



center for southeast asian studies

Winter 2014

Little nuns, Myanmar. Photo credit: JPD. Creative Commons Some Right Reserved.



Dear CSEAS Community,

Even as we welcome signs of spring, the center continues its busy winter semester with a slate of speakers and other exciting programs. While some of our events were planned well in advance, we remained nimble enough to accommodate programming for campus students and faculty as opportunities arose. We have provided funding for several Southeast Asian student group events, including cultural nights and an academic conference. Our library fellows have accomplished their research needs, while also contributing to the campus community. Several weeks ago, the center hosted a film producer from Indonesia and a U.S. State Department diplomat. The last weekend in March, we took our turn organizing the University of Michigan reception at the Association for Asian Studies in Philadelphia. All in all, it has been a fruitful semester, despite the unending barrage of snow and frosty temperatures.

Looking ahead, there are important items on our agenda.

As many of you are already aware, we will be applying for the U.S. Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center and Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship grants. The applications for both will not be available until May, and the due date will be in June. We will get word on whether we have received the grants in August. In the meantime, we will continue to reach out to faculty and staff to request help in several ways, including coming up with ideas for programming that match the competitive priorities of the grant and proposing specific projects that fulfill your goals and fall under the rubric of the Title VI. We are excited to hear your ideas, so please feel free to contact us at any time.

Regents of the University of Michigan: Mark J. Bernstein, Julia Donovan Darlow, Laurence B. Deitch, Shauna Ryder Diggs, Denise Ilitch, Andrea Fischer Newman, Andrew C. Richner, Katherine E. White, Mary Sue Coleman *ex officio*.

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In addition, you may notice on our giving page that we are adding emphasis to our student language fellowships. The language fellowships are an excellent incentive for students to take Filipino, Indonesian, Thai, and Vietnamese. Once started, in order to fulfill university language requirements, students are highly likely to take our courses for two years, making the investment a very strong one. This past year, we enhanced publicity for these fellowships through our networks with Michigan high schools and were delighted to see many more applications from incoming first-year students. In an effort to incentivize as many of these incoming students as possible, we need money for the language fellowships. Unfortunately, we do not receive money from the university or external grants to pay for the fellowships and rely completely on donations. We hope that this initiative will increase support for language study here in the years to come.

Finally, whether or not we receive the Title VI grants, the center will continue to provide as much programming on campus as possible. During the summer, we will look ahead to the future and prepare ourselves for different possibilities that may arise. Thanks to everyone for all the support in various forms that you have given the center over the years. Please be assured that even in times of great change, we are committed to keeping the center strong, in order that it may support the needs of our campus, community, and alumni.

Christi-Anne Castro
Director



Sharmani, Terence, and Eshward



Terence Gomez speaks at the Malaysia Studies Forum.

From the Hustle and Bustle of a Big City to the Hurly-Burly of a College Town: KL to AA

By Sharmani Gabriel, Fulbright Fellows and CSEAS Visiting Scholar

Sharmani spent six months as a Fulbright Fellow and three months as a CSEAS Visiting scholar in the 2013-2014 academic year. In addition to her research and public lecture, she taught a mini-course on Malaysian Literature in English.

I came to Ann Arbor with my husband, Terence Gomez and our 12 year-old son, Eshward, at the tail end of summer 2013. Terence and I had arrived to take up appointments as visiting faculty from the University of Malaya. Eshward was about to start eighth grade at a local middle school. Back in the epicenter of the hustle and busy-ness of Kuala Lumpur, we had imagined Ann Arbor to be another sweetly soporific Midwestern town -- the perfect sanctuary for our sabbatical, a still point from which to research and teach.

Imagine our shock on finding it to be every bit as frenetic and football-mad as the city we'd left behind. This was a place teeming with students, sidewalk cafés, museums, art galleries, theatres, restaurants -- and hardworking squirrels. It was also hot and humid. The huge radiators in every room of our apartment suite were the first signs that we were soon destined to get very, very cold. Indeed, the three of us are now constantly being asked, whatever made you come in the worst winter in thirty years?

The vicissitudes of weather aside, participating in the intellectual and social life of the University of Michigan has been an extraordinarily rewarding experience. We are also amazed by the range of resources that the university offers its student body. Staying in the residential community of Telluride House, we interact on a daily basis with young scholars. Their backgrounds, passions and perspectives reveal to us the riches as well as unique complexities of U.S. life and society. We have done much more learning than teaching.

There was also the serendipitous pleasure of meeting, in addition to the strange and new, the recognizable and the familiar. Our path to Ann Arbor led to our getting to know other Malaysians. This included fellow academics, whose support and friendship have been vital, and also a group of profoundly committed young people whose potential as future leaders is being shaped by the very experiences and opportunities they are creating for themselves as students of "the U of M". It is a privilege being associated with them.

When we return to Kuala Lumpur at the end of "our year away in Ann Arbor" we will take back with us many warm memories and several new words -- "the Diag", "the Arb", "the libe" and -- our favorite of them all -- "Go Blue!"

Our Gamelan program has been busy this year! In the fall, Susan Walton and Judith Becker attended the Indonesian Embassy's International Seminar and Festival of Indonesian Music, held at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. While there, they made closer connections with Indonesian embassy officials and ran into some old friends. We are lucky to enjoy the support of the Indonesian Embassy and the Indonesian Consulate in Chicago. Our February concert, a traditional concert of dance and music, was attended by the Indonesian Consul General of Chicago, Andriana Supandy.



Indonesian Consul General Andriana Supandy with Judith Becker and Nancy Florida



Beth Genne and Betsy Baier



Ho-Chak Law and Susan Walton at awards ceremony



Professor Emerita Judith Becker with UM alums Jesse Johnston, Amy Kimura, and Shawn Callanan.



04.11.2014
8-10 PM
KAHN AUDITORIUM
 BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH BLDG, 109 ZINA PITCHER PLACE

JAVANESE GAMELAN CONCERT

Red Volcanoes, Emerald Isles, and Blue Horizons

A concert of four pieces, including: gamelan, tin whistle and Irish fiddle; gamelan and jazz drum; and traditional gamelan pieces *ladrang ayun-ayun* (Swaying, danced by Theresa Rohlick and depicting a young woman getting ready to meet her lover) and *bubaran* (Scattering, a piece used to mark the end of events).

FEATURING
 Kyai Telaga Madu
U-M Gamelan Ensemble
 under the direction of **Susan Walton**
 Guest Director: **Harjito**
 Jazz Drum: **Samuel Parsons**
 Fiddle Player: **Christine Hedden**
 Dancer: **Theresa Rohlick**

This event is co-sponsored by Arts at Michigan - Residential College School of Music, Theatre & Dance

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We also performed in April in a concert that combined traditional gamelan music with modern pieces that used jazz drum (performed by Samuel Parsons), Irish fiddle (performed by Christine Hedden), and penny whistle (performed by Sarah Gerk). We look forward to more performances next year, both innovative and traditional!



Sarah Gerk, penny whistle performer



Susan Walton, Gamelan Director, with guest performer Ignatius Harjito, of Wesleyan University.



Realiska Hayati, Javanese Dancer

In addition to our wonderful gamelan events this semester, we had a full slate of speakers in our noon series, including **Alexander Cannon** (Western Michigan University) on Vietnamese music, **Christian Castro** (US Department of State) on US-Asia relations, **Andrew Weintraub** (University of Pittsburgh) on Rhoma Irama and the Indonesian presidential election, **Sharmani Gabriel** (Visiting professor from Universiti Malaya) on race in Malaysia, and **Heman Chong** (visual artist, based in Singapore) on a sense of place in Southeast Asia.



Andrew Weintraub, University of Pittsburgh



Alexander Cannon, Western Michigan University

We also had some special events, including a visit by a film producer, who must remain anonymous, connected to the distribution of the documentary film, *The Act of Killing* by Joshua Oppenheimer, as well as a public screening of that film at the Michigan Theater. The producer was able to connect us to the Indonesian director of the film, Anonymous, who video-conferenced in to Rackham Amphitheater. To let Anonymous view us, and protect anonymity, we turned the camera back on ourselves.



Anonymous via videoconference; Rackham Amphitheater



Sharmani Gabriel and Terence Gomez

Malaysian Studies Forum 2014

By Noorizuan Shah Noorazlan Ong (Undergraduate, Economics)

The Malaysian Studies Forum 2014, held on March 15th at the Hatcher Graduate Library, was the inaugural event organized by the Malaysian Students Association. The theme was "1Malaysia: Dispelling Illusions, Constructing Reality." The daylong conference brought together academicians specializing on Malaysia and members of the University of Michigan campus and beyond to discuss pertinent contem-



porary issues in Malaysia involving the economy, politics, and education. The speakers were: **Edmund Terence Gomez** (visiting professor, University Malaya), James Jesudason (Colorado School of Mines), Azly Rahman (Worldwise Frontiers), Tom Pepinsky (Cornell University) and **Victor Lieberman** (University of Michigan). The event was attended by over 70 participants and included presentations by the speakers



and small group discussions, facilitated by student organizers, followed by a question and answer session. Attendees had the opportunity to engage with speakers in person throughout the event.

Many Malaysian students were in attendance, and they in particular, with their responsibility for Malaysia's



future, valued the opportunity of a safe space to voice their opinions, concerns and hopes for Malaysia. The invited academicians gave valuable insights from years of research. The Malaysian Students Association hopes that this event will continue in the future and serve as a forum for public discourse which stresses the need for active participation in promoting progressive reforms and policies to ensure equity and justice. We have had very positive feedback from the participants and many wanted this event to be organized again in the future on a larger scale.

The organizing committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our sponsors who made this event a success, particularly the Center for Southeast



Asian Studies. We truly appreciate and recognize CSEAS' support for intellectual discourse such as the Malaysian Studies Forum.

Izuan was awarded the CSEAS Excellence in Undergraduate Work on Southeast Asia for his work on this conference and also in the library. He was nominated by **Susan Go**.

This year, CSEAS supported a record number of student events. We are proud of our students for their work in making these wonderful events happen, and providing learning opportunities about Southeast Asia for the community.

- A Night of Music: Fundraising for Philippines Disaster Relief (1/29)
- Vietnamese Cultural Show (2/8)
- Asia Law Society (2/21)
- Indonesian Cultural Night (2/22)
- Human Rights in Conflict: Loung Ung (3/14)
- Malaysia Studies Forum (3/15)
- Thai Night (3/23)
- Malaysian Cultural Night (3/30)
- Pho Night, organized by the Vietnamese Student Association (3/30)



Indonesian Cultural Night performers, February 2014



Serving food at the Indonesian Cultural Night

West Papua Diaries

Stuart Kirsch (Department of Anthropology) received an SEA Faculty Research Award to visit Papua, Indonesia in January 2014 as part of a larger project on engaged anthropology. He writes:

Walking across the border from Papua New Guinea, where I have worked for twenty-five years, to the Indonesian territory of Papua, where I was visiting for the first time, presented me with a study in contrasts. On one side of the border, people lived in raised wooden houses with thatched roofs, worshipped in Christian churches, raised bananas, harvested sago, and let their pigs run wild in the bush. On the other side, people lived in stone houses with tile roofs, the *modin* announced the call to prayer, and people built rice paddies and fish ponds, and kept Indonesian cattle by the side of the house. The roadside restaurants served Padang food, including *nasi goreng* and jackfruit curry. On clogged roads, individuals, couples, and even entire families, improbably perched atop tiny motorbikes, zipped around stalled cars and trucks.



Artwork by Donatus Moiwend, contemporary artist, Papua.

I visited a museum displaying the artifacts left over from Michael Rockefeller's famous collections at the Met in New York City. I walked through Jayapura's urban market one evening and saw West Papuans selling fish, vegetables and the iconic fruits of Southeast Asia – rambutan, salak, durian – never seen

on the other side of the border. I waited outside a crowded mosque for my Makassarese driver to say his prayers at noon. Everything was different.

I also spoke with numerous West Papuans about their experiences. I talked with human rights lawyers and investigators working with political prisoners and the



Indonesian political candidate wearing West Papuan headdress, Jayapura (photo: Rosa Moiwend)

families of people who have been disappeared. I met with the staff of an environmental organization focused on community mapping as a "bridge" between people living in rural areas and state planners. I met with journalists committed to maintaining their neutrality when reporting on political conflict. I visited the studio of a contemporary artist whose work revitalizes

traditional designs as a way of promoting their underlying philosophy. I met members of the clergy who spoke of the moral responsibilities of nations to right historical wrongs and lecturers who saw teaching as a means of facilitating mass mobilization.

After years of teaching about *culture shock* to my students, I experienced it myself when crossing the border. I learned a great deal about both the diversity of perspectives and unity of commitment of West Papuans to changing their relationship with the Indonesian state.

Professor Kirsch is the author of the forthcoming monograph: *Mining Capitalism: The Relationship between Corporations and their Critics* (University of California Press, June 2014).

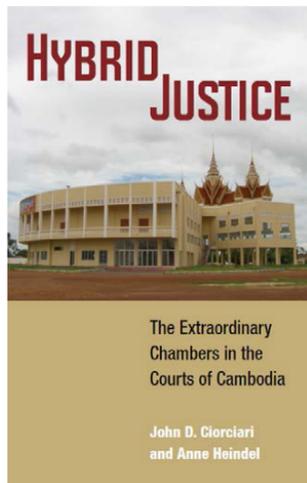
FACULTY UPDATES

Judith Becker (emerita, Ethnomusicology) took a long-awaited vacation to Myanmar with her family. Here she is sitting on the patio of the house where she and **Pete Becker** lived from 1958-1961, overlooking the city of Taunggyi in the Shan States, Myanmar.



Judith Becker overlooking Taunggyi

John Ciorciari (Public Policy) is the co-author with Anne Heindel of a new book titled *Hybrid Justice: The Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia* from the University of Michigan Press. The book analyzes and evaluates the Khmer Rouge tribunal—its origins, unique features, and performance—and draws lessons for transitional justice and international criminal law more generally.



John Knodel (Institute for Social Research) spent the winter semester of 2013, several months of the summer and fall semester, and the winter semester of 2014 in Southeast Asia based in Thailand. During that time he was conducting collaborative research on the well-being of older persons in Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. As part of this work he helped organize comparative analysis workshops in Singapore in March 2013 and Bangkok in January 2014. In addition, he was a featured speaker at public forums sponsored by HelpAge International in April 2013 in Yangon and in October 2013 in Bangkok to launch the publication of reports he wrote on older persons in Myanmar and Thailand respectively. He also gave public lectures presenting results of his research on aging in the region at Chulalongkorn University and Mahidol University in September. In December, he co-presented a paper concerning older persons that live alone at an International Conference on Single Person Households in Asia sponsored by the Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore.



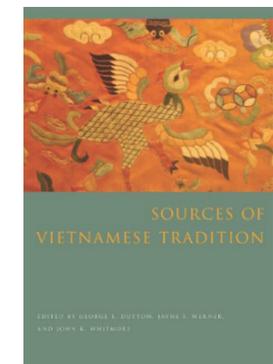
Congratulations to **Victor Lieberman** (History)! He received two honors this academic year. He was named the *Raoul Wallenberg Distinguished University Professor of History*. Distinguished University Professors recognize professors for exceptional scholarly and/or creative achievement, national and international reputation, and superior teaching skills. In addition, he won the 2014 *Golden Apple Award*. The Golden Apple is an award for excellence in teaching, with nominations from students and voted on by a committee of students. As a part of the award, he delivered his Golden Apple “Last Lecture” at Rackham in April.

Rudolf Mrazek (History) has retired from teaching this year. He intends to remain in Ann Arbor, interacting with students and squirrels.

ThuyAnh Nguyen (Asian Languages and Cultures) has published her translations in *Poems of Lu'u Dieu Van, Lu'u Melan and Nha Thuyen* (Vagabond Press, 2013). She will also present at the annual Vietnamese Interacting as One (VIA-1) conference in Columbus, Ohio as well as participating in the Language Resource Center's Translate-a-Thon, an annual event held on campus to promote and teach translation.



John Whitmore's (retired, Library) book *Sources of Vietnamese Tradition* (with George Dutton and Jayne Werner) received the Choice Outstanding Academic Titles 2013 award. Every year *Choice* editors single out for recognition the most significant print and electronic works review in *Choice* during the previous calendar year. Appearing annually in *Choice's* January issue this prestigious list of publications reflects the best in scholarly titles. Columbia University Press featured the book at the American Library Association annual meeting and in an ad in the *New York Review of Books*.



**“Skipped Generation”
Households in Thailand**

By Berit Ingersoll-Dayton (Social Work)
Berit’s research was funded in part by a grant from the Amnuay-Samonsri Viravan Endowment for Thai Studies.

As the daughter of an anthropologist, I spent several years growing up in Thailand. Some of my earliest memories are playing with Thai friends under the watchful eyes of their grandparents. Recently, I returned to Thailand to learn more about families in which older adults care for their grandchildren as a way of supporting their adult children’s ability to migrate.

As globalization accelerates, working-age adults in developing countries like Thailand are increasingly leaving their homes in search of jobs. These migrants who relocate for work often leave their children behind in the care of their own parents. The goal of my research is to examine how these Thai grandparents contribute to their families and the effects their contributions have on their own well-being.

Collaborating with me are Dr. Sureeporn Punpuing, Dr. Kanchana Tangchonlatip, and Kan Thianlai, all of whom are researchers at Mahidol University’s Institute for Population and Social Research (IPSR). Established in 1971, IPSR has an impressive tradition of conducting high quality research on issues related to migration and aging. Together, we are examining intergenerational relationships within “skipped generation” households in which older grandparents live only with their grandchildren due to the migration of their adult children. While such “skipped generation” households occur throughout the world, the proportion of older people in Thailand who live in these families is now 16% in rural areas.

During the fall of 2013, we interviewed 42 “skipped generation” households of grandparents in three rural areas of Thailand (Kanchanaburi, Khonkaen, and Phitsanulok). Our research highlights the costs and benefits of “skipped generation” households

for caregiving grandparents. This research will contribute to the discipline of social work by enhancing our understanding of family relationships in later life. Consistent with emerging perspectives in gerontology that call attention to “successful “ and “productive” aging, this research underscores how older adults in Thailand are actively engaged in trying to improve the lives of their families.



An example of a skipped generation household

The Center for Southeast Asian Studies gave out a record number of awards this year. Our **Malm-Becker Prize**, awarded for outstanding research on Southeast Asia and named for Professor Emerita Judith Becker, went to Scott McLoughlin, candidate in Anthropology, for his paper: *Olives and Mangoes: Philippine Bible Translation, the “Generic” and the Search for Pure Language*.

Southeast Asia Research grants went to:

Allen Hicken (Political Science), for his participation in a conference on electoral politics in Thailand

Joan Kee (Art History), for course development on contemporary art and museums in Southeast Asia

Stuart Kirsch (Anthropology), for his work on West Papua (see page 8)

Susan Walton (Residential College/SOMTD), for research on female singers, *pesindhén*, in Java

Thai Studies Faculty Grants in 2014 went to:

Marisa Eisenberg and **Rafael Meza Rodriguez** (Public Health) for research on dengue fever

Kathleen Ford (emerita, Public Health), for research on HIV risk and migrant communities

Berit Ingersoll-Dayton (Social Work), for research on migration and aging in Thailand (see page 11)

Montatip Krishnamra (Asian Languages and Cultures), for research on metaphors in Thai language

Thai Studies Student Awards went to:

Joanne Chang (Public Health) for research on tobacco use and cancer trends

Napapond-Victoria Fay (CSEAS) for research on risk management and risk pooling mechanisms among small-scale entrepreneurs in Thailand

Katherine Helmick (Public Health) for an internship at Prince of Songkla University

Matan Kaminer (Anthropology) for research on the Thai migrant community in Israel

Chanon Praepipatmongkol (Art History) for historical research on printmaking and installation art

Napong Rugkhapan (Urban Planning) for dissertation research on urban design and historic preservation in Old Bangkok

John Smith (History) for pre-dissertation research on religion and ethnicity in Siamese historical writing (1600-1855)

Shama Virani (Public Health) for dissertation research on cancer registration data in Thailand



Scott McLoughlin and Webb Keane, with Becker Award Certificate



Zenaida Fulgencio with her student, Kathleen Guytingco



Southeast Asian languages are becoming more important than ever for business people, nonprofit organizations, healthcare workers, academics, and many others. When undergraduates study Southeast Asian languages at U-M, they not only learn vocabulary and grammar, they also begin to experience different cultures and world views. Further, language study invites students to travel abroad. A number of U-M trips to Southeast Asia are funded in entirety, allowing all students to take advantage of the opportunity to experience more of the world. Finally, by just studying our languages, students become eligible for academic year and summer funding.

Please join us in an ongoing campaign to internationalize the undergraduate experience at U-M.

<http://www.ii.umich.edu/cseas/alumnifriends/supportcseas>

Pledge level: Platinum \$1,000

Sponsoring at this level provides one language scholarship for the 2014-2015 academic year.

Fund 309964; please note "sponsor a student" in instructions field (online) or memo line (check donations)

Pledge level: Gold \$500

Sponsoring at this level provides one semester of a language scholarship for the 2014-2015 academic year.

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Pledge level: Silver \$100

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Pledge level: Bronze \$50

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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.

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 Fund (318576)

Thai Language Endowment (731411)

Miller-Tran Endowment for Vietnamese Language (731613)

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.

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.

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.

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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SEA on campus

On a bright snowy day in March, we screened *The Act of Killing*, an award-nominated documentary by Joshua Oppenheimer on the 1965-66 massacres in Indonesia. In connection with the screening, we invited an Indonesian film producer to talk about the Indonesian reception of the film and the way in which it was distributed to avoid official censorship. The producer invited requested to remain anonymous for protection upon return to Indonesia.

The event was co-sponsored by: Michigan Theater, Screen Arts and Cultures, and the International Institute.