Aloha! Welcome to the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS), College of Arts, Languages & Letters (CALL), at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (UHM).

With the objective of promoting educational and cultural awareness of Southeast Asia (SEA), CSEAS worked over the past year to:

- Provide student funding for the study of Southeast Asian languages and cultures.
- Support the teaching of Southeast Asian languages including Ilocano, Indonesian, Khmer, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese.
- Build partnerships with local K-12 schools, community colleges, military education centers, and non-profit organizations to develop curriculum materials and host outreach projects focused on Southeast Asia.
- Facilitate efforts by UHM to establish educational partnerships with colleges and universities in SEA.
- Organize and sponsor lecture series, colloquia, film series, seminars, museum exhibits, and major research forums and conferences through our vibrant social media platforms.
- Continue to build UHM’s SEA library collection, including digital and moving image resources.
- Maintain and enhance our university’s national and international reputation as an outstanding resource in Southeast Asian studies.
DIRECTOR’S NOTE

As our Center for Southeast Asian Studies careened into its 41st year in Fall 2019, we had much to celebrate: faculty, students, staff, and connections.

We co-hosted events, supported students, and explored outreach initiatives to bring Southeast Asia to our local and broader communities.

These activities, which we pursued with vigor into the Spring 2020 semester, came to a screeching halt in March 2020. What did not stop was our funding for students through FLAS and other awards and our commitment to the region. Still, COVID-19 forced us to re-think and re-tool how we do our work, and to envision new future worlds in which the UHM Center for Southeast Asian Studies can best meet our mission: to encourage trans-disciplinary understandings of Southeast Asia’s people, heritage, ideologies, politics, and ecologies. COVID-19 accelerated our movement in certain directions we’d begun to take, and offered glimpses of new collaborations we could not have envisioned. It also exacted a terrible toll in Southeast Asia, where the re-awakening of the virus fantastic force was spreading through the world.

Back here at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, supporting students, faculty and staff in Southeast Asian studies remains our goal. The United States Department of Defense’s release of its Indo-Pacific Strategy Report in June 2019 only served to further illustrate Southeast Asia’s centrality in global affairs. Offering student funding for Southeast Asian language study through the Foreign Language Area Fellowships (FLAS) program remains a core priority.

One of our most successful ongoing projects was in play this year. Dr. Kirstin Pauka’s spectacular The Last King of Bali entertained thousands of Balinese theatre, music, and dance fans over a three-week run at UHM’s Kennedy Theatre just before the COVID-19 pandemic hit our state. Outreach efforts included visits to numerous K-12 schools around O’ahu and our neighbor islands through the Bali-inese Wayang Listrik in Hawaii’s Schools project in the lead up to the theatrical production. These activities are well-documented on our website.

Our Center also provided seed funding in 2019 for Dr. Pia Arbeleda’s development of Tagalog language training materials through her Pampana ng lahi program, which she piloted at Honolulu’s St. Louis High School in June 2019. Work on modules continued through the 2019 - 2020 year, and the project will be hosted again online in summer 2021. You can check out the project here.

Southeast Asian studies are a dynamic part of our UHM community, where we teach, research, and perform Southeast Asia in classrooms, in performance spaces and, increasingly, online. We view these online opportunities as portals to Southeast Asia partners, and use them increasingly to build linkages that we hope to strengthen through face-to-face interactions in the near future. We are also in our second year of ‘going digital’ and creating globally accessible resources on current issues in politics, social and environmental movements, and the arts of Southeast Asia. Our social media outreach continues to be one our strengths as our bi-monthly newsletter, Twitter, and Facebook presence regularly interact with hundreds of readers a month who access our up-to-date information, research, publications, public events, and more.

Directing our Center for Southeast Asian Studies is a constant source of challenges, and the 2019-2020 academic year was no different. But with challenges also came rewards, the largest of which was the receipt of our five-year, $1 million UHM/East-West Center project entitled, “LuceSEA Transitions: Environment, Society, and Change” from the Luce Foundation Southeast Asia Initiative. Our grant, which involves 13 key team leaders based at UHM and at the East-West Center, will support our direct international research engagements on Southeast Asian urban to rural transitions and their impacts: in population mobility, in rural economic landscapes, in urban planning, and in local environmental histories. It funds capacity-building, builds new research networks, and seeds collaborative work by early career scholars across the region by working directly with more than a dozen Southeast Asian institutions. Our EWC/UHM LuceSEA Transitions grant will also enhance scholarly infrastructure and build synergies between the social sciences and humanities in Southeast Asian Studies. Supporting innovative and interdisciplinary work in Southeast Asian studies has become a hallmark of the Luce Foundation, and our ambitious five-year program in this area will officially begin in January 2021.

Reflecting back on my second year as Center director, I see that some foundational work in 2019-2020 has begun to yield results already. We hired two new graduate assistants, Sara Loh (Public Relations) and Hoan Nguyen (Webmaster), whose considerable skills and talents enhance what we do and extend our digital reach. Connections established during the Luce proposal development phase opened new directions for Southeast Asian collaborations both on campus and with key Southeast Asian institutions. It has been a productive and important time for our Center.

This year, like last, I must close my comments by expressing my profound appreciation to the people who make this Center work. First among them is Associate Director Paul Rausch, whose deep experience, creativity and commitment are fundamental to the Center’s success. Thanks also go to the CSEAS Executive Board, whose varied experience and constant collegiality make it a pleasure to steer the ship. Finally, I thank the unsung heroes who are our administrative staff, particularly Myra Yamamoto (fiscal and personnel) and Dr. Chizuko Allen (fellowships coordinator). Without their support we cannot function, and we are grateful for their support.

Dr. Miriam Stark
CSEAS Director
This section provides a snapshot of Southeast Asia faculty specialist activities during the academic year 2019 - 2020.

You can also view the specialist database on our website.

**Professor Emerita of Music, Barbara Barnard Smith**: A pioneer of cultural diversity at UHM. This champion of the music and dance of Hawai‘i and the greater Pacific and Asia, celebrated her 100th birthday on June 10.

In honor of her 100th birthday, The 2020 Barbara B. Smith Webinar Series: A Legacy for Ethnomusicology, offered free monthly webinars that focused on the impact Professor Smith had on generations of ethnomusicology students trained at UHM.

**Dr. Miriam Stark**: CSEAS Director & Professor, Anthropology/Archaeology. Dr. Miriam Stark published “Collaboration, Engagement, and Cambodia: Archaeological perspectives on cultural heritage” in the Journal of Community Archaeology & Heritage. Dr. Stark also appeared in Episode 3 of the Mark of Empire series hosted by Singaporean scholar Peter Lee. The series explores the history of four Southeast Asian empires that made their mark on the world. In episode 3, Dr. Stark takes Mr. Lee on a dig of a 13th CE pottery site. To see the episode, go [here](#).

**Dr. Bradley McDonnell**: An Assistant Professor in the Linguistics Department, he was awarded the 2020 College of Languages, Linguistics & Literature Excellence in Teaching Award. Dr. Bradley also received a 4-year National Science Foundation grant to investigate language use in a multi-lingual community. This project aims to document the linguistic practices of the Nasal speech community in Bengkulu province, Indonesia.

**Dr. Ben Fairfield**: An Associate Professor in the Ethnomusicology Department, he partnered with UH Choir director, Jace Saplan, and provided the percussion instruments for a choral arrangement of “Phu Yai Lee” (A classic Thai protest song from the 1960s that is still played and referenced in today’s Thai political discourse). All the instruments played were in class, with much of the material scavenged by Professor Fairfield and his students. They played the instruments at the UHM Ethnomusicology Ensemble’s Pau Hana Concert in December.
An Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, he collaborated with a number of his students to produce the following Southeast Asia related journal articles:

- “Cambodian remarried women are at risk for domestic violence” in the Journal of Interpersonal Violence.
- “Critical consciousness of food systems as a potential lifestyle intervention on health issues” in the American Journal of Lifestyle Medicine.
- “A capabilities approach to female graduates’ post-secondary academic and career-related goal pursuit in Siem Reap Cambodia” in the journal Educational Research for Policy and Practice.
- “The Socialization of Gender-Based Aggression: A Case Study in Cambodian Primary Schools” in the journal Sex Roles.
- “Gender socialization among Cambodian parents and teachers of preschool children: Transformation or reproduction?” in the International Journal of Early Childhood.

A Professor of Asian Studies, Dr. Watson Andaya published an essay titled “Recording the Past of ‘Peoples Without History’: Southeast Asia’s Sea Nomads” in the journal Asian Review.

Dr. Arboleda directed her excellent curriculum development team in the creation of “Pamaña: Philippine Heritage and Culture Workshop for High Schools.”

UH alumnus Dr. Stephen Acabado (PhD 2010), Associate Professor, Anthropology, UCLA, presented his documentary film “The Old Kiyyangan Story,” based on oral histories and archaeological excavations at the Old Kiyyangan Village, Ifugao, Philippines.

Our Philippines Collection librarian was promoted to Librarian IV with tenure.

Dr. Arboleda directed her excellent curriculum development team in the creation of “Pamaña: Philippine Heritage and Culture Workshop for High Schools.”

This 15-module workshop was designed as an after school program for Filipino heritage language learners and native speakers in high schools aimed at developing a deeper understanding of Philippine culture and a fuller appreciation of Filipino heritage and identity.

In a new study led by Atmospheric Scientist Professor Giuseppe Torri at the UHM, School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology, researchers revealed details of the connection between a larger atmospheric phenomenon, termed the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO), and the daily patterns of rainfall in the Maritime Continent (includes major islands such as Sumatra, Java, Borneo, Papua New Guinea, along with a galaxy of smaller islands).
STUDENTS

2019-2020 FLAS FELLOWSHIP Awardees

CSEAS congratulates our Foreign Language & Area Studies Fellowship Awardees (FLAS)

Alarilla, Adrian (PhD, History) - Indonesian
Binz, Lauren (BA, Political Science) - Thai
Chang, Christine (MFA, Theatre) - Tagalog
Esch, Tyler (MA, Asian Studies) - Thai
Gaspar, Romel C (BA, TIM) - Tagalog
Khang, Seng (MA, Anthropology) - Thai
Magdua, Jeanne M (MA, Anthropology) - Tagalog
McConkey, Erin (PhD, Anthropology) - Thai
Rajan, Bianca (MA, Asian Studies) - Indonesian
Ung, Jenny (MA, Anthropology) - Khmer (Cambodian)
Walker, Griffin (BA, Linguistics) - Vietnamese

You can view the documentary here.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Pollie Bith-Melander, wrote the screenplay for exiled, an ethnographic film on the deportation of Southeast Asian Refugees.

Directed by Brian Cimagala, the 40-minute documentary is based on Dr. Bith-Melander’s 2019-2020 research project, Exiled Once Again. It explores the myriad struggles of Cambodian refugees as they survived the Vietnam War, the Khmer Rouge, relocation to the U.S., and navigating the U.S. criminal justice and immigration systems.

Dr. Pollie Bith-Melander, PhD, MSW, ASW is an Assistant Professor at the California State University Stanislaus, Social Work Department. She received her MA (1998) and PhD in Medical Anthropology (2004) from the UHM. Her PhD dissertation was titled, “Mango Illness”: Health Decisions and the Use of Biomedical and Traditional Therapies in Cambodia. You can view the documentary here.

SPOTLIGHTS

Tyler Esch - an MA student in the UHM, Department of Asian Studies translated and subtitled a documentary TV program originally broadcast on Thai PBS titled “The Past, Present, and Future of Thai Fishing.” His paper “Thailand’s Maritime Ecosystem of Work and Industrial Seafood” was selected for the outstanding graduate student paper at the UHM School of Pacific & Asian Studies Graduate Student Conference.

Dylan Beatty - PhD Student, UHM, Geography, published an article titled, “Re-inscribing propositions: historic cartography and Philippine claims to the Spratly Islands” in Territory, Politics, Governance.

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STUDENTS/EXPLORATIONS

A Graduate Student Journal of Southeast Asian Studies published its 15th volume this year. The journal is compiled and edited by graduate students at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa and features graduate student work from around the world.

VOLUME 15

The volume includes five full-length articles, including topics exploring humor in contemporary Thai culture, differences and similarities between the China policies of Cambodia and Vietnam, and democracy in post-Reformasi Indonesia.

The volume also includes sections on Notes from the Field and Book Reviews rounding out another excellent graduate student journal effort.

You can read Volume 15 (and past volumes) on our [website](http://example.com) or [ScholarSpace](http://example.com).

EDITORIAL TEAM

Madeleine Aitchison
Imelda Carlos
Soksamphoas Im
Matthew Kelty
Benjamin Moseley

DESIGN AND LAYOUT SUPPORT

Soksamphoas Im
Benjamin Moseley
Diliaur Tellei

CSEAS SCHOLAR-SPACE ARCHIVE

ScholarSpace is an open-access, digital institutional repository for the community. ScholarSpace stores the intellectual works and unique collections of the UH at Mānoa academic community and also provides a permanent web location for those accessing these resources.

Over the past year downloads of major CSEAS collections included:

- Asian Perspectives: The Journal of Archaeology for Asia and the Pacific: 1003
- The Mists of Ramanna: The Legend That Was Lower Burma: 484
- Explorations: A Graduate Student Journal of Southeast Asian Studies: 146
- Cakalele: Research in and about Maluku, East Indonesia: 76
- Florence K. Lamoureux Archive Working and Occasional Papers: 40
**Commoning or Being Commoned?**

The Institutions and Politics of Collective Housing in Bangkok, Thailand.

By Dr. Hayden Shelby, UHM, Department of Urban and Regional Planning. In this talk, she analyzed how different community-based organizations carry out their Baan Mankong projects and how they mold state institutions to meet their needs or mold themselves to fit with the new regulations and systems.

**Organizing and Mobilizing Beyond Borders**

Transnational Activism in the Vietnamese Diaspora

By Professor Duyen Bui, Department of Political Science, UHM. This talk highlighted how actors within the Vietnamese diaspora make transnational claims to get over authoritarianism and create a democracy in the country since the end of Vietnam War.

**Mosquitoes and the Making of the Annamite Hill Country**

A Parasitical Speculative History

Dr. Jonathan Padwe, Associate Professor of Anthropology, spoke on the role that resistance to malaria has played in structuring the lowland-upland divide in Southeast Asia as differential immunity complicates existing understandings of the historical relationship between upland and lowland societies.

**Pag+mul+mula+an**

or ‘Place of Plants’, ‘Place of Planting’

By MFA Exhibition Rebecca Maria Goldschmidt, MFA Candidate, Department of Music, UHM. She explored how relationships to land manifest in diasporic communities and culture through photography, textiles, video, and print.

**From Angkor Borei to Angkor Wat and the LOMAP Artifact Collection at UHM**

By Dr. Miriam Stark, Department of Anthropology, UHM.

**2020 School of Pacific & Asian Studies Graduate Student Conference**

Stories of Movement in Asia: Boundaries and Exile.

Southeast Asia papers presented at the conference:


3. Sophie FABER, University of Auckland, MA, Museum Studies: “Ancestor Worship at the Tropenmuseum - An Investigation into the Repatriation of West Papuan Cultural Heritage”


5. Yvonne TAN, Goethe University, Frankfurt, MA, Southeast Asian Studies: “Fatal Headhunters yang semacam Melayu dan Cina: Creating the Abject Other Natives in the Mat Salleh Rebellions (1894-1905)”


**Making Music Workshops**

By Dr. Benjamin Fairfield, Ethnomusicology lecturer, Department of Music, UHM.
PROGRAMS/EVENTS

THE LAST KING OF BALI

A brand new, original production of a traditional Balinese folk tale premiered on the UHM Kennedy Theatre Mainstage in February.

Co-directed by Dr. Kirstin Pauka, Professor, Asian theatre and I Madé Moja, with music by I Made Widana, this wayang listrik extravaganza featured puppets, shadow actors, dancers, and live gamelan music.

An added bonus of the show was the large educational outreach effort that brought Balinese wayang listrik to Hawaii’s K-12 schools in Spring 2020. Aside from outreach in the schools, a teacher’s resource guide and a full length documentary were also produced.

The documentary highlighted the 2015-2016 Balinese wayang listrik production of “Subali-Sugriwa: Battle of the Monkey Kings,” showcasing the unique Asian Theatre Program at UHM. The film walks through the 4-month process of rehearsals and training to produce a professional award-winning theatre production with a primarily student cast and crew and a core team of Balinese guest artists. It was written, directed, and produced by Nezia Azmi, UH College of Education and executive produced by the UH CSEAS.

US AMBASSADOR TO CAMBODIA VISITS CSEAS

Ambassador W. Patrick Murphy

The ambassador and UHM Foreign Area Officer (FAO) alumni Col Marcus Ferrara (MA, Asian Studies), Defense Attaché, U.S. Embassy, Cambodia, met with faculty and students who study Cambodia and Khmer language at UHM.

KEYNOTE LECTURE BY VIET THANH NGUYEN

Internationally renowned novelist, critic, and Pulitzer Prize winner

Viet Thanh Nguyen delivered the Dan and Maggie Inouye Distinguished Chair in Democratic Ideals keynote lecture on “War, Refugees and Storytelling: From Representation to Decolonization” at the UHM Orvis Auditorium.
EXHIBITIONS/ PUBLICATIONS

INUNDATION

Art and Climate Change in the Pacific
This arts exhibition, curated by Dr. Jaimey Hamilton Faris, Associate Professor, Department of Art and Art History, featured multi-media videos, installations, and performance projects addressing climate justice situations in Hawai‘i, the Republic of, the Marshall Islands, the Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu, the Philippines, Okinawa, and Singapore. Guest artists from SEA included James Jack and Charles Lim, Singapore, and Martha and Jake Atienza, from the Philippines. This event was co-sponsored by CSEAS. You can view more information about this event here.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Sounds of the Asia Pacific
Hosted by the East-West Center Arts Program from February through March, this exhibition featured Asia Pacific musical instruments from the Ethnomusicology Instrument Collection in the UHM music department. The collection was acquired over the past 70 years initially established by Professor Barbara B. Smith, and continues today under the supervision of Professor Ricardo D. Trimillos. The exhibition showcased instruments from Burma (Myanmar), India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Politics, Meaning and Memory
UH Press relaunched the manuscript series Southeast Asia: Politics, Meaning and Memory. The series seeks to raise the visibility of Southeast Asia in scholarly circles and among general readers. Its broad scope covers history (memory) and culture (meanings), especially when these topics also elucidate issues of power (politics) at various social levels. To see their current collection of books available for purchase, go here.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

This section highlights all the grants and awards that have been awarded to CSEAS in the 2019-2020 Academic Year.

HENRY LUCE FOUNDATION
Awarded a grant of $40,000 to the University of Hawai‘i Foundation to support participation of Southeast Asian language instructors in training and materials development workshops organized by the Southeast Asia Language Council. This project is expected to begin on December 1, 2019, and to end by June 30, 2024. The grant proposal was written by CSEAS director Dr. Miriam Stark.

LuceSEA TRANSITIONS
Henry Luce Foundation awarded a five-year grant of $1,000,000 to the UH Foundation for the project LuceSEA Transitions: Environment, Society, and Change. This grant was made through the Luce Initiative on Southeast Asia. The grant proposal was spearheaded by CSEAS director Dr. Miriam Stark, who will serve as PI over the course of the five-year project in partnership with the EWC and more than 30 key project members at UH and worldwide.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE AREA STUDIES (FLAS)
CSEAS was awarded $280,000 support of Title VI Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) funding for AV 2019-2020. This is a four-year award cycle and 2019-2020 marks Year 2 of the grant.
WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

Our website traffic has continued to improve, and in the 2020 academic year (January '20 through December '21), we had 15,616 unique visitors to our page, which was about 43 visitors per day.

These 15,616 people viewed the site over 32,400 times on a variety of content.

The contents include jobs, projects, funding opportunities, scholarship information, faculty and student spotlight, conferences, dissertations, and theses.

**Top 10 User by Country**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Visits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>5,886</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>3,969</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>712</td>
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<td>Singapore</td>
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<td>Malaysia</td>
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<td>India</td>
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<td>China</td>
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<td>United Kingdom</td>
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<td>Thailand</td>
<td>298</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>276</td>
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</tbody>
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**Visitor Device Usage**

- **60.43%** Desktop
- **37.77%** Mobile
- **1.80%** Tablet

**TEN MOST POPULAR PAGES BY PAGE VIEW**

*Not including homepage.*

1. Jobs
2. Early Ifugao History, the People, and Old Kiyangan Village
3. Conferences
4. Artist Bio: Jefferson “Jef” Cablog
5. Dissertations & Theses
6. FLAS Fellowship
7. Funding
8. Southeast Asian Literature & Fiction
9. Southeast Asia Covid-19 Tracker
10. Scholarships

**Twitter**

In 2020, we totaled over 1,100 followers on our Twitter channel.

**Facebook**

In 2020, we totaled over 3,000 fans on our Facebook channel.

**Newsletter**

We published 17 issues with 5,188 Unique Subscriber opens and 1,464 Unique Content clicks.
CSEAS STAFF

Dr. MIRIAM STARK
DIRECTOR

PAUL RAUSCH
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

SARA LOH
PR & SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR

HOAN NGUYEN
WEB RESOURCES COORDINATOR

PHOTO CREDITS

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<th>PAGE</th>
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<td>Front Cover</td>
<td>Khon mask, Ramayana, Thailand &lt;br&gt;By gritsalak</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>View from the cave, beautiful landscape, Laos. &lt;br&gt;By Olga Khoroshunova</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Banner designed by Center staff</td>
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<td>6 &amp; 7</td>
<td>Traditional Vietnamese performance water puppet theatre show in Hanoi, Water puppetry, Hanoi, Vietnam. &lt;br&gt;By Kalyakan</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 &amp; 9</td>
<td>Bamboo luxury gold line design on dark background. By lightgirl</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 &amp; 11</td>
<td>Dr. Piphal Heng (PhD 2018, UHM Anthropology/Archaeology) with students in Siem Reap, Cambodia. &lt;br&gt;Image provided by Dr. Piphal Heng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 &amp; 13</td>
<td>Explorations 15 cover - created by the Explorations 15 Editorial team.</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Photos provided by Center staff</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Top: Mark Oxley and Ambassador Murphy met with faculty and students. Image credit: Mark Oxley and Ambassador Murphy. Bottom: Viet Thanh Nguyen via UH Foundation</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>From top to bottom: &lt;br&gt;• Angela Tiatia, “Holding On,” 2015. Courtesy of the artist and Sullivan-Strumpf, Sydney and Singapore. &lt;br&gt;• Photos provided by Center staff &lt;br&gt;• Bagan at Sunset, Myanmar. By Luciano Mortula-LGM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Vector illustration abstract Thai art Background. By tarapong</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Tourist taking photos in Bangkok, Thailand. By twinsterphoto</td>
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Report Design: Hoan Nguyen