

## 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 34 ETAs who are placed in high schools across Indonesia.

### Magelang, Central Java

11 September 2015

Learning How to Make Batik



Students of SMKN 3 Magelang teaching **ETA Savannah Trifiro** how to design batik in September. This was during the students' design class. Before this photo was taken, the students showed her the correct way to trace her design onto a white fabric.

### Pangkal Pinang, Bangka Belitung Island

17 September 2015

Anniversary Celebration (Nganggung)



On September 17th, Pangkal Pinang celebrated its 258th anniversary. Nganggung, as it is called, is a huge feast and celebration in the city center filled with songs, traditional music, and lots of food. Here **ETA Caitlin Jordan** (center), poses with some of her fellow teachers and staff from SMKN 2 Pangkal Pinang.



Here Jordan is seen posing with student representatives from SMKN 5 Pangkal Pinang, who asked to take a picture with her. She is wearing a traditional Melayu kebaya and wedding skirt from Palembang and holding a traditional piece of basket weaving from Bangka (that is used for these occasions to cover the food that would soon be enjoyed).



There was prayer for the city, its people and Indonesia, followed by a chaotic, noisy but wonderful lunch feast. This picture was taken as the celebration was coming to a close. Here, Ms. Jordan is posed in an adorable style with two of the best friends she has made so far in Indonesia, Ms. Erka (on the left) and Ms. Siska – called Mango by Ms. Jordan – on the right, as well as Pak Ade, who is a sports teacher at SMKN 2 Pangkal Pinang.

see next  
pages  
for more  
stories



## Pangkal Pinang, Bangka Belitung Island 17 September 2015

Celebrating Ngangung with SMA Negeri 3



**ETA Kelly Fitzgerald**, is seated with fellow teachers at SMA Negeri 3 Pangkal Pinang, prior to beginning festivities on the morning of Ngangung, a holiday celebrating the birthday of Pangkal Pinang. Fitzgerald and her fellow teachers are seated in the hallways of the school and were joined by the entire student body (not pictured).



Fitzgerald and her co-teacher, Ibu Isnaini, join other teachers in singing and playing rodat, a hand-held drum that is an integral part of traditional music in Bangka-Belitung. A number of songs were played before eating a celebratory meal together at school.

Fitzgerald and Ibu Isnaini, English co-teachers, are seated with students of SMAN 3 Pangkal Pinang. These students were representatives of SMAN 3 at a city-



wide celebration of Ngangung in the city center. Following this photograph, each school sang a song, which was followed by another celebratory meal.

## Magelang, Central Java 17 September 2015

English Community



The English Community students of MAN Magelang gathered for the first English Club event of the year with **ETA Safiyah Ismail**. A discussion was held about school systems in America. Students from grades 10 and 11 asked questions about the unique diversity of American students and the typical structure of daily life as an American high school student. Students also wanted to hear more about how Muslim students are able to balance performing prayers throughout the day with a school schedule that doesn't cater to a Muslim population. Following these questions, Safiyah Ismail discussed typical after school activities that American high schoolers are involved with: including American football, baseball, softball, volleyball, basketball, student council, and National Honor Society. She also discussed her own personal experiences competing on her high school's cross country team in 5k and 10k races while fasting during the Holy Month of Ramadan.

## Magelang, Central Java 23 September 2015

Dzulhijjah 1436 H, Iftar with Students on Yawm al-Arafat.



The boarding students at MAN Magelang and **ETA Safiyah Ismail** gathered to break their fast together for Yawm Al-Arafat in preparation for the following day's celebration of Idul Adha.



**Magelang, Central Java****23 September 2015**

Idul Adha Takbiran



The boarding students at MAN Magelang and **ETA Safiyah Ismail** marched through the surrounding villages the night before Idul Adha to make Takbiran and spread Idul Adha cheer to the surrounding community.

**Medan, North Sumatera****23 September 2015**

Idul Adha at SMA Unggulan CT Foundation (CTF)



**ETA Christopher Linan**, at SMA Unggulan CT Foundation (CTF) in Medan, with his students at Idul Adha on September 24. In this photo Mr. Christopher's students are teaching him how to cut meat as well as the significance of Idul Adha for Muslims in Medan and around the world, which honors the willingness of Abraham to sacrifice his son.

After they finished cutting the meat, teachers at SMA CTF cooked it and everybody ate together. The rest was distributed to students, teachers, and the poor.

**Magelang, Central Java****24 September 2015**

Idul Adha Lamb Slaughtering



The boarding students, teachers, administration, and **ETA Safiyah Ismail** gathered on Idul-Adha to celebrate and commemorate the willingness of Ibrahim to follow God's command to sacrifice his son Ishmael. Safiyah Ismail purchased a lamb to be slaughtered and contributed along-

side the lambs purchased by the school. The meat from her lamb was then donated to the boarding students, teachers, and villagers in the surrounding community.

**Yogyakarta,****Special Region of Yogyakarta****24 September 2015**

Idul Adha at SMK Negeri 6 Yogyakarta

Idul Adha is the Feast of the Sacrifice and it honors the willingness of Abraham to sacrifice his son at God's command, demonstrating his complete trust in God. As Abraham was about to sacrifice Isaac, God spared his son and Abraham sacrificed a ram instead. On Idul Adha, animals are sacrificed in remembrance of this story of Abraham and his son.



Like many schools in Indonesia, SMK Negeri 6 Yogyakarta had a school celebration for Idul Adha, which **ETA Kendra Reiser** was lucky enough to join. The students and faculty of SMKN 6 don't have school on Wednesday or Thursday, which is when Idul Adha is officially observed, so that they could celebrate with their families. However, everyone came to school on Saturday ready for round two of the party.



## Magelang, Central Java

25 September 2015

Idul Adha Before and After



**ETA Savannah Trifiro** with teachers from SMKN 3 Magelang at Astana Giribangun and Tawanmangu in September. The trip allowed for them to spend time together outside of the classroom. The cemetery, located in Central Java, commemorates the former president Suharto and his family.



Education is a  
slow moving  
but  
**powerful force**

- J. William Fulbright

## Pangkal Pinang, Bangka Belitung Island

4 October 2015

First Indonesian Wedding



On 5 October, **ETAs Kelly Fitzgerald** and **Caitlin Jordan**, took part in their first Indonesian wedding – that of two members of the SMKN 2 Pangkal Pinang teacher and staff family. They bought matching kebaya for the occasion and had their make-up done for them by Ibu Siska. Seen behind them in this photo are the crowds of people that gathered to wish the new couple well.



Jordan was asked to join Ibu Siska (in pink) and Pak Sukarman (center with the mic), also from SMKN 2 Pangkalpinang, in singing a song and dancing for the new couple. Though too shy to sing, Jordan did try her best to dance, even helping a little girl to dance with her as well. At the next wedding, she plans to try her hand at singing!





This group photo was taken as the group was leaving (to go to another wedding party in fact!). Here Jordan, Fitzgerald, and other teachers from SMKN 2 Pangkalpinang surround the bride, Bu Nisa, and the groom, Pak Despri.

## Medan, North Sumatera

5 October 2015

Dinas Pendidikan Visits SMKN Binaan

On Monday, October 5, **ETA Izaak Earnhardt's** host school SMKN Binaan welcomed a program from Dinas Pendidikan, Indonesia Youth Icon. The program is meant to emphasize the Indonesian state philosophy, Pancasila. Earnhardt was lucky enough to watch from the booth with the hosts as students participated in highly choreographed exercises to showcase their patriotism. Earnhardt was really excited to see that some of his students were selected as school finalists for their achievements and high character.



## Pangkal Pinang, Bangka Belitung Island

5 October 2015

Drama Kolosal

**ETA Kelly Fitzgerald,** at SMA Negeri 3 Pangkal Pinang, poses with students in class 12 at her



school. Fitzgerald and the students were actors in Drama Kolosal, a large-scale play that reenacted military history in modern Indonesia. The students are soldiers in the Dutch army and Fitzgerald was cast as a General in the Dutch army.



In this photo, the actors are seated in a military Jeep prior to entering the show. Seated behind Fitzgerald is Ibu Kunlistiani, headmistress of SMAN 3 Pangkal Pinang.



Pangkal Pinang, 6 October 2015 -- Fitzgerald's participation in Drama Kolosal made headlines in local publications Bangka Pos and Mambo Square the following day.



## Yogyakarta, Special Region of Yogyakarta 8 October 2015

### Rock Climbing with Teladan Hiking Association

After a week of intensive mid-semester exams, the students of SMAN 1 Teladan, Yogyakarta unwound with a recreational trip to the local rock climbing wall. **ETA Julia Xia** teamed up with the SMAN 1 student alumni to organize a rock climbing trip for students in grade 10 through 12.



## Medan, North Sumatera 10 October 2015

### SMKN Binaan Talent Expo



Every three months, the students of SMKN Binaan have an exposition event to show off their talents and some of the work that the different majors at the school do. **ETA Izaak Earnhardt** attended one of these expositions on Saturday, October 10.



A combination of a science fair, a cultural performance, and a school dance, the event was a fantastic chance to engage with students from the school that he doesn't usually work with as well as to learn about local Batak culture and see some of the students' musical talents.



## Bandar Lampung, Lampung 11 October 2015

### Language Learning Club



On Sunday Oct. 11, **ETA Ramon Caleon** was a judge in a speech and storytelling competition for the Language Learning Club (LLC). LLC is a community of mostly university students who are interested in learning foreign languages, such as English, Japanese, French, and Korean. Even though it is only in its second year, LLC already boasts 30 members from 6 different universities across the city.

The club meets every Sunday, but this Sunday was particularly special, since it organized its first competition for its members. This competition was held in Universitas Lampung, and consisted of both a speech and a storytelling component. The speeches revolved around the themes of the environment, education, and politics, with topics including rubber trees, students' morality and taxation. Contestants' stories were just as varied, ranging from romantic love to a fable about a fox and goat.



## Fulbright ETA Monthly Highlights

The competition concluded with a theater production and a group discussion. Ramon was able to give advice about how to improve members' confidence in speaking with native speakers and suggest some ways for them to practice their English. Overall, it was a successful day of cultural exchange for all.

### Medan, North Sumatera Weekly

SMA Unggulan CT Foundation (CTF) English Club

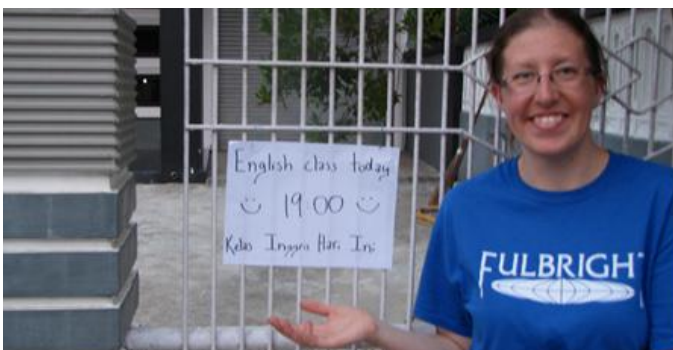


English Club is held three times a week at SMA CTF, and is usually led by an English co-teacher and **ETA Christopher Linnan**. The students practice public speaking, story-telling, and play games together to practice their English. Sometimes they compose speeches about current events and sometimes they play Scrabble together. The main purpose of English Club is to improve the students' English language ability and their confidence in speaking it.

Recently, several of Christopher's students entered a regional English language speech competition and one them, Efdal, was selected to advance to the finals, which will be held in Padang during the week of October 19. Efdal will compete against other students from all over Sumatra and will give a speech about human rights and the death penalty.

### Pangkal Pinang, Bangka Belitung Island weekly

Bukit Tani neighborhood English Club



**Kelly Fitzgerald** and **Caitlin Jordan**, Fulbright ETAs and housemates in Pangkal Pinang, began an English Club for young neighborhood children in an

Neighborhood children at the first meeting of Bukit Tani English Club. In this photo, the children are locating Bangka island and observing the distance between Indonesia and the United States of



America. Fitzgerald and Jordan bought supplies for Bukit Tani neighborhood children to decorate notebooks for use in English Club. Nearly 50 children have created English notebooks and use them to write new vocabulary both in English club and on their own.



In this photo, children are creating their English notebooks and writing their first entry about classroom supplies. Fitzgerald and Jordan have taught topics ranging from numbers to colors to body parts.

### Medan, North Sumatera Weekly

SMKN Binaan English Debate Club



Students spent three weeks researching and writing a collaborative essay in English on the topic of controlling children's access to social media under the guidance of **ETA Izaak Earnhardt**.



On October 15, three students, presented at the regional competition. In coming weeks, they will be shifting working in smaller two-a-side debates to develop fluency as well as rhetoric, logic, and argumentation skills.

English Club meets twice a week and focuses on developing vocabulary and word association through games like Apples to Apples, Scrabble, Boggle, and more.



In coming weeks they will be beginning work on poems focusing on students' personal histories as well as a project to make online resources to teach basics of some of the local Batak languages (Karo, Toba, Mandailing) to speakers of English.

**Is your school interested in  
hosting a Fulbright ETA ?**

**Write to us at :  
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