



Statue Wat Arun, Photo credit Etienne Turpin

# center for southeast asian studies

Fall 2012



# Letter from the Director



Dear friends,

It is with great excitement that we welcome in the new academic year here at CSEAS. We already have a full slate of activities and programs lined up, and expect to be adding more as the year progresses. I hope that if you are in the area you will take the opportunity to attend one of our Friday-at-noon lectures or one of our cultural events. You can find more information about these events on the back cover, or on our website, [ii.umich.edu/cseas/events](http://ii.umich.edu/cseas/events).

All of this activity takes place in the shadow of continued uncertainty of federal funding for area programs and languages. We have been working hard to prepare for the possibility that such funding may be reduced or disappear altogether by seeking to raise funds to protect our four Southeast Asian languages. In partnership with the International Institute, CSEAS recently applied to the Mellon Foundation for funds to temporarily cover language instruction that had previously been funded by federal Department of Education funds. We are pleased to report that Mellon has accepted our application! This gives us some breathing room as we work to put the languages on secure financial footing in perpetuity.

To that end I hope that as you arrange your giving priorities this year you will consider a gift to one of our four language endowments. These endowments are designed to eventually cover the annual cost of our language lecturers, effectively removing them from the reach of future budget cutters. You can find more information about these endowments and other giving opportunities (including the Gamelan Endowment) on page 14 or on our website, [ii.umich.edu/cseas/alumnifriends/supportcseas](http://ii.umich.edu/cseas/alumnifriends/supportcseas).

Finally, it is my pleasure to welcome **Dr. Gunalan Nadarajan** and his wife, **Dr. Irina Aristarkhova**, to the University of Michigan. Dr. Nadarajan is the new Dean of the School of Art and Design and joins us from the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, where he was Vice Provost for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies. He has also held faculty positions at Penn State University, National University of Singapore and Lasalle College of the Arts in Singapore. Dr. Aristarkhova is associate professor at the School of Art and Design and faculty affiliate of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies. She joins us from the Maryland Institute College of Art. See the next page for more on these two scholars.

Allen Hicken, *Director*

## *In this issue:*

Alum Michael Dunne returns to campus	3
Focus on Thailand	12
Donor Profile: Larry and Phyllis Miller	13

## *Website enhancement:*

**[ii.umich.edu/cseas/resources/gamelan](http://ii.umich.edu/cseas/resources/gamelan)**

Visit the page and learn about our gamelan program!

Regents of the University of Michigan: Julia Donovan Darlow, Laurence B. Deitch, Denise Ilitch, Olivia P. Maynard, Andrea Fischer Newman, Andrew C. Richner, S. Martin Taylor, Katherine E. White, Mary Sue Coleman *ex officio*.

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# Welcome to Campus

**Gunalan Nadarajan** joins the University of Michigan as Dean of the School of Art and Design. Originally from Singapore, Dr. Nadarajan comes to Ann Arbor from the Maryland Institute College of Art. His areas of research include contemporary art, architecture, robotic arts, cyberculture, and the intersecting histories of art, science and technology. He earned undergraduate degrees from the National University of Singapore and advanced degrees in continental philosophy, from the University of Warwick, U.K., and sociology/anthropology, from the National University of Singapore.

**Irina Aristarkhova**, wife of Dr. Nadarajan, joins the faculty of the School of Art and Design as associate professor. She is a scholar and author on comparative feminist theory and contemporary aesthetics. Born in Moscow, she studied philosophy and sociology at Moscow State University, completed a Master's Degree at the University of Warwick, UK, and her PhD in contemporary French psychoanalytic theory at the Institute of Sociology, Russian Academy of Sciences. One of her main areas of interest is the fundamental relation between technology and difference (aesthetic, cultural, sexual, political, interdisciplinary, etc).

We welcome both of these scholars to our campus, and look forward to collaborating with them and the School of Art and Design.

**Yuen Yuen Ang**, assistant professor, joined the Department of Political Science in 2011. She came to Ann Arbor from Columbia University, where she taught in the School of International and Public Affairs. While much of Dr. Ang's work focuses on political economy and development in contemporary China, she is also interested in Southeast Asia and plans future research projects there. She received her PhD in political science from Stanford University.



*Guna and Yuen enjoying themselves at a welcome dinner at Linda Lim and Pete Gosling's house.*

**Ooi Keat Gin**, Visiting Scholar, Universitas Sains Malaysia. Keat Gin joins us for Winter term 2013 in the Department of Sociology while he is on sabbatical from his home institution. A colleague and friend of professor emeritus **Gayl Ness**, he will spend his time here furthering his historical research on Borneo through various imperial eras. His most recent monograph is *The Japanese Occupation of Borneo, 1941-1945* (Routledge, 2011), but he has published broadly on Malaysian and Southeast Asian history. We look forward to welcoming him to the CSEAS community when he arrives.

The Department of Asian Languages and Cultures and our Southeast Asian language lecturers welcome three new Fulbright Language Teaching Assistants (FLTAs). **Ade Sanjaya** will be assisting **Agustini** with Indonesian language instruction; **Praphatsom Wongchaiwa** will be assisting **Montatip Krishnamra** with Thai language instruction; and, for the first time we will have a Filipino language teaching assistant, **Mary Rose Adelle Pacificar**. The FLTA program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and provides an opportunity for language instruction and cultural exchange at U.S. universities and colleges.

# Michael Dunne



Michael Dunne

## *Alum Michael Dunne Returns to Campus*

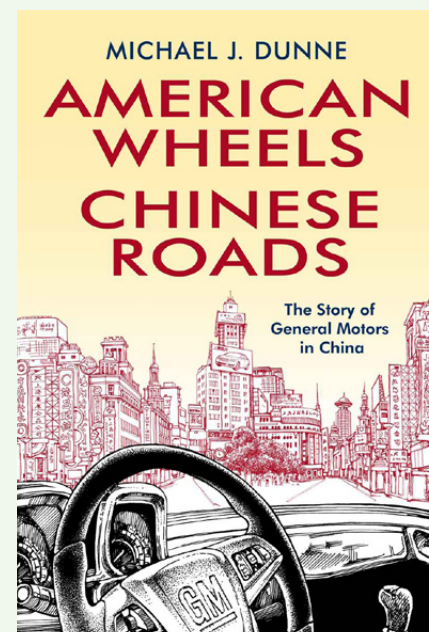
CSEAS alum Michael Dunne will return to campus this fall. A speaker in the Rackham Centennial Lecture series held to celebrate Rackham Graduate School's 100th Anniversary, Dunne will speak in the Rackham Amphitheatre on October 12, 2012 at 4:00 pm. The event is open to the public, and we encourage all to attend!

Since graduating from the university in 1990 with degrees in Business and Asian Studies, with dual foci on Southeast Asia and China, Dunne has made his career in Asia. First, he founded Automotive Resources Asia (ARA), a car consultancy, which operated in China and Southeast Asia and quickly became recognized as a leading authority on Asia's emerging auto markets. When ARA was later acquired by J.D. Power and Associates, Dunne stayed on as vice president and managing director for China.

In 2010, he founded Dunne & Company Ltd., a Hong Kong-based investment advisory firm specializing in Asia's car markets. He serves as president of Dunne & Company and in 2011 published his first book, *American Wheels Chinese Roads The Story of General Motors in China* (John Wiley & Sons).

During his two decades working in Asia's automotive markets, Dunne has published commentaries widely in such journals as the *Wall Street Journal*, *International Herald Tribune*, *Management Review*, and *Automotive News*. He is recognized as a leading expert in his field. He was featured in an acclaimed National Geographic documentary on China's car culture and has been a featured guest speaker at the JP Morgan China Investor Conference every year between 2006 and 2011. He also appears regularly as a guest expert on Bloomberg, CNBC, and CNN.

Mike calls Michigan home, as a native of Detroit and a graduate of the University of Michigan, though he now divides his time between Jakarta, where he lives with his wife Merlien and their three children, and Hong Kong, where he works. He is no stranger to the Ann Arbor campus, either. In 2011 he was invited to speak at the Ross School of Business in conjunction with his book launching, and we look forward to hosting him this October, when he will speak on "A Road Less Traveled: What Happens when you go to Asia straight after Graduation from the University of Michigan." His talk promises to provide important insights for those working in Asia or aspiring to do so. See you there!



Mike Dunne, middle, with former professors Gunter Dufey, Linda Lim, and Pete Gosling.

## *K-12 Outreach*

Clinical Professor of Law and CSEAS Associate Director and Executive Committee member **Nick Rine** participated in a teacher training program supported by CSEAS, the *World History Initiative*, a collaborative project between the School of Education and the International Institute. In a series of workshops focused on different historical eras, middle school and high school teachers have the opportunity to come to campus, learn about specific topics from our faculty experts, and practice innovative pedagogical approaches in the teaching of history. In August 2012, Nick presented on Cambodia and Vietnam since the Cold War, offering an in-depth view of Cambodian and Vietnamese society and contemporary history that teachers were eager to incorporate in their classrooms.



Director Allen Hicken with CSEAS language lecturers Richard Atienza, Agustini, Montatip Krishnamra, and Thuy'Anh Nguyen

## *Professional Development for Language Instructors*

Indonesian Language Lecturer **Agustini** organized a professional development workshop for the Southeast Asian and South Asian language instructors this past August. The workshop brought in expert in language pedagogy and American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Oral Proficiency Interview (ACTFL-OPI) methods Karl Otto, professor emeritus at University of Pennsylvania, who spent several days with the participants. At the conclusion of the workshop, participants were able to take a test certifying them in ACTFL OPI standards for language testing. This workshop is one of the many ways in which our active language faculty contributes to making Michigan an incredible place to study Southeast Asian languages.

## *New Course on Gender in Southeast Asia*

**Deirdre de la Cruz**, assistant professor in the Departments of Asian Languages and Cultures and History, is teaching a new course this fall. *Gender and Power in Southeast Asia* is a crossover course, one in which both undergraduates and graduate students can enroll. Through the course, students will examine gender and sexual identities in historical and contemporary Southeast Asia through the lens of primary sources, ethnography, literature, and film. This course is supported by a course development grant from the Center for Southeast Asian Studies.

## *Research on Decentralization in Thailand*

Professor emeritus of sociology, **Gayl Ness**, continues to actively research in Southeast Asia. Working with CSEAS alum **Hirofumi Ando** (Political Science, 1971), he is investigating Thailand's decentralization by interviewing elected officials and government administrators as well as civic leaders and businessmen. This project is supported by Khon Kaen University, and the results will be presented at a conference in Khon Kaen in November 2012.

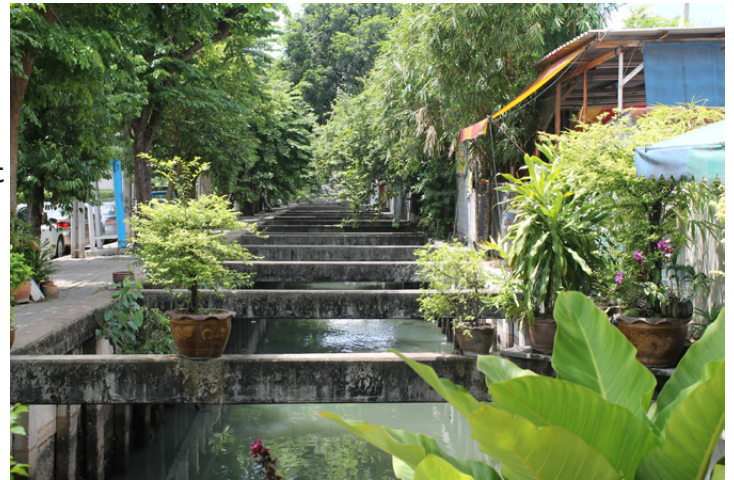


Left to right: Gayl Ness, Supawatanakorn Wongthanasu, and Hirofumi Ando at the Mekong River.

# Student News

*Hypercomplexity in Jakarta and Bangkok: Studying Architecture and Water in Southeast Asia*  
By **Allen Gillers** (Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning)

This spring, a Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning study course, Architecture + Adaptation, comprised of 12 architecture students and two faculty members travelled to Bangkok and Jakarta. The term *hypercomplexity* guided our research in these two cities, Jakarta and Bangkok are important regional and national cities, magnets for internal migration, and increasingly subject to frequent and heavy flooding. Before leaving Ann Arbor, we came to a working definition of hypercomplexity: the multi-faceted nature of each city's developmental history, plus current economic, environmental, and political realities. However, hypercomplexity remained abstract until we left Michigan and immersed ourselves in the two cities.



In Bangkok we walked the streets, rode the sky trains, floated down the canals, and met with several local architects, educators, and activists. We discussed the 2011 flood with almost everyone, each time hearing new perspectives. In Jakarta we collaborated with Hong Kong University and University of Indonesia in a three-week workshop titled “Designing for Hypercomplexity,” which focused on architecture’s potential for managing water in the city. We divided ourselves into groups and conducted research on six sites throughout the city. The student research groups met with various faculty, government officials, local pump house workers, desalination plant engineers, and real estate developers, and attempted to navigate the governmental flood mitigation plans, which seemed to change almost daily.

Through these experiences we were able to develop a more nuanced, visceral understanding of each city’s hypercomplexity, defined by a host of contradictory yet simultaneously existing truths whose legitimacy was susceptible to constant, rapid change. As architecture students, this immersive learning has been invaluable to our larger disciplinary attempts at broadening architecture’s agency and efficacy as we face new urban and ecological circumstances.



*This studio abroad was supported in part by the Amnuay-Samonsri Viravan Thai Studies Endowment at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies.*

## *Professional School Students in Indonesia*

School of Natural Resources and Environment and Ross School of Business students put their learning into action by tackling environmental and public health problems.

*Clean Drinking Water, a Business Opportunity?*

By **Colm Fay** (MBA/MS, 2012)



Left to Right: Joe Guarascio, Sofia Latif, Sophie Genet, Colm Fay in Tangerang, March 2010.

Every March, 500 students from the Ross School of Business embark on a 7-week Multidisciplinary Action Project (MAP) that challenges them to put the skills they are learning in the classroom to practical use. Recently Sophie Genet, Joe Guarascio, Sofia Latif, and I traveled to Indonesia for three weeks to work on a problem not commonly faced by U.S. business school students: is it possible to use private sector retail and distribution mechanisms in parallel with public health institutions to increase access to household water treatment products among low income populations in Indonesia?

Our task was to design effective marketing and distribution of chlorine tablets as a consumer good for Abt Associates, which works with Medentech, a manufacturer of low cost chlorine tablets for household

water treatment. To do so, we first had to understand the lay of the land. We visited local and rural health clinics, met with village and district officials, and visited supermarkets and *warung* (roadside kiosks). We also met with large distributors to gain insight into some of the challenges of distributing products across Indonesia's challenging geography.

Part of marketing will be promoting the use of chlorine tablets, requiring a large scale shift in behavior. To understand how new ideas filter through a society we visited an Islamic boarding school in west Java and observed how clean water education is integrated into the curriculum. Children are learning about the dangers of water-borne illnesses and the benefits of proper water treatment and take this information home to their families. We also met with groups of village health workers who volunteer to teach their neighbors about hygiene and sanitation and provide basic medical products door to door.

On returning home, we presented our findings and market entry strategy to project sponsors at Abt Associates and Medentech as well as to our advisors at the Ross School of Business, professors **Ted London** and **Jeffrey Sanchez-Burks**. Indonesia provided the perfect canvas to explore the intersection of business and public health, and we hope that our work there can be a model for other health commodities in other markets.

*Indonesia's Plastic Economy*

By **Miguel Sossa** (SNRE/Business)

In the summer of 2011, University of Michigan graduate students **Tal Avrahami** (MS, 2012), **Stephanie Cheney** (MBA/MS, 2012), **Yih-Wei Chien** (MBA/MS, 2012), **Patrick Lord** (MBA/MS, 2013), **Taylor Samuelson** (MS, 2012), and I set foot in one of Indonesia's largest landfills. Surrounded by towers of hazardous trash, the team contemplated its project: to design a strategy for plastic waste reduction for one of the world's leading snack and beverage companies.

As the hours passed under the hot Jakarta sun, not one plastic bottle could be seen. The mission seemed all but resolved until a small barefooted family emerged from the landfill pushing a makeshift cart full of plastic. There, 30 miles outside of Jakarta, the student team realized the complexity of Indonesia's plastic economy. Every morning

# Student News

around 4 a.m., over 3 million men, women, and children, equipped with little more than rubber soles, a recognizable pick and woven baskets, begin a daily ritual of foraging for plastic waste, one of Indonesia's most valuable street commodities. These *pemulung*, waste pickers, risk infection, ridicule, and legal harassment to simply survive off of the plastic they collect and sell. Plastic waste, as it turns out, rarely makes it to landfills in Indonesia, because the lack of clean drinking water and reliable running water for low-income people means that plastic bottles are invaluable as water storage vessels for household use.

My fellow students and I, recognizing the need to fully appreciate this post-consumer economy, spent weeks working side-by-side with *pemulung*. After much observation, discussion, and synthesis, the team identified several knowledge-based and business approaches to the issues. First, the team leveraged Indonesia's existing mobile phone infrastructure to design P-Mobile, a peer-to-peer mobility app that would aid in increasing the pricing, social opportunity, and educational advancement transparency for *pemulung*. Secondly, the team urged its client to work with Indonesia's great entrepreneurial community to devise long-reaching waste minimization programs based on local business practices.

While both programs will require the *pemulung*'s and business community's tenacity to get off the ground, the University of Michigan team is proud to have contributed to the growing environmental movement in Indonesia. We will always be thankful to some of the most humble and supportive individuals on earth who not only helped us fulfill our academic mission but also exposed us to the complexity of economy in Indonesia. *Terima kasih, para pemulung!*

## *Fulbright scholars in Southeast Asia*

U-M students and alumni got together at the 4th Mid-Year Enrichment Conference for US. Scholars and Students in Southeast Asia, hosted by the Fulbright Program in Vietnam in Hanoi, March 14 - 17. Researchers, either current students or graduates, presented their work before their peers.

*From left to right, pictured are: Ken Hall (PhD, History, 1975), Cynthia Bohm-Eh Yoon (BA, LSA, 2011), Nguyen Thi Thu Thao, Vietnam Fulbright alumna and conference host), Charley Sullivan (History), and Jennifer Buison (BSE, Engineering, 2011).*





**Romy Aquino** (PhD, Public Health, 1982) was elected National President of the University of the Philippines Alumni Association in America (UPAAA), to serve from 2011-2013. He remains committed to the academic and operational initiatives of the University of the Philippines, and an active CSEAS community member.

**Michael Aung-Thwin** (PhD, History, 1976) and **Mairii Aung-Thwin** (PhD, History, 2001), father and son team, have recently published a book, *A History of Myanmar Since Ancient Times: Traditions and Transformations*. Both graduates of the Center, Mairii is associate professor of history at the National University of Singapore and Michael is chair and professor of Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii. They both think fondly of their time at CSEAS.

*Mairii Aung-Thwin, Michael Aung-Thwin, and U Myint Aung, Burmese archaeologist, at Pagan.*



**Bonnie Brereton** (PhD, Asian Languages and Cultures, 1992) is currently translating Walter Spink's authoritative text on the caves of Ajanta, *Ajanta: A History and Guide*, into Thai, so it can be read by the many Thai visitors to Ajanta.



**Andrew Conroe** (PhD, Anthropology and History, 2011) writes from Singapore: I completed my PhD in Anthropology and History and moved across the world to begin a faculty position in the Department of Sociology at the National University of Singapore. I'm enjoying research and teaching opportunities in the heart of Southeast Asia, and life with our infant daughter.

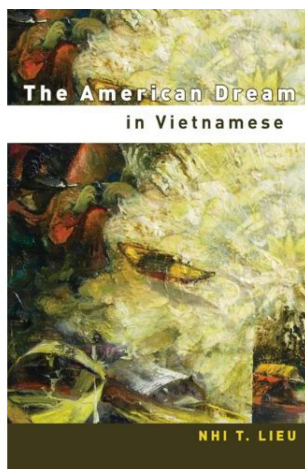
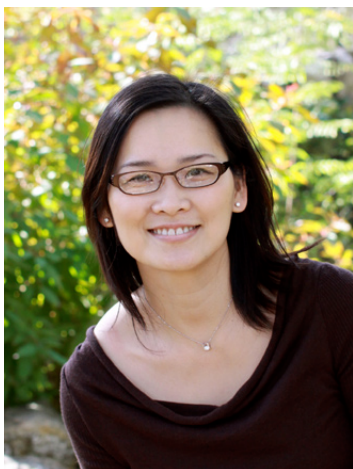
**Colm Fay** (MBA/MS, SNRE, 2012) after completing a project as a student for Abt Associates in Indonesia (see page 6), is now working for them in their International Health Division. He is based in Washington, D.C.

**Nataliya Gorodnia** published a chapter on the prospects of Ukraine-Vietnam relations, published in Vietnam in December 2011. She is now working on a book titled *East Asian Integration as a Factor of Post-Cold War Global Changes* and remembers her time as a Fulbright scholar at Michigan fondly.



**Brendan Kavaney** (MBA/MA, SEAS, 2007) works for Infosys as the Industry Marketing Manager, in which capacity he travels to the Midwest frequently. He continues to live in the Bay area with his wife Pepper (Losiri) Kavaney, and recently visited his former professors Linda Lim and Pete Gosling in Ann Arbor.

# Alumni News

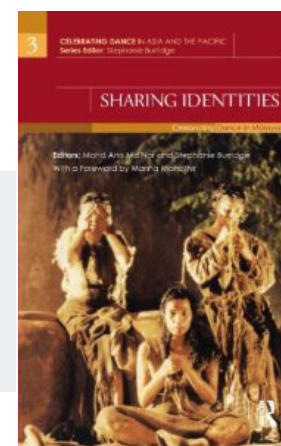


**Nhi Lieu** (PhD, American Culture, 2004) is professor at the University of Texas at Austin. She has just published her first book, *The American Dream in Vietnamese* (University of Minnesota Press, 2011), and will return to Ann Arbor this fall for a talk.

**Tom Miller** (PhD, Political Science, 1975) continues as President/CEO of the International Executive Service Corps (IESC), where much of his work is in Sub-Saharan Africa and Afghanistan. A year ago, he was appointed by Secretary of State Clinton as chair of the Board of Commissioners of the International Commission on Missing Persons, the world's premier organization focused on those missing from wars, genocide, and natural disasters. Tom's wife **Bonnie** (MSW, 1972) is a freelance educational and mental health consultant, specializing in traumatized populations in war-torn countries. They make time to travel when they can, most recently to Greece.



**Warner Montgomery** (PhD, Education, 1970) lives in Columbia, South Carolina. In addition to publishing a weekly newspaper, he is working on several histories related to the Carolinas.



**Mohd. Anis Md. Nor** (PhD, Ethnomusicology, 1990) recently published *Sharing Identities: Celebrating Dance in Malaysia* (Routledge, 2011) and a chapter in *Austronesian Soundscapes: Performing Arts in Oceania and Southeast Asia* (International Institute for Asian Studies, 2011). He has two more books in the works.



After 7 years of living and working in Bangkok, **Robert Pfaff** (MA, SEAS, 2008) and his private equity partners exited their investment in Asia Books. Robert returned to Bloomfield Hills, MI with his wife, Shoba, and their two daughters, Sophie and Izzy. Robert is currently the Global Strategist for the advertising agency JWT/Team Detroit supporting its largest client, Ford Motor Company.

*New School of Art and Design dean Gunalan Nadarajan and Robert Pfaff*

**Sara Schastok** (PhD, Art History, 1969) is President and CEO of the Evanston Community Foundation in Evanston, IL. She was named “Community Leader of the Year” last year by the Evanston Chamber of Commerce for her foundation’s work in early education. Her son works in the consulting group Jones Lang LaSalle in Chicago, and her daughter is a sophomore at the University of Chicago.

**Andrew Shepard** (JD, Law, 2008) continues to work for the State Department but now focuses on Iran as well as managing the Southeast Asia portfolio.

**Aaron Michael Stern** (PhD, Political Science, 2006) works for USAID in New Delhi, where he lives with his wife Anchalee and daughters Anya (11) and Arin (9). He is focused on USAID’s strategic plans for programs in India and regional work in Afghanistan and Central Asia. He hopes to stay in touch with the Center community through email: [sterna@umich.edu](mailto:sterna@umich.edu).

**Sumana Rajarethnam** (MPP, Ford School of Public Policy, 2005) is senior analyst with the newsmagazine *The Economist’s* intelligence unit in Asia. He was recently interviewed on BBC business news regarding Myanmar’s current legislation on economic reforms, particularly foreign investment laws.



**Fay Wouk** (MA, Linguistics, 1977) teaches linguistics at the University of Auckland and continues to research several languages of Eastern Indonesia.

**Michael Dunne** (MBA/MA, SEAS, 1990) and **Michael Wachtel** (MBA/MA, SEAS, 1996) keep in touch with each other, their U-M colleagues, and their professor, Linda Lim. Michael Dunne is based in Jakarta but his business, Dunne & Company, is headquartered in Hong Kong. Michael Wachtel is director of foreign exchange sales at Deutsche Bank and is based in Singapore. **Simon Kahn**, included in the picture to the right, is also a U-M graduate, now head of marketing for Google in Asia-Pacific.



*Michael Wachtel, Simon Kahn, Linda Lim, and Michael Dunne*

# Alumni News

## *Asia Business Conference sees the return of U-M alumni*



Ambassador Dino, center, with Indonesian language lecturer Agustini to his left, flanked by Indonesian students and ABC attendees.



Simon Kahn, left, Airlangga Hartanto, center, and Bradley Lalonde, right, present at the ABC conference.

The Asia Business Conference at the University of Michigan School of Business is an annual event supported in part by the Center for Southeast Asian Studies. In February 2011, the 22nd annual conference prominently featured Southeast Asia, with Dr. Dino Patti Djalal, Indonesian Ambassador to the United States, as the keynote speaker. A panel

on ASEAN highlighted the important role of Southeast Asia as an emerging global market, and included Airlangga Hartanto, Chairman of the Trade, Investment and Industry Commission of Indonesia's House of Representatives as well as two U-M alumni, **Simon Kahn**, head of Asia-Pacific marketing for Google and **Bradley Lalonde**, Founder and CEO of Vietnam Partners LLC. In addition, **Rick Smith** (MBA/MA, SEAS, 1988) was invited to speak on the Finance panel. Smith works for Tractus Asia Ltd. as head of its Mergers and Acquisitions and Corporate Finance. He is based in Bangkok but covers all of ASEAN and China.



Left to right: Joe Osha, Simon Kahn, Linda Lim, Rick Smith, and Rama Krishna.



From left: Student organizers Andre Siagian and Muriel Makarim with members of the ASEAN panel Linda Lim, Airlangga Hartanto, Simon Kahn.

Thanks to the *Amnuay-Samonsri Viravan Endowment for Thai Studies*, the Center for Southeast Asian Studies has been able to support University of Michigan faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students in research and travel to Thailand through our **Thai Studies Grant program**. Since 2010, we have given a total of twenty grants, supporting research on topics ranging from mass transit in Bangkok to border disputes with Cambodia. Grant recipients are from such fields as archaeology, economics, information technology, political science, public health and nursing, public policy, sociology, and urban planning and design.

Grant competition opens annually in January, with awards made in April. Please see our website for more details, [ii.umich.edu/cseas](http://ii.umich.edu/cseas).



*Dr. Amnuay and Mrs. Samonsri Viravan, 2009*

In conjunction with our annual welcome luncheon in the fall and in happy coincidence with a visit by our benefactors Dr. Amnuay and Mrs. Samonsri Viravan, we will host presentations by a number of Thai studies grantees to discuss their research, as well as an exhibition opening from a group of Architecture and Urban Planning students who participated in Professor Meredith Miller's summer course on Architecture and Adaptation: Designing for Hypercomplexity. Through that course, students traveled to Jakarta and Bangkok to look at local building design around water and the hydrologic landscape. The exhibition and their presentation will give details of what they discovered. Please see **page 5** for a student's perspective on this project.

This event will be held on September 14, 2012, in the School of Social Work Building, rooms 1636 and 1644, from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm. The exhibit will remain up until October 26. Please join us!

## *Thai Language Endowment*

CSEAS has joined forces with the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures in a major development effort to establish an Endowed Lectureship in Thai language. We recognize how important it is to safeguard the teaching of Southeast Asian languages at the University of Michigan, and we are taking steps to ensure that we will always have dedicated funds to support a lectureship in Thai language and thus the foundation for a robust program in Thai Studies. Please contact us at [cseas@umich.edu](mailto:cseas@umich.edu) if you'd like more information.

# Donor Profile: *Larry and Phyllis Miller*

CSEAS owes a debt of gratitude to Larry and Phyllis Miller, who recently endowed the Miller-Tran Endowment for Vietnamese Language. The Millers hold Vietnam dear to their hearts, but it wasn't always that way.

High school sweethearts from Kalamazoo, Larry and Phyllis graduated from the University of Michigan and married in 1961. Both were interested in teaching, and continued their education at Western Michigan University in Special Education. After a youth spent in Michigan, Larry convinced Phyllis to move to Miami, and there they adopted their two children (Scott, now 44, and Michelle, who passed away in 2010 at the age of 44). Phyllis opened a day care, and Larry returned to school for his PhD in Counseling Psychology. As it turned out, however, they weren't quite ready to settle down. When Larry finished his degree, they sold the day care and bought a motorhome. Packing up their kids and pets, they spent the year travelling in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. "People thought we were crazy, but it was one of the best things we ever did," Phyllis said.

RV life suited them. They bought an RV park and ran it for five years before selling it. During all this time, Phyllis maintained her interest in education, and in 1990, while teaching adult literacy at a local community college, she met Michael Tran. Michael was a recent immigrant to the United States who had left Vietnam as a refugee. He was studying air conditioner repair, and so when the Millers' AC broke, they called Michael to fix it. With their own children off to college, Larry and Phyllis began calling on Michael for help around the house. After housesitting for them once, Michael said, "You know, I could learn English a lot faster if I lived here with you."

With an empty nest and spare bedrooms, Larry and Phyllis agreed. Not long after, Michael married his fiancée, who was still in Vietnam, brought her to the Millers' house, and in 1994 their daughter Tina was born.

Tina "bonded them all as a family," Larry said. Michael and his family became as much a part of Larry and Phyllis' family as their own children.

Prior to this, Vietnam hadn't figured largely in the Millers' lives since the 1960s. Their first connection to the country stems from their experience as protesters of the Vietnam War. Phyllis thinks of the endowment as "one tiny thing from us to help Vietnam," and the Millers have traveled to Vietnam twice now.



*Floating market in Can Tho, Vietnam*

They also knew how meaningful it would be for Tina to create a lasting connection between themselves, the University of Michigan, and Vietnam. They honor the Tran family by way of the endowment, and offer a gesture of collaboration with Vietnam in response to the damage of the Vietnam War.

Larry fears that young Americans are losing the history of the anti-war movement, "too busy with their own lives to remember." Larry remembers the way in which he and Phyllis both, from the very beginning of their time in Ann Arbor, "appreciated the way that the University of Michigan opened [their] eyes. The spectrum of students and programs was so broad that it was like living in the wide world."

They hope that U-M students continue to have their eyes opened to the world and are able to "go forth with an open mind, a listening mentality, and a helping mentality. Strive for a better future," Phyllis said, "for us and for Southeast Asia."

The Center for Southeast Asian Studies continues to build on our established strengths, expand faculty and student ranks in a dynamic world region, and offer opportunities for learning about Southeast Asia to our community. To support the following initiatives, please visit our website at [ii.umich.edu/cseas](http://ii.umich.edu/cseas).

### *Southeast Asian Language Endowments*

These language endowments are used to support the teaching of Southeast Asian languages at Michigan. Funds are used to support the hiring and retention of our outstanding language lecturers and for student scholarships.

Indonesian Language Endowment (731412)

Filipino Language Endowment (731413)

Thai Language Endowment (731411)

Miller-Tran Endowment for Vietnamese Language (731613)

### *Javanese Gamelan Endowment (731164)*

This endowment supports programs in the Javanese performing arts at the University of Michigan, including annual concerts and upkeep of the University of Michigan Gamelan Ensemble and residencies with prominent Javanese musicians, dancers and puppeteers.

### *Indonesian Studies Initiative (312227)*

Indonesian Studies has long been a particular strength at the University of Michigan. We support faculty and student research, teaching and public programs on

Indonesia, and we plan to establish an endowment for Indonesian Studies in the near future.

The *Amnuay-Samonsri Viravan Endowment for Thai Studies (572202)* allows us to fund all manners of engagement with Thai Studies. We have used income from the endowment to support student travel to Thailand, both graduate and undergraduate, and faculty and graduate student research in Thailand.

### *Philippine Studies Endowment (731185)*

This endowment supports the continued study of the Philippines and Filipino languages and cultures at the University of Michigan. Income from the endowment supports faculty and student research, teaching and curricular development about the Philippines at the University, and outreach to the local community.

### *Student Initiatives*

Undergraduate (309964) and Graduate (309966) Student Support

Michigan's superb undergraduates have few opportunities to "discover" Southeast Asia on their own. These funds provide incentives for undergraduates to avail themselves fully of our excellent faculty and language resources. We continue to attract the very best young graduate students interested in the region, and do our best to support their education.

Thank you to our donors. Without you our work would not be possible. **Bold** indicates first time donors; asterisks indicate faculty, emeriti, and staff.

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## *U-M in Southeast Asia*

Students from Architecture and Urban Planning explore one of Thailand's main temples as they research water and the built environment in three of Southeast Asia's mega-cities: Bangkok, Jakarta, and Hanoi.

### *Fall 2012 Lecture Series*

For event details see [www.i.umich.edu/cseas/events](http://www.i.umich.edu/cseas/events)

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| September 14 | Presentation of Thai Studies Research by U-M faculty<br>Exhibit Opening: Architecture + Adaptation Designing for Hypercomplexity   |
| October 12   | Michael Dunne, <i>President, Dunne &amp; Co.</i><br>"A Road Less Traveled: What Happens when you go to Asia Straight after Graduating from the University of Michigan."<br><i>Co-sponsored by the Center for Chinese Studies, the Nam Center for Korean Studies, LSA DMC, and the Rackham Graduate School.</i> |
| November 9   | C. Michele Thompson, <i>Southern Connecticut State University</i><br>"Historic Interactions between Chinese and Vietnamese Medicine."<br><i>Co-sponsored by the American Council of Learned Societies/Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation, and the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures.</i>                     |
| November 16  | Marco Garrido, <i>doctoral candidate, Department of Sociology</i><br>"Acts of Sincerity: Explaining Joseph Estrada's Appeal among Metro Manila's Urban Poor."  |
| December 7   | Rasmi Shoocongdej, <i>Silpakorn University and Fulbright Fellow, University of Illinois-Chicago</i><br>"Archaeology of World War II: White skeletal road in Khun Yuan district, Mae Hong Son province, a borderland between Thailand and Myanmar."   |

### Exhibits

Architecture + Adaptation  
Designing for Hypercomplexity  
September 14 - October 26  
1644 SSWB/International Institute

Photography Exhibit: Children of  
Cambodia  
December 3-21  
Gallery, International Institute