



CENTER FOR  
**SOUTHEAST**  
**ASIAN**  
STUDIES

S P R I N G 2 0 1 7



N E W S L E T T E R

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## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

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### Dear CSEAS Community,

It feels like every year gets busier than the last, but we certainly had a lot of programming in the past two semesters. Along with our regular slate of Friday Noontime Lectures, we added roundtables, special talks, and workshops on music and dance. To enhance our campus reach, we hosted faculty and master artists from Southeast Asia and the US. Further, we gave added attention to increasing the visibility of Southeast Asian countries less represented by faculty on campus. Accordingly, Vietnamese Studies ramped up (thanks to the dedicated efforts of John Whitmore and Thuy Anh Nguyen), featuring a vibrant library gallery exhibit, a symposium of acclaimed scholars, film and poetry events, and a regular meeting of its constituents. We also put a spotlight on Myanmar in response to growing interest on campus from graduate students and faculty.

On the occasion of her retirement, I have the honor of congratulating Linda Lim on her illustrious career. We feature her thoughts, all too concisely, in this newsletter (pages 6–9) and look forward to her continuing association with the university and with CSEAS. Her support of the center over the years has been invaluable. As one faculty member retires, we look forward to the arrival of a new one in fall 2017. Erick White joins the community of Asian Languages and Cultures on track for the Thai Theravada Buddhism chair.

In this issue, you will get an overview of our campus visitors, student activities, library acquisitions, achievements by community members, and more. Although I do not know what lies ahead regarding a new cycle of Department of Education Title VI and FLAS grants, I hope to have more information for you in the Fall. In addition, this summer we are scheduled to move our offices from the School of Social Work Building to the renovated Weiser Building. When everything is settled, we invite you to come and visit our new headquarters and let us know what has been keeping you busy. Until then, I wish you all a healthy and happy spring and summer.

Sincerely,

**Christi-Anne Castro**

*Director, Center for Southeast Asian Studies  
Associate Professor, Ethnomusicology*

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## NEW PROGRAMMER



**Alison Byrnes** returned to the University of Michigan (MFA '07) as the new academic program specialist for the Center for Southeast Asian Studies after seven years of instruction and administration at the Srishti Institute of Art, Design & Technology in Bangalore, India. In her new role at CSEAS, she coordinates Southeast Asia-related public programs and administers financial and administrative support for the center. Her previous role, in which she served as faculty and head of program for liberal arts, developed curricula, steered academic programs, planned conferences, and led both undergraduate- and graduate-level courses, prepared her well for the many activities at CSEAS. She is also a writer and illustrator for a wide range of publications.

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## CSEAS MA GRADUATES

*Congratulations to the MA and Certificate graduates of the 2016–17 Academic Year!*

### **Nicole Smolinske**

During the last year of my studies as a Master's student in Southeast Asian Studies, I had the unique experience of spending the year conducting field research and language study in Chiang Mai, Thailand as a David L. Boren Fellow. Over the course of the 2015/16 school year, I saw large strides in my understanding of Thai language and culture.

While in Thailand, I was a research intern with the Migrant Assistance Program Foundation (MAP). MAP is a local NGO that aids migrants from Myanmar living and working in Thailand. The MAP Foundation staff works with the migrant community through a variety of programs in health and safety, labor rights, and women's empowerment. One highlight of my time with MAP was helping plan and facilitate a leadership course for migrant women during the 15th Annual Women's Exchange, an annual workshop coinciding with International Women's Day aimed at educating and empowering migrant women.

Through my work with MAP, I was able to better understand the plight of migrant laborers and more deeply engage in field research for my thesis. With the help of MAP staff, I conducted 50 in-depth ethnographic interviews with Shan migrants from Myanmar currently residing throughout the Chiang Mai province. I heard their struggles and hardships while in Myanmar and the complex factors that encouraged their travels to Thailand for work. These interviews formed the base of my MA thesis titled "Migration Strategies: Understanding Shan migrants' perceptions of access to rights and bureaucratic processes." I also received valuable feedback in refining my study from my thesis advisors, John Ciorciari and Mike McGovern.

After my time in Thailand, I moved to Washington, DC. I am currently employed as a Bridge Award Fellow at The National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR) where I work on political and security affairs throughout the Asia-Pacific and with a strong focus on Southeast Asia. Prior to NBR, I spent time working with the Center for Strategic and International Studies' Southeast Asian Program.

**Charles "Chip" Zuckerman** earned his Graduate Certificate in Southeast Asian Studies (see this year's recipient of the Judith Becker Award).



# AWARDS



## JUDITH BECKER AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING GRADUATE RESEARCH ON SOUTH ASIA

In 2010 the Office of the Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs established this yearly prize in honor of this distinguished professor emerita from the School of Music, Theatre & Dance, who has long ties to the Center for Southeast Asian Studies. The Judith Becker Award for Outstanding Graduate Research on South Asia is a self-nominating competition open to graduate students at any level and in any program.

This year's award winner is **Charles "Chip" Zuckerman**, a doctoral student in anthropology.

### *On the Way to a Funeral*

Chip's award-winning chapter "On the Way to a Funeral" is drawn from his dissertation research, which revisits classic questions of political economy in Southeast Asia. During 15 months of research in Luang Prabang, Laos, Chip explored how men and women engaged in economic exchanges that were once banned or restricted. "On the Way to a Funeral" explores death, familial care, and gossip, and the way that people orient to others' presence or absence.

## CSEAS LANGUAGE AWARDS

Each year, SEA-language lecturers each nominate one outstanding language student. Congratulations to this year's award recipients, who were recognized at the CSEAS end-of-year celebration on April 14, 2017.



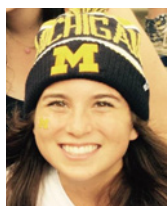
### *Filipino* **Lloyd Mercier**

Lloyd is a FLAS grantee who also serves as an officer of the U-M Filipino American Student Association.



### *Indonesian* **Ellen Myers**

Ellen is pursuing a Master's degree in Southeast Asian Studies. She has taught English in Indonesia, and performs with the University Gamelan Ensemble.



### *Thai* **Charlotte Masucci**

Charlotte is continuing Thai student who was chosen for her in-class enthusiasm and hard work.



### *Vietnamese* **Narith Vann Ta**

Narith Ta is graduate student in Asian Languages and Cultures. He is a first-year Vietnamese student who helped to demonstrate Vietnamese dance at the Asian Languages Fair.

## BOREN FELLOWSHIPS

**Nicole Smolinske** ('16) spent the past year in Thailand on a Boren Fellowship (see CSEAS MA Graduates).

**Sam Farris**, current MA student, will spend the next year in Thailand on a Boren Fellowship. He is studying Thai at Chulalongkorn University, and looks forward to fulfilling his service agreement. He would like to thank his U-M Thai teacher, Aimkamon Bunmee, for all of her guidance.

## OBJECTIVE New Conversations

### Instructor Profile: Jessica Hill

Jessica Hill served dual roles in the fall 2016 semester, as both lecturer for Introduction to



Southeast Asian Studies, and as the academic program specialist for the Center for Middle Eastern & North African Studies. Because she is an alum of the program herself, Hill was particularly adept at

bringing in U-M faculty members to give guest lectures in order to introduce students to a range of disciplinary approaches to Southeast Asian studies, including faculty from public policy, anthropology, archaeology, history, law, ethnomusicology, architecture, and urban planning.

Hill enjoyed sharing over a decade of personal research experience and practical, on-the-ground insight with her students. As facilitator of this hands-on research seminar, Hill was able to contribute her own experiences in the U-M Southeast Asian Studies Masters Program ('15) as she continues to engage with her ongoing comparative studies of Southeast Asian religion(s), trauma, and the design of culturally sensitive public policy. In her role as academic program specialist for CMENAS, Hill contributes to the development of new campus programming—and a parallel series of new online resources—designed to promote greater dialogue among scholars, religious practitioners, and the public around the subject of Middle Eastern Islamic peace studies. Through conversations similar to those that took place in her classroom, Hill is helping to bring a different view of Islam to the larger U-M community.

## OBJECTIVE Creative Collaborations

### Instructor Profile: Bernard Barros Ellorin

Bernard Barros Ellorin, director of the Pakaragian Kulintang

Ensemble, taught two courses in the winter 2017 semester focused on Southeast Asia. "Contemporary Social Issues in Southeast Asia," explored historical legacies and contemporary

# IN THE CLASSROOM



issues in the region; and "Music, Culture, and Indigeneity of the Philippines" encouraged hands-on participation in music workshops and guest presentations in order to provide a general survey of the musics of the Philippines. The students engaged in the study of traditional Philippine ensemble music in multiple ways, from instrument construction, to playing instruments, singing, and working together as an ensemble.

Ellorin returned to Ann Arbor after visiting last year to conduct a CSEAS workshop on Indigenous Philippine Instruments. As a newly-minted ethnomusicology PhD and an accomplished performer, Ellorin's teaching continues to bring cutting-edge field research together with the insights of traditional music making. His creative collaborations with master artists, students, and community organizations emphasize the importance of grassroots engagement with Southeast Asian culture, illuminating otherwise inaccessible musical histories for all involved.

## Visiting Scholar from Thailand

Hi everybody. My name is **Kowit Nambunmee** and I came to U-M as a lecturer from Mae Fah Luang University, Chiang Rai, Thailand. During March–June 2017, I had the opportunity from the Center for Southeast Asian Studies to be a visiting scholar and teach "Public Health in ASEAN" at the School of Public Health. The aim of this class was to introduce ASEAN geography, communicable and non-communicable diseases, public health determining factors, and Thai culture and language to students traveling to Thailand and Indonesia for internships and



research. Relations between disease etiology and religion, immigration, urbanization, land use, lifestyle and universal health care coverage were debated. We also shared travel basics—lifestyle,

transportation, tradition, how to survive in Thailand, and basic spoken Thai.

I have been really happy to be here with a nice and friendly atmosphere in Ann Arbor. I enjoy going out around Ann Arbor. People at the University of Michigan are lovely. I did not hesitate at all to say "yes" when I got an offer from U-M.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT Music & Dance Workshop of the Muslim Societies of the Southern Philippines

**Saturday, March 11**

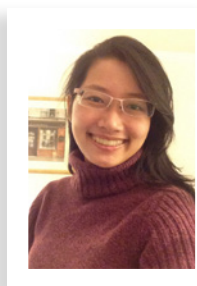
Workshop leaders Bernard Ellorin and visiting dance ethnologist Peter de Guzman focused on the music and dance of the Maranao people in collaboration with the Philippine Music & Culture Ensemble (PACE-MI). Women learned to dress in the malong, a long tubular dress, and performed the Kini-kini, a noble walk that emphasizes flowing arm gestures. Men learned the Sagayan, a ritual dance performed before war, today danced for entertainment. The workshop ended with an extended demonstration of the Pangalay, a traditional dance that has also accommodated more contemporary adaptation. The experience enabled all the workshop participants to keep such traditions alive through continued participation.



THAI VINH TRAN  
**CSEAS Library and  
Special Collections  
Fellow**

**T**hai Vinh Tran is a PhD candidate of Comparative Asian Studies at the National University of Singapore. She is conducting research in archives and libraries for her project “Atoms for Peace and nation-building in Asia during the Cold War: A South Vietnam Case Study for a Comparative Perspective (with South Korea).” Tran’s trip to the University of Michigan was her first outside Southeast Asia. She also participated in a variety of CSEAS activities, including a visit to the exhibit of war-era posters from Vietnam at the Clark Library, Dr. Maitrii Aung-Thwin’s presentation on Myanmar, and a trip to Kalamazoo Valley Community College to deliver a lecture to students.

My research centers around a comparison of Cold War nuclear programs in the Republic of Vietnam (RVN) and the Republic of Korea/South Korea (ROK). Specifically, I examine different historical and cultural perspectives of the “Atoms for Peace” program—a US atomic technologies-sharing initiative—to understand Cold War



Era nation-building in Southeast Asia. As part of its technical assistance to the RVN, the Atoms for Peace program helped the RVN to apply a peaceful nuclear program with US financial support by sharing its technical knowledge, nuclear material, and services, and training RVN technicians and engineers for the operation of nuclear reactors.

At Michigan, I worked intensively with archival materials from the Michigan Memorial Phoenix Projects, housed at the Bentley Historical Library, which document the activities of students from developing countries at the University of Michigan studying nuclear engineering. The Phoenix Project records provide notable references to South Vietnam and its Atoms for Peace program, helping me to explore the relationships of select US personnel with partners in Asia, including Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, India, and Pakistan. I have found that these states envisioned atomic power, and the aims of the Atoms for Peace initiative, through their own distinctive viewpoints. These findings connect to a wide range of important issues in Southeast Asian Studies—decolonization, modernization, nation building, and the history of the Cold War—and will contribute to a fuller understanding of the RVN. Additional source materials on Vietnam during wartime from the Gerald Ford Library and the Hatcher Graduate Library, and consultations with Dr. John Whitmore, expert on Vietnamese and Southeast Asian studies, further enriched my research and expanded my knowledge of Vietnamese history.

I will miss the kind and helpful people I met in Ann Arbor, the city’s modern and antique architecture, and the beauty of snowy days in the Midwest—none of which I had experienced before.

**COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS ASIA LIBRARY,  
HATCHER GRADUATE LIBRARY**  
**Newly acquired books  
on Thailand**

*Fim kračhok čhotmāihēt : nuṅ phan phāp prawattisāt Rattanakōsin.*

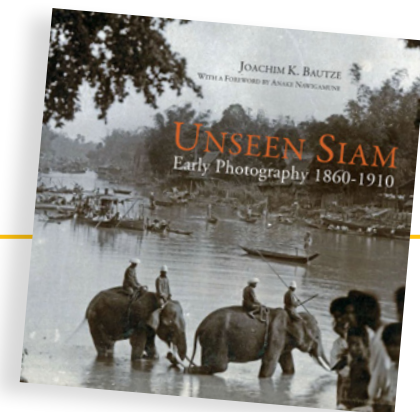
ฟิล์มกระจกจดหมายเหตุ : หนึ่งพันภาพ  
ประวัติศาสตร์รัตนโกสินทร์  
OFFICE OF FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF  
CULTURE, THAILAND



The Thai Office of National Archives, Fine Arts Department has amassed a collection of photographs from glass plate negatives and reproduced them in

this book. The photographs trace the history of Thailand during the reign of King Mongkut (Rama IV) through the reign of King Pokklao (Rama VIII). Notably, King Chulalongkorn (Rama V) took some of the photographs included in this collection during his travels throughout Thailand.

*Unseen Siam: Early Photography, 1860-1910.*  
**Joachim K. Bautze.** River Books, Thailand. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, foreign photographers as well as Thais were appointed as court photographers in the Siamese court. This book brings together their photographs of Thailand that have since been archived in other countries and includes never-before-seen photographs.



# IN THE ARCHIVES

# CSEAS AROUND THE WORLD



On March 2, Linda Lim spoke to UMAS, U-M Alumni of Singapore, on “The Impact of President Trump on Singapore and Southeast Asia,” followed by a small celebration of her impending retirement (above).

The U-M alumni in Southeast Asia have been very active. Professor Emeritus Gunter Dufey and MBA Alumnus James Cheng spoke on “Portfolio Management for the Private Investor” to UMAS on February 15.

Professor Gunter Dufey and Professor Priscilla Rogers then visited Jakarta on March 18–19 for events organized by Henry Rahardja and the Jakarta alumni, including a sumptuous lunch hosted by MBA alumnus Manggi Habir and his wife Wati at their home.

Professor Dufey and Professor Rogers joined Choon-Peng Ng and Shilpak Mahadkar in hosting Jakarta Alumni President Henry Rahardja during his visit to Singapore on March 8 (below left). Profs Dufey and Rogers also attended the Michigan Thai Alumni annual meeting in Bangkok on March 25 where Prof. Dufey gave the keynote speech (below right).



*Phra Mahā Phrom ‘ong dēim thī būrana patisangkhoṅ Phutthasakkarāt 2549*  
พระมหาพรหมองค์เดิม ที่บูรณปฏิสังขรณ์ พุทธศักราช ๒๕๔๙  
OFFICE OF TRADITIONAL ARTS, FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT, THAILAND



The Erawan Shrine, located in front of the Grand Hyatt Erawan Hotel in Bangkok, houses Pra Maha Phrom. This statue depicts the Thai representation of the Hindu god of creation, Brahma. The statue and the Erawan Shrine

were seriously damaged in 2006. This book details the restoration and conservation of the statue, which was organized by the Thai Ministry of Culture’s Fine Arts Department.



## COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS AT THE CLARK LIBRARY

The public display space routinely spotlights the library’s rich and varied collections. The posters for the “Women in War: Wartime Posters from the Democratic Republic of Vietnam 1955–75” exhibit are from the Labadie Collection, a collection of material artifacts that document the history of social protest movements and marginalized political communities from the 19th century to the present. It is the oldest publicly accessible archive of its kind in the United States. CSEAS co-sponsored a series of events in February around the exhibition (details in the Events section).

“Involvement with students has been my natural interest,” said Linda Lim, professor of strategy at the Ross School of Business and former director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, as she reflected on her career at the University of Michigan, where she first arrived in 1973 as a doctoral student in economics.

“Students are a source of enrichment for my own research and teaching—they make me think about things I maybe hadn’t thought of—and they’re also friends.” Indeed, many former students who responded to the news that she is retiring this year remembered most her personal interest in their education and career (see “Alumni Memories of Linda Lim”).

Professor Lim noted that the MBA/MA in Southeast Asian Studies joint degree students had a special connection with her because they had broader interests and were able to straddle two worlds—the humanities or social sciences, and business. Her own life and research reflect this proclivity toward spanning disciplines, which was a major reason she chose to do her PhD at Michigan. From the beginning of her career, she has been involved in area studies.

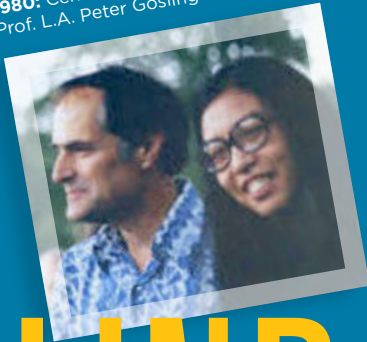
“U-M is strong in academic disciplines, but from a practitioner perspective, a disciplinary approach alone is not enough. For instance, social science theory aims at generalization, but things operate differently around the world. Contextual expertise—knowledge of language, history, culture—and local experience are necessary in business, law, public health, any professional field. At Michigan, we can integrate the general and the specific by marrying the disciplines and professions with area studies, which are a unique jewel at U-M.”

A citizen of Singapore, Professor Lim has been in a position to uniquely contribute to the shaping of policy discourse on Singapore’s economic development, her primary area of research and subject of many publications. She has worked consistently on this subject for over forty years, probably longer than anyone else, and has also had the benefit of being situated here.

“Because I was here at the university and in the USA in general, I have had freedom of expression, so have been able to say what I wanted, while in Singapore, a small place with a strong government, it has sometimes been difficult for locals (and foreigners) to challenge government policy. My analysis may not have been much different from that of local economists who were also critical, but I had the precious gift of freedom of expression. Over time, some government policies did change, not so much because of what I said, but because my saying it publicly first helped to legitimate domestic discourses along the same lines.”

When asked, Professor Lim said that any pattern in her research that may emerge retrospectively was not the result of a conscious decision. “I was opportunistic rather than strategic, writing about issues that were interesting to me. Do what you’re interested in and the career will follow.” One area of scholarship that she influenced without anticipating it is the study of women in the labor force in developing countries. Professor Lim was one of just a handful of scholars analyzing this issue in the late 1970s and early 1980s, and one of only two economists (both Southeast Asians). Because it was not her main area of focus, she was able to take risks, in particular by combining the disciplinary tools of economics with empirical observations from field research to argue that women workers in Asia were economically empowered, and not just exploited, by their employment in export factories.

1980: Center Picnic with husband, Prof. L.A. Peter Gosling



# LINDA LIM

## Looking Back, Looking Forward

“DO WHAT YOU’RE INTERESTED IN AND THE CAREER WILL FOLLOW.”





**1991-94:** Dinner in the Gosling Home with Drew Kraisinger (MBA/MA CSEAS 1995) and Paul Churchill (MBA/MA CSEAS 1994)

This view did not always align with the prevailing discourse at the time, and her work was widely circulated, including in college course-packs. She says “exactly the same issues are relevant today.” When U-M President Lee C. Bollinger in 2000 set up the Committee for Labor Standards and Human Rights, partly in response to anti-sweatshop protests by students, Professor Lim was its first economist, and as before, her work challenged many of the protesters’ arguments.

Her work on overseas Chinese business—first presented at a 1980 CSEAS conference that led to a two-volume book in 1983—also used economic analysis and empirical observation to argue that ethnic minority Chinese business’ dominance in Southeast Asian economies arose from rational business adaptations to underdeveloped markets and powerful governments, rather than from essentialist ethnic and cultural characteristics that were then a popular explanation. As she put it, she likes to “challenge orthodoxy”—an attitude that indicates an academic spirit unburdened by trepidation in over-valuing wide approval dictated by prevailing thought.

Professor Lim has enjoyed all aspects of her career. She says her biggest challenge was teaching the large-enrollment required course in the Business School, *The World Economy*, which was difficult at first because American students doubted its relevance to their lives and careers. But as the MBA student body became more diverse and global, they welcomed courses that require them to look beyond

**1. 1997:** Business School faculty-student study-tour of Seoul and Manila with Philippine President Fidel Ramos; **2. 2007:** Kuala Lumpur with CSEAS alumni and former faculty visitors and spouses; **3. 2008:** Dr. Amnuay Viravan’s House, Bangkok; **4. 2014:** Indonesian students and families in Linda’s House; **5. May 2015:** Lunch at U-M Pan-Asia Alumni Reunion, Singapore.



their own worldview, giving them a better understanding of a complex world. In 2014, Professor Lim received the Ross School’s Victor L. Bernard Teaching Leadership Award for her work on this course over 25 years, during which she also taught the course *Business in Asia*.

A CV serves as a list that tells only part of the story of the accomplishments of a life’s work. Linda Lim’s C.V. is indeed nearly unparalleled. Besides her academic roles as a teacher, researcher, author and administrator, she has been active outside the academy as a consultant, board member, lecturer, and prolific editorialist—activities that many academics pursue in building a career.

The difference in Professor Lim’s case is the aspects of her role that cannot make it onto a CV. Most striking is her unique interest in and ability to develop and maintain relationships with alumni. She keeps in touch with, organizes and connects her former students, including meeting up with them when she visits Asian cities, and inviting them to campus to speak in classes and conferences.

This may be another aspect of her contrarian nature since, as she points out, “faculty don’t get points for spending time with students.” These personal relationships, however, are what make her accomplishments distinctive, and what she herself values the most about her career.



## Alumni Memories of Linda Lim

**D**r. Linda Lim is the kind of teacher/mentor that every student looks for, and so few are ever lucky enough to find. She's engaging, ready to laugh, thoughtful, perceptive, and very smart. But above all, Linda takes a personal interest in the development and well-being of her students.

From the time of my graduation when she guided me to Thailand as a place to start in Asia to today when she still (!) invites me to give talks in her classes, Linda has been a constant source of encouragement.

I would like to thank Linda and her husband Pete Gosling for the tremendous warmth, enjoyable times at their home, and constant support over the years.

I'd definitely vote Linda and Pete for First Couple of Everything!

**Michael Dunne (MBA/MA '90)**

**I** never actually took a class from Professor Lim, but I did have several interactions with her in the Center for Southeast Asian Studies. In particular, I remember when she hosted a gathering at her home and welcomed not only me but also my wife and two small children. We were warmly received, and the event helped my family feel like they were a part of the academic community at Michigan, rather than just visitors at the place I went to school.

**Shad Kidd (MA/JD '06)**

**T**he best thing about being a student of Linda's (and really, the most educational) was being invited to the house she shares with husband Pete Gosling. The first time I went there I played a game of pool with their daughter Mya. In the rack, along with the pool cues, was a war club from New Guinea. It didn't appear to be a decorative, tourist sort of war club. It looked very ugly and functional.

Their house is full of artifacts, curious trophies, rare books, and memories. Their celebrations and meals are eclectic, ranging from Easter egg decorating, to lion dances, great feasts of roast lamb, and potlucks with favorite dishes from half a dozen Asian countries.

Best of all are Pete and Linda's friends, with their varied backgrounds and fascinating tales: marriages into royal families, escapes from battlefields, vandalism of Ann Arbor street lights (committed by a former Ambassador and senior visiting professor).

It was pretty exotic, for a boy from Kansas, and it was one of many ways that Linda enriched the lives of people who met her.

**Nat Siddall (MBA/MA '97)**

## "MY RECOLLECTION OF PROFESSOR LIM: NO NONSENSE."

**Stuart Gross (MA '09, JD '04)**

**I**n my life of study, travel and work I have been blessed to meet and learn from an enormous variety of people from all over the world. Professor Linda Lim is flat out the smartest person I have ever come to know.

As an MA student in Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Michigan in the mid-80s, and having an economics background, I took as many classes with Linda as I could. In return, I received a broad introduction to economic thinking on SEA, combined with rigorous and vigorous classroom discussion.

Out of great respect for Linda (and to prove I'd done the reading), I always tried to be prepared with a question before the start of her class. I was amply rewarded for my efforts, as my questions often sparked a spirited and thoughtful response that genuinely deepened my understanding. It was so rewarding that I have, ever since, tried to be prepared for any meeting with a question that is both sincere and a sign that I am prepared. I owe that to Linda Lim.

As she retires from academia, those of us who know and admire Linda should be optimistic that she will continue to be a productive and provocative voice, challenging assumptions, making interesting connections and, on occasion, afflicting the powerful with difficult questions. Thank you, Linda, for your past work, and we look forward to your next act!

**Larry S. Dohrs (MA '85)**

**W**hether it was taking classes from her, benefiting from her guidance on my Master's thesis, or engaging in discussions outside the classroom, getting to know Professor Lim created some of my most inspirational memories from my time in Ann Arbor. Not only was she an engaging lecturer and an invaluable source of knowledge, but more importantly I appreciated her leadership of the MA/MBA dual-degree program.

She served as much more than a professor, taking the time to coach us as we organized club events and conferences, opened doors to internship and job opportunities, and became a friend by opening her house to host regular get-togethers. In the years since graduation, Professor Lim has done an amazing job keeping the dual-degree alums in touch as a group through emails, newsletters, and reunions so, even if the years have gone by swifter than we care to admit, the memories of our time in Ann Arbor remain fresh.

I can only wish her the best upon her retirement, and look forward to still keeping in touch in the future!

**Paul Churchill, (MBA/MA '94)**

**L**inda Lim has certainly been one of the most important influences in my life. I was originally enrolled in the MBA program and was interested in the dual degree programs offered in Asian Studies. I was looking at the Chinese and SEA programs but after one meeting with Linda and Pete my mind was made up: Southeast Asian studies was my choice.

Linda provided a wealth of knowledge in the classroom and as my Master's thesis advisor. She was instrumental in getting me to Asia; initially with a summer research grant, followed



Left: (L-R) With Richard Smith (MBA/MA CSEAS '88), Mark Guthrie (MBA/MA CSEAS '02) and Brendan Kavaney (MBA/MA CSEAS '07), in Bangkok 2007. Right: (L-R) With Amy Rubin (MBA/MA '92) and Patrick Friel, and Pete Gosling, 2016 in Ann Arbor. Bottom: With Michael Wachtel (MBA '96, MA CSEAS '98), Simon Kahn (MBA/MA CCS '97), Michael Dunne (MBA/MA CSEAS/CCS '90) in Singapore 2012.

by a FLAS scholarship, a summer internship at Thailand's Board of Investment, and finally with a post-graduate grant to head up the Thai American Business Development Project in 1988.

I have been in Thailand ever since that time. My life in Asia has been amazing and would not have been possible without Linda's demand for academic excellence combined with her enthusiasm for, and support of, my entrepreneurial aspirations.

Linda is not only my teacher, mentor, and supporter, she has been a good friend to me and my family for 30 years. I feel sad for new students entering the program who won't have the chance to know or benefit from this wonderful person.

**Richard Smith (MBA/MA '88)**

Linda is special, and truth be told, she cemented my decision to attend the U-M graduate school. After talking to her about the MBA/MA in Southeast Asian Studies program during my application process, I knew it was where I wanted to be.

One of the great privileges of attending U-M was the opportunity to study under and become friends with Linda. I greatly admire and appreciate her intelligence and vast knowledge. She is tough and direct—an approach that may make some of her students (along with government officials throughout the world) extremely uncomfortable, but that others of us find refreshing.

Perhaps most impressively, Linda is able to balance her amazing intellect with kindness and sincere desire to help others. I could always count on her, and know even now that a response to

an email, no matter what time zone either of us is currently in, is usually just minutes away. The University of Michigan and her students, are much better off for her three-plus decades in Ann Arbor.

**Jon Blumenauer (MBA/MA '02)**

Dear Professor Lim,

As an MA student at the time of your appointment as director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies in 2004, I can attest that you had a positive impact on the experience of center students. Prior to your tenure, the program lacked an emphasis on student-to-student and student-to-faculty engagements. Students followed independent academic interests without anything drawing them together. By creating the interdisciplinary graduate course, students were afforded the opportunity to know and learn from one another in a formal setting. Students were also given the opportunity to engage with faculty members outside their interests, which broadened understanding of the research, expertise, and opportunities available on campus.

I am grateful for your leadership, not only by improving the academic experience but also for the care you took in seeking the best interests of students.

Bon voyage and best wishes in the next phase of your life.

Sincerely,

**Siafa Hage (MA '06)**

When I think of Linda what comes to mind is her unflagging passion for Southeast Asia and her determination that grad students, especially MBA's, understand its history and economic importance. I will always appreciate the frequency with which she opened her home and welcomed students for stimulating discussions and great food. Thank you, Linda, for your amazing dedication to your students, scholarship, the U of M, and increasing knowledge of Southeast Asia.

**Amy Friel (fka Rubin) (MBA/MA '92)**

In 1996 as I was completing my MA in Southeast Asian Studies and deciding between pursuing a PhD in history and an MBA, Linda changed my life with 7 words: "Michael, there is no money in history!" Not a day passes when I don't look at my life and wonder where it might have been without Linda. Thank you, Linda, for more than 20 years of guidance, inspiration, and friendship.

**Michael Wachtel (MA '96, MBA '98)**

Linda Lim was a great mentor to me and a terrific professor. She helped me assess and cultivate my Thailand experience and turn it into a valuable set of cross-cultural skills that I use daily in my business. My time at Michigan was transformational professionally and personally. It would not have been possible without Linda's guidance, teaching, and mentorship. The summer jobs helped too!

**Brendan Kavaney (MBA/MA '07)**

# CSEAS EVENTS



## CSEAS FRIDAYS AT NOON LECTURE SERIES

The CSEAS Fridays at Noon Lecture Series introduces U-M students, faculty, staff, and interested community members to the latest research on Southeast Asia. The lecture series enriches the CSEAS curriculum with new work by U-M experts and visiting scholars, while also fostering interdisciplinary dialogue.

The 2016–2017 Series featured speakers both US-based and international faculty and scholars, representing a range of specialties from bioethics, postcolonial politics, HIV prevention, media literacy, land use, economic growth, and more.

### Fall 2016

**September 30**

**Richard Doner**, Professor of Political Science, Emory University

*The Politics of the Middle-Income Trap: Comparing Growth in the Malaysian and Thai Rubber Sectors*

**October 14**

**Jenna Grant**, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, University of Washington

*From Subjects to Relations: Bioethics and Postcolonial Politics in an HIV Prevention Trial in Cambodia*

**October 31**

**James Scott**, Sterling Professor of Political Science and Professor of Anthropology, Yale University

*A Brief History of Flight from the State*  
Co-sponsored with the Department of Anthropology

**November 4**

**Career Event:** Erin Zaikis, Sundara Soap

Sundara Soap: *Lessons Learned by a Young Entrepreneur Working to Fight Preventable Hygiene-Related Deaths and Disease in Myanmar, India, and Uganda*

Co-sponsored by the Center for South Asian Studies and the African Studies Center

**December 2**

**Felicity Aulino**, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, University of Massachusetts Amherst

*The Karma of Care: Thinking “Abhidhammically” about Intra- and Inter-Personal Support in Northern Thailand*

### Winter 2017

**January 13**

**Rebecca Tinio McKenna**, Assistant Professor of History, University of Notre Dame

*Cordillera Capital: Baguio and the Architecture of US Colonialism in the Philippines*

**February 3**

**Scott Stonington**, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, University of Michigan

*On Anti-Mindfulness versus Wound-As-Guide: Competing Figures of Lay and Ascetic Coping with Chronic Pain in Thailand*

**March 10**

**Maitrii Aung-Thwin**, National University of Singapore

*Narrating Change in Contemporary Myanmar: Media, Advocacy, and Scholarship*

**Friday, March 31**

**Erik Harms**, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Yale University

*Civility and Dispossession in New Saigon*

## CELEBRATION OF VIETNAMESE STUDIES

This year, CSEAS events calendar featured an in-depth look at Vietnam. Poetry readings, research presentations, a discussion roundtable, and film screenings provided views to the region from multiple viewpoints. The “Women in War” poster exhibit was the centerpiece, highlighting visual materials from the University of Michigan Labadie Collection, collected by librarian Susan Fe Go on her trips to Southeast Asia. Unbeknownst to most visitors, the exhibit also underscores the significance of the extended language study supported, in part, by the Center for Southeast Asian Studies. Translations of poster texts by Quynh Kieu, a student of Advanced Vietnamese at U-M, contributed to the design of the library exhibit, spurred the organization of the corresponding research roundtable, and stands as a testament to the value of engagement with Southeast Asian languages, histories, and cultural traditions.

**January 19–April 28**  
*Women in War: Wartime Posters from the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, 1955–1975*



*Sophie Quinn-Judge Book Launch & Author Discussion, The Third Force in the Vietnam*

**February 10**  
*Đêm Thơ: Vietnamese Poetry Reading*

*Wars: The Elusive Search for Peace 1954–75*

**February 16**  
*Women in War: Wartime Posters from the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, 1955–1975, Roundtable Discussion with Quynh Kieu, Sophie Quinn-Judge, Nora Taylor, and Karen Turner*

*Đừng Đốt! (Don't Burn) Vietnamese Film Night*

**March 28–31**  
*Saigon: What it Was, What it Has Become*

An additional series of events about the city of Saigon, with a slide show discussion by John K. Whitmore, a film screening, and a lecture by Erik Harms, rounded out the academic year.



## REGION-FOCUSED EVENTS

### Spotlight on Myanmar

In addition to Maitrii Aung-Thwin's lecture on Myanmar, CSEAS hosted a roundtable discussion “Communal Violence in Myanmar” on March 27, with U-M faculty Mike McGovern and Allen Hicken, U-M doctoral student Matt Schissler, and Nick Cheesman, from the Department of Political & Social Change, at the Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, Australian National University.



### The Philippines under President Duterte

A roundtable co-hosted with the Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies with U-M faculty members Deirdre de la Cruz, Allen Hicken, Allan Lumba, and Victoria Reyes.



### Endangered Heritage

CSEAS sponsored two speakers, Rasmi Shoocongdej, Silpakorn University, Bangkok, Thailand, and Alexander Cannon, Western Michigan University, for this symposium that explored the themes of war, climate change, globalization, and economic development that pose significant threats to the world's natural and cultural heritage. Societies around the world share many of the same concerns, even as specific regions, countries, and communities face unique challenges. Alongside those of Southeast Asia, speakers from South Asia, East Asia, Latin American and the Caribbean, North Africa and the Middle East spoke at the two-day event.



## A HALF-CENTURY OF GAMELAN AT MICHIGAN

### Gamelan at 50

In the same year that the University of Michigan marks 200 years with its year-long series of Bicentennial activities, the Gamelan at Michigan turned 50. To celebrate this milestone, alumni gathered for special video messages from Bill Malm, who brought the gamelan to Michigan, Mark Slobin, one of the ensemble's founders, and Judith Becker, the U-M gamelan's first faculty director, on the evening of the annual concert on April 10 (videos available at [ii.umich.edu/cseas/gamelan/performances/2017resources](http://ii.umich.edu/cseas/gamelan/performances/2017resources)). The Beginner Gamelan Ensemble opened the performance, followed by "Sunan Kalijaga: An



Islamic Dance Drama with Gamelan" accompanied by the Advanced Gamelan Ensemble. The story of Sunan Kalijaga, an Islamic saint who helped bring Islam to Java, was told through dance and song based on his own compositions—sufi songs, or *suluk*. To close the performance all alumni in the audience were invited to sing "*Ayak-ayakan, Pamungkas*" together. It was fitting that so many generations of the gamelan community and distinguished guests were able to come together for the half-century mark of gamelan at Michigan.

## VISITING ARTISTS FROM JAVA

For decades, past and present directors Judith Becker (1968–1990) and Susan Pratt Walton (1990–present) have taught gamelan to U-M students alongside artists-in-residence. For the performance in the 50th year of Michigan gamelan, the U-M Gamelan Ensemble continued this tradition with guest artists Wahyu Santoso Prabowo and Maharani Luthvinda Dewi. "These distinguished dancers from Java's Institut Seni Indonesia Surakarta worked with Michigan students all semester as guest instructors. Along with U-M's Susan Walton, they were guest directors and choreographers for the annual performance, where additional performers from Indonesia participated—Midiyanto and Tri Kumara Siddhi. As a preview to the April 10 event, Prabowo and Dewi offered a public demonstration of classical Javanese dance on March 24.



CSEAS supports a broad range of student events outside the classroom.

Over the course of the 2017 winter semester, a diverse array of international students, their colleagues, and interested members of the larger U-M community participated in a variety of culture nights. These immersive celebrations featured traditional food, dance, games, and more from the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Thailand.

### Philippine Culture Night

November 19, Michigan Union Rogel Ballroom

The theme was *Munting Paraiso* or "Little Paradise," a showcase of Filipino culture identity with food and performances. This year's beneficiary was *Tahan-Tahanan*, a halfway house that provides free shelter and care to children in Manila with non-communicable diseases.



Photo by Arnold Zhou Photography

# EVENTS

## Malaysian Cultural Night

January 29, Lydia Mendelssohn Theater

This year's celebration of Malaysian culture took the form of a play, which remembers the 1969 racial riots on Malaysia, written by Ross sophomore Jeevan Netraaj Singh. It served as a way to explore the historic events, which are still sensitive in the country, but also as a vehicle to address racial divides in contemporary society.

## Đêm Việt Nam

February 4, Mendelssohn Theater

Đêm Việt Nam (A Night in Viet Nam) is the Vietnamese Student Association's annual cultural event. This year's theme, Khoảng Cách Tình Yêu (Going the Distance) exhibited five traditional Vietnamese dances with four modern dances to mix traditional Vietnamese culture with American culture that many Vietnamese Americans experience today. With over 120 student performers, this is one of the largest performances on campus.

## Indonesian Cultural Night

February 18, Rackham Auditorium

The showcase of performances from Indonesia this year included a special component—a visit from Rosmalawati Chalid, the Consulate General from Chicago. Over 200 students and community members performed in the event.

## Thai Night

March 25, East Hall

The Thai Student Association hosted Thai food, games, cultural exhibitions, and re-imagined traditional performances.

## Vietnamese Student Association Pho Night

November 13 and April 2, Trotter Multicultural Center

The Vietnamese Student Association hosts a bi-annual Pho Night during the Fall and Winter semester. Pho is a traditional Vietnamese dish which consists of the delicious broth made by simmering a host of spices and bones, rice noodles called bánh pho (which the dish is named after), herbs, and meat.

## Malaysian-Southeast Asian Studies Forum

April 1, East Hall

The Malaysian-Southeast Asian Studies Forum organized by the Michigan Malaysian Students Association brought the semester to a stimulating close. Visiting scholars Kikue Hamayotsu (Northern Illinois University) and Pek Koon Heng (American University) probed questions about the future of Southeast Asian and Malaysian politics with student conference participants. Heng gave a talk titled "US-Malaysia-ASEAN Relations under Trump



Administration: Challenges and Prospects." Hamayotsu gave a talk titled "The Malay(sian) Dilemma: Identity, Religion, and Regime Transition."

## ALC Language Fair

February 3, Michigan Union

Students also enjoyed a dynamic program of live performances and mini-language lessons as part of the annual Asian Languages and Cultures (ALC) Language Fair. Representatives of the Chinese language program, Japanese language program, Korean language program, South Asian language program, and Southeast Asian language program were in attendance.

# DONATE TO CSEAS

The Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) at the University of Michigan is a US Department of Education National Resource Center and one of the largest programs devoted to this region in the nation. CSEAS promotes a broader and deeper understanding of Southeast Asia and its peoples, cultures, and histories. More than 40 Southeast Asian specialists teach and pursue research in our affiliated departments. The center depends on donors to keep our programs robust. Our initiatives focus on protecting our language programs in perpetuity as well as maintaining the Javanese gamelan program at the university. Thank you for your support!

## HOW TO GIVE

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#### PHOTOGRAPHY

Cover: Colorful lanterns spread light on the old street of Hoi An Ancient Town—UNESCO World Heritage Site, Vietnam. Shutterstock Image / Iryna Hromotska

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