



Center for
Southeast Asian Studies



Photo by Ryan Hoover



UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Winter 2011

From the Director



This has been an exciting and full year at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies. Throughout the year we celebrated the Center's 50th anniversary. Events included the return of several of our alumni as participants in our Friday-at-noon lectures, as well as a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps, which involved several U-M alumni with connections to Southeast Asia. A highlight of the year was the CSEAS 50th anniversary conference and reunion held in October (see next page). It was wonderful to see so many alumni, faculty, and students gathered to honor the Center and all those who made it possible, and to anticipate the opportunities ahead. You can view recordings of the reunion roundtable and conference proceedings at www.i.umich.edu/cseas/events/av.

This year also marked significant development milestones for the Center. In November I joined with many of our alumni in Thailand for a dinner to celebrate raising US \$1 million for the Amnuay-Samonsri Viravan Endowment for Thai Studies (see page 12). The event was hosted by Dr. Amnuay and Khunying Samonsri Viravan and the University of Michigan Alumni Association in Thailand. We also established a new endowment for the University of Michigan Gamelan, made possible by a bequest from Rosannah Steinhoff. I want to thank all those who have contributed to these and any of the Center's other initiatives this year. We could not carry out our work without your support.

We have also been active on the programming front. This academic year we have organized a record number of events, including a new Southeast Asian film series, the reunion, an international conference, our ongoing Friday-at-noon series, and a jazz-gamelan fusion concert featuring Balinese guitarist I Wayan Balawan (see page 3-4).

We have been pleased to have two wonderful visitors with us. Professor FX Widaryanto, one of Java's most famous dancers, has been in residence for the entire academic year, preparing students and community members for our annual gamelan and Javanese dance concert—this year an original production based on the Amir Hamzah stories. We have also had the pleasure of having Professor Mohd. Anis Md. Nor from the University of Malaya in residence this winter. Professor Nor is a world-renowned ethnochoreographer and a Michigan alum (see page 3).

Let me thank all those who have worked so hard this year in support of the Center for Southeast Asian studies at Michigan, particularly Professor Christi-Anne Castro, whose term as Associate Director is coming to a close, and the members of the executive committee, Deirdre de la Cruz, Nancy Florida, Fe Susan Go, Montatip Krishnamra, Nick Rine, and Carla Sinopoli. Finally, we have been pleased to have Kate Wright join CSEAS as program manager. Kate joins a wonderful support staff, including Nancy Becker, Esther Lee, Cindy Middleton, and Charley Sullivan. Thanks to each one of them for their hard work and dedication.

**Best wishes,
Allen Hicken, Director**

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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Center for Southeast Asian Studies 50TH ANNIVERSARY

In October 2010, we celebrated our 50th anniversary with a reunion for all our alumni, students, faculty, visitors, and friends. It was quite the event: we kicked off with an international conference focused on Southeast Asian studies across the disciplines, followed by an open house at the residence of **Linda Lim** and **Pete Gosling**, and continued the next day with a series of events, including a panel discussion and tours of the University of Michigan's museums. To cap it all off, we hosted a banquet dinner preceded by music from the U-M gamelan ensemble.



Alumni gather for gamelan music and mingling at Palmer Commons



Nancy Florida & Judith Becker enjoying the gamelan



Ed and Jade Vander Velde



Andrew Goss & John Ciorciari



Gigi Bosch-Gates, Sebastian Dettman & Will Redfern



From left: Allen Hicken, John Whitmore, Pete Gosling, Judith Becker, Gayl Ness, and Linda Lim.

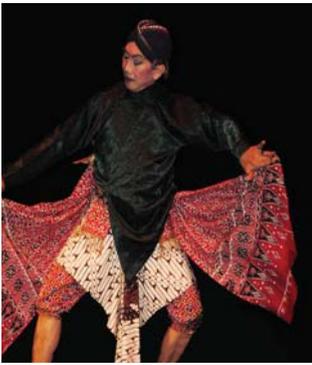
Photos by Esther Lee

Visitors to CSEAS



FX Widaryanto and his wife, Sri Saeni Sadmianti

CSEAS was lucky enough to host two visiting faculty members on campus this year, both of whom are no strangers to Ann Arbor. As part of a year-long Islam and Performing Arts initiative, **FX Widaryanto** taught Javanese dance and presented an original choreography of the Amir Hamzah story titled *Love Flows: An Islamic Dance Drama*. Amir Hamzah, the uncle of the prophet Muhammad, is a popular figure across the Muslim world, including in Java. FX Widaryanto is faculty at Bandung Institute for the Arts (STSI) and one of Java's leading choreographers and dancers.



FX Widaryanto in costume as Amir Hamzah

CSEAS welcomed **Mohd. Anis Md. Nor** to campus in the winter semester. He taught Contemporary Issues in Southeast Asia, CSEAS' introductory course for undergraduates, providing them with a thoroughly engaging view of issues facing researchers who work in Southeast Asia today. Many of our faculty participated in this course, making it a comprehensive introduction to the field. He also lectured in our Friday lecture series, participated in the Islam and Performing Arts conference, continued to work on his long-standing collaboration with **Patricia Matusky-Yamaguchi** ('80) on traditional music and musicality in Malaysia, and taught a mini-course on Islam and the Performing Arts in Southeast Asia. He has been a dynamic addition to the Southeast Asian studies community.



I Wayan Balawan plays his double-neck guitar

I Wayan Balawan and two members of his band, Batuan Ethnic Fusion, teamed up with two local jazz musicians, Olman Piedra and Adam Meinerding, for an evening of jazz-gamelan fusion as part of the U-M Museum of Art Jazz Series. Balawan packed the house and, with natural showmanship, entertained audience questions about his custom-designed double-neck guitar and Balinese gamelan.



I Nyoman Suwida & I Nyoman Suaisana, members of Batuan Ethnic Fusion, play at UMMA

The Gedney Collection at the U-M Library Provides the Key to Translating Ancient Thai Epic Tale

The Tale of Khun Chang Khun Phaen is an incomparable classic in Thai language, a folk epic that combines social panorama with grand storytelling, a love triangle, and a tragic death. Developed through oral tradition in the 17th century, it was written down in the 19th century, with two kings among its authors.

Chris Baker and **Pasuk Phongpaichit**, two leading scholars on Thailand, recently translated it in its entirety. They relied on the U-M Library's Gedney Collection to complete their translation. They used the 1890 Wat Ko edition of the epic, the world's only complete set in 42 small books. These volumes were bequeathed to the U-M Library by late U-M professor and famed linguist William Gedney. We owe our appreciation to Southeast Asian bibliographer, Fe Susan Go, who, as one of her first projects at U-M, oversaw the materials' preservation through microfilm. Because of her foresight, these materials can be used by scholars the world over without fear of damage. CSEAS and the U-M Library co-hosted a lecture and discussion of the translation by Chris Baker and Pasuk Phongpaichit, along with a workshop on translation for graduate students.

The Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: A Global Message



CSEAS participated in the campus-wide January 2011 Symposium in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by inviting human rights activist from Cambodia, **Theary Seng**, to campus. Theary Seng is the founder of the Cambodian Center for Justice and Reconciliation and the Center for Cambodian Civic Education. She is also the first recognized victim-civil party to confront Khmer Rouge leaders in a court of international law, and, as it happens, a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School.

Ms. Seng lost her parents and siblings to the Khmer Rouge when she was a small child. Her reiteration of Dr. King's message of peace only through justice was both poignantly heartfelt and piercingly analytical. She spent two full days on campus, giving two lectures on the legacy of Dr. King's message and participating in a film screening and discussion of *Who Killed Chea Vichea?* (Loud Mouth Films, 2010). This was CSEAS' second screening of this powerful film, which traces the impunity and violence with which the Cambodian government restricts the rights of its workers to organize. Ms. Seng was joined by U-M Law professor **Nick Rine** and Ford School professor **John Ciorciari**, who offered their insight into contemporary Cambodian politics.

Deputy Chief of Mission Sek Wannamethee, Royal Thai Embassy, with Montatip Krishnamra's Thai language classes. The Deputy Ambassador came to Ann Arbor to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps in 2010. The first Peace Corps volunteers from U-M went to Thailand.



Faculty News

Agustini (Asian Languages and Cultures) continues to be very involved in the development of Indonesian instruction in the U.S. through the State Department's Critical Language Scholarship program and collaborative university projects. She organized the Center's Southeast Asian Film series and received funding from U-M's Center for Global and Intercultural Study to take undergraduates to Indonesia this summer.

Richard Atienza (Asian Languages and Cultures) enjoyed his first year teaching U-M students and also managed to find time for professional development. He participated in the Interagency Language Roundtable training in Monterey, California and in a workshop in Madison, Wisconsin, to develop oral proficiency guidelines for Filipino. He will also represent U-M at the University of the Philippines-Baguio City's national summit on Filipino language.

Christi-Anne Castro (School of Music, Theater, and Dance) spoke on the state of music scholarship on the South Pacific at a UCLA conference. She also accepted a position on the editorial board of *Asian Music*, the academic journal of the National Society for Asian Music.



John Ciorciari (Ford School of Public Policy) besides co-organizing CSEAS' 50th Anniversary conference, traveled to Jakarta in December and to Siem Reap, Cambodia in March as part of his Asia Society Fellowship. In Siem Reap, he attended a conference focused on building bridges between young scholars in Southeast Asia and the United States. In February 2011, he presented a paper at the University of Pittsburgh on regional responses to the rise of Chinese naval influence in the Indian Ocean and South China Sea. His book, *The Limits of Alignment: Southeast Asia and the Great Powers Since 1975* (Georgetown University Press) came out in fall 2010.

John Ciorciari at CSEAS' 50th Anniversary Conference.

Nancy Florida (Asian Languages and Cultures) was named director of the Islamic Studies Program (ISP), a unit in the International Institute, and in that capacity organized, with Susan Walton, a conference on Islam and Performing Arts. Her appointment to ISP reflects the growing awareness among scholars of Islam of the importance of Southeast Asia to their field.

Kathy Ford (School of Public Health) traveled to Thailand for several months beginning in February. She visited the Institute for Population and Social Research at Mahidol University to work on a number of projects related to HIV and migrant populations in Thailand. These included post-traumatic stress disorder and other health impacts of unrest on the population in southern Thailand.

Beth Genné (School of Music, Theater, and Dance), in addition to playing in the gamelan ensemble at CSEAS' 50th Anniversary Reunion and in the annual gamelan concert, gave a paper at a London conference on Dame Ninette de Valois, the founder of the Royal Ballet in England, in April.



Webb Keane (Anthropology) was a visiting professor at Cambridge University in May 2010, where he organized a conference on religion and morality in Southeast Asia. He also gave lectures at Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia; Australian National University; and the Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna, Austria.

Webb Keane confers with Melani Budianta at CSEAS' 50th Anniversary Conference.

John Knodel (Emeritus, Sociology) continues his research on HIV/AIDS and aging populations in Thailand and Cambodia. He spent the winter semester in Thailand and made frequent trips to Cambodia to coordinate a network of researchers of the Michigan Center for the Demography of Aging at the Institute for Social Research. This team recently completed a collaborative analysis comparing Thailand and Cambodia to be published in the journal *AIDS Care*.

Victor Lieberman (History) attended a conference near Angkor on the Impact of Climate on the Ancient Mekong Basin in January sponsored by Columbia University. He is also writing a paper on the influence of climate on the history of mainland Southeast Asia, c. 800-1830 with Professor Brendan Buckley of the Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory at Columbia University.

Rudolf Mrázek (History) will present a paper on Dutch texts on colonial internment camps in the Dutch East Indies at the 2011 Conference on Colonial and Post-Colonial Connections in Dutch Literature in Berkeley this September.

Paz Buenaventura Naylor (Linguistics, retired), gave a talk at the Syntax Support Group Meeting in the U-M Department of Linguistics in March.

Gayl Ness (Emeritus, Sociology) spent the winter semester as a visiting professor in the School of Social Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang. There he has given lectures and guest-taught while enjoying his time in the country that started off his fieldwork.

Thuy'Anh Nguyen (Asian Languages and Cultures) presented at the GUAVA workshop, a group dedicated to Vietnamese language instruction, at Yale last fall. She also presented at the UC Language Consortium Conference in April 2010. She continues to take students regularly to Vietnam, and has a trip planned for this summer.

Dean Yang (Ford School of Public Policy, Economics) received a grant from the International Policy Center in the Ford School of Public Policy to continue his research on how jobseekers in the Philippines find information.

Susan Walton (Residential College) organized a conference on Islam and Performing Arts with the support of CSEAS and the Islamic Studies Program. She also put on the annual gamelan concert, this time with the artistic direction of visiting artist FX Widaryanto.



Emil Robles and Janine Ochoa, February, 2011

We welcomed **Janine Ochoa** and **Emil Charles Robles** for their brief stay on campus this February. Janine is assistant professor of Anthropology at University of the Philippines and a specialist in zooarchaeology. She worked in the Museum of Zoology while she was here. Emil is a research associate at the Archaeological Studies Program of the University of the Philippines and conducts spatial analysis using GIS. He worked on the Guthe Collections in the Asia Division of the Museum of Anthropology. The two are Luce/ACLS grantees in East and Southeast Asian Archaeology and Early History. They found the collection at U-M remarkable for the completeness of its artifacts and enjoyed themselves in Ann Arbor, despite the snowstorms. Janine noted especially Ann Arbor's vibrant but small-town feel and the warm welcome she got from **Carla Sinopoli**. This is the second time U-M has received a Luce/ACLS grantee to use the Philippines Collection.



Susan Walton sings with U-M gamelan ensemble at CSEAS' Reunion, Palmer Commons

Student News

Saul Allen (Asian Languages and Cultures) has spent the academic year in Jakarta with the support of a Fulbright fellowship. His dissertation topic focuses on new historical narratives emerging in post-reformasi Indonesia.

Radaphat (Pae) Chongthammakun (Information Science) produced two papers from her 2010 research in Thailand, funded by a Thai Studies grant from CSEAS.

Dashini Jeyathurai (English) finished her preliminary exams this semester. She also will publish an article in the *Asian Journal of Women's Studies* (2010/16-3) and contribute a chapter regarding the Malaysian Tamil "rubber estate girl" to an edited collection by **Adeline Koh** (PhD '08 Comparative Literature) and Yu- Mei Balasingamchow called *Troublesome Women in Asia: The Politics of Gender in Singapore and Malaysia*.

Alyson Jones (Ethnomusicology), former member of the U-M gamelan ensemble and student of **Judith Becker** and **Christi-Anne Castro**, won a 2010 ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award from the Rackham Graduate School for her dissertation on Tunisian women's ensembles, titled *Playing Out: Women Instrumentalists and Women's Ensembles in Contemporary Tunisia*.

Cynthia Marasigan (History), a member of the Philippine Study Group Student Association while she was at U-M, filed her dissertation '*Between the Devil and the Deep Sea: Ambivalence, Violence, and African American Soldiers in the Philippine-American War and Its Aftermath*' in August 2010. She is a postdoctoral fellow in the Asian American Studies Program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



Dominic Nardi (Political Science) has three articles coming out soon. He wrote an entry on environmental law in Southeast Asia for the *Berkshire Encyclopedia of Sustainability*, and will have an article about constitutional courts in Burma in the *Australian Journal of Asian Law*, and another article about constitutional courts in the Philippines for the *Columbia Journal of Asian Law*.

Dominic Nardi asks a question at the CSEAS reunion

Pirasri Povatong (Architecture and Urban Planning) successfully defended his dissertation, *Building Siwilai: Transformation of Architecture and Architectural Practice in Siam during the Reign of Rama V, 1868 – 1910*, in January, 2011. Professor Gavin Shatkin called his dissertation an "excellent piece of work." Pirasri is on the architecture faculty at Chulalongkorn University and recently authored a popular book on architecture in the era of Rama V.

Charley Sullivan (History) is returning to the doctoral program in History. He received a Fulbright for research next year in Solo, Central Java. He danced in *Love Flows: An Islamic Dance Drama*, and presented a paper on the eruption of Mt. Merapi and political contention over the special political status of Yogyakarta, Indonesia, at the Eisenberg Center for Historical Study in February. He has an article forthcoming in *Education About Asia*. He continues to work at the International Institute.

Jennifer Walker (Law) received an International Institute Individual Fellowship to work as a summer legal associate at the Document Center of Cambodia.

Winter semester has been an active time for both undergraduates and graduate students in Southeast Asian Studies. We enjoyed a plethora of cultural nights sponsored by student associations, starting off with the Vietnamese Cultural night and continuing with the Thai Cultural Night, Indonesian Cultural Night, and Malaysian Cultural Night. All of the events offered regional food and cultural performances, put on by the students themselves.

The Philippine Study Group Student Association (PSGSA) at U-M held its second annual symposium “Filipino Studies and its Diaspora” in March. The symposium provided a space to assess the state of the field and its future directions, and conversations that developed in that space were wide-ranging and continue to develop. Organizer **Sony Bolton** (doctoral student in the Program for American Culture) said of the conference, “We believe that Michigan is the best place in the country to do work on Filipino Studies. We are fortunate to have a critical mass of faculty and graduate students here working in the area of Filipino Studies and so we hope to build intellectual momentum for our field at the University of Michigan and beyond.”

A group of our graduate students across disciplines organized **Southeast Asia Reading Group (SEAR)**. They meet to discuss each other’s work and read works of common interest. Current graduate students were energized by the Fall Conference, and, with the support of CSEAS and the Luce foundation, are organizing a follow-up graduate student conference and workshop in fall semester 2011.

Two recent graduates, **Rachel Palmer** (B.A., Near Eastern Studies and Political Science) and **Katharine Barcy** (B.A., French and Linguistics), have both received Fulbright English Teaching Assistantships. Rachel Palmer is in Indonesia, and Katharine Barcy is in Vietnam.



Chip Zuckerman and Dan Birchok at CSEAS conference



Laichen Sun and Hao Jie at CSEAS conference

Students Abroad

An Urban Planner in the Making:

SEAS-215, the Center's introductory course for undergraduates, inspires a profession

By Tanya Meftah, Southeast Asian Studies Major, 2012.



Tanya, on left in, Vietnam

I have spent the past five months living in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam participating in an academic year study abroad program run by the Council on International Education Exchange (CIEE). I attend the Vietnamese University of Social Science and Humanities which is located minutes away from downtown Ho Chi Minh. Here, I study a range of topics from Vietnamese language, culture and literature to foreign policy and economics. Through this program, I also lived in Phnom Penh for one month and traveled to the spectacular temples of Angkor in Siem Reap.

Aside from learning in classrooms I have been enthusiastically delving into Vietnamese culture by meeting friends and living with a Vietnamese family. During my free time I enjoy eating at one of the many street vendors who sell different varieties of food, fruits, coffee, and other products. Vietnam's street culture forces interactions to be more personable. Vietnam is an exciting place to be living in, given its rapid progress of development. Every month the streets are decorated with a new office building or restaurant. Despite the crowded traffic of the city and its happenings, people are extremely friendly and move at a slow yet efficient pace. In my eyes, the Vietnamese people are by far Vietnam's most charming attribute.

I became interested in Southeast Asian Studies in 2008 when I took Contemporary Issues in SEA (SEAS-215). I knew little about the region and figured that most Americans knew little as well. After taking that course, I wanted to become a connection between SEA and the United States by raising awareness about impoverished living conditions there. I hope to work on rural development projects in Southeast Asia in the future. Living here, it is clear that there is a lot of work to be done in this field. By studying Southeast Asian Studies at University of Michigan, I hope to attain my goal of becoming an urban planner and work in underdeveloped areas of the region.

Building Bridges in Vietnam:

A Hanoi University student reflects on her interactions with U-M students

By Yen Phung, International Studies, Hanoi University, Vietnam



Photo credit: Yen Phung

I joined a dynamic group of American and Vietnamese students in the U-M Global Intercultural Experience for Undergraduates Vietnam 2010 trip to experience Vietnamese history and culture while getting actively involved in social work. My perspective about the war comes from family elders and history class at high school, but emotions about war came up when I had the chance to visit museums and historical sites with American and Vietnamese students. On the one hand, I felt sorry for what had happened during the war but on the other hand I am so happy that post-war friendships can flourish between Vietnamese and Americans. What I really looked for after each visit is not war facts but how people recover to build good relationships for a better future.

I really appreciate that the GIEU program created opportunities for both U-M and Hanoi University students to bring about mutual understanding between two nations' young generations.

Social work was a very meaningful and important part of the trip. We rolled up our sleeves to plant trees in kindergartens in mountainous A Luoi and played with kids and painted a mural of their dreams in an orphanage center in Da Nang city. Such activities brought my friends and me closer to local people so we could understand their lives. As young people we could contribute something both physically and spiritually to the children and local people we met. I treasure wonderful memories with GIEU 2010 and hope for this program to continue annually so that more students will be able to have great experiences and memories like I did.

Language Lecturers Make All the Difference



Service learning in Vietnam

Often, the spark that ignites a lifetime of passion for Southeast Asia begins in a language classroom or on a study abroad trip. Our language lecturers, **Agustini** (Indonesian), **Richard Atienza** (Filipino), **Montatip Krishnamra** (Thai), and **Thuy'Anh Nguyen** (Vietnamese) make all the difference when it comes to bringing Southeast Asian Studies to life for U-M's undergraduates. This summer, they will lead trips to Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Agustini will lead 16 students on a GIEU trip to Java, focusing on ecology and local culture in a global economy. This will be her second trip with students on the GIEU program, which draws students from across the university. Montatip Krishnamra will take eight undergraduates, from a range of disciplines, to Thailand on a trip titled The Tastes of Thailand, studying

different facets of Thailand: religions, foods, architecture, urban development and planning and foreign relations. This is her third trip with U-M students to Thailand. Last year, Thuy'Anh Nguyen took 12 U-M students and four Hanoi University students on a trip through Vietnam also through the GIEU program. They volunteered at various locations during their journey. This summer, she plans a similar trip, with 14 U-M students and 4 Hanoi University students, and they will travel to Vietnam and Laos, looking especially at development.



Thuy'Anh Nguyen's students in Vietnam, 2010

Awards

Beverly Shangkuan, graduate student in the School of Music focusing on choral conducting, won the **Barbour Scholarship** for 2011-12. Administered through Rackham Graduate School, this award was established in 1914 for women of the highest academic caliber from Asia.

The **Albert D. Moscotti Best Paper Award** went to **Ismail Fajrie Alatas**, for his paper “Apprehending Authority and Genealogy: A Tale of Two *Haul* in Contemporary Central Java.” Aji is a student in the Anthropology-History joint doctoral program.

The **Judith Becker Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Research on Southeast Asia** went to **Marco Garrido** for his paper “The Ideology of the Dual City: The Modernist Ethic in the Corporate Development of Makati City, Metro Manila.” Marco is a student in the Sociology doctoral program.

Sebastian Dettman received a Rackham student research grant for travel to Indonesia. He’ll be doing fieldwork in Aceh for his thesis.

Our four language faculty selected their best language students to receive **CSEAS’ Best Language Student Award**. The winners were: **Sean-Matthew G. Calo**, first-year Filipino; **Xing Heng Kwa**, second-year Thai; **Minh Trieu Dang** for Vietnamese, and **Nina Bhattacharya** for second-year Indonesian.

The following students won summer Foreign Language and Area Studies awards: **Steve Beers** (Vietnamese); **Sebastian Dettman** (Vietnamese); **Mai Ze Vang** (Thai).

Thai Studies Research Awards

These awards are made possible by the Amnuay-Samonsri Viravan Endowment for Thai Studies

Dr. April Bigelow (School of Nursing), to support on-going collaborative research with doctors from the Thai Ministry of Health on non-communicable disease surveillance systems.

Radaphat Chongthammakun, graduate student in the School of Information, for dissertation research on the contributions of technology to government and international development.

Professor John Ciorciari (Public Policy), to support a trip to Thailand in summer 2011 to focus on his research on the Thai-Cambodian border dispute surrounding the ancient temple of Preah Vihear.

Professor Kathleen Ford (Public Health), to support her collaborative research with faculty at Mahidol University on the impact of violence on migration and well-being in Muslim populations of Southern Thailand.

Emeritus Professor John Knodel (Sociology), to support his collaborative research with Chulalongkorn University Faculty of Nursing on aging, the elderly, and family support in Thailand.

Jonathan Moore, graduate student in Urban Planning, for his summer 2011 internship at Dynamic Engineering Consultants Company of Bangkok.

Southeast Asia Research Awards

Professor Christi-Anne Castro, for her participation in the University of Philippines School of Music Conference on Southeast Asian music scholarship. Professor Castro will present a paper titled “Cultural Histories of Philippine Music,” a topic drawn from her forthcoming book, *Musical Renderings of the Philippine Nation* (Oxford 2011).

Professor Rudolf Mrázek, for his participation in the 2011 University of California-Berkeley Conference on Dutch Literature. Professor Mrázek will present a paper titled “Beneath Literature? Imprisonment, Universal Humanism, and (Post)Colonial Mimesis.” The paper focuses on narratives of imprisonment and internment camp experiences in New Guinea.

Professor Fred Wherry, for a research trip to Thailand to continue work on his book project, *Cultural Entrepreneurship*, which he is writing jointly with Professor Luechai Chulasai of Chiang Mai University.

Thai Endowment Events

Dinner Celebrates US \$1 Million Raised for Amnuay-Samonsri Viravan Endowment for Thai Studies



Dr. Amnuay Viravan

At an alumni gathering in June of 2008 held in Bangkok, Michigan alum, **Dr. Amnuay Viravan**, laid out a bold vision. He challenged those present to build on seed funds from the Royal Thai Embassy and work to raise US \$1 million to support Thai Studies at the University of Michigan. Pledging his own substantial support, Dr. Amnuay set a goal of three years for completing the endowment. On November 15, 2010, more than 6 months ahead of schedule, Dr. Amnuay hosted a dinner in Bangkok to announce and celebrate the successful completion of this goal. Around two dozen supporters of the Amnuay-Samonsri Viravan Endowment for Thai Studies gathered in Bangkok, including members of the U-M Alumni Association, Thailand, headed by **Anant Keskasemsook**, representatives from several Thai and American corporations, a representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and two representatives from the University of Michigan, **Peggy Burns** (Assistant Dean, LSA) and **Allen Hicken** (Director, CSEAS).

Director Hicken shared with the group CSEAS' priorities as they relate to the use of the endowment, including involving more students and faculty with Thailand, promoting collaboration between Thai and U.S. scholars, and raising awareness of Thailand within Michigan and the United States. Dr. Amnuay then took the floor and talked about his commitment to philanthropy, including his work for the Thai endowment, and thanked all those present for their support.

Donor Profile: Vichai Sriprasert

The Family Business



Mr. Vichai Sriprasert

Vichai Sriprasert (BA '67), president of Riceland International Ltd. Thailand, says he has made two good decisions in his life. The first was to marry his wife, Rose. The second was to attend the University of Michigan. The families' ties to Michigan are extensive. Vichai's brother, Dr. Meechai Sriprasert interned at the University Hospital. Rose's brother, Edward Yee had an engineering degree. The couple's daughters, Jennifer (BSEIO '97) and Lisa (Business Administration '08), are also U-M graduates.

Vichai, the first in his family to attend college in the U.S., credits U-M for opening doors for him. "Graduating from U-M has been a big plus. Everywhere I go saying I graduated from Michigan pushed me up...Michigan gave me knowledge and skills that I have used my whole life." As an economics major he also appreciates his liberal arts education for broadening his horizons. Riceland International is a global company and because of an education in liberal arts "I can talk to audiences all over the world and can make connections that I wouldn't make otherwise."

Vichai and his daughters argue Michigan has an important role to play in better training students to be world-class global citizens. Both Jen and Lisa recognize that Michigan's diversity is one of its chief strengths. "Every school talks about diversity but at Michigan I was surrounded in every class by people from all over the world, from all different types of background," reports Lisa. Jen agrees, saying "Michigan gave me a totally new perspective and new outlook on the world."

Development Priorities

The Center for Southeast Asian Studies continues to build on our established strengths, expand faculty and student ranks in what is still an under-studied but dynamic part of the world, and offer opportunities for learning about Southeast Asia to our community. To support the following initiatives, please visit www.ii.umich.edu/cseas.

Undergraduate and Graduate 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, setting them on course for a life-long interest in the region. These funds also support graduate study. We continue to attract the very best young students interested in the region, and do our best to support their education, even in these lean economic times.

The Amnuay-Samonsri Viravan Endowment for Thai Studies

This fund allows us to fund all manners of engagement with Thai Studies. We have used income from the endowment to support undergraduate and graduate student travel to Thailand and faculty and graduate student research in Thailand. We also encourage more U-M faculty to include information about Thailand in their curriculum through curriculum development grants.

Gamelan Endowment

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

Indonesian Studies Initiative

Indonesian Studies has long been a strength of 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.

Philippine Studies Endowment

Initiated by generous gifts from the Filipino community in Southeast Michigan, 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.

Alum Donates Burmese Harp



After years of care and attention, **Patricia Matusky-Yamaguchi** (PhD, Ethnomusicology, '80) has decided to donate her *saung-gauk* to the University of Michigan. The *saung-gauk* is a harp from Burma, made from the root of the *saung* tree. While it will not be the only harp of its kind in the collection, it is distinctive for its large size and its origin as a performance instrument. Dr. Matusky-Yamaguchi worked with Clifton Monteith, a local artist, to restore the lacquer and decorative gold leaf, a process which has taken years and is now finally finished.

Dr. Matusky-Yamaguchi wanted the instrument to become a resource for other scholars, and at the urging of Professor William Malm, her mentor in the School of Music, Theater and Dance, she decided to donate it to the University. Patricia Matusky-Yamaguchi teaches at the Traverse City campus of Grand Valley State University.

The saung-gauk on its stand; October 2010. Photo credit: Clifton Monteith

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From left: Montatip Krishnamra, Paul Bancel, Jay Yoshioka, Tutu Phimviengkham, and Gigi Bosch-Gates



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New and old friends gather for the CSEAS 50th Anniversary reunion celebration in the Atrium at Palmer Commons.



Center for Southeast Asian Studies

50TH ANNIVERSARY

