

# CSEAS Weekly Bulletin

Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Northern Illinois University • April 18, 2011



*The Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP) Thai team works on creating a community action plan during an April 12 working session conducted by visiting adjunct anthropology professor Kristen Borre. The country groups will continue to refine their project proposals during their time at NIU.*

## Global view: SEAYLP participants learn what it takes to lead

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### 1. Global view: SEAYLP participants learn what it takes to lead

From the welcome lunch Monday in the Holmes Student Center Sky Room to the excursion to the top of the Willis Tower later in the week, participants in the [spring session](#) of the center's Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP) were reminded often about thinking globally and acting locally in their first full week at NIU. Prior to the lunch, the group spent three days getting oriented to practical matters like greetings and shopping; a background session on regional Southeast Asia conducted by center faculty associates Judy Ledgerwood (anthropology), Trude Jacobsen (history), and Kheang Un (political science); a workshop on river ecology and water testing; and a team-building exercise. "The team-building activities went very well," said graduate assistant Maria "Rai" Hancock. "There were several students who did very well with the game that required student to do a growing list of different actions. The final players included Dhita (Indonesia), Rai-Rai (the Philippines), Mar (Thailand), and one Burmese participant. They counted 1,2,3,1,2,3,1,2,3. . . while they stomped, tugged on their hair, did something resembling the chicken dance, and jumped around. A tie was called because it seemed impossible to stump any of them!"

At the welcome lunch, the students and adult leaders from Burma, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand were greeted by Provost Ray Alden, Associate Provost Deb Pierce, and CSEAS Director Jim Collins, who were followed by country presentations from each group. Prior to the lunch, the SEAYLP group attended a media workshop led by NIU social media specialist Holly Nicholson and the center's Liz Denius. Later in the week, the SEAYLPers went to Chicago where they toured Millennium Park and Willis Tower before conducting water testing at Bubbly Creek south of downtown Chicago. They also spent a day at the Illinois Math and Science Academy, got a global overview of the work done by the American Red Cross, and worked with visiting adjunct anthropology professor Kristen Borre on how to create community action plans for service learning and community improvement. Borre discussed such steps as community-needs assessment, and setting and completing objectives. After many days of American food, the group was treated to Malay curries with Indonesian and Thai sambals at the Collins' home in DeKalb. "I am happy to report they ate two and three helpings each," Collins said.



*Some of the SEAYLP group chose to brave the cold and eat outside on the deck at CSEAS Director Jim Collins' home.*

On the schedule for this week is a field trip to Springfield, a visit to Sycamore High School, tree planting at Afton Prairie, an introduction to NIU's Center for Non-Governmental Leadership and Development, and more workshops. SEAYLP is funded by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and administered by the center with assistance from the Division of International Programs; the spring session will run through **April 30**. While at NIU, each of the participants is staying with their host families in and around DeKalb, before leaving **April 24** for six days in Washington, D.C.

## 2. Kudos: Susan Russell named Presidential Engagement Professor



Susan Russell

\* The honors keep coming for anthropology professor and center associate Susan Russell, who this week will be one of three faculty members named NIU's first [Presidential Engagement Professors](#) at the annual Faculty Awards ceremony and reception in the Altgeld Hall auditorium Thursday, **April 21**. Russell, who received the high honor of being the only non-Filipino to be inducted into the Manobo tribe in the Philippines earlier this year, was nominated for her ongoing community service work and training of Filipino youth and adult activists in the troubled Mindanao region of the southern Philippines. The institutes she developed, which take place on campus and in the Philippines, promote peace building, conflict resolution, minorities integration, and civic engagement. Russell, who has also served as CSEAS director during her career at NIU, has been involved in this project for eight years, along with International Training Office Director Lina Ong. Russell has garnered more than \$2.2 million in U.S. State Department grants to fund the programs, one of which is the Philippine Youth Leadership Program (PYLP) that began its eighth year at NIU on **April 16**. For details on the full extent of Russell's work for which she was nominated, see [NIU Today](#). The center warmly congratulates her on receiving this new accolade.

## 3. Center announces undergraduate and summer FLAS fellowship awards



The center is pleased to announce the names of three undergraduate students who will be recipients of Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships for the 2011–12 academic year. They are: Matthew Bakke (Indonesian); Ryan Broce (Malay); and JoAnn LoSavio (Malay). The center is also happy to name twelve graduate and two undergraduate students who will receive summer FLAS awards to study Southeast Asian languages intensively. Going to Burma to study Burmese will be Michael Zack and going to Cambodia to study Khmer will be Lauren Bell and Shay Galto. Matt Bakke will go to Indonesia to study Indonesian while Mary Thomas, JoAnn LoSavio, Brett McCabe, Ryan Keller, Collette Morgan, Colleen Gray and Aaron Paige journey to Malaysia to study Malay. Shahin Aftabzadeh and Jorge Barroso will be in Thailand to study Burmese and Thai respectively while Robert Kollas will study Tagalog at SEASSI in Madison, Wisconsin. Congratulations to all these students; the center wishes them well in their language pursuits.

## 4. See the fall 2010/winter 2011 issue of *Mandala* online



Students go face to face with the ethnographic interview in Cambodia, the center forges new connections, anthropologist and center faculty associate Susan Russell becomes an honorary member of the Manobo tribe in the Philippines, and we look at some of the community projects initiated by past Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP) participants. You'll find these stories, faculty news, and more in the latest issue of the center's newsletter, *The Mandala*, online on the [center](#) website.

### 5. Study abroad in Malaysia/Brunei: new deadline Friday

The deadline to apply for the **May 15–June 3** Malaysia/Brunei: History and Culture of Southeast Asia study abroad program has been extended to Friday, **April 22**; partial funding is available. The three-week [program](#) led by associate history professor Eric Jones incorporates a home-stay experience with significant time spent in Kuala Lumpur, Melaka, Penang, the jungles of Sarawak and Borneo, and the Islamic center of Brunei. In addition to whatever grants/scholarships the students may be awarded, there is a \$175 NIU scholarship, given through the Study Abroad Office, for the next four students who sign up. For details, see Jones's video on [YouTube](#). For information about financial aid, travel grants, scholarships, and applications, contact the NIU Study Abroad Office, 417 Williston Hall; or e-mail [niuabroad@niu.edu](mailto:niuabroad@niu.edu). The deadline to apply for [study abroad travel grants](#) is **May 6**.



Brunei market (photo courtesy Eric Jones)

### 6. Study abroad in Thailand; new deadline Friday



Buddhist temple in Thailand (photo courtesy Andrea Molnar)

This is the week to apply for associate anthropology professor Andrea Molnar's four-week **May 30–June 25** study abroad [program](#) in Thailand for graduate and undergraduate students. "The course introduces students to the culture and diversity of cultural groups in Thailand, the existing power relations between dominant and minority groups, and the practical implications of these relations in everyday Thai life," Molnar says. The program will include lectures, briefings, field trips, and visits to various Thai sites. On field visits,

NIU students will be paired with Thai students. The deadline to apply for the program has been extended to Friday, **April 22**, with financial aid available to qualified applicants. Contact NIU Study Abroad at [niuabroad@niu.edu](mailto:niuabroad@niu.edu).

### 7. Democratization in Southeast Asia theme for April 23 student conference

"Resistance Movements and Democratization in Southeast Asia" will be the topic of discussion and 15-minute presentations of papers by students at the Southeast Asia Club's annual spring student conference, coming up this week on Saturday, **April 23**, in Altgeld Hall. University of Chicago historian Mark Bradley, a specialist in postcolonial Southeast Asia and twentieth-century U.S. international history, will give the keynote address. The conference begins at 9 a.m.

in Altgeld Hall Room 315 with the keynote address scheduled to lead off the afternoon session at 1 p.m. A cash prize will be awarded to the best undergraduate and graduate papers. The conference is free and open to all NIU faculty, staff, and students, and interested community members. For details, see the [conference website](#).

### 8. Historian Kenton Clymer leads Lifetime Learning Institute Burma group this week

History professor and center associate Kenton Clymer will discuss U.S.-Burma relations at this week's Wednesday Burma study group offered by NIU's [Lifetime Learning Institute](#). The study group will meet from 1 to 3 p.m. **April 20** in Room 505, Holmes Student Center. The group runs through **May 4**. For details, see the LLI website or e-mail [LASEP@niu.edu](mailto:LASEP@niu.edu).

### 9. Down to three: International Training Office needs YOU to be a host family

Participants in the eighth Philippine Youth Leadership Program ([PYLP](#)) arrived on campus **April 16**, but there is still time to sign up to be a host family for just two weeks in May. The International Training Office is looking for three area families to host a pair of young women, a pair of young men, and one male adult leader participating in the program directed by center associates Susan Russell (anthropology) and Lina Davide-Ong (ITO). The six-week program that focuses on peace building in the conflict-torn Mindanao region of the Philippines runs **April 16–May 21**; the home-stay segment is **May 1–14**. Contact host family coordinator Leslie Shive at 815-753-9546 or e-mail [lshive@niu.edu](mailto:lshive@niu.edu).

#### Top 10 reasons to be a host family

10. You can experience a different country without getting on a plane
9. It beats watching "Law and Order" reruns
8. You'll be able to pick out Southeast Asia on a map
7. Your kids may start answering you in another language
6. You could become an expert at making sticky rice
5. It's something different to write about on Facebook
4. You'll be the envy of family and friends
3. Your house will be all ready for company
2. Your family portrait could replace the flying cornucob as the international symbol of DeKalb County
1. Your entire family will make friendships of a lifetime

### 10. Save the dates: Culture night, world music, Fulbright info, and Chicago gamelan concert

- **April 18:** [Southeast Asia Club](#) meets 6 to 7 p.m., Room 480, DuSable Hall. Other spring club activities include egg-dying with SEAYLP participants at 3 p.m. **April 20**; annual [student conference](#) **April 23**. For details, e-mail [niuseaclub@gmail.com](mailto:niuseaclub@gmail.com).
- **April 20:** Workshop for students interested in applying for Fulbright scholarships, 2 to 4 p.m., University Suite, Holmes Student Center. For details, e-mail Sara Clayton at [sclayton@niu.edu](mailto:sclayton@niu.edu).
- **May 1:** The Chicago-based [Friends of the Gamelan](#) will present an evening of traditional and contemporary Javanese gamelan music, led by artistic director Joko Sutrisno of Minneapolis, at 6 p.m. at Hyde Park Union Church, 5600 S. Woodlawn, Chicago. For details, contact [info@chicagogamelan.org](mailto:info@chicagogamelan.org).

### 11. Job opportunities and money for study

*East-West Center / Hawaii*

- [Graduate Degree Fellowship](#). Master's and doctoral funding for graduate students to participate in center's educational and research programs while pursuing advanced degree at University of Hawaii.

*Griffith University / Brisbane, Australia*

- **Postdoctoral/research fellows:** Three positions in international relations and comparative politics open at [Griffith Asia Institute and the Centre for Governance and Public Policy](#). Three-year positions. For details, contact Prof. Jason Sharman at [j.sharman@griffith.edu.au](mailto:j.sharman@griffith.edu.au).

*University of British Columbia / Vancouver*

- [Lecturer in Indonesian Language and Culture](#). 12-month position teaching language and culture courses beginning July 1. **Applications reviewed starting March 31.**

*University of Washington / Seattle*

- **Lecturer in Khmer Language.** Fifty-percent position beginning fall 2011, annually renewable through June 2014. Native or near-native language proficiency and experience in teaching Khmer is required, and an MA preferred in Khmer language and culture, language pedagogy, or a relevant field. **Deadline to apply: April 15.** Send letter of application, curriculum vitae, statement of teaching philosophy, sample of representative teaching materials if available, and three letters of recommendation by e-mail to Sara Van Fleet, [saravf@uw.edu](mailto:saravf@uw.edu), or mail to: Chair, Khmer Search Committee, c/o Sara Van Fleet (Associate Director, Southeast Asia Center), Southeast Asia Center, Box 353650, University of Washington, Seattle WA 98195.

## 12. Conferences and calls for papers

- **3rd Annual Khmer Studies Forum**, April 29–30, Athens, Ohio. Sponsored by Ohio University Center for Southeast Asian Studies. Free. For details, see [conference website](#). For transportation and accommodation information, e-mail [cseas@ohio.edu](mailto:cseas@ohio.edu) or Sinoun Kim at [sinounkim@gmail.com](mailto:sinounkim@gmail.com).
- **Visions of the Future, 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Thai Studies**, July 26–28, Bangkok. Hosted by Mahidol University and the Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia. For details, see [conference website](#).
- **Enriching Future Generations: Education Promoting Indonesian Self-Development**, June 28–29, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Fourth international Indonesia forum co-sponsored by Yale and Yogyakarta State universities. For details, see [conference website](#).
- **Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs**, Oct. 28–30, St. Paul, MN. Annual conference at Macalester College invites submissions pertaining to Asia and its subregions from all academic disciplines. **Deadline for abstracts: June 1.** For details, see [conference website](#).

## 13. Area Southeast Asia cultural opportunities

- The [Thai Cultural and Fine Arts Institute](#) is a non-profit group dedicated to the education, preservation, and promotion of Thai culture and fine arts in the Chicago area through classes and performances. The group is located in the Boys and Girls Club, 3400 S. Emerald St., Chicago. For details, call 312-725-0640 or write Thai Cultural and Fine Arts Institute, 1960 Oak Knoll Drive, Lake Forest, IL 60045.

- The Indonesian Consulate General in Chicago offers free Balinese and Javanese dance and gamelan classes on weekends. For details, see the consulate [website](#).
- The [Cambodian Association of Illinois](#) holds **free traditional Cambodian music and dance lessons** Sundays at the Cambodian American Heritage Museum and Killing Fields Memorial, 2831 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago. Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday and on weekends by appointment.



## CSEAS Quick Links

[CSEAS Calendar](#)

[Southeast Asia Club](#)

*If you are a person with a disability who may need assistance at any center-sponsored event, contact office manager Nancy Schuneman at 815-753-1771 or [nschunem@niu.edu](mailto:nschunem@niu.edu). If you no longer wish to receive this bulletin, please reply to this e-mail with a request to remove your name. Thank you.*

[Center for Southeast Asian Studies](#) • 520 College View Court • Northern Illinois University • DeKalb, IL 60115 • 815-753-1981 (office) • 815-753-1776 (FAX) • [cseas@niu.edu](mailto:cseas@niu.edu) (e-mail) • <http://www.cseas.niu.edu/>