



Celebrating 50 Years in Indonesia

Humor lies in the whimsical and unexpected events that one experiences in Indonesia.

"I encountered new ways of being in the world: new ways of eating and new foods, new ways of dressing and new forms of getting around, new ways of celebrating and new ways of coping with adversity, new ways of teaching and new ways of developing relationships."

VIA is building upon 50 years of experience in Indonesia where our volunteers have witnessed so much change during the transformation of a nation. Through it all, VIA has remained a friend of Indonesia committed to placing community fellows in environmental and community development NGOs, as well as English-teaching positions at universities. VIA has worked to increase mutual understanding between the U.S. and Indonesia by facilitating substantive dialogue and civic engagement. We currently have five Global Community Fellows working in Yogyakarta and Jember, East Java, all working with Indonesian university partners.

In collaboration with our non-profit and educational partners, we have expanded our programs to offer short-term summer internships with local NGOs, graduate-level field research opportunities, and cross-cultural leadership development for youth. We have also added *Custom Programs* to our repertoire in Indonesia. These programs run year-round and are custom designed internships, volunteer or independent study opportunities for people of all ages and experience. We are currently hosting two *Custom Program* participants, one partaking in an independent study guided by VIA on



Indonesia's ethnic Chinese communities, and the other volunteering at several local educational organizations.

This past summer, we hosted six interns (3 Americans and 3 Indonesians) working with three local organizations in the fields of child protection, legal aid and sustainable tourism. We also hosted a graduate course from American University. The graduate students monitored and evaluated VIA's work in Indonesia through interviews with community partners and with our young Indonesian alumni, and produced a lengthy and highly positive report about our impact on local communities.

In January, we are excited to host George Mason University's School for

Conflict Analysis and Resolution for a course on Gender and Conflict for the third time, and State University of New York (SUNY) Cortland's course on Art and Social Movements for the second time. The latter program was made possible in collaboration with VIA alumna Mary Schlarb (Indonesia '93) who is currently SUNY Cortland's Director of International Programs.

VIA is looking forward to its 50th year in Indonesia and will be holding monthly local events to celebrate. If you are ever in Yogyakarta, please contact VIA's Indonesia Programs Director Izzy Rhoads at: izzy@viaprograms.org. We have a small office that is staffed year-round—stop by and say hello to the team. Wow, things sure have changed over 50 years!

They Will Not Be Forgotten:

VIA's Stanford-Rikkyo Community Revitalization Project in Northern Japan Returns to Rikuzen Takata



On March 2011, the fateful Northern Japan earthquake and tsunami devastated many towns in the Tohoku region, and many are still steadily, but slowly recovering from its aftermath today. VIA was connected to one of these small towns along Japan's northern coast, Rikuzen Takata—a town the size of San Francisco, that was wiped out in 30 seconds by the big wave.

In 2015, when we received a grant from the Japan Foundation to strengthen the ecosystem of changemakers in Japan through cross-cultural exchange, we began a partnership with Rikkyo University and Keio University to bring Stanford and

Japanese students together for a 10-day program to build empathy and solidarity for the recovery of Rikuzen Takata city.

Last year concluded a successful year two of the program but also saw the completion of our Japan Foundation funding. As the years pass, memories fade, but we knew that for cities and citizens in recovery, long-term relationships matter. We were fortunate to secure additional funding support through Rikkyo University and to connect our program with VIA's student coordinators from our summer Language and Culture program at Stanford. This year, seven U.S. participants and the VIA social innovation program

director joined 11 Rikkyo students in returning to Rikuzen Takata to partner with the city in helping Rikuzen Takata not be forgotten. The students visited local businesses and industries, including carpentry, rice and apple farming, and interviewed local residents to capture the beauty and resilience that still remained despite the tsunami's strike. The team presented to the city's energetic and forward-thinking Mayor, Futoshi Toba, and left a collection of multi-media PR materials that our local non-profit partner, Marugoto Rikuzen Takata will be using in the next year to share about the city with more foreign students and visitors.

This September, as we looked again over the landscape in Rikuzen Takata, we saw the future site of the national monument dedicated to the 2011 disaster, which was to become a beautiful park with greenery and a landscape that would also serve as a natural buffer against future tsunamis. Recovery may not happen quickly, but with remembrance and perseverance we can move forward together, one step at a time.

Check out some of the students' work from the city's instagram:
https://www.instagram.com/visit_takata/

Social Innovation Programs welcomed NGO leaders from China

If you have visited China's coastal cities in the last few years, you know how fast development has been, how many high-rises have sprung up overnight, how many people now drive their own car, travel abroad for holiday, and pay for everything without a wallet. In many rural areas of China, the scene looks a little different. Actually, a whole lot different. Whereas throngs of urban Chinese students struggle through cram school to get high scores on their high school exit exams, 60% of students in rural China drop out before they even reach high school.

Our funding partners, Enlight and Xiping Foundations, have been tackling youth development and education in both urban and rural China for a decade and VIA was fortunate this summer to create a custom program for seven leaders of NGOs improving rural education in China. These NGO leaders first joined our student and young professionals in the Exploring Social Innovation program, then followed up with a three-day debrief and deep dive into the education sector and also rural reading programs



such as Room to Read. As the NGO sector in this area grows, so does the need for knowledge-sharing and relationship-building across its organizations. We were thrilled to see stories in the trenches swapped, and an active WeChat group still buzzing today, with articles and opinions on applying design-thinking to talent development and retention in the non-profit sector.

We are also excited to work on a new book about the Exploring Social Innovation program and perspectives on innovation in rural education through the experience of this summer's programs. Look forward to its debut later this year in English and Chinese!

Medical Exchange & Discovery 2017: Highlights & Reflections

This summer, 31 students from 17 medical schools across Japan, mainland China, and Taiwan joined the Medical Exchange & Discovery program. During their 3-week stay at Stanford, they explored topics including LGBTQ+, mental health, and organ transplantation and applied design-thinking to these three topics. Specifically, they identified particular challenges and developed prototypes of solutions, ranging from a smartphone game targeted for teenagers to raise their awareness of the LGBTQ+ community to an amusement-park-like center called “Organ Valley” where organ donors, recipients, and their families, can engage with one another. According to one participant, “Through the program, I realized that my range of thinking was narrow...[and] I learned the importance of design-thinking to think deeply from various perspectives....I think [this] will help me take care of many patients who have various backgrounds.” Also critical to working with patients from



diverse backgrounds is the ability to listen actively, a disposition that guest presenters emphasized. As one participant noted, “People can feel whether you are sincere or not from your eyes and your body language. It’s something beyond language.” In addition, participants had the opportunity to speak with not only physicians but also social workers, chaplains, and nurses.

Although some participants admitted to feeling nervous about asking questions, many of them found the direct interactions with these health care professionals to be meaningful. As one participant put it: “I learned so much...from simply being brave to talk to others. There are numerous new, eye-opening perspectives, ideas, moments you can learn from people.”

ALC: Developing Tomorrow’s Leaders

The 2017 American Language and Culture (ALC) program invited 94 students from across East Asia to study at Stanford University for four intense weeks. These students were led by 13 Program Coordinators from Stanford University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Nanzan University who flexed their leadership and cross-cultural communication skills

to ensure that this program continues its 40-year legacy of building community among the change makers of tomorrow. Yuki Ueda, the incoming Language and Cultural Programs Director, also began her VIA journey alongside the 2017 cohort. Our wonderful and dedicated ALC alumni also added to the depth of the program by returning to campus to

share their experiences through career and graduate school panels and more informal lunch-and-learn meetups where current participants could learn about the long-term impact of the ALC program in students’ personal, professional, and academic lives.

This year’s participants were particularly interested in racial equity and LGBT issues, so these were popular topics to explore for their 4-week-long research projects. Fueled by seemingly infinite amounts of ramen and the late-night camaraderie of their peers, students produced presentations, surveys, and lengthy research papers that are truly representative of a Stanford education. More importantly, students worked together to create lasting positive memories through shared meals, visits to San Francisco, dances, a talent show, and midnight games of “werewolf.”

Congratulations to the ALC class of 2017, and many thanks to the staff and community that helped to make this program such a huge success!



VIA Study Tour: Indonesia June 28 – July 7, 2018

Indonesia is the fourth most populous country in the world and home to more than 300 ethnic groups speaking over 700 languages. It is also home to the world's largest Muslim population with substantial representation of Christian, Hindu, Buddhist, Confucian and animist minorities. As the world's third largest democracy, its modern history has witnessed great struggles and strides in civil rights and the freedom of its citizens. Even still, due to its vastly diverse populations, history and geography, Indonesia faces many challenges today.

Spend 10 days in Yogyakarta and Bali exploring the history and social issues in these two provinces. The tour will meet directly with local activists and groups in both provinces working on current social, political, economic and environmental issues in

Indonesia. In addition to meeting with local organizations, the tour will visit Bali's rice fields and beaches, Java's volcanoes and the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Borobudur, the world's largest Buddhist temple, and Prambanan, a Hindu temple complex built over 1,000 years ago.

The trip fee of \$4,000 covers most meals, lodging, admission tickets, international travel between Bali and Yogyakarta, health insurance, local transportation and a \$500 tax-deductible donation to VIA. The deadline to submit your registration form is **March 1, 2018**. For more information or to register please visit: viaprograms.org/indo-study. You can also contact Melissa Golden at: melissa@viaprograms.org or (541) 272-2789.

From the Executive Director

At our recent alumni gathering in Portland, I could not help but be in awe of the scene where we had alumni from the 1960s to the 2000s, a couple of former students from the Pre-Collegiate Program in Myanmar where VIA places fellows, and our founder Dwight Clark in the same room deeply engaged in a conversation about recent events happening in Myanmar. This kind of scene beautifully illustrates what VIA is about: creating spaces for people-to-people interactions to broaden our perspectives as global citizens.

Over the last year in my new role as executive director, I have had the great pleasure and honor to meet many alumni including those who were part of VIA several decades ago as well as recent



participants both from the U.S. and from Asia. This has certainly been one of the best parts of my job learning about the lives we touched and making me realize the rich network of people we have developed over the years.

As we strengthen the VIA ecosystem as part of our strategic plan, I am excited

to continue discovering the people and resources we have within the VIA community and build connections that will lead to opportunities for our alumni to continue their journey with us. Examples of VIA journeys which we have already seen include alumni returning to join a second program, co-leading a program with VIA, and passing the torch to their children who have become second generation volunteer fellows and program participants. We hope VIA can support more alumni in the years to come as they continue their life-long journey as global citizens.

If we have not had the chance to connect yet or if you have ideas to continue your VIA journey, please feel free to reach out to me at kazutoh@viaprograms.org.

Sincerely,

Kazutoh Ishida, PhD





1970s

Jack Abbott (Indonesia '79)

VIA was a really transformative experience for me. I'm sure Dwight still remembers what a pain I was! Today, I have transferred my little ad agency to my employees and am focused on working with startups in Latin America, particularly Mexico and events like TEDx and gatheringweek.com. Thanks VIA.

Glen Price (Indonesia '77)

Recently completed a two week trek in Bhutan (awesome). Currently working as Chief Deputy Superintendent, California Department of Education.

1980s

William A. P. Craig
(Indonesia '82)

The path after VIA has led me through ER Medicine, academics, international medicine relief & rural primary care. I'm a hospitalist now -- just the sick people. Back where I started, East Montpelier, VT. Top of the mountain. End of the road.

Kevin Gaw (Indonesia '82)

Working at the Amica Center for Career Education at Bryant University in Rhode Island. Soon after my move from Atlanta I found the spice shop and secured sambal and other critical items to make my new home! I get to speak Bahasa with the Econ professor.

Valerie Cole Kelley (Taiwan '82)

I'm still teaching at Edmonds Community College in the International Division. We are enjoying as much travel as possible as well as trying to be more involved in the community now that the kids are young adults.

Helena Kolenda (China '81)

Still enjoying my role as Program Director for Asia at the Henry Luce Foundation in New York. Recently, I was also invited to become a trustee of the Harvard-Yenching Institute. Both organizations work to strengthen ties between the United States and Asia, primarily through support for scholarly endeavor. My husband, Mansheng Wang, has enjoyed success in his artistic career. Our daughter Chloe He-Niang Wang is in her senior year at Haverford College, majoring in chemistry and minoring in environmental studies.

Keleigh (Kleinhoff) Muzaffar
(Taiwan '89)

After 23(!) years since my last trip out there, I finally returned to Taiwan to visit my former host family - this time with my 13-year-old son, Razi. My host brothers and parents have visited me in Seattle in the interim, but it was so great to be back and reconnect to my former home!

Frances Phillips (Pordes at VIA)
(China '85)

I just published my first book "Fun, Fearless and Female". It's a fun travel-romp through more than 30 countries in Africa, South America, sailing across the South Pacific from Cook Islands via Pitcairn to Easter Island, New Zealand and Southeast Asia and India. It's available on Amazon - paperback or Kindle. Check it out!

Al Taira (Taiwan '83)

In practice as a radiation oncologist in San Mateo. Still in touch with several dear friends I know because of VIA. Will encourage kids to do something similar.

1990s

Suzanne Bernsten
(Indonesia '97)

I visited Indonesia for the 1st time in 20 years and spent 2 weeks with my former

host family. It was great to see my host sisters all grown up and doing well. I travelled with my family around West Sumatra to visit relatives and my former teaching post, Padang.

Shari Epstein (Treat Fellow)

I am working at Dharma Realm Buddhist University (www.drbu.org) as an assistant professor. We are a small and growing school. If you find yourself in northern California, please come by and visit!

Reina Farrington de Yau
(ALC '91)

After finishing VIA program, I continue to reside in the USA, got a degree in International relations at SFSU and worked in Silicon Valley. I am currently married with 2 boys, and living in the beautiful town of Lincoln, MA.

Yasuhiro Ito (ALC '91)

Recently moved to Los Angeles from Tokyo for international assignment. I'd like to visit Palo Alto more often!

Jennie Mollica (Vietnam '94)

My family and I decided to stay for a second year here in Monteverde, Costa Rica, where we're learning Spanish and working remotely. I just enrolled in an online MA program in Teaching English as a Second Language, finally going for the knowledge I sometimes wished I had while teaching with VIA. Curious where this will lead me!

Scott Walker (China '92)

The summer marked fifteen years I've been in the Foreign Service. I just finished three years working in Washington, the first two at the State Department's Korea Desk and the last one as a Fellow on Capitol Hill. I am currently in Taipei studying Chinese for a year and next summer will start three years in Beijing where I'll be the Embassy's press officer. It's great to be back in Asia after six years away.

2000s

Jack Bailey III (Vietnam '00)

Senior Attorney, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

VIA Alumni Work to Support Refugees

VIA alumni often prioritize engaging with underserved communities after their VIA experience. Nearly a dozen recent alumni have worked with refugee populations across the world. A few of their contributions are highlighted here.



Beth Neiman

(Thailand 2015)

is a graduate student at the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration, in the International Social Welfare Program of Study. This summer, Beth spent 12 weeks in Calais, France with a collaborative group of UK and French organizations as a warehouse manager and distribution team member.



Eric Fabre

(Sports for Social Change 2015)

spent two weeks on the island of Lesbos, Greece in December 2015 with a fellow Stanford student. Eric joined a team of volunteers who met boats as they arrived on the shores early each morning. He also distributed dry clothes and warm food and helped people find a place to stay and be comfortable for the night, and as much as possible help them to feel safe before the uncertainty ahead of them.



Hannah Cann

(Thailand 2011)

is a Program Manager for Stabilization at Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, one of the nine national agencies that partner with the U.S. government to resettle refugees. Hannah manages the Matching Grant program, a federal program that serves refugees, asylees, Cuban and Haitian entrants, Victims of Trafficking, and Special Immigrant Visa holders. The program aims to help individuals gain early employment in the first six months after arrival, in order to become financially self-sufficient without utilizing public cash assistance.



Aspasea McKenna

(Indonesia 2016)

is a Development Associate at Asylum Access, an international nonprofit challenging barriers that keep refugees from living safely, moving freely, working and attending school, so that they may rebuild their lives meaningfully. Through legal aid, community legal empowerment and policy advocacy, Asylum Access ensures refugees have the tools to rebuild their lives meaningfully, and that their host countries create enabling environments that allow them to do so.

(VIA clips, continued from page 1)

2010s

Kyle Abraham (ALC '13)

Teaching English at Chungdahm Learning Institute (Daechi Branch) in Seoul, Korea.

Amy Baum (Vietnam '11)

Studying a 1-year MA Development Studies at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) at the University of Sussex in Brighton, England.

Joshua De Leon (ALC '14)

After completing my BA in International Relations at Stanford this past June, I will continue my studies through Stanford's coterminal MA program in Modern Thought and Literature. I also recently returned from a summer teaching position in Tokyo, Japan.

Yuki Enomoto (MED '15, DSI '16)

I am at 6 year, the last year in medical school. I am planning to visit SF for my graduation trip. I hope to visit Stanford area again as well.

Dorian Lumarque (ALC '16)

I'm currently traveling in China, getting a feel for the business environment and the local culture! I'll be spending time in Shenzhen, Xi'an, Shanghai, and Beijing over the next couple weeks.

An Luong (Indonesia Summer Intern '15)

Currently working in tech and hoping to be involved with initiatives in Asia moving forward.