

# Best of Fulbright ETA

## August - December 2017





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SPECIAL EDITION OF THE FULBRIGHT  
ETA MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS  
COMPILING THE BEST ARTICLES  
FROM AUGUST - DECEMBER 2017









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# Foreword

The 2017-18 Fulbright English Teaching Assistants have already been in Indonesia for five months now and half reached the halfway point of their grant period. The ETAs were first introduced to Indonesia by attending a two week Orientation in Jakarta where they took Bahasa Indonesia lessons, learned about Indonesian culture and history, and practiced their teaching skills. Then onwards to site! The ETAs began teaching in August and tacked on a variety of extracurricular activities to their schedules. Of course in the meantime of their teaching responsibilities, they engaged with their community, learned about the local culture, and began making friends.

It's been a busy five months for the ETAs, read on to find out about how the engaged in the classroom, led their extracurricular activities, and promoted intercultural exchange.

- AMINEF American Program and Communications Team



# 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 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.

## About the Fulbright ETA Monthly Highlights

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. Email us at: [socmed@aminef.or.id](mailto:socmed@aminef.or.id)

PS: Since October 2017, the *Highlights* regular edition is available in an email newsletter format. Email us your email address to [socmed@aminef.or.id](mailto:socmed@aminef.or.id) to receive next editions.





# In Class



The ETAs and their co-teachers were active in their classrooms this semester bringing in engaging activities and new learning strategies. Many ETAs brought in traditions and holiday celebrations from their own cultures, while others created fun lessons for students to practice their English. Students and co-teachers alike learned a lot from their ETA, and undoubtedly, the ETA learned alongside them! Read on to find out about ETAs Elena, Ian, Kate, Matt, Meghan, and Sheldon and their in class activities!





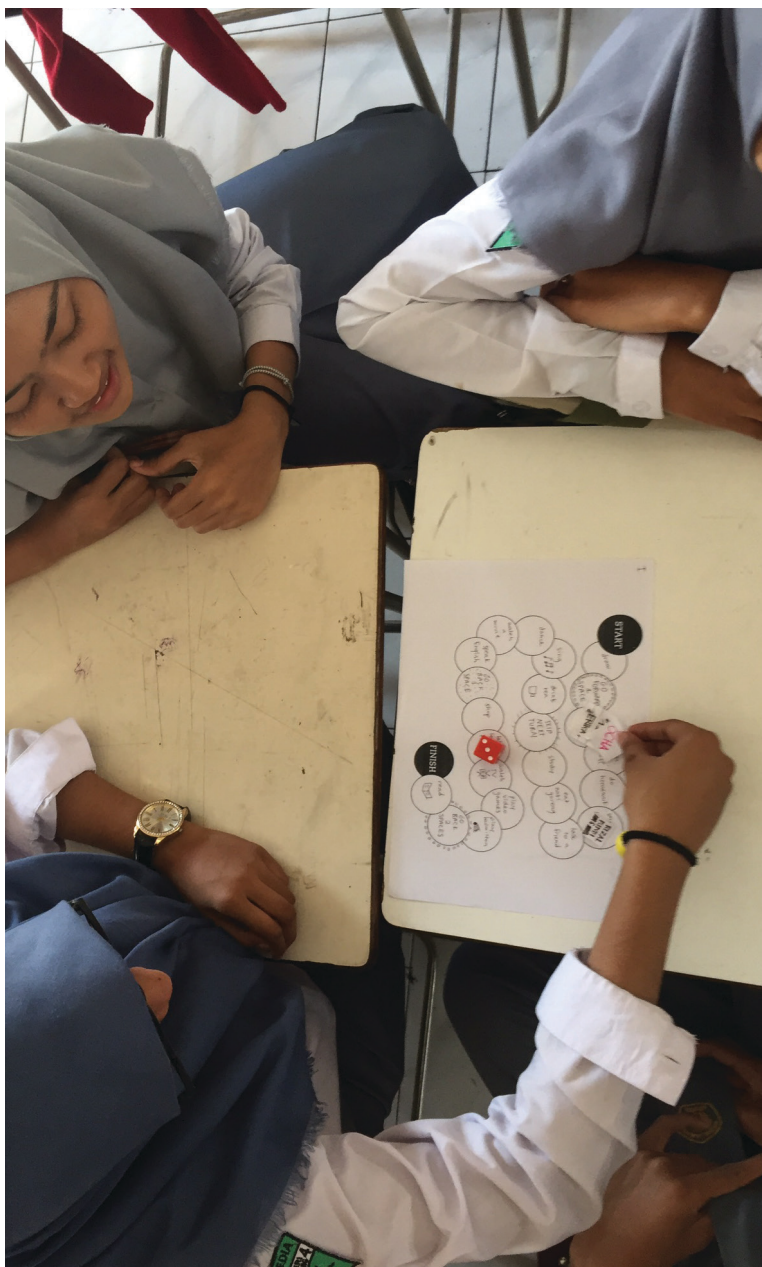
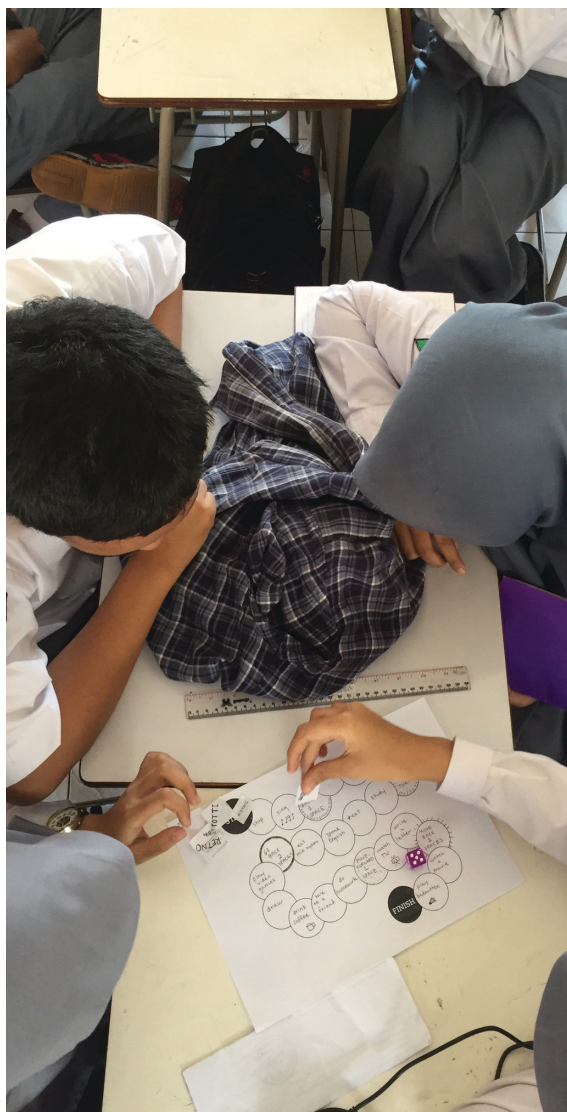
# In Class

## Practicing Intention Using Board Games

*SMKN 4 Malang  
Malang, East Java*

During the last week of August, 10th grade students at SMKN 4 Malang were learning about how to ask and show intention. In order to practice both speaking and writing skills, **ETA Elena Dietz** and two of her co-teachers, *Ibu Anis* and *Ibu Dwi*, used a board game. After explaining the rules and dividing up the students into groups of 3-4, the students were to roll the dice and use the verb they landed on to make a sentence using intention. During the first round, they would write their sentence and then speak it and during the second round, the students were to only speak a sentence. This gave the co-teachers the opportunity to look at the students' written sentences and give general feedback on the white board, in order to correct common errors. After a few rolls, the students really began to get the hang of the game and towards the end, the room was filled with joyful shouts from the winners and high-fives all around!

*(First Appeared in Edition August 2017)*





## Creating Our Own Dictionaries

*MAN 2 Kab. Gorontalo  
Gorontalo, Gorontalo*

**ETA Ian Morse** quickly realized that many of the students – as well as the residents of Ilomangga, the village where he teaches – have a very limited vocabulary in English. Rarely do people understand more than "Hello mister! How are you?" In the first English club meeting, Ian introduced a few alternative ways of greeting people on the street. "What's up?" "What are you doing?" "Where are you going?" It was successful. Some students greeted him on the street in a few

more ways. Daily in the classroom, however, teachers introduce many more words and phrases to students than they can keep track of. In the second week, Ian gave a new rule to each class: students must write down all new words in their notebook. At the end of each class, students can play games with the new words they've learned. At the end of the year, they will have their own dictionary. Students quickly picked up on the new rule, yelling out "New word!" whenever they heard something unfamiliar. There was a new, vibrant (and loud!) energy in the classroom that wasn't there before. One of the best things as a teacher is to see that your students are rushing to meet you halfway.

*(First Appeared in Edition August 2017)*





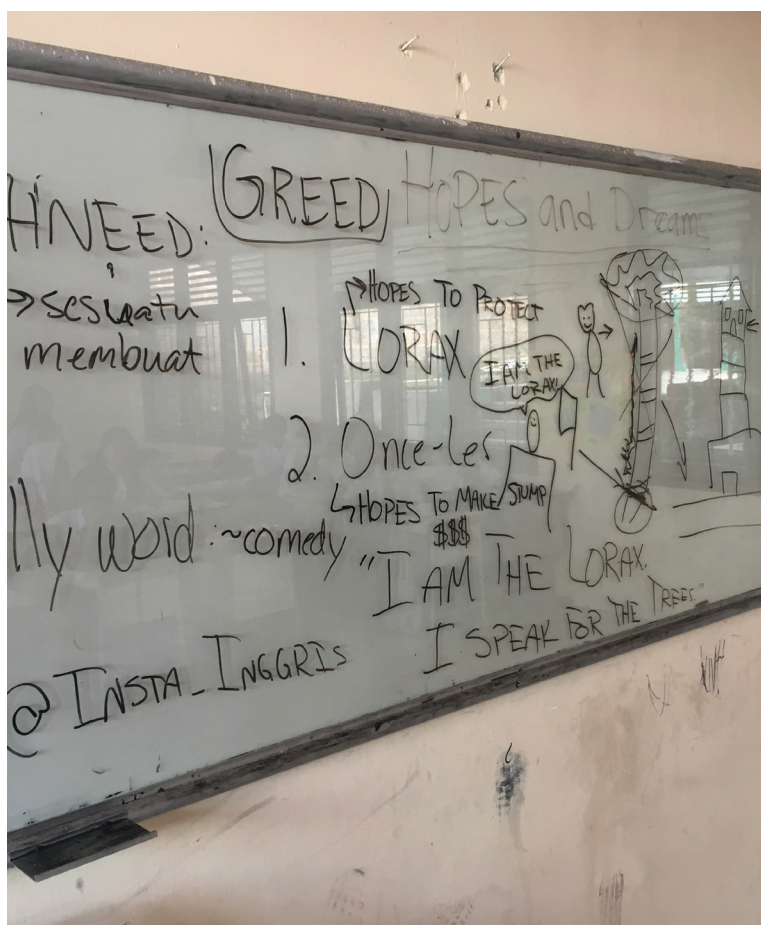
# In Class

## Dr. Seuss's Weird Words

*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!

(First Appeared in Edition September 2017)



## Less Pens, More Pals

*SMA Swasta Sisingamangaraja Tanjungbalai  
Tanjungbalai, North Sumatra*

Students at SMA Sinsingamangaraja 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.

*(First Appeared in Edition September 2017)*





# In Class

## English Exploration

*MAN 1 Kendari*

*Kendari, Southeast Sulawesi*

English class became extra exciting for the students at MAN 1 Kendari this month! **ETA Meghan Cullinan** led a cooking exploration to teach her 11th grade students about Procedure Text. The week before the cooking exploration, students learned common cooking vocabulary and commands such as "slice" and "chop". Students also practiced the imperative tense and read recipes to familiarize themselves with the structure of procedure texts about cooking. After exploring the structure of procedure texts, Meghan wanted her students to complete a procedure they could write about.

What is more enjoyable than cooking in class? Meghan brought the ingredients for one of her childhood favorite recipes to her 11th grade class, Peanut Butter & Banana Sandwiches. Students worked in pairs to follow along as Meghan modeled the procedure, without giving oral directions. While one student repeated a step of the procedure, the other table partner wrote the step using the vocabulary and structure she believed represented the action performed. Once students finished making the sandwiches, each pair wrote one step in the procedure on the whiteboard. While enjoying their sandwiches, students discussed the cooking procedure and the possible explanations for describing a specific step in the procedure. Then, students worked in groups to write the procedure for cooking their own favorite Indonesian foods to share their culture! Not only did her students get to enjoy Miss Meghan's favorite lunch, Peanut Butter and Banana Sandwiches, but also they worked together to develop their understandings of procedure text!

*(First Appeared in Edition October 2017)*







## Malcolm X Lesson

*MAN Demak  
Demak, Central Java*

An activity that **ETA Matt Poissant** really loves using in the classroom is called Speed Reading so he was really excited when the topic for this week was recount text. After his co-teacher, *Ibu Emma*, explained the purpose and structure of recount text, Matt was able to get the activity started. Matt posted 3 copies of a recount text about the life of Malcolm X on the back wall of the classroom. He gave the students some context about who Malcolm X was and why he was important in America as well as the issues America was facing during the time Malcolm X was alive and then Matt split the students into 8 groups. Matt explained that he would write a question on the board and that the answer can be found in the text on the back wall, however only one person from each group can go up and read the text. Matt had all the selected readers come to the front of the classroom and emphasized to them that they had to tell their group the answer but that they could not write the answer, however they could return to the text as many times as they needed. After making sure they understood the question the countdown began and at 0 they raced to the texts at the back of the class to find the answer. The students were very motivated to read about Malcolm X, not just because of the game but because of how important Islam was in his life.

*(First Appeared in Edition November 2017)*



# Outside the Classroom



The ETAs don't only teach in the classroom, they are involved in a variety of extracurricular activities too! Many ETAs join existing English, debate, and sports clubs, but they create their own initiatives as well. This outside of class time offers students and teachers a chance to interact with their ETA in a more informal setting. Often, these are the favorite activities of the ETAs, students, and teachers!

Read on to see Amy, Arshelle, Greg, Katia, Kelly, Nageen, and Sam at work outside of the classroom.





# Outside the Classroom

## Teacher's Club & Creative Lesson Plans Workshop

*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.

*(First Appeared in Edition September 2017)*



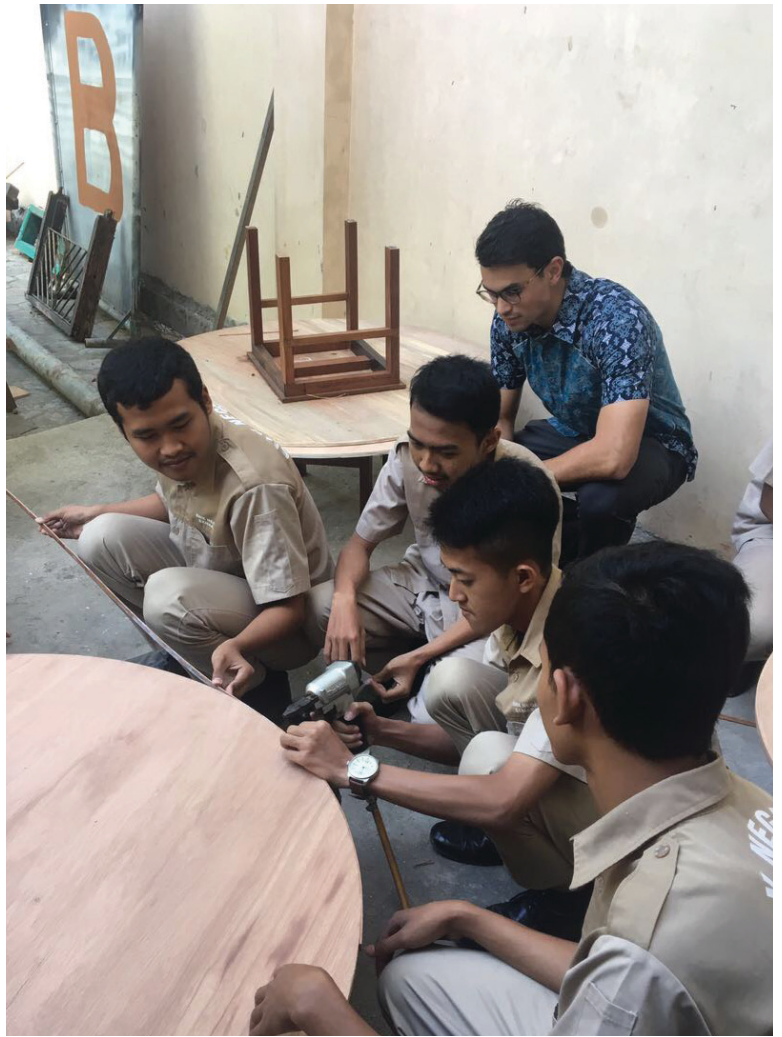


## Building *Bersama-Sama*

*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!

*(First Appeared in Edition September 2017)*





# Outside the Classroom

## Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

*SMK Stella Maris Labuan Bajo  
Labuan Bajo, East Nusa Tenggara*

Hispanic Heritage Month is observed from September 15 through October 15. **ETA Arshelle Carter** used the October 9 English Club meeting to discuss the influence of well-known Latinos/Latinas in the US and around the world. Arshelle introduced the topic of discussion with a game of Hangman. Next, students brainstormed a list of Spanish-speaking countries and entertainers with ancestry from those places. English club members were introduced to the music of Selena Quintanilla-Pérez. Students carefully listened to her song, "Dreaming of You" and filled out a worksheet with missing lyrics. (The topic of dreams and goals continued in the next English Club meeting when students were challenged to describe their own dreams.) To end the meeting, Arshelle held a mini bachata tutorial and students had a blast showing off their dance moves. Highlighting Hispanic Heritage Month was a great way for Arshelle to demonstrate America's diversity and introduce students to an aspect of American culture that is not always represented in the popular media.

*(First Appeared in Edition October 2017)*







## Teacher Workshop

*SMAN 2 Balige  
Balige, North Sumatra*

**ETA Amy Quirion** and her fellow teachers at SMAN2 in Balige, North Sumatra had the pleasure of holding a teacher workshop at the district and regional level with English teachers in the Toba Samosir and Samosir Region. Amy sent in her RELO request form at the beginning of September for an English Language Fellow to come assist her in a workshop to discuss the importance of implementing critical thinking and higher order thinking skills in the new mandated government lesson plans in the updated version of K13 curriculum. ELF Yuta and Amy held the workshop on October 13th and 45 teachers attended the day's workshop. Fun activities, games, and lessons were a part of the day's agenda and teachers were able to see how they can bring higher order thinking skills into their classrooms and how to enhance their lesson plans in ways of allowing students to think creatively. The day was a great turn out and the following day was planned to use the same activities with students. Both days were great learning experiences for all teachers who attended.

*(First Appeared in Edition October 2017)*



# Outside the Classroom

## The Giving Tree

*SMAN 3 Pangkalpinang  
Pangkalpinang, Bangka*

The week following up to Thanksgiving, **ETA Nageen Sherani** and students from her English Club and Conversation Group read a children's short story called "The Giving Tree" by Shel Silverstein. The book, in part, was selected to convey the larger themes surrounding the American holiday such as giving and gratefulness. Post-reading, Nageen asked the students questions to guide them in their understanding of the story's main points and to help them identify instances within the story which exemplified gratefulness and giving. Then the students reflected on their personal experiences and shared stories or aspects in their lives for which they are thankful.

The most exciting part for Nageen and her students was creating their very own "Giving Tree". On the 'leaves' of this tree, students wrote about their moments of gratitude. Their "Giving Tree" is now an ongoing reminder of gratitude and a unique decoration for their English Corner. Reading the story and creating their own "Giving Tree" has been one of Nageen and her students' favorite activities and she hopes to include more storytelling times like these throughout next semester!

*(First Appeared in Edition November 2017)*



## The Play's the Thing!

*SMKN 6 Surabaya  
Surabaya, East Java*

This December, the English club at SMKN 6 put on a play! It was a mashup play of two different stories- the stories of Cinderella and the traditional Indonesian story of Malin, who turns to stone when he denies the identity of his mother. The students rehearsed very hard for weeks and came to school at 5:30 am to get dressed in makeup and costumes before the show! After two more run-throughs, the students performed their play for a meeting of all grade 10 parents! They did a fantastic job, remembering to speak loudly, cheat out and to improvise when they forgot their lines! **ETA Kelly Richard** and the other two club leaders Elysa and Hafiz were so proud of them!

*(First Appeared in Edition December 2017)*





# Outside the Classroom

## English Club

*SMA Eben Haezar Manado  
Manado, North Sulawesi*

The highlight of **ETA Katia Oltmann's** December was her work with the English club at her school. She had worked with the club throughout the entirety of her first semester at Eben Haezar. Her participation in the club has really been the highlight of her teaching experience in Indonesia. She loved her work with the English club because it gave her a chance to help her students practice critical thinking. The club focused on preparing students for English debate competitions, so students in the club focused on improving their ability to think about difficult political and social issues. In a typical meeting, students would usually hold a mock debate. They have had debates concerning current events and human rights. Katia also really enjoyed getting to work with Sir Augustus, a staff member of Yayasan Eben Haezar who leads the debate club. Sir Augustus is great at pushing students to become their best selves, and Katia loved being able to see his passion for education.

*(First Appeared in Edition December 2017)*









# Cultural Exchange



Although class and extracurricular activities keep the ETAs busy, they also find time to engage with their community. This can be one of the most rewarding experiences for the ETAs and host community. Often ETAs are ready to jump right in and join the fun! Read on to find out how Alex, Jam, Khalid, Kyra, Nabeel, and Nitika immersed themselves in their new communities.





# Cultural Exchange

## Fake It Till You Make It!

*SMAN 15 Padang  
Padang, West Sumatra*

Grantee involvement in local communities is a cornerstone to the Fulbright Experience. Indonesian Independence Day was a prime example of **ETA Jam Sulahry** getting out of his comfort zone. Being immersed in a foreign country on the other side of the world (literally) is no walk in the park. For Jam, a large part of the struggle in the first month was trying to assimilate into the culture. On Indonesia's Independence Day he quickly made the most of his time engaging in traditional activities such as *Tarik Tambang* (Tug-of-War) with his students and headmaster to *Lomba Mencari Koin* with the PE teacher. Being able to not only see, but engage in these activities have been critical to his adjustment in a brand new environment. It's okay to go into something without all the information or something completely foreign to you, sometimes you need to get out there, try your best, and have a smile on your face; the rest will follow.

(First Appeared in Edition August 2017)





## Eid al-Adha

SMAN 1 Limboto  
Gorontalo, Gorontalo



**ETA Nabeel Ahmad**, at SMAN 1 Limboto, attended Eid prayer at Masjid Bait ur-Rahman. Eid al-Adha is an Islamic festival that commemorates the willingness of Prophet Abraham (Ibrahim) to follow Allah's (God's) command to sacrifice his son, Ismael. After Eid prayer, it is custom to say *minal aidin wal faizin* and shake each other's hands. Nabeel also met the mayor of Limboto after Eid prayer. In Limboto, Gorontalo, after morning Eid prayer, Nabeel went to his headmasters' house to witness the slaughtering of a cow. The slaughtering of the cow is referred to as *qurbani*. The cow is then donated to the poor with a small portion used for immediate cooking. Nabeel took part in grilling satay *sapi* using the meat of the slaughtered cow. Following grilling satay, Nabeel hosted SMAN 1 Limboto students at his personal house to relax and catch up on everyone's Eid celebration.

(First Appeared in Edition August 2017)





# Cultural Exchange

## Deja Vu of the Welcoming Ceremony

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

This month **ETA Kyra Ghosh** participated in a traditional welcoming ceremony with her school. Back in August, her school hosted a welcoming ceremony for her within minutes of her arrival to Labuan Bajo. It was her first impression of the school, Flores, and even one of her first impressions of Indonesia in general. The ceremony consisted of all of the teachers dressing in traditional Manggarai clothing while swaying back and forth in a line to a Manggarai song being belted through a megaphone. After the singing, a live chicken and beer were handed to Kyra which officially secured her welcome. The whole ceremony was filmed, and Kyra remembers never feeling so overwhelmed yet also welcomed at the same time.

Just a few weeks ago, a woman's group from Jakarta came to Kyra's school to do a presentation about sex trafficking among children. Kyra was asked to participate in the welcoming ceremony for the organization, and spent an hour or two getting ready with the co-teachers as the women did her makeup and helped her wrap her *songket* or traditional Manggarai skirt. She then patiently waited the arrival of the organization with her co-teachers while they all took selfies to pass the time. Eventually, someone signaled the organization was arriving, and this time Kyra was on the other end of the camera. She smiled and did not pretend to know the lyrics of the song or what she was doing, but she followed the co-teachers' line of dancing while hundreds of people watched. After the ceremony ended, Kyra sat with a group of her students and talked with them for a long time practicing her *Bahasa* Indonesia while they spoke English to her.

This day was particularly significant for Kyra because her second experience with a welcoming ceremony marked a point in time where she began to feel at home. The first time she merely felt "welcomed" while this time she felt true comfort. It was a surreal marker in time for it allowed her reflect on the time she had spent there and how far she had come.

*(First Appeared in Edition November 2017)*





## Drama Performance for Hari Guru

*SMAN 1 Salatiga*  
*Salatiga, Central Java*

In Indonesia, November holds national *Hari Guru*, or National Teacher's Day. **ETA Nitika Johri** got to play a role in her school's celebration of Hari Guru. As a tradition, the teachers of SMAN 1 Salatiga performed a play, *Ande-Ande Lumut*. The story is a traditional Javanese story that parallels the story of Cinderella, complete with the jealous Javanese step sisters, scheming step-mother, and a surprising outcome.

It was interesting for Nitika to learn about the history of this story, and how there are versions that carry over across all the islands, each of them shifting the story slightly to bear local, cultural significance. Nitika played the role of *Kleting Ungu*, or the "purple sister," who was from America, spoke in Javanese and Indonesian, and sang in Hindi. She thankfully only spoke three lines, which were a mix of *Bahasa Indonesia* and *Bahasa Jawa*. Nitika participated in rehearsals leading up to the performance, including singing, dancing, and acting practices. These practices were not only fun because of the activities, but were also a great way to meet and joke around with other teachers Nitika did not often spend time with. She also was able to practice speaking in *Bahasa Indonesia* and English with new teachers, and was able to learn about Javanese stories and culture. The drama was well-received by all the teachers and students, and produced a good share of laughable photos and videos.

(First Appeared in Edition November 2017)





# Cultural Exchange

## A Day to Remember

*SMAN 1 Boyolali  
Boyolali, Central Java*

**ETA Khalid Osman** attended a wedding party for his counterpart's family, *Ibu Saras*. The day started at the crack of dawn as he helped prepare wedding preparations. Over the next few hours, Khalid welcomed guests and bonded with the groom on his big day. Around 10 o'clock the bulk of the 1,600 guests had arrived and the wedding was in full swing. The event was filled with live music, good food and laughter as the crowd gathered to celebrate the union of Fahri and Denny. At one point, Khalid found himself teaching a small group of children how to cha-cha. By noon the wedding was winding down and Khalid was asked to participate in multiple photo shoots. He left the wedding feeling thankful for his counterpart's invitation and the opportunity to experience a Javanese wedding from a host perspective. Later that month, Khalid met Fahri at a café and the two have become good friends ever since then.

*(First Appeared in Edition December 2017)*







## Solving Cultural and Psychological Obstacles in Learning Languages

*SMAN 1 Salatiga  
Salatiga, Central Java*

On November 11, **ETA Alex Bue** received an unexpected email: "INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM CONFIRMATION OF AGREEMENT." The agreement called him to present on December 16 at Imam Bojol University in Padang about the day's subject, "Solving Cultural and Psychological Obstacles in Learning Languages," which he did happily.

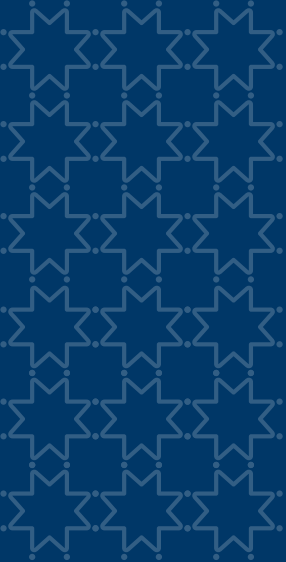
Alex joined several other speakers at the University on December 16. Lessons included one about Japanese and Korean's unique and diverse alphabets; another about the importance of Arabic language education, delivered all in Arabic by a Moroccan man to a crowd that didn't speak Arabic; and a dentist's savvy tips for learning English, including, importantly, that it should be "fun." Alex in his speech considered just one goal of learning a new language - to increase our understanding of people unlike ourselves - and then obstacles to that end. Linguistic barriers aside, it seems obvious we bring to conversations with other people in other cultures a baggage of stereotypes and assumptions. As much as he spoke to the crowd, Alex spoke to himself and to his home, realizing it is hardly Indonesians who need most to be reminded that people from places unfamiliar to each other can still share essential similarities. Cultures are expressions of real and important differences, but they are also facades through which we must try to see each other.

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