

SOUTHEAST ASIA CENTER

NEWSLETTER / AUTUMN 2010

Notes from the Director, Laurie J. Sears, History

This is a revised excerpt from a co-authored essay by myself and Assistant Professor Francisco “Kiko” Benitez (UW Comparative Literature) entitled “Passionate Attachments to Area Studies and Asian American Studies: Subjectivity and Diaspora in the Transpacific” for a volume being edited by Janet Hoskins and Viet Nguyen of the University of Southern California called *Transpacific Studies: Culture and Capital Between Asia and the United States* to cross long-standing boundaries between area studies and American Ethnic Studies.



In her book *The Melancholy of Race*, Anne Anlin Cheng asks: “Is there any getting over race?” Cheng questions why psychoanalysis and philosophy consider a notion of mourning that successfully kills off the missing person as normative, and melancholia, a form of depression, that keeps the missing person alive as non-normative. In this light, Cheng suggests there is no getting over race, and Freud’s ideas of working through do not/cannot work through race without positing a privileged European norm. What do questions arising from psychoanalysis and literary studies subject formation bring to debates over area studies and American ethnic studies? Scholars and subjects of area studies and Asian American studies are not marginal to questions of psychoanalysis and empire. They are rather at the heart of them. We suggest that Lisa Lowe’s call in *Immigrant Acts* to understand the heterogeneity, hybridity, and multiplicity of Asian America can best be understood when articulated alongside studies such as Malaysian historian Sumit Mandal’s questioning of racial divisions in Malaysia, or Ayu Utami’s attempt to blur ethnic differences in her fiction on postcolonial Indonesia.

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SOUTHEAST ASIA CENTER

Student Interest and Activism Leads to a Khmer Language Program at UW

Seattle is home to a large Cambodian American community and interest in Cambodia and Khmer studies and language has been building here at the University of Washington for almost ten years. It is with great pleasure that we announce the formal introduction of a beginning 5 credit Khmer language course here at the University of Washington in Autumn quarter 2010. The course is funded by the Southeast Asia Center through the U.S. Department of Education and will be taught by Nirorth Chhan. Ms. Chhan, a native Khmer speaker, trained with Khmer language specialist Frank Smith at the University of Wisconsin's Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute (SEASSI) and will continue to work with him throughout this year to develop the course for UW students. Plans are underway to eventually add intermediate and advanced Khmer over the next four years.

Interest in Khmer language at the University of Washington has grown since 2001 when a highly motivated group of students from the UW Khmer Student Association (KhSA) organized a non-accredited Khmer language class on campus. The group met on their own time at various locations on campus and after graduating, their efforts were picked up by incoming students interested in studying Khmer language. One of these students was Nirorth Chhan.

While the idea of having a formal class for Khmer language at UW wasn't new, it moved to a new stage in winter quarter 2010 while the Southeast Asia Center was preparing to submit a proposal for its next four years of funding from the Department of Education. However, the UW administration had to sign off on the proposal before it could be submitted. Hearing about this, the KhSA rallied and helped to create a petition that would convince the UW higher administration to allow the class to move forward. The petition was signed by over 400 UW students, alumni and community members, and the funding request was put in motion.

Chariya Thach was one of the UW students involved in this important process. She writes: "Establishing Khmer language courses at the University is very important because it honors the diverse Cambodian population that lives in Seattle and the Tacoma area. From my own experience it gives me a sense of empowerment and community to be able to not only speak but also read, and write in my language, to see my mother's proud eyes when I one day asked her for

help on an assignment that required her knowledge and expertise. It also gave her a sense of empowerment that the language will not be lost. It is important to not only learn about the language, but also to learn the history, and the implications of why so many Cambodians are here."



UW students after taking the Khmer language placement test in April 2010

"Islamic Law in the Courts: Judicial Interpretation of Shari'a in Modern States"

In June 2009, the law school hosted a scholarly conference entitled "Islamic Law in the Courts: Judicial Interpretation of Shari'a in modern states." The conference was organized by Associate Professor Clark Lombardi and attended by leading specialists in Islamic law from around the world. With its historic strengths in Asian and Comparative law and Development law, the University of Washington Law School has been a pioneer in the study of law in the Islamic world.

At this conference, experts from around the world (all specializing in different parts of the Muslim world) presented translations of a contemporary court case and an analysis of it. Panelists also discussed the methodological challenges of studying court cases, and some lessons that that the study so far has taught to scholars and policy makers. The goal of the conference was, ultimately, to seed the ground for a long-term, international, interdisciplinary study of Islamic law as it actually applies in the courts of Muslim countries. Such a project will have both theoretical implications for academics and policy implications for nations around the world.

Rewriting Difficult Dialogues Community Performance

Theresa Ronquillo and Tikka Sears

"If you say a word often enough, it becomes you, you become the word."

--Anna Deavere Smith

"Rewriting Difficult Dialogues," an extension of the Ford Foundation funded project, "UW Difficult Dialogues: Engaging Southeast Asian American Pluralism" was a 3-quarter course offered over the 2009-2010 academic year. The course emphasized learning and "doing" creative research methodologies and nontraditional approaches to knowledge and pedagogy.

Co-instructors Tikka Sears (JSIS/Drama) and Theresa Ronquillo (Social Work) conceived and developed this new class and community theater project. The class structure was collaborative, student driven, and project based. Because of the course's innovative combination of field research, community engagement at different levels of the process (ethnographic interviews, working with community performers, community feedback on the development of the performance), and theater production, this class appealed to a variety of undergraduate and graduate students and majors, including JSIS, American Ethnic Studies, Political Science, CHID, Biology, History, and Social Work. Importantly, students had the opportunity to bring personal, family and community narratives alive through the retelling and enacting of these stories in the rehearsal process. In this way, the students played a significant role in knowledge production.

In the Fall quarter of this innovative new team-taught course, a small group of undergraduate and graduate students conducted Photovoice projects and oral history interviews and wrote an original theatrical script based on Southeast Asian American stories of migration, identity, exclusion, and rediscovery. The students drafted the script based on interviews that they conducted with individuals and community organizations connected with Southeast Asia. During winter quarter of 2009, five students continued to hone and research the script and make connections with local Southeast Asian American community members and organizations. All of this set the stage for spring quarter, when students rehearsed and produced the play "Ribbons To Roots: The Threads that (Un) Bind Us." Some of the students also focused on practicing dialogue facilitation skills and engaged audience members in an informal conversation about the play following the performance. Participants and audience members alike learned that language and stories are powerful.

The re-interpretation, re-telling, and re-enactment of these stories was an attempt to not only learn about the people who shared their stories, but to see ourselves in these stories, to see our families in these stories, and importantly to learn more about ourselves as: Immigrants. Refugees. Children of immigrants and refugees. Citizens. Sisters. Brothers. Sons. Daughters. Parents. Students. Teachers. Performers. Friends. Allies. Advocates.

As co-instructors, when we started this endeavor, we did not know what to expect. We come from different disciplines (Social Work and Drama/Area Studies), with different community experiences, developing and implementing a new, innovative class that remained under the institutional radar for much of the year. Would we get along as co-instructors? How would we collaborate and communicate? Would students enroll? Would they be freaked out by having to perform? Would community members trust us and want to work with us? Would people come to our performance? How are we going to continue these important conversations beyond our event?

This was a labor of love with many challenges and successes. Despite all of our differences in background, experience, worldview, and generation, we found ways to collaborate and to understand each other. To see students realize how important their family stories and histories are, to see stories come to life, to see students break out of their shells, to see them work together to make this performance and community dialogue event a reality—this was the greatest reward.



Theresa and Tikka will continue to offer workshops, courses and to work with SEAC faculty on innovative pedagogy. They presented their work at the Race Knowledge Conference in May 2010 and will also present at "The Story Room: A Narrative Healing Festival" at the School of Social Work on November 20, 2010.

2010 Southeast Asian Studies Graduate Student Conference

Allan Lumba (History)



The eagerly anticipated 2010 University of Washington Southeast Asian Studies Graduate Student Conference took place on the weekend of May 14 and 15. The two day conference brought together 23 graduate students from UW, University of Hawaii-Manoa, New York University, Tufts University, and John Hopkins University. The conference marked the culmination of over a year of preparation and organizing on the part of a key group of UW graduate students (Matt Walton, Hoang Ngo, Micaela Campbell, and Allan Lumba) with the generous advice and support of staff and faculty from the Southeast Asia Center. In planning for the conference, we wanted to break away from the more traditional conference model of paper presentations and instead create the scholarly conditions for a more productive experience through the incorporation of peer review and workshop elements.

The peer review and workshop format not only required graduate students to present scholarly papers, but to also read and provide critical feedback on one of their peers' papers. Paper presenters were clustered into groups under the guidance of our invited keynote scholars: University of Oxford's Carlo Bonura, University of California-Berkeley's Penny Edwards, Cornell University's Eric Tagliacozzo, and UW's Ben Marwick. The invited scholars read each of the graduate student papers assigned to their clusters

and then collectively brought together the multiple themes and motifs represented. The final section of each panel was especially valuable, for it opened up discussion to the audience, allowing for the free exchange of dialogue that both drew from, and at the same time reached beyond, expertise specific to country, time period, or discipline.

Additional funding from various departments in the humanities and social sciences, as well as from the UW Law School, the Simpson Center for the Humanities, and the Jackson School of International Studies provided much-needed support for associated events, such as the "Methods" and "Professionalization" themed lunches, that allowed for networking and community building on the equally important, though oftentimes neglected, personal level.

In addition, it was the conscious promotion of Southeast Asian studies community building that was especially appreciated by both visiting graduate students and invited scholars. Indeed, our conference attempted to bridge the seemingly ever widening gap between professionalized disciplines and country-specific studies. For example the conference would cluster together a paper dedicated to comparative analysis of government policy toward Islam in Southeast Asia with a paper focused on the political meanings and conditions of an Indonesian art collective. Another panel paired together a paper on an anthropological study of gift money in Southeast Asia with a paper that utilized social theory in Burmese American visual and performance art. In this spirit of traversing boundaries of disciplines and genres, the weekend also featured a whole panel dedicated to archaeological studies and findings in Laos.

Participants and visitors alike were struck by the impressive and intimate community that we have built in UW Southeast Asian Studies. We hope that the Southeast Asian Studies Graduate Student Conference will be a continuing feature of academic life here at UW, bringing together exciting new work from local and visiting scholars in order to strengthen and foster Southeast Asian Studies, Area Studies and the broader intellectual community. ■

“Beyond Borders: Alternative Voices and Histories of the Vietnamese Diaspora” An International, Interdisciplinary Conference-Workshop

Judith Henchy, UW Libraries/JSIS

This Winter 2010 Conference/Workshop, the third in our series “Alternative Voices and Histories in Viet Nam: Colonial Modernities and Post-colonial Narratives” continued to break new ground, both in terms of its interdisciplinary content, and its conceptual re-framing of Southeast Asian Studies through engagement with Asian American Studies and Francophone studies. This was achieved in part through the generous participation of our co-organizers and keynote “dialoguers” Profs Mariam Lam (University of California at Riverside) and Prof. Jack Yeager (Louisiana State University).

This gathering brought into dialog theoretical considerations of diaspora from a range of temporal and geographic perspectives, and through a variety of disciplinary lenses. The “keynote dialog” brought together Vietnamese Francophone literary scholar, Jack Yeager with Vietnamese American scholar Mariam Lam for a deeply thought-provoking discussion about understandings of belonging and alienation within the shifting linguistic and cultural boundaries of colonialism, war and loss. This discussion was in line with our proposed method of inviting critical discussion of how language, place and time influence ideas of home and exile, and established a working framework which was to guide discussion through much of the subsequent working sessions, with their broad foci on aesthetics, community and identity formation, and transnational circulation.

The conference was able to closely engage with theoretical models of post-colonial studies and literary theory, ideas not yet well integrated into Southeast Asian studies itself. Consideration of the theoretical work of Asian American Studies, a field where these ideas have a firmer hold, brought a refreshing new focus to the history and political economy of Vietnamese diasporic communities under consideration at this conference. The work of defining the liminality of the diaspora as an analytical tool and a field of knowledge production through which to reflect upon, and complicate, such epistemological certainties as

ethnography, historiography and the archive, greatly contributed to our objectives of defining “alternative voices and histories” of Viet Nam.

The public conference portion of this event experimented with an innovative structure: conference panels were organized with an emphasis on commentary from fellow panelists, and Q&A from audience members, with less emphasis on author presentation. This audience was drawn from campus and Seattle communities, undergraduates from Asian American studies, as well as local community members, including two teachers from local community colleges, and the general audience. The keynote event, our “Dialog on Diaspora,” drew a packed-house audience. ■

Ariel Heryanto Gives April 8 Global Focus Southeast Asia Lecture



On April 8, 2010 the Southeast Asia Center hosted Professor Ariel Heryanto, Head of the Southeast Asia Center at the Australian National University, as our 2010 Global Focus Speaker. His talk, “Becoming Religiously Hip: Middle Class Muslims in Indonesian Pop Culture”

can be found at <http://vimeo.com/123666699>. While in Seattle, Professor Heryanto visited with Southeast Asian studies faculty and graduate students and spoke in undergraduate classrooms. His visit and research on media, popular culture, film and literature prompted lively discussions about and plans for an exchange between UW SEAC and ANU SEAC that will involve faculty and graduate student travel between the two universities over the next four years.

The 2011 Global Focus Lecture will be given by Professor Patricio Abinales (Kyoto University) on March 9, 2011 at 7:00pm in Kane Hall, UW.

Update on the Archipelago Arts Education (LPSN) collaboration with SEAC: “Strengthening Multicultural Awareness through Education in Arts and Culture”



A grant to LPSN, an Indonesian arts and education NGO, in collaboration with SEAC, was made possible by funds from the Stocker Family Fund (see SEAC Newsletter 2009). The grant is aimed at supporting further development and expansion of the innovative arts education curriculum and teacher training of LPSN in Indonesia. “Strengthening Multicultural Awareness through Education in Arts and Culture,” a workshop conducted in July 2009 provided a space for interaction and dialogue on arts and culture among students and teachers from various regions and cultural backgrounds. Participants included 160 teachers and students (junior and senior high schools and equivalent level religious schools and vocational schools) from 8 provinces across Indonesia: North Sumatra, Jakarta, West Java, East Java, North Sulawesi, Central Sulawesi, Bali, and West Nusa Tenggara. This week-long event provided a multicultural forum for teachers and students from different parts of Indonesia to share their arts and ideas. The workshop also provided a continuing forum for LPSN curriculum which is being piloted in 12 provinces in Indonesia, and explored the wealth of arts and culture across the archipelago, acknowledging, encouraging and respecting the region’s diversity.

As part of LPSN’s collaboration with SEAC, SEAC Outreach Coordinator and Artist Teacher Training Specialist Tikka Sears and UW history graduate student Micaela Campell were able to attend the workshop as representatives of UW. The workshop and related

meetings provided an excellent opportunity to see LPSN activities and to discuss future plans for the two institutions to work together. We were also very pleased that Andrew Bouchard of the Stocker Family Foundation and his family came to Lombok, participated in the workshop and had a chance to meet with the LPSN teachers, students and staff, and see their work. With support from the CFSCC, SEAC plans to continue to support the activities and teacher training programs of LPSN by bringing LPSN teachers and staff members to Seattle during the 2010-2014 grant cycle as well as to support the LPSN Madrasah curriculum project. Arts education included: a teachers’ workshop, student workshops, student debates, exhibition of student artwork, and performances. Of particular note was a public lecture entitled “Teror, Demokrasi dan Kebudayaan” (Terror, Democracy, and Culture) delivered by writer and public intellectual Goenawan Mohamad. In the lecture, Goenawan condemned the terrorist action of the bombing of the Hotel J.W. Marriot and Ritz Carlton Jakarta on July 17, 2009. In the speech GM said, “Democracy accepts differences and innovation as a given, something which can not be ignored. And in this way it differs diametrically with terrorism. Terrorism starts from an attitude, if something is flawed, if something is imperfect, if something is different –the one way to deal with it is to destroy it. But as we can see from the bombing in Jakarta two days ago, in the end terrorism is just a form of desperation moving towards a desperate end. Terrorism continues to be frightening in its uncivilized way, but those feelings of trembling in fear will not last for long. People, including Indonesians, will move on, history will not come to an end.” ■



Dance workshop instructors Eko Supriyanto (ISI Surakarta) and Muslimin (ISI Surakarta) introduced basic elements of dance involving body movement, space, time, imagination, and energy.

Dissertation Writing Workshop in Indonesia

This spring, the University of Washington's Institute for Transnational Studies, housed in the Jackson School of International Studies, funded a rare gathering of five UW graduate students in Asian Studies (four from the Department of Anthropology and one from the Department of Forestry) and one faculty member for a dissertation writing workshop. A guesthouse in the hills of West Java, Indonesia, not far from Jakarta, provided a comfortable and constructive setting. Graduate students from the Department of Anthropology included Cheryll Alipio (whose dissertation concerns circuits of capital in Philippine migrant families), Mia Siscawati (who is conducting field research on the social histories of scientific forestry in Indonesia), Yu Huang (who works on shrimp aquaculture in China), and Anusorn Unno (who is investigating Muslim identities in Southern Thailand). Graduate student Asep Suntana from the UW's Department of Forestry presented his work on biofuel and public policy in Indonesia. Associate Professor of Anthropology at the UW, Celia Lowe, who was in Indonesia on a Fulbright fellowship studying controversies over the avian influenza epidemic in Indonesia, led the workshop. Two other Indonesian participants, Suraya Afiff, head of the Graduate Program in Anthropology at the University of Indonesia, and A. Hadi Pramono,



Pictured left to right: Yu Huang, Asep Suntana, Anusorn Unno, Cheryll Alipio, Celia Lowe, Suraya Afiff, Mia Siscawati, and A. Hadi Pramono

graduate student in Geography from the University of Hawai'i, also joined the group. The workshop offered an excellent opportunity for PhD candidates working on topics related to Southeast Asia and China to obtain new insights from cross-disciplinary discussion and regional comparison, while also making progress towards completing their dissertations. At the end of the workshop, time was set aside for sightseeing before the participants had to return home. ■

Report on the Advanced Study of Thai Program in Chiang Mai



The UW Southeast Asia Center continues to be the administrative home for the successful Advanced Study of Thai (AST) program, a consortial advanced language offering, involving U.S. universities with area studies emphases that focus on Thailand. During the period June 21-August 13, 2010, AST provided third-year level Thai to a group of nine US students (six graduate students and three undergraduates), using funding from the US Department of Education/Fulbright-Hays. Instruction took place at Chiang Mai University and was provided by instructors drawn from the Faculty of Humanities. Affiliate Professor Thomas Gething, who also coordinates SE Asian language matters for the Center, is the PI for the grant.

Student News

2009-2010 FLAS Awardees

William Arighi (Comp Lit/Filipino)
 Joseph Bernardo (History/Filipino)
 Sylvia DeTar (Music/Indonesian)
 Chris Grorud (History/Indonesian), Summer
 Ethan Lucas (Marine Affairs/Filipino)
 Allan Lumba (History/Filipino)
 Matthew Nicdao (English/Filipino)
 Matthew Nicdao (English/Filipino), Summer
 George Radics (Law/Vietnamese)
 Lyna Sin (UG, JS-BAIS/Khmer), Summer
 Linda Uyeda (JS-MAIS/Indonesian)
 Natalia Woodward (Marine Affairs/Filipino)

2010-2011 FLAS Awardees

William Arighi (Comparative Literature/Filipino)
 Anna Bosch (Law/Indonesian)
 McKay Caruthers (History/Indonesian)
 Chris Grorud (History/Indonesian)
 Mark Mabanag (Anthropology/Indonesian)
 Marites Mendoza (English/Filipino)
 Matthew Nicdao (English/Filipino)
 Jon Olivera, Jon (History/Filipino)
 Phimmasone Rattanasengchanh (JSIS/Thai)
 Ralph Ricco (Marine Affairs/Vietnamese)
 Caleb Stewart (Law/Public Affairs/Thai)

2009-2010 Thomas and Mary Kay Gething Award Recipients

Cheryl Alipio (Anthropology), chair of panel “New Visions, New Publics,” and paper presentation “Melancholy Contemplation: Letting Go of Flor and Other Liberating Moves for Filipino Migrants and their Children” at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting in Philadelphia from December 2-6, 2009.

Chelsea Combest-Friedman (SMA), “Responding to Climate Change in Central Philippine Coastal Areas” at the 22nd International Conference of the Coastal Society from June 13-16, 2010 in Wilmington, NC

Cirse Gonzalez (SMA), “Marine Resource Management at the Community Level: Using Social network Analysis to Examine the Role of Influential Actors” at the 22nd International Conference of the Coastal Society from June 13-16, 2010 in Wilmington, NC

Ethan Y. Lucas (SMA), “Management Scenarios for outer Danajon Bank Double Barrier Reef, Central Philippines” at the 22nd International Conference of the Coastal Society from June 13-16, 2010 in Wilmington, NC

Turner Pittkin (SMA), “Potential Tourism Support for a Marine Protected Area in Danajon Bank, Philippines” at the 22nd International Conference of the Coastal Society from June 13-16, 2010 in Wilmington, NC

Kathryn Schleit (SMA), “Integrated Coastal Management: Addressing and Adapting to Contemporary Issues in the Central Philippines” at the 22nd International Conference of the Coastal Society from June 13-16, 2010 in Wilmington, NC

Matt Walton (Pol Sci), “Judging Without Concepts: Buddhist Meditation Practice as Poststructuralist Political Praxis” at the 2010 conference of the Western Political Science Association, April 1-3, 2010 in San Francisco.

Woonkyung Yeo (History), “Development, Labor and Spatial identities: Javanese Workers in Palembang in the 1950s” at the AAS Annual Meeting, March 24-27, 2010 in Philadelphia

2010 Charles and Jane Keyes Travel Award for Graduate Student Research

The 2010 Charles and Jane Keyes Awardee is Evi Sutrisno (Anthropology). After 3 decades of repression under the New Order regime (1966-1998), the Confucian religious communities in Indonesia have enjoyed the state acknowledgment as the sixth official religion. However, in daily life these communities are still struggling to get the recognition from other institutions, communities or individuals such as civil administrative offices, schools, and other religious communities. Ms. Sutrisno’s research examines the efforts and struggles of Confucian communities to adjust the state’s requirements of official religion, such as how to fit their religious concepts into the state’s discourse of monotheism. Her research also pays attention to how these communities defend their religious identity against questions about legitimate religion and how they struggle to exist amidst conversions to other religions. Together with a travel grant from the Anthropology department, the Keyes travel award will enable Ms. Sutrisno to visit and build networks with different Confucian communities in Surabaya (East Java), Medan (North Sumatra), Pangkal Pinang (Bangka) and Tangerang (Jakarta).

Dissertations Defended

Cheryll Alipio defended her dissertation “Affective Economies: Child Debts, Devotions, and Desires in Philippine Migrant Families” in December of 2009. Dr. Alipio is now a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Asia Research Institute of the National University of Singapore. Based on 15 months of ethnographic fieldwork conducted between 2006 and 2007 in San Pablo City, Philippines, her dissertation project explored how the children of overseas Filipino workers make sense of households bereft of one, sometimes both parents, and asked what then becomes of existing ideas of childhood as children actively navigate from various imaginations and spaces an increasingly complex process of becoming and belonging in a household and community where norms about kinship, categories of identity, and systems of reciprocal obligations and behavioral expectations are susceptible to continuous transformations and adaptations. As a compendium of the debts, desires, and devotions that structure the daily activities of children inhabiting a migratory world, Alipio’s dissertation found that children’s engagement with capital and reciprocity is an integral part of the affective economy of the family. In this economy, children’s actions through language, discourse, and praxis expresses a desire for connection and a drive for affection, or for substitutes of affection like money and gifts, in place of parental deficiencies in direct love and presence.

Patrick McCormick defended his dissertation on June 11, 2010. His research focused on the Mons, now a minority group living in Thailand and a Burma, but who in Southeast Asian historiography are considered to have one of the founding civilizations in the region. A close reading of the largest Mon historical and literary text revealed that it was either translated from Thai, or came from the Mon community of Siam, whose language came to replicate features of the Thai language. Despite the fact that this text had been available for almost one hundred years, no scholars seemed to notice the source of the unusual language before. McCormick’s dissertation considers the social and intellectual contexts in which both “local” Mon scholars, and more widely “international” scholarship on Burma operate, trying to understand some of the assumptions that frame what we can and cannot see or conceptualize about history and historical sources.

Welcome Southeast Asian Studies MA Students

Enrique Bonus (Amer Ethnic Studies/SEA MA Prog. Coord.)

All of us at SEAC are pleased and excited to welcome our inaugural cohort of graduate students in Southeast Asian Studies. They are Aubrey W. Black, Hunter Marston, and Gai-Hoa T. Nguyen. Aubrey majored in Political Science and Economics at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington, and is interested in studying environmental policy in relationship to rural economies. He spent a year in Thailand as an exchange student. Hunter is from Brookline, Massachusetts, studied Classics and Religion at Skidmore College, and became interested in Asia when he went to study abroad in a Burmese vihar in Bodh Gaya, India. He taught English in Vietnam for two years and is involved in doing a research project on civil society in Burma, for a Bangkok-based advocacy group. Gai-Hoai, originally from Viet Nam, is from Tacoma, Washington. She graduated from Pacific Lutheran University with majors in Global Studies (with an emphasis on Social Justice and Development) and Spanish, including a minor in English Literature. She was recently involved in a research project that took her to Oaxaca, Mexico, and is now ready to move on to her interests in Vietnam history and society. Our graduate program entailed several years of preparation, so now we are witnessing the products and continuing process of our commitment to advanced, sustained, and critical learning of Southeast Asia using our expertise, resources, and wealth of opportunities for our community of scholars that now includes our new graduate students. Welcome and more power to all of us.

Also a Warm Welcome to These New Southeast Asia Graduate Students

Mi Mi Thin Aung, Social Work
David Carlson, Archeology
Anna S. Cohen, Archeology
Nguyen Diu Huong, History
Seungki Kwak, Archeology
Julie Malakie, Archeology
Mei Feng Mok, History
Mike Rattanasengchanh, JSIS
Hari Wibowo, Museology

SEAC Alum, Orlando de Guzman launches Website: <http://archipelago.tv>



Archipelago TV combines advances in mobile digital technology with unflinching reportage on pressing issues – human rights, conflict, corruption – to create the finest in video journalism. Its founder Orlando de Guzman has worked with the BBC, PBS and Al Jazeera International as a correspondent, director, producer and editor.

Whether filming warring clansmen in the Philippines or victims of military atrocities in Indonesia, Archipelago TV's aim is simple: to capture compelling human stories from unreported communities in Asia and beyond that challenge our assumptions and provoke us into action.

Center Staff News

The Center welcomes Gai-Hoai Nguyen, an incoming SE Asian studies M.A. student, who will be assisting in office management and outreach projects.



Welcome also to SEAC Alum, Chariya Thach who is working as an intern in the Center and managing the SEAC Facebook account. Join us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Southeast-Asia-Center-at-the-University-of-Washington/170175334579>

University-of-Washington/170175334579



Igorots on Campus: Legacies of the Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition

John Olivera (History)

In 1909 a group of Igorots from the highlands of the northern Philippines performed as savages on the University of Washington campus for a run of nearly five months as part of the Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition (AYP). While the legacies of the built environment of the AYP are celebrated and still noticeable on the University of Washington campus today (like Drumheller Fountain and the Rainier vista for instance), few people remember that the Igorot Village drew the largest audiences and grossed the most money for an individual display during the course of the exposition. It is a history that has literally been paved over by decades of development at UW throughout the twentieth century.

The Igorot Village fit into the overarching pedagogy of the AYP and other fairs by showcasing a “primitive” society within the splendors of advancing American civilization. Such juxtaposition was part of projecting Seattle as the primary urban center of the Pacific Northwest with the University of Washington providing the venue. Some of the Igorots who performed in Seattle were initially recruited to perform at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis in 1904, where they became a huge attraction. The eating of dogs and daily headhunting dances invariably drew large numbers of fairgoers to the display. The Igorot Exhibition Company materialized out of the success of the St. Louis fair, and the group of roughly fifty Bontoc Igorots went on to perform at the Lewis and Clark Exposition in Portland in 1905, and at various carnivals and state fairs up until their arrival in Seattle in the spring of 1909.

During the summer of 2009 a multitude of celebrations were held across the Seattle region to commemorate the centennial of the Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition. In celebration of the centennial to the AYP Igorot Americans and Igorot Canadians erected an Igorot Village at the Seattle Center as part of the 2009 Pagdiriwang (an annual festival put on by Filipino Americans in Seattle). The event showcased many of the same attractions found at the AYP one hundred years prior: g-strings, headhunting dances, looms and weaving, an assortment of Igorot products for sale—even photos with a participatory audience. While Igorot Americans took the occasion to celebrate the beginnings of their history here in the Pacific Northwest, many Filipino Americans demanded an official apology from the city and the University of Washington for sensationalizing the “savagery” of Philippine peoples. These differences show that the legacies of the Igorot Village still resonate strongly in the Seattle region today.

Jon Olivera is a Ph.D Candidate in History and a current FLAS recipient. He is doing dissertation research on the AYP Exhibit and will be in the Philippines for the 2010-11 academic year.

Judith Henchy Receives 2010 Distinguished Librarian Award



The Distinguished Librarian Award recognizes “excellence in librarianship, especially as it benefits the academic community through innovative approaches to practice, research, teaching and learning.” In addition to her work nationally, with the Association for Asian Studies, Committee of Research Materials on Southeast Asia (CORMOSEA) and for the Center for Research Libraries (CRL) in Chicago, Judith Henchy received the award for two decades of work establishing the Southeast Asia Section of UW Libraries and building Southeast Asian research materials into an internationally-known Collection. Crossing international borders to collect library materials has long been a part of Henchy’s efforts to grow the collection. But even her projects and goals as a librarian cross international boundaries. In 2009, the Vietnamese Ministry of Culture, Sport and Tourism recognized Dr. Henchy for her role in creating a microfilm preservation unit in the National Library of Vietnam, and making hundreds of titles from the early Vietnamese press available to US researchers through CRL. Among other things she is currently working to create a transnational digital collection of Thai research materials, funded through a Dept of Ed grant. The Southeast Asia Center congratulates Judith Henchy on this well deserved honor.

Prof. Celia Lowe in Yogyakarta

Associate Professor Celia Lowe spent the past two years teaching at Universitas Sanata Dharma and conducting research on Avian Influenza working on what she calls an “ethnography of a virus.” Recall the swine flu scare that made its way through the United States in 2009? Lowe studied the H5N1 strain that created concerns in Asia just prior to our own pandemic. H5N1 is a highly pathogenic virus (80% mortality rate in Indonesia) that luckily has infected only a very few (less than 300 people in Indonesia) but which caused concerns over a global pandemic on par with the deadly 1918 Influenza pandemic. Indonesia was asked to play a special role in stopping the potential H5N1 pandemic since Indonesia has had the greatest number of cases, and Indonesians have responded in a variety of ways which Lowe studied. While some Indonesian scientists looked upon the virus as a chance to participate in cutting edge International science, others, like the Indonesian health minister, feared that it might be a new form of International hegemony. Conspiracy theories even speculated that the US had engineered the virus to gain commercial advantage. Lowe was also teaching cultural theory at Universitas Sanata Dharma, a Jesuit university located in Yogyakarta. Having conducted her dissertation research on the social aspects of biodiversity conservation in a remote part of the island of, she really appreciated the opportunity to know Indonesia from cosmopolitan Yogyakarta.



Celia Lowe in Indonesia at Airlangga University's biosecurity level 3 avian influenza laboratory.

(Continued from page 1)

Notes from the Director, Laurie J. Sears, History

In the complex struggles over and against national identity and belonging, ethnonationalist racisms moving from Southeast Asian and into Asian American discourses on race often reconfigure differences, thus erasing distinctions between Ilocano and Cebuano, Javanese and Sundanese, or Chinese and Singaporean. Such ethnic biases, reconfigurations, and erasures have much to offer when studied together. American ethnic studies and area studies are entwined because of the overlapping time of their emergence as scholarly discourses, and both are affected by similar traces left by U.S. imperial desires. Both came into focus and scholarly prominence at the same moment of the 1960s, in the imperial context of the EuroAmerican Cold War and the hot wars of Viet Nam, Cambodia, and Laos, a time period that also saw the rise of new movements around feminist, ethnic, racial, and sexual identities. Both scholarly discourses emerged out of the ferment of new imperial formations, and both included places and peoples to be studied as marginal and/or exotic, often as objects, only sometimes as subjects. While area studies was a government response to the pressures of the Cold War and thus directed by the state, ethnic studies arose out of activist struggles for academic recognition and inclusion. Both fields have had fraught and complex relations with U.S. nation-building.

Transnational studies of imperialism and Asian American studies are both interdisciplinary and timely, but they also call scholars of area studies away from situated knowledges and potential political commitments. Debates about the end of nationalism or the remaining saliency of the nation-state system are based on ideological understandings of this system that also maintain it. Clearly, juridical formations like passports, global taxation, and transnational capital, maintain the “bounded seriality” that can be counted, stored, and retrieved, in Benedict Anderson’s terms. While Masao Miyoshi argues that from the point of view of global capitalism, transnationalism erodes the sovereignty and the efficacy of the institutions and narratives of nation-states, Linda Basch and her colleagues argue that from the point of view of

transmigrants and their social practices and labor, the transmigrants have to negotiate within the power structures of the various nation-states. They must take part in multiple nation-building projects across the borders of social fields. Implicit in this argument is the transmigrant’s need for community and identity in order to function in the multiple social fields that they inhabit. Transnationalism in this case shades off into situated diasporic communities in which migrants dwell. Thus, as the subjects constructed in Southeast Asian and Asian American narrative lose their attachments rooted to place, their identities are effaced or transformed in different ways. What do they gain in the process? What questions about the ethics of sociality and community do they foreground? What scholarly practices do they engender? What kinds of post-foundational and post-essentialist understandings are available to scholars in the face of urgent political demands? How do our own academic enclosures within the global imperial field make our productions of knowledge of service to what Pierre Bourdieu and Loïc Wacquant have called the “cunning of imperialist reason”? What sort of transnational collaborations can remain attuned to emerging social forces and blocs whose interactions are producing new intellectual constellations today to challenge imperialist reason?

From 2010 to 2014, SEAC will continue to be a U.S. National Resource Center for the study of Southeast Asia with plans to introduce the study of Khmer at UW, continue collaborations with Indonesia’s Institute for Education in the Arts of Indonesia (LPSN), support collaborations with UW professional schools and Seattle community colleges, continue to offer FLAS grants for language study to graduate students and begin to offer them to undergraduates, participate in Jackson School conferences on Global Health, Islamic Law, Filipino and Malay/Indonesian Literatures, set up new study abroad programs, and a host of other initiatives. As SEAC moves into the coming four year period with new funding it has received from the Department of Education Title VI Program, these questions raised by Benitez and Sears above are ones that some of SEAC’s scholars and students hope to engage.■

Southeast Asian Studies Bids Farewell to Colleague Constance Wilson

Charles F. Keyes (Professor Emeritus, Anthropology)

I am very sad to report that Professor Constance M. Wilson, an historian who devoted her career to the study of Thai and Mekong region history, passed away in Portland, Maine on February 17, 2010.

I first met Constance in 1959 when we both began study of the Thai language at Cornell University. Our careers and lives were intertwined from Cornell days on. Constance, Jane, my wife, and I along with David Wyatt, another member of our Thai language class, were in Thailand in the early 1960s where we carried out our respective researches for our dissertations. Constance's dissertation, "State and Society in the Reign of Mongkut, 1851-1868: Thailand on the Eve of Modernization," remains one of the defining works on the socio-economic history of Siam in the mid-19th century.

After completing her PhD she continued to pursue pioneering work on Thai economic and demographic history. Her *Thailand: A Handbook of Historical Statistics* (1983) and the volume, *Royalty and Commoners: Essays in Thai Administrative, Economic, and Social History* (1980) of which she was senior editor, are foundational works for the study of late premodern Siamese history.

In the 1980s she launched a new project on the study of history of the Thai-Burma-Yunnan frontier. She was senior editor of two volumes resulting from this research -- *The Burma-Thailand Frontier over Sixteen Decades: Three Descriptive Documents* (1985, with Lucien M. Hanks) and *The Middle Mekong River Basin: Studies in Tai history and Culture* (2009). She had been very anxious to finish the latter book; fortunately it was published before her death.

Constance left her research materials to Northern Illinois University and these will be available there for consultation by other scholars. I know from a 'tour' that she gave me of her extensive computer archives that other scholars will be able to benefit greatly from her meticulous research.

Constance spent much of her career (from 1968-2002) at Northern Illinois University. After her retirement she decided to relocate to Seattle where she became an

affiliate professor in the Southeast Asian Studies Program in the Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington. She was an active participant in the program's events. She also took advantage of the cultural resources in Seattle, attending concerts and plays and making regular visits to the Seattle Art Museum. A birthright Quaker, she became an active member of Friends Meeting in Seattle. Jane and I joined in a memorial service for Constance held at the Friends meeting house in Seattle.

In 2009 she moved to Portland, Maine, to be close to her mother. She was able to spend her final days there among family and friends. ■

Calendar OF EVENTS

2010-2011 Southeast Asia Center Calendar Highlights (see <http://jsis.washington.edu/seac/events.shtml> for complete calendar listing).

Oct 15. Performance: An Evening of Indonesian Dance

Oct 16. Film Screening: Dukot. Producer Bonifacio Ilagan, director Joel Lamangan, and the lead actor in attendance.

Oct 20. Southeast Asia Center Annual Fall Reception.

Nov 5. Film Screening and Presentation- Rithy Panh's One Night After the War and Burnt Theater.

Nov 6. "Lives of Angkor Wat" Speaker: Boreth Ly, Asst Professor of Art History & Visual Culture, UC Santa Cruz.

March 9. Global Focus Southeast Asia Lecture, Dr. Patricio Abinales (Kyoto University).



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