



Fulbright ETA Monthly Highlights

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 December edition of the Fulbright ETA *Monthly Highlights*. Throughout December, Fulbright English Teaching Assistants (ETAs) led and participated in a range of activities with their schools and communities. ETAs finished their first semester at their schools during December, ending with English Camps and other projects. While school was not in session, ETAs were able to better explore their sites, and several were able to share their sites with family and friends who visited from the U.S.

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.

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

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

**SMKN 2 and SMAN 7
Bandar Lampung
Bandar Lampung,
South Sumatra**

**ETAs Sarahann Yeh
and Matthew Poissant**
visited Bandar Lampung's
Lacofest on December
8th to celebrate the
agricultural and cultural

significance of coffee in Indonesia. Lampung province's Robusta coffee is often considered one of the best in the world, in addition to Lampung's civet (*luwak*) coffee. At Lacofest, Sarahann, Matt, and several of their new Indonesian friends sampled coffee from many different Indonesian provinces. They even tried a blend of coffee and aloe vera (which the owner said would help clear up Sarahann's freckles). Throughout the festival, there was a barista competition and several musical performances. Sarahann and Matt posed for promotional pictures at Dr. Coffee's stand, one of their favorite shops in Bandar Lampung. Sarahann's coffee of choice is civet coffee and Matt's is Robusta.



Tasting Coffee

Judging English Competition

**MAN 1 Kendari
Kendari, Southeast
Sulawesi**

ETA Mackenzie Findlay
helped judge several
English competitions for
her school during the
Academic Competition
held at the end of the first

semester. Mackenzie judged two competitions: English Trivia and an English Speech competition. Both competitions were a highlight for Mackenzie in December because there was no class due to testing, and she was happy to still be able to come to school and interact with her students and fellow teachers. The theme of the speech competition was "Education" and she was inspired by several of the speeches she heard from her students. Mackenzie was thrilled to see her tenth grade students excel in the English trivia questions, outperforming some of the twelfth grade teams, due to their confidence in English. She is looking forward to assisting her students with more competitions in the spring semester, particularly the AMINEF WORDS Competition. The event was held December 15 and 16 in the auditorium of MAN 1 Kendari.



Jalan Santai



SMAN 4 & SMAN 7 Kendari Kendari, Southeast Sulawesi

Katerina's Indonesian tutor Ikon invited her and her site mate **ETA Shelby Lawson** to an event at her work on December 18, 2016. Ikon is an English tutor and her work was hosting a *jalan santai* to celebrate its birthday. *Jalan santai* means "relaxed walk" in Bahasa Indonesia. It is a popular event in Kendari

December was a time for relaxing and traveling at **ETA Katerina Barton's** site. However, before things settled down too much,

and usually consists of a group of people walking about 2-3 kilometers to celebrate something. They woke up early and started from her workplace at 7 a.m., to the largest meeting point in Kendari, MTQ. Once at the meeting point, they all had a large breakfast of Gado Gado (an Indonesian meal of rice, vegetables, tofu and egg covered in a sweet peanut sauce) and they played games like tug-o-war and relay races with the other students from the tutoring sessions.



ETAs **Samantha Geary** and **Anna Katonski** explored their region of Manggarai Barat on December 11, 2019 with a trip to Gua Rangko. Rangko is a small

**SMK Negeri 1 and
SMK Stella Maris
Labuan Bajo
Labuan Bajo, N.T.T.**

fishing village about forty-five minutes outside of Labuan Bajo. Accompanied by Samantha's parents who were visiting from the United States, the two ETAs drove motorbikes along bumpy roads, stopped in Rangko village to charter a boat, and then hiked

a short distance to the cave. Once at the cave, everyone used a small rope to descend down into Gua Rangko. The best part of the trip was spending time with a handful of children from Rangko village. The children joined in on the boat trip, showed Samantha and Anna the best spots to swim in the cave, and snorkeled for clams. Samantha and Anna were very appreciative to have been able to explore another part of their beautiful region. It was an adventurous and wonderful day!

Hiking Around Kendari



ETAs **Shelby Lawson, Kate Barton, and Mackenzie Findlay** spent a full day hiking up *Puncak Amarilis*

SMAN 7, SMAN 4, and MAN 1 Kendari
Kendari, Southeast Sulawesi

to watch the sunset over their beautiful hometown, Kendari. The gals went with some of their Indonesian friends from the local university. The exchange of culture and language is always present when this group gets together. While the Fulbrighters help their friends with study abroad applications and English practice, the university students return the favor by showing them around Kendari and helping with their Bahasa Indonesia mastery. Exploring Kendari has been one of the highlights of their grant period when they aren't teaching in the classroom. They look forward to many more adventures and explorations in the new year!

Outdoor Learning



On December 8th 2016, **ETA Michaela Chinn**, and students and teachers of **SMAN SSA 1** participated in Outdoor Learning, a one-day experiential learning opportunity for 10th and 11th graders. Students and teachers went to PT Sritex Sukoharjo and Museum Karst Wonogiri. Teachers and students learned about

SMA N 1 Salatiga
Salatiga, Central Java

textile making and natural stones from Indonesia. The day ended at Pantai Drini, Jogjakarta, where students and teachers enjoyed the beautiful sunset and ocean. For Michaela, the highlight of the trip was taking pictures with teachers and students at the beach.





Meeting Kartika

In early December, ETAs from across Indonesia gathered in Yogyakarta for a weekend of culture and recreation. On Saturday, December 3rd, **ETAs Siham**

**Yogyakarta,
Central Java**

Abdi (Magelang), Jukie Tsai (Magelang), Shreya Kundur (Malang), Caroline Rose (Malang), and Kelly Fitzgerald (Sidoarjo) visited the Affandi Museum. While

admiring the paintings and learning more about one of Indonesia's greatest artists, the ETAs struck up a conversation with another museum patron. That patron turned out to be the biographer for Kartika, Affandi's only daughter from his first marriage and

a famous painter in her own right. When he offered to introduce the ETAs to Kartika, they eagerly accepted.

After viewing her paintings and sculptures, the ETAs prepared questions for the artist. Kartika, then seated in the museum's open-air cafe awaiting a photo shoot for her upcoming biography, happily entertained the ETAs' questions about her work and personal life. She was a gracious recipient of attention and generous with her time. The ETAs are thankful for the opportunity to have met one of Indonesia's living legends.

Exploring Bangka

The month of December brought abundant downtime for Pangkalpinang **ETAs Lizzy Hardison** and **Kiana Ward**, since both were relieved of

**SMKN 2 and SMAN 3
Pangkalpinang
Pangkalpinang,
Bangka**

teaching duties until after the New Year. They were able to use their vacation to explore Bangka Island with new friends from their site. On December

3, they took an afternoon trip to Matras Beach in Sungailiat, an hour north of Pangkalpinang city. They swam until the sun set and then enjoyed dinner at Pauw's, a popular Chinese-Indonesian cafe. It was a simple, carefree afternoon that kicked off a month of relaxing and exploring on Bangka.



Family Visit



SMAN 1 Bringin Salatiga, Central Java

It was so special for **ETA Kata Krueger** to have her whole family come and visit during break. She got to introduce them to her neighbors, friends, teachers and students, show them her favorite places in the area, give them new food to try and do some exploring with them. Kata most enjoyed watching her students interact with her family, hiking around Gedong Songo with

Michaela and her family, and visiting Borobudur and Prambanan before they all flew to Singapore to visit family living there. The neighborhood boys were especially excited to meet Lexi, Miss Kata's younger, *single* sister. They did their best to win her heart by coming over every day to show off their dance moves and Uno strategies, but in the end, she won over their hearts by bringing bags of American candy and Legos for them. This will always be a special family memory for the Kruegers.

American Camp Day



While December included a number of exams for students at SMK Negeri Jawa Tengah, **ETA Kayla Stewart** helped coordinate a grade-wide English camp before wrapping up the semester.

**SMKN Jawa Tengah
Semarang,
Central Java**

On December 10, Kayla and **ETA Edmund Pacleb**

helped give students a camp day to remember. Using school supplies, movies, and lots of candy, the ETAs tried to give the seniors the most authentic

American camp experience possible. Students completed a campus-wide scavenger hunt, played board games, listened to American music, and even tried s'mores! After taking a quick break for dinner (Edmund, Kayla, and Pak Aziz enjoyed Semarang's best satay at a *warung* down the street), students returned for a movie night. While enjoying leftover candy and traditional Indonesian snacks, students were inspired by the classic film, "The Bucket List." The first English camp at SMK was a true success, and will likely be followed by many more.

Exploring Island Culture



SMK 8 Makassar Makassar, South Sulawesi

In the warm, clear waters of the straight of Makassar / Java Sea are dozens of small islands which can be reached by small boat.

Around many of these islands thrive coral reefs vibrant with fish of all colors, sea turtles, and glow-in-the-dark bioluminescent plankton.

At night time, the dark water resembles a night sky of shooting comets when walking down the jetty, with an electric spark lighting up every few seconds from the shallows. **ETA Connie Ge** went day and night snorkeling with a group of locals one weekend. When the group swam around the warm waters at

night time, hundreds of mini sparkles smaller than the size of sand grains lit up upon contact with human skin, just like in the film “Moana”—which Connie and another teacher at SMK8 supervised a group of English club students to go watch at the theatre one afternoon.

Connie appreciated watching a film with the school community wherein characters which resembled the local people were centered and in lead roles in the plot—versus used as supporting characters or a foiling backdrop. After watching the film, during the group discussion, the students mentioned a song from their own Buginese culture wherein maritime navigation is also integral to their way of life.



The students of SMA Khadijah in Surabaya, Jawa Timur ventured a few hours outside of the city to Trawas for English Fun Camp on December 15th through 18th. The camp was held at the UBAYA Training Center which is located in the cool, rolling mountains of the Javanese countryside. After a 4 A.M. wake up call, the students had full action packed days of learning and fun. They participated in activities related to English lead by English teachers

SMA Khadijah Surabaya, East Java

from SMA Khadijah, professors and students from Universitas Surabaya as well as **ETA Krupa Patel**, who did a presentation on global warming. The students also enjoyed outdoor teambuilding activities like canoeing, games and swimming while breathing in the fresh air. On the way back to Surabaya, the students and teachers stopped at Taman Safari to see fascinating animals from around the world. Overall, Krupa was grateful for this bonding experience with her students and fellow teachers outside of the school setting.

Exploring Bandar Lampung



Four months in and **ETA Matthew Poissant** and **Sarahann Yeh** finally made it to a beach! The last few times Matt and Sarah tried to go to the beach it rained but on December 10th, it was looking clear, so they decided to head out. Pantai Sari Ringgung was about an hour away and they did end up getting caught in the rain when they were about halfway there but it passed quickly and there was no trace of rain at the actual beach. When Matt and Sarah first arrived they were greeted by a Pak who showed them where to park and then tried to get

**SMKN2 Bandar
Lampung
Bandar Lampung,
South Sumatra**

them to rent out a boat for snorkeling. They politely “belum”-ed because they wanted to look around first.

There was a nice little hiking path that they decided to make their way through. It took them up to a nice overlook of the beach which is where the picture came from. On the way back down they came across an Indonesian whose family was from China. She spoke Indonesian, Chinese, and English, and

Sarahann was able to converse with her in all three!

They then chilled in one of the booths and appreciated how clear and blue the water was, and also the floating mosque seen out on the water. They then decided to go snorkeling so they bargained for a boat ride out to a coral reef. On their way out to the reef they came across the first guy who tried to get them to rent his boat which made for some awkward laughter. This was Matt’s first time snorkeling and it was an amazing first time! He’s never seen anything in nature like he did looking at that reef. He’s never really been motivated to get a diving license but now it is definitely appealing to him!

After about 20 minutes Matt and Sarah decided to head back to land as they saw some storm clouds in the distance and wanted to head out before they hit. They got back to the beach and then headed back into Bandar Lampung.

Expo and Business Competition



On December 14th and 15th, MAN 2 Kudus held an Expo and Business Competition in the school's gym, and **ETA Vinny Owen** was excited to attend. The

MAN 2 Kudus Kudus, Central Java

general public was invited, and many MAN 2 Kudus alumni came back to enjoy the festivities as well. There was a lot of preparation that went into this event, and it was a big success. Each class had their own booth, where they sold something. Most of the students were selling small Indonesian foods and snacks, but

some had set up photo booths, and there was even a mini haunted house exhibit. The competition was to see how much money each class booth could earn, and there were other competitions as well, such as fan favorite booth and best decorated booth. There were also a number of performances on a stage, which ranged from student and teacher bands playing music, to skits and drama, solos, and even some rapping. Vinny enjoyed meeting everyone who came, as well as walking around the booths and talking to the students about their products.

Christmas in Balige



SMAN 2 Balige Balige, North Sumatra

Merry Christmas from the
land of the Batak!

The holiday season started early, at the end of October, and stayed busy throughout December, with extracurriculars in the dormitory cancelled for weeks so the students could prepare for Christmas. Some students chose to write, design and act in a Christmas drama. Others were in charge of decorating the dormitory for the celebration that parents and community members would attend. It was incredible to see the students building the decorations for weeks; various Christmas trees made from soda bottles, Alfamart bags, bamboo; a Santa sleigh built by hand, with accompanying reindeer and presents; lights strung across the assembly yard, the flag pole turned into a massive Christmas tree with a glowing star. For the celebration, the students asked **ETA Daniel Gerardi** to be Santa Claus, hand out a few presents, chit-chat and take pictures with families. It was the second time he had



played Santa this holiday season, so he was well-practiced in being extra jolly for all the photos.

At the school, the students had also been busy preparing. Many students met for choir almost every day, and another group met weekly to work on their own Christmas performance. Daniel was asked to play Nommensen, a German priest who came to the Batak people in the 19th century. It was only a small part in the final act, but Daniel was nervously excited to take part. The celebration took place at HKBP Tampubolon, a church just outside Balige city, on December 15th. The student choirs sang beautifully, the performance went smoothly, the night was alive with camaraderie and spirituality. Daniel even sang Holy Night in Bahasa Batak after the service, thankfully with other teachers!

It was a very different kind of Christmas for Daniel, but one he was extremely glad to learn from and participate in.

Exploring Kupang



Kupang is a city in Nusa Tenggara Timur and is known for beautiful beaches, which are also fairly untouched by tourists or even locals. Pantai

**SMA Kristen
Mercusuar
Kupang, Nusa
Tenggara Timur**

Kolbano is one of those beaches and it's located a couple hours south of Kupang. The beach is extremely accessible as the road is completely paved the entire way, which is uncommon for many places on the island of Timur. The beach is known for having multicolored pebbles instead of sand and the water is perfectly clear, like most of the beaches near Kupang. **ETA Christal Clemens** traveled to Pantai Kolbano in mid-December with her two good friends **ETA Julianne O'Connell** and **Fulbright Researcher Florence Durney (Flori)**. They enjoyed a lovely day at the beach and are planning to go back after rainy season. It was a beautiful beach and a very peaceful place, perfect for *santai*.

AMINEF

American Indonesia Exchange Foundation

Intiland Tower, 11th Floor
Jalan Jend. Sudirman Kav. 32
Jakarta 10220
Tel : (021) 579 39 085 / 086
Fax : (021) 579 39 089

If you would like to have more information
about Fulbright ETA Program, please
call us at **(021) 579 39 085** or
email us at **info**fulbright_usa@aminef.or.id****

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