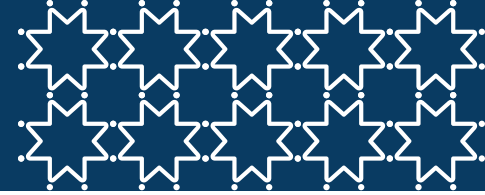


Fulbright ETA Monthly Highlights



Welcome to the 2017-18 Cohort's September edition of the Fulbright ETA *Monthly Highlights*. The month of September was the ETAs first full month at site, and they all got right to work both at school and in their communities. This edition includes celebrating holidays, meeting new friends, and attending wedding ceremonies along with their thoughts, comparisons, and takeaways from these experiences.

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, SMK 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.

We'd love to get your feedback.

For ETAs: Please share with us your favorite stories: which teaching method is most fun and you would like to apply, or which activity you would 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 will 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

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 Communications Teams

SMAN 2 Balige Balige, North Sumatra

ETA Amy Quirion took part in the 2017 Toba Carnival on September 10th, 2017. Before coming to Balige, Amy knew very little about the province of Northern Sumatra and the strong culture behind the Batak people of the region. In the Batak culture, Amy learned, there are six sub-tribes from the main Batak tribe. Where Amy lives, she lives with descendants of the Batak Toba tribe. On this day, Amy found out the five other tribes, which also have their own languages, including Batak Simalungun, Batak Karo, Batak Mandailing, Batak Pakpak and Batak Angkola. She was enriched with the culture on this day and welcomed by the Batak community of her town. Little did she know, not only would she witness the beautiful culture, but she would also be a part of it! She met many new faces, cheered on by her students, and even rode down the street in a parade float!



SMKN 7 Semarang Semarang, Central Java

With the school year settling into routine, **ETA Sam Chen** and his co-teachers at SMKN 7 Semarang began construction of the school's new English Language Classroom. The project – which involved turning an old storage room into a bright new learning environment – drew heavily on the vocational skills of SMKN 7's students, who single-handedly renovated the room over the course of two weeks. Sam learned more about the education system at his school by watching many different departments contribute to the effort. Students from Building & Construction put together new tables, while Electrical Engineering students installed new lights, and the Audio/Video Dept. repurposed old speakers for a new space. Finally, members of the SMKN 7 English Club came into school on Saturday to help clean the room (though plenty of English language board games were played as well). As the month of September draws to a close, Sam and his co-teachers are excited to officially open the new classroom, and plan on using it for a number of new English extracurriculars that will get the whole school learning!



SMA Swasta Sisingamangaraja Tanjungbalai Tanjungbalai, North Sumatra

Students at SMA Sisingamangaraja have been writing Pen Pal letters throughout the month of September to send to **ETA Sheldon Ruby's** high school in Everett, Pennsylvania. SMA Sisingamangaraja students wrote about themselves, what they want American students to know about Indonesia, and questions they have for students in America. The students are also including photos of their favorite places and foods in Indonesia so they can show American students Indonesian culture and diversity. The students in Everett are learning a brief history of Indonesia and are excited to receive their first letters from students in Indonesia. Many of the students in Everett have never traveled outside of the United States and have never been exposed to students who do not share their ethnicity, religion, and zip code. It will be incredible to see how this project can expand and increase the number of cultural exchanges between students in the United States and students in Indonesia.

SMK Muhammadiyah 7 Gondanglegi Malang Gondanglegi, Malang, East Java

ETA Greg Sutton started his weekly "Teacher's Club" in September, in which he teaches English to other teachers at his school. Each teacher has the chance to participate in these half hour sessions each week from Monday to Friday. He has enjoyed these small, interactive sessions and getting to connect with teachers from other departments.

On September 30, he hosted a workshop entitled "Hello Facilitator, Goodbye Lecturer: Making English Lessons Creative and Fun" along with English Language Fellow Yuta Otake from the Regional English Language Office (RELO) and fellow **ETA Elena Dietz**, who is based in Malang. With over 150 participants, the workshop was a big hit among middle and high school teachers from all over East Java. His hope is that the workshop will result in a lasting and sustainable impact among the English teachers that attended the workshop.



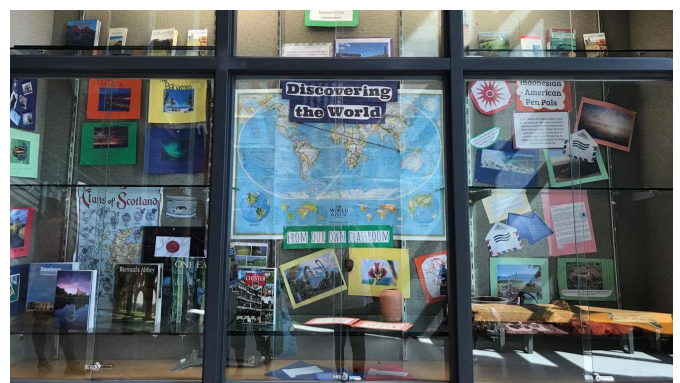
SMKN 6 Surabaya Surabaya, East Java

This month **ETA Kelly Richard** conducted her very first workshop presentation! Her session was about teaching and assessing English vocabulary and included fun games and activities as well as a short lecture on the importance of authenticity and real world application. After the presentation, many teachers asked Kelly questions about her own teaching practice and how to apply the techniques and activities to their own classroom. Kelly loved meeting all of the English teachers in Surabaya and discussing new ways of teaching with them. After the presentation, the teachers were encouraged to send feedback via email. So far, there has been much positive and constructive feedback which will be very helpful in conducting the next session! Kelly had so much fun- but the most fun was spending time with the English teachers committee (her new friends) who are sharing their wisdom with her and also their snacks



SMKN 4 Malang Malang, East Java

Starting in August and continuing through September and beyond, 10th and 11th grade students in the American English Club at SMKN 4 Malang have been exchanging letters via email with their American 8th grade pen pals in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. This project began when Ms. Brianna Bell, a student-teacher in Cedar Rapids, IA reached out to **ETA Elena Dietz**, proposing a project that would connect her students in Iowa to students in Indonesia. Both teachers recognized the need for young people to develop a better understanding of our increasingly global world. Students in both countries have shared their favorite foods, sports, anime shows, video games, and have even dived in to discussing specific aspects of culture, religion, and future hopes and dreams. While this project has shown students the ways in which life differs between the two countries, like different cuisines and different daily rituals, it has also shown students the ways in which their lives are extremely similar, even though they live in countries a thousand miles apart.



MAN 1 Kendari Kendari, Southeast Sulawesi

At MAN1 Kendari, **ETA Meghan Cullinan** worked with her English Club to lead a discussion and reflection about a current event her students believe is important. During the past month, Meghan watched students take the initiative and work together to support Rohingya Muslims impacted by the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar. Due to student interest, students chose to talk about the Rohingya humanitarian crisis during English Club at the end of September.

Her students read an article, which was revised according to their English level, about the topic. Students also received vocabulary sheets with Tier 3 words, specific to the topic like: "refugee", "humanitarian crisis", and "migration." Before reading, students shared their knowledge of the Rohingya crisis. While students read with a partner, they answered comprehension questions about the text to prepare for a critical thinking activity. Then, students discussed the opinion question: "Should Indonesia, the U.S., and other countries get involved in the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar?" Based on their discussion, Meghan wanted to give her students an opportunity to imagine they could communicate with Rohingya students. Her students agreed that they could use English to communicate with other students around the world. The students wrote individual solidarity letters to Rohingya students and Meghan compiled one letter to represent the group. She feels extremely proud of her students' critical thinking, reflection, and courage to speak up, using a foreign language to discuss an issue they care about.



SMKN 3 Pangkalpinang Pangkalpinang, Bangka

ETA Kate Morrow's reading activity for the 11th grade unit, "Hopes and Dreams" was *The Lorax*. She and her co-teachers helped students to read the story as a class, verse by verse, stopping every few lines to review the plot points and characters. This turned into Kate drawing a lot of pictures on the board to explain "truffula trees," "thneeds," and other "silly words," as the students decided to call them. At first, students were frustrated by the number of words they didn't understand. But as the storyline continued, students started to be less concerned about picking out every word and more focused on understanding the Once-ler's schemes or the Lorax's concerns. The initial confused chaos changed into an energized concentration on responding to Kate and *Bu Wiwik's* checks for understanding along the way. By the end of the story, after Kate had successfully made a fool of herself acting out much of the action, students needed little prompting to answer the discussion questions about what the Once-ler hoped for, what the Lorax hoped for, and how their hopes changed over time. As students watched a few songs from the movie at the end of class, they already knew the names of the characters when they first appeared, and they called out new vocabulary words like "chopped" and "greed," along with some silly words like "Bar-ba-loots" when they recognized the events happening on screen. The lesson allowed the students to fully engage in an organic way and not only learn about the hopes and dreams topic, but also about environmental issues that are so prominent in our society today!



SMAN 1 Salatiga Salatiga, Central Java

During the month of September, **ETA Nitika Johri** practiced English with SMAN 1 Salatiga Grade 11 students Natasha, Eunice, and Theo during afterschool hours to prepare for an English Speech Competition. Natasha prepared a speech on preventing child abuse, Eunice on go-green living, and Theo on solutions to flooding.

Nitika Johri worked with the students three times per week, focusing on argumentative and researched-based writing, pronunciation, grammar, and using critical thinking when answering questions. Outside of speech practice, she engaged the students in daily conversations about their topics, encouraging them to be confident speakers. The three students showed immense dedication during the month of

preparation. They all brought immense passion for their topics, an impressive spoken and written command of the language, and well-researched material. Additionally, their enthusiasm and warm personalities made every meeting something to look forward to for Nitika.

Natasha, Eunice, and Theo entered the competition in Ungaran, Central Java on September 23rd. All three students were selected for the final round. Finally, Theo came in first place, and Eunice came in second out of all participants in Central Java! Nitika was incredibly proud of all three students and how their hard work paid off. After the successful competition, they treated ETA Nitika and Counterpart *Ibu Nurhayani* to coffee and snacks in Salatiga!



SMAN 1 Limboto Gorontalo, Gorontalo

Selamat Tahun Islam Baru, or Happy New Islamic Year. This year marks 1439 H in the Islamic lunar calendar and is also called Muharram. **ETA Nabeel Ahmad**, at SMAN 1 Limboto, celebrated Islamic New Year by attending *subuh* prayer, or morning prayer, in Masjid Agung Bait-ur-Rahman in Limboto, Gorontalo. Following prayer, Nabeel Ahmad joined the annual parade that encircles Limboto. Nabeel joined many of his students and held a banner with the phrase "*Selamat Tahun Islam Baru*." Nabeel joined in with the chants said throughout the parade as students played percussion. The parade ended at the *Masjid*, mosque, which held a ceremony with the local officials and community members. Sweets were passed out to each attendee and percussion was played inside of the mosque. Following the short ceremony, Nabeel took part in reading the Quran and took part in reflection. At the end of the day's events, Nabeel attended dinner at a teacher's house to celebrate the Islamic New Year.



SMAN 15 Padang Padang, West Sumatra

ETA Jam Sulahry ventured to *Padang Mengatas* in Payakumbuh to visit a cow farm. Here, Jam learned about how certain cows are bred, including the whole biology and evolution of cows. Interestingly enough, 3 of the top 10 largest bulls in the world reside in Indonesia. The cattle here are also known as "New Zealand Cattle", Jam was so excited at the farm that he actually purchased a shirt that said, "New Zealand-Nya Indonesia". However, past the natural beauty of the region and cows, Jam enjoyed engaging with students and understanding what they wanted to do after high school. By using the cow farm as a building block, Jam encouraged students to think critically about what they want their career paths to look like, maybe they could be running the next *Padang Mengatas*! Jam enjoyed joining the students on this trip because not only did he get to speak English and interact with the students on the 7 hour round trip bus ride, but also had the ability to understand his students on a deeper level.



MAN Demak Demak, Central Java

On Friday September 8th, **ETA Matt Poissant** was taken by his coteacher, *Ibu Emma* to go buy *batik* but Matt got much out of the experience than he was expecting. The previous week Matt was at Demak's *Idul Adha* celebration at the city square with *Ibu Emma* and on the way back from that the two passed Demak's market. Matt asked *Ibu Emma* if they sold *batik* there and was told yes and that next week he could accompany her family to go buy some *batik*. The following week, Matt met *Ibu Emma* and her family at MAN Demak and they departed to buy *batik*. Matt assumed they would be going to the central market but it soon became obvious that was not the destination. After driving a few kilometers outside of the city center they reached their destination – a small *batik* workshop for handmade *batik* from Demak. Matt was shown a variety of beautiful *batik tulis* fabrics (*batik* in which the motif was hand drawn) and he selected one to buy and another to be put on hold for when he could come back with enough money to buy it. After his purchase, Matt met *Ibu Dwi*, who was the owner of the shop and an expert *batik* artist, and she explained to him that the patterns of star fruit and guavas was a motif original to Demak. *Ibu Dwi* then gave Matt a tour of her workshop. She showed him where she drew on the fabric with wax. She then showed him how the pattern was painted and then the area where the fabric was dyed with naturally made colors. Matt has been very enthusiastic about *batik* ever since he first arrived in Indonesia so he was grateful for this opportunity to see how it is made and also to learn about the history of *batik* in relation to his site Demak.



SMAN 3 Pangkalpinang Pangkalpinang, Bangka

On September 22nd, **ETA Nageen Sherani** took part in Islamic New Year celebrations at her school, SMA 3. Islamic New Year is based on the lunar calendar and the first day of the new year is marked by 1st Muharram. At SMA 3, the special occasion was celebrated with *Nganggung*, a tradition unique to Bangka Island which consists of large gatherings of families, friends and neighbors coming together to share homemade food. The event began with celebratory remarks by the headmistress and a prayer for the coming year to bring prosperity for all, followed by enjoying a great variety of foods. Nageen was excited to sit together with her students and teachers to try different foods from Bangka Island and be a part of as well as observe the strong sense of community the *Nganggung* fostered.



SMAN 11 Padang Padang, West Sumatra

On September 23, **ETA Alex Bue** went to a teachers workshop hosted by his counterpart, *Bu Dona*, at Padang's premier public high school. She was invited to host the event after scoring highly on the yearly competency test administered to English teachers by the Indonesian government. The others in attendance were teachers who had scored poorly on the exam, and their participation in the workshop was an opportunity to regain lost professional standing.

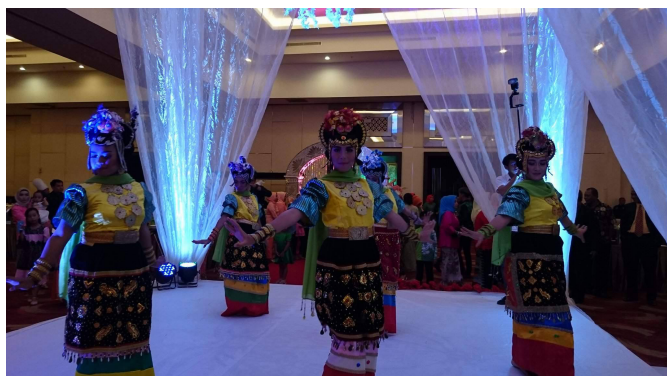
Bu Dona is a gifted teacher and talented English speaker. Alex enjoys their co-teaching and was excited to work with her and other educators in a new environment. He had 20 minutes to introduce himself and advise how to create authentic English experiences in the classroom. But 20 minutes had become 10 minutes by the time the teachers, like students, had asked, in a dozen slightly different and endearing ways, if he had already eaten and did he like *rendang*, the local specialty of beef slow-cooked in coconut milk.

Alex asked the teachers his favorite question, the same he asks younger students at his school: Why learn English? The response, like those previous, was generally stunned silence, followed by snippets of Indonesian and expectant stares. The question doesn't have just one answer but is important to ask in Padang, and probably other parts of Indonesia too, where chances to speak with native speakers are limited, where traveling abroad is an impossibly distant hypothetical, where life does not change trajectories easily. Alex doesn't have the answer, though he begins to answer the question by talking about the good jobs which require English (e.g. police, wait staff, stewardess). For teachers, who already have a job, perhaps it is answer enough to know with English, and some Indonesian, they and Alex shared an afternoon not uncomfortably.



SMAN 7 Kendari **Kendari, Southeast Sulawesi**

On September 11th, 2017, **ETA Alexandra Turcios** attended a traditional Indonesian wedding party at the Grand Clarion Hotel in Kendari. When she arrived, a stream of guests flooded into the large ballroom to meet and greet the newlywed Bride and Groom. The excitement was tangible. Upon entering, a beautiful floral arch welcomed each guest. The highlight of the night, however, was watching the traditional Indonesian dancers put on an eloquent show in the middle of the room. They were captivating, and demonstrated the beauty and poise of dance. After the dancers finished their show, Alexandra had the chance to personally meet the Bride and Groom, and give them her wishes. She joined over 300 other guests in doing the same. Love ballads and the strum of the guitar filled the room with life. It was interesting for Alexandra to attend a wedding on a Monday night and to note the cultural differences between American and Indonesian weddings. She even took home a small souvenir from the photo booth at the wedding - enclosed in a cardboard frame that says "Celebrate Love."



SMA Eben Haezar Manado **Manado, North Sulawesi**

In September, **ETA Katia Oltmann** started volunteering with students from Institut Agama Islam Negeri (IAIN) in Manado. IAIN's English program is relatively new, so Katia has been excited to meet with the English students. She has really enjoyed meeting with students outside of class and giving them a chance to practice talking in English. She is so glad that she has had this opportunity to help build university students' confidence in using English. In addition, she has been interested in learning about some of the differences between Indonesian and American universities. But, for her, the best part of this experience by far has been the chance to meet so many new people! Getting to know IAIN students has been a great way to connect with the community. Katia has loved being able to bond with students over bowls of *tinutuan* (vegetable porridge) and plates of *pisang goreng* (fried bananas). She hopes to continue her volunteer work at IAIN throughout her grant period and to have a lot more dinners with students in her future.



SMAN 1 Boyolali Boyolali, Central Java

Last week Indonesians observed the start of the Muslim New Year which is a national holiday. As school was not in session, **ETA Khalid Osman** accepted an invitation to join three other Americans and four Indonesians to climb *Gunung Merbabu*. The crew met at basecamp and began the climb to the summit. Khalid had the opportunity to connect with many of the members including a fellow Miami alumni during the eight-hour trek. Of particular interest was the revelation that Egypt is held in high esteem in Indonesian society. This is due to the fact that many Indonesians strive to study abroad at the famed Al-Azhar University. Aside from the world's oldest university, many Indonesians stop in Cairo for tourism on their way to Mecca. Khalid arrived at the summit just in time for sunrise and the four Americans enjoyed the breathtaking view from the top of the mountain overlooking an amber sky.



MAN 2 Kab. Gorontalo Gorontalo, Gorontalo

ETA Ian Morse has been quasi-adopted by a religion teacher's family and spent three weekends in September with them. He has attended a wedding with them as well as several other events, but his favorite may have been a day out on Lake Limboto. Early in the morning, the seven of them hopped on a boat and arrived at a floating house where two men were already preparing to grill some fish for lunch. They played with the fish in the fisheries, ate to their heart's content, and traded languages (the family is eager to get started learning English). The men who grilled with them joined later and graciously offered to take them around in a flimsy boat. Only Ian joined, but he and the man talked for an hour, sharing stories from their respective homes. Ian thinks he'll return to that part of the lake, if not to simply speak more with the fishermen there.



SMAK St. Ignatius Loyola Labuan Bajo Labuan Bajo, East Nusa Tenggara

ETA Kyra Ghosh recently started a “girls club” at SMAK St. Ignatius Loyola Labuan Bajo. It was a long process of organizing and is still in the works, however Kyra recently had her first meeting last Tuesday. Six girls gathered on the floor of her room which is sandwiched in between two classrooms at the school. After short introductions, they discussed topics they would cover, as well as exercise activities they hoped to do together... including yoga, zumba, and jogging. The girls came up with “how to protect yourself”, “marriage and boyfriends”, “being confident”, and “staying healthy” as discussion topics for the next few weeks. Kyra then had each of the girls write down why they were happy to be a girl. Each of them excitedly exchanged ideas and feverishly scrambled to translate their thoughts. She has attached pictures of the notes at the bottom of this piece. Kyra then rode on the back of one of the girl’s motorbikes leading a line of 6 women motorcyclists to a nearby hostel in the town. They all participated in a rooftop yoga class at sunset. The class was in English and while it was perhaps too rapid for the students to understand, they followed along with all of the poses. Afterwards one of the girls came up to Kyra and said, “so relaxing.” The goal of the club for Kyra is to foster an environment for girls to feel comfortable discussing topics relevant to women, but also to reserve an hour or two each week to exercise and relax together. Kyra hopes to eventually include some of the female teachers in the club and hopes that the club allows for open communication and trust between the members.



SMAK St. Ignatius Loyola Labuan Bajo Labuan Bajo, East Nusa Tenggara

On September 9, there was a *Jalan Sehat* (health walk) hosted by Telkomsel in Labuan Bajo, Flores. **ETA Arshelle Carter** and **ETA Kyra Ghosh** were among hundreds of others who participated in the walk. Many of the participants were students from local junior and senior high schools. Arshelle really enjoyed the walk because it was a chance to engage with students from her school and meet other community members. The walk lasted for about an hour while a local high school band led the way and provided the soundtrack. Following the walk, a small festival was held at the local government office where participants purchased food and enjoyed music from a DJ and local bands. DJ Uno played summer hits like “Despacito” and of course, *Dangdut*. Perhaps, the highlight of the event was the raffle to win various prizes including, a blender, rice cooker, cellphone and even motorbike! Here, ETAs Arshelle and Kyra are pictured with students from SMK Stella Maris Labuan Bajo, SMAK St. Ignatius Loyola Labuan Bajo and SMK Negeri 1 Labuan Bajo. Unfortunately, nobody in this photo won any of the prizes, however they did leave the event feeling a bit healthier!



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