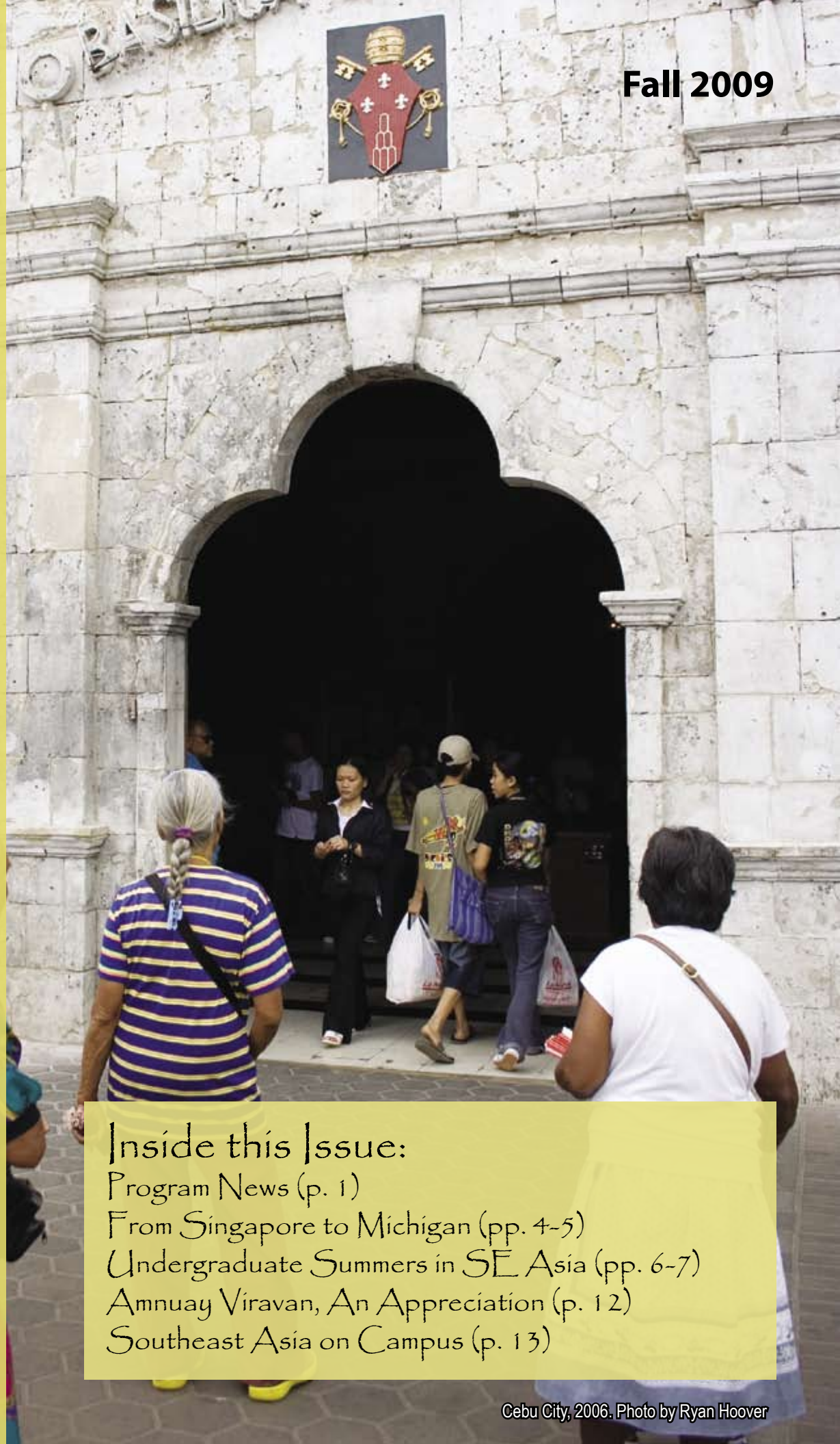




Center for Southeast Asian Studies



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From CSEAS Director Prof. Linda Lim



I am pleased to be back as Center Director after my sabbatical in Southeast Asia, to which I will be returning for more research in the Winter. Allen Hicken, who has done a wonderful job steering the Center through another very active and productive year, will continue as Associate Director. We are pleased that Deirdre de la Cruz and Carla Sinopoli are rotating on to our Executive Committee, joining Gavin Shatkin, Nancy Florida, Susan Go, Allen and myself.

Our faculty strength continues to grow, with Dean Yang awarded tenure in Economics and the Ford School of Public Policy, joining Allen Hicken, Sarita See and Gavin Shatkin who were tenured last year. All four are Philippines specialists, with Allen and Gavin also working on Thailand, and Dean on Indonesia. We welcome four new tenure-track faculty, John Ciorciari in the Ford School of Public Policy (ASEAN and Cambodia), Deirde de la Cruz in History and Asian Languages and Cultures (Philippines), Meilu Ho in the School of Music, Theater and Dance (India and Malaysia), and Victor Román Mendoza in the Departments of English and Women's Studies (Philippines), who bring our total of active faculty in the Center to 40. We are happy to have with us for the year Fulbright FLTA's Miranda Ticoalu (Indonesian/Javanese) and Pong-ampai Kongcharoen (Thai).

The University administration continues to take a strong interest in our region, with Provost Teresa Sullivan leading a high-level delegation to Singapore in May to meet with alumni and explore institutional collaborations (see p. 5). This followed on a visit to Bangkok in June 2008, and preceded the visit to Indonesia by Allen Hicken and Charley Sullivan in July, as part of a U.S. Higher Education Leaders' Mission (see p. 1). Allen and Charley met with alumni in Jakarta, as I did in Kuala Lumpur, and both groups are working to establish formal Alumni Association chapters such as already exist in Thailand and Singapore.

Beyond our traditional disciplinary strengths in the humanities and social sciences, new initiatives with Southeast Asian institutions are likely to focus on multi-disciplinary collaborations in environmental sustainability (including urbanization), public health, social research, and finance. These will engage a broader range of professional school faculty and students in research and study in the region, adding to our existing undergraduate study-abroad programs.

Our main challenge remains attracting undergraduates to learn our languages, given increasing pre-professional curricular pressures, competition from larger and more "strategic" languages, and news-making political unrest in the region. Consequently, we continue to prioritize undergraduate language scholarships, to which we hope you will contribute. We are especially grateful to the Royal Thai

Embassy for a third year's contribution to our Thai Studies Endowment, and to the faculty, alumni and corporations who have added to it, especially Dr. Amnuay Viravan for his generous major donation (see p. 12). With your support and participation, we will keep Southeast Asian language and area studies thriving at Michigan!

Looking forward, I invite you to save the weekend of October 22-24, 2010 for our first-ever Southeast Asia Reunion Weekend in Ann Arbor. We will be celebrating fifty years of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, particularly the legacy of my esteemed faculty colleagues who helped make Michigan one of the best places to study Southeast Asia in the world over the past half-century. Please join us back in Ann Arbor to see old friends and hear about Southeast Asian Studies at Michigan, both where we've come from, and where we're heading next.

"I invite you to save the weekend of October 22-24, 2010 for our Southeast Asia Reunion Weekend in Ann Arbor, celebrating fifty years of the Center."



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Program News

CSEAS Participates in U.S. Educational Delegation to Indonesia

From July 26 – 31, 2009, CSEAS Associate Director **Allen Hicken** and Program Officer **Charley Sullivan** joined a group of presidents, provosts, vice presidents, deans, and senior area studies program directors representing 33 U.S. colleges and universities on a high-level delegation to Indonesia. The delegation explored opportunities for expanding education programs under the U.S.-Indonesia Official Bilateral Partnership being planned by the Obama and Yudhoyono administrations.

The delegation's visit was coordinated with the help of the office of the Indonesian Director General of Higher Education, and was strongly supported by U.S. **Ambassador Cameron Hume** and his staff. The delegation met with Minister of Education **Dr. Bambang Subidyo**, and held a public forum on the future of U.S.-Indonesian educational partnerships. But the heart of this visit was a series of discussions with representatives of over 100 public and private universities during visits to institutions around Jakarta and in Bogor, Bandung, Yogyakarta and Solo.

These visits afforded Allen and Charley the opportunity to highlight the University of Michigan's strong associations with Indonesia and Indonesian studies, and also to look for new future partnerships. In particular, CSEAS is hoping to strengthen connections to centers of Islamic studies, a major focus for many of our students and faculty working

on Indonesia, and to expand opportunities for undergraduates to study in the country.

While in Jakarta, Allen and Charley met U-M alumni at a dinner hosted by **Manggi Habir** (MBA, 1979) and **Rizal Matondang** (BA, 1995; MBA, 2001) at Pak Manggi's house. Alumni at the event spanned 45 years of time at Michigan, and represented a variety of schools, from LSA and Business to Engineering and Public Health. Professor Emeritus of Business **Gunter Dufey** also attended. Allen and Charley also had the opportunity to meet with **Dr. Taufik Hanafi**, (PhD, Urban Planning, 2001), Director for Education and Religious Affairs at the National Development Planning Agency.

The visit was an exceptional opportunity for CSEAS to both look back at the University's rich history with Indonesia, and to contemplate new and exciting paths for our future together.



Allen Hicken and Dr. Taufik Hanafi

Fall 2009: An Indonesia-rich Semester

Dédé Oetomo, founder and trustee of GAYa NUSANTARA, and one of Indonesia's foremost gay rights pioneers and activists, visited campus as Martin Luther King – César Chávez – Rosa Parks Visiting Professor from September 22 – 24. During his visit, Pak Dédé gave a public lecture on the LGBTIQ Movement in Indonesia, taught a section of our introductory graduate seminar in Southeast Asian Studies, met with Indonesian language students in their classes to discuss language politics in Indonesia, and met informally with graduate students and with undergraduate GLBT students to discuss gay rights, Islam and other issues in Indonesia.

Robert Hefner, (PhD, Anthropology, 1982), Professor of Anthropology at Boston University and current President of the Association of Asian Studies, gave a Friday-at-Noon talk at the

Center on "Militia Violence, Madrasas, and Democratization in Indonesia" on October 2, when he was in town for an AAS Board meeting. Bob is the editor of *Muslims and Modernity: Culture and Society Since 1800*. *New Cambridge History of Islam, Vol. 6*, forthcoming from Cambridge University Press.

James Castle, (BA, 1968), the founder of CastleAsia, a business consultancy based in Jakarta, visited the University on October 7. Jim's life-long engagement with Southeast Asia began at U-M, when he took courses on Politics and Geography of the region in his senior year. Jim guest-lectured in Linda Lim's graduate-level Business in Asia class ("Foreign Investment in Indonesia") and Allen Hicken's undergraduate Governments and Politics in Southeast Asia course ("Indonesia After Suharto: An Assessment"), and met with graduate and undergradu-

ate students interested in Southeast Asia and members of PERMIAS, the Indonesian Students Association.

As this newsletter goes to press, there are three more major Indonesia-centered events in the fall schedule. Balinese musician **Dewa Ketut Alit Adnyana** of Gamelan Çudamani in Ubud, will lead a workshop and performance of kecak on November 1 as part of the University's Arts on Earth program on "Body Music"; Ohio State University political scientist **William Liddle** will give a Friday-at-Noon lecture on "Explaining the 2009 Parliamentary and Presidential Votes in Indonesia," on November 13; and Nan Achnas' 2007 film "**The Photograph**," will be shown on December 8 as a part of the Global Lens 2009 series, sponsored by the Center for International and Comparative Studies, and the Global Film Initiative.

Faculty News

Christi-Anne Castro (Musicology) has a book manuscript under review on music and nationalism in the Philippines during the twentieth century. She also has an invited article entitled "Subjectivity and Hybridity in the Age of Interactive Internet Media: The Musical Performances of Charice Pempengco and Arnel Pineda" under review at a journal of the University of the Philippines. ccastro@umich.edu

Kathy Ford (Public Health) spent January-July 2009 as a Visiting Professor at the Institute for Population and Social Research at Mahidol University in Bangkok, collaborating with their faculty on research projects related to AIDS, migration and aging. She also taught longitudinal data analysis to a group of Southeast Asian doctoral students enrolled in Mahidol's PhD program in demography. Her publications with Mahidol faculty include "Migration and Household Assets in Kanchanaburi, Thailand," *Asia Pacific Migration Review*, 2009 (with Aree Jampaklay and Aphichat Chamrathirong); "First sexual experience and current sexual behavior among older Thai men and women," *Sexual Health*, 2009, (with Aphichat Chamrathirong); "Post Reproductive Sexuality," *Sexuality Across the Ages*, 2008, Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University (in Thai, with Aphichat Chamrathirong); Kathy also received a joint grant to study "HIV Testing and Sexual Behavior among Older adults" from the Michigan Center for the Demography of Aging (NIH/NIA) in 2008-2009. kford@umich.edu

Stuart Kirsch (Anthropology) gave two presentations at conferences on indigenous peoples and mining, sponsored by the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in Manila, Philippines, in March, 2009. Through an ESRC-SSRC Collaborative Visiting Fellowship, he is collaborating with the program on Territory, Conflicts and Development in the Andes at the University of Manchester (<http://www.sed.manchester.ac.uk/research/andes/>), where he will provide

a comparative perspective on mining conflicts based on his research in Melanesia. skirsch@umich.edu

Sharon Maccini (Public Policy) and coauthor **Dean Yang** (see below) published their paper, "Under the Weather: Health, Schooling and Economic Consequences of Early-Life Rainfall," in the *American Economic Review* (June 2009). The paper examines the effects of weather conditions around the time of birth on health, schooling and socioeconomic outcomes later in life for Indonesian adults. They find that women born in years with higher rainfall relative to the norm in the locality of birth are taller, report better health, complete more schooling and live in households with more assets. There is no significant similar relationship for men. smaccini@umich.edu

Thuy'Anh Nguyen (Asian Languages and Cultures) led a group of fourteen U-M students travelling through Viet Nam with David Smith from the History Department, as part of the University's Global Intercultural Experience for Undergraduates (GIEU) program, spending the major part of the one-month trip in May doing community work in the central town of Dong Ha. Thuy'Anh presented a paper on teaching Vietnamese language with technology at COTSEAL conference in Madison, Wisconsin, and attended the CARLA Summer Institute in July 2009 on Developing Materials for Less Commonly Taught Languages (LCTLs) and Developing Assessments for the Second Language Classroom. tanguyen@umich.edu

Susan Walton (Residential College) spent six weeks researching *tol pava koothu*, a rare form of shadow puppet theater, in Kerala India in the spring of 2009, focusing on the musical elements in this tradition. She also gave papers on the history of Javanese gamelan music, and participated in gamelan performances at Sydney University and at Victoria University in Wellington New Zealand. swalton@umich.edu

Steven Ratner (Law) spent the 2008-09 academic year working in the Legal Division of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva. Steve has also been named the Bruno Simma Collegiate Professor of Law. sratner@umich.edu

Frederick Wherry (Sociology) has finished his book on *The Philadelphia Barrio: Arts, Culture, and Neighborhood Transformation*, which is under review at the University of Chicago Press. He will return to work on Thailand with Dr. Leuchai Chulasai from the Department of Economics at Chiang Mai University in the spring of 2010, on a book project tentatively titled *Cultivating Symbolic Capital in Thailand: Handicrafts, Furniture, and Home Décor Exports in the New Global Economy*. Fred is also finishing *The Culture of Markets* for the cultural sociology series at Polity Press, and received a publication subvention from the American Sociological Association's Fund for the Advancement of the Disciplines for his co-edited volume (with Nina Bandelj, University of California, Irvine) *The Cultural Wealth of Nations*, which has been invited for formal review at Stanford University Press. Fred gave a talk at Northern Illinois University's Center for Southeast Asian Studies' Colloquium Series in April 2009, and another talk on Thailand at Michigan State University in June 2009 for a group of Michigan high school teachers looking to incorporate materials on Southeast Asia into their curricula. ffwherry@umich.edu

Dean Yang (Economics, Public Policy) was granted tenure and promotion to Associate Professor at the Ford School of Public Policy. He is currently running randomized field experiments in the Philippines and elsewhere aimed at improving the economic development impacts of international migration and remittances. deanyang@umich.edu

Focus: New Faculty

John D. Ciorciari (Public Policy) is a new assistant professor at the Ford School. His interests include public international law, the theory and practice of international relations, and international finance. His current research projects examine foreign policy strategies, human rights, and the reform of international economic institutions in Asia. John was a 2008-09 National Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University and a 2007-08 Shorenstein Fellow at Stanford's Asia-Pacific Research Center. From 2004-07, he served as a policy official in the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of International Affairs. He has also been an attorney at Davis Polk & Wardwell in New York and London and a visiting fellow at the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies in Singapore. Since 1999, he has been a legal advisor to the Documentation Center of Cambodia, which promotes historical memory and justice for the atrocities of the Pol Pot regime. With Anne Heindel, John edited *On Trial: The Khmer Rouge Accountability Process* (Phnom Penh: Documentation Center of Cambodia, 2009), which reviews the first three years of operations at the Khmer Rouge tribunal, and discusses the potential of the trials to deliver justice and contribute to reconciliation in Cambodia. johncior@umich.edu

Deirdre de la Cruz (Asian Languages and Cultures and History) joins the Departments of History and Asian Languages and Cultures as assistant professor after three years as a postdoctoral fellow at the Michigan Society of Fellows. She received her Ph.D. from Columbia University in 2006. Her current book project is a historical and ethnographic examination of several apparitions of the Virgin Mary in the Philippines from the mid nineteenth century to the present, especially as they articulate with projects and practices of colonial and post-colonial modernity. In addition to Philippine history and ethnography, her research interests include theories of religion, colonialism and conversion, visual culture, histories and theories of the mass media. ddelac@umich.edu

Meilu Ho (Musicology) joins the School of Music, Theater and Dance as an assistant professor. A native of Malaysia, Meilu received her PhD and MA in Ethnomusicology and Music from the University of California, Los Angeles, and her BA in History from Stanford University. She previously taught at the University of California, San Diego, and Universiti Sains Malaysia, and was a visiting fellow at the Center for Asian and Pacific Studies, the University of Iowa. Her area interests span West Asia to Southeast Asia, with a research focus on the Indian subcontinent. She is currently embarking upon a study of the *ghazal* as a trans-Indian Oceanic genre. Meilu's articles and reviews appear in Dehejia, H. (ed.), *A Celebration of Love: The Romantic Nayika in the Indian Tradition*, *The World of Music*, *Asian Music*, and the *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*. Publications on the Malay court ensemble (*nobat*) and an ontology of musical experience are forthcoming in *Ethnomusicology* and a guest series of *The World of Music*. mlho@umich.edu



L-R: Deidre de la Cruz, John Ciorciari, and Meilu Ho

Victor Mendoza (English, Women's Studies) joins the faculty as an assistant professor of English and Women's Studies. His teaching and scholarship focus on twentieth-century U.S., Asian Pacific Islander American, and ethnic American literary and cultural production. His book manuscript, *Fantasy Islands: Illicit Desire and Philippine-US Imperial Relations*, tracks the mutually constitutive formations of race, gender, and sexuality in the twentieth-century U.S., as inflected by its colonial and neocolonial occupation of the Philippines. A literary, historical and cultural studies analysis of disparate *fin de siècle* works, the book parses out U.S. cultural fantasies around the *insurrectos* (originally, anti-colonial, Philippine insurgents) that the Philippine-American War (1899 to its official end in 1902) engendered. vmendoza@umich.edu



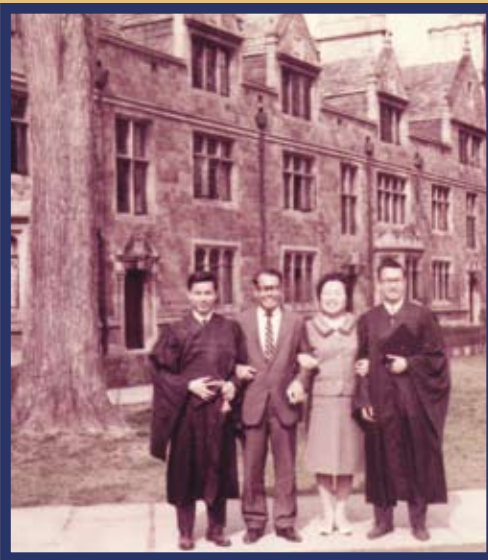
Victor Mendoza

The Chen Family of Singapore

Six family members, three generations – all Maize and Blue

A 1963 publication from the United States Information Service (USIS) in Singapore, entitled *Careers: Preparing for them at American Colleges and Universities*, highlighted Structural Engineer Chen Ping Fang or P.F. Chen, who obtained his B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Michigan in 1938, and his M.S.E. in 1939. Born in 1912 to a contractor in Seremban, P.F. was educated locally, then went to China to study at "Peking's Tsing Hua University". Eighty percent of Tsing Hua's graduates went abroad for further training then, and P.F.'s two years there would be credited towards a U.S. bachelor's degree.

He chose U-M because "Michigan was one of the best known (American colleges) in China. Some of my professors were Michigan grads, and the largest number of American alumni in China were from Michigan. So I went. And since I have sent two of my sons to Michigan, this proves my admiration for that institution."



Michigan Law Quad 1965. L-R: Tom, P.F., Mrs. Chen (Wong Poh Lian), Chris

P.F. worked for a British company in Singapore, then in 1950 formed his own engineering company, Sino-Malayan Engineers, with two partners. His sons Yee-Ching (Chris) Chen and Choon-Ching (Tom) Chen both graduated from Michigan in 1965, with bachelor's degrees from LSA and Engineering respectively. P.F. and his wife, Wong Poh Lian, attended

their sons' graduation. Tom later obtained his MBA from Wharton. A third son, Vincent, studied industrial engineering at Cornell.

In Ann Arbor, Chris met his future wife, Shirley, who was from Hong Kong. Shirley's brother, Robert obtained his B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Michigan in 1964, then continued for his M.S.E. Shirley had graduated in liberal arts from Marygrove College in Detroit, and was working in the University's accounting department. Chris and Shirley met at a summer camp of the Midwest Chinese Students' Association in 1965, and married in 1967 at St. Mary's Church in Ann Arbor. Shirley was Catholic, but Chris' family was Methodist and he was educated at the (Methodist) Anglo-Chinese School in Singapore, where one of his teachers was Earnest Lau, whose mother Yong Soong May was the

first Singaporean to study at Michigan (see companion article).

Chris does not recall any other Singaporean undergraduates at Michigan in his day—a contrast with the recent past when 50 or more entering freshmen has been the norm for many years. He and Shirley socialized mainly with boys from Hong Kong who "played more than they studied", enjoyed football and hockey games, and attended a monthly dinner party for Chinese students in the basement of a church near East Quad. Students from Taiwan were older and more serious, he says, often on government scholarships. Chris lived at a fraternity on Baldwin, and enjoyed visits to the Pretzel Bell and Brown Jug, in between studying at the UGLI.

After some years working in the U.S., Chris and Shirley returned to Singapore in 1971, where today Chris is active in the Rotary Club and other community work, including as a volunteer for grassroots organizations. Their relationship to Michigan has continued, as they sent three children to do their undergraduate studies in Ann Arbor, where all three excelled academically.

Their daughter Deborah Weng-Chin Chen, obtained her Michigan B.Sc. in chemistry with highest honors in 1989. She went on to do a Ph.D. at Stanford and a postdoc at Cambridge University, after which she worked for pharmaceutical companies in the U.S. before returning to Singapore to work in research at GSK. Michael Weng-Hing Chen graduated summa cum laude in engineering from Michigan in 1991, before completing a Masters degree in biomedical science at Johns Hopkins, followed by an MBA at Wharton. He is a consultant for the Boston Consulting Group in Singapore, and has two sons. Theodore (Teddy) Wong-Cheong Chen graduated magna cum laude from Michigan in 1995, then obtained his PhD in Chemical Engineering from Cambridge University, followed by a postdoc at University College London. He lives in the U.K.



Michigan Stadium 1995

L-R: Deborah, Teddy, Shirley, Michael, Chris at Teddy's graduation

The first Singaporean at Michigan

Yong (Lau) Soong May (b. Kuala Lumpur, Malaya 1901 d. Singapore 1998) was, to our best knowledge, the first student from British Malaya (now, Malaysia and Singapore) to attend the University of Michigan. A student at Methodist Girls' School in Kuala Lumpur, she converted to Christianity when American missionary Stanley Jones visited in 1917-1918. Her father, tin-miner Yong Ngee Chai, was from China, and Soong May wanted to become a doctor in China. She first went to the University of Southern California, but as it did not then have a medical school, she moved after a couple of years to the University of Michigan. At U-M, however, she switched to studying the arts, graduating with her B.A. in 1927.

Soong May met Edward S. (E.S.) Lau in the U.S., and they married in Ann Arbor on May 1, 1928. E.S., born in Madura in Indonesia, had been educated at the Methodist Church's Anglo-Chinese School (A.C.S.) in Singapore, and at Illinois Wesleyan University,

before attending Garrett seminary at Northwestern University, from which he graduated in 1927. He was then admitted to the Rock River annual conference and worked in the U.S. for a short time. After their marriage, E.S. and Soong May returned to Singapore, where E.S. became pastor for the English-language congregation at Geylang Methodist Church, and Soong May was appointed headmistress of the Geylang Methodist Girls' School. The couple had two sons—Earnest (b. 1929), an educator, and Philip (b. 1930), a lawyer.

During the Japanese occupation of Singapore (1942-45), the Lau family had to move out of the Geylang parsonage, but Rev. Lau continued to minister to his parishioners and served as headmaster of the A.C.S. primary school. After the war, when the Laus were back at the Geylang church, Soong May helped with administration of the A.C.S. afternoon school. In 1952, Rev. Lau became pastor of the Straits Chinese Methodist church at

Kampong Kampur, where he preached in English and Malay until his retirement.

Soong May, who also spoke many Chinese dialects and Malay,

actively assisted her husband in his ministry, mainly in women's affairs, including promoting education for daughters, family planning, and mediating in family disputes. She was also active in the Women's Society for Christian Service. She was, according to her son Earnest Lau (an Oberlin and Oxford graduate who went on to a distinguished career in educational administration), "something of a local pioneer in women's rights in this part of the world."



Lau Soong May

Michigan in Singapore Today

A University of Michigan delegation led by Provost **Teresa Sullivan** visited Singapore from May 20-22, 2009. Other members of the delegation were: Ross School of Business Dean **Robert Dolan**, Taubman College of Architecture and Urban



U-M Provost Teresa Sullivan with Tan Eng Chye, Provost of NUS, signing an undergraduate exchange agreement.

Planning Dean **Monica Ponce de Leon**, Graham Environmental Sustainability Institute Director **Don Scavia**, Center for Southeast Asian Studies Director **Linda Lim**, U-M Alumni Association

President **Steve Grafton** and Vice-President **Jo Rumsey**, Associate Vice-President for Development **Jefferson Porter**, Ross Alumni Relations Director **John Copeland**, and U-M alumni volunteers **Richard Rogel** and **Latricia Turner**.

The visit centered around meetings at the National University of Singapore hosted by NUS Provost **Tan Eng Chye** and Vice-President **Lily Kong**. The faculty held discussions with their counterpart NUS Deans and senior faculty, exploring possible institutional collaborations in research, faculty and student exchanges. Dean Dolan also addressed a workshop of Asia-Pacific business school deans held at NUS, while Dean Ponce de Leon and Professors Scavia and Lim visited the Ministry of

National Development and the Urban Redevelopment Authority, for presentations and discussions focused on Singapore's city planning and sustainability policies and initiatives. Meetings were held with many of the nearly two dozen U-M alumni on the faculties of NUS, Nanyang Technological University and Singapore Management University.

The highlight of the delegation's visit was an evening alumni event held in elegant space at the NUS Museum, and attended by nearly 200 U-M alumni (of the 780 resident in Singapore, who include many expatriates). The event began with a cocktail reception and piano music by **Pei-Ming Lee** (PhD, Music, 2002), Assistant Professor at the NUS Conservatory, and harpsichord pieces by **Lim Jia** (BA, Music, 2006). There followed a panel discussion on "The Global Financial Crisis, U.S. Higher Education and Business, and Singapore", featuring presentations by Provost Sullivan, Dean Dolan and Prof. Lim, and a lively Q&A session. A light buffet dinner followed, with remarks and a raffle moderated by Steve Grafton and **Ng Choon Peng**, (MBA, 2004), President of the U-M Alumni Association of Singapore.

The event was generously sponsored by Prof. Emeritus **Gunter Dufey**, now resident in Singapore, who was unable to be present in person, and by the U-M Alumni Association and Office of Development. **James Cheng** (MBA, 1988) hosted a luncheon for the delegation and a number of alumni from different cohorts and schools, during which ideas were shared on how to connect alumni more closely with the University and each other.

Undergraduate Summer in Indonesia

by Nina Battacharya

My toes pressed through the thick rolls of black mud, making a squelching sound as I sank my legs knee-deep into the rice paddy. The mud was pleasant and cool, a surprising relief from Bali's midday heat. Clumsily, I waded through the paddy to the farmer to watch him expertly plant small bunches of fledgling rice stalks into the gelatinous mud. Tentatively, the other students and I began to plant rice, poorly mimicking the quick, straight lines the farmer created. For the next two hours, members of the GIEU Indonesia team rolled up their sleeves and planted rice in central Bali.

This is only one of my many memories of Indonesia, the country I visited with the Global Intercultural Experience for Undergraduates (GIEU). GIEU, a U-M program, emphasizes a non-traditional approach to studying abroad through cultural interactions. The program's thirteen field sites each host three to four week internships. Traveling through central Java and Bali allowed our group to explore the growing Indonesian organic movement, the disconnect between Indonesian NGOs and the government, and the intricacies of the healthcare system, and to report on them through new media, or blogging.

Through a series of interviews with different officials and organizations, we were able to paint a picture of this fledgling democracy still struggling to modernize without compromising a rich lineage of culture. These interviews only shaped a facet of our learning experience; it was

the smaller things, like playing with our home-stay family's children, or learning Balinese dancing, which affected us the most. Each person welcomed us into their lives with utmost hospitality and shaped our education. It was a kind of cultural immersion most students don't get just by attending classes every day. Our daily reflections compounded our discoveries – we saw Indonesia's flaws, but Indonesia also showed us how to appreciate life.

It's difficult to capture in mere words the impact of this program. Perhaps it is a little easier to describe the results – not only did studying in Indonesia reaffirm my desire to work internationally, it also prompted me to register for First-Year Indonesian, one of the many language programs the university has to offer. I know I want to return to Indonesia in the future to continue my language study. On campus, I am able to look at new situations with a broader, global perspective. I have become a better person for studying in Indonesia.

Our whole group felt the same way. As a team, we drew on our past experiences and used them to assimilate our new ones, to absorb the temples, ceremonies, and traditions we saw. The more we learned, the more we were able to question and analyze in our blog posts. Blogging prompted us to reflect on our challenges and strengths and made the entire study abroad experience more fruitful. I was



U-M students planting rice in fields belonging to Mangku Gina (far right), a Hindu priest in the village of Pengosekan, near Ubud, in Bali

once told the Global Intercultural Experience for Undergraduates was a "window of opportunity." And that could not have been any truer.

The Indonesia GIEU blog, with posts from the entire trip, can be read at <http://gieuindonesia2009.blogspot.com>

Nina Bhattacharya is a sophomore in the College of Literature, Science and the Arts.



Students talking with women harvesting rice.



Stephen Behan learning to weave palm fronds from Ida Bagus Made Widnyana, called Gus De, the coordinator of our GIEU program in Bali.

Photos by Augustini

Undergraduate Summer in Viet Nam

By Jessie Schrettner

Thanks to the Global Intercultural Experience for Undergraduates program, 14 U-M students, most of whom had never met before, went on a month's journey to Viet Nam, a place most of us had never thought we would be able to visit in our near futures.

The GIEU program, a 3-4 week internship program, had 13 field sites in the summer of 2009, each with an objective and a goal to accomplish. Ours was to understand Viet Nam's growing economic power as well as see the ramifications of a war in which our own country was involved. To say some of us were nervous was an understatement. We were going to a place that most of us had only seen in movies about war. But we also knew decades had passed, and traveled to Viet Nam with curiosity and open minds.

Although we had had a number of pre-departure meetings to learn about Viet Nam, our arrival in Hanoi was still full of surprises. The sights, sounds, and smells were different, but in a wonderful way. As we drove into the city on the bus, our eyes were riveted out the windows; there was always something new to see, and I for one did not want to miss a thing.

One of the reasons we loved our particular trip so much was because we were lucky enough to travel throughout the country beginning in the north and working our way south to the Mekong Delta. One of the key stops during our travels was the town of Dong Ha near the 17th parallel. This is where we spent nearly two weeks doing volunteer work at the educational and vocational training school "Kids First Village", which is managed by Viet Nam War veteran John Ward. There we

learned about the hardships that are encountered by children with disabilities as well as the staggering number of children who do not receive an education in this region.

At Kids First Village we spent our time doing various tasks ranging from physical work to quilting and basket weaving, and we also painted three murals. Two of them, the logos for Kids First Village as well as the program Child Vision, were painted on the dormitory wall. We designed the third ourselves, and it depicts the various activities we participated in while in Viet Nam. The focus is on two hands that make up the foundation of the mural and at the bottom it reads "We Are One" in both Vietnamese and English.

This was a trip of a lifetime. We experienced things that many of us never imagined we could or would. We attempted to learn Vietnamese, met college students who showed us the ins and outs of Hanoi, took overnight trains, experienced home stays, hiked through rice paddies, went on boat trips in the Mekong Delta, explored a cave, visited multiple Viet Nam War sites, memorials, and museums, tried so many new foods, and met remarkable people along the way.

I no longer think of war when Viet Nam is mentioned. Viet Nam is a country of rich culture, beautiful scenery, and welcoming people. In the end, it can be difficult to put into words exactly what we saw, how we felt, and how wonderful

this trip was for all of us. Hopefully many other U-M undergraduates will have the opportunity to travel to Southeast Asia and find out firsthand how incredible it is.

Jessie Schrettner is a senior Psychology major from Romeo, Michigan. Her Facebook status earlier this summer read "Viet Nam: the best trip of my life!"



Back (from left to right): Jamie Klein, Jessie Schrettner, Michael Kolton, Alex Nguyen, Sophia Mannisto, Adam Heilala; Center: Sandra Forlemu, Kari Szakal, Cynthia Yoon, Alexandra Banks, Marlee Cook-Parrott, Michelle Seager. Front: ThuyAnh Nguyen, Mindy Salinaz, Lindy Zhang, David Smith

Undergraduate Summer Internships and Fellowships

This summer, four students spent time in SE Asia on internships connected to the Center or the International Institute.

Through a program of the Center for International Business Education (CIBE), **Tyler Frank** (History major from Grand Rapids, MI), and **Benjamin Woll** (Political Science and History major from Glen Rock, NJ), spent two months interning in

sales and customer service for 3M Corporation in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.

Through the Law School's Cambodian Law Project, funded in part by the International Institute, and run by Prof. Nick Rine, **Eric Couillard** (Asian Studies major from Plymouth, MI), worked with Tiny Toones, an organization using hip-hop to reach Phonm Penh's street kids.

David Watnick's account of his internship at the U.S. Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City is on page 9.

Finally **Jane Shim** (Political Science major from Ypsilanti, MI), studied first-year Thai at SEASSI in Madison, WI, on fellowship.

We are always looking for more opportunities for undergraduates in the region, and welcome your thoughts.

Student News

Antonette Adiova (PhD, Musicology) conducted dissertation research in Bicol in the Philippines this summer through a grant from the Center for World Performance Studies. She



Antonette Adiova in the mountains of Bicol.

is examining forms of music, dance and related festivals in the Bicol region, to analyze what makes the Bicol region distinctive from other regions in the Philippines. Antonette will continue her research with a Rackham Humanities Research Candidacy award. madiova@umich.edu

Catherine Benson (PhD, Natural Resources) writes "My dissertation will investigate how international institutions, both corporations and non-government organizations (NGOs), design marine conservation interventions and the role of these initiatives in transforming individuals and institutions. By combining institutional ethnography in multiple locations and place-based rural ethnographic work in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Cambodia, I seek to understand the pressures and processes that lead corporations and NGOs to craft new marine conservation efforts; how actors in these institutions govern themselves in ways that enable or constrain broader social interactions; and how marine conservation interventions in PNG interact with landowner interests in engaging with corporate and NGO actors." Catherine has put together an impressive list of awards to support her research in both Cambodia and Papua New Guinea: A SEASSI Summer FLAS for Beginning Khmer, a Fulbright IEE for Cambodia, which she declined to take a Boren Fellowship for Cambodia (which she will use from August – December 2009), a

Fulbright-Hays for Papua New Guinea (which she will use from February – December 2010), and a NOAA [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration] Nancy Foster Scholarship, a prestigious grant for marine conservation work. csbenson@umich.edu

Hillary Brass (PhD, Anthropology) writes: "I went to Indonesia for about one month on a Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant to make contacts and find a sponsor for my research. Then I went to SEASSI (Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison to study Javanese, funded by a Summer FLAS, where I was also nominated for the Usha Mahajani Award for excellence in graduate student language learning at SEASSI. I will be doing fieldwork next year and am applying for grants for that this year." hibrass@umich.edu

Jennifer Epley (PhD, Political Science) attended the Indonesia Council Open Conference in Sydney in July 2009 and the annual American Political Science Association meeting held in Toronto in September. She has been awarded a Rackham Dissertation Fellowship for Winter 2010 to write up her research on political participation and religion in Indonesia. This fall, she is teaching Political Science 140: Introduction to Comparative Politics and is on the job market for positions as an assistant professor. jepley@umich.edu

Marco Garrido (PhD, Sociology) is in Manila for a year, carrying out dissertation fieldwork funded by a Fulbright-Hays fellowship. His topic is "Civil and 'Uncivil' Society: Symbolic Boundaries and Civic Exclusion in Metro Manila." Marco



Marco Garrido enjoying his time in Manila.

expects to pick up a Graduate Certificate in Southeast Asian Studies along with his doctorate. garrido@umich.edu

Joshua Monthei (MA, SE Asian Studies and Urban Planning) spent this summer in Bangkok, Thailand researching his joint



A university student fills out a survey on Bangkok mass transit, for research by Joshua Monthei.

thesis to be completed in the Southeast Asian Studies and Urban Planning departments. He investigated the mass transit system in Bangkok and surveyed transit riders, looking for insights into social inequities inherent to transportation in a huge Southeast Asian capital. Josh received an International Institute Individual Fellowship summer travel grant and an individual MA award from the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, and writes, "without these awards the trip would have been impossible!" He is applying for several grants for the coming year, including a Fulbright to continue his research in Thailand. jmonthei@umich.edu

Bretton Dimick, (MA, SE Asian Studies; PhD, Musicology) married Alyssa Worsham, who graduated from U-M Law School and took a job at Baker and McKenzie's office in Hanoi, where Bretton is carrying out dissertation research on a classical musical performance style in northern Viet Nam on a Fulbright fellowship. bfdimick@umich.edu

Nasy Pfanner (MA, Education) tells us "I spent most of the summer in western Austria, where my husband is from. During the summer I studied for the GRE; I am in the process of applying for PhD programs all over the country, including at Michigan. With good karma I hope to be a doctoral student in Fall 2010. I also flew to New York twice to participate in workshops with the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. They are training me to be an Oral Proficiency Tester in the Lao language." Nasy has since completed her certification process. nasyp@umich.edu

Rebecca Townsend (MA, SE Asian Studies) attended the Thai language program at SEASSI with a summer FLAS. This year, she is working on her MA thesis on women in Thai soap operas, and will be applying to PhD programs. rmtownse@umich.edu

Nathaniel Tuohy (MA, SE Asian Studies) studied Javanese at SEASSI on a FLAS fellowship at UW-Madison this past summer. He was one of three students in the Javanese program and the only 'intermediate' student thanks to the availability of Javanese language at U-M. He will be applying for PhD programs in Asian Studies and Anthropology in the coming year, and is assisting CSEAS Program Officer Charley Sullivan with an outreach project, creating materials on Dutch colonialism in Indonesia for Michigan high school faculty teaching World History. ntuohy@umich.edu



(L-R): Hao Jie, Emily Seimer, Steve Beers, our new MA cohort.

New SEAS MA Students

The Center welcomes three new MA students to our program this fall. They are:

Steve Beers is originally from Kent, Ohio and received his B.A. in Political Science from John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio. As an undergraduate, Steve was active in campus social justice organizations, spending time volunteering with the Catholic Worker Community and participating in successful campaigns to affiliate John Carroll University with the Workers' Rights Consortium and to bring fair trade products to campus cafes. Steve got his first hands-on experience in Southeast Asia after graduation, spending a year as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Central Java, Indonesia. Upon returning to the U.S., he has been working as an intern in the United Auto Workers International Union Research Department in Detroit, MI. As a Southeast Asian Studies MA student, Steve will continue his study of Indonesian and his research will focus on the formation of trade unions and worker organizations in post-Suharto Indonesia. beerss@umich.edu

Hao Jie graduated from Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU) in July with a major in Southeast Asian Language and Culture and a concentration in Laotian language and culture. He is a native speaker of Chinese with skills in Lao and Thai. He taught Chinese to the staff of the Lao PDR Embassy in Beijing and escorted a delegation from Laos to the 11th International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Junior Championships. Hao, as he likes to be called, worked as a research assistant for Professor Yang Baoyun at the School of International Studies in Peking University and went on to be a visiting scholar at the National University of Laos. While in Laos he landed an internship in the administrative office of Sanjiang Chinese Shopping Mall. Hao is particularly interested in political systems and public policies of Laos and Thailand and also in economic issues in the greater Mekong subregion. haojie@umich.edu

Emily Siemer grew up in Ohio, but has been living in the St. Louis area. For the past ten years, she has worked at the local CBS and PBS affiliates as a television engineer. It was Eva, her 7 year-old daughter, that inspired Emily to begin her bachelor's degree in 2004. She graduated summa cum laude from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville in 2008, with a double major in Political Science and Philosophy. Although the war in Viet Nam was a presence throughout her childhood as the daughter of an Army Captain stationed there in the 1960's, it was not until Emily returned to Southeast Asia with her father that modern Viet Nam captured her research interest. Her primary focus is political theory in Southeast Asia, particularly the intersection of nationalism and capitalism in Viet Nam, organic government transformations, and the dissonant ideologies that undergird the modern state. Emily will begin Vietnamese language study in the fall, and hopes to return to Viet Nam frequently for research.



Rebecca Townsend, (third from the right, in pink,) and U-M undergraduate Jane Shim (left, in white) at the SEASSI Culture Night, in Madison WI.

New Doctoral Students

James Atkinson is starting the PhD Program in Political Science in the fall of 2009. He graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a BA in Political Science and Religious Studies in 2001, and with an MBA from Ohio State University in 2005. James has had a variety of work experiences including 2 years in sales with Pfizer pharmaceuticals in Ohio, 1 year teaching English in Thailand, and 2 years working with an international NGO in El Salvador, Pakistan and Cambodia. He speaks Thai and Spanish and is engaged to be married in December. jamesatk@umich.edu

Jason Coráñez Bolton, "although I go by 'J' or 'Sony' generally," has joined the PhD program in American Culture in Asian and Pacific Islander and Latino Studies. Born in Olongapo City, Philippines, he immigrated with his family to the United States when he was very young. He is from the Chicagoland area and received his BA and MA degrees in Spanish Language and Literature at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. His doctoral work will focus on the Hispanic literature of the Philippines during the 19th century and the epistemology of colonialism in early colonial Philippines, mainly looking at the process of Spanish Christianization. Sony writes, "I hope to continue my studies of manifest hispanicity in modern Philippine and Filipino-American literature and culture (particularly as they interact with non-normative sexualities), and will use my FLAS fellowship for Filipino/Tagalog to explore more "indigenous" literature and culture of the Philippines." Sony is also the recipient of a Rackham Merit Fellowship, and participated in the Rackham Graduate Student Summer Institute for Rackham Merit Fellows. jbolton@umich.edu

Bradley Cardozo is a new doctoral student in Anthropology. He writes, "I am from San Jose, California; my parents are from Kamarines Norte in the Bicol region of the Philippines. I received my BA in Anthropology and Asian Studies from Cornell University. I was able to study abroad for a year at the University of the Philippines - Diliman, and after graduating from Cornell in 2007, I spent three months at the De La Salle University campuses of Cavite and Manila as part of the Advanced Filipino Abroad Program. I then spent nine months in Bandung, Indonesia at Universitas Padjadjaran through the Darmasiswa Scholarship Program, studying the Indonesian national language and cultures. I will be joining the Anthropology Department for my PhD, focusing on Southeast Asian Studies, particularly the Philippines and Indonesia. I am interested in socio-political movements of minority groups in Southeast Asia, including those of both ethnolinguistic minorities and LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) populations." cardozob@umich.edu

Recent MA Graduates in Southeast Asian Studies

The Center conferred three MA degrees in Southeast Asian Studies in the August 2009 commencement.



Judith Becker, Sony Bolton and James Atkinson in seminar.

Jessica Craft completed her MA essay entitled "Malaysia's Educational System: Language and Identity." During her time at Michigan, Jessica spent the summer of 2007 studying Malay language at the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, and six months in Malaysia in 2008 continuing her language study and doing field research for her thesis. craftj@umich.edu

Thipasone (Tutu) Phimvengkham, recently completed her MA essay entitled "Xiang Mieng: An Examination of an Early Lao Folk hero." Tutu lives in the Washington, DC area, and was recently hired by the Foreign Service Institute of the Department of State to teach Lao on a one-year contract. In addition, she runs her own company, Gokhokho Publishing (GKK) whose website can be found at www.gokhokho.com. Tutu writes, "I have four products coming down the pike and will be on the market in 2010. I worked for Radio Free Asia as a Lao broadcaster and production engineer for 7 years before starting GKK." tphimvie@yahoo.com

Stuart Gross, who received his JD degree from U-M in May 2004, completed coursework for his MA in Southeast Asian Studies, and received the degree this past August. Stuart's MA essay, entitled "Malaysia's Opposition to an Agreement on Transparency in Government Procurement" was completed in 2004. It examined Malaysian government procurement law and policies and their relationship to stalled efforts in the WTO to negotiate an agreement covering government procurement. The project resulted in a co-authored article in the *European Journal of International Law*, a peer-reviewed Oxford University publication. The New Zealand and Australian governments used the thesis and Stuart's related advice in trade negotiations with the Malaysian government in 2004 and 2005. After graduating from Law School, Stuart studied for the New York Bar, worked with a law firm in New York City, and wrote a piece on the Indonesian Supreme Court for the *American Journal of Comparative Law*. In May 2006, he left New York to take a position as a judicial law clerk with a federal district court judge in San Francisco. Since August 2007, after taking the California Bar, he has been working for the law firm of Cotchett Pitre & McCarthy. He represents a number of California cities, counties and transit agencies in cases related to the current financial crisis, which, he writes, "keeps me very busy." stugross@gmail.com

Students in the Field

Getting Buzzed in Ho Chi Minh City

by David Watnick

In the summer of 2008, I had the good fortune of participating in the rewarding, educational, and entertaining Southeast Asian Summer Seminar in Indonesia. I was so enamored with my experience that, immediately upon arriving home, I began looking for avenues to return to Southeast Asia. I applied for a summer internship with the Department of State, designating Viet Nam as my first choice, and was ecstatic to hear in December that I had been selected to work at the U.S. Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City. In my acceptance letter, my superiors specifically noted my experience in Indonesia, as well as my work with the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, as primary reasons I was chosen from among a massive field of candidates.

Living and working in Ho Chi Minh City was, simply, the greatest practical application of education I could fathom. I was equally enthralled with interviewing factory union leaders during the workweek and with seeking out off-the-beaten-path restaurants on my weekends. I had the opportunity to travel all over the provinces surrounding Ho Chi Minh City to participate in meetings with prominent political and business figures, and in the process I strengthened my understanding of both Vietnamese culture and the practical issues which face Vietnamese citizens on a daily basis. It was the perfect combination: I was on permanent vacation, but I was also learning about Southeast Asia and

practicing diplomacy over 40 hours a week.

In both work and leisure, the buzz of Ho Chi Minh City — a raging bastion of street-level capitalism — was impossible to ignore. It was a buzz that, in the matter of days, turned from intimidating to intoxicating.

Walking the streets of the city dodging motorbikes, I couldn't help but feel I was witnessing a critical moment in Viet Nam's development. In 12 weeks there, I saw changes that would happen over the course of years in most cities. Peering out of my apartment window on my last day in the city, I counted 18 high-rise-construction cranes in my immediate line of sight.

Never before have I had such an exciting job or educational experience. After two wildly successful summers in Southeast Asia, my resolve to return to the region after graduation could not be stronger. I know I have much more to learn, but I'm confident that my experiences will take me far.

David Watnick is a senior from Birmingham, MI. He is in the first class of undergraduate majors in the Ford School of Public Policy.



David Watnick on the Mekong

Focus: Thai Collections at the Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library

The University of Michigan Graduate Library's materials from Thailand are a jewel, ranking not only among the three most senior collections in North America, but arguably also the best. The growth of the collection dates from the 1960's, a time of the burgeoning of foreign area studies centers, when the holdings in both indigenous and western languages entered the modern era, the result of the work of bibliographers in cooperation with two of America's early Southeast Asian scholarly pioneers, William J. Gedney in Thai language and literature, and David Wyatt in Thai history.

The Thai offerings grew significantly in 1984, with the donation of Bill Gedney's personal collection of close to nine thousand volumes of

pre-1946 Thai imprints. The Gedney collection relates to all phases of Thai cultural life and history (concentrating on the various activities of the kings of the Chakri dynasty) including records of the political struggle of Thailand to retain political and cultural integrity against Western and Japanese penetration. A grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities enabled the Southeast Asia Division to process the materials in a consistent transliterated format, which became the standard for all libraries to follow. The new bibliographer at the time, Fe Susan Go, thoroughly evaluated the collection, and the materials' fragility prompted her to seek the support of the Southeast Asia Microform Project (SEAM) to preserve them. She also acquired additional materials

to make the collection more integrated and representative of more subject fields. By the late 1980's, the holdings received considerable attention, including a visit to the library by the Royal Secretary of the King, who stated that "Thailand itself did not have such an extensive collection."

Over the past quarter century, under the careful attention of Ms. Go and of Sujira Meesanga, a singularly qualified indigenous language cataloging expert, and assisted by a series of student assistants from Southeast Asia, the collection has approached forty thousand titles, bolstered in part through regular travel to Thailand and other Southeast Asian nations to identify and purchase important and unique materials to augment the holdings.

But more important than sheer numbers is the sense users experience that they are being presented with some sense of Thailand in its printed completeness. The current collection has broadened beyond the early concentration on language, literature, and history to include economic and social conditions, politics, and indeed every category that reflects how the country sees itself and is viewed by others. The collection is also now more accessible, as Ms. Meesanga was the first one in the country to contribute to a double entry cataloging system, enabling scholars and students to view cataloging records in both Thai and transliterated formats, and to use it in conjunction with in-country materials for the betterment of scholars all over the world.

Amnuay Viravan, An Appreciation

By Linda Lim

I first met Dr. Amnuay Viravan (U-M MBA 1954, MA Economics 1957, PhD 1959, Hon. LLD 1990) in the mid-to-late-1980s. Dr. Amnuay visited Ann Arbor after my now-retired Business faculty colleagues Paul McCracken, Vern Terpstra and Gunter Dufey and I connected or reconnected with him, in part through activities of the CSEAS Southeast Asia Business Program.

Dr. Amnuay, who had already served the first of his two terms as Minister of Finance, was very much “the face of Michigan” in Thailand. His accomplishments were a source of pride and inspiration to the many Thai U-M students and alumni. As recently as a few years ago, some of my Thai students told me that they applied “only to Michigan” for graduate school “because of Dr. Amnuay” even though few knew him personally and he had retired from public life. Sriwan Tangjaitrong (now Sriwan Chan), a CSEAS MA, attributes her parents sending all their children abroad to the U.S. for higher education, in part to the example set by Dr. Amnuay’s father.

As a fellow Southeast Asian economist studying the economic development of Southeast Asia, I admired Dr. Amnuay for his recognized leading role in developing growth-inducing export manufacturing in Thailand by Thai national companies like Saha Union and Siam Cement, in sectors dominated by Western and Japanese multinationals in neighboring countries. I and other academics interviewed him for our work, and he has always been generous to us with his time, thoughts and contacts.

A strong believer in the value of academic education, and highly respected by academics himself, Dr. Amnuay has served on the governing board, advisory council or visiting committee of the Asian Institute of Management, INSEAD, Michigan (now Ross) Business School, Siam University and East-West Center, and is former President of the Accountancy Alumni Association of Chulalongkorn University (his undergraduate alma

mater), and of the American University Alumni Association of Thailand.

Dr. Amnuay served his country with distinction both in the public sector, including as Chairman of the National Economic and Social Development Board, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, and Chairman of the Board of many state enterprises, and in the private sector, as Chairman of Saha Union, Executive Chairman of the Bangkok Bank, Chairman of the Board of several other Thai listed companies, and Vice-President of the Association of Thai Industries.



U-M delegation to Bangkok, June 2008, with U-M Alumni Association of Thailand leaders, at the home of Dr. Amnuay and Khunying Samonsri Viravan

Dr. Amnuay was awarded our University’s highest honor in 1990, an honorary doctorate for which CSEAS was pleased to support the Business School’s nomination. He also has honorary doctorates from Chulalongkorn University, the National Institute of Development Administration, and Khon Kaen University. Both Dr. Amnuay and his wife Samonsri (U-M MBA 1957) have received many decorations from the Crown of Thailand, including the honorific of Khunying by which Samonsri is now known.

When in 1993 Center for International Business Education (CIBE) Director Brad Farnsworth and I accompanied then Business Dean B. Joseph White on “the first visit to Thailand of a Michigan Dean,” Dr. Amnuay, then Deputy Prime Minister (1992-94, 1995-97), arranged a wonderful visit for us. This included a private visit to

the Grand Palace, meetings with top executives of Bangkok Bank, the Chulalongkorn University President and the Dean of the Chulalongkorn Business School and our many alumni on the faculty there (like the Dean, all of them women, a distinctive feature of the Thai business landscape). We also experienced the unexpected thrill of driving down the wrong side of the road with a police escort vehicle ahead of us, all sirens and flashing lights, to bypass Bangkok’s traffic jams. And we enjoyed a wonderful dinner at Amnuay and Samonsri’s elegant home with members of their family.

In January 1998 Dr. Amnuay was the keynote speaker at our annual Asia Business Conference, giving our students the rare privilege of hearing his first-person account of the collapse of the Thai baht in July 1997, the first event of the Asian financial crisis. Unable to bring the fractious Thai parliament to agree to necessary fiscal policy changes, Dr. Amnuay resigned as Minister of Finance two weeks before the baht’s collapse, and remains to economists one of the rare “good guys” in that event; post-crisis, he was also critical of the IMF’s excessive fiscal austerity targets.

Dr. Amnuay has always been very much the internationalist, serving on the Asia-Pacific Advisory Councils of multinationals such as AT&T, Caterpillar and United Technologies, as a director of the Asian Bankers’ Association, the Asia-Pacific Banking Council and the ASEAN Finance Corp., and as Vice-President of the ASEAN Chamber of Commerce and Industries. He was Thailand’s Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1996, and both he and I are Trustees Emeriti of The Asia Society in New York, whose current President, Dr. Vishakha Desai, is, like us, a U-M PhD (Art History 1984).

Dr. Amnuay is also a philanthropist, and we at his alma mater have been fortunate beneficiaries of his generosity. In 1993 he contributed \$100,000 toward the Paul McCracken endowed chair in Business Administration, in honor

(con’t, next page)

Southeast Asia on Campus

When visitors walked into Vietnamese artist Tuan Tran's exhibition, *sắc sắc, không không*, which hung in the School of Art and Design's State Street gallery, Work, in June and July, 2009, they were greeted by a series of scroll-like paintings hung high on the walls of a dimly lit studio and the occasional sound of a Vietnamese Buddhist monk chanting the *Prajnaparamitahridaya* (Heart of Perfect Wisdom) Sutra in low and guttural strains. The series of paintings on screen with oyster powder are not about Buddhism, Tuan insists. Instead, they are intended to evoke his memories of going to the local temple (*chùa*) in Hanoi with his grandmother when he was a boy.

The images recall the many statues in the neighborhood *chùa*, placed high on altars, semi-hidden in the dim light of heavy curving roofs. The statues were to be revered, and also deferred to – “don't look at their faces,” Tuan's grandmother would say, “respect them and we can get something back.” But the statues, particularly those of goddesses with their red lips and cheeks, their burgeoning breasts and swaying hips, like Tuan's paintings, beckon the eye.

The exhibition may be more about memory than religious belief, but Tuan's work nonetheless explores a concept central to much of Southeast Asian Buddhism. The title, *sắc sắc, không không*, taken from the sutra playing in the space, expresses the idea that all appearances are empty, that life is transitory. “It is



something real, but not real,” Tuan says, “If you win today, you might lose tomorrow. When we calm down, we can do things better. This makes life enjoyable.”

Tuan's process for creating the paintings, however, reflects the hard life of Vietnamese farmers planting rice. It is difficult work, he says. The farmers must care about the rain, but they must harvest in the hot sun, dry the rice, then husk it and polish it. “It takes many steps before you can eat the rice.” Similarly, he painted his figures on the screen, dried the screen in the sun, washed it and added shell powder with a metal brush, and would then subject it to “dry and water, dry and water” before producing a final piece.

Tuan has been in the United States for four years now, much of it at the University of Michigan and the School of Art and Design, while his wife, Huan, works on an MA in Chinese Studies. He will be in Ann Arbor for one more year, and his emerging work is expanding on the idea of portraits in the dark. “Our old houses in Viet Nam are always dark, full of shadows.” His current distance from Viet Nam reflects this as well. “The further away from Viet Nam I am, the better I feel about Viet Nam; you can see what you want to see in the dark.”

Left: *Khong Khong 34*, (60"x15")
water-based paint on pounded shell scrim.

Amnuay, con't

of his distinguished faculty advisor. In 2007 the Thai Embassy in the U.S. gave CSEAS the first of three annual gifts totalling \$256,000 for a permanent Thai Studies endowment, in recognition of U-M's academic leadership, scholarly distinction, extensive resources, and half-century of commitment to the study of Thailand. In June 2008 during a high-level U-M delegation to Bangkok and a major event attended by 200 alumni (see CSEAS Fall 2008 Newsletter), Dr. Amnuay announced his \$200,000 contribution to this Thai Studies endowment, which he has since delivered. He is working to obtain other gifts from Thai corporations.

We are most pleased to name this fund the **Amnuay-Samonsri Viravan Endowment for Thai Studies** at the University of Michigan, reflecting their longstanding dedication to academia and the advancement of U.S.-Thai relations. The endowment will fund scholarships for Thai language study, study-abroad programs and internships for American students, visits by Thai scholars to Michigan, research by Michigan faculty on and in Thailand, and conferences, lectures and outreach programs that will increase and improve knowledge about Thailand among academic, business and professional communities, and the general public, in the U.S. and globally.

To date, significant additional contributions to the endowment have been received from the U-M President's challenge match for study-abroad, Saha Union Corporation, Bank of Thailand, Dow Chemical Corporation, Ford Motor Company, Amway Corporation, Wells Fargo Bank, Prof. Gunter Dufey, CSEAS alumni Jay Yoshioka (MBA/MA) and Sriwan (Tangjaitrong) Chan (MA) and Stanley Chan (MSE), and Thailand alumni Ekachai (LLM) and Nattaya (MAE) Chainuvati. We hope that some of you will add your contributions to the nearly \$600,000 already received, to help us reach our target of \$1 million in commitments by the end of 2009.



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Entering the Temple



The entrance to Vietnamese artist Tuan Tran's exhibit, "sắc sắc, không không" at Work, a gallery space on State Street in Ann Arbor for the School of Art and Design. Tuan's collection of pieces exploring his memories of his visits to a neighborhood temple with his grandmother, was displayed in June and July. For more on Tuan Tran's work, please see the inside back cover.