

SOUTHEAST ASIA CENTER

The Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies / University of Washington



NEWSLETTER / WINTER 2014



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On the cover:

Nobodycorp. Internationale Unlimited,
Wiji Thukul (The Planted Seed), 2013.

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Notes from the Director, Laurie J. Sears

Last fall as I was preparing for the new teaching year, I had a different teaching experience in store for me. It was not just a trip to Asia to give lectures to Indonesians, Thai, Filipinos, or Burmese as I have done before, but it was to teach a three-week course on Southeast Asian History and Culture in Brunei with a co-teacher from Brunei. The program was being run by the East-West Center in Hawaii under the direction of Dr. Terry Bigalke in collaboration with the University of Brunei Darussalam. The interesting part was that the students would be educators and mid-level diplomats from all of the ASEAN countries, around 50 students in all.

Having taught Southeast Asian history and culture for the past 25 years, this is not a subject that was new to me. But, by being positioned in Southeast Asia and having the students all be professionals from Southeast Asia, it made the experience quite unique. Over half of the students were from island Southeast Asia, either Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, or the Philippines and this is where the history became very interesting. A Southeast Asian past I had long associated with Java and Indonesia was suddenly in contention with historical claims by Malaysians and Filipinos. Which was the earliest Muslim kingdom? Who did receive the mantle of authority after the city-state of Malacca was conquered by the Portuguese in 1511? Western scholars have long believed it was Johor and/or Perak. But in my classroom, these were contested histories. Was it the Bruneians who came to the rescue of the Visayan islands from Spain or did the Filipinos help out the Bruneians when their wealth was being plundered by the Portuguese in the 16th century and later?



Professor Sears' Diplomatic and Professional Bruneian Students in traditional clothing at the University of Brunei Darussalam (UBD) in November 2013 during the first year of the Brunei-US English Language Enrichment Project for ASEAN, a collaboration of the East-West Center and UBD.

These histories were ongoing debates and I, as a foreign scholar, needed to tread gently around all of our long held conceptions of Southeast Asian pasts. My classroom became a laboratory where different views of the past were debated and defended. This is unlike most American classrooms where the students have little introduction to Southeast Asian history before they take one of my classes. I realized that I was expected to credit either Johor or Brunei for where the authority went in 1511 because both nations claimed it. In the classroom I felt as though I were being vetted for accuracy by all the Southeast Asian nationals who took part in the course. The Cambodians were particularly sensitive to my portrayal of the American bombing of their country and subsequent war with the Vietnamese and the U.S. I gave them a chance to present their interpretations of that historical period to the class as part of their final class project.

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Library News: University of Washington Acquires the Robert Jones III Collection on Indochina

Dr. Judith Henchy, Head, Southeast Asia Section, Suzzallo and Allen Libraries

The Robert Jones III (1942- 2011) Collection on Indochina is a significant corpus of materials amassed by the former Foreign Service Officer during his long sojourn at the US Embassy in Saigon at the height of the conflict in Viet Nam, 1966-1975. Reportedly the longest-serving officer to have returned from the war, Jones was a serious bibliophile who collected not only the contemporary materials readily available to him on the street in Saigon, but actively sought out books in the antiquarian market and even forged relationships with brokers in what was at the time the

the war through systems analysis). Besides the books and files, the collection contains an extremely valuable archive of journals, mostly dating from 1960s and 1970s Saigon. While many of the over 80 journal titles are represented only by scattered issues, over 20% are as complete, or more complete, than any holdings in US libraries.

The collection also includes editions of many French and Franco-Vietnamese writers from the early and mid-colonial period whose work demonstrates the progression from early colonial literary exoticism to a new Francophone literary genre much admired in post-colonial scholarship for its critical insights into war, dislocation and loss. For instance, Pham Duy Khiem's *Mélanges* appears not to be held by any US institution. The Jones collection is particularly valuable, however, for its focus on Vietnamese and Franco-Vietnamese authors writing in the late colonial period, during the Franco-Viet Minh War (1946-54) and into the period of US engagement. These works are less known and not widely held.

The collection is remarkable in the scope of its coverage. As a collector, Mr. Jones was both knowledgeable and remarkably discerning in his ability to predict the value of what at the time may have been perceived as commonplace ephemera. It is noticeable that he collected not only the literary works of the most prominent writers of the 20th century, in both French and Vietnamese, but that he acquired a number of curiosities that will provide great richness to future social histories that are now providing new depth to the historiography of Viet Nam. In this new era of historical and literary scholarship our understanding of what constitutes an archive has also shifted; moving away from official records of government and parties towards cultural and aesthetic productions. Such textual artifacts are exactly what are found in abundance in the Bob Jones collection; not just literary productions reflecting all areas of 20th century Vietnamese life, Northern and Southern, but the peripheral aesthetic products of the everyday: fashion magazines, health and wellness treatises, body-building magazines and other tracts referencing the leisure industry. Among these leisure activities are most prominently those associated with tourism and travel. Particularly in the wake of the "discovery"

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hostile Democratic Republic in the North. The result of his long career as a book collector, both in Southeast Asia, and following his return to the US, is probably one of the most comprehensive and diverse collections of materials on Indochina in French, Vietnamese, and English to be found anywhere in private hands. The collection comprises over 3,500 book titles, many of them extremely rare, and some 10% of which are not held at all in any libraries represented in the OCLC database. Amongst these rare titles are items as diverse as literary works in French or Vietnamese by writers from the 1930s to the 1960s, treatises on colonial law, climate, agriculture, geography and history. The largest and most valuable concentrations of materials amongst the book titles, however, are the Vietnamese and French literary titles, and the English language materials related to the US conflict in Vietnam. As a civilian officer serving in the CORDS (Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development) administration of the US military operation, Jones had access to internally distributed documentation and reports; included in his collection are six boxes of his working files and photographs relating to his CORDS work, particularly his involvement in the creation of the computerized Hamlet Evaluation System (one of Secretary of Defense McNamara's attempts to win





Thai Monk Visits UW and Delivers Lecture on Coping with Life in the 21st Century

On June 16, 2013, The Thai Association of Washington (TAWA) and SEAC welcomed Venerable Phra Maha Wuthichai Vajiramedhi to speak to the general public in Kane Hall. The topic of his talk was “Coping with Life in the 21st Century”. The talk was in Thai with simultaneous translation.

A prolific writer and articulate public speaker, Ven. Vajiramedhi uses many forms of modern media to discuss Buddhist teachings, reaching audiences from all walks of life. Over 400 people from the UW campus and wider Seattle and Washington State communities attended. After the talk, Ven. Vajiramedhi led the audience in a walking meditation from Kane Hall to Drumheller Fountain.



Ven. Vajiramedhi leads participants through Red Square.

Anida Yoeu Ali, *Generation Return: Art and Justice Tour* Comes to UW

Kaitlin O’Neil

This spring the Southeast Asia Center welcomed artist, writer, and global activist Anida Yoeu Ali to the University of Washington. Ali visited the university as a part of her *Generation Return Art and Justice Tour*. Ali’s body of work spans a variety of mediums including performance, installation, spoken word poetry, public encounters, film, and political agitation.

Through her artistic work Ali attempts to inspire community healing and creation in Cambodia and the United States. Born in Cambodia and raised in Chicago, Ali returned to Cambodia on a Fulbright scholarship in 2011. As a member of the returning diaspora of artists and thinkers Ali works to create Cambodian narratives that extend beyond those of war and poverty. Her goal is to inspire Cambodians to use their creativity, personal histories and imagination to create a new national narrative. Ali believes that fiction and art have the power to unlock the possibilities of the human condition.

While a proponent of progress, Ali does not want Cambodians domestically or abroad to lose touch with Khmer history and tradition. According to Ali, “The most important part of preserving culture is to allow those traditions to live in the moment and to change as it needs to with the new generation.”

Ali’s presentation for the UW community focused on her current work with the Cambodian-American exile community. Ali is working to draw attention to Cambodian refugees who were deported from the US because they committed petty crimes in their youth. These men were sent to Cambodia, even though most of them had no personal ties to the country. Through art some of these men have found an outlet for their frustration and a way to regain their agency. In her latest film Ali together with Studio Revolt follows a member of the “deported diaspora,” Kosal Khiev, on his international journey as a spoken word poet.

Ali is raising awareness for the plight of the “deported diaspora” and advocating for their return to the United States. Many speakers visit the Southeast Asia Center every year, but those of us in attendance will not soon forget Anida Yoeu Ali’s presentation. Her passion, dedication creativity and commitment to social justice are contagious. Ali’s work tells her story and the story of her Cambodian family, but it also inspires others to think about their past and the common threads of humanity that connect us all.

Anida Yoeu Ali is the co-founder of Studio Revolt, an independent, artist-run media lab. She recently produced Cambodian Son, a documentary film that follows the journey of an exiled American spoken word poet, Kosal Khiev, from the streets of Phnom Penh to the stages of London during the 2012 Cultural Olympiad. See Ali’s work online at: studio-revolt.com and cambodianson.com



Anida Yoeu Ali



Report on UW Indonesian Studies

Desiana Sandjaja, lecturer in Indonesian

With support from SEAC and the Department of Asian Languages and Literature as well as the cooperation of the UW Indonesian Student Association, the Indonesian studies program sponsored a number of successful events throughout the year.

Movie Night (or “Layar Tancap”), which took place at the beginning of the academic year, proved to be so popular that we decided to make it a quarterly event. We were also pleased to be able to invite Dr. Mary Zurbuchen, the Director of the Ford Foundation International Fellowship Program, to give a talk on the social, political, and cultural discourses in contemporary Indonesia. Zurbuchen spoke about the controversial new documentary film, *The Act of Killing*, raising important questions about Indonesia’s recent past.

The Indonesian studies program also pioneered the first conference where advanced Indonesian studies students had the opportunity to present their research papers in Indonesian. This one-day conference drew interest both from the U.S. and Indonesia. We were honored to welcome the Indonesian Consul General, Mr. Asianto Sinambela from Los Angeles, to the event. This conference will be held as an annual event at the UW.

We concluded the academic year on a high note. In the spring, we supported the UW Indonesian Student Association when they hosted their cultural night entitled, “Keraton: The Treasured Traditions of Indonesia”. The evening’s performances and Indonesian cuisine drew hundreds of people from all over greater Seattle.



Mr. Asianto Sinambela with the 2013 Student Conference in Indonesian participants.

Visiting Scholars



SEAC welcomes **Dr. Kathrina Haji Mohd Daud**, who arrived in December 2013. Professor Daud is a lecturer in English Literature and Creative Writing in both the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddin Centre for Islamic Studies at the Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), Brunei’s national university. She holds a

PhD in Creative Writing (2011) from the University of Manchester, and is currently working on two research projects, *The Invisible Engine*, a documentary excavating the narratives of domestic workers in Brunei Darussalam, and *Fictional Muslims*, a comparative literary project examining representations of Muslims in contemporary Anglophone literature from Southeast Asia, Britain, and America. Recent work on this project has looked at the manifestation of Islam in Brunei’s oeuvre of ghost stories, and the influence of Western romance tropes on Indonesian “religious romance”, *Ayat-Ayat Cinta* (Verses of Love).

Professor Daud works with the Bruneian community theatre organization SEEDS, which focuses on providing youths with skills through drama education, and is interested in how to negotiate performative space within the strictures of religious and national law. In the past, she has been an active research member of the UBD Creative Industries Research Cluster, which has previously worked with the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports in Brunei in mapping viable Creative Industries infrastructure and policies for the nation. Dr. Daud is currently a Visiting Research Fellow at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies.



Ne Myo Aung, joined us at the end of July as the first Fulbright-supported scholar in any art-related field from Myanmar. Mr. Aung chose the UW for its excellent ethnomusicology program, and will be focused on studying English this year in order to prepare for his academic study of ethnomusicology in 2014-15.

He will be joining us for departmental events (concerts, lectures, workshops, special events) and hopes to spend time in the archives in study of the historic recordings of Burmese musicians by Robert Garfias.



Welcome Tagalog instructor Richard Atienza



Professor Atienza returned to Seattle in 2012 to teach Tagalog in the American Ethnic Studies Department. The following is an interview conducted with Professor Atienza by Lauren Pongan (SEA graduate student).

LP: Where were you living and/or working before coming to UW? What were you up to generally and professionally?

RA: Before returning to UW last year (I briefly took over Tagalog at UW in 2006), I was teaching Tagalog at the University of Michigan for two years.

LP: What inspired your passion for teaching? What is your pedagogy or what do you try to do in your classes?

RA: I have seen how education can transform and change lives, so I chose to become an educator myself. In teaching Tagalog language to foreigners, my pedagogy is based on the concept of learning by doing. After setting the stage for students to perform Tagalog (through vocabulary and basic grammar concepts), I target proficiency through various real-life situations, as well as practical and functional applications of the language.

LP: What is the most rewarding aspect of teaching?

RA: For me the most rewarding aspect of teaching comes later, when I see my former students succeed in their chosen career paths. With the help of social media and technology, the rewards are much more appreciated as my former students are now frequently able to share with me more of their recent successes and I'd still get messages of

appreciation from them every so often.

LP: If you moved here for your position at UW, how are you finding Seattle? Are you homesick for wherever you moved here from?

RA: I think I will always be homesick for the Philippines. I came to live in the US when I was already in my 30s so there's so much for me to miss back there. Seattle however has been a very kind second home to me. I have family here, a few friends, and lots of cheerful and bright students here at UW.

LP: What are some of your hobbies or other things you like to do outside of work?

RA: I used to be very active in choir music back in the day, but nowadays, I enjoy relaxing moments with people close to me, traveling, movies, and cooking at home.

LP: Are there any other projects/research/organizations with which you're currently involved?

RA: My most recent professional project was working on the National Research Centers-funded Oral Proficiency Guideline (OPG) Project for Filipino that was hosted by the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Instructors and lecturers in Tagalog from across the US attended trainings and workshops in order to brainstorm and gather data to support the canvassing of a standard OPG for the teaching of Filipino/Tagalog as a foreign language. Currently, I am working on a collaborative project with Western Washington University on translating documents and aiding in gathering data and responses from Filipino communities in light of the recent natural calamities that affected the Philippines.

Center Staff News

You may have crossed paths with our four student workers in the center as they work on various projects. Here is what they have been up to:

Mary Barnes: Mary creates materials for and collaborates on projects that interface with communities outside of the University. She is currently working with the Burke museum on their Philippines project (see page 11).

Chris Grorud: Chris works on SEAC publicity, website projects, and is our newsletter editor.

Kaitlin O'Neil: Kaitlin is working with Professor of Anthropology Celia Lowe on her Mellon Grant project, which seeks to engage faculty and students across disciplines to discuss risk in relation to climate change,

global health, vulnerability, and resilience. Kaitlin is also helping Dr. Lowe prepare for a Mellon Symposium that will be held at UW in the Spring entitled: *Climate Change, Global Health, and Risk: Natural Scientists and Regional Specialists Engage Vulnerability and Resilience*.

Lauren Pongan: Lauren is assisting both Tikka Sears and Sara Van Fleet as a graduate assistant for the Center. Her range of work includes communications, event planning and facilitation, community outreach, and coordination.

Molly Wilskie-Kala: Molly assists both the South and Southeast Asia Centers with everything from federal grant reporting, course lists, student queries to office management.



Center Faculty News

Professor Kiko Benitez (Comparative Literature) has taken a new position at Philippine Women's University (PWU). He is now the ninth President, and second male president, of the University (PWU). PWU has more than 20,000 undergraduate and graduate students combined. PWU was founded in 1919 by Professor Benitez's great aunt as the first secular school in Asia for women. At this point in time, PWU takes both men and women, and also runs a high school and several branch campuses. SEAC has often collaborated with PWU and will continue to do so in the future. Professor Rick Bonus (UW American Ethnic Studies) has led several students abroad programs in



Manila in collaboration with PWU. SEAC congratulates Prof. Benitez and looks forward to linking UW and PWU.

Former Senator and Educator Helena Z. Benitez (b. 1914) with Center Director Laurie Sears at Mira-Nila, her home and a Philippine National Heritage House, built in 1929. Photo taken by her grand-nephew and current PWU President J. Francisco Benitez in November 2013.

Professor Mary Callahan (Jackson School of International Studies) is currently in Burma for the year, witnessing the major changes taking place in the country. Earlier in 2013, she served as an advisor to former President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn, who were in Myanmar exploring the possibility of opening an office there to support democratic reform.



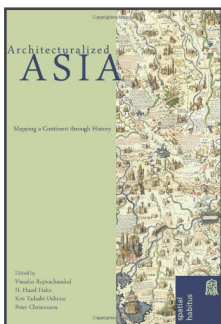
Charles Hirschman (Sociology and the Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs) talks about his sabbatical year as a Fulbright Visiting Professor at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur:

From the mid-1960s to the mid-1980s, I lived in Malaysia off and on for about 5 years. I was a Peace Corps Volunteer in a rural village for two years before I went to graduate school. I returned to Malaysia for my PhD dissertation research, and several years later when I was an assistant professor at Duke University, I took an 18 month leave-of-absence to work for the Ford Foundation in Malaysia. Then about a decade later, when I was at Cornell, I spent a sabbatical at the University of Malaya. My years in Malaysia were also a formative experience for my non-academic life as well. My wife was also a Peace Corps Volunteer in Malaysia—we met there, and one of our children was born there.

Then I took about a quarter-century break from Malaysia. Academic careers are often a tangled web of circumstance, and I was pulled in variety of new and interesting directions of research on other Southeast Asian countries and on the United States, as well as many years of administrative duties. Except for keeping in contact with Malaysian friends and an occasional conference or lecture, I had relatively little engagement with Malaysia since the 1980s.

A couple of years ago, as I was contemplating what should I do for my "last" sabbatical (prior to retirement), I realized that I really should return to Malaysia and discover what had happened to the country of my youth (and to me) with the passing of several decades. I applied for, and received a Fulbright research award, and an old friend invited me to be a visiting professor at the University of Malaya—the same university where I had spent a sabbatical in 1984.

The Malaysia of the 21st century is not the same country that I once knew so well. The most obvious change is the physical infrastructure with new highways, the expansion of cities, and mega malls everywhere. I am lost on many streets in Kuala Lumpur, the national capital, where almost every building has been replaced by high-rise office complexes and shopping centers. In spite of all these changes, our social and cultural reentry to Malaysian society was remarkably smooth. Culture, language, food, and politics have changed relatively little. Most importantly, we had friendships with Malaysians from every social status and ethnic community that welcomed us back as part of their extended families. Of course, some schoolgirls were now grandmothers and a quite a few old friends had advanced up career ladders, moved abroad, or retired. Many of our oldest friends had passed away, but their children represented new friendships. These old ties were quickly reestablished, and consequently we had a very active social life in Malaysia, mostly centered on participation in the



SEAC affiliate Professor Hazel Hahn's (History, Seattle University) new co-edited volume, *Architecturalized Asia: Mapping a Continent through History*, was recently published by the University of Hawai'i Press and Hong Kong University Press. Professor Hahn wrote an essay entitled, "Abstract Spaces of Asia, Indochina and Empire in the French Imaginaire."



activities of multigenerational families, including birthdays, weddings, and other gatherings. Malaysians love to eat, and almost any occasion is an excuse for a grand meal at home or in a restaurant.



It took me a few months to figure out my research agenda for the year. I spent several months trying to catch up with research literature, as well as the flood of new books on Malaysian politics, history, and ethnic relations. I was asked to give lectures in various settings, including a few guest lectures in university classes. The lectures gave me the opportunity to explore potential research ideas and to present preliminary research results. Much of my work was based on analyses of newly released Malaysian census microdata files distributed by the IPUMS (Integrated Public Use Microdata Samples) project at the University of Minnesota, which collects, harmonizes, and releases census data from around the world. I spent much of my early career trying to obtain census and survey data from the Malaysian Department of Statistics, but now the integrated data files from the 1970, 1980, 1991 and 2000 population censuses can be easily downloaded by academic users.

I am using these data for several new projects. One study is focused on the transformation of Malaysia from a labor surplus economy in the 1960s and 1970s to a full-employment economy of the 1990s. In recent decades, the dynamic Malaysian economy has attracted migrants from Indonesia, Bangladesh, and other Asian countries to meet labor demand in several critical sectors, including agriculture and manufacturing. My research on immigration to the United States has helped me to understand the demographic, economic, and ideological responses to Malaysia's contemporary labor shortage.

Race or ethnicity has been the critical fault line of Malaysian social stratification and politics. Many of my earlier papers had focused on patterns of ethnic inequality as well as the "construction" of race relations during

the colonial era. While preparing to give a lecture on how ethnic categories during the colonial era reflected European conceptions of race, I sought to make some comparisons to contemporary concepts and measures of ethnicity. I discovered that the impact of racial ideology on census classifications is not simply an historical topic. The "social construction" of ethnic categories in Malaysia is a rather sensitive topic, and I am still trying to figure out how to provide an "objective" interpretation to a very subjective phenomenon. Finally, I am also planning to write one or more papers on recent trends in ethnic inequality in educational attainment and occupational patterns. I had a good response to my lectures on this topic and was asked to write summaries of my lectures that were published as "op-ed" columns in a leading Malaysian newspaper.

All in all, our year in Malaysia was very rewarding, personally and academically. Many friends and colleagues wanted us to extend our stay there, but the pull of children, grandchildren, and the extraordinary environment of the University of Washington drew us home. Before I left for my sabbatical to Malaysia, I thought it was about time to retire. With my new research agenda, in addition to rediscovering how much I enjoy teaching and my scholarly life, I decided not to make a decision about retirement for a few years.

Professor Geoff Kushnick (Anthropology) received a Fulbright Scholars Award to study an increasingly rare cultural institution among the Karo Batak of North Sumatra, Indonesia—matrilateral cross-cousin (referred to as *impal*) marriage. During the research period, Professor Kushnick will visit 50 to 100 villages to find *impal* couples with which to conduct both open-ended and structured interviews. This will yield data on marriage, reproductive, and cohabitation histories, as well as information about the economic, political, and religious context of the marriages. The data will supplement historical demographic data he collected previously that show a steady decline in *impal* marriage from the 1940s to the 2000s. The research will serve as a case study in culture change, and an exercise in "salvage ethnography" as the opportunity to learn first-hand from people in this type of marriage may pass with the passing of a generation.





This past July, **Professor Randall C. Kyes** (Psychology; Director, Center for Global Field Study) received a Fulbright Specialist Grant to conduct a one-month program in Indonesia that involved giving lectures and conducting short field training programs focusing on “conservation biology & global health — at the human-environment interface.” During the program, Kyes visited and worked with colleagues at the University of Indonesia in Java; Hasanuddin University and Tadulako University in Sulawesi; and Andalas University in Sumatra. This award extended the collaborative partnerships that were established during a special Fulbright Recharging Program conducted by the University of Washington during the fall 2012 that involved hosting 14 senior scholars from Indonesia.



Professor Kyes with University of Indonesia students.

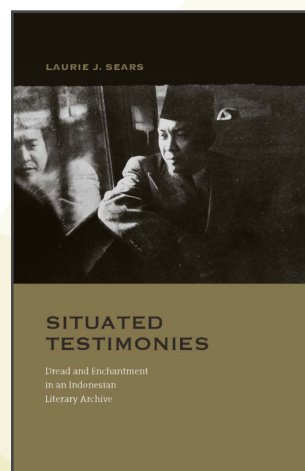
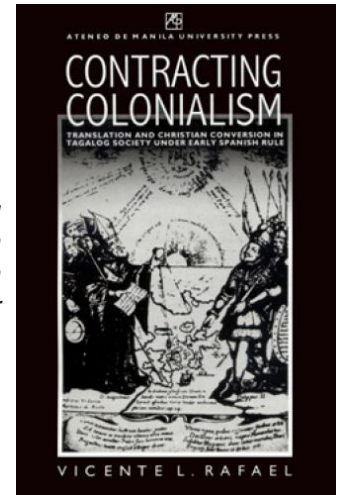
A decade-long study of the Sulawesi black macaque monkeys by Professor Kyes and his Indonesian colleagues from Sam Ratulangi University in North Sulawesi and the Primate Research Center at Bogor Agricultural University was published as the cover story in the January 2013 issues of the *American Journal of Primatology*. Their research indicates that the critically endangered black macaque population in the Tangkoko Nature Reserve in North Sulawesi is showing signs of stabilization after years of decline. One explanation for the stabilization may be related to the team's annual field courses and outreach education programs in conservation biology & global health conducted in the reserve – thus helping the local people appreciate the need for better conservation and management of their wildlife.

The UW received a three-year grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to rethink area and international studies. As part of this initiative, **Professors Celia Lowe** (Anthropology and Jackson School of International Studies) and **Matt Sparke** (Geography and Jackson School of International Studies) will lead a project entitled, “Climate Change, Global Health, Vulnerability and Resilience: Toward an Area Studies of Risk.” On January 29, 2014, SEAC hosted a workshop for high school and community college educators entitled: “Climate Change, Global Health, Vulnerability and Resilience: Understanding Risk

in the Context of Regional Area Studies.” Professors Lowe and Sparke will be joined by School of Oceanography and Program on Climate Change Professor LuAnn Thompson as panel speakers to address this critical and timely issue.

Professor Vicente Rafael (History) published an essay, “Targeting Translation: Counterinsurgency and the Weaponization of Language,” *Social Text* 113, v.30, no.4, Winter, 55-80, 2012. This is part of a book project Professor Rafael is working on tentatively entitled “Bastard Tongues: Translation and the Historical Imagination between the Philippines and the United States”. He served as Visiting Faculty at the Nida School of Translation Studies, San Peligrino University, Misano Adriatico, Italy during the Summer Institute, May 1-15, 2013. He was appointed Visiting Professor at the University of the Philippines, where he taught an undergraduate class, advised graduate students, and gave four public lectures between August 1 and September 20, 2013.

And finally, the Ateneo de Manila University Library organized a modest exhibit and a small conference around the 25th anniversary of the publication of Professor Rafael's first book, *Contracting Colonialism: Translation and Christian Conversion in Tagalog Society under Early Spanish Rule* (Cornell University Press, 1988; paperback edition; Philippine edition, Ateneo de Manila University Press, 1988; Duke University Press, 1993). According to Ateneo de Manila University head librarian, Von Totanes, this book has been the largest selling book in Philippine history to date.



Professor Laurie J. Sears (History) just published a new book: *Situated Testimonies: Dread and Enchantment in an Indonesian Literary Archive* with the University of Hawai'i Press. The book links the colonial world with postcolonial one and offers a new methodology for using literary texts as primary historical sources.



Professor Christina Sunardi (School of Music) earned tenure and welcomed the arrival of a new gamelan to campus (*see below*).



Tikka Sears, SEAC Outreach Director, gave birth to a lovely daughter on October 14, 2013. Nina Maruti Castro. Tikka also co-created the interactive theater as pedagogy project (ITPP), a unique kind of learning community. It is a group of UW faculty, staff educators, and graduate students who are committed to building skills in social change theater to spark dialogue on issues of institutional oppression and privilege. ITPP uses Augusto Boal's Theater of the Oppressed methods to rehearse a variety of responses to situations involving oppression and privilege, to promote community dialogue around difficult issues, and to discuss applications of interactive theater approaches in the classroom and other institutional settings. Project participants create and perform interactive plays that depict the complexities and challenges of this diverse university climate; they aim to



Tikka with ITPP participants

prompt reflection, response, and action among audience members.

ITPP is a collaboration between the University of Washington Center for Teaching and Learning and Memory War Theater, A Seattle-based theater company devoted to personal and community transformation through performing arts, partnerships and education. Theresa Ronquillo (Instructional Consultant, CTL) and Tikka Sears (Artistic Director, Memory War Theater) are the co-directors of ITPP. ITPP will be the keynote presenters for the daylong 2014 UW Tacoma Diversity Summit, in February.

UW's New Gamelan, *Hapsari Kusumajaya*



Professor Christina Sunardi with Hapsari Kusumajaya

Room 58 in the basement of the University of Washington Music Building is now home to a beautiful set of bronze Javanese gamelan instruments, purchased from the Javanese shadow puppet master and gamelan musician Ki Midiyanto.

The gamelan, which Ki Midiyanto named *Hapsari Kusumajaya* (which can be translated as "Heavenly Nymph Flower Power"), traveled to Seattle by sea from the island of Java in Indonesia, arriving at the UW in March 2013. Assistant Professor Christina Sunardi of the School of Music's Ethnomusicology Program says the

acquisition will enable her to teach gamelan ensemble courses, use the instruments for lecture-demonstrations and workshops, invite master gamelan musicians from Indonesia for residencies at the School of Music, and organize performances that feature the use of these instruments.

As the 2013 Fall Quarter got under way, the instruments were already attracting students from across campus to the gamelan ensemble course (MUSEN 411/511) at the School of Music. Participants included graduate and undergraduate students from the School of Music and other departments, including several students of Indonesian ancestry interested in learning more about gamelan music.

Professor Christina Sunardi says she looks forward to continued collaboration with the University of Washington Southeast Asia Center, the Seattle ensemble Gamelan Pacifica, Seattle Pacific University, and the local Indonesian community in the research, teaching, performance and promotion of Indonesian arts and culture.

The UW's new gamelan makes its public stage debut on Tuesday, May 20, 2014, 7:30 p.m. at Meany Theater, when musicians and dancers from Java and Seattle present an evening of gamelan music, dance, and shadow puppet theater.



Burke Receives \$80,000 Award to Connect Communities in Washington State with Palawan Islands, Philippines

The Burke Museum will connect two distant communities that share a common interest in preserving their natural and archaeological heritage, and revitalizing cultural practices, thanks to an \$80,000 grant awarded by the American Alliance of Museums.

Suquamish, Washington and El Nido, Palawan, in the Philippines, are both shoreline communities that share a deep history of harvesting from the sea. In both communities, the primary source of income has been shifting away from natural resource extraction and toward tourism. By facilitating this project, the Burke Museum will encourage stewardship of both areas' fragile natural and cultural resources.



The Suquamish Museum presents a cultural view of the Suquamish tribe over time. Tribal members will be participating in a year-long exchange project encouraging sustainable cultural tourism. Photo courtesy of the Suquamish Museum.

Funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Cultural Affairs and administered by the Alliance of American Museums, the "Museums Connect" grant program is designed to increase cross-cultural understanding. Through the Burke's project, "Ancient Shores, Changing Tides," members of both communities will explore their archaeological pasts, with a focus on practices related to fishing, gathering and herbal medicine. The goals of this collaboration are for each community to come away with firsthand knowledge of a different culture, a deeper understanding of their own heritage and the expertise to steer tourism development in a sustainable direction.

"When I first visited El Nido in 2010, I was impressed by the local enthusiasm for archaeology," says the Burke Museum's Curator of Archaeology, **Professor Peter Lape**. "This grant is a wonderful opportunity to support cultural champions at the grassroots level."

Dr. Jun Cayron, Director of Palawan State University Museum added, "This collaborative exchange fits very well with the Palawan State University's mission, which is to work towards sustainable development through community

empowerment."

Throughout the project, residents of Suquamish and El Nido will be connecting with each other through mailed packages, Skype calls and social media. The highlight will be international travel, when five members of each community will visit the other country. The Filipino delegation visited Seattle in October 2013, and the Suquamish will travel to the Philippines in 2014.

While the two communities are near opposites in terms of climate, with Suquamish dominated by cedar trees and El Nido lined with coconut palms, a strong spirit of hospitality is emerging as a common bond. Participants in both El Nido and Suquamish are busy planning the fishing trips and seafood feasts that will take place when the communities visit each other.

"I look forward to meeting with the Cuyonon people and learning how their cultural knowledge is preserved and shared, from one generation to the next," says Lydia Sigo, Suquamish Museum archivist/curator, "We want to share the history of the Suquamish people and show the value that we place on our traditions and the teachings of our ancestors, while still embracing change and growth, for the future of the Tribe."

Meanwhile, in the Philippines, anticipation is building regarding the upcoming delegation visits. As Philippine participant Arvin Acosta, who is El Nido tourism director, said, "I hope the Suquamish will thoroughly enjoy their visit. We are so excited to welcome them, and show them traditional Cuyonon practices – how we cook food, play, gather shells and sail."

In addition to the rich cultural activities, the museums will coordinate a series of workshops where participants will investigate and document how ways of life and practices have evolved over time. The end goal will be to create an exhibit that will enhance the community's tourist appeal. In Suquamish, that exhibit will be located in the Old Man House Park, on the shore of Puget Sound. Lying at the center of the Suquamish winter village on Agate Pass, just south of the present-day town of Suquamish, the Old Man House was home to Chief Sealth (Chief Seattle) and Chief Kitsap.

As Ford W. Bell, AAM's president, noted, "We were impressed by the Burke's project. It reflects the spirit of collaboration that is so important to the museum field today."



Members of the Sibaltan Heritage Council gathered to sing traditional Cuyonon songs, El Nido, Palawan. Photo credit: Wade Trenbeath.



It has the potential to generate lasting ties between these institutions and their respective communities.”

According to Julie Stein, Executive Director of the Burke Museum, “The Ancient Shores, Changing Tides project draws on the Burke’s long history of cultural collaborations with indigenous communities of the Pacific region. It promises to be an integral aspect of our ongoing mission to engage with our communities and create a better understanding of the world and our place within it.”

As the delegates flew home this fall, the Typhoon Haiyan was building strength. Within a week after their return to Palawan, Haiyan crashed into Leyte and Samar, before hitting Palawan Island, which was also damaged, but not nearly as severely as other parts of the Philippines.

This typhoon offered a sad reminder that your whole world can be turned upside down in a few hours. In the days leading up to and following Haiyan, The Burke Museum received a number of concerned calls, texts, and emails, from many of the people who had hosted the recent visitors. Thankfully everyone is okay.



Professor Peter Lape (Anthropology) and Lace Thornberg, from the Burke Museum, in Sibaltan, El Nido, Palawan, with the leaders from the Palawan Island Paleohistoric Research Project and the National Museum of the Philippines.

New Southeast Asian Studies MA Students



Linda Cuadra graduated from UW in 1992 after studying as an exchange student in Malang, East Java, Indonesia. Over the ensuing two decades, she worked as a transportation and urban planner throughout the United States and internationally. The mother of two teenage sons, Linda spends a significant amount of time driving to or from and attending sporting events. Her graduate studies will focus on access to education and healthcare for special needs children, especially in disparate areas of Indonesia. She also hopes to pursue knowledge about transportation systems and historical built environments in Java and Bali, and how these inform and influence local ideas and ideals. Linda is also a FLAS recipient in Indonesian for the 2013-14 academic year.



Khathaleeya Liamdee (Kat) is from Thailand. Her research interest focuses on Thailand and its neighbors, Cambodia and Myanmar. The results from disputes and conflicts that have occurred throughout history between these countries have potentially turned into an obstacle for the future of ASEAN Community. She plans to conduct research on the root causes of the problem in order to suggest possible solutions for promoting more understanding and cooperation among ASEAN members. Before coming to UW, Kat worked at the Secretariat of the

Prime Minister of Thailand for two years. She was assigned as a foreign relations officer since the beginning of PM Yingluck Shinawatra’s administration. Her responsibilities included coordinating media correspondents, writing official government press releases, and accompanying the Prime Minister on various foreign visits such as the UK official visit, APEC Summit in Russia, and the US-ASEAN Business Forum in Cambodia.



Although **Lauren Pongan** majored in English Literature as an undergraduate at Colby College, her work as a research assistant for an Indigenous Rights activist from the Philippines laid the foundation for her academic interest in Southeast Asian Studies. After receiving her undergrad, she worked at various non-profits in both direct service and coordinator roles. To enhance her language skills, she studied Tagalog at the University of Pennsylvania and at the Southeast Asian Summer Studies Institute. At UW Lauren is studying Tagalog. She is interested in interrogating non-Western conceptions of citizenship within either or both Filipino Indigenous groups and Overseas Filipino Worker communities. She is likewise curious about the intersection of environmental and indigenous rights, media theory, social and state hierarchies of language. Lauren received a Top Scholar award for the 2013-14 academic year.



2013-14 FLAS Awardees:



Mary Barnes (JSIS/SEA, Indonesian) Receipt of the FLAS award will allow me to deepen my knowledge and improve my skills in Indonesian language, research and writing, international development, area studies, and museology. Additionally, as part of my Masters project, I plan to collaborate with

the local Indonesian-American community to create a “pop-up museum.” At this end of this year, I hope to be uniquely positioned to identify ways in which Indonesian museums can capitalize on their wealth of cultural resources by creating socially aware spaces that engage their communities in their efforts to preserve and celebrate heritage.



Marina Fitzpatrick (JSIS, Khmer) My educational interest in global health, along with my personal experience of founding a GlobeMed chapter at the University of Washington have guided my proposed area of research and study to Southeast Asia, specifically Cambodia. I share the beliefs of

William Easterly, as addressed in *The White Man's Burden*, and acknowledge “that poverty is a complicated triangle of political, social, historical, institutional, and technological factors,” but through effective collaboration with local leaders and political stakeholders, I believe that the matters that perpetuate the cycle of poverty and health related issues can be addressed. We live in an incredibly interconnected world, and while there are times when the problems of countries like Cambodia are portrayed as a burden on countries like the United States, I am so aware of how much cultural exchanges and information sharing can be mutually beneficial. This core belief aligns with my career goals: to bring knowledge to the community while simultaneously stitching the community together, so that the message and the mechanism are mutually reinforcing.



Jeff Halvorson (PBAF, Indonesian) Jeff is studying the growing connection between developing nations in the globalized world, specifically Indonesia and Latin America. Given their interesting similarities in colonial history, linguistic unification of disparate ethnic groups, modern economic development, and

emergence as significant actors in the global economy, both Indonesia and Latin America have much to share and learn from each other. Jeff wants to explore this under-researched nexus of business, government, and social movements as these connections grow.



Roneva Keel (History, Tagalog) I'm currently a second-year PhD student in the History department. My primary research interests are labor and immigration in the nineteenth and twentieth century, specifically, the migration of workers across national boundaries, and what their stories can tell

us about shifting power relations in an era of globalization. Geographically, I am interested in the Pacific world, with an emphasis on the relationship between the Philippines and the United States. My current research focuses on Filipino farm workers in the United States in the 1930s through the early 1950s and U.S.—Philippines relations during this period. In my future research, I plan to apply a more transnational perspective to the subject of labor migration and its relationship to American imperialism.



Joseph Kinzer (Music, Indonesian) Joe is a PhD student in the School of Music's ethnomusicology program. In 2012, he received his Master of Music degree from Northern Illinois University with a concentration in ethnomusicology and Southeast Asian studies. His research

interests primarily concern the Malay-speaking world, especially Malaysia and Indonesia. For his dissertation, Joe is interested in exploring the fluidity and fragility of identity concepts in the transmission of traditional music through educational institutions.



Aaron Lillie (JSIS/SEA, Vietnamese) I am researching a branch of the student movement in Trung Trung Bộ (the center of central Vietnam) that was active in Hue from 1962-64. My work focuses on the lives of a group of young student activists in Hue, Da Nang and Tam Ky struggling for political

rights under the Diem regime and its successors and seeks to identify the conditions and motivations that inspired so many Vietnamese youths to support the National Liberation Front (NLF) in the 1960s. These students, many of them still in high school, consciously risked everything, including torture and death in some of the most brutal conditions imaginable, for the crime of writing and distributing pamphlets, printing newspapers, organizing demonstrations and hanging the NLF flag. Through a combination of archival research and interviews with former members of an underground political network of young revolutionary activists, I hope to construct a narrative of the American-Vietnamese War and its consequences from a Vietnamese perspective.



Melissa Luna (SMEA, Tagalog) Over the past few years, Melissa has traveled, SCUBA dived, volunteered, and worked in and around Southeast Asia. Through these experiences she became increasingly interested in the human dimensions of marine resource management and conservation in the tropical developing world. She spent this past summer doing research in the Philippines for her Master's thesis. Professionally, she strives to work at the interface between sustainable development and community-based marine conservation.



Samantha Macks (SMEA, Tagalog) My current studies are focused on the Coral Triangle Region of Southeast Asia. Over the summer I worked in Indonesia on the Learning Project for the US Coral Triangle Initiative Support Program. The Learning Project used social surveys and key informant interviews of fisherman, local and national government officials, and NGO employees to gather lessons learned about the US Coral Triangle Initiative Support Program in Indonesia. After returning from data collection over the summer I have spent my time focusing my research interests by investigating the successes and challenges of adapting and integrating the large scale regional marine conservation program, the US Coral Triangle Initiative Support Program, to the regional, national, and local level. I hope to understand how a multi-county marine conservation initiative can be vertically integrated in the context of one of the region's most unique cultures in Indonesia, the island of Bali.

Daniel Nguyen (English, Vietnamese) While in Vietnam from July 2013 - September 2013 FLAS offered me an incredible opportunity to study the Vietnamese language at



Trường Đại học Khoa học Xã hội và Nhân văn. As a Vietnamese-American, prior to the educational experience I could hardly speak my native language and felt ashamed whenever approached to speak Vietnamese. Since the program, my Vietnamese language proficiency has improved immensely and has given me confidence within myself and has opened my eyes to the culture of my Vietnamese people. Now, with my education I would like to pursue a career that allows me to travel back and forth from America to Southeast Asia to create a business within the technology industry that helps educate and provide technology to developing countries.



James Pangilinan (JSIS/SEA, Tagalog) My research focuses on the politics of humanitarianism, refugee, and refugee rights in the wake of the Indochina Wars. Analyzing overlapping scales of a national immigration policy (e.g., in the US), international rights of asylum-seekers and refugees, and political economic rearrangements in the Philippines and the United States, my research considers how increasing implementation of international refugee conventions and human rights instruments ambiguously was used to domesticate a variety of transnational forces including incoming refugee flights, economic demands for "market" restructuring, and calls for compassionately receiving those fleeing verifiable "persecution." By considering the problematic nature of humanitarian practices and human rights in practice, I seek to link my critical analytic work with the "politics of hospitality" implied in refugee resettlement and anti-trafficking organizations, immigration reform and border security, as well as the complicated humanitarian and economic interests implied in these cosmopolitan processes.

Alumni News

Cheryll Alipio (PhD Anthropology, 2009) completed a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at the Asia Research Institute of the National University of Singapore and guest co-edited a special journal issue for *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* on "Transitioning to Adulthood in Asia: School, Work, and Family Life" (Vol 646, March 2013). Cheryll will be an instructor for courses on migration and economic anthropology at Cornish College of the Arts and UW this coming Spring.

Allan Lumba (PhD History, 2013) defended his dissertation "Monetary Authorities: Market Knowledge and Imperial Government in the Colonial Philippines, 1892 - 1942," last June. He began a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard University's Charles Warren Center for the Study of American Studies in July. Through Harvard's department of history,

Lumba is currently teaching a course on global capitalism and American radical possibilities in the twentieth century. A recipient of several FLAS awards and having taught and TA'd for multiple Southeast Asian themed courses, Lumba's scholarly and pedagogical approach has been deeply shaped by his involvement with the Southeast Asia Center (SEAC). The myriad of events, conferences, and workshops offered by SEAC not only supplemented his research but provided new avenues for collaboration and collective intellectual work. Specifically, SEAC's interdisciplinary endeavors encouraged Lumba's work to bridge area specific Southeast Asian analysis to studies of global capitalism and global American studies. Moreover, SEAC's affiliation and cooperation with other departments and centers has given Lumba a distinct model from which to draw from, especially



valuable as he navigates his new professional position and institution.

Patrick McCormick (PhD History, 2010) recently took a position with the École Française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO - "French School of the Far East") as a representative and researcher in Rangoon, Burma, where he has been living since 2006. In addition to working as a research consultant in education and livelihoods, he is undertaking research on Burmese historiography and the legacy of the British in Burmese intellectual discourses, such as ideas of history, truth, and ethnicity, to prepare a book on the topic. Together with a colleague from Zurich, he has received a three-year grant from the Swiss National Research Foundation to undertake research on the areal linguistics of Burma.

Gai-Hoai T. Nguyen (SE Asia MA, 2012) is an alumna from the first graduating cohort of the Master's in Southeast Asian Studies Program. In April 2012 she accepted the position of Assistant Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACS) in the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies at UW. In April 2013, she also became the Assistant Director of the UW Center for Human Rights (UW CHR). At LACS, Hoai coordinates the overall planning for program curriculum and student development, special

events, program budget, and the daily office operations. She also confers with the program chair, faculty and JSIS Director to determine program priorities. At UW CHR, Hoai works closely with the Director to plan and carry out many aspects of the Center including events, donor relations, communications as well as budget and grants administration. Recently, Hoai stated: "I feel fortunate to be able to work with intelligent, hardworking people who are truly dedicated to their profession, which I see as teaching, research, mentoring students, and the advancement of respect for human rights. I am especially proud to be a part of a team who was given the Seattle Human Rights Award by the City of Seattle!"

Matt Walton (Political Science, 2012) writes: "Many of you know that I successfully defended my dissertation at the University of Washington this past August. For the past two years I've been teaching as an adjunct professor at George Washington University (in DC) while I finished the dissertation and while I've been on the job market. Abby works here for a company called Abt Associates, in international development, mostly focusing on projects that improve health systems in developing countries. The job market has been tough this year, but I finally had a breakthrough and it means we'll be moving to Oxford!"

"I've accepted a position as Senior Research Fellow in Modern Burmese Studies at St Antony's College, Oxford. There's a lot of excitement at the college about Burma's current democratic transition and they've hired me to essentially create a new program in Burmese Studies. It'll mean a lot of research, less teaching, and of course program development (meaning fundraising and such) but I'm thrilled that it gives me a chance to shape a Burma program for the current political realities in the country."



Hoai with Professor Christoph Giebel at the annual Southeast Asia Center Fall Reception.

Notes from the Director, cont. from page 2

A second event in June of 2013 was a small conference I had helped to organize, that brought together scholars from Malaysia, Australia, the Philippines, Latin America, India, Israel, Britain and the U.S. All thirteen scholars who were invited worked on storytelling either in Indonesia, Brunei, Pacific Islands, or the Philippines and Puerto Rico, Britain, or in the Asian American U.S. The conference focused on island worlds, and we had representatives from Anthropology, Comparative Literature, English, History, Spanish and Portuguese and Theatre departments. All the papers were read beforehand. The discussion of each paper could, therefore, begin with five minutes or less from the paper-giver and the same for the assigned discussant before opening out to a forty-five minute discussion in which the paper-giver could take notes. Then the paper-giver had fifteen minutes to respond to the comments. The four organizers from UW, Rick Bonus, Chandan Reddy, Ileana

Rodriguez-Silva, and myself, also gave a mini-seminar to eighteen graduate students who read the papers and contributed to the discussion.

Over the two days we built a vocabulary particular to the workshop. All the attendees read Walter Benjamin's essay "The Storyteller" and then focused either on literature, film, oral histories, or historical documents for their analysis. This produced a wide array of primary texts, from a member of a minority group in Malaysian Borneo to current films from Malaysia and Asian America. More about this conference will appear elsewhere in this Newsletter, but the conference participants became an ideal speech community for two days where we shared and built new vocabularies and ideas together. Some of the participants, including myself, found it to be one of the most interesting conferences they had ever attended. The academic year for me started on the island of Borneo and seemed to end there too with a conference participant's paper about storytelling in Brunei.



Gething Awardees, 2012-2014

The Tom and Mary Kay Gething Award was made possible by a generous gift from the Gethings to provide funding for graduate student travel to present Southeast Asia related papers at professional conferences and meetings. Congratulations to the following Gething awardees:

William Arighi, 2012-13 (Comparative Literature) presented, "Custom, Nation and Universality in Philippine Literary History" at the Comparative Literature Association conference, Toronto.

Arthit Jiamrattanyoo, 2013-14 (History) will present "Ambivalent Voices: The Pensionados, The Filipino Magazine, and U.S. Tutelary Colonialism in the 1900s" at the AAAS annual meeting in Chicago.

Barbara Clabots, 2012-13 (School of Marine Affairs) presented, "The roles and impact of women in community-based management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Philippines" at the International Interdisciplinary Conference on the Environment in Portland, Oregon.

Allan Lumba, 2012-13 (History) presented, "Stranger Coins: Monetary crisis, public critique, and political consequences in the Spanish Philippines, 1893-1897" at the AAS in San Diego.

Kaitlin O'Neil, 2012-13 (History) presented "The Dynamic Role of the Catholic Church in Modernizing Timor Leste" at the AAS in San Diego.

James Pangilinan, 2013-14 (SEA MA) will present "Humanitarian Disorientations Between Saved and Saviors in the Palawan First-Asylum Camp" at the AAAS in Chicago.

Vorada Savengseuksa, 2012-13 (Evans School of Public Affairs) presented, "Developing a Strategy Framework for Improved Non-Government Organization Work in the Lao PDR for Sustainable Development" at the International Lao Studies Conference in Madison.

Joss Whittaker, 2012-13 (Archaeology) presented, "Trade Frontiers in the Aru Islands, Indonesia" at the American Archaeology annual conference in Honolulu.

Congratulations to **Micaela Campbell** (Ph.C. History)! Micaela received a 2013 Blakemore Freeman Fellowship for advanced Asian language studies. She is currently studying Indonesian in the ILCIC program at Sanata Dharma University and conducting dissertation research on socially engaged cultural communities in Yogyakarta. Micaela has also been awarded a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad grant to conduct further field research in Jakarta and the Netherlands (September 2014 - March 2015).

Keyes Awardees, 2012-2013

The Charles and Jane Keyes Award was made possible by a generous gift from the Keyes to provide travel funding to graduate students for dissertation research in Southeast Asia. Congratulations to the following Keyes awardees:

Mei Feng Mok (History) Mei Feng Mok's dissertation research examines the Chinese community in Chợ Lớn during the Republic of Vietnam (1955-1975, RVN).

Huong Nguyen (History): A Grassroots History of the Vietnam War: Social Life in the City of Hue in the 1960s.

Donor Profile - Nena and Sidney Rieb



The Southeast Asia Center, the UW Libraries, and the Burke Museum wish to thank Nena and Sidney Rieb for their generous contributions to our programs.

Nena and Sid met and were married in the Philippines in 1955 and returned there for a six-year stay (1960-1966) where Sid spent some of his 34 years as a geologist in petroleum exploration. Over the next fifty years, their work and travels took them to Canada, Pakistan, England, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand—first to Bangkok and then, in 1988 after Sid retired from petroleum exploration, to Chiang Mai where he taught geology from 1991-2011 at Chiang Mai University.

During their career and travels, Nena developed a keen interest in Asian art and culture and became a competent photographer. In addition to teaching basic photography to expatriates in Jakarta, she provided photographs for two books concerning Asian handicrafts: *Hands of Time: the Crafts of Aceh* and *The Changing Face of Malaysian Crafts*. The Riebs currently live on Vashon Island.



2013 Advanced Study of Thai Program

SEAC again organized the in-country, eight-week intensive advanced Thai program from mid-June to mid-August this past year. While the host university in Thailand remained unchanged from previous years, the Advanced Study of Thai (AST) program was conducted at a new venue on the Chiang Mai University (CMU) campus. AST took place in the Language Institute of CMU as a result of the absence of USED/Fulbright support as one of the Group Projects Abroad. Tom Gething negotiated an agreement with the Institute that permitted AST to use funds each student had obtained individually and the resulting program was largely equivalent to the core of the AST tradition. Four participants studied under CMU instructors (current and emeriti) who brought their considerable experience to the classroom and to ancillary field trips as well.

The AST 2013 students included undergraduate and graduate students and a US faculty member, with disciplinary foci in religion, anthropology, international studies, and area studies. The home institutions represented were Cornell,

UCLA, and the University of Vermont. SEAC is planning to administer AST 2014 in the same manner. Look for details on the SEAC website.



Professor Gething with AST 2013 students.

Reflections on JSIS 506: The Study of Southeast Asia

Lauren Pongan, SEA MA 2015

As a student in the MA of International Studies in Southeast Asia, I'm required to take JSIS 506: The Study of Southeast Asia. I've compared notes with my friends who are graduate students at other universities, in other programs and other disciplines. Not one of them has begun their coursework with a required class that calls into question the very underpinnings of their own field.

In class, we sincerely and thoughtfully dissect both the scholastic import of and the methods by which we participate in Southeast Asian Studies as a field and/or discipline. Again and again in class we are challenged to answer the questions, "Why are we doing this?" and "Is this important?" and, of course, "Important for whom?" For a room full of intellectually curious Southeast Asianists, the discourse is lengthy.

Under the guidance of anthropologist and Southeast Asianist Professor Celia Lowe, we have incorporated readings from prominent Area Studies critics and scholars, including core members of the UW Southeast Asia faculty Vince Rafael, Rick Bonus, Christina Sunardi, and the late Dan Lev, among others. It's reassuring to know that we as students are in the good company of professors we respect in continuing to reformulate, interrogate, and contextualize our research and studies.

Though there is a foreboding sense that all of this deconstruction will yield no neat reconfiguration of our ideologies and methodologies, it is not cause for crisis. Instead, I think that our sincere inquiries will yield nine more thoughtful, more cautious, more informed, and, of course, more critical Southeast Asian scholars.

Library News, cont. from page 3

of the temples of Angkor in 1861 by French archaeologists, Indochina became the aesthetic center of the French empire, with Saigon portrayed as the "pearl of the Orient," and the nearby temples of Angkor a favored destination. The Bob Jones collection reflects these early domestic attempts to sell the colony at home, in its collections of travel narratives, art and architecture pictorial works and city guides. Of particular importance at the moment of modern transition was the notion of movement: it was the era of the automobile, and of train travel, and the beginnings of air travel. Another characteristic of the age was the idea of leisure itself: it was a time when colonial officials living in Indochina were persuaded to use their modest means to travel within the colonies, and wealthy metropolitan city dwellers from Paris arrived to visit the temples and hunt big game in the jungles. The Bob Jones collection includes a number of rare and unique texts on game hunting from the 1920s and 30s, and on trains and travel, including automobile itineraries from the 1930s, and a collection of timetables and brochures from Air Vietnam and Royal Air Cambodge from the 1960s.



Workshop: *The Politics of Storytelling*, June 10-11, 2013

At the end of the last academic year, SEAC and the Simpson Center for the Humanities co-sponsored a conference on the “Politics of Storytelling in Island Imperial Worlds”. Professor Rick Bonus from American Ethnic Studies, Professor Chandan Reddy from English, and Professors Ileana Rodriguez-Silva and Laurie Sears from History organized the workshop. This was the second of a two part series of workshops, the first of which was held in June of 2011. The project collaboratively built a distinct theoretical language about the form and function of storytelling in the historical creation and recreation of modern island formations across the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian oceans. The collaboration focused on storytellers and storytelling across island regions and their diasporas in order to advance new methods of comparison to area studies scholarship and new approaches to global knowledge. The project re-conceptualized island worlds as situated historical places—i.e. islands as spaces that come to life through the multiple and competing meanings constantly attached to them—formed in the milieu of overlapping and competitive western empires.

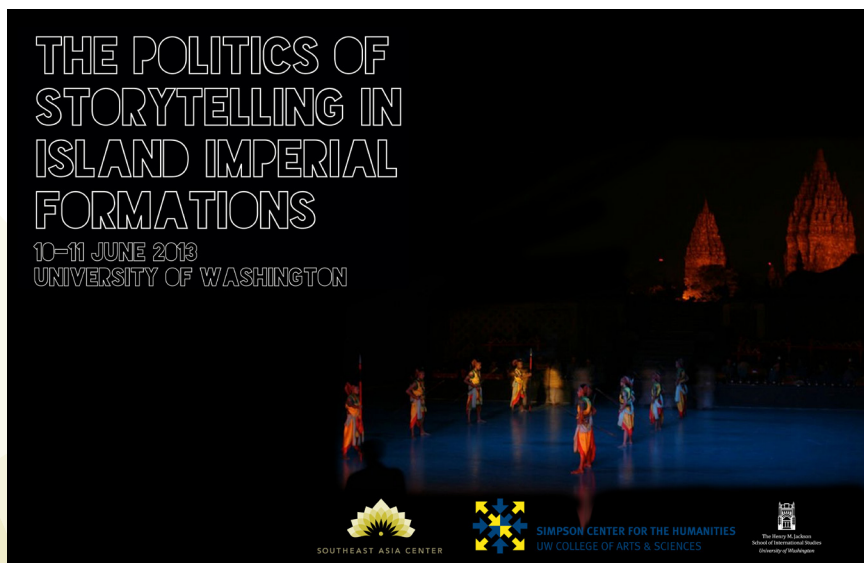
The achievements of the conference were clear: we were able to cross the boundaries of region and area to make comparisons often denied by the current configuration of area studies. We also tried to assess the effects of islands and seas in shaping the particularities of peoples and cultures of island worlds. One thematic introduced by conference co-organizer Professor Ileana Rodriguez-Silva (History) was the “hall of mirrors” effect. As Rodriguez-Silva explained it: in this configuration, each island sees itself reflected and refracted in the islands surrounding it and in the colonial regimes that often controlled it. Thus, ideas of development that are usually conceptualized in linear ways become cyclical and often convoluted. This type of comparison works in the Caribbean as it does in the Indonesian or Philippine archipelagoes. This way of looking at island worlds moves away from binaries to more sophisticated measures of comparison. Another important concept at the conference was the “logics of comparison”, a term introduced by Dr. Carlo Bonura of SOAS. Bonura is a political scientist who works on the logics of comparison to see how the terms of what is being compared is often weighted in specific ways before comparisons are even made. Another idea that came to light in our sessions grew out of Professor Rick Bonus’s work with Pacific Island students. Bonus introduced the notion of the “Ocean in the School” that he had learned from working with these undergraduates. Finally, one of the inspired ideas that came out of our

work together was Professor Kiko Benitez’s idea of the “Big House” which came to represent the educated Euroamerican capitalists who have fought to stay in power throughout most of the globalizing world over the last century.

Within western humanistic thinking, storytellers have been replaced by the establishment of global and modern literary practices. Yet, the lack of a good theoretical basis that questions the structures and workings of global power in the field of comparative world literature has prompted this collaborative endeavor. Hence, we sought to contribute to the formulation of theories on world literature. We did not see a lack of storytellers as Benjamin did in his reflections on storytellers in pre-World War Two Europe. Benjamin was not aware of traditions outside of Europe. Taking Benjamin as a starting point for our discussions only showed how his work was filled with nostalgia for what was being lost in Europe, but not necessarily in the rest of the world, when European colonial power was losing its grip in the 1930s. We also saw stories generated in different disciplinary genres across time and space. In the literary field, for example, we worked with genres such as poetry, film, and stories to bring to life the traumas of race, color and ethnicity. Within these genres, we were especially interested in the ways in which the future can go back and change the past. In the realm of seriality, new episodes can change the way we view older episodes, as uncovering sites of trauma can change the way we view our childhood or young adult experiences. We also explored how spatial travel has multiple meanings. These journeys into the past and the future are difficult to capture, especially as they intersect with imperial desires for control over land, resources, and capital. We intend to capture some of these journeys in the book that we are now editing based on the papers from the conference.

THE POLITICS OF STORYTELLING IN ISLAND IMPERIAL FORMATIONS

10-11 JUNE 2013
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON



SIMPSON CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES
UW COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES





Wednesday, January 15: *English for ASEAN!: African and Asian Teacher Migration in Response to Thailand's English-language Education Boom.* Maureen Hickey (National University of Singapore)

In this talk Dr. Hickey draws on recent fieldwork interviews to discuss the work and life experiences of African and Filipino migrants teaching English in rural schools in Eastern and Northeastern Thailand. For these teachers, schools outside of Bangkok are increasingly appealing as they often find it difficult to obtain positions in urban schools or find themselves let go with little notice when the school wishes to replace them with 'native' English speaking teachers. Racism and bias against certain nationalities (and accents) is a significant problem for African teachers and Filipino teachers also face significant discrimination in the workplace—although they face much less in daily life—and consistently receive the lowest salaries, despite the fact that many are highly qualified and have considerable experience. Hickey explores how the choices of this particular stream of 'middling' migrants overlaps or diverges from growing numbers of transnational student migrants and from other forms of youth migration in and from Asia, as well as how particular constellations of skills, nationality and race intersect to structure specific labor flows.

Wednesday, January 29: *Revisiting War Crimes in Viet Nam: Nick Turse Book Reading and "Winter Soldier."* 6:30-9:30pm, Johnson 102

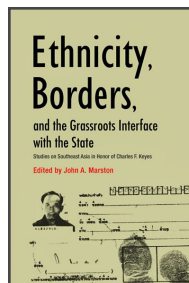
Reading by Nick Turse, author of the controversial and acclaimed *Kill Anything That Moves* (2013) about US war crimes during the war in Viet Nam, in conjunction with a rare showing of the 1972 documentary "Winter Soldier." Followed by a panel discussion with Nick Turse, Bill Turley (noted scholar of the war in Viet Nam), Mike Dedrick (Veterans For Peace), and others. This event is accompanied by an exhibit of material from the UW Libraries Special Collections, which will be on display in the Allen Library Lobby from January 11-30, 2014.

Wednesday, January 29: *Educator Workshop: Climate Change, Global Health, Vulnerability and Resilience: Understanding Risk in the Context of Regional Area Studies.* 5:30-8:30pm, HUB 340. UW Presenters: Celia Lowe (Anthropology/JSIS); Matthew Sparke (Geography/JSIS); LuAnne Thompson (School of Oceanography/Program on Climate Change)

This teacher workshop explored how area studies can help us to frame the understanding of the health risks posed by global climate change through an international lens with a focus on the very unequal capabilities for risk management in different parts of the world. Climate Change does not know international boundaries, and requires global leadership to adapt to the changes it is already bringing to our lives and to our future. It poses a significant challenge to human health and contributes to the uneven global burden of disease. As temperatures warm, changes in disease vectors and allergens, water availability and food security, and extreme weather events will all take their toll on human health and well-being. But beyond the scientific scenarios of climate change and all its uneven health effects, there is also the larger issue of global inequalities in risk, resilience and risk management more generally. To understand both the global patterns and global ramifications of these inequalities, we need to come to terms with how the cultural, political, and economic contexts of communities shape their own understandings of risk and their varying capacities for response. This is where the on-the-ground, evidence-based

approach of area studies can both complement and complicate the understanding of risk for global health impact in the context of climate and environmental change.

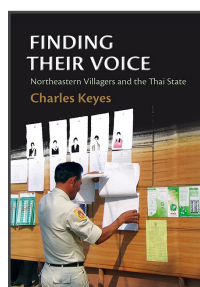
Thursday, April 3: *Dual Book Launch.* 12:00-1:30pm, Petersen Room of the Allen Library (4th floor)



Ethnicity, Borders, and the Grassroots Interface with the State: Studies on Southeast Asia in Honor of Charles F. Keyes, Edited by John A. Marston

Ethnicity, Borders, and the Grassroots Interface with the State brings together exciting new work by anthropologists working on mainland Southeast Asia. The volume honors anthropologist Charles F. Keyes and the chapters here address concepts central to

Keyes' own work—ethnicity, religion, and modernity—as they can be applied to the countries of Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos. The volume also reflects recent scholarly interest in "cross-border" issues, as reflected both in the complexity of identity, where ethnic groups extend across boundaries, and in increasing cross-border mobility. The volume is divided into three sections. The first, "The State and Public Ceremony," includes chapters on a ceremony of national heritage as celebrated in Vietnam and the United States, Shan novice initiation near the border of Myanmar in Thailand, and the restoration of the monkhood in Cambodia. The second section, "The Grassroots Negotiation of Modernity," contains chapters about the concept of "sufficiency" in Thai farm production, the ways modernity is conceived among the Lahu in Thailand, and the complexities of the Thai system of identity cards. The final section, "Crossing Borders of State and Nation" focuses on the stateless Lao population in northeastern Thailand, Vietnamese migrants to Laos, and Western (*farang*) men married to northeastern Thai women. Contributors to the book include scholars based in Thailand, Vietnam, the United States, Australia, and Mexico.



Finding Their Voice: Northeastern Villagers and the Thai State, Charles F. Keyes

The rural, Lao-speaking people of northeastern Thailand constitute over a third of the entire population of Thailand. Over the last century, this ethnically separate community has evolved from a traditional peasantry into "cosmopolitan" villagers who are actively shaping Thai politics. Charles Keyes traces this evolution in detail,

beginning with the failure of a Buddhist millenarian uprising in 1901–2 and concluding with the successful election of the Thai Rak Thai/Pheu Thai Party in the 2000s. In the intervening century, rural northeasterners have become more educated and prosperous, and they have gained a sophisticated understanding of the world and of their position in it as Thai citizens.

Although northeasterners have often been thwarted in their efforts to press government agencies to redress their grievances, they have rejected radical revolutionary efforts to transform the Thai political system. Instead, they have looked to parliamentary democracy as the system in which they can make their voices heard. As the country engages with the processes of democracy, the Pheu Thai Party and the Red Shirt movement appear to have established the people of northeastern Thailand as an authentic voice in the nation's political landscape.



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