

# 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 first, redesigned printed version of the *Fulbright ETA Monthly Highlights*. The Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (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 only 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  
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## Indonesia ETA Orientation

Twenty-nine Fulbright English Teaching Assistants (ETAs) have recently begun their assignments assisting English teachers across Indonesia. This year, ETAs will be assigned to 16 different cities throughout the archipelago: Pangkal Pinang, Bandar Lampung, Semarang, Kudus, Salatiga, Magelang, Malang, Sidoarjo, Surabaya, Kendari, Makassar, Gorontalo, Manado, Kupang and Labuan Bajo. They will live, assist English teachers, and learn at their sites for nine months.

ETAs first gathered for a Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO) in Washington DC on June 9-13, alongside Fulbright Student Researchers and Scholars going to Indonesia and several other Southeast Asian and East Asian countries. All grantees participated in informational sessions regarding living and working in their host countries, and ETAs remained in DC for an additional two days to engage in sessions specifically catered to their role in the classroom.

After arriving in Indonesia, ETAs gathered again in Bandung September 1-18 to participate in an orientation held by the American Indonesian Exchange Foundation (AMINEF). During the orientation, AMINEF equipped the ETAs with various skills, such as intensive Indonesian language training, historical and cultural understanding, as well as teaching techniques, so that upon arriving at their sites they are better prepared for their role as an ETA. During the latter portion of orientation ETAs were joined by their co-teachers for training and practicum teaching, to better prepare for their nine months together. Guest speakers at the orientation included several Indonesian experts such as Ibu Itje Chodidjah and Ibu Irid Agoes, a selection of former English Language Fellows, and the current Chargé d'Affaires, Brian McFeeters.

ETAs are now at their sites, engaging with their schools and their communities. Read on to see what they have been doing!

# First Week at School



## Kendari, Southeast Sulawesi

One of the first topics of the year in the 10th grade is to learn how to give and receive compliments. **ETA Mackenzie Findlay** decided to teach about compliments at MAN 1 Kendari by letting the students compliment one another. After learning related phrases and vocabulary, Mackenzie gave each student one sticky note. The students wrote their name at the top and then

passed the sticky note to the person beside them. This person wrote a compliment to the person whose name was at the top and passed it on. Once every sticky note was full of compliments, the students pasted them to a poster board and hung it in the classrooms. The students were so proud to have something lasting to keep in their classroom and Mackenzie was thrilled by all the practice the students had giving compliments. A great first lesson!





English classes at SMK Negeri Jawa Tengah kicked off with a colorful start during September. Guided by **ETA Kayla Stewart** and her co-teacher,

### Semarang Central Java

students in English classes took a break from traditional lessons to talk about their dreams and goals. At the time, students were learning how to describe people, objects, and feelings. Kayla had students write their names and what they want to be when they grow up on one side of the paper and had them write four things that they like and why on the other. Students were able to decorate the papers with markers and colored pencils. *One Direction* was playing in the background, of course, and students got to take individual freestyle photos with their cards. Each student now has a grid photo of their classmates and their dreams.



**ETA Mei Lin Pratt** began teaching her first classes at SMA Kristen Eben Hazer. In each of the classes she had students write their names (or nicknames)

### Manado, North Sulawesi

on one side of an index card; on the other side she had them write fun facts about themselves. These included such fun facts as information about the students' families, and favorite foods, musicians, places to hang out, sports, etc. The last thing Mei Lin had the students write was one English-related goal for the year. Then, all of the students took turns standing in front of the class to present a sentence or their entire card to the rest of the students. While some were shy, it built their confidence to speak in English and allowed other students to know more about their classmates. Lastly, Mei Lin then brought students outside to take a picture of them with their name card and handed them some *oleh-oleh* from America in return.

## Socializing with Students



### Surabaya, East Java

**ETA Krupa Patel's** 11<sup>th</sup> grade language class at SMA Khadijah invited her to a student's birthday adventure to watch *Miss Peregrine's Home for*

*Peculiar Children* at Tunjungan Plaza, which is the largest mall in the city. Krupa feels "the student-teacher relationship is spectacular here because the culture allows teachers to get to know their students on a personal level." Krupa used this opportunity to bond with the students-

-she learned about their lives and gained more perspective on Indonesian culture through the eyes of teenage girls. She was also able to discuss social archetypes perpetuated by the Western media, colonization of the mind, what it means to be beautiful, and more. Watching the movie, eating dinner, and shopping with these students was not only fun and memorable, it also led to important conversations in class that facilitated deeper digestion of media, and critical thinking.

## English Clubs



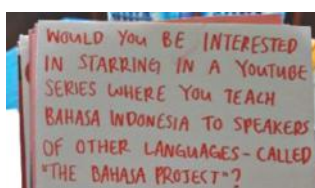
**ETA Sarahann Yeh** held this year's first English Club meeting at SMAN 7 Bandar Lampung. Students played get-to-know-you games and learned about five different states in the USA: Maryland (Sarahann's home!), West Virginia, South Carolina, Louisiana, and South Dakota. South Dakota and Louisiana were the most popular states because students wanted to visit Mount Rushmore and experience Mardi Gras! Afterwards, Sarahann showed pictures of her visiting different places in the USA and talked about her family, hometown, and university. And, of course, there were lots and LOTS of selfies. English Club meets three times a week at SMAN 7.

**Bandar  
Lampung,  
Sumatra**



Students of SMAN 3 Kupang had their first English Club meeting of the year with **ETA Julianne O'Connell**. Julianne had met with the previous year's officers of English Club to discuss goals for the year and ideas for the first meeting. Though Julianne was told to expect around 200 students at the first English club only 1/10<sup>th</sup> of that amount showed up. At the last minute Julianne had to edit some of her activities to better suit the small group but it was not a big issue as these students still had a blast getting to know each other and Julianne better. They played several rounds of "I Like My Neighbor If..." and also two tournaments of intense *Rock, Paper, Scissors*. Then the students illustrated some "About Me Cards". In the last quarter of the meeting the student officers discussed the process for the elections for the 2016-2017 school year and Julianne gave out surveys to gauge students' interest in various topics and projects. She also passed out American pennies as *oleh-oleh*, or souvenirs. It was all a huge success and several students came up to thank the ETA and express excitement for the upcoming year.

**Kupang,  
East Nusa  
Tenggara**





# Local English Club

**Kupang,  
East Nusa  
Tenggara**

## **ETA Julianne O'Connell**

hosted her first Neighborhood English Club for the children on her street, ranging from ages 4-10. Julianne had invited the students the previous week to come over at 4 pm on Tuesday for snacks, English lessons and games. The day of the event Julianne had laid out chocolates, American flag pencils and notebooks for the roughly 20 kids she was expecting. However, at 4 pm no one showed up. Rather than go out onto the street to try to find the children, Julianne just waited, and at around 5:20 pm she heard the sound of little feet coming up her walkway and she opened her door to see 12 children, all with their school bags and smiling faces. For the next 30 minutes Julianne went over phrases for introducing yourself and played a modified "Name Game" with her kids. Then she had them decorate the notebooks that they will hopefully bring back every week and write "My name is \_\_\_\_\_" on the inside! Though the meeting was supposed to go for 1 hour it became too dark to go on that long, so after 40 minutes Julianne had the kids clean up and say goodbye to each other by name before giving them chocolates and sending them home. If Julianne thought teaching high-schoolers would be difficult then she was not foreseeing the challenges that would come from teaching children with little to no background knowledge of the English language. Regardless, she waved goodbye to her neighbors with a happy heart and excitement for the upcoming year of language learning and fun.





# Birthday Celebration



In September **ETA Kata Krueger** celebrated her birthday Indo style! In one class, she celebrated her 24<sup>th</sup> birthday with a cake and traditional Indonesian

**Bringin,  
Central Java**

treats. In another class, they celebrated her "23<sup>th</sup>" birthday with doughnuts! Kata's counterpart, Bu Erny, and headmaster, Pak Par,

brought a birthday cake to her house. Teachers and classes of students sang to her, and Kata's

neighbors came over to help her eat one of her cakes. Kata's site mate, **ETA Michaela Chinn**, and Michaela's school had a cake made for Kata that the ETAs ate with students from Michaela's school who had out for a storytelling competition that the two ETAs had helped judge. Kata says, "I felt so loved and celebrating my birthday during my first week teaching will always be a special memory for me!"

# Dance Practice

## Makassar, South Sulawesi

At SMKN 8 Makassar, Saturday mornings are designated for extracurricular activities - karate, marching band, soccer, football, English club, and dance team.

**ETA Connie Ge** recently had the opportunity to join in some of the fun.

The dance team has been practicing a routine choreographed to a mashup of modern and traditional music. From a national dance competition taking place across the archipelago which the team performed/auditioned for 5 week ago, to performances held at a job-matching fair for alumni students two weeks ago, dance seems to be an important part of the culture at SMKN 8.

Connie lent the team her speaker since they were dancing to quiet music from the teacher's phone. They did the splits together and she showed them some cartwheels and handstands. The teacher is very focused and intent on a pre-organized routine that resembles the organization of routines which can be seen on talent shows on TV, so Connie mostly observed when she wasn't learning some of the dance moves along with the team. Connie says of the experience, "It was a lot of fun. I am in awe of the students' energy, charisma, artistry, and dedication. I'm confident they'll excel at the final competition later this year and I will continue lending my speaker and being their #1 cheerleader."





## Exploring Neighborhood



Despite becoming more familiar and comfortable with new places in Malang, **ETA Caroline Rose's** favorite place remains Idjen Boulevard. Every

**Malang,  
East Java**

Sunday, this beautiful, palm-tree lined boulevard hosts Car Free Day (CFD), providing a place for vendors, families, and tourists alike to come together to exercise or eat or shop. Says Caroline, "During my first few weeks at site, I've looked forward to sunny Sundays at CFD where I've met students, teachers, and friends. It is one of the small, but great ways to get to know the city and its people better!"

## Futsal Match



ETAs **Jukie Tsai** and **Siham Abdi** recently enjoyed a sports event as students of SMKN1 Magelang traded their school uniforms for jerseys to take the

**Magelang,  
Central Java**

floor in the SMA Kristen Indonesia high school futsal tournament. Held in the heart of Magelang, the tournament brought together schools from across the city to compete on the hardwood. Nearly as impressive as the ball-handling skills on display was the intensity of the fan section, which jumped, screamed, sang, and clapped in unison from the opening kick to the final whistle. SMKN1 battled valiantly through regulation but fell on penalty kicks. Players held their heads in their hands as fans filed out solemnly. In spite of the defeat ETA's Jukie (SMKN1) and Siham (MAN1) thoroughly enjoyed seeing how students let loose after a long day at school.

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