



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

W I N T E R 2 0 1 8



N E W S L E T T E R

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



### Dear CSEAS Community,

After a seemingly endless winter, spring has finally burst on the scene, much to our collective relief. With better weather came many reasons to celebrate. CSEAS participated in its first International Institute-wide graduation ceremony, and lauded the achievements of our MA student Ellen Myers (page 2). William Malm, who purchased the U-M Javanese gamelan instruments as a faculty member in the Department of Musicology, celebrated his 90th birthday. Our CSEAS visiting faculty affiliate from Japan, Dr. Akiko Nozawa, received a prestigious grant from the Toyota Foundation to study medieval *candi* of Eastern Java. And there is more news throughout this season's newsletter.

This past semester we welcomed government visitors and U-M alumni from Indonesia (page 8), four library fellows from the Philippines and Vietnam (page 6), and a visiting faculty member from Thailand who taught in the School of Public Health, Kowit Nambunmee. Major events included a reception for the Indonesian delegation, a symposium called Arts of Islam, a concert of Philippine music, and a professional development workshop for Southeast Asian language instructors. The language workshop brought 28 faculty to U-M from throughout the United States (page 5) with help from a Henry Luce Foundation grant. I daresay that it was the busiest semester of my time as CSEAS director, but we made it through with flying colors. Please stop by to congratulate our energetic and capable programmer, Alison Rivett, on her tireless work.

We are moving our end-of-year event to a welcome celebration this coming fall that will take place on Friday, September 7 from 2:00 to 4:00 in Room 455 of Weiser Hall. We hope that you will be able to join us, chat with your fellow faculty affiliates, and congratulate our prize winners.

### Christi-Anne Castro

Director, Center for Southeast Asian Studies  
Associate Professor, Ethnomusicology

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# AWARDS



## BECKER PRIZE

**S**tephanie Fajardo, a doctoral candidate in the Department of History, is the winner of this year's Judith Becker Award. Her winning piece, "Authorizing Illicit Intimacies: VD Control, Anti-Prostitution Laws, and the Bar System in the Postwar Philippines," is a chapter from her dissertation research on prostitution and the regulation of relationships between Filipinas and U.S. soldiers in the Philippines during the period following World War II. Stephanie spent 2016–2017 conducting research in the Philippines on a Fulbright research grant. Her work engages with not only US archives, but the voices of Filipinas and Filipinos from a variety of sources.

The Judith Becker Award for Outstanding Graduate Research on Southeast Asia is a self-nominating award for graduate students at any level and from any department. Founded in 2010, this award commemorates the contributions of the distinguished professor emerita, Judith Becker, of the School of Music, Theater, and Dance. Professor Emeritus Judith Becker has long ties with the Center for Southeast Asian Studies.

## LANGUAGE AWARDS

### FILIPINO

#### Kimberly Lao

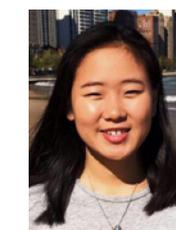
Kim was selected for her excellent attendance and engagement. Her interest in Filipino language and culture is apparent. Kim will continue in second-year Filipino language classes in the fall.



### INDONESIAN

#### Hui Yuan Neo

Neo was chosen for her quick progress after joining the first-year Indonesian class halfway through the semester. She contributed to a collaborative class atmosphere and will complete an internship in Jakarta this coming summer.



### THAI

#### Ayesha Kothari

Ayesha was a student in first-year Thai chosen for her excellent preparation and effort in addition to her positive attitude and cooperation with classmates. She is a rising second-year student in LSA.



### VIETNAMESE

#### Haley NhaHan Le

A second-year Vietnamese language student, Haley was chosen for her extra effort in class and involvement with student projects promoting Vietnamese culture on campus. She is an undergraduate FLAS recipient.



# GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS



## GRADUATING CSEAS STUDENTS

### Ellen Myers, MA Southeast Asian Studies

MA graduate Ellen Myers completed her master's thesis on social media use and identity among Indonesian youth, under the advisorship of anthropology professor Webb Keane. Following graduation, Ellen will be moving to Indonesia for work as a lecturer. She plans to apply for PhD programs in anthropology for 2019-2020.

### James Erbaugh, PhD Resource Policy and Behavior

James Erbaugh graduated with a PhD in Resource Policy and Behavior at the School for Environment and Sustainability. His doctoral research focused on the institutional analysis of forests and development in Indonesia under dissertation advisor Professor Arun Agrawal.

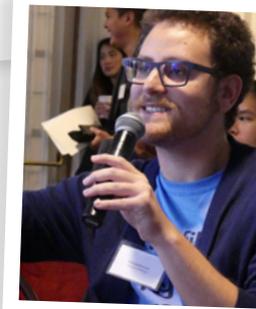
## CORNELL SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE

Four University of Michigan PhD students presented at the 20th Annual Cornell Southeast Asian Studies Graduate Student Conference, "Possession and Persuasion." The involved students were (L-R): Cheryl Yin, focusing on Cambodia in anthropology; Moniek van Rheen, focusing on Indonesia in anthropology; Prash Naidu, focusing on Timor-Leste in anthropology; and John Smith, focusing on Thailand in history.



## INAUGURAL U-M SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE

The Inaugural Interdisciplinary Graduate Student on Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Michigan, entitled "Deconstructing Borders and Boundaries" was a success, drawing 17 participants from across the globe and from a variety of disciplines. The conference was organized and administered by CSEAS master's and affiliated PhD students as part of the Southeast Asian Studies Colloquium. The colloquium, led by CSEAS programmer Alison Rivett, served as a forum for graduate and doctoral students interested in Southeast Asia to network and plan a conference together.



The keynote speaker, Khatharya Um of the Department of Ethnic Studies at UC Berkeley, gave an inspiring address on the intersections of academics and activism and the importance of cross-regional studies in this time of increasing migration and issues that transcend political boundaries. Presentations came from U-M PhD students in anthropology and history as well as guests from universities as distant as Hong Kong. Besides the conference participants, the event drew attention from U-M faculty and students. This year's event will serve as a template for future student conferences on Southeast Asian Studies.

The inaugural conference was co-sponsored by the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, International Institute, and the Department of Anthropology.



## U-M/UPR SYMPOSIUM

Natalie Tantisirirat (top) and Rebecca Selin (above), current CSEAS master's students, presented at the University of Puerto Rico/University of Michigan Fourth Annual Symposium. Their presentations centered on themes of globalization and changing identities, the theme of this year's event, which provides content on global regions for educators.



# THANK YOU

## AND GOODBYE TO FLTAS



CSEAS is grateful for the hard work of the 2017–2018 Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants (FLTAs): William Paglinawan (Filipino), Kusumawati (Indonesian), Warangkana “Eve” Pongsatornpiat (Thai), and Truong Thanh Ly (Vietnamese). In addition to helping the language learners practice their speaking with native speakers, the FLTAs also provided integral cultural programming for students. For the FLTAs, the year-long fellowship provides experience teaching in the American university education system. To bid goodbye and thank the FLTAs for their contributions, the center organized an outing to the Matthei Botanical Gardens for the FLTAs, current CSEAS MA students, and visiting scholar Victor Estrella on April 27.

## THAI STUDIES GRANT RECIPIENT

### Zachary Salaysay

U-M School of Nursing (UMSN) student Zachary Salaysay traveled to Thailand to conduct a stroke prevention project in November 2017. With funding assistance from the Center for Southeast Asian Studies and help from UMSN faculty, fellow nursing students in gerontology and family practice, Zachary was able to implement his project during his clinical immersion in Thailand.

UMSN has a longstanding relationship with the School of Nursing at the Suranaree University of Technology (SUT) in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand. The intervention took place in a rural village where undergraduate students were placed for their community and public-health nursing rotation. Together with Thai nursing students from SUT serving as translators, UMSN students and faculty collected data on stroke risk

factors, demographics, and knowledge about stroke and stroke prevention. Following data collection, the students provided an educational intervention with visual guides and patient handouts in order to give participants simple health education tools that were translated into their native language.

This sustainable educational intervention was taught to the undergraduate nursing students who continued the intervention long after Zachary left Thailand. Local health leaders can then use the stroke recognition and prevention patient handouts to educate villagers who were not able to attend the educational session.



Finally, Zachary, UMSN faculty April Bigelow, and SUT faculty Naruemol Singha-Dong submitted this project for a poster presentation through Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) Society of Nursing. Zachary’s collaborative work, based on this international project funded by the Thai Studies Grant, will be presented at the STTI conference in Australia this summer.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: FILIPINO DANCE WORKSHOP AND “STRUCK & PLUCKED”

Guest performers from the Pakaraguian Kulintang Ensemble headed off a weekend of Filipino cultural events with a workshop in Southern Filipino music and dance on Friday, April 6. Members of the Philippine Arts and Culture Ensemble of Michigan (PACE-MI) led the workshop along with Pakaraguian Kulintang members. The ensemble traveled to Ann Arbor from Southern California, where the group was formed by a group of UCLA alumni in 2003. They specialize in performing the musical and dance forms of majority-Muslim Mindanao in the southern Philippines.

On Saturday, April 7, the Pakaraguian Kulintang ensemble was joined by members of Boston-based Iskwelahang Pilipino Rondalla, in a free event entitled, “Struck and Plucked: Adventures in Music of the Philippines.” Iskwelahang Pilipino Rondalla is an ensemble of string instruments played with a pick. The performance was held at the University of Michigan Museum of Art and attracted an audience of university and local community members of all ages. CSEAS director, Christi-Anne Castro, made an appearance as part of the Iskwelahang Pilipino Rondalla group. An enthusiastic audience filled the auditorium, and a special thanks to Shirley Yengoyan, who donated some of the instruments used in the performance, rounded out the evening that featured over a dozen performers.

Watch the performance at: [ii.umich.edu/cseas/news-events/events/past-events-videos](http://ii.umich.edu/cseas/news-events/events/past-events-videos)

# SEA

## Language Teacher Professional Development (COTSEAL)

The University of Michigan, with the support of CSEAS and the Luce Foundation, hosted the Consortium of Teachers of Southeast Asian Languages (COTSEAL) annual conference and professional development event on April 20 and 21. Indonesian language instructor and director of Southeast Asian language programs, Agustini, spearheaded the event’s coordination. Sessions, held in North Quad, focused on topics such as curriculum design and assessing assessment of the student language proficiency in oral interviews in accordance to methodologies presented by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).



## CSEAS VISITING SCHOLARS



### Kowit Nambunmee

Visiting Lecturer and Public Health Scholar

Kowit Nambunmee, lecturer from Mae Fah Luang University in Chiang Rai, Thailand, had the good fortune to visit the University of Michigan for the second time as a visiting scholar from March to April of 2018. During his fellowship, Kowit taught a special course at the School of Public Health entitled “Public Health Issues in the ASEAN Community.” The aim of this class was to introduce ASEAN geography, communicable and non-communicable diseases, public-health determining factors, and universal health care coverage in ASEAN. Kowit encouraged students to discuss and debate topics such as how culture, tradition, and diversity impact public-health circumstances in ASEAN. Specifically, the class incorporated the example of the Thai Hill Tribe’s wisdom for disease treatment.

Kowit was happy to teach at U-M and had very active students in his class. Besides his teaching activities, he also enjoyed Ann Arbor’s friendly atmosphere and had the opportunity to network and share research techniques with his departmental colleagues.

### Mary Dorothy Jose

January Hughes Fellow

Mary Dorothy Jose, also known as Dorothy, was the visiting library research fellow for the month of January. Her research focuses on women in Philippine history. She is a PhD candidate in Philippine Studies as part of the Tri-College program at the University of Philippines Diliman, and an assistant professor in area studies in the Department of Social Sciences at the College of Arts and Sciences, University of Philippines Manila.

As a Hughes Fellow at the University of Michigan, Dorothy analyzed the photographs of indigenous Filipino women taken at the St. Louis Exposition in 1904, housed in U-M’s special collections. She sought to look at the specific

tribes and indigenous groups that were sent to the St. Louis Exposition and how women were grouped to be photographed. Dorothy’s research focuses on race and gender as depicted in photography, specifically looking at images and analyzing how women are represented with the interplay of race and gender as a framework. She hopes that her research will contribute to the growing discourse on women’s role in representation and history.

Dorothy’s research at the University of Michigan culminated in completed paper that was awarded first prize in the inaugural Virginia B. Licuanan History Essay-Writing Contest, sponsored by the Ateneo Library of Women’s Writings, as part of the Ateneo de Manila University’s celebration of International Women’s Month.

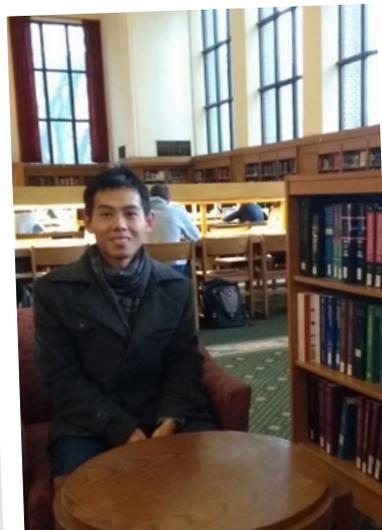
Aside from library research, Dorothy feels that the Hughes Fellowship gave her the opportunity to engage in meaningful activities on campus outside of research as well. She enjoyed the lecture series that was sponsored by the Center for Southeast Asian Studies and was able to give a short lecture on her research for the Filipino Language class. Dorothy felt that all the people she met from campus provided her warmth amidst the winter snow.

### Shu Quanzhi

February Hughes Fellow

Shu Quanzhi was February’s visiting library research fellow. Shu came to Michigan from Singapore, where he is a PhD candidate in comparative Asian Studies at the National University of Singapore. His research focuses on the history of the Indochina War (1945–1975) from the communist perspective. Originally from Hubei province in central China, Shu first became interested in Vietnam when he studied abroad there in 2008–2009. Since then, he has completed two MA degrees, the first from Guangxi University and the more recent from Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.

The University of Michigan’s extensive collection of materials in Vietnamese and French drew Shu to Michigan. Because of restrictions on foreigners accessing Vietnamese sources, the materials at the University of Michigan are more comprehensive than anything he would be able to access in Vietnam, says Shu. During his month on campus, he aimed to collect the main material for his thesis so that he can begin writing upon his return to Singapore.



Despite the cold weather, Shu enjoyed Ann Arbor’s small-town atmosphere, saying that he is “happy to get away from the hustle and bustle” of Singapore. He is grateful for the assistance of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies and Fe Susan Go, our Southeast Asia librarian, for their support.

### Myra Lara

March Hughes Fellow

Myra Lara, of the University of the Philippines, was the March Hughes Fellow. Myra’s work centers on the analysis of human skulls and dental records. With a background in forensic analysis, Myra now works on archaeological projects involving human remains. She will use her research in the University of Michigan Carl E. Guthe’s collection in future publications.

### Victor Estrella

April Hughes Fellow

Victor Estrella, originally hailing from Manila, where he is an alumnus and current archaeology consultant of the University of the Philippines, was April’s Hughes fellow. Victor focuses on archaeometallurgy, specifically Metal Age gold artifacts. When asked why he chose to research gold, Victor explained that he is fascinated by gold’s power and capacity to drive people crazy for millennia. He holds a master’s degree in archaeology from University of the Philippines and a BA in history. “Gold asked me to examine it!” he added.

Having completed a master’s thesis on gold Metal Age artifacts of Mindanao, Victor was able to expand the region of his research, as the University of Michigan’s Guthe collection objects originate from the central Philippines. Following a rigorous research schedule, taking the first shuttle to the Research Museum Collections building at 7:30 am and returning at 5:00 pm, Victor made the most out of the fellowship. He hopes to use his analysis of 100 Guthe collection artifacts in a possible future dissertation on metal age gold artifacts from the entire Philippines.

Among the 100 artifacts that Victor analyzed were many gold ornaments as well as several sets of dentures with gold teeth. His favorite object was a small gold disc made from a beaten sheet with a design in open-work technique reminiscent of designs used on pottery. Aside from his research, Victor also found time to enjoy Michigan despite the unseasonably cold weather. He explored the Arboretum in Ann Arbor and took an opportunity to give a lecture at Kalamazoo Valley Community College.



## AFFILIATED STUDENT RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

### Nick Bruscato

Nick Bruscato is a graduating master’s student from the School for Environment and Sustainability. His research looks at equitable access to coastal resources in the town of Catmon, Cebu. Nick studied the mechanisms that restrict Filipino fisherfolk’s access to coastlines, fishing grounds, and boat-landing areas and how the tourism industry is a dominant force in issues regarding inequity. Part of his research included surveying local fishermen associations, in areas which had high concentration of tourism, on their perceptions of inaccessibility and opinions on the tourism industry. Nick lived and worked in the Philippines for two years as a Peace Corps volunteer and as a student of the Peace Corps’ Masters International program (now discontinued). His professional responsibilities as a Peace Corps volunteer included working with fisherfolk and coastal stakeholders to identify environmental problems in their community, assisting them develop and then implement the solutions. He also worked toward strengthening fisherfolk associations by attending meetings, leading educational modules, and organizing livelihood programs. Nick believes that it is important to study Southeast Asia, and sees the Philippines as a perfect example, because the successful lessons learned in areas of community development, conservation, or tourism could be applied to countries across Southeast Asia and the world. He believes the region has so much to teach the world through its indigenous technology and governance strategies that could provide new lens through which we look at conservation, tourism, and agriculture.

## INDONESIAN DELEGATION VISIT



This winter semester, the Center for Southeast Asian Studies had the honor to receive distinguished guests from the University of Michigan Alumni Association of Indonesia, the Indonesian Department of Tourism, the Consulate of the Republic of Indonesia in

Chicago, and the Indonesian Embassy in Washington, DC. The group of guests came to Michigan to discuss future collaborations in education between the University of

Michigan and institutions of higher education in Indonesia as well as to commemorate the largest ever gift to the U-M Javanese Gamelan by the University of Michigan Alumni Association of Indonesia last year. Members of the delegation also presented at a symposium at the Ross Business School on international business in Asia, organized by emerita faculty, Linda Lim. The distinguished guests stayed in Ann Arbor March 9–10 and followed a busy schedule of meetings and events.

University of Michigan Alumni Association of Indonesia president, Henry Rahardja, traveled to Ann Arbor from Jakarta with fellow U-M alumnus, Indroyono Soesilo, the special advisor to the Indonesian Minister of Tourism. For the occasion of this visit, drawing together the Indonesian student community at the University of Michigan, the Ross School of Business Executive Education Program held a Friday evening reception. This reception featured performances by the

U-M Javanese Gamelan ensemble and Zoë McLaughlin, a School of Information graduate student trained in Javanese classical dance. Attendees, including U-M faculty and staff as well as Indonesian students and Ross School of Business Executive Education students, were able to enjoy the music of an ensemble kept alive at U-M in part because of the generous contribution of Mr. Rahardja's organization.

Mr. Rahardja and Dr. Soesilo were joined by the Indonesian consul general for Chicago, Rosmalawati Chalid, and consul for Information and Social Cultural Affairs, Fajar Yusuf. Saptandri Widiyanto, transportation attaché from the Embassy, joined the group as well. The delegation announced a new partnership guaranteeing annual Indonesian guest teachers for the U-M's gamelan program sponsored by the Indonesian government. Additionally, they commemorated the 1956 visit by the first president of Indonesia, Sukarno, to the University of Michigan. During that visit, President Sukarno toured the nuclear engineering department and gave a speech promoting the peaceful use of nuclear technology. Since the 1960s, Indonesian students have continued to study in the University of Michigan's nuclear engineering department. While visiting, the 2018 guest delegation discussed new partnerships between the University of Michigan and the Bandung Institute of Technology.

The members of the delegation were able to attend Indonesian Culture Night, entitled "Nusantara" staged by the Indonesian Student Association, PERMIAS. This year's Culture Night was specifically planned to coincide with this visit. In honor of the Indonesian government visitors, PERMIAS focused their event around themes of diversity in Indonesia, a concept touted by the Tourism Ministry's enormously successful "Wonderful Indonesia" campaign. The distinguished guests supported the event with their presence in the front row, where they could be seen enjoying the audience-participation angklung chorus at the end of the performance.



# CSEAS EVENTS

CSEAS offered a very rich and diverse set of programming during the 2017-18 academic year.

## Fridays at Noon Lecture Series

**Sept. 8**  
*Politics Matters: (How) Can Aid Help?*  
Alice Evans, King's College

**Sept. 22**  
*A Delicate Relationship: The United States and Burma/Myanmar since 1945*  
Kenton Clymer, Northern Illinois University

**Oct. 13**  
*Networks of Colonial (Super)nature: Between Rocks and Hard Places in and beyond The Dutch East Indies*  
Margaret Wiener, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Oct. 20**  
*The Cost of Uplift: Filipino Labor and Exploitation in American Colonial Schools and Prisons*  
Genevieve Clutario, Harvard University

**Nov. 3**  
*Can Giving Firms Political Voice Increase Government Legitimacy, Access to Factory Floors, and Regulatory Compliance? A Field Experiment in Vietnam with the Ross School of Business Strategy Circle*  
Markus Taussig, Rutgers University

**Nov. 10**  
*Unverifiable: A History of Rumor in Thailand*  
Tamara Loos, Cornell University

**Jan. 19**  
*#Refuse to Forget, #Remember 65: Millennials and Affective Engagement with New Order Violence*  
Elizabeth Drexler, Michigan State University

**Jan. 26**  
*Past Lives Present, Tense: Past life memory in contemporary Cambodia and its significance*  
Erik Davis, Macalester College

**Feb. 2**  
*Power in the Margins of Madurese Society: Salabadhan (or Sandur Madura) as a Nexus of Performing Arts Patronage, Political Clientelism, and Socio-Religious Transgression*  
Steve Laronga, U-M visiting faculty

**Mar. 9**  
*The Unfilled Vacuum: ASEAN and American Decline in Southeast Asia*  
Shaun Narine, St. Thomas University

**Mar. 30**  
*Social Media, Puppets, and Global Identities in Southeast Asia*  
Jennifer Goodlander, Indiana University



## FILM SCREENING *Hinulid* by Kristian Cordero

CSEAS welcomed Kristian Cordero to campus last semester for a screening of his film, *Hinulid (The Sorrows of Sita)*, starring Nora Aunor, on October 27. His prophetic, provocative, and witty presence drew in an enthusiastic crowd of members of the local Filipino community as well as faculty and students from the university. Cordero's unique brand of satirical cultural critique and evocative nostalgia for home and childhood draws from his fierce sense of local identity. He writes his poetry and screenplays in his local language, Bikol, and advocates for local language education in the Philippines.



## Arts of Islam Conference

The International Institute's Arts of Islam symposium featured speakers, facilitators, and planners from seven regional centers within the International Institute and many co-sponsors around the University and region. The one-day event, with the theme "Being Muslim: Arts and Expressions," represented the regional and ideological diversity of the arts within and around Islam—literature, music, and visual arts.

Southeast Asian Islam took a prominent role in the symposium, with CSEAS bringing in Dr. Muhammad Ali, professor of Islamic and Indonesian studies at University of California, Riverside, and Dr. Adil Johan, research fellow at the Institute of Ethnic Studies at the National University of Malaysia. Presenters also included academics, artists and poets from Southeast Michigan and abroad. Faculty from CSEAS moderated two of the conference's three panels. Professor Nancy Florida facilitated discussions of Islamic literature and poetry, while Professor Christi-Anne Castro led a panel on music and dance within Islam.

## DISTINGUISHED LECTURER Chito Gascon

Celebrated Filipino civil rights lawyer and activist, Jose Luis Martin "Chito" Gascon, gave a public talk entitled "Rights in Peril in the Philippines: How Rights Are Wronged and How We Fight Back." Gascon is the current Chair of the Human Rights Commission of the Philippines. Gascon was invited to U-M by the Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies, co-hosted by CSEAS and the Donia Human Rights Center. Gascon's talk was attended by a wide range of students, faculty, and community members and he was the guest of honor at a special lunch session with members of the local Filipino community.

## Thai Movie Night

Erick White, assistant professor of Thai Buddhist Studies in the Asian Languages and Cultures department, curated a series of Thai films, and is working on a new set for the 2018-19 academic year.

## Asian Languages Fair

The Asian Languages Fair was held at the Michigan Union on February 2. Language students, instructors, and Fulbright Language Teaching Assistants put their languages and regions on display to attract new students. All four Southeast Asian Languages were represented and debuted a new Center t-shirt.



# GAMELAN HIGHLIGHT



Sumandiyo's performance at Hill in the 1980s, and again in 2018.

Winter 2018 was a big semester for the U-M gamelan, *Kyai Telaga Madu*. With the Michigan Alumni Association of Indonesia's historic 2017 pledge comes increased opportunity for the gamelan. The group was joined by accomplished instructors, scholars, and performers from both Indonesia and the US during the winter 2018 season.

## RENOWNED SCHOLAR-PERFORMERS IN RESIDENCE

### Sumandiyo Hadi and Sumaryono

During the week of the gamelan's March 26 concert, two celebrated performers and scholars of the Indonesian performing arts contributed their expertise to U-M Gamelan. Dr. Sumandiyo Hadi and Professor Sumaryono, both of the Indonesian Institute of the Arts (ISI) in Yogyakarta, Central Java practiced and performed with the ensemble. Dr. Sumandiyo is a dancer and author of several volumes on classical Javanese dance. He is a professor in the dance department of ISI Yogya whose scholarship focuses on the

sociology of the arts. He received his doctorate in the social sciences at Airlangga University in Surabaya. Professor Sumaryono is also a member of the faculty of ISI Yogyakarta, where he focuses his teaching and research on music performance. He holds a master's degree in the performing arts of Southeast Asia from the University of Illinois. Prior to this residency in Michigan, Mr. Sumaryono had been invited to the UK as a guest gamelan director in 2017 at the behest of the Indonesian Embassy in London.

For Dr. Sumandiyo, this was not his first visit to the University of Michigan. He traveled here close to forty years ago as a guest performer with U-M gamelan. He was able to dance again on the same stage again decades later. Dr. Sumandiyo is Central Java's oldest active professional dancer. Mr. Sumaryono had not yet visited U of M, but he instantly formed a bond with the gamelan ensemble through his forceful yet personable musical leadership. He led the ensemble on the drums (*kendhang*) in several pieces at the concert. Mr. Sumaryono also joined on the virtuosic instrument, *gender*, even performing an emergency instrument repair mid-concert. During the weeklong residency, Dr. Sumandiyo and Mr. Sumaryono were not only instrumental in readying the gamelan for their performance, but they also held an additional public lecture and workshop on the dance, Klana Topeng. This is the masked Central Javanese dance that Dr. Sumandiyo performed at the March 26 concert.

## WINTER 2018 RESIDENT INSTRUCTOR

### Steven Laronga

CSEAS welcomed Steven Laronga as guest gamelan instructor for the winter 2018 semester. His creative leadership carried the gamelan through what was perhaps its busiest semester ever; the full ensemble performed not only at the annual gamelan concert but also at a reception for honored Indonesian government guests at the Ross School of Business and at Indonesian Cultural Night. Unlike most American scholars of gamelan, who teach the playing styles of Central Javanese court cities Yogyakarta (Jogja) or Surakarta (Solo), Steve also teaches popular and traditional gamelan music styles of East Java and Madura. Steve's experience gave fresh input to the U-M gamelan's repertoire, through which he aimed to instill in students a sense of the broad mix of musical traditions and trends that inform the practices of gamelan musicians and audiences across contemporary Java.

Steve is currently a doctoral candidate in the Department of Ethnomusicology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He was first introduced to gamelan as an undergraduate student at Wesleyan University. In Indonesia, he studied Central Javanese gamelan at ISI Surakarta as part of the Indonesian government's Dharmasiswa scholarship program, Javanese and Indonesian languages at Gadjah Mada University, and East Javanese music at Sekolah Tinggi Kesenian Wilwatikta in Surabaya. He wrote his MA thesis on the gamelan-inspired popular music Campursari. Steve's dissertation, tentatively titled "Panjak: Working Gamelan Musicians of Surabaya, East Java," focuses on the livelihoods and music of gamelan performers in the ethnically diverse cultural milieu of the East Javanese city, Surabaya. While conducting field research for this project, he closely followed the musicians of the RRI Surabaya radio station, Taman Hiburan Rakyat (the "People's Amusement Park"), and that city's vibrant Madurese gamelan music scene. Since 2007, Steve has also frequently directed the University of Wisconsin gamelan.

The U-M Javanese gamelan, *Kyai Telaga Madu*, benefitted from Steve's expertise this past semester. His unique influences were apparent in his choice of musical repertoire drawn from East Javanese *ludruk* theater tradition for the accompaniment to the Indonesian Cultural Night drama performance, a stage play of the West Javanese folktale Lutung Kesarung. This *ludruk*-style performance – most likely the first ever to be presented in the United States – included an adaptation of a children's TV show theme song ("Si Unyil") and a popular Madurese song, "Aeng Mata Aghili," alongside the staple piece in that tradition, "Jula-Juli." The annual gamelan concert at Hill Auditorium also featured an adaptation of the Surabaya Indonesian National Radio (RRI) station gamelan ensemble's jingle, "Krucilan RRI". Steve's Michigan-specific edition included mentions of "Michigan" and "The Wolverines"!

Apart from his gamelan direction, Steve was an active participant in CSEAS campus culture. He gave a talk, entitled "Power in the Margins of Madurese Society: The Salabādhān Music and Dance Party as a Nexus of Arts Patronage,

Political Clientelism, and Social Transgression," as part of the CSEAS Fridays at Noon Lecture Series on February 2. Steve was also a welcome presence with the campus's Indonesian community, attending such events as the monthly Indonesian Potluck. He even brought his hobby, heirloom bean collection and cuisine, to the University of Michigan community.



## GAMELAN CONCERT AT HILL AUDITORIUM

The University of Michigan Javanese gamelan ensemble, *Kyai Telaga Madu*, performed for a rapt audience in Hill Auditorium in the evening of Monday, March 26. The ensemble, under the guest direction of visiting scholar Steve Laronga, was joined by renowned scholar-performers Dr. Sumandiyo Hadi, dancer, and Dr. Sumaryono, multi-instrumentalist, both of the Indonesian Institute of the Arts (ISI) in Yogyakarta. Permanent gamelan instructor, Susan Walton, returned to Michigan from her off-semester residence in California in order to facilitate the performance and contribute her vocal expertise. This performance marked the ensemble's first Hill Auditorium concert since the University of Michigan Alumni Association's unprecedented pledge of \$400,000 towards the gamelan program. At the concert, Mr. Fajar Yusuf, consul for Information and Social Cultural Affairs from the Indonesian consulate in Chicago, formally announced the beginning of a partnership between Indonesian arts institutions and the U-M gamelan in which the Indonesian government will sponsor resident gamelan instructors at the University of Michigan in the coming years.

# STUDENT EVENTS



## BEHIND THE SCENES AT INDONESIAN CULTURAL NIGHT

PERMIAS, the Indonesian Students' Organization, held their annual Indonesian Culture Night on Saturday, March 10 at the Michigan League's Mendelssohn Theater. This year's event, entitled "Nusantara," featured a musical drama, angklung ensemble, and a performance by the University of Michigan's Javanese gamelan. In addition to a high student and community turnout, the audience also included two honored guests from Indonesia, both University of Michigan alumni: Henry Rahardja, president of the Indonesian Alumni Association of Indonesia, and Indroyono Soesilo, honorary advisor to the Indonesian Minister of Tourism. The Indonesian consul general stationed in Chicago, Rosmalawati Chalid, also addressed the audience before the performance. Closing out the festivities, PERMIAS provided an Indonesian feast for audience members.

Students officers from PERMIAS recall the involved process behind the production of this event. While usually operating on a large budget, this year's event was more elaborate than ever with the addition of a large delegation of VIPs, who contributed "Wonderful Indonesia"

giveaways to the event's attendees, and with the invitation of a Papuan student dance troupe from Western Michigan University.

### CONVERSATIONS WITH STUDENT EVENT ORGANIZERS

#### Dini Takola

2017–2018 President of PERMIAS

**ON UNFORESEEN CHALLENGES:** First about the venue: it was hard to match the honored guests' schedule with building availability especially with 500+ audience members. Another unexpected thing was the food service, as we were not allowed to use the same place as the other student organizations to serve the food (non-U-M catering). [Despite this], the building management told us we were awesome to manage all of this only in a one-day rental. Other student organizations usually book the place for at least 3-7 days for preparation.

#### ON THOSE WHO MADE THE EVENT

**POSSIBLE, BEHIND THE SCENES:** Ibu Nunu as our wardrobe provider, Ibu Agustini as our faculty advisor, Goldie [Gunawan], Harold [Panangian], Samantha [Tinor], Denzel [Sujanto] and Holly [Wood] helped us a lot through the preparation. [Also, the Papuan dance group] from WMU (Western Michigan University). I met the community at a consulate general meeting at the ICC (Indonesian Christian Church). This is more about our mutual support between Indonesian student organizations.

#### Goldie Gunawan

2018 Co-ICN Committee Chair

**ON THE VISITING VIPS:** I think, in a way, having the honored guests really did impact our planning process for ICN. We had to make sure that the event coincided with their visit timeline.

**ON THIS YEAR'S THEME:** Our theme for ICN this year was "Nusantara," which roughly translates to English as 'archipelago.' We wanted to show the audience how diverse and rich in culture our country truly is. We incorporated dances, dramas and musical ensembles of different traditional backgrounds to showcase this diversity.

## MALAYSIAN STUDIES FORUM

The second annual Malaysian Studies Forum at the University of Michigan was held on Sunday, March 18 in the Rackham Amphitheater. The 2018 conference, entitled "Politics & Governance: Past, Present, Future" featured a keynote presentation by Azza Basarudin, research scholar at the Center for the Study of Women at UCLA. The forum was organized by students in the Malaysian Students' Association and sponsored in part by the Center for Southeast Asian Studies.

## MALAYSIAN CULTURAL NIGHT

The winter 2018 Malaysian Cultural Night was held on April 2 at the Lydia Mendelssohn Theater. The main event was a drama placing the Sultan of Malacca into modern times. This performance highlighted Malaysia's diverse cultures.

## VIETNAMESE CULTURAL NIGHT

Vietnamese Cultural Night was held in the Michigan League's Lydia Mendelssohn theater on January 27. This year's event, Đêm Việt Nam, or "A Night in Vietnam" had the theme "Find your Light." It featured over 120 student performers.

## BATTLE OF THE BAMBOO

Battle of the Bamboo was a Filipino music and culture celebration held in Chicago on February 24. CSEAS funded students from the University of Michigan Filipino student organization to attend and perform at this event.

### IN MEMORIAM

#### Mary Steedly

The Center for Southeast Asian Studies mourns the loss of University of Michigan-educated Southeast Asia scholar, Mary Steedly. The first woman to gain tenure in the Department of Anthropology at Harvard University, she was known for her work with the Karo people of North Sumatra, Indonesia, and had published numerous monographs, essays, and articles over the span of her career. A native of Ann Arbor, Steedly received her bachelor's and master's degrees in North Carolina before returning to Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan for her PhD in Medical and Cultural Anthropology. She received her PhD in 1989, and continued to part of the University of Michigan and CSEAS communities, where she will be missed.

#### EMERITA THAI INSTRUCTOR JOINS UMMA DOCENT PROGRAM

Montatip Krishnamra, emerita faculty of Thai language at U-M, recently returned to the Ann Arbor area and was accepted into the docent program at the University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA). UMMA's program is rigorous,



requiring a substantial time commitment by the volunteers, and an agreement to serve in the program at least three years. Montatip explained that she has always loved museums, and has visited museums wherever she travels, since she was a child. She recalled observing a tour group around Rembrandt's "The Anatomy Lesson of Dr. Nicolaes Tulp" in The Hague, Netherlands, and, even though she does not speak Dutch, viewed a small detail she would not have noticed if not for the docent pointing it out. She wants to help others find such details in works of art, and is currently brushing up on art history and pedagogy for school-age children.

## GIVE 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 60 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. Thank you for your support!

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