



AMINEF proudly presents the Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) *Monthly Highlights*. Each month we showcase the various activities ETAs have been involved in throughout the past month, both in and outside the classroom. AMINEF oversees 29 ETAs who are placed in high schools across Indonesia.

## Foreword

Welcome to the October edition of the *Fulbright ETA Monthly Highlights*. Throughout October, Fulbright English Teaching Assistants (ETAs) led and participated in an array of activities with their schools and communities. They celebrated various holidays including Halloween and the Islamic New Year, attended weddings and cultural festivals, and accompanied their students and friends to several competitions regarding topics ranging from English Debate to Conservation.

The ETA Program, one of US State Department-funded Fulbright programs carried out in many countries throughout the world, places recent college graduates and young professionals as English teaching assistants in primary and secondary schools or universities overseas. The program helps improve foreign students' English-language abilities and knowledge of the United States while increasing the US student's own

language skills and knowledge of the many host countries around the world.

In Indonesia, the Fulbright ETAs are placed in high schools (both SMA and *madrasah*) where they assist local English teachers. The program has now been going for 12 years and has affected many thousands of Indonesian students and their communities across the archipelago over that period. AMINEF, in charge of the Fulbright program in Indonesia since 1992, works closely with the Indonesian ministries of Education and Culture and Religious Affairs to administer the ETA program in Indonesia.

The *Highlights* recount in an informal way the stories and experiences of the ETAs, their co-teachers and students, and the people in the communities where they are placed. We hope they are informative and capture the special value of this program. We welcome your feedback.

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### We'd love to get your feedback.

**For ETAs:** please share with us your favorite stories: which teaching method is most fun or you'd like to apply, or which activity you'd like to hear more of, or what is happening in your community?

**For Indonesian teachers, students and the general public:** Send us your reactions: which stories struck you as interesting, which experiences are compatible with your own, how can Indonesians

learn from Americans and vice versa? We'll post your feedback in the next newsletter and you may win a special thank-you gift from us. Email us at: [socmed@aminef.or.id](mailto:socmed@aminef.or.id)

Many thanks to all of the ETAs for their wonderful stories and photos. Be sure to get next month's newsletter!

AMINEF American  
Program and Public  
Relations Teams

## Halloween Highlights



### Manado, North Sulawesi

**ETA Mei Lin Pratt** celebrated the American holiday, Halloween, with her students at SMA Eben Haezar this week. During her classes on October 31<sup>st</sup> she gave fun quizzes to the students where they would have to choose the correct Halloween-based answers to questions such as: A hollowed out pumpkin with a face cut in one side and a candle put inside is called a) Jack-o-lantern; b) Tom-o-lantern; c) Miss Pumpkin.

Later, Mei Lin sat in front of the classroom and told the students to imagine that the whiteboard behind her was her house. She then had them

come up individually or in small groups to simulate trick-or-treating. Each student had to say, "trick-or-treat" and then tell Mei Lin what (imaginary) costumes they were wearing in order to then receive their treats. Many students came as Spiderman, other superheroes, witches, dogs, cats and characters from Halloween movies.

Overall, the day was full of happy students who enjoyed the festivities and learned more about the American holiday by actively participating in some of its traditions.

## Halloween Highlights



### Magelang, Central Java

ETA Julius (Jukie) Tsai embraced the fall spirit with a series of Halloween themed lessons. Excitement reached peak levels during a game of Halloween Hot-Seat with the students of class XI-OA, more commonly know by their self designated name; "Team Too Cool." As per usual with vocabulary games like Hot Seat, students jumped in head

first, yelling, feverishly motioning, and otherwise exerting their utmost descriptive powers. Unfortunately, due to minor rule infractions, a victor did not emerge. However, students walked away from the class with a new tool kit of spooky vocabulary fully prepared for their next encounter with All Hallows Eve.





**ETA Kayla Stewart** spent Halloween at SMKN Jawa Tengah doing a lesson with her students on the history of the holiday. During class, the students made their own masks and used them to create English ghost stories in groups. They acted them out at the end of class, and it was "bloody hilarious." After that class, Kayla threw a Halloween party for her students. It included mask-

**Semarang,  
Central Java**

masking, a 'Thriller' viewing party, making ghosts, and mummy races. Of course, there was plenty of candy to go around. One of her kids made her do some of the thriller dance in front of 100 students. "It was the best embarrassing moment I've had during my 20s," Kayla said.

# Halloween Highlights



## Labuan Bajo, Flores, East Nusa Tenggara

The 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade English Clubs of SMK Negeri 1 Labuan Bajo celebrated Halloween this year with **ETA Anna Katomski**. Students discussed how the holiday is celebrated in the United States. They learned about dressing up in costume, spooky Halloween traditions, and listened to popular Halloween music. Students also played various Halloween games, trick-or-treated, and watched *It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown*. Some of the games included "Pin the Spider on the Web" and the "Great Mummy Race," where students broke up into teams and raced to wrap one team member in toilet paper to resemble a mummy. Overall, the students really enjoyed their first Halloween!



**ETAs Lizzy Hardinsson and Kiana Ward** threw a party in their shared home for their neighborhood kids, a few teachers, and friends. The kids played "Pin the Spider on the Web", had a mummy race, and ate tons of homemade caramel goodies.

## Pangkal Pinang, Bangka





On Friday, October 28th, the English Club at SMAN 7, Manado gathered in the school's courtyard to celebrate Halloween. **ETA Megan Scribner** began by explaining the tradition of Halloween and how this holiday is celebrated within the United States. As an icebreaker, Megan had the students form a line and "trick or treat." They each came up to her, shouted "TRICK OR TREAT!" and she gave them candy I brought from the States. They then split into 6 groups and played the "mummy wrap" game. Megan played "The Monster Mash" and the kids

**Manado,  
North  
Sulawesi**



frantically wrapped one of their friends with toilet paper. When the song was over, they all had to stop. The mummies were judged by applause. They then played a balloon-pop relay game. Megan stuffed balloons with candy and blew them up ahead of time. The students had to run from one side of the courtyard to the other with the balloon in between their legs. Once the relay was finished the last student had to pop the balloon by sitting on it. After this silly game, they made ghosts out of tissues and played "Pin the spider on the web." All-in-all it was a wonderful day filled with lots of laughter and LOTS of candy.

## Halloween Highlights



### Balige, North Sumatra

The dormitory students of SMAN 2 Balige crowded into their seats in the main hall to cheer and howl for Halloween performances put on by their fellow students, who had spent the week prior organizing groups, writing scripts, and preparing costumes to tell their own versions of ghost stories like the Valak and Kuchisake Onna. The performers in these 10-12 minute skits had requested that **ETA Daniel Gerardi** be one of the four judges. The fun and frightening spirit of Halloween filled the hall: student's creeping around on stage donned in dark robes and fantastic, freaky face paint, chasing each other, screaming, dying in exaggerated fashions, and even crawling unnoticed across the floor to the judges' table to deliver a perfectly-timed and terrifying jump scare. After the performances, a costume fashion show was held and trophies were presented to the most thrilling performers. The following week, Daniel met in school with the non-dormitory students to talk about the history and traditions of Halloween and Day of the Dead. It was an unexpected delight to be able to celebrate Halloween so far from home!

## Islamic New Year



In the wee hours of the morning on Sunday, October 2nd, **ETAs Kelly Fitzgerald** and **Krupa Patel** joined in the *Muharram* festivities at SMA Wachid Hasyim

### Sidoarjo, East Java

2 Sidoarjo. For weeks prior to the event, students were busy preparing costumes, dance routines, and traditional music for the holiday. Their hours of hard work culminated in a 5 kilometer parade around town to celebrate the Islamic New Year. Kelly and Krupa walked the entire parade route, smiling for thousands of photos and admiring the endurance of the students who danced and played music the entire way.



## Neighborhood Music Session



ETA Christal Clemens and her site mate, ETA Julianne O'Connell, recently started a band called the *Peace Song Gorengs*. So far, they have had two

**Kupang,  
East Nusa  
Tenggara**

band practices and their most recent practice session occurred at Julianne's *kost*, which is located in the Oebufu neighborhood of Kupang. Says Christal, "I chose this as my monthly highlight because we were practicing at her *kost* when flocks of children came running toward us yelling "Miss Julia, Miss Julia!!!" as soon as they heard and saw us (they do this daily when Miss Julianne comes home from work/leaves her house at any time)." Christal and Julianne started walking down her street and Christal ended up playing songs by Jason Mraz and Justin Bieber on her ukulele while the children sang along "like a choir of angels."

## Intercultural Potluck



From morning to late afternoon on October 22nd friends, students, teachers, and fellow ETAs alike gathered at the home of ETA Kelly Fitzgerald for

**Sidoarjo  
East Java**

an intercultural potluck lunch. Students from Universitas Airlangga's American Corner took the lead in making *gado-gado*, a traditional Indonesian salad, while ETAs Krupa Patel, Shreya Kundur, and Caroline Rose prepared foods such as pasta, bruschetta, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and deviled eggs. The potluck was attended by over 40 students from Kelly's English Club. After lunch, the ETAs took the party to the streets by "getting funky" and dancing to the Cha Cha Slide. The party was truly an opportunity for intercultural exchange where the ETAs were able to share traditional American food and dance while learning about Indonesian party etiquette.

## Japanese Festival



### Malang, East Java

**ETA Caroline Rose** attended a Japanese festival with her students at one of the local universities in Malang. She was also able to meet up with the

other native speaker at her school who is from Japan. At the festival, there were games, dancing, and competitions to highlight and celebrate Japanese history and culture. During the festival, Caroline participated in a workshop to learn about the traditional Japanese tea ceremony. She enjoyed the learning about a new country and culture alongside Indonesians. This festival provided Caroline, her students, and her fellow teachers yet another fun way to experience international exchange!

## English Teachers Club



On October 13th, 2016, the Labuan Bajo English Teachers Club held its first meeting at SMAK Loyola in Labuan Bajo, East Nusa Tenggara. **ETAs**

### Labuan Bajo, East Nusa Tenggara

**Anna Katowski** and **Sam Geary** coordinated with members of the local Education Department as well as with English teachers from their respective schools (SMKN 1 Labuan Bajo and SMK Stella

Maris) in order to facilitate the establishment of the club, through which teachers meet monthly to do the following: discuss successes and challenges in the classroom, receive professional development, and improve their English proficiency. At the first meeting, teachers representing around 5 different local high schools gathered together to collaborate, and discussed topics from recent teacher workshops, brainstormed goals for the club, and reflected upon English teaching in the region. Hopefully even more teachers will attend the second meeting in mid-November!



# Conservation Competition



The students of SMKN 4 prepared for a visit from *Adiwiyata*, a national environmental education program and competition. On a daily basis, SMKN 4 uses “green” practices such as caring for plants on the school’s campus, restricting the sale of bottled water at school and incorporating knowledge of environmental issues into class lessons. The day of the *Adiwiyata* judge’s visit was a day to showcase those practices and

**Malang,  
East java**

more. The students created a *Pasar* (market) in the middle of the school’s campus displaying various goods made out of repurposed trash. There were candle holders made out of soda cans, placemats made out of hair scrunchies, teddy bears made out of yarn scraps and so much more. **ETA Shreya Kundur**’s students also contributed to the *Pasar* by putting together an informational display about the ways in which American schools “go green” including composting, using public school buses and organizing clothing drives.

## Season of Love



### Kupang, East Timor

October is not usually known as the month for love, at least **ETA Julianne O'Connell** never thought it was. She usually considers it to be a month for football and changing weather and Halloween. In Kupang, however, much like in the US, October seems to be a popular month to get hitched, which is how Julianne found herself at 1 wedding every weekend this month. The first wedding was for members of her Hash Running Group, Bobby and Emilia, Bobby and Emilia. It was held in an extravagantly decorated ballroom and was the most lavish wedding she had ever seen, on any continent. Julianne was surprised with how western the wedding felt: there was a long line for the buffet, cake cutting, a bouquet toss (just as awkward and uncomfortable as in the States), there was even an open bar! She spent the night waltzing with a local dance teacher, which was the highlight of her night, but honestly, Julianne felt a bit jealous of the more traditional weddings that she saw her friends on Java experiencing.

The two weddings that followed were similar to the first, albeit a bit smaller and less extravagant. Julianne was able to participate in some traditional

dances and realized that most weddings are pretty similar (and that A LOT of people get hitched in Kupang, often at the same venue). And finally, this past weekend, she went to another wedding (her 4th in 4 weeks) which was traditional and wonderful and everything she had been hoping to experience. The wedding was for the cousin of her neighbor and best friend and was held on her street, about 5 doors down from her kost. Julianne wore her traditional motif skirt, much to the delight of her neighbors. She celebrated all night with traditional music and dances and prayers with her neighbors and the people who know her best in Kupang and she even got to see some of the kids from her Neighborhood English Club all dressed up. It was a great night which she will not soon forget.

All in all it was a great month filled with lots of dancing and good food and LOVE. So even though there are no costume parties or changing leaves Julianne is still finding a lot to smile about!



## Dance Classes



**ETA Shelby Lawson** joins the dance classes of her counterpart *Ibu Ani* every week. The students share traditional dances with Shelby, like the Lulo. This

**Kendari,  
Southeast  
Sulawesi**

community is a great way for her to connect with her students outside of the classroom setting. She is eager to start sharing popular American dances, such as the Cha Cha Slide and the Cupid Shuffle, in the coming months. Not only does dance allow the students and Shelby to share culture, but also language. The lyrics to the songs offer great practice for the students to listen and follow instructions! They are dancing their hearts out at SMAN 7 Kendari!

## Cultural Festival



Haluoleo University, in Kendari, hosted the “*PEKSIMINAS: Pekan Seni Mahasiswa Nasional*” Festival October 12-16, 2016. It was a huge

**Kendari,  
Southeast  
Sulawesi**

cultural festival with groups participating in artistic and cultural competitions from every province of Indonesia. The **ETAs Shelby Lawson, Kate Baront, and Mackenzie Findlay** were invited to attend with some of their local Indonesian friends. They went to it several different nights to see performances and visit the student booths. Mackenzie was especially thrilled to find a group from Palangka Raya, Central Kalimantan (her ETA site last year) and even learned that one of them (the girl on the left in the *Dayak* costume) was an alumna of her old school, SMAN 5! It’s crazy what a small world it is!



## School Competitions and Clubs



### Bringin, Central Java

As the first complete month at school, October was the month **ETA Katarina Krueger** felt like she got to know her students.

Teaching each class of students only once a week is very limited time with them, so she is doing her best to find ways to engage with them outside of our weekly class meeting. This has happened through extracurricular activities like English Club and Running Club, and inviting classes over to her house. She is so glad she has a large house and can host these hang out times; the fact that she has the freedom to invite students to her house is so special. She had two of her tenth grade classes over in October, about 25 students showed up each time. The first time the power went out and all of us

hunkered down for a very autumnal afternoon inside playing UNO and Banangrams by candlelight and eating chocolate chip pancakes while it rained outside. Both times she got a kick out of the students excitedly documenting their time at her house. Many selfies were taken. She overheard some students giving a tour of her house while taking a video, "this is Miss Kata's kitchen, this is Miss Kata's living room, I am in Miss Kata's house!" She caught some of her girl students taking selfies while holding photos of her family and boyfriend. She dearly loves her students and is so happy for any extra time she gets to spend with them.





October at SMKN2 Pangkal Pinang brought with it a national language competition, the first meeting of their English Club, and a local English Language competition.

### **Pangkal Pinang, Bangka**

For the national language competition, students at SMKN2, a technical high school, welded and painted a very impressive metal sign. Said **ETA Kiana Ward**, "It's fun to see what can be accomplished when the students put their skills to use."

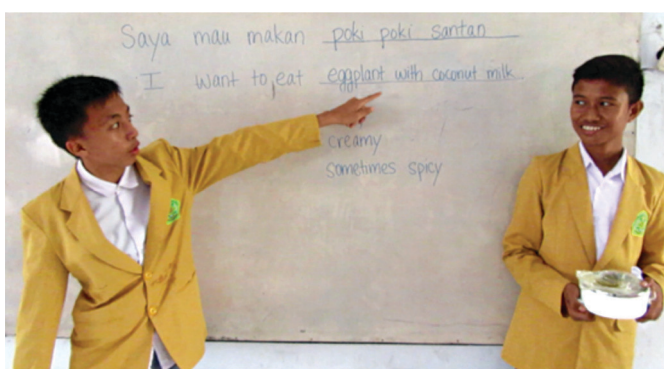
SMKN2's own Lang Buono made it through the first round of the English Competition with his speech on the quality of Indonesian Education.



**ETA JoAnn Doll** and the English Club students at MAN Model Gorontalo have been working hard throughout October. They have almost finished

### **Gorontalo, Sulawesi**

filming their first two videos for the Bahasa Project. The girls taught vocabulary about colors in Bahasa Indonesia and English while modeling different types of clothes and *jilbabs* of every shade. The boys were excited to explain food-related vocabulary in Bahasa Gorontalo, Bahasa Indonesia, and English by introducing various traditional foods from Gorontalo, which were promptly devoured after filming. English Club also held a Halloween party which was attended by students from every grade level. After a few students expressed concern about the potentially religiously-sensitive nature of many traditional Halloween activities, we instead discussed cultural traditions and played English games, including one in which each student (often quite hilariously) had to explain what random things they found scary and why. In the spirit of Halloween, everyone enjoyed lots of candy for their efforts!



# Talent Show



## Surabaya, East Java

The students from SMA Khadijah in Surabaya, Jawa Timur spent countless days preparing for the school's annual talent show, DJ's Got Talent. **ETA Krupa Patel** arrived at school on October 10th and was bestowed the title of judge! The spacious prayer hall was packed with excited high school students. Each class went up one by one with matching outfits, choreographed dances, memorized songs, speeches, comedy



skits and more. The students sang and danced to *Chainsmokers*, *Snoop Dog*, *One Direction*, KPop songs, Arabic songs, Indonesian songs, and even the infamous Pen-Pineapple song. They did the whip and nae nae, the dab, and *poco poco*! The creativity, humor, passion and enthusiasm displayed that day were unmatched by any talent show that Krupa has ever seen. It was truly spectacular to see the students come together and work in teams to showcase their talents.



## English Competition



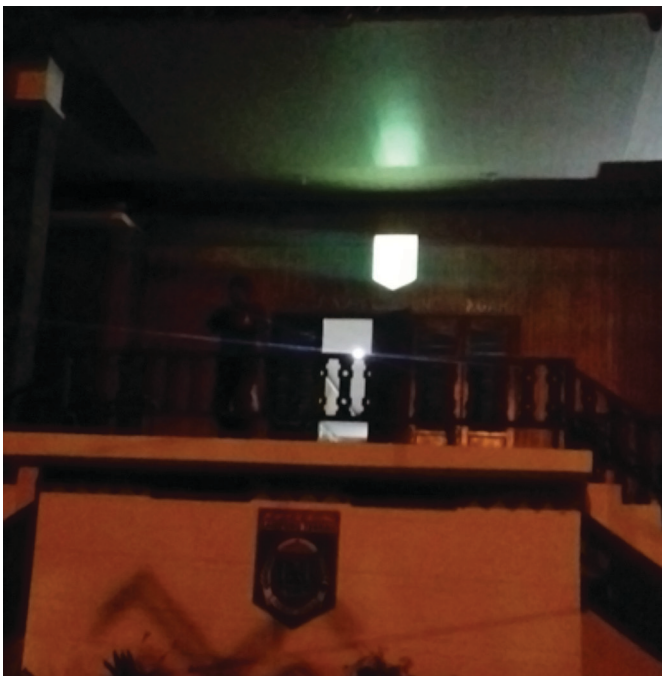
The Law Department at Hasanuddin University held its annual Asian Law Student Association (ALSA) English Competition on October 29-30,

**Makassar, South Sulawesi**

2016. Students from and around Makassar came to compete in speech (high school and varsity levels) or British parliament style debate. **ETA Ayat Abourashed** was invited to judge the high

school level speeches. The speeches covered superheroes in real life, the role of youth in counter-terrorism, and the harmony in diversity of religions in Indonesia. At the closing ceremony, Ayat handed the awards to the high school speech winners.

## Exploring the Neighborhood



One night **ETA Matt Poissant** met up with some fellas from his *kost* to get some type of spicy Indonesian chicken that "I can not remember the

**Bandar Lampung, South Sumatra**

name of. But I do remember the chicken was ridiculously tender and it luckily wasn't as spicy as I had thought." Afterwards they decided to take him to see the different government offices of all

the different districts within Lampung, "kind of like a Bandar Lampung version of embassy row." As they came to each office they gave him a little summary of each district, which included a bit about their culture and history. Being that they were agriculture majors at their university they also gave Matt a lot of information about agriculture of each district.

## English Camp



### Kudus, Central Java

**ETA Vinny Owen** joined the students from the language program at MAN 2 Kudus for an exciting English Camp retreat in Jepara. This overnight event was held in collaboration with Global English Course Jepara—a local English club working to improve their English speaking abilities. The camp consisted of language lessons and games, as well as a talent show and even time to relax at the beach.

## Syukuran



**ETA Michaela Chinn** was honored to accompany SMAN 1's teachers to a communal celebration (*syukuran*) of Bapak Roch Hadi (one of the

### Salatiga, Central Java

committee's members) and his family's safe return from their pilgrimage to Mecca. The celebration occurred at the families' home in the main living room. Michaela, along with teachers and Bapak Roch Hadi's family enjoyed tasting some delicious sweet treats brought back from the Arab world. They sat on the floor while eating our lunch and engaged in discussions about American culture, Indonesian culture, and Muslim rituals. Following this dialogue, Bapak Roch Hadi lead a prayer, that ended with everyone drinking water from the *Zamzam* well that he and his family had brought back from Mecca.



## Madrasah English Teachers' Association Meeting



**ETA Siham Abdi** attended a meeting for a *Madrasah* English Teacher's Association in Purworejo. At this gathering she was able to introduce herself

### **Magelang, Central Java**

and meet other fellow English teachers in the area. This was a time for teachers to learn from each other as well as gather resources from each other. Siham also had the chance to introduce herself to a 12<sup>th</sup> grade classroom, which was the most enjoyable part

of the day for her. Afterwards, all of the teachers in attendance, approximately 50 teachers, visited a nearby man's home that had just come back from Hajj. The sense of community felt in that setting was unlike anything Siham had felt before.

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