

CSEAS Weekly Bulletin

Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Northern Illinois University • Week of April 14, 2014



Ever since the Oscars, group selfies are in! Here DeKalb County Board Chairman Jeffrey Metzger takes a selfie with Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP) participants April 15 after the group heard Metzger, DeKalb Mayor John Rey and Jillian Dykhoff from the office of U.S. Senator Richard Durbin's (D-Ill.) talk about government and leadership. Catch up with more SEAYLP activities below.

Last spring Friday lecture this week

1. **This week's lecture:** Oligarchy, defended wealth and 'political carnival' in Thailand **NEW**
2. Center associates update: Afoot and afield in New York **NEW**
3. Southeast Asia Club hosts SEA Culture Fest April 26 **NEW**
4. SEAYLP week two: Temple visiting, action planning, baseball and—snow! **NEW**
5. Apply to study abroad in Laos by June 6
6. Summer/Fall course list up on website; ILAS 225 now SEAS 225 **NEW**
7. **Save the dates:** Asian American Heritage month, Indiana Jones, SEA culture fest
8. Burnish your resumé: Sign up for SEA Studies
9. Sugar Grove golf course seeks international relations/communications intern **NEW**
10. Opportunities knock: April 18 for Graduate School travel awards
11. Travel for educators: Southeast Asia-bound through GEEO **NEW**
13. Job/internship opportunities
14. Conferences, calls for papers, workshops
15. Area Southeast Asia cultural opportunities: Thai festival **NEW**

1. This week's lecture: Oligarchy, defended wealth and 'political carnival' in Thailand **NEW**



Rhoden

The CSEAS weekly lecture series ends Friday, **April 18**, with PhD candidate Thomas Rhoden (Political Science) presenting "Asian Oligarchy and 'Political Carnival': Thailand Case Study" at noon in Room 110 (Honors), Campus Life Building. "A modern conception of oligarchy, which can be housed under an authoritarian regime as easily as it can under a liberal democratic one, has far-reaching consequences for any researcher who wishes to have a better understanding of how extreme inequalities of wealth may have political repercussions on the national stage in many countries across Asia," Rhoden says. Following the Friday lecture, Rhoden will be heading to Sydney, Australia, to present on the same topic **April 24** at the International Conference on Thai Studies. Rhoden has published most recently in the journal *Democratization* with the [article](#) "The Liberal in Liberal Democracy," and has three articles currently under review. A previously published travel writer in Southeast Asia, including three years there as a Peace Corps Volunteer, Rhoden is the author of the newly released book, *Yangon & Swedagon Pagoda* (Other Places Publishing, 2014). To order a Cambodian lunch, submit an online request by 6 p.m. Thursday at [CSEAS Brown Bag Lunch Order](#). Orders must be cancelled online by 10 a.m. Friday. Cost is \$5 for students and \$6 for faculty, staff and others. For lunch details, e-mail seabrownbag@gmail.com.

2. Center associates update: Afoot and afield in New York



Un and Jones in Central Park

* Eric Jones (History) and Kheang Un (Political Science) were invited to spend two days in New York for the prestigious [Council on Foreign Relations'](#) Educators Workshop **April 10 and 11**. The workshop on foreign affairs began with a dinner discussion on Russia and the Ukraine April 10 followed by a day of briefings and discussion groups exploring such topics as democratic transitions, drones, Africa, and global economic risks. As attendees, Jones and Un were also invited to review CFR's latest educational faculty and student resources, which include a new Twitter feed (@CFR_Academic) featuring news about upcoming CFR events and opportunities.

* Michael Buehler (Political Science) commented in the **April 16** *Jakarta Post* [article](#), "Indonesian Political Islam Fails Again."

3. Southeast Asia Club hosts SEA Culture Fest April 26

The Southeast Asia Club invites the community to experience Southeast Asian music, dance, snacks and cultural activities at the club's spring SEA Culture Fest from 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday, **April 26**, at the Evans Field House (located at Annie Glidden and Lucinda). The festival theme, "Bridging Ties and Celebrating Diversity," celebrates the region's rich diversity of peoples and cultures, according to festival organizer and NIU anthropology graduate student Anthonie Tumpag. "Our goal is to continue in a long tradition



Sampling Indonesian treats at Culture Fest 2013
(Photo / CSEAS)

of educating our community about the fascinating cultures and peoples of Southeast Asia,” Tumpag said. “This year’s festival hopes to not only celebrate the region’s diversity but also highlight cultural similarities in hopes of contributing to the spirit of an overall Southeast Asian community and togetherness.” The NIU Gamelan Ensemble is among those scheduled to perform. During the event, the club is collecting gently used or new children’s books, novels, or textbooks to be donated to needy schools in Indonesia through the Chicago-based non-profit organization, Books for Indonesia. Admission to this family-friendly event is free; free parking will be available in the lot east of the field house. The event is co-sponsored by the NIU Burma Interest Group and CSEAS.

4. SEAYLP week two: Temple visiting, action planning, baseball and—snow! **NEW**

A week living with local host families behind them, the Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP) participants embarked on a busy schedule Sunday evening, **April 13**, by attending the screening of the new documentary *Cambodian Son*, in Cole Hall, a



Inside the Lao Buddhist temple during the SEAYLP visit there April 15. (Photo / Jordan York)

special preview with director Masahiro Sugano. On Monday, **April 14**, the group divided up into themed learning groups studying engineering and technology solutions addressing environmental sustainability, mobility for differently abled populations, and expanding entrepreneurial opportunities. Just in time for lunch, and to everyone’s delight, a late-spring snow started falling and cameras started clicking. It continued to snow during afternoon sessions on mediating conflict and teaching diverse populations, but did not deter the group from making its way to the College of Business to work on creating social media plans. On Tuesday while half the group was visiting Chicago, the rest of the group was invited to the Lao Buddhist temple in nearby Hampshire and shared a festive Buddhist New Year repast with them. Switching gears in the afternoon, participants adjourned to the City of DeKalb Municipal Building for a session with DeKalb Mayor John Rey, DeKalb County Board Chairman Jeffrey Metzger, and Jillian Dykhoff from the office of U.S. Senator Richard Durbin (D-Ill.). From there, the SEAYLPers went off to U.S. Cellular Field where the Chicago White Sox took a 14-inning drubbing by the Boston Red Sox. On **April 16**, fifteen area high school students met the group for a three-day Global Youth Leaders Camp at the Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center in Oregon, Ill. Participants will be reunited with their host families at a farewell reception **April 21** at the Blackhawk Café in the Holmes Student Center. Participants will depart for Washington,

DC, **April 22**, where they will visit the U.S. Department of State, various NGOs, and see some of the sights before departing **April 25** for their home countries. SEAYLP is funded by the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and administered by CSEAS in cooperation with the Division of International Affairs.

5. Apply to study abroad in Laos by June 6

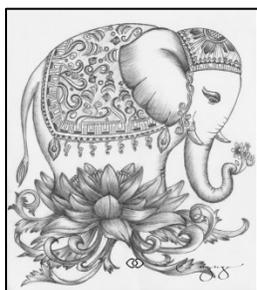


NIU student Andrew Duangdara visits a weaver in Laos during last summer's SAIL program.

[Study Abroad in Laos](#) (SAIL), an NIU study abroad program offered through the Center for Lao Studies in San Francisco and with credit from NIU, will run **June 27–July 31**. Based in Vientiane, Laos, the program offers students language and cultural lessons as well as exposure to Lao history and culture. Undergraduate student and Southeast Asian studies minor Andrew Duangdara (political science) attended SAIL in 2013, the first summer NIU credit was offered for the program. “I was interested in going to Laos because my family was from Laos,” he says. “We went back when I was seven years old but I don’t remember most of the trip.” From

the bustling capital city of Vientiane, Duangdara and the 14 other participants from around the US traveled to rural Laos as well. “The program took us to the countryside an hour outside the city for two days and showed us what it was like to live there,” he says. “We planted rice, ate a traditional meal, and somehow squeezed fifteen people into three mosquito nets.” **Deadline to apply: June 6**. For more information, contact the Study Abroad Office at 815-753-0700 or email niuabroad@niu.edu.

6. Summer/Fall course list up on website; ILAS 225 now SEAS 225 **NEW**



This summer, in addition to summer study abroad programs, FCNS 384, Asian American Families (Florensia Surjadi), will be offered as an online course with face-to-face meetings **June 6, Aug. 4, 6 and 8** (see [course listing](#) for details).

In fall, a new Southeast Asia-related study abroad program—Eric Jones’ [History of the Netherlands and European Colonialism](#)—leads off the fall Southeast Asian studies schedule (the program begins Aug. 3 before classes officially resume. Also new on the fall schedule is POLS 378,

Political Islam (Kikue Hamayotsu) and Beginning Vietnamese will be taught as a distance-learning course through the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The course, FLST 103, will be taught by a UW instructor but NIU students will receive credit from NIU. If interested, contact CSEAS at 815-753-1771 or by email at cseas@niu.edu (please put Vietnamese in the subject line). Other Southeast Asia language and literature classes on the list include Burmese, Indonesian, Khmer, Tagalog and Thai, in addition to Chinese.

The Center’s ILAS 225, Southeast Asia: Crossroads of the World (instructor of record, Judy Ledgerwood) will be listed on the schedule as SEAS 225. Other fall courses are: ANTH 328/790, Anthropology of Religion/Seminar in Anthropology (Andrea Molnar); ARTH 370/570, Studies in Asian Art: Indian and Southeast Asian Art (Catherine Raymond); FCNS, Asian American Families (Florensia Surjadi); HIST 660, Reading Seminar in Asian History: US Relations with Southeast Asia (Kenton Clymer); POLS 362, Politics of Developing Areas (Kheang Un); POLS

371, Politics of Southeast Asia (Danny Unger); POLS 672, Topics in Comparative Politics (Danny Unger). Students interested in learning to play gamelan may sign up for MUSE 370/670, Gamelan I, an ensemble class open to music and non-music majors. All of these courses can be applied toward SEA Studies minors/contract majors or graduate concentrations. For details, see the [CSEAS website](#) or stop by Pottenger House, 520 College View Court.

7. Save the dates: Asian American Heritage month, Indiana Jones, SEA culture fest

- **April 1–30:** Asian American Heritage Month. See Asian American Center [website](#).
- **April 24:** See *The Last Crusade*, the last film in the NIU Rotaract Club's [Indiana Jones film fundraiser](#) to raise money for two international service projects. Free admission. 6 p.m., Room 110, Campus Life.
- **April 26:** Southeast Asia Culture Fest, 4 to 6 p.m., Chick Evans Field House. Free and open to all. Families welcome. See CSEAS website for [flyer](#).

8. Burnish your resumé: Sign up for SEA Studies minor or grad concentration

Adding a minor to an undergraduate degree or a graduate concentration to an advanced degree can pull a resumé up to the top of the pile. To learn about NIU's Southeast Asian Studies programs, visit the [CSEAS website](#) or stop by Pottenger House, 520 College View Court. Undergraduates may make an appointment with Outreach Coordinator Julie Lamb at jlamb@niu.edu; graduate students contact Assistant Director Eric Jones at eajones@niu.edu.

9. Sugar Grove golf course seeks international relations/communications intern NEW

Rich Harvest Farms, a private golf course and estate in Sugar Grove, is seeking a summer intern to help promote and develop a fan base for the International Crown, a 2016 international Ladies Professional Golf Association golf event with at least half of the competitors coming from Asian countries, including Thailand. Applicants should have excellent communication and verbal skills; ability to speak and translate at least one Asian language (including Thai) preferred but not required. Internship is **May 19 to Aug. 25**; salary and benefits to be discussed during the interview process. Email cover letter and resume to Samantha Rubin, Communication Manager, Rich Harvest Farms, at srubin@richharvestfarms.com.

10. Opportunities knock: April 18 deadline for Graduate School travel awards

- Graduate students presenting a paper at an out-of-town (or out-of-country) conference this spring, you may apply for up to \$250 in travel funds from the Center. If travel times sync up with the Graduate School's matching travel grant deadlines, you may be able to double funding. Contact Office Manager Nancy Schuneman at nschunem@niu.edu. Information on Graduate School funding is on the Graduate School [website](#).
- The Graduate School is requesting proposals from graduate thesis and dissertation writers to cover the costs of travel to distant venues for field research. Grants of up to \$500 are being offered to cover the cost of research travel between **May 15 and Sept. 1**. To apply, students must send a letter of support from their thesis or dissertation committee chair and a research proposal to the Office of the Dean, 223 Adams Hall, by **April 18**. Contact the Graduate School for details.

11. Travel for educators: Southeast Asia-bound with GEEO

Global Exploration for Educators (GEEO) is a non-profit organization offering professional development travel programs, including some to Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia.

Registration deadline is June 1. NIU credit available. See [GEEO](#) website for details.

12. Job/internship opportunities

Fulbright American-Indonesian Exchange Foundation, Jakarta

- Executive director: Experienced individual, either American or Indonesian, sought to lead [AMINEF](#), non-profit binational organization that supports educational exchanges between the U.S. and Indonesia. Master's required, PhD or commensurate experience desirable. Three-year renewable contract. **Apply by April 23.** See [job posting](#).

Pembroke College, Cambridge

- **University Lecturer in Asian Politics:** Applicants sought for the Mohamed Noah Fellowship. **Apply by April 20.** Job interviews scheduled for May 28. For details, see [job listing](#).

Centre for International Governance Innovation

- **Research fellowship:** One-year post-doctoral position at Ontario-based institution requires knowledge of politics, economics and Southeast Asia security issues. One-year extension possible. **Apply by April 30.** Email careers@cigionline.org.

Asia Society

- **Career opportunities:** Internships and jobs posted regularly on [website](#).

World Health Organization

- Global public health nonprofit based in Geneva, Switzerland, encourages online applications for potential employment. See [WHO website](#).

Idealist.org

- Privately funded website offers searchable database of nonprofit international jobs and volunteer opportunities. See the [Idealist website](#).

13. Conferences, calls for papers and workshops

- **Thailand in the World: 12th International Conference on Thai Studies**, April 22–24, 2014, University of Sydney, Australia. See [conference website](#).
- **Southeast Asia Research Group annual meeting**, May 3-4, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. Best new research by young social scientists working on SEA politics.
- **3rd International Conference on Leadership and Learning in the Asian Society**, May 12–14, University Sains Malaysia, Pulau Penang. See [conference website](#).
- **Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR)**, June 10–21, Lexington, Ky. See [conference website](#).
- **9th Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies**, June 25–27, National University of Singapore. See [information online](#).
- **Diasporas: Exploring Critical Issues**, July 5–7, Mansfield College, Oxford. Call for papers. See [conference website](#).
- **AAS-in-Asia**, July 17–19, National University of Singapore. Theme: Asia in Motion: Heritage and Transformation. **Early-bird registration: May 1.** See [conference website](#).

NEW

- **Congress of the Asian Political and International Studies Association**, Sept. 19–20, Chiang Mai University Institute for Southeast Asian Affairs, Thailand. **Deadline for abstracts and panel proposals: May 15.** Email Paul Chambers at paul@iseaa.org.
- **Council on Thai Studies**, Oct. 17–19, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Call for papers. **Deadline for abstracts and proposals: July 31.** Email to conference chair Ian Baird at ibaird@wisc.edu. See [link](#) for details. **NEW**

14. Area Southeast Asia cultural opportunities

- Thai Festival, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., **June 18–20**, Federal Plaza, Adams and Dearborn, Chicago. **NEW**
- The International Ramayana Institute of North America, in cooperation with the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Chicago, will hold the “Ramayana Dance Drama” at 6 p.m. Saturday, **May 3**, Rosary High School, 901 N. Edgelawn Drive, Aurora, IL 60506. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Tickets \$10 for students with ID; \$20 for all others. See www.ramayainstitute.com.
- Learn about the history of Laotian immigration to Elgin, which began in the 1970s at the Vietnam War, in long-running exhibit at the [Elgin Area Historical Society and Museum](#), 360 Park St., Elgin.
- “Remembering the Killing Fields” exhibit is on display at the Cambodian American Heritage Museum and Killing Fields Memorial, 2831 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago. The [Cambodian Association of Illinois](#) also holds free Cambodian music and dance lessons.
- The Indonesian Consulate in Chicago offers free Balinese and Javanese dance and gamelan classes. Javanese gamelan and dance is offered from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturdays; gamelan music and Indonesian dance 3 to 6 p.m. Sundays. See consulate [website](#).



Persons with a disability who may need assistance at any CSEAS event may contact office manager Nancy Schuneman at 815-753-1771 or nschunem@niu.edu. To no longer receive this bulletin, please reply to this e-mail with a request to remove your name. Thank you.

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