Human Bodies in Buddhism

SPEAKER: *Reiko Ohnuma, Chair and Professor of Religion, Dartmouth College*

DECEMBER 6–7, DECEMBER 14

2019 World History and Literature Initiative: Empire, Decolonization & Independence in Global History & Literature

SPEAKER: *Jessica Hill Riggs, CSEAS academic program specialist, University of Michigan*

JANUARY 27

Book Discussion of *Dear America: Notes of an Undocumented Citizen* by Filipino-American journalist Jose Antonio Vargas

SPEAKERS: *Marlon James Sales, postdoctoral fellow in critical translation studies, Comparative Literature; and Rima Hassouneh, CSEAS outreach coordinator*

FEBRUARY 5

PICS Film Screening. *Becoming Labrador*

DIRECTOR: *Rohan Fernando, Tamara Segura, and Justin Simms*

FEBRUARY 13

The Rohingya Crisis and Future of Democracy in Myanmar

SPEAKER: *Wai Wai Nu, Women Peace Network, Yangon Youth Leadership Center*

FEBRUARY 24

International Institute Conference on Migration

SPEAKER: *Cheryl Yin, Anthropology Doctoral Candidate, University of Michigan*

Thai Studies Summer Grant Symposium

Funded by the Amnuay-Samonsri Viravan Endowment, the 2019 Thai Studies grants were awarded to ten students and faculty for summer research and work in Thailand. The awardees and their affiliations (as of 2019) were: Kristen Gilley (global health epidemiology MPH candidate); Lena Benjakul (undergraduate student majoring in economics and minoring in Asian/Pacific Island Studies); Yuxiao Lei (research assistant at the School of Public Health); Alexander Atkinson (undergraduate student in civil engineering); Lauren Bacans-Grounds (graduate student at the School of Public Health, specializing in health management and policy); Erin McAuliffe (doctoral student in the Department of Sociology); Madeline Bernard (global health epidemiology MPH candidate); Chantal Croteau (PhD candidate in sociocultural anthropology); Jasdeep Kler (global health epidemiology MPH candidate); and Catherine Walker (clinical associate professor of music, School of Music, Theatre & Dance).

To an audience of fellow faculty and students, a number of these awardees shared their experiences and photographs at the symposium on the afternoon of September 27 in Weiser Hall, to an audience of fellow faculty and students.

Professor Walker, for instance, told the audience about her experience teaching voice in a school setting to teachers and youth. Croteau reported about her research on food belonging and the social politics of commensality in southern Thailand. And Atkinson spoke about his team’s work in the BLUElab project, which collaborates with U-M’s Center for Socially Engaged Design and with Chiang Mai University on flood mitigation technologies in the partner district of Mae Chan, Thailand.

In a sign of radically different yet not distant times, CSEAS afterwards hosted a light reception for guests to mingle, without consideration of masks or six feet of distance!

Khon Kaen University Delegation Visits U-M

CSEAS and the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy jointly hosted a high-ranking delegation from the College of Local Administration at Khon Kaen University of Thailand in October 2019. The delegates were: Dr. Peerasit Kamnuansilpa (Founding Dean), Dr. Supawatanakorn Wongthanasu (Dean), Dr. Sirisak Laochankham (Assistant Dean for Research and Academic Services), and Mr. Narong Kiettikunwong (Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs). On October 16th, at a roundtable event that was opened to the general public and to center faculty and students, the delegation discussed with U-M Professor Allen Hicken (Political Science) current events in Thailand and their impact on higher education. The event included a Q&A session, followed by a light lunch. On the following day, the delegation met with representatives from the Ford School: John Ciorciari (Director, International Policy Center), Daniel Ellis (Global Engagement Program Manager), and Tricia Schryer (Recruiting and PPIA Coordinator).





Indonesian Diplomats visit U-M and attend Gamelan

In October 9th, 2019, an esteemed delegation from the Indonesian Embassy in Chicago visited U-M Ann Arbor, to commemorate 70 years of formal diplomatic partnership between Indonesia and the U.S. The diplomats were Rosmalawati Chalid, Consul General, and Miranda Ekawaty Mukhlis, Consul for Information, Social and Cultural Affairs.

Amongst the activities was a luncheon hosted at the Stephen M. Ross School of Business and attended by 20, who included: Laura Rozek; CSEAS director and associate professor of environmental health sciences; Pak Widodo, gamelan instructor appointed by the Indonesian government; Henry Rahardja, president of the U-M Alumni Association of Indonesia; Bu Agustini, Indonesian language instructor and director of the Southeast Asian Language Program; John Ciorciari, associate professor of public policy and director of International Policy; and Allen Hicken, professor of political science and research professor at the Center for Political Studies.

After lunch, Bu Rosmalawati, Bu Miranda, Director Rozek, Professor Susan Pratt Walton (ethnomusicologist at the Residential College and director of the U-M Gamelan), and Mr. Rahardja met with LSA Dean Anne Curzan. The focus of the conversation was the renewed commitment to robust relations between the College and Indonesian alumni and to support for the gamelan ensemble at U-M.

Later that evening, the diplomatic guests attended a performance by the gamelan, a traditional instrumental ensemble featuring bronze percussion instruments and the *angklung*, a bamboo instrument varying in size and producing different resonances and pitch. About 185 people packed the Stern Auditorium of the Museum of Art to enjoy the performance, which was directed by Widodo. Three traditional dances were performed for their delight: (1) The *Giring-Giring*, from the Dayak tribe in Kalimantan. Expressing joy, its dancers carry one or two pieces of grain-filled bamboo sticks. (2) The *Lenggang Nyai Dance*, from the Betawi ethnic group in Jakarta. It was inspired by the legend of Nyai Dasimah, famous for her beauty and grace. (3) The *Peafowl*, from West Java. It is performed by female dancers to illustrate the beauty in appearance and movement of peacocks.

GIVE TO CSEAS

CSEAS not only serves the U-M community by funding research, but also the wider Southeast Michigan community. Programs such as the MENA-SEA Teacher Program (pp. 12–13) exemplify the center’s outreach. While CSEAS is among a small number of centers with the status of Title VI National Resource Center, it still relies on the generosity of donors to sustain its programming. Currently, the center is planning a weekend of lectures and performances exploring the theme of sustainability in Southeast Asia; the center especially needs your support to host an expert gamelan musician to provide artistic direction for this event.

How to Give

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Or mail a check made out to the University of Michigan to:

Center for Southeast Asian Studies

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Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1106

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PHOTOGRAPHY

Morning sunrise on the plain of Bagan, the first kingdom of Myanmar. By Boyloso via iStock.

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