

Best of Fulbright ETA January - April 2019





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SPECIAL EDITION OF THE
FULBRIGHT ETA MONTHLY
HIGHLIGHTS
COMPILING THE BEST ARTICLES
FROM JANUARY - APRIL 2019

Fifth Special Edition

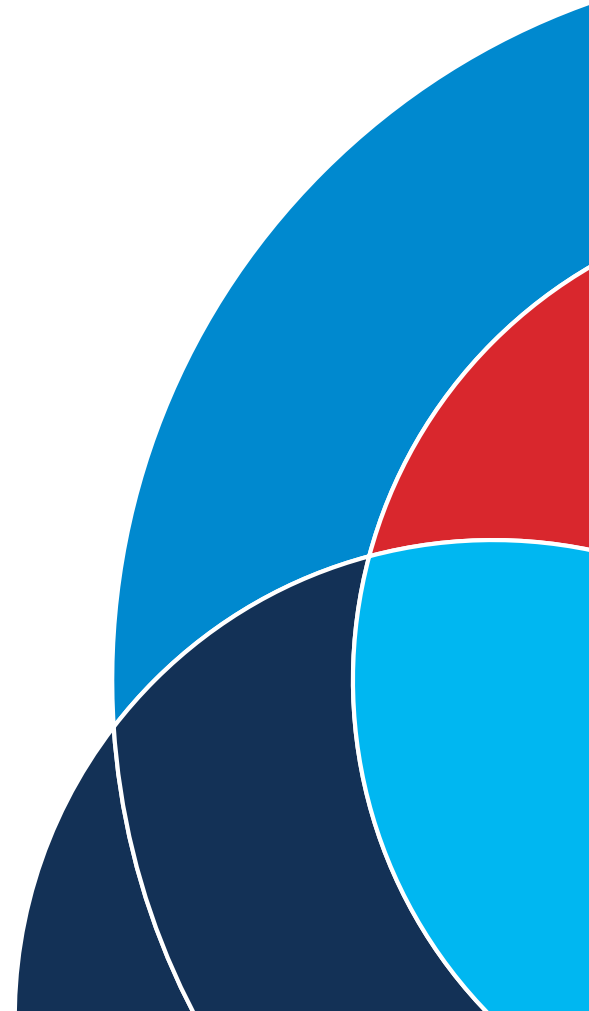


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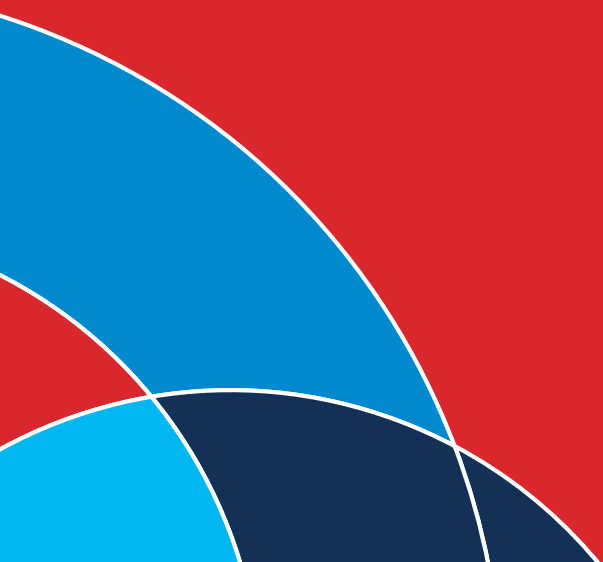
Foreword

Welcome to a special edition of the Fulbright ETA Monthly Highlights where we have compiled the best stories from the past semester.

The 2018-19 ETAs have finished their grants but in this compilation, we honor their contributions.

Their life changing ten months can be broken down in the following categories: interactive activities in the classroom, engaging extracurricular activities, involvement in the host community and cultural exchange.

Read on to see how the ETAs spent their time between January and April 2019!



About the Fulbright ETA Program

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 students' 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 Aliyah) where they assist local English teachers. The program has now been going for 14 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.

About the Fulbright ETA Monthly Highlights

The Highlights are informal stories submitted by the ETAs that recount their experiences with co-teachers, students, and community members where they are placed. We hope they are informative and capture the special value of this program. We welcome your feedback. Email us to socmed@aminef.or.id

If you like to read more of Fulbright ETAs activities in Indonesia, sign up at socmedia@aminef.or.id and The Highlights e-newsletter will be delivered straight to your inbox.

If you wish to catch up on our previous editions, they are available at www.aminef.or.id > Links & Resources > Fulbright ETA Monthly Highlights Newsletter.

Interactive English Classrooms



The main role for a Fulbright ETA in Indonesia is to assist in the classroom. The ETAs use this as an opportunity to work with their co-teachers to introduce interactive and engaging activities to the English classroom in Indonesian high schools. This section details the successful strategies used by teaching pairs to better educate students.

Find out how Darby, Emma, Sarah, Anna R., Anna M., Ryan, and Neelam maintained interactive English classrooms.

Interactive English Classrooms

Building Confidence Through Narrative Texts

SMAN 2 Sangatta Utara
East Kalimantan

This month **ETA Darby Jones** and her counterpart decided to rethink the way narrative texts are normally taught in English classes at SMA 2 Sangatta Utara. To help students prepare for the upcoming local and national WORDS competition, the instructional team chose to move up the narrative text unit to be this semester's first lesson. Using and modifying materials ETA Allison Cwikla in Temanggung prepared, Darby introduced her students to the popular American story "A Series of Unfortunate Events", a text that highlights the resilience, resourcefulness, and determination of three orphaned children. The class started by reviewing the structure, purpose, and key components of a narrative text. To get students excited about the story, Darby played the trailer from the film adaptation of the book in class before students started reading.



SMA 2 students absolutely blew Darby and the teaching team away. While the adapted text (an entire book cut down to four pages) featured challenging vocabulary, complex sentence structures, and no Indonesian translations, students persevered as they read in groups and leveled up to the challenge presented. Recapping as a class after each page showed that students were grasping the major ideas of the text and applying the narrative text structure to the storyline. After each class finished the text, the students recognized what a feat they had just accomplished and applauded themselves. Darby and the students will be viewing the film in an English club in the coming weeks, and they are all looking forward to seeing the story on the big screen!

(First Appeared in Edition January 2019)





Finding Her Stride

SMAN 5 Padangsidempuan
North Sumatra

ETA Emma Barnes's highlight this month is not one specific event, but rather the feeling of finally being more at ease in the classroom. Since returning from the Mid-Year Enrichment Conference in Jakarta in mid-January, Emma has been working extra hard to make sure her classes always include a fun and engaging English activity, usually in the form of some kind of competition. Over the past month and a half, Emma has really come to understand the power of friendly competition in keeping students engaged in an activity. These range from Reading Race, a game where students team up and race to read and remember English sentences, to Jeopardy, to team fill in the blank activities using small whiteboards provided by Emma. It is so incredibly rewarding for her to see the students having fun and being really engaged in an activity, and she looks forward to finding ways to incorporate new and exciting English games and activities in her classes in the coming months.

(First Appeared in Edition February 2019)

Interactive English Classrooms

High School Drama

SMAN 1 Demak
Central Java

At SMAN 1 Demak, Saturday, March 16th was filled with high school drama of the best kind. Students from various 10th grade classes entered the dance theater on Saturday morning to tell Javanese fairytales with a dramatic twist. Over the course of February and March, the students had covered the 10th-grade's "Narrative Texts" unit, then decided to bring their texts off the page. Aided by **Fulbright ETA Sarah Wozniak** and English teacher *Ibu Yulia Mufarichah*, the students wrote scripts, made costumes, found background music, and (of course) cultivated their dramatic inclinations. They also made creative props--including a real pumpkin with a slice cut out, hiding gold and jewels; frightening stage makeup to transform students into spirits; and a pair of balloons, one filled with snakes and one filled with treasure.



Over the course of the morning, the students told such stories as *Bawang Merah Bawang Putih* (Onion and Garlic), *Timun Mas* (The Golden Cucumber), *Sangkuriang*, *Roro Jonggrang* (a story of one thousand temples), and several others. Sarah and *Bu Yulia* were excited to hear students shrug off their mantles of hesitation, speak their lines in English without fear, and laugh along with the audience. Sarah was intrigued by the fairytales her students grew up hearing, and thoroughly enjoyed listening to her students fill the quiet Saturday morning with the sounds of a small, but robust classroom theater.

(First Appeared in Edition March 2019)



Earth Day Reflections

MAN Temanggung
Central Java

To commemorate Earth Day, **ETA Anna Ringheiser** and her counterpart led a student-centered lesson on the environment. They started by asking students to brainstorm about problems they see, smell, or hear in their environment. Students also were asked what they could individually do about it. If a student couldn't think of a solution to the problem they experience, they were able to leave it blank for a friend to fill in. The aim of this activity was for students to break down the idea of global warming and environmental change into tangible things that they know and also to think about what is in their power to act on. They were able to understand the power of individual action in solving issues and the concept of "think global, act local." After brainstorming, students did a listening activity with a monologue on celebrations of earth day around the world. The class ended with a wrap up of asking students what they took away from the class and what they will try to do to change their behavior to help the planet.

(First Appeared in Edition April 2019)



Interactive English Classrooms

Heroes, Dreams, and Martin Luther King

SMAN 1 Padangsidempuan
North Sumatra

After a long semester break, **ETA Anna Misenti** was excited to get back in the classroom with her students again. For two weeks in mid-January, coinciding with Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Day, she incorporated learning about the American civil rights movement and Martin Luther King, Jr. into her classes' lessons. The topic was an excellent way to review past tense and historical recount texts (an important part of the school curriculum) while also teaching students about a portion of American history that few had ever studied.

The lesson began with a discussion about heroes; each student was given two post-it notes in different colors, one to write the name of their hero on and the other to write the reason they admire them. Students grouped their answers on the board by color, and read their peers' answers.

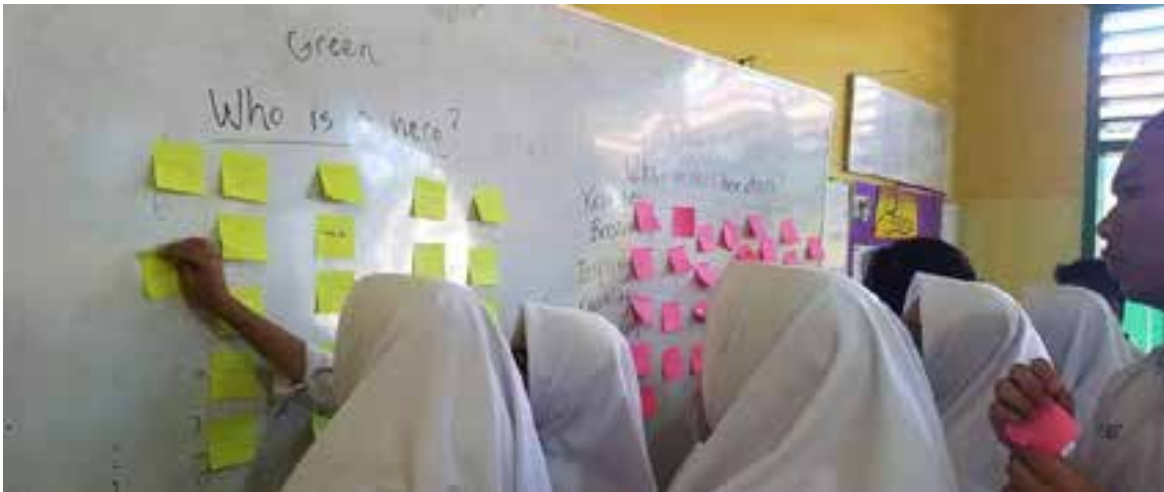
Anna then explained that MLK is a famous American hero and gave a short history lecture on slavery, segregation and the civil rights movement. After this, the students listened to MLK's famous "I Have a Dream Speech".

One of Anna's favorite moments from the lesson was watching her various classes spontaneously applaud after the speech ended, moved by its powerful message. For the final activity, Anna asked students to write their own dreams for the future on sticky notes and stick them to the board to create a wall of the students' dreams.

The answers were inspiring - students wrote about a wide variety of dreams, including making their parents proud, helping others, becoming doctors and teachers, and studying abroad.

(First Appeared in Edition January 2019)





Interactive English Classrooms

Finale

SMA Muhammadiyah 1 Gresik East Java

During the second week of April 2019, **ETA Ryan Ulrich** was preparing some of his last lesson plans. This wasn't because he was leaving SMA Muhammadiyah 1 Gresik, the school where he assists as an English teacher, but because the school was gearing up for that hectic time of year known as finals week. In the US finals, a week is just that, a week, but here in Indonesia, it is much longer. The finals in question can range anywhere between 2-3 weeks! Needless to say, Ryan's students were very anxious about this last week before tests.

Ryan knew his students were worried about the exams, which is why he was resigned to making this last week of class solely about a review, to help boost the confidence of his students. Knowing that there is only so much a teacher can do in a single class he devised a lesson where the students would assist in instructing their peers.

Having the students write their strengths and weakness on the board when they entered class, enabled Ryan to identify who needed the most help. He tried to match students who were weak in one category, but strong in another with their opposite in the classroom. Ryan believed that the students could help their partner gain an understanding of the material better than he could by addressing the entire class. After that activity was completed, Ryan reviewed the entire year's lesson plans to address any lingering questions. These lessons helped show Ryan all he had accomplished with his students over the year. It was quite a rewarding sight.

(First Appeared in Edition April 2019)





Menus of the World

SMKN 3 Pangkalpinang Bangka Belitung Islands

February was a busy month for **ETA Neelam Vohra**, her co-teachers and her students. One of Neelam's highlights this month was working with her *Kelas X* students in the culinary major in creating world menus.

Neelam and her co-teachers agreed that this unit in the curriculum was perfect for these students as it very well could be something they meet again in their culinary careers. After going over the parts of a menu, vocabulary, and conversations for ordering at a restaurant, students were given a chance to create their own menus from cuisines around the world. Neelam was able to share her own example menu that included her favorite American dishes. Each group of students was assigned a different cuisine and it was exciting to see beautiful menus created after researching each country.

Another favorite memory from the month of February was celebrating the birthday of a fellow teacher and close friend of Neelam's at SMK 3. Throughout the past seven months, this teacher has been an incredible source of support and friendship for Neelam, so being able to spend this day celebrating her was special.

(First Appeared in Edition February 2019)

Extracurricular Engagement with School Community



The ETA program in Indonesia challenges ETAs to make an impact outside of the classroom. In the stories that follow, you will see how Kiki, Amanda, Caroline, Catherine, Peter, and Riley have developed initiatives to inspire students, connect different learning communities and encourage a spirit of language learning.

Extracurricular Engagement with School Community

Mentorship, Initiative, Leadership & Knowledge (otherwise known as MILK Mondays)

SMA Santo Yosef Pangkalpinang
Bangka Belitung Islands

On Mondays after school, ten to twenty middle school students from various middle schools around Pangkalpinang come to SMA Santo Yosef for English Club. SMA Santo Yosef English Club members greet the nervous students at the door in English and welcome them to their school.

They energetically begin a series of games and activities that make the room shake with laughter and light up with smiles. Because high school students are closer to the middle school students in age and come from similar communities as the middle schoolers, they can engage and often connect with students quicker and more meaningfully than **ETA Kiyoko “Kiki” Nakamura-Koyama** can herself. Kiki learns a lot from her high school students’ lessons both about what the high schoolers are interested in learning and about her students’ leadership skills. Empowering students through this intergenerational method of learning has been one of the highlights of teaching in Indonesia.

(First Appeared in Edition February 2019)





Always Learning, Always Growing!

SMA Don Bosco Padang
West Sumatra

On Friday, March 8, **Fulbright ETA Amanda Cahn** was one of two judges at a middle school spelling bee held at SMA Don Bosco Padang. At 10 am, eight contestants nervously awaited the judges' arrival. SMA Don Bosco's student organization presented the rules and regulations of the competition. In the first round, each contestant was given three words to spell. In the second round, each contestant was given five words. In both rounds, if any words were misspelled, the contestant was eliminated. The final round was a free for all, as remaining contestants had to raise their hands to answer.



From March 9-12, Amanda and the rest of Indonesia's ETAs went to Taiwan for the Fulbright East Asia and Pacific Regional Conference. They attended various workshops, which ranged from teaching related to the political and historical dynamics in the region, then returned to their sites with new knowledge and tools.

(First Appeared in Edition March 2019)

Extracurricular Engagement with School Community

Americanos & America

MAN 1 Model Manado
North Sulawesi

Community members and students alike expressed a desire to improve their English language skills in a low-pressure environment.

So, **ETA Caroline Kim** decided to meet them where many Manadonese naturally congregate: coffee shops

Caroline particularly enjoyed meeting one of her classes, X Bahasa, over coffee. From teaching American slang to being taught *bahasa Manado* slang, Caroline continues to be impressed by her students' genuine, generous curiosities.

(First Appeared in Edition March 2019)



Culture Exchange Month

MAN 1 Malang
East Java

January revved up in activity and fun for the students of MAN 1 Malang as many projects began to unfurl. **ETA Catherine Krol** connected two classes to her alma mater high school to engage in Pen Pal exchange to teach the Personal Letter unit in 11th grade. The first batch of letters was sent at the end of January and the students look forward to discussing their various hobbies, school subjects and favorite places in their countries with their American counterparts.

This is not the only effort to create a cultural exchange for MAN 1 in January. In addition, the English Club has begun making a series of vlogs with an American classroom showcasing a variety of parts of their daily lives such as the before school routine, transportation, class structure, and general introduction. The students between MAN 1 and St. Helen Catholic schools will continue to exchange short video clips to share on the various cultural differences and surprising similarities between American and Indonesian students.

Overall, the semester is off to a great start and students can hope to have fun with a variety of programs tied to the English Department in MAN 1 from an Earth Day activity to the annual 2019 WORDS competition. Catherine is also looking forward to continuing to have lots of engaging conversations with her community and learning much in the realm of language and culture in the coming months.

(First Appeared in Edition January 2019)



Extracurricular Engagement with School Community

A Month Spent Hiking & Reading

MAN 1 Payakumbuh
West Sumatra

During the week of April 14-20, 2019, **ETA Gordon “Peter” Bensen** was able to wrap up his two final CEPs for the year. Throughout the end of March and beginning of April, Peter recorded himself reading 20 Children’s English books that had been sent to his school, MAN 1 Kota Payakumbuh, by the Darien Book Aid (and some from his family). He also scanned the pages from each book and loaded 9 flash drives with the 20 recording/scan pairs. Eight flash drives now reside in his school’s library for their use, while one will be given to AMINEF to provide for future ETA’s to add to or use at their respective sites. On April 16-18, Peter used the new materials with his 10th and 11th grade English clubs for a listening, fill-in-the-blank, activity that went well. On April 19th, Peter concluded his Neighborhood Kid’s English Club by taking a number of the participants and their families on a local hike to some beautiful caves. They ate fried rice at the top of the mountain and spent the morning exploring. Peter taught English vocabulary as they hiked and enjoyed the morning sun. At the end of the day, Peter provided each of his six most committed students with folders of American *oleh-oleh*, pens, notebooks, candy, and more. It was a truly special way to finish off the year with a group of parents and children Peter has come to call his own family.

(First Appeared in Edition April 2019)



Believe in Yourself

SMAN 10 Samarinda
East Kalimantan

On March 1, **Fulbright ETA Riley Heist** held the local WORDS competition at her school. During the past month and a half, Riley watched her students work extremely hard, creating passionate stories about the future of their country. Despite the busy hours, Riley really enjoyed working one-on-one with the fifteen students that joined the competition. Throughout the process, Riley found that she was able to get to know her students more personally.

Due to the extensive work that every student put into their story, Riley felt anxious leading up to the competition, knowing that despite all of the hard work, there would only be one winner. While the students waited for the results from the judges, Riley was reminded that the students knew there was more to a competition than just winning as she watched the contestants, the audience, and the judges all come together and dance like crazy to pass the time.

Following the dancing, Riley climbed to the stage, still dreading announcing the winners. She needed her students to know how proud she was of them and that they had all improved dramatically. Before she announced the winner, she explained this to the students and finally, she asked them to repeat after her. "I am smart. I am talented. I am powerful. And together, we can change the world." Hearing her students say this with so much energy, Riley truly believed that it really would be her students that would change the future of Indonesia.

(First Appeared in Edition March 2019)



Involvement in Host Community



Indonesian society is communal. This is something that each ETA learns when they arrive in-country. The following stories showcase ETAs making an effort to engage in their host community in addition to contributing to their host schools. Sometimes this means making partnerships between the school community and the host community. It can also mean engaging independently with a local group or program.

Find out what we mean by flipping the page and reading Sabrina, Allison, Alexandra, Andrew, Anisha and Alexander's highlights.

Involvement in Host Community

Ignite English!

MAN Demak
Central Java

On February 2, 2019, **ETA Sabrina Verleysen** had the wonderful opportunity to ignite English language learning and give positive motivation to secondary school students in a remote village outside of Demak. Thanks to a close friendship with Miss Muji, an English teacher from Madrasah Aliyah As Samaniyah, the morning event was organized and prepared for Sabrina's visit.

During her presentation, Sabrina told the eager students about American cultural norms and her life back in America. After this, the students played an array of English Olympic games focused on language elicitation and sentence structure. Sabrina was even able to share information about AMINEF programs including scholarship and exchange programs with the students and the teachers.

They were delighted to hear about Sabrina's experience in Indonesia including the culture shock and the many innocent faux pas that she makes daily! All parties walked away with a slightly deeper understanding of one another.

(First Appeared in Edition February 2019)





Jateng English Teachers Summit

SMAN 1 Temanggung
Central Java

One of many highlights for **Fulbright ETA Allison Cwikla** of SMAN1-Temanggung that took place during March occurred on the 22nd and 23rd of the month. After many weeks of planning and preparation with the English Teacher's Association of Central Java and the Providence of Education, Allison, her counterpart *Pak Imam*, and the board of the English Teachers Association held a two-day conference attended by over 50 teachers representing all regencies in Central Java. The teachers came together in Semarang to enjoy various discussions, presentations, panels and, of course, delicious meals.

A favorite part of the conference for many was a presentation led by English Language Fellows Amy Griffin and Devon Jancin from the Regional English Language Offices. Amy and Devon traveled from Yogyakarta and Salatiga to share knowledge and ideas regarding student engagement in the classroom. Throughout the workshop, topics such as cross-cultural communication, English language learning, low-technology classroom management and activities of a lively classroom environment were discussed. Allison enjoyed the assistance of several of her fellow ETAs and meeting new English teachers from various parts of Central Java.

(First Appeared in Edition March 2019)

Involvement in Host Community

The Making of a Storyteller

SMKN 9 Malang
East Java

The Mid-Year Enrichment Conference during the second week of January allowed **ETA Alexandra Gwynn** time to reflect on her Fulbright experience thus far to transition into a purposeful 2019. Alexandra co-led seminars focused on identity and problem-solving that gave space for the cohort to share experiences and brainstorm solutions.

On January 14, ETA Alexandra shared new ideas learned at the conference to her colleagues and students in Malang. Sharing relative information learned regarding the future of Indonesia prompted student discussion about story topics for the 2019 WORDS competition.

In addition, students read and watched videos of local folklore such as "*Timun Mas*" and "Legend of the Rainbow" during class to better understand story structure. Information about the future of Indonesia along with the art of folklore laid the foundation for students to create their own stories. ETA Alexandra provided daily workshops throughout the final weeks of January for students to edit their writing, illustrate their story, and practice public speaking.

On January 26, ETA Alexandra led a visual storytelling workshop with animation teacher *Bu Itha* and *Pak Arfan*. The workshop guided a select group of students from SMKN 9 and a burgeoning production company from Ranu Pani in the process of how to conduct an interview.

Participants learned pre-production skills including subject research and question development, production skills including DSLR and lavalier use, and post-production editing skills. The subjects interviewed, a Sufi dancer and Malang tattoo artist who played the *Karinding*, provided stories that portrayed a spectrum of Malang's artistic expression.

(First Appeared in Edition January 2019)



Fixing a Feast of Famous Flores Food

SMK Stella Maris Labuan Bajo
East Nusa Tenggara

In early April, **ETA Andrew Shifren** was given the opportunity, with two of his students, to showcase the culture of his region to all of Indonesia. There is a chef in Labuan Bajo who was born on an island near Komodo National Park and cooks seafood at her restaurant in a traditional Flores style with local ingredients like coconut, banana blossom, white pepper, and grouper. Trans7, an Indonesian television channel, was filming her for a program on the diverse cuisines of Indonesia and the chef contacted Andrew to ask for help. With two of his most dedicated English Club members Andrew went to the beach and spent the day cooking a traditional Flores coastal feast. They shucked shellfish, chopped garlic, and smiled for the camera. A lot. The highlight for Andrew was meeting fisherman with a big catch of shellfish, which the chef bought and added to the menu. Trans7 filmed for hours as Andrew's students spoke in English and *bahasa* Indonesia about preparing and eating the fantastic meal. *Eeeenaak*.

(First Appeared in Edition April 2019)



Involvement in Host Community

Lebih Dari Beautiful

**SMKN 6 Semarang
Central Java**

On February 20, 2019, **ETA Anisha Tyagi** held a female empowerment seminar at her school SMKN 6 Semarang. The culmination of months of discussions with Indonesian college students and neighboring ETAs Sarah Wozniak and Sabrina Verleysen, this discussion's main idea was that women are worth more than their beauty.

Inundated with concepts of beauty that have been taken from the West, Indonesian women may feel the need to whiten their skin or feel insecure about their flat noses. While beautiful in Indonesia should change so it reflects how the average Indonesian woman looks, flat nose and all, a beauty standard is still a beauty standard. No matter how unrelatable, it will still need to be met and still make women feel inadequate.

College students, Citta Raissa Andini, Hani Nurlina, and Salsabila Hawa, along with ETAs, convinced girls in attendance that true beauty is our unique characteristics and the value we provide in the world.

It was the seminar's first iteration and felt like a first draft at times, but it made everyone in attendance feel like they were valuable. To Anisha, that's a success.

(First Appeared in Edition February 2019)



On Air with RRI

MAN 2 Bukittinggi West Sumatra

With the beginning of a new year, resolutions and aspirations abound. “How can we reach the wider Bukittinggi community with one-to-one English language instruction without it being too high-stakes or tedious?” asked **ETA Alexander Lopez-Perez** and his counterpart Mr. Harryanto last fall.

With help from some friends, and the personable nature that the two aforementioned colleagues carry, “Wonderful Indonesia: English for us” began broadcasting through the airwaves on Radio Republik Indonesia (RRI).

Every Saturday at 1 pm, Mr. Anto and Alex serve as guest hosts and spend one hour on the air chatting with listeners about topics such as “Education in the U.S.,” “Parenting,” “Cultural misconceptions and Clarifications,” (and many more) with an eye on relating this experience to the Indonesian perspective.

With easy English instruction coupled with lighthearted anecdotes from the guest hosts, “English for Us” is a special program on 9.2 Pro 2 RRI.



(First Appeared in Edition January 2019)



Cultural Exchange



At its foundation, the Fulbright ETA program is about cultural exchange. With the next three stories, we share stories that highlight the true essence of the program.

Read on to see how Brian, Sophia, and Liz exemplified the value of cultural exchange.

Cultural Exchange

A Day of Achievement, Appreciation, and Celebration

SMKN 1 Sangatta Utara
East Kalimantan

On Tuesday, April 30, SMKN 1 hosted an English talent show alongside a Kartini Day celebration and farewell party for **ETA Brian Miner**. After a busy and memorable month starting with the WORDS competition in Jakarta, saying goodbye to twelfth grade at graduation, and finishing up classes and clubs for tenth and eleventh grade; Brian could not have asked for a better way to wrap up his time in Sangatta Utara and say goodbye to the students, teachers, and friends that have positively affected Brian's experience in Sangatta Utara and at SMKN 1 for the past nine months. Brian enjoyed seeing his students and some teachers at SMKN 1 perform poems, songs, skits, and dances throughout the day. The talent, creativity, and genuineness of the students and teachers at SMKN 1 never cease to inspire Brian. This celebration helped Brian acknowledge the closing window of time he has left in Sangatta Utara, and to appreciate the relationships that have been formed in the last nine months. Since coming to Indonesia, Brian has felt overwhelmed by the support, generosity, and hospitality provided to him by the community. He still feels unable to give back as much as he has received from the community in Sangatta Utara. He can only hope that he has positively impacted one person as much as this experience has shaped him.

(First Appeared in Edition April 2019)



The More the Merrier

SMAN 11 Padang
West Sumatra

During mid-term exams, the English Club at SMA 11 Padang stayed after school for a very special meeting. **ETA Sophia Lopresti** and her English Club were thrilled to welcome Fulbright ETA Alex Lopez-Perez from MAN 2 Bukittinggi and Fulbright ETA Peter Bensen from MAN 1 Payakumbuh!

They started with the Hokey Pokey, led enthusiastically by ETA Peter. Everyone was smiling and giggling during this classic and silly song, so it was the perfect way to start their activities. Then they played a lively game of charades with ETA Alex leading one team and ETA Peter leading the other. The best part was when each team wrote the prompts for the other team in the next round. Students acted out everything from daily activities to superhero characters!

After that, everyone went for some cool drinks at Yangi beach cafe across the street from the school. The ETAs and students had more time to chat while enjoying the breeze and view of the ocean. They even saw some fisherman pulling their daily catch in!

(First Appeared in Edition March 2019)



Cultural Exchange

Double Trouble in Gresik

SMA Nahdlatul Ulama 1 Gresik
East Java

SMA NU 1 Gresik had a big surprise when they came to school after the New Year. Rather than one English Teaching Assistant, they had two! **ETA Elizabeth “Liz” Wallace** invited her older sister Cat, a former Teach for America (TFA) corps member and English as a Foreign Language teacher in France, to guest teach in her classroom while she visited Liz for the holidays. Since Cat lives in Paris full-time, the sisters decided to lead a class on the similarities and differences between Indonesia, America, and France.

The students enjoyed a trivia game about the three countries. Questions included “In which country do people eat lots of bread and cheese?” (the unanimous answer was France), “Which country has islands?” (most students did not know that all three countries do!), and “Which country has mandatory education starting at age three?” (the classes agreed that America needs to catch up with France and Indonesia who both require it!). Liz’s students were eager to learn some French phrases and were surprised to learn that they already knew a few words like “déjà vu” and “croissant.” Cat’s visit was also an interesting cross-cultural experience for the full-time English teachers at SMA NU 1 who enjoyed asking her questions about French culture and the French education system. Though Cat was only able to stay in Gresik for a few days, French won’t disappear from the radars of students at SMA NU 1. Liz leads a weekly French Club for students and teachers interested in the French language and culture.

(First Appeared in Edition January 2019)





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