



The University of Michigan

Fall 2008

Center for Southeast Asian Studies

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U-M Alumni Reception in Bangkok
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Rehearsal in Solo, 2006
Photo by Ryan Hoover

From CSEAS Director Professor Allen Hicken



This is an exciting time to be the Director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies. In Bangkok, street protests have destabilized the government and cooked the goose of the Prime Minister cum

celebrity chef. In Malaysia, cracks might be appearing in a government that has ruled Malaysia for over 50 years, despite a hastily arranged “study trip” to Taiwan for several potentially politically promiscuous Malaysian legislators. Meanwhile, Indonesia is preparing for another year of voting frequently. Fortunately Michigan is a place with the intellectual and physical resources to help make sense of these events, and others—to put them in their proper historical, political, social, or cultural contexts.

The Center is as strong as it has ever been thanks to our outstanding faculty and top-notch staff. Let me particularly thank Linda Lim for her leadership of CSEAS for the past three years. She is taking a much-deserved hiatus this year and we wish her well! We are pleased to report that three of our faculty members were awarded tenure this year: Gavin Shatkin in the Taubman School of Architecture and Urban Planning, Sarita See in the Department of English Language and Literature and the Program in American Culture, and myself in the Department of Political Science. This sends a strong signal that Michigan will remain one of the preemi-

nent centers for the study of Southeast Asia for years to come. We continue to note with pride the accomplishments of our faculty and alumni in a variety of fields and countries.

The focus of our newsletter this Fall is Judith Becker’s marvelous legacy. Judith retired last Winter after a long and impressive career—during which time she not only helped build a world class program in ethnomusicology but also was an organizing force in the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, serving twice as its director. This issue contains tributes to Judith and information about some of the many students she has trained and supervised during her distinguished career. Though she is retired we look forward to her remaining a part of the CSEAS family for many years to come.

These past six months have been active ones for the Center. This past June Linda Lim, Montatip Krishnamra, Fred Wherry and I participated in an alumni-organized event in Bangkok Thailand, (see inside back cover) and during the summer, our faculty and staff led undergraduate students on study tours to the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam (see pp. 6-7). Many of these students are participating in our theater project focusing on life in Asian cities this year, entitled Urban Flow (see p. 1). This project is just one of a wide array of lectures, cultural perfor-

mances, and conferences throughout the year (for a full list, see our website at www.ii.umich.edu/cseas). Most events are free and all are open to the public. This year we will also be placing many of the Friday-at-Noon lectures online for those who cannot attend in person.

Your on-going support helps make all these programs possible, and we thank you. As part of the Bangkok event one of our most distinguished alums, Dr. Amnuay Virawan launched an appeal to create a million dollar Thai studies endowment, and backed his appeal with a significant contribution of his own. When combined with the generous support of the Thai Embassy, we are well on our way towards meeting our fundraising goal. We hope to use the Thai endowment as a model for building support for the study of other countries in the region in the future. We have also launched a pilot program to offer scholarships to students in the first

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year of a Southeast Asian language. We hope to raise funds and roll the program out on a larger scale next year.

Best wishes,

Allen Hicken, Director



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Program News

Tenure for Three

There was good news from the Regents of the University early this summer. All three CSEAS faculty associates up for tenure last year were promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, helping assure the future strength of the Southeast Asian Studies faculty at Michigan, and particularly in Philippine Studies, where all three have research interests. Allen Hicken is now Associate Professor in Political Science. His research focuses on political party formation, with special attention to Thailand and the Philippines. Sarita See, who teaches in the Department of English Language and Literature and in the Program in American Culture, focuses her work on the Filipina/o diaspora, Asian American literature and culture, post-colonial and empire studies, critical race theory, narrative, visual culture and performance. Gavin Shatkin teaches in the Taubman School of Architecture and Urban Planning, and emphatically states "I am not an architect." His research in Urban Planning is on the growth of mega-cities in Asia, particularly on Bangkok and Manila, and on new "planned" towns emerging with that growth. Our new faculty are being put right to work; Sarita is on sabbatical, but Allen is serving as Director of the Center, and Gavin is the Assistant Director, a new position that focuses on the Center MA program and graduate student advising.

Undergraduate Language Scholarships

For the first time, the Center is able to offer scholarships to students enrolled in introductory Southeast Asian languages. Thanks to several funding sources, including annual giving donations to the Center Director's Discretionary Fund, six students, three each in First Year Indonesian and First Year Thai, are receiving \$1000 scholarships for the year, payable in a \$500 installment each semester. The scholarships are designed as an incentive for undergraduates to choose Southeast Asian languages from among the 44 languages that could fulfill their language requirement at Michigan. Interest in the scholarships was high, and the Center hopes to make more first-year scholarships available next year, and expand the program to include Filipino and Vietnamese as well. The program will be specifically targeted at incoming freshmen, but will be open to all undergraduates. "The first year language scholarships will be the focus of our development push for this fall," said CSEAS Director Allen Hicken. "We hope to provide bridge funding for this initiative while we identify funding sources that can make more permanent support possible for students who take our languages." The first recipients of the Southeast Asia Language scholarships are:

Indonesian: Tyler Frank (Grand Rapids, MI), Daniel Lapadula (Pelham, NY), Sara Weathers (Saginaw, MI)

Thai: Alexandra Burrell (Allendale, MI), Chanerica Evuen (Danbury, CT), Danielle Sethi (Ann Arbor, MI)

Urban Flow

The Centers for South and Southeast Asian Studies are teaming up this year to produce an original multi-media theater piece. The project, entitled Urban Flow, explores the changing nature of city spaces, the flow between those spaces, and how these changes affect the daily life experiences of urban residents in South and Southeast Asia. One of the things that promises to make Urban Flow a unique experience is the manner of its creation. There is no ready-made script. Instead, the text has been written especially for the performance during the Fall semester by students from South and Southeast Asia and other U-M students who have recently travelled to cities in these regions. The performers, mostly students from the School of Theater, Music and Dance will be led by two visiting Asian artists who will produce and direct the piece, Pornrat Damrhung from Thailand and Gulshirin Dubash from India. The show will be performed in the Video and Performance Studio of the Duderstadt Center in February 2009. With a great variety of inputs, Urban Flow promises to be as lively and complex as the cities it will examine.



Benedict Anderson taking a question during his talk at the International Institute, the first to be webcast live for CSEAS.

Friday-at-Noon Lecture Series Webcast

The Center's long-running Friday-at-Noon lecture series will now be available live around the world, thanks to new webcasting abilities at the International Institute. The technology is still new to us, but an initial trial of the system – a workshop sponsored by the Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies featuring Benedict Anderson talking about "Imagined Communities: Twenty-five years later" – drew an audience from across the United States, Europe and Asia. It also allowed the many people in Ann Arbor who couldn't get into the "sold out" event a chance to watch from their own computers across campus. We hope that most Friday lectures will be streamed live. We will also be recording and editing some lectures to be posted on our website as well. For a schedule of our upcoming lectures, and instructions on how to tune in from wherever you are, please visit our website at www.ii.umich.edu/cseas or email us at cseas@umich.edu.

Faculty News



Arun Agrawal (Natural Resources and Environment) was granted full tenure this spring. Though principally a South Asianist, two of his three new publications include Southeast Asian data. They are: Forthcoming, 2008. "Forest commons and local enforcement." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (PNAS) (with Ashwini Chhatre), and Arun Agrawal, Ashwini Chhatre, Rebecca Hardin. 2008. "Changing Governance of the World's Forests." *Science* Vol. 320: 1460-62. Arun recently traveled to Cambodia for consultations at the Ministry of Forests and the Ministry of Agriculture for fisheries management and for discussions with the CBNRM Learning Institute in Phnom Penh.

Christi-Anne Castro (Music) spent three weeks touring in Switzerland and Austria with the Iskwelahang Pilipino Rondalla of Boston, a Filipino American music and dance ensemble with a repertoire of traditional and contemporary Filipino music. They played concerts on the streets, in churches, and at the Philippine Embassy in Bern, Switzerland. She also reports the Musicology Department in the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance has hired **Meilu Ho**, originally from Malaysia, to be an assistant professor beginning in Winter Term 2009. Prof. Ho's primary research area is the music of India, but she is also interested in examining the music of Southeast Asia as well.

Linda Lim (Business) attended the U-M alumni event in Bangkok in June, and gave a talk to the U-M Alumni Association of Singapore in July. She did preliminary work for her Winter 2009 sabbatical research on two-way foreign direct investment between ASEAN and China, with interviews in Bangkok, Yangon, Suzhou, Shanghai and Singapore. Her article with

Lee Soo Ann on "Globalizing State, Disappearing Nation: The Impact of Foreign Participation in Singapore's Hub Economy", is forthcoming in October in Terence Chong, ed. *The Management of Success Revised*, Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (2008), and she presented a paper on rethinking Singapore's economic growth model at the annual Singapore Economic Policy Conference over Fall Break in October.

John Knodel (Sociology, Emeritus) travelled to Thailand during August and September 2008 to conduct field work on the project entitled "Older-age Parents and AIDS in the era of ART [anti-retroviral therapy], the case of Thailand" in collaboration with the Chulalongkorn University Faculty of Nursing and to collaborate with Napaporn Chayovan at the Chulalongkorn University College of Population Studies on an analysis of gender and aging in Thailand based on the 2007 Survey of Older Persons in Thailand. His most recent article is Zachary Zimmer, Kim Korinek, John Knodel and Napaporn Chayovan, "Migrant Interactions with Elderly Parents in Rural Cambodia and Thailand." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 70 (August 2008): 585-598.

Vic Lieberman (History) has published three recent articles: "Excising the Mon Paradigm from Burmese Historiography," *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* 38, 2 (2007): 377-83; "The Qing and Their Neighbors: Early Modern China in World History," *Social Science History* 32, 2 (2008): 281-304; and "Protected Rimlands and Exposed Zones: Reconfiguring Early Modern Eurasia," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 50, 3 (2008): 692-723. His big research project comparing early modern Southeast Asia with other parts of Eurasia is nearing completion, and should appear as vol. 2 of *Strange Parallels: Southeast Asia in Global Context. c. 800-1830* (Cambridge U P) in 2009. Vic continues a full load of teaching at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. This fall, he has courses in Southeast Asian Civilization, one of our gateway undergraduate courses, and in Pre-Colonial Southeast Asia, long a standard for graduate students.

Rudolf Mrázek (History) is a fellow at the Institute for the Humanities for the 2008-09 academic year. His project "Penal Colonies and Camp Cultures" is based on case studies of the Theresienstadt "ghetto" in the Nazi Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia (1941-45) and of Boven Digoel, a Dutch colonial "isolation camp" in New Guinea (1927-43). Rudolf visited Digul this past summer.

Ashutosh Varshney (Political Science) is on leave this year as he enjoys his Guggenheim and Carnegie fellowships. He is publishing heavily, including being guest editor on a Special issue on Collective Violence in Indonesia for the *Journal of East Asian Studies*, Vol. 8, no. 3, forthcoming, November 2008, which will also include several articles, namely, "Analyzing Collective Violence in Indonesia: An Introduction"; and "Creating Datasets Where None Exist: Collective Violence in Indonesia (1990-2003)", both with Zulfan Tadjoeidin and Rizal Pangebean. He has also written "Poverty and Famines: An Extension", in K. Basu and R. Kanbur, eds, *Arguments for a Better World: Essays in Honor of Amartya Sen*, Oxford University Press, forthcoming in December 2008, which contains comparative materials on Southeast Asia. This past summer, he traveled to Jakarta and Central Kalimantan for research on a World Bank sponsored project, "Violence After Suharto."

Henry Wright (Anthropology) was awarded the 2009 Gold medal of the American Institute of Archaeology for Career Achievement, which he will receive at the beginning of the year. This summer he attended the International Meeting of the Society for East Asian Archaeology in Beijing in early June 2008, and then travelled to central Yunnan with our recent PhD Alice Yao to discuss a project there with Yunnan archaeologists about pre-Han Southeast Asian cultures in the region. Fieldwork should commence in November 2008. He also visited current graduate student Matt Gallon in Thailand in October 2007, visiting sites in the U Thong area with Matt and Thai archaeologists. This fall, Henry is teaching "Prehistory of the Pacific" for the first time in several years, which necessarily includes material from Taiwan, the Philippines, and Indonesia, but also has beefed up Southeast Asia content this year.

A Tribute to Judith Becker

After over 40 years of inspired scholarship, dedicated teaching, devoted mentoring to her students, and building a nationally and internationally prominent program in Javanese gamelan and performing arts, Judith Becker retired this past spring from her position as Glenn McGeoch Collegiate Professor of Music. We had planned to feature a profile of Judith in this edition of the newsletter, but as tributes from her students poured in from around the world, we thought we would let their words speak about the amazing person Judith Becker is, and the many and varied roles she has played in their lives.

The tributes below represent just a few excerpts from the ones we have received at the Center. The entire set was printed out and presented to Judith on her retirement, and can be read on the CSEAS website, www.i.umich.edu/cseas, linked from the home page. We are glad to continue to receive further tributes to Judith if you would like your thoughts to be included in them. Please send them to Cindy Middleton (csmiddle@umich.edu) and we will be happy to pass them on to Judith and Pete, who still live in Ann Arbor.

In addition to the written celebrations of Judith, un-named donors also provided for a concert and selamatan in Judith's honor in Yogyakarta this past summer, with performances by many of the more recent Javanese artists who have been in residence at the University of Michigan, including BRM. Bambang Irawan, Sigit Adji Sabdoprijono, Wasi Bantolo, Olivia Widyastuti, Didik Nini Thowok and S. Parnardi. So, with reference to both the words that she worked with so skillfully, and the music that inspired them, we offer a celebration of Judith Becker.

Judith, the Electrician

It would be impossible to overstate the impact Judith has had on my life. The lessons I learned from her are many and profound—lessons she imparted by quietly setting an example rather than by preaching to her students. Among them are that any music is worth studying, that one ought to be fearless about borrowing from other disciplines, and that, in the words of Mellonee Burnim, one must demonstrate “humility before [a culture’s] genius.” Her ethnomusicology pro-seminar is—or ought to be—legendary. We came into that class feeling like graduate students and we left feeling like intellectuals. I remember, each week, never quite having enough time in the three hours we met for us to say everything we wanted to say in discussing that week’s reading—we were making so many connections and, in the process, discovering a whole new way of making music relevant to every aspect of our lives. The repercussions of that class continue today, as it is what led me to want to teach a whole series of “music and . . .” courses. Recently Judith came down to Earlham

College, where I teach, to give a talk for our bi-weekly, campus-wide convocation series. Once again, during the question-and-answer period, I was reminded of how inspiring Judith can be. She is part *éclaireuse*—someone who scouts ahead, but also someone who illuminates—and part electrician—someone who sees what loose ends need to be connected to make everything come alive. Many of the audience members told me afterwards that we could have continued endlessly asking questions and sharing our thoughts. And it was that kind of excitement and shared intellectual curiosity that made Judith the kind of professor you wanted to write a paper for.

...

Last but not least on my list of Judith’s attributes is her easy and infectious laugh. And lest this encomium sound too much like a eulogy, I rejoice in the prospect of sharing that laugh for many years to come.

With affection and admiration,
-Marc Benamou



Judith, the Upside-Down Inspiration

fall 1976, my first semester as a music student at UM required course: music history 139, prof. judith becker i sat in the first row, usually. in the recital hall.

you played examples of music for us on records; and as was common then the record player arm was wobbly so you'd ask if anyone had a nickel or coin to set on the arm to steady it. i think i gave you all my nickels that first semester. then you played gamelan music for us.

everything changed. i mean, everything. of course at the moment i didn't realize just how this change would be realized over the course of my life, or realize what a lovely connection i'd continue to have with you. you don't think that far ahead when you are 18 and your music history teacher plays a record.

so that's the beginning of my tribute time line. then there's all the years in between then and now... the rehearsals, concerts, kreteks, selamatan...

but this part's just too long – all the ways you made a difference in my student life, my musical life, my personal life, i can't even begin to list them all. and then there's the now, when i happily find myself in yoga class on a mat next to you.

even upside down you're an inspiration.

with much love and great admiration
-theresa rohlck



Judith, the Coincidental Grammarian

From the day in 1972 when I opened up the copy of your dissertation I had ordered and eagerly awaited as it made its way (non-electronically) from University Microfilms to the University of Hawai'i, I knew you would have a major influence in my life. I wasn't yet sure I would be able to pursue my PhD at Michigan, but I could see then that the discourse on Javanese music had fundamentally changed. Your work opened up many new vistas, not only for those of us working on gamelan in Java, but for a younger generation of students interested in the meanings of music, musical change, and musical aesthetics. Four years later, when I enrolled as a doctoral student at Michigan, I was immediately engaged reading the new work you and Pete were doing on musical grammars – an interest I continue to nurture, however surreptitiously now that it has fallen out of vogue in the field of ethnomusicology. It inspired my own first conference paper (ICTM, actually still IFMC back then) in 1977 and my first publication (Ethnomusicology) which followed shortly thereafter. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, as I completed my PhD, your

work kept developing in intriguing new directions, from translations of Javanese theorists to convincingly positing Java's tantric connections, to the beginnings of your seminal work on music and trance. From the mapping of gamelan cycles onto circles—a device I consistently use in my classes to teach students about gamelan's structures—to your and Pete's brilliant theorizing on coincidence/*kebetulan*, I've been so enriched by your penetrating and original thinking. It was not *kebetulan* that as a young student of gamelan I eagerly read your dissertation, but it surely was *kebetulan* that I was in Ann Arbor during those exciting years 1976-1981, with you as a wise and patient advisor. Your retirement is well-earned and richly deserved after many years of exemplary teaching, research, and administrative service. I'm sure your other former advisees would join me in wishing you the very best as you retire and in hoping we will continue to *ngangsu kawruh* ("draw knowledge from the well") from talks and articles you've got percolating for us in the future.

-Andy Sutton

Judith, the Empowerer

When Judith Becker took us under her mentorship we understood it to be her tacit commitment to ethnomusicology in the Philippines. She wasn't just teaching us but a future generation of Filipino ethnomusicologists. It was with almost a sense of mission that she extended every possible support for us to complete our graduate programs and maximize our training in the field of ethnomusicology and the musics of Southeast Asia. All she hoped for was that we do likewise for Filipinos who would come our way.

In our present academic milieu, we like to think that our efforts to empower the under-represented through alternative music programs and our advocacy of new approaches to Philippine music instruction are extensions of Judith's own legacy of empowerment and her trusting openness that encourages learning and self-discovery. It may be a different time and place yet today we continue to be guided by a spirit of nurturing mentorship that is the ultimate legacy of Judith Becker.

Judith, Better than Bach

When I was younger, and devoted to classical piano, I remember being inordinately proud that I shared the initials of my name with the composer Johann Sebastian Bach. Now that I am older and dedicated to Southeast Asian music, I am happier that I share them with Judith Becker. The progression from one model to the other is a movement directed down to earth, and this is the quality that I like best about Judith. Her work on music and the people who make it has always been done on the ground, but I also appreciate this quality about her mentoring: realistic, grounded, encouraging us to deal with success and setbacks as part of the same cycle, understanding that the best work we do comes from our most human selves. Thank you, Judith, *guru agung*.

-Julia Byl

Judith Becker

Judith, the Book on the Shelf

I will never forget my first contact with you. I was still an undergraduate at the University of Pennsylvania and one night was wandering around the stacks of its amazing anthropology library. I saw a book spine – *Traditional Music in Modern Java* – and stopped in my tracks. First, I hadn't known that there were any books about music in the anthro library, and second, I'd never seen the words 'traditional' and 'modern' side by side in that way. I opened it and eventually sat down on the floor right there in the stacks and read and read. I was literally mesmerized. I hadn't known that anyone could look at music in this way, that it was possible to work with music and think about the big issues and the deep values that drive any society. To quote Renée Zellweger in Jerry Maguire, you had me at 'hello', Judith! Deciding to study with you was thus part of my earliest understanding of what ethnomusicology could be.

Your ability to see the big picture and to articulate the big questions is centrally part of your contribution to ethnomusicology. I got to know you just at the point after you had been exploring structuralist methods for some time, and I had read that work (on coherence, on *srepegan*) and been gripped by it. To my own surprise, you were turning away from that thinking just at the point when I started taking graduate seminars with you. Part of what I learned from you was how theory is a tool that offers certain answers, and how different theories offer different answers. Watching you turn away and move on from some of your own conclusions was astonishing, and it was one of the most deeply pedagogical things I have ever witnessed. I learned about meta-thinking from you in more ways than one.

Your wisdom, compassion, and serenity has touched all your students, Judith. We each hope that it has marked us at least a little. Congratulations on your retirement. We are all in the room with you tonight, saying thank you for what you taught us and what you have modeled for so many years.

-Deborah Wong

WWJD?

For my entire professional life, Judith Becker has been my standard for ethnomusicology – even to this day. Whenever I'm faced with a professional or even personal dilemma, I ask myself: What Would Judith Do? Judith is the model I have always aspired to attain. I remember when I was a graduate student at the University of Michigan, there were still relatively few women in music departments. In diversifying American academic institutions, part of the argument for more female professors is that they would be models for young female students. I don't think anyone realized that a woman can also be a model for young male students as well. Judith has been a model of personal and professional behavior for ALL of her students, male and female. Thus Judith is living proof that gender diversity is good for the marketplace of ideas, not only because she's a woman but because she's also a great scholar.

I remember as a graduate student, being in one of Judith's classes. I remember how she sometimes so effortlessly tossed out amazing ideas, how casually generous she was in sharing her ideas with her students. Some of my earliest research ideas were, to be honest, taken directly from my work with Judith – especially, my early interest in ritual and music. I remember how Judith stood up for me when I wrote my dissertation using the first person narrative (still rare at that time). One of my other dissertation committee members did not approve of this style of writing, but Judith always stood for good ideas. And that's what she taught her students. Indeed, Judith taught me to have faith in my intellectual skills. Together with Pete Becker, Judith taught me to take intellectual risks. Instead of trying to shape my scholarship into some sort of standard mould, she encouraged me to develop my own voice, my own approach, and my own interests.

When I teach today, when I mentor graduate students here at the University of California, Riverside, so much of what I know to help my own students has been inspired by my studies with Judith Becker. In a way, my students, are her students. Her passion for Javanese music, her profound interest in expressive culture, and her deeply held ethics and commitment to justice and fair play will be her legacy. Her students and her students' students will all aspire to be the kind of scholar and person she is. She is our model, our standard.

-Rene Lysloff



Undergraduate Summer Programs in Southeast Asia

Indonesia

On our first night in Bali, the five students from the University of Michigan Summer Seminar in Indonesia, along with faculty seminar leader Charley Sullivan and our Indonesian translator Riri Kurniawati, went to a family *odalan*, a Balinese Hindu festival that involves dancing, offerings, and music. The vibrant colors and unique sounds and smells left one of us to remark, "I've never felt so foreign in my life!" The trip to the Indonesian islands of Bali and Java was an undeniably enlightening experience for everyone involved, and the *odalan* was the first of many experiences that helped us understand Indonesia.

In Bali, we explored the hallmarks of the island's distinctive culture: art, dance, gamelan music, and rice farming. Our experience, however, delved into everyday Indonesian life, far beyond the superficial encounters enjoyed by the average tourist. We examined social issues that have pervaded Balinese life since the 1970s, including economic and social changes brought on by both Green Revolution agriculture and the explosion of tourism, and the decline of maternal and pediatric

health. We came to realize that Bali is not solely an ornate tourist getaway. The Balinese are proud people with a rich cultural history, but they are at a crossroads as regional autonomy allows them to confront important choices about the future of their island and their culture.

After a hair-raising crossing of the Bali Strait, we made our way to Yogyakarta, Central Java. There, we explored issues arising from the 2006 earthquake, and particularly the effects, both social and political, of large amounts of disaster aid pouring into the region. Through interviews with people from market vendors to Indonesia's first governmental private sector ombudsman, we learned that even as many Indonesians still smart under a continuing politics of corruption, there are many who are working actively to build a civil society that values transparency and accountability. Our time in Java also



Interviewing a farmer and a priest in Pengosekan Bali about how the temple and the farmers work together to plan water use in the rice fields.

allowed us to learn to see past the stereotypical perceptions many Westerners have of Islam, particularly those around the role of women in society. The women we met - from doctors to social activists to government officials - were clearly valued members of their society, whether they chose to wear head coverings or not.

Back in Ann Arbor, we are producing two short films to capture and interpret snapshots of Indonesian life on two different islands. We feel we have a better understanding now of Indonesia, from thirty years of authoritarianism to their present-day blossoming democracy.

Philippines

In June 2008, a group of 15 U-M students, one student leader, and two faculty leaders from the Medical School travelled to the Philippines as a part of the Global Intercultural Experience for Undergraduates. Our mission was to lay the groundwork for a Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Program in two remote areas in the Philippines. The future CBR program aims to provide Philippines-specific programs that will offer services for people with dis-

abilities to make them more independent and active participants in their homes and communities. While in the Philippines, we made presentations to government and health officials, health volunteers and the general public about disability, rehabilitation and CBR.

Our work further included visiting and surveying homes of people with disabilities in both the coastal region of Ilocos Norte and the mountainous region of Sagada. The survey questions gathered information about the current situation of people with disabilities in their homes and communities to help determine what is necessary to provide services, education and a more wheelchair accessible environment in the future. Apart from the home visits, we visited nearby hospitals and rehabilitation centers to get a better perspective on what resources are presently available for people with disabilities.

Beyond the research aspects of our project, we visited other places that provided eye-opening experiences, including Breaking Barriers with Children, a center that grants rehabilitation services for chil-

dren with disabilities and a group home, The House with No Stairs, where several people with disabilities live and work together, and are self sufficient through livelihood projects. At times, the very meager resources, equipment and services in these places proved overwhelming for us. But, regardless of the situation, it was motivating to see that everyone was trying their best to provide a supportive and loving community.

We had the opportunity to enjoy the breathtaking scenery and adventures that the Philippines has to offer, including hiking through the picturesque landscape of the the Sagada and Banaue rice terraces, spelunking through huge bat caves (and learning about the indigenous practice of the hanging coffins), and soaking up some sun at the beach, enjoying life on white sands and in crystal blue waters.

The experiences, memories, and relationships formed during those four amazing weeks have definitely left an imprint on each of our lives.

Mary Tran, LSA, Holland Michigan



The Banaue rice terraces.

Thailand

Undergraduate students enrolled in the Thai language classes visited Thailand for two weeks in early May under the Integrating Study Abroad into the Curriculum program through the Office of International Programs, accompanied by their language teacher, Montatip Krishnamra. The places they visited not only gave them the chance to see Thailand and put the language they had been learning to use, but it also offered them a number of lenses for better understanding both modern and historical aspects of Thailand and Thai society.

As any other tourists in Bangkok, students visited the Temple of the Emerald Buddha and the Grand Palace. The group was also able to go “behind the scenes” at these places, however, seeing things other tourists, and even many Thais themselves, never get a chance to see. The students visited the Ceremony Hall of the Grand Palace, where the King and Queen of Thailand receive and hold banquets for visiting heads of state from other countries. While there, they talked with members of the royal family, who gave them insights into the working days of their Majesties the King and Queen, and of their devotion to the wellness of the citizens.

Several other visits took them to much more humble places, giving them direct access to those citizens. The group visited an AIDS hospice where they spoke with AIDS patients and with people living with HIV and AIDS, and the Reformatory School for Troubled Youths where they talked and had lunch with the residents. Visiting Ampawaa, a subdistrict an hour to the south of Bangkok gave them the opportunity to learn about basic ecology and space use; in particular, they visited a market set up partially on the train tracks. Merchants pull up their stalls each time the train goes through, only to move right back into the track space as soon as the train has passed.

They also visited several museums, as well as the historic palace shown in the movie *The King and I* where King Rama IV predicted the full lunar eclipse without using any modern instruments. A visit to Ayuthaya, the ancient capital expanded their knowledge about the historic relations with Burma.



Vendors move out of the way as the train rolls through the market at Ampawaa, south of Bangkok.



U-M undergraduates and residents at the Kids First Village in Dong Ha, Quang Tri Province, in front of a mural they painted together.

Viet Nam

Through the auspices of the Global Intercultural Experience for Undergraduates (GIEU) program, Vietnamese language instructor Thuy/Anh Nguyen and history professor David Smith led a group of 15 Michigan students to Viet Nam in May 2007. Building on the concept of the “Teach-In,” the program exposed students to the fast and growing economic transformation that much of Viet Nam is experiencing today.

Starting in Hanoi, Co Thuy/Anh introduced the participants to the Vietnamese language, and quickly became what the students called their “Local Survival Liaison.” The high point of the time in the north was the opportunity to interact with students from Hanoi University. Though the Vietnamese students were eager to practice their own English skills, the Michigan students were able to gain some valuable practice with their basic Vietnamese. While in Hanoi, the group also visited several museums, spoke with officials at the U.S. Embassy, and attended lectures on contemporary issues at Viet Nam National University.

The group then traveled to Dong Ha in Quang Tri Province. This small town in central Viet Nam was the group’s home for the next two weeks as they carried out a project at Kids First Village, an NGO training young adults in Dong Ha to work in the textile and restaurant industries. In addition to helping improve the grounds and painting two elaborate murals on buildings at the Village, students had the opportunity to visit a new textile factory being built in the town. While in Dong Ha, the group was also able to learn more about the lasting legacies of the “American War.” In particular, they were briefed on the extent of unexploded ordnance in Quang Tri Province from the Mine Awareness Group (MAG) and learned about the efforts of Clear Paths International to provide assistance to the families and victims of land mines.

From Dong Ha, the group traveled to Ho Chi Minh City, where they visited the powerful War Remnants Museum, and to the Mekong Delta, where the group visited floating catfish villages, furthering their exposure to local, family-based economies. Visiting both Viet Nam’s most explosively growing city and local producers gave students the unique opportunity to consider the magnitude of potential economic, political, and cultural change that Viet Nam will experience as it increasingly becomes part of the global economy.



Our Alumni News section for this newsletter focuses on the students of Judith Becker. They are a special group. In her tribute to Judith, Deborah Wong writes, "Once a Judith Becker student, always so – that's centrally part of the phenomenon that you are. Oh, you didn't know that you're a phenomenon? You are, and we all have our stories about you – something that you said in a seminar 20 years ago, still vividly remembered, or a seemingly simple piece of advice you gave one of us while dissertating that allowed us to see the forest through the trees. Being your student is like being a member of a club." Herewith, just a small bit of news from a quite large Judith Becker fan club!

Marc Benamou (PhD, Musicology, 1998) is associate professor of music at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, where he has been teaching ethnomusicology, Western music history, gamelan ensemble, and interdisciplinary courses since 2001. In conjunction with Dr. Rahayu Supanggah he recorded and annotated a 4-CD set of Central Javanese gamelan music which was released on the Inédit label (Maison des Cultures du Monde) in 2006, and he continues to publish on themes relating to Javanese musical aesthetics. In the spring of 2006 Marc spent a semester

teaching at STSI in Solo in the master's program in performance studies at STSI (now ISI) Surakarta. He is currently conducting research, funded by a Ford-Knight grant, on Western-classical musicians of African-American descent, in collaboration with Earlham students. He just purchased a 29-acre tract of old-growth forest and rolling meadows south of Richmond, which friends are encouraged to come visit!

benamma@earlham.edu

Kristina Benitez (PhD Musicology 2005; MA Musicology 1983) is currently Director of the Ethnomusicology Program of the Philippine Women's University where she supervises academic and extension programs centering on Philippine musics. Her thrust has been the expansion of the horizons of Philippine gong music through innovative approaches that encourage both research and creative



activities. Her efforts have resulted in the promotion of both traditional and new Philippine musics in the elementary, secondary, and tertiary levels of instruction in various schools in Metro Manila. kasbenitez@gmail.com

Julia Byl (PhD Musicology, 2006) specializes in North Sumatran music and history. She is a visiting assistant professor in ethnomusicology at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Since defending her dissertation, she has been in and out of Indonesia, and has also worked translating bamboo sticks from the Batak lands on a grant from the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia. In February, Julia married Makarios Sitanggang, formerly of Medan, Indonesia. They live in Champaign, Illinois. jisby@wildmail.com

Gernot Blume, (PhD Musicology, 1998) German multi-instrumentalist and composer, moved to the U.S. in 1988 to study world music at the California Institute of the Arts in Los Angeles. He then earned his Ph.D. under the supervision of Dr. Judith Becker at the University of Michigan. He taught ethnomusicology and directed the world music program at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon before moving back to Europe. He has published articles on the American jazz pianist Keith Jarrett, lectures at the Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany, and works internationally as a freelance musician. Together with his wife, marimba soloist, percussionist and composer, Julie Spencer, who taught marimba and percussion, and assisted with the university's gamelan ensemble while Gernot worked on his PhD, he has released ten CDs of their diverse musical output, including music for harp, piano, jazz and world music ensembles, North Indian ragas, experimental improvisations, and contemporary settings of German poetry. The catalogues of both their

compositions is published with Norsk Musikforlag, Oslo, Norway. Since 2003 the couple lives in Bingen, Germany, with their two children, Avi Béla and Amienne Monet. gernotblume@yahoo.de

Bonnie Brereton (PhD Buddhist Studies 1992) earned masters degrees in Southeast Asian studies and Asian art history (1978) and a doctorate in Buddhist studies specializing in Thailand. She taught courses in comparative religions and cultures at Eastern Michigan University, Michigan State University, and U-M's Residential College. After working as an outreach coordinator at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, she received a Fulbright Fellowship to serve as a consultant at Khon Kaen University, where she began research on Northeast Thai cultural forms. She now lives in Chiang Mai, Thailand but travels frequently to the Northeast to continue her research. Her most recent publications (co-authored with Somroay Yencheuy) are "Traditional Shadow Theater of Northeastern Thailand (Nang Pramo Thai): Hardy Transplant or Endangered Species?" *Aseanie*, 19, Juin 2007 and *Buddhist Murals of the Isan Heartland* (forthcoming), Mekong Press, a subsidiary of Silkworm Books, Chiang Mai. brereton.b@gmail.com

Kyra D. Gaunt (PhD Musicology, 1997) teaches ethnomusicology and anthropology as an Associate Professor in the Departments of Sociology and Anthropology and Black and Hispanic Studies at Baruch College-CUNY. Her book *The Games Black Girls Play: Learning the Ropes from Double-Dutch to Hip-hop* (NYU Press, 2006) co-won the 2007 Merriam Prize for most outstanding

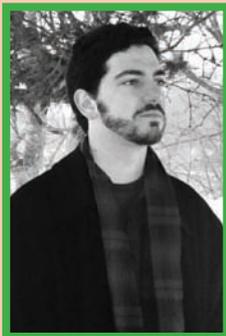


book awarded by the Society for Ethnomusicology and was a finalist for the PEN American Center's 2007 Beyond the Margins Book Award. She has appeared in the American Masters documentary *Sweet Honey in the Rock: Raise Your Voice* (2005) and is currently giving workshops on transforming racism called "Agree to Be Offended." Kyra studied classical voice with George Shirley and Lorna Haywood at the U-M School of Music. She now performs as an R&B singer-songwriter in NYC promoting her latest CD *Be the True Revolution*. She also blogs regularly, see www.kyraocity.com.

Jocelyne Guilbault (PhD Musicology, 1984) is Professor of Ethnomusicology at the Music Department of the University of California, Berkeley. Since 1980, she has done extensive fieldwork in the French Creole- and English-speaking islands of the Caribbean on both traditional and popular music. She published several articles on ethnographic writings, aesthetics, the cultural politics of West Indian music industries, and world music. She is the author of *Zouk: World Music in the West Indies* (1993) and the co-editor of *Border Crossings: New Directions in Music Studies* (1999-2000). Her last main publication is entitled *Governing Sound: the Cultural Politics of Trinidad's Carnival Musics* (2007). guilbault@berkeley.edu

Gabriel Gould (DMA, Composition, 2000)

After graduating from the School of Music with his DMA, Gabriel moved to London for two years where his wife Susan Prill (M.A. in Religion, 1999) pursued her Ph.D. After returning to the US in 2002, Gabriel taught music from 2002-2004 at Indiana University South Bend and from 2004-2006 at Hamilton College. In 2006, Gabriel and Susan moved to central Pennsylvania, where Susan was appointed Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Juniata College. As part of the Douglas Moore Fellowship in 2006-2007, Gabriel was composer-in-residence with three American opera companies and is currently working on



his first opera. Gabriel maintains a strong interest in world music, and especially gamelan, thanks to Judith Becker. gigsep@yahoo.com

Dane Harwood (BA, 1969), earned his PhD in cognitive psychology from UCLA (1973). A series of postdocs sent him back to Ann Arbor and then to Washington, D.C., and he then taught psychology at Simmons College in Boston (1979-82). He conducted research in Indonesia in 1982, then entered the private sector the next year, doing behavioral science as a management consultant. He now has his own company, and still lives in the Boston area. He played with the U-M gamelan ensemble from late 1967 through summer 1969. Since then, he has studied, played, and performed Javanese, Balinese, and Sundanese music at UCLA (1969-73), again at U-M (1973-76), the University of Maryland and the Indonesian Embassy (1976-79), and Brown University (1979-83). He has been an active performer with the Boston Village Gamelan from 1980 to the present, and feels he has been blessed with many fine teachers. He continues to write articles and reviews for journals, and is a life member of the Society for Ethnomusicology. In 1986, with Jay Dowling, he published *Music and Cognition*, which remains a frequently-cited academic textbook. In 1988, he married Amy Uhrbach, who he met at ISSI in 1981, where both were studying Bahasa Indonesia. Son, Alex was born in January 1990, and says, "Over the last 18 years, my most pleasurable musical moments occur each time my son and I jam together on our guitars. I am a very lucky husband and dad!" amydane@rcn.com

Patricia Matusky (PhD Musicology, 1980), carried out her dissertational field research on music of the Malay shadow puppet theatre from the state of Kelantan, Malaysia. She and her family resided for many years in Malaysia where she was an Associate Professor at the Universiti Sains Malaysia in Penang and at the

University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur and was Head of the Music Department at the LaSalle-SIA College of the Arts in Singapore. Returning to home turf in 2001, Pat is now an adjunct professor at Grand Valley State University in the Northwest Michigan Academic Programs at Traverse City, Michigan, and continues to serve as consultant to the Dayak Cultural Foundation in Sarawak. She is also the Deputy Director of the newly formed Nusantara Performing Arts Research Institute located in Kuala Lumpur where she and her family live for part of the year. Her son, Justin, born and raised in Malaysia, is now working in animation and film in southern California, while husband Howard Yamaguchi has returned to academic studies in GIS through Penn State University. pat.matusky@mac.com



Inna Naroditskaya (PhD Musicology, 1999) writes: "No Entry' has been a tempting slogan for me, an immigrant from Azerbaijan (formerly part of the Soviet Union and now an independent state), who decided to simultaneously learn English and complete a PhD in Ethnomusicology at the University of Michigan. Judith Becker, for whom, to my luck, 'No Entry' is also a daring invitation, was/is/will be my mentor and model. Currently at Northwestern University, the author of a book with Judith's imprint on every page and the co-editor of two collections, now suffering through a new book, wishing for Judith to be nearby, I enjoy my life in Chicago with my generally-abiding-signs husband (who once seriously jumped over 'No Entry'), my No Entry-always-challenging son (well known in Becker's club) and my everyone-soothing dog, Druzhok." in-narod@northwestern.edu

Fe Prudente (PhD Musicology, 1984) is professor of music at the University of the Philippines. She is also currently Dean in-charge to reorganize and upgrade the Philippine Women's University School of Music. Her commitment in institutionalizing music programs that integrates Philippine musics into main

Alumni News

stream education is manifest in various responsibilities she has undertaken such as Musicology chairperson (University of the Philippines, 1989-99) and Graduate Committee Chair (University of the Philippines, 1996-99). Her continuing field research work around the Philippines dating back to the 1970's has made her a leading Philippine music specialist regularly holding training workshops for teachers and students as well as delivering lectures around the country and abroad. Prudente was a CSEAS Hughes Visiting Scholar in 2004. fepudente@gmail.com

Theresa Rohlck (BA Music History, 1981) is currently a lecturer at the University of Michigan's English Language Institute, where she teaches English for Academic Purposes to both graduate and undergraduate international students, and has a Masters in TESOL from Eastern Michigan University. After finishing her undergraduate degree, she studied gamelan and dance in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on a Fulbright. Three and a half years later, she returned to Ann Arbor with her husband, Ayi Solehuddin. They have two sons - Anton, who currently lives near Chicago with his wife, Erin; he plays tuba in the Chicago Brass Band and is planning to become an air traffic controller; and Mario, a freshman at Pioneer High School in Ann Arbor, who keeps busy with music, cooking and sports. trohck@umich.edu



R. Anderson Sutton (PhD Musicology, 1982) has taught ethnomusicology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison since receiving his doctorate at Michigan. He has specialized in the music of Indonesia, having been introduced to Javanese music as an undergraduate at Wesleyan University and completing his M.A. at the University of Hawai'i with a thesis on Javanese instrumental performance. He has

conducted field work on numerous occasions in Indonesia (Central and East Java, and South Sulawesi) with grants from the Social Science Research Council, Fulbright-Hays, East-West Center, National Endowment for the Humanities, Asian Cultural Council, Wenner-Gren Foundation, and American Philosophical Society and is author of three books and numerous articles on music in Indonesia. His current research concerns music and the media and issues surrounding musical hybridity in Indonesia and South Korea. Andy has served as first vice president and book review editor for the Society of Ethnomusicology and currently chairs its publications advisory committee. He has also served three terms as director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at UW-Madison, and directs the Javanese gamelan ensemble there. His wife, Peggy Choy, received her MA from Michigan in 1983 and is a senior lecturer in the Dance Program at UW-Madison, outreach coordinator for their Center for Southeast Asian Studies, and an active choreographer. They have two children, Maya Choy-Sutton (22) and Tony Choy-Sutton (18). rasutton@wisc.edu

Susan Pratt Walton (PhD Musicology, 1996), an ethnomusicologist, has research interests in Javanese gamelan music, gender studies, life history studies, and performance studies. She has been researching and performing Javanese gamelan music since 1968, specializing in solo female singing which she has

performed with numerous gamelan groups in the US, Indonesia, England, Australia, and New Zealand. Her publications include a monograph, *Mode in Javanese Music*, several articles on the cultural significance of this vocal tradition, and translations from the Javanese of two treatises on Javanese gamelan music. She is currently working on a history of Javanese female singing. Her academic appointment is split between the School of Music, Theatre and Dance where she directs the U-M Gamelan and the Residential College, where she teaches several courses focusing on the arts and cultures of South and Southeast Asia. In 2009, she and her husband will travel to Kerala, where Susan will research *tol pava kuttu*, shadow puppet theater. She has two grown children. swalton@umich.edu

Deborah Wong (PhD Musicology, 1991)

is Professor of Music at the University of California, Riverside and is currently President of the Society for Ethnomusicology. She has published two books. *Sounding the Center: History and Aesthetics in Thai Buddhist Ritual* (University of Chicago Press, 2001) addressed musicians' rituals and their implications for the cultural politics of Thai court music and dance in late twentieth-century Bangkok. *Speak It Louder: Asian Americans Making Music* (Routledge, 2004) focused on music, race, and identity work

in a series of case studies including Southeast Asian immigrant musics, Chinese American and Japanese American jazz in the Bay Area, and Asian American hip-hop. She is finishing a book on Japanese American drumming in California. During summer 2008, she did pilot research in the lower Isaan region of Thailand, where she is starting a new project on border musics.

deborah.wong@ucr.edu



Mary S. Zurbuchen (PhD Linguistics, 1981; MA SEAS, 1975) has research interests that include literature and performance in Indonesia, as well as the study of historical memory. She is the author of *The Language of Balinese Shadow Theater* (Princeton University Press, 1987), and she conceived and edited *Beginning to Remember: The Past in the Indonesian Present* (University of Washington Press/Singapore University Press, 2005). Mary served as the Ford Foundation's representative in Jakarta from 1992-2000, overseeing grant programs and field offices in Southeast Asia. Prior experience with the Ford Foundation included appointments as Program Officer for Culture in Indonesia (1984-87) and India (1988-91). In addition to her doctorate, she received an MA in Southeast Asian Studies from U-M, and her BA from

the University of California, Santa Cruz. From 2000 to 2003, she was appointed Visiting Professor at the International Institute at UCLA, and also served as Acting Director of UCLA's Center for Southeast Asian Studies. Mary joined the Ford Foundation International Fellowships Program as Director for Asia and Russia in December 2003, and is currently based in New York.

mzurbuchen@yahoo.com



Student News



Ismail F. Alatas (PhD, History and Anthropology) more popularly known as Aji, writes, "I am joining the joint Anthropology and History program at the University of Michigan after receiving a BA at the University of Melbourne, and an MA at the National University of Singapore, both in history. I was born in Indonesia and moved to Australia when I was 13. My main interest in studying history has always been to examine the epistemological transition from the traditional/religious worldview to a secular one. For my PhD project I am looking at the Hadramis (a group of people from South Yemen) in Southeast Asia, especially Indonesia." ifalatas@umich.edu

Hillary Brass (PhD, Anthropology) is studying Advanced Indonesian on a FLAS for the 2008-2009 academic year. hibrass@umich.edu

Eric Brown (PhD, Linguistics) has proven his mastery of the Lao language as evidenced by

the SEASSI Lao teachers' nomination of him to receive the Usha Maha Jani Award (which he notes, "I didn't actually receive.") Check out his bio in the fall issue of the *Bulletin of the Association for Asian Studies*. ericeric@umich.edu

Bretton Dimick (PhD, Musicology) spent last summer, his second in Vietnam, doing research funded by the Center for World Performance Studies Residency. He spent time in Hanoi continuing to study *Ca tru* (declaimed poetry), and Ho Chi Minh City studying *Nhac tai tu* (chamber music). He continues his focus on Vietnamese and Southeast Asian Studies with a FLAS fellowship, and is the first student at Michigan to be accepted into the new Graduate Certificate Program in Southeast Asian Studies. He hopes to return to Vietnam to carry out research for his dissertation on *Ca tru*. bfdimick@umich.edu

Jenny Epley (PhD, Political Science) has returned to Ann Arbor. She's been busy in Australia using the Southeast Asia collection at Monash University (she reports that they have fantastic resources!) and presented at the ASAA's 17th Biennial Conference in Melbourne. She is currently working on her dissertation on religious identity and political participation in Indonesia. jepley@umich.edu

Marco Garrido (PhD, Sociology) and his wife Micaela welcomed the birth of their son, Rafael in August! Marco writes, "Other than being knee-deep in diapers, I've been neck-deep in my prospectus, which is just about ready to be defended this fall." Marco is also lead author of a chapter on globalization and social segregation in Metro Manila with CSEAS Assistant Director Gavin Shatkin. garrido@umich.edu

Sana Jaffrey, (PhD, Political Science) has decided to move her focus from South Asia, and specialize in Indonesian politics. After passing her prelims with honors in April 2008, she did language training in Yogyakarta this summer, and will join the World Bank, Jakarta, as a coordinator for a project coordinated by Professor Ashu Varshney, "Violence After Suharto". sjaffery@umich.edu

Amy Kimura (PhD, Musicology) received a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research award for 2008-09 to research in the Netherlands (Oct-March) and Indonesia (April-July). Her dissertation is about radio programming policies in the Dutch East Indies in the 1920s and 30s. Examining how radio mediation changed listeners, broadcasters, and structures of music and performance, this research will create a more complete picture of radio's impact on musical culture during this pivotal time in Indonesian history, as the Dutch empire's power declined and as Indonesian national consciousness began to flourish. akimura@umich.edu

Dashini Ann Jeyathurai (PhD, English and Women's Studies) is in her first year of her doctoral studies. She writes, "I received my BA in English and Women's Studies in June 2008 from Carleton College, Minnesota. I was educated in Malaysia and then Singapore before I came to America for my undergraduate education. For my undergraduate thesis, I looked at language, ethnicity and history in Shirley Geok Lin Lim's *Joss & Gold* and KS Maniam's *The Return*. Currently, I am interested in literatures in English from South Asia and Southeast Asia with a particular focus on questions of national identity. I am also interested in exploring contemporary Asian-American literature as well." jeyathud@umich.edu

Tim Leahy (MA, SEAS) is currently writing his thesis on the food culture and culinary history of modern Vietnam, focusing specifically on the issue of cuisine and how this term is to be defined. This summer he designed, prepared, and executed an 8 course tasting menu for 50 people at North Restaurant in Leelanau County, Michigan. He intends to return to Vietnam later this fall to take an in depth look at Vietnam's hospitality and food service industry. timleahy@umich.edu

Cynthia Marasigan (PhD, History) received a Ford Dissertation Fellowship for 2008-2009. Cynthia is back from field research in the Philippines and is currently writing her dissertation, "Ambivalent Belligerents: African American Soldiers, Filipino Revolutionaries, and the Philippine-American War." cmarasig@umich.edu

George Ramos, Filipino playwright and poet, joins us in Ann Arbor to work toward an MFA over the next 2-3 years. Welcome George! gramos@umich.edu



Scotty Mc Loughlin (PhD, Anthropology) studied Filipino/Tagalog at SEASSI during the summer courtesy of FLEP, the CIC Foreign Language Enhancement Program which provides scholarships for LCT language study at CIC institutions. scottmcl@umich.edu

Jack Merchant, (PhD, History), was in Hanoi for the majority of the last year doing research on the new poetry movement as well as the development of periodicals and *quoc ngu* (Romanized Vietnamese script). He married Nguyen Thu Huyen in December, in her home town of Ha Long. The couple met in Hanoi in 2006, while Jack was on a summer FLAS award studying Vietnamese (Thank you, Senator Fulbright!) Huyen reports she is enjoying living in Ann Arbor now, and both Jack and Huyen recently spoke with students at Pioneer High School in Ann Arbor about Vietnamese history and the life of women in Vietnam in the generation after the Vietnam War. merchand@umich.edu

Nghi-Yung Nguyen-Phuoc (PhD, Urban & Regional Planning) is a first-year doctoral student from Vietnam. She received her bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies and Economics from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and her master's degree in Sustainable International Development from Brandeis University. For the past five years she has worked in the field of international development assistance in her home country. With her PhD studies and research, she hopes to focus on the issue of affordable housing in the context of rapid urban sprawl and increased influx of economic migrants to the cities of Vietnam. She also loves the elegance of the English language and reports she "would read anything from Edith Wharton to the *Oxford Thesaurus*." nghiyung@umich.edu

Sandeep Ray (MA, SEAS), our resident documentary filmmaker, completed second year Indonesian through the USINDO program at Gajah Mada University in Yogyakarta. While in Indonesia, he was invited to give a lecture entitled "How to structure documentary films" at the Yogyakarta Arts Festival, and conducted two workshops with Michigan undergraduates taking part in the CSEAS Indonesia Summer Seminar on how to create multimedia reports on their observations. Sandeep is continuing his Indonesian language studies with a FLAS this year. sandeep@umich.edu

Kate Skillman (PhD, Asian Languages and Literatures) was in Indonesia for the month of June to narrow down her dissertation topic. She writes, "I spent my time talking to Islamic leaders and have decided that my dissertation will focus on 20th century debates on theology and religious practice in Indonesian Islam. The month of July I spent reading and the month of August I took a temporary job at the university to earn some cash!" kmskill@umich.edu

Linda Takamine (PhD, Anthropology) is enjoying the first year of her doctoral program. She writes: "Broadly speaking, my research interests involve Vietnamese communities in Japan, including minority, immigrant, and refugee communities. Central to my proposed research are the means by which the refugees make claims upon the local government and their host communities in order to obtain social services and political representation. Other issues I wish to explore include how the various segments of the bureaucracy are involved in immigration issues and how these



segments interact vertically at local, regional, and national levels and horizontally in terms of policy jurisdiction. I am also interested in interdisciplinary matters such as the history of immigration law and policy. I moved to Ann Arbor after receiving my MA in Asian Cultures and Languages from UT Austin." Linda is studying Vietnamese on a FLAS this year. takamine@umich.edu

Rebecca Townsend (MA, SEAS) was born in California, but raised in Midland, Michigan. She graduated from Arizona State University last spring, where she majored in history with a concentration in Southeast Asian Studies. She plans to focus her studies on Thailand and Laos, particularly concerning the role of ethnic minorities in the modern states and their place in Thai and Lao culture, an interest inspired by time spent traveling in Thailand and Laos. Rebecca is studying Thai with a FLAS fellowship this year. rmtownse@umich.edu

Nathaniel Tuohy (MA, SEAS) grew up in Toledo, Ohio and got his BA in English from Oberlin College. After graduating he worked at Gajah Mada University in Indonesia for two years as an Oberlin Shansi fellow. In addition to teaching in the English department and a religious studies program, he lived in a river-side *kampung* for six months helping with community English classes. Last year he worked in Oberlin as the 'house mother' for visiting scholars from Asia and took classes in religion and anthropology. This summer he returned to Java to improve his formal Indonesian at the COTIM program and to study current pilgrimage practices in his spare time. Nat has a FLAS to study Advanced Indonesian in the 2008-2009 academic year. ntuohy@umich.edu

Tanya Wansom, (MD/MPP joint degree) writes, "I'm done with medical school (!) and am now full time at the Ford School this year." Tanya is the 2008-2009 American Medical Student Association Global Health Chair, and works on HIV/AIDS in Thailand and the politics of Thailand's manufacturing of generic AIDS drugs. twansom@med.umich.edu

U-M Alumni Reception in Bangkok

On June 5, 2008, the first official University of Michigan Alumni Reception in Bangkok kicked off in style at the Banyan Tree Hotel, its ballroom festively transformed with numerous maize-and-blue banners, colorful floral arrangements, and a large-screen TV showing highlights of the most recent U-M football bowl game. These were the result of the imaginative efforts of the U-M Alumni Association of Thailand, under the leadership of its President Anant Keskasemsook, aided by Amornrat Kutranon, Vichien Kulvaraporn, Sathist Sathirakul and others, who organized the event jointly with the U-M Alumni Association and the Center for Southeast Asian Studies. The more than 200 participants included alumni who traveled from as far away as Shanghai and San Francisco.

U-M representatives at the reception were: Jerry May (Vice President for Development), Jefferson Porter (Associate Vice President for Development), Steve Grafton (President of the Alumni Association), Jo Rumsey (Vice President of the Alumni Association), professors Allen Hicken, Linda Lim and Fred Wherry, and Thai language instructor Montatip Krishnamra.

U-M alumnus Dr. Sahas Bunditkul, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, conveyed his best wishes to the gathering in a personal phone call from Rome, where he was attending the World Food Security Conference. The Hon. Krit Garnjana-Goonchorn, newly-appointed Deputy Principal Private Secretary to His Majesty the



Back row (L-R): Jo Rumsey, Fred Wherry, Allen Hicken, Linda Lim, Jefferson Porter, Montatip Krishnamra
Front row: Anant Keskasemsook, Steve Grafton, Rawena Garnjana-Goonchorn, Krit Garnajana-Goonchorn, Samosri Virawan, Amnuay Virawan, Eric John, Jerry May, Apirath Vienravi

King, gave the welcoming address. Having visited Ann Arbor twice while ambassador of Thailand to the U.S., he praised U-M's long-standing commitment to Thailand and Thai Studies.

Steve Grafton thanked the reception's corporate sponsors, Ford Motor Company and Guardian Industries, and Dow Chemical, for its generous donation to the U-M Thai Studies endowment. Eric John, U.S. Ambassador to Thailand, noted the 175th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Thailand, and encouraged Thai students to pursue educational opportunities in the U.S.. Apirath Vienravi, Deputy Acting Director-General of the Department of American and South Pacific Affairs in the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs, highlighted the ongoing collaboration between the Thai Embassy and U.S. universities to promote Thai Studies. Jerry May brought greetings from U-M President Mary Sue Coleman, and gave an overview of the University's ongoing development projects. Allen Hicken related his experience studying Thai language, showing the need for cross-cultural education and noting the challenges facing Thai Studies in the U.S..

The evening's final speaker was Dr. Amnuay Virawan, former Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Finance Minister of Thailand, who completed his MA, MBA and PhD at U-M, receiving an Honorary Doctor of Laws in 1990. Dr. Amnuay gave a heartfelt speech stressing the importance of Thai Studies. He personally pledged \$200,000 to U-M's Thai Studies endowment, matching the \$210,000 already given by the Thai Embassy and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and calling on others to help meet the endowment's \$1 million goal within three years.

The event concluded with Steve Grafton presiding over a raffle that gave away various items of Michigan memorabilia – a fitting end to an exhilarating evening that saw the Michigan spirit proudly on display.



Linda Lim with Anant Keskasemsook (MBA), U-M Alumni Association of Thailand and Amornrat Kutranon (MBA), Bangkok event organizer

A Farmer and his Fields



Several varieties of seaweed, used in both food products and cosmetics, are cultivated in reef-protected coves of Serangan, an island on the south coast of Bali. The farmers, mostly former fishermen, find the monthly harvests to be a more reliable source of income, and the practice is sustainable with low impact on the environment. The island is being developed as a tourist venue with hotels and marinas, but the farmers, with help from a local NGO focused on restoring turtle breeding habitats, were able to negotiate continued access to both the beaches and waters that provide their livelihood. Aside from drying the seaweed, however, the product is not processed in Bali, and the value-added profits from the harvest accrue in Malaysia and Japan rather than locally. Students on the CSEAS Summer Seminar in Indonesia visited both the turtle habitat and the farmers to talk with them about the politics of sustainability with regard to tourism, ecology, economics and culture. More images from their seminar can be seen at <http://flickr.com/photos/cseas-umich/>.



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