Dear CSEAS Community,

2018 has been quite a year so far for the Center for Southeast Asian Studies. We spent the spring and part of the summer preparing our proposal for the US Department of Education Title VI grant competition. When the dust cleared, U-M CSEAS once again received designation as a National Resource Center. With the four-year grant, we will strengthen our wide-ranging campus programming, support the teaching of Southeast Asian languages, provide research and curricular funds, and embark on new and continuing outreach to K-12 schools and community colleges.

This admissions cycle, the International Institute (II) is initiating a new Masters in International and Regional Studies (MIRS) program. All current II MA programs will fall under the MIRS umbrella as regional tracks, so students will still be able to concentrate on Southeast Asian studies while obtaining a MIRS degree. More information is available at iis.umich.edu/graduates/masters-in-international-and-regional-studies.html. CSEAS students will continue to take our required seminar and fulfill similar language and course requirements, but they will also have access to centralized courses and professional development that did not exist before. Most importantly, they will have an improved cohort experience with students focusing on other world regions.

This year, CSEAS has a new Associate Director, Laura Rizik (School of Public Health). Stay tuned for the winter newsletter for a featured story. We also have a visiting master gemalan teacher from Indonesia (page 10), and three Fulbright Language Teaching Assistants (page 1). Our visiting Fulbright scholar, Max Cardile, is being hosted in Asian Languages and Cultures (page 5), and we have library fellows from Southeast Asia doing research on our collections arriving again in January and March.

Please check our website for the most current listings for our lecture series and the note that the annual gamelan concert will be at 4pm on December 9, at the Walgreen Drama Center, Stamps Auditorium. I hope to see you there at our event!

Regards,
Christi-Anne Castro
Director, Center for Southeast Asian Studies
Associate Professor, Ethnomusicology

NEW AFFILIATED PHD STUDENTS SPOTLIGHT

If you are a PhD student whose research includes Southeast Asia, we want to feature your work in our upcoming newsletters.

Gerald Sutton
PhD, Asian Languages and Cultures
Gerald Sutton is a first-year PhD student in Asian Languages and Cultures, with an interest in Korean and Vietnamese studies. After completing an undergraduate degree at U-M, Gerald spent a year in Korea on a Fulbright award researching Korean Vietnam War veterans’ oral histories and war memories. After traveling to Vietnam, Gerald’s research interests now include regional war memory in Vietnam and sub-imperialist legacies in Vietnam.

Lai Yuan Wo
PhD, Anthropology
Lai is a first year PhD student in sociocultural anthropology interested in retirement migration to Southeast Asia. After receiving her BA at Rutgers University, she pursued an MPhil at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, where she examined the intersection between transnational relationships between Southeast Asian domestic workers and western “expatriates” in Hong Kong’s entertainment district. After another two years working with African asylum-seekers as a research assistant, Lai returned to the US to pursue her PhD. Her current project explores western migration, aging masculinity, and vulnerability/intimacy in Indonesia in the face of global restructuring.

FULBRIGHT FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING ASSISTANTS

This fall, the Southeast Asian language program welcome three 2018-2019 FLTAs. Selected through a rigorous application process in their home countries, FLTAs are an integral part of our Southeast Asian language programs. Students have a chance to connect with native speakers and gain perspective on the language region’s culture through related activities.

Kampeepong Santipojchana
Thai
Kampeepong Santipojchana is from Bangkok, Thailand, and graduated with a BA in English from Mahidol University and an MA in language and communication from the National Institute of Development Administration. She taught English at Rajamangala University of Technology Phra Nakhon before applying for the FLTA Program. Kampeepong is enthusiastic to enhance her linguistic and cultural skills, as well as to develop professional skills while taking courses that align with her interests. After completing the program, she will apply her skills and experience to develop her English classes in Thailand.

Lex Michael Guiritan
Filipino
Lex Michael is a doctoral candidate in applied linguistics education at the University of the Philippines in Davao City. He holds BA and MA degrees in English language education. Prior to his education degrees, he earned a BA in music.

Ni Made Ariani
Indonesian
Ni Made Ariani hails from Ubud, Bali, Indonesia. For five years she taught in the English department at Sekolah Tinggi Bahasa Asing (STIBA) Saraswati Denpasar. Ariani holds a BA in English and an MA in applied linguistics and translation studies. Since coming to Ann Arbor she has enjoyed exploring the town and making friends with many wonderful people. In addition to sharing Indonesia’s culture and language, Ariani is excited to improve her English skills. Upon the completion of the program, she will continue to pursue English language education, incorporating her understanding of American and international cultures.

GRADUATING STUDENT

Samuel Farris
MA, Southeast Asia Studies
Samuel Farris is completing his final semester after returning from a 2017-2018 Boren Fellowship in Bangkok, Thailand. During the program, Sam studied Thai at Chulalongkorn University, and later interned at Indorama Ventures, a global petrochemical company, in Investor Relations. Sam’s research focuses on the relationship between provincial minimum wages and national expectations, and the impact of Burmese regulation of low-skilled workers to drive up wages. He hopes to move back to Thailand to work as an investor relations officer in the private sector after fulfilling his obligation to government service under the fellowship.
NEW FILIPINO LANGUAGE INSTRUCTOR

Irene Gonzaga has been teaching Filipino Language for more than twenty years. She obtained her Bachelor’s degree in secondary education Filipino in 1985 and Master’s degree in Filipino in 2008 from De La Salle University Dasmarinas in the Philippines. For most of her career as an educator, she served as faculty at DLSU-D, teaching Filipino language and literature courses. From 2005 to 2010, Irene served as host to Fulbright scholars who came to the Philippines for cultural immersion in the Advanced Filipinos Abroad Program of the University of Hawaii Mānoa. Although she did not teach in the program, Irene’s close involvement as host to the scholars sparked her passion for teaching Filipino as a heritage language. Soon after, she began teaching Filipino as a foreign language to the university’s international students, eventually becoming the course coordinator. She moved to California with her family in 2017.

Irene’s passion for teaching extends beyond the university. As a young teacher in late 90s, she taught classes in both grade school and high school. In 2015, shortly before moving to the US, she co-founded Little Wonders, an inclusive playschool-learning center for toddlers. The learning center presently thrives and continues to grow. In California, Irene worked in The School of Imagination and Happy Talkers as a preschool teacher. Irene considers the Filipino language and literature as a key to expanding her advocacy in cultivating heritage language and culture in the Filipino-American community.

CSEAS VISITING SCHOLAR

Ericson Borre is an Augustinian priest who visited U-M from the Philippines via his current doctoral work in Spain. Originally aiming to complete an ecclesiastical degree, he decided to pursue European history and Southeast Asia relations when there were no appropriate programs in his area. His dissertation is on the Colonial period of America in the Philippines. Ericson is chiefly interested in detailing and evaluating U.S. campaigns in the Philippines between 1898 and 1941. What were America’s militaristic, cultural, architectural, or even religious plans? What happened to the pre-existing Spanish culture and policies? U-M libraries were ideal for Ericson’s research due to the vast collection of English-, Spanish-, and Filipino-language newspapers, journals, and magazines.

Ericson hopes to return to Ann Arbor one day, saying the people are incredibly nice and the university’s resources, especially the late library hours, are ideal. However, he was grateful for Filipino friends who were able to help as he adjusted to the local food. He is currently in his second year of his doctoral degree and hopes to complete it by 2023 when he may return to the Philippines to teach European history.

CSEAS ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

KRISTIAN SENDON CORDERO

When I don’t write, I don’t breathe.” renowned poet, author, and filmmaker Kristian Sendon Cordero is an interview with CSEAS staff. Writing has been central to Cordero’s identity since his childhood, when he used writing as a way to communicate with his mother who had moved abroad for work. With threads of local vs. national, national vs. universal, and the personal vs. the imperial running throughout the Filipino poet’s work, he was an excellent candidate for CSEAS’ first ever Artist Residency this past summer, when he wrote a new screenplay. Prior to his term as Artist-in-Residence, he had visited U-M in the Fall of 2017 to present a screening of his film, Hinulid (The Sorrows of Sitio). One of his largest screenings in the United States, this event drew in crowds from the local Filipino community as well as faculty, students, and staff from U-M.

Cordero hails from the far Southeast region of Luzon, where the local language is Bikol, a language distinct from the Philippines’ national tongue. His strong ties to local Bikolanos language and geography surface in his art, much of which is produced in the Bikol language. From the landscape of southern Luzon and vivid recollections of a childhood spent there, to the spectra of American and internal Filipino imperialism, the themes of Cordero’s writing and films evoke a sense of peripheral identity. Having now spent time in America, he retains a feeling that “America haunts you...it’s a thing that follows you. It’s a part of your geography [for Filipinos].” CSEAS was happy to host Artist-in-Residence Cordero, whose presence has the power to simultaneously incite raucous laughter and deep revery of self-reflection in his listeners.

CSEAS K-12 TEACHER TRAVEL GRANT

Clinton High School social studies teacher Jeff Delezenne (above left) and Cedar Springs Middle School history teacher Shayne Dove (above right) were awarded CSEAS K-12 educator grants, funding their trip to Southeast Asia. Both educators participated in a Global Exploration for Educators Organization (GEEDO) trip to Thailand, Vietnam, and Laos from June 29 to July 12. This travel opportunity expanded horizons and led to professional growth. “I’m grateful for the … firsthand experience of countries that I teach about in my World History classes,” writes Delezenne. “These experiences enrich my teaching.”

In each place, the GEEDO group learned about local religion, material culture, and history, visiting sites such as Buddhist temples and an education center focusing on the dangers of underdetected landmines left over from the Vietnam War. Dove was inspired by his experience: “The largest impact …will be on my teaching about the spread and role of Buddhism in Asia.” Since returning, he “has enjoyed sharing [this] experience with fellow social studies educators, and [looks] forward to incorporating these new understandings into future professional development sessions on teaching with a global mindset.”

FACULTY AFFILIATE

BERIT INGERSOLL-DAYTON

Professor Emerita of Social Work

After graduating from U-M with her Ph.D. in 1982, Professor Ingersoll-Dayton returned as a faculty member ten years later and has helped develop vibrant relationships between U-M and Southeast Asia, in particular, Thailand.

Professor Ingersoll-Dayton moved to Thailand when she was only six months old and she spent much of her childhood and adolescence travelling between the US and Thailand as her father was a professor. Growing up with Thai children, speaking Thai (and a bit of Lao), and listening to Thai folk music, Thailand has been a natural interest in her research. Her main projects involving Thailand, as well as her work as a thesis supervisor for Thai students, predominantly have involved adapting and developing models of psychological research that are more culturally appropriate for those who grew up in Thailand.

From working as an Au Pair in Norway during her undergraduate years, to serving on the dissertation committees of two visiting Thai students, Berit has had the opportunity to establish connections like those that have lasted a lifetime. Moving forward, Berit hopes to aid her Thai colleagues in publishing more widely in Thai and English. She wishes to visit and connect with sites around the world for their beauty and spiritual affect—La Plaine des Jardins in Laos near the top of the list. We wish Berit Ingersoll-Dayton continued happiness and success in her ventures!
NEW AFFILIATED FACULTY

SEAS welcomes our recent faculty affiliates. Faculty interested in becoming affiliates are not required to devote all of their research or teaching to Southeast Asia—we welcome all with interest in the region.

NACHIKET CHANCHANI
Associate Professor, History of Art
Associate Professor, Asian Languages and Cultures
Adjunct Professor, School of Law

Nachiket Chanchani has wide-ranging interests, from the formulation of cultural policy to the development of strategies to protect landscapes of archaeological, historical, and ecological significance. He also researches and writes on the interplay of cosmopolitan and vernacular languages, on the social, symbolic, and formal origins of temple architecture, and on the art of yga. Nachiket’s first monograph, Temple Mountains and Mountain Temples: Architecture, Religion, and Nature in the Central Himalayas, published by the University of Washington Press in early 2019, explicates how a remote mountainous landscape around the glacial sources of the Ganga River in the Central Himalayas was transformed into a region encoded with deep meaning and one approached by millions of Hindus as a primary locus of pilgrimage. His current book project, “Scrolling Forward,” theorizes strategies to account for the production, dissemination, and performance of global ICT politics, innovation, and policy, including pieces in The Journal of Democracy, The Journal of International Affairs, The Brookings Institution’s Issues in Technology and Innovation, and The InterMedia Institute’s Development Research Series, International Studies Review, International Journal of Middle East Affairs, The Communication Review, Policy and Internet, and Journalism: Theory, Practice, and Criticism. His website is mchanchani.net, and he tweets from @m_chanchani.

RICK NEITZEL
Associate Professor and Associate Chair, Environmental Health Sciences
Associate Professor, Global Public Health

Dr. Rick Neitzel is an exposure scientist whose work focuses on the characterization of exposures to noise, heavy metals, and injury risk factors, as well as on the range of health outcomes associated with these exposures. His work, and the work of his team in the U-M Exposure Research Lab, takes place in occupational and community settings both domestically and abroad. For the past three years he has been evaluating exposures and health impacts associated with informal electronic waste recycling in Thailand and Chile. He has a strong interest in translating his research findings into occupational and public health practice. He is vice chair of the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists Threshold Limit Values/Physical Agents Committee, a fellow of the American Industrial Hygiene Association, and has been a Certified Industrial Hygienist since 2003.

MUZAMMIL M. HUSSAIN
Assistant Professor of Communication Studies
Faculty Associate, Institute for Social Research

Muzammil M. Hussain’s interdisciplinary research is at the intersection of global communication, comparative politics, and complexity studies. At Michigan, he teaches courses on research methods, digital politics, and global innovation. His published books include Democracy’s Fourth Wave? Digital Media and the Arab Spring (Oxford University Press, 2013), a cross-national comparative study of how digital media and information technologies have supported the opening-up of closed societies in the Middle East and North Africa, and State Power 2.0: Governmental Industrial Hygienists Threshold Extents with McLain Clutter.

CYRUS PEÑARROYO
Assistant Professor, Architecture and Urban Planning

Cyrus Peñarroyo is a Filipino-American designer and educator whose work explores the effects of contemporary media and digital culture on architecture, in particular on how the circulation of images and the means behind their construction are reshaping the built environment. He is an assistant professor at the University of Michigan Taubman College of Architecture + Urban Planning, where he was the William Mustenheim Fellow in 2015–16. Previously, he taught at Princeton University and Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation. He worked for U2 Architects and Office for Metropolitan Architecture in New York, and Bureau Spectacular in Chicago. He was Project Lead on Manual of Section, published by Princeton Architectural Press and Cities Without Ground: A Hong Kong Guidebook, published by ORB. His work has been exhibited in New York, Boston, São Paulo, Rotterdam, and Venice, as well as in publications including C/O/L/ and Pidgin. Cyrus received his M Arch from Princeton University and his BS in Architectural Studies Summa Cum Laude from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is a partner in the 4in Architect-based design practice EXTENTS with McLain Clutter.

Mae Urtal Caralde is a lecturer in the communication department at De La Salle University, Manila. She is a PhD candidate in Media Studies in the College of Mass Communication, University of the Philippines, where she obtained her MA in Media Studies (Film) and BA Fine Arts Major in visual communication. She is an independent filmmaker, and her creative works and research interests are focused on women and gender representations, bodies, and martyrdom. Her documentary film entitled “VAIANA,” won the 2015 Lourdes Lentok Cruz Award for Best Thesis and Dissertation in Women’s and Gender Studies and was screened in several film festivals and communities. Under a Fulbright-ChED research grant, she is currently working on her dissertation about necropolitics and the mediation of political narratives of the nation. Ms. Caralde is also affiliated with the Cultural Center of the Philippines as head of the center’s Film, Broadcast, and New Media Division.

GEORGE WHITE
Assistant Professor of Strategic Management
Department of Management & Marketing
School of Management
University of Michigan-Flint

Dr. White’s expertise lies in global strategy. His research studies the interaction between legal institutions and multinational enterprise (MNE) strategic behavior and performance outcomes, primarily in Southeast Asia. Dr. White is currently conducting a multi-year research study investigating the influence of the legal environment on MNE strategic behavior and performance outcomes in the Philippines and Thailand. He has performed extensive fieldwork in Southeast Asia surveying senior executives of MNE foreign subsidiaries as well as managers of local electric cooperatives regarding their strategic behavior and performance. His research has been published in a wide array of business and international law journals. He also serves as a Core Faculty member in the International and Global Studies Program at the University of Michigan-Flint and as a Non-Resident Research Fellow with the Asian Institute of Management in the Philippines.

Dr.白色的专长在于全球战略管理。他的研究调查了法律制度与MNE战略行为之间的相互作用，主要在东南亚。Dr. White目前正在进行一项为期数年的研究，旨在研究跨国公司高级管理层在东南亚的法律环境下的战略行为和绩效。他的研究已发表在一系列商业和国际法期刊。他还为国际和全球研究项目在密歇根大学弗林特分校担任非驻校研究员，并与亚洲管理学院的菲律宾研究所合作。
DEIRDRE DE LA CRUZ

Deirdre de la Cruz, associate professor of Philippine Studies in the Asian Languages and Cultures Department, traveled to both the Philippines and Montana as part of the Integrating SEA into the Curriculum grant. In February, Deirdre traveled to the Philippines to consult with colleagues on the possible preservation of the private collection of William Henry Scott, an ethnohistorian who published extensively on the pre-colonial Philippines. She then traveled to Baguio where she did both archival and ethnographic research. This research in the Philippines led her to travel to Montana over the summer to conduct further archival research at a private collection.

Professor de la Cruz traveled to the Philippines to consult with colleagues on the possible preservation of the private collection of William Henry Scott, an ethnohistorian who published extensively on the pre-colonial Philippines. Her current project and forthcoming book focuses on Baguio during the 1970s–1980s as the faith healing center of the Philippines. It will trace the vicissitudes of the emergent Khmer Empire’s power struggles and to set Bakong within the vast aesthetic and political sphere of the Sanskrit cosmopolis. However, the sacred compound’s design, construction, and legacies remain largely unexplored. Diverse natural and anthropogenic pressures have also destroyed much of Cambodia’s historical fabric. This loss of crucial evidence and the contact between civilizations that flourished in and beyond Cambodia took me this summer to India, Cambodia, Indonesia, and Singapore to search for clues.

Her summer field research has also concluded that the complex at Bakong was the eighth century, perhaps from My Son in neighboring Vietnam. As the well-preserved examples at Preah Ko and Lolei in Bakong’s immediate environs attest, brick temples consisted of square plan sanctums with central projections. I found that the eight unevenly preserved shrines at the cardinal and sub-cardinal points of the island at Bakong were built in the tradition of projections, multiple-metaphors, stucco, and stone. Enormous differences in scale and sophistication make it difficult to accept that a vernacular tradition alone informed the conception and construction of the temple complexes. Sizable brick terraces crowned by the remains of Shiva linga shrines at Ahichhattra, Lakhamandal, and Pasea in northern India are fifth- and sixth-century CE precursors for the complex at Bakong. This technological knowledge was likely transmitted to Cambodia by wandering Pashupata ascetics and texts such as the Vishnuharmarataparana. My search continued to the Buddhist monument Bambodak, near Yogyakarta in central Java, where I preliminarily concluded that the aspects common to Bakong and Bambodak were the result of collaboration of central Javanese architects, masons, and stone carvers with Cambodian builders. These emigrants brought techniques and instruments, and, using tools as simple as rulers and nopes, laid out plans and carved fine pieces from unfamiliar hard stone.

My summer field research has also concluded that the complex at Bakong aimed to introduce a “new” Hinduism into the crowded religious marketplace of the Siem Reap floodplains, where Buddhism was gaining popular support and royal patronage, exemplified by the temple complexes of Angkor Thom and at Ta Prohm Monastery. The promoters of this new Hinduism gave definitive formal characteristics to Bakong Temple and a succession of edifices built in its vicinity, today known as East Mebon, Ta Som, Beng Melea, Banteay Srei, and Angkor Wat.

Yet, despite the number and diversity of medieval Hindu temples in the Siem Reap floodplains and in the shadow of central Java’s great volcanos, classical temple Hinduism has faded from both realms. Buddhism and Islam have predominated in Cambodia and Indonesia respectively. I postulate that the very grandeur of Bakong and the succession of mountain temples across Southeast Asia ultimately contributed to Hinduism’s unmaking in the region. First, by building monumental edifices, new Hinduism seemed to have created deep rifts between elite patrons and the many and varied subaltern communities in the vicinity. Waves of Buddhist and Muslim missionaries to mainland and island archipelagoes may have pledged to rectify these societal imbalances. If a belief system inflected with classical Hinduism lives on in Bali, it is because the island’s temple builders have never aspired to distance worshippers from their cherished deities. Instead, by adapting vernacular building traditions into microarchitectural ensembles, they have made the transcendent immanent.

—Nachiket Chanchani

NACHIKET CHANCHANI
Grant Recipient, CSEAS First-Time Faculty Travel to Southeast Asia

In the ninth century, Indravarman I, the ruler of the ascendant Khmer Empire, sponsored the construction of a sacred compound at Bakong village in the Siem Reap floodplains of northwestern Cambodia. More sprawling and higher than any other in the empire, the compound was dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva. Modern historians who have written about the compound have been primarily concerned with its inscriptions, using them to trace the vicissitudes of the emergent Khmer Empire’s power struggles and to set Bakong within the vast aesthetic and political sphere of the Sanskrit cosmopolis. However, the sacred compound’s design, construction, and legacies remain largely unexplored. Diverse natural and anthropogenic pressures have also destroyed much of Cambodia’s historical fabric. This loss of crucial evidence and the contact between civilizations that flourished in and beyond Cambodia took me this summer to India, Cambodia, Indonesia, and Singapore to search for clues.

[Image of a Professor Deirdre de la Cruz]

Professor Deirdre de la Cruz encounters chili pepper ice cream for the first time in Naga City.
I would like to thank the Center for Southeast Asian Studies and the Thai Studies Committee for making this panel possible.

Professor Dr. Kowit Nambarunee and his students on a research project that focused on understanding the pesticide exposure of farmers outside of Chiang Rai, Thailand. In addition to assisting with this research project, I also made a visit to a tea factory with another MFLU professor in order to monitor air quality. I was able to learn the strategies used to quantify and understand workplace exposures in Thailand and how these differ from those of nations with more workplace regulations.

CASSIDY LUKAART
BS, Mechanical Engineering
I received a Thai Studies Grant on behalf of my BLUElab research team. We revisited engineering needs, gathered information, and built and tested a prototype water jetting device used to clear sediment from stormwater sewers. Additionally, we facilitated the launch of a similar student project team at Chiang Mai University (CMU) called PURPLElab. In addition to the BLUElab goals, my teammates, CMU partners, and I achieved personal growth. My collaborators and I started the team during our first trip to Thailand in 2016. Seeing out progress makes this the most valuable part of my undergraduate career. It’s exciting to have started a new team abroad, a first for any BLUElab team. I’m excited to support the team in in any way I can as a graduate.

CHALOTTIE PROUUR
MA, Southeast Asian Studies
My award gave me the opportunity to complete an internship and conduct fieldwork in Bangkok, Thailand, this past summer. My internship was at Wedu, a social enterprise that focuses on women’s leadership development. The experiences I had were meaningful and inspiring. I look towards the future and strive to bring more compassion and kindness to the world.

CHANTAL CROTEAU
MA, Southeast Asian Studies
The Thai Studies Award gave me the opportunity to work and research in Thailand this summer. My project’s purpose was to find and understand how demographic factors impact HIV service and antiretroviral therapy uptake, and examining how Thai practices can be used in the United States. I gained a wealth of experience from those three months spent living and working in Thailand. Before my internship, I had never been to Thailand; in fact, I had never been to Asia. While integrating into a new culture was a difficult process, I was able to learn many skills necessary for a career in global public health in which I will work in many countries. This opportunity was crucial for my personal and professional development.

ROSS BAERES
MPH, Public Health
With my summer Thai Studies Award, I served as Visiting Scholar at the Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre in Bangkok, Thailand. My project’s purpose was to find and understand how demographic factors impact HIV service and antiretroviral therapy uptake, and examining how Thai practices can be used in the United States. I gained a wealth of experience from those three months spent living and working in Thailand. Before my internship, I had never been to Thailand; in fact, I had never been to Asia. While integrating into a new culture was a difficult process, I was able to learn many skills necessary for a career in global public health in which I will work in many countries. This opportunity was crucial for my personal and professional development.

ALIENDR AUGI
BS, Civil Engineering
This past May, I continued working with BLUElab and Chiang Mai University to source the causes and mitigate the effects of flash flooding in Mae Chan, Chiang Rai. My student organization, BLUElab, comprises a socially-engaged design project team that seeks to reframe the way environmental and societal problems. We’ve had enormous strides towards my project goals while travelling to Mae Chan. Continuation of this work would not have been possible without the Thai Studies Award.

CASSIDY LUKAART
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I received a Thai Studies Grant on behalf of my BLUElab research team. We revisited engineering needs, gathered information, and built and tested a prototype water jetting device used to clear sediment from stormwater sewers. Additionally, we facilitated the launch of a similar student project team at Chiang Mai University (CMU) called PURPLElab. In addition to the BLUElab goals, my teammates, CMU partners, and I achieved personal growth. My collaborators and I started the team during our first trip to Thailand in 2016. Seeing out progress makes this the most valuable part of my undergraduate career. It’s exciting to have started a new team abroad, a first for any BLUElab team. I’m excited to support the team in in any way I can as a graduate.

CHANON KENJI PREAPRATAMONGKOL
PhD, Art History
This grant made possible my attendance and participation at the 2018 College Art Association Annual Conference (February 21-24, 2018) in Los Angeles. I participated on the panel “New Approaches to Contemporary Asian Art,” serving as chair and speaker. Topics on the panel ranged from abstract painting in Thailand and socialist realist painting in South Korea to conceptual and performance art in the Philippines and Vietnam. The panel was a success, with quality scholarship and a large audience (50+ people).

ELIZABETH GUTHRIE
MPH, Industrial Hygiene
My grant supported my participation in a three-week research-based internship in Chiang Rai, Thailand. As part of a partnership between the School of Public Health and Mae Fah Luang University (MFLU), I worked with Assistant

MAI ZE VANG
MA, Southeast Asian Studies
My award gave me the opportunity to intern with the Ministry of Education in Bangkok, Thailand. It not only provided financial support but gave me the opportunity to learn about the challenges underrepresented groups encounter when accessing higher education. I worked with Ms. Dockiao, Director of the Bureau of International Cooperation Strategy, analyzing the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Qualifications Reference Framework (ARQF) and National Qualifications Framework (NQF). I also participated in forums with international organizations on establishing strategic approaches to improve higher education. My time in Thailand taught me the importance of collaborating with communities and including their perspectives when writing and implementing policy. However, I still have much to learn about the structural, political, and administrative issues behind the problems facing marginalized populations. I look forward to returning to Thailand again next summer to better understand these challenges. I am thankful for this award as I look towards the future and strive to bring more compassion and kindness to the world.

CHANNEI KENJI
MA, Southeast Asian Studies
This Thai Studies Grant program both funded my participation at the American Comparative Literature Association’s annual meeting at UCLA in April and allowed me to return to the southern province of Phang Nga for preliminary fieldwork in May. My paper, “Remembering through ghosts in Takuapa, Thailand,” explored the genre of the tsunami ghost story and the affective and sensory memories intertwined within these stories. With the help of the Thai Studies Grant, I conducted ethnographic fieldwork in Phang Nga throughout the spring and summer 2018 terms. The majority of my time in Phang Nga was spent maintaining existing connections and building new relationships. In particular, I developed ties at several Buddhist temples in the region in order to gain a better sense of how ideas about karma and the inevitability of loss are being taught and explained to different groups of people in the community. I additionally strengthened the comparative nature of my long-term project by fostering relations in a Muslim town in the province. These interactions have significantly altered and advanced my research, allowing my topic to broaden in meaningful ways that I strive to address and work through this academic year.

ALEXANDER ATKINSON
BS, Civil Engineering
This past May, I continued working with BLUElab and Chiang Mai University to source the causes and mitigate the effects of flash flooding in Mae Chan, Chiang Rai. My student organization, BLUElab, comprises a socially-engaged design project team that seeks to reframe the way environmental and societal problems. We’ve had enormous strides towards my project goals while travelling to Mae Chan. Continuation of this work would not have been possible without the Thai Studies Award.
Visiting artist, Raharja, joins the U-M gamelan as guest director for the Fall 2018 semester. Raharja is professor of karawitan (Javanese musical arts) at the Indonesian Institute of the Arts in Yogyakarta (ISI Yogyakarta). He comes to the University of Michigan through the sponsorship of the Indonesian Department of Research and Higher Education’s Scheme for Academic Mobility and Exchange (SAME) program. While humble when asked, Raharja has a formidable list of career achievements. From a long line of musicians, Raharja began studying karawitan as a four-year-old with his father, who worked as a musician in the Sultan’s court and with the national radio (RRI) in Yogyakarta. Raharja followed in his father’s footsteps, working as a studio musician for RRI after graduating from performing arts high school in 1989. Only two years after graduating high school, he received an invitation to teach at the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands. His appointment there was the first in a series at European and American universities, where he enjoys sharing his expertise with foreign students. After graduating from ISI in 1995, Raharja returned to the Netherlands to teach before joining the ISI faculty. Since then, he has taught at the University of Illinois (1997-2000) and Cornell University (2002-2010). Raharja was pleased when he got his current appointment at U-M, as he has fond memories of performing with the U-M gamelan in 2000. Raharja is visiting artist, and Raharja’s achievements.

Enthusiastic about teaching gamelan to American students, Raharja holds that “to begin studying a country [in greater depth], the initial motivation can come from many things, not the least of which its culture [and music]”. CSEAS and the members of the gamelan are lucky to benefit from Raharja’s instruction this semester. His teaching is meticulously structured and above all carried out with a sense of humor and enthusiasm.

CSEAS students, faculty, and Fullbright Language Teaching Assistants present and past participated in the Language Resource Center’s annual Translate-a-Thon, making Southeast Asia a major language region represented at the event. Unfortunately, the supply of translators was greater than the demand for translated texts from local government and non-profit organizations. However, Indonesian language translators Kusumawati (former FLTA), Ni Made Arani (current FLTA), and Rebecca Selin (CSEAS MA student) made use of the opportunity to translate a classic Indonesian short story into English. Vietnamese and Thai language lecturers, Thuy Anh Nguyen and Aimkamon Bunme also participated in the two-day, 16-hour translation marathon.

U-M professor of Anthropology Stuart Kirsch, along with Mike Cookson and Jason Macleod, penned the obituary of West Papuan artist Donatus Moiwend, entitled “Angels in Papua” in August 2018. Moiwend, an advocate for the promotion of Papuan identity through culture, gave Kirsch permission to use one of his paintings for the cover image of his recent book, Engaged Anthropology: Politics Beyond the Text. To extend the reach of the article to members of Moiwend’s own community, Kirsch sought support from CSEAS for a translation into Indonesian. The center, with help from U-M professor of Asian Studies Nancy Freida, put him in contact with the former Fullbright Language Teaching Assistant, Nisa Azam, who was able to do the translation. The result was published in Kapano Komunitas Sastra Papua, and it became one of their most popular posts, successfully reaching a much wider audience. A link to the archived article and translation is available on the CSEAS website.

CSEAS Affiliate and Professor of Political Science Allen Hicken presented at ISEAS Yusof Ishak Institute/University of Michigan Indonesia Forum in Singapore in September. He provided welcoming remarks and moderated a politics panel featuring such high-profile figures as Yenny Wahid, former Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid’s daughter and Director of the Wahid Foundation. This forum brought together scholars and businesspeople from many universities and corporations interested in the important Southeast Asian political and economic power that is Indonesia.

Also in attendance at this international and interdisciplinary forum were several U-M alumni new working in the nonprofit and business consulting sectors. 2018 Ross MBA Graduate Belinda Ong remarked, “I was really glad I went to the forum; it’s a very good primer for any upcoming projects in Indonesia.” Discussions revolved around topics of political and economic importance regarding Indonesia, especially the rise of identity politics in the highly polarized 2019 presidential race and levels of Chinese involvement in Indonesian venture capitalism.

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IN MEMORIAM

ZENAIDA FULGENCIO

With heavy hearts, the U-M community bids farewell to beloved Filipino language lecturer, Zenaida Fulgencio, who was a cornerstone of the university and Ann Arbor Filipina/o and Philippine Studies communities.

CSEAS held a simple memorial for Tita Zeny on September 7 in Weiser Hall. The room was filled past capacity with students, staff, and faculty whose lives Tita Zeny had touched. Her Southeast Asian Language lecturer colleagues Thuy-Anh Nguyen, Agustini, and An坑kan Munroe shared poignant memories with Tita Zeny, and many former Filipino Fulbright teaching assistants sent statements and even poetry to be read at the event. Here are some of these recollections:

“Your smile always light up the day you always tell me to pray you made me love teaching you encouraged me to have a purpose & passion-driven living Your hugs would make Michigan snow warmer and low I found a home with you I found a Nanay, a mother I found you, Tita.”

From Adelle with love

“She has not only been my mentor; but also, my second mom... Meeting Tita Zeny and Tito Gerry, its seems that I found my home away from home. Tita taught me a lot, professionally and personally... She said, don’t show everyone what you are capable of; but instead, let other people appreciate your capabilities. It still pains me so much that I can no longer see her smile. To Tita Zeny, I know you’re in our Creator’s hands, and I miss you so much.”

William Paglinawan

Goodbye, Tita Zeny.
You will be Remembered and missed.

DONOR PROFILE

AKIKO NOZAWA

Affiliated CSEAS scholar in musical anthropology, Dr. Akiko Nozawa came to Michigan from her home in Nagoya, Japan, serendipitously. Her husband’s company asked him to transfer to Michigan, and they assumed that he would go alone while she remained in Japan, where she taught at a local university. However, after discovering that Judith Becker, whose work she had read as part of her research on Indonesian performing arts, was at U-M, Dr. Nozawa decided to contact her. “I still remember how happy I was when I met Professor Becker and saw the amazing collection at Hatcher Library for the first time. I am convinced that my decision was right, and U-M is the richest environment for Southeast Asian Studies,” writes Nozawa.

Originally from a family of Shinto priests, Dr. Nozawa studied western aesthetics and philosophy as an undergraduate, but “I could not help feeling a huge gap between what I was learning and my cultural background.” After discovering anthropology in an elective class, she traveled to Bali in 1994 and “fell in love with Balinese culture...I deeply felt [its] ritual culture and performing arts are somewhat similar to my background.” Since then, Dr. Nozawa wrote her doctoral dissertation and a book entitled An Ethnography of the Sacred Iron Metallophone Ensemble of Selonding: Life, Ritual, and Music in Tanganan Pegeringsingan Village, Bali (both published in Japanese). The book is about the oldest Balinese gamelan, selonding, which has been performed since the 11th century. Currently, she is working with Indonesian colleagues on an interdisciplinary project between anthropology, archaeology, and the performing arts funded by the Toyota Foundation. This project highlights connections between beliefs at a Hindu monument in East Java and the “living heritage” of wayang kulit (shadow puppetry).

When asked about the importance of supporting the studies of gamelan and Southeast Asia, Dr. Nozawa, who has made regular gifts to CSEAS during her time here, reflects, “If you are a musician, gamelan will teach you something new to apply to your music. For those engaged in other fields, you will improve yourself by learning from others. Indonesia has a long history of multiculturalism, so people know that saling beja’ar (learning from each other) and saling mmaekal (forgiving each other) are the keys to happiness.” She hopes that current and future students of Southeast Asian Studies can “love the whole process of their research (eating, chatting, and struggling), because the rich and deep culture of Southeast Asia deserves it!”

CSEAS is grateful to Dr. Akiko Nozawa for her generous contributions to the Strategic and Gamelan funds.

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