

# CSEAS Weekly Bulletin

Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Northern Illinois University • Dec. 14, 2009



**Standing out on duty:** Theresa Eckard, a Ph.D. candidate in the political science department and one of the center's 2009–10 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) recipients, has been named "Outstanding Junior NCO Individual Reservist of the Year" by the U.S. Air Force, with whom she served earlier this year as a reservist for six months in Iraq. TSgt. (Technical Sergeant) Eckard "was chosen for this award based on her outstanding service during her recent tour to Iraq as well as her civilian achievements, including her doctoral work in political science at NIU," said Department Chair Chris Jones. Eckard is pictured with an Iraqi child in Taji, Iraq before the NIU student's return to the U.S.

## Deadlines coming up for center grants, conference papers, study abroad programs

*The center will be closed for the winter break from Dec. 21 to Jan. 4. The bulletin will resume after the break.*

- 1) Applications for FLAS, Neher fellowships due Feb. 1
- 2) Freeware for foreign language teachers: Hands-on workshop offered Jan. 8
- 3) Abstracts due Dec. 31 for SEA Club spring student conference
- 4) International Ramayana Conference paper proposals due Dec. 31
- 5) SEAYLP students wrap up program in Washington, D.C.
- 6) Apply by March 5 for faculty, student Thai travel grants
- 7) See the fall 2009 *Mandala* online
- 8) Apply in spring to study abroad in Southeast Asia through NIU
- 9) Calls for papers
- 10) Area Southeast Asia cultural events

► **Applications for FLAS, Neher fellowships due Feb. 1**

Graduate students are invited to submit applications to the center by Feb. 1 for the 2010–11 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships. Pending funding, the grants will be awarded for the fall 2010 and spring 2011 semesters. FLAS fellowships provide for Southeast Asian language study at NIU. Applications for the 2010–11 Neher Graduate Fellowship for the Study of Southeast Asia are also due Feb. 1. Applicants must be a graduate student in good standing who demonstrates a commitment to a career involving Southeast Asian studies. Application and fellowship guidelines for both the FLAS and Neher fellowships are available at the center website, [Student Funding tab](#). Look for information on summer FLAS fellowships, a different program, in January.

► **Freeware for foreign language teachers: Hands-on workshop offered Jan. 8**

Foreign language teachers are invited to “Recession-Proof CALL: Foreign Language Instruction with Free Applications,” an all-day workshop on Jan. 8 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in NIU’s Digital Conversion Lab (Room 337) in Founders Library. Participants will learn how to use the wide variety of freeware and other technological tools available for foreign language instruction and will also be introduced to the languages and culture of Southeast Asia. Space is limited to 20. Register at [www.forlangs.net/workshops/form.php](http://www.forlangs.net/workshops/form.php). The workshop is a pilot project sponsored by CSEAS and the Foreign Languages and Literatures Department’s Foreign Language Technology Certificate Program. For details, e-mail [jsealt@att.net](mailto:jsealt@att.net).

► **Abstracts due Dec. 31 for SEA Club spring student conference**

Abstracts are being accepted from both undergraduate and graduate students for the Southeast Asia Club’s March 19–20 spring conference night. The conference will explore gender roles, sex, and violence in modern-day and historical Southeast Asia. The keynote speaker will be Barbara Watson Andaya, director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii-Manoa and the author of *The Flaming Womb: Repositioning Women in Early Modern Southeast Asia* (University of Hawaii Press, 2008). **Abstract deadline is Dec. 31; final drafts are due Feb. 10.** There is a \$100 prize for best undergraduate paper and a \$250 award for best graduate paper. E-mail inquiries and abstracts to conference coordinator Matthew Jagel at [Reebok74@comcast.net](mailto:Reebok74@comcast.net) or call 630-709-3999.

► **International Ramayana Conference paper proposals due Dec. 31**

Scholars are invited to submit presentation proposals by **Dec. 31** for next year’s Third International Ramayana Conference. The two-day event, co-sponsored by CSEAS, the Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Illinois, and the International Ramayana Institute of North America, is set for Sept. 17–19, 2010 at NIU’s Naperville campus. The conference will include presentations and a Ramayana-based teacher workshop. For details, see the [conference website](#).

► SEAYLP students wrap up program in Washington, D.C.



Three hectic weeks of workshops, presentations, tours, and learning about each other ended in Washington, D.C., Sunday, Dec. 13, for NIU's first group of the Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP) participants. Based at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center just outside the nation's capital, the group of secondary students and adult leaders from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore spent five chilly days touring Capitol Hill, the Smithsonian Institution, the National Archives, the Holocaust Museum, and the offices of Senator Richard Durbin and congressmen Bill Foster and Danny Davis. "They even got to see [health care plan] protesters outside the Supreme Court," said CSEAS outreach coordinator Julia Lamb.

During the week, Cambodian students in the group and NIU anthropology professor and SEAYLP administrator Kate Wiegeler were interviewed about the program and filmed for a future broadcast by Voice of America-Khmer. After a final debriefing by the NIU team Saturday, the students and adult leaders departed for their home countries Sunday. The second group of SEAYLP participants will arrive at NIU in April.

► Apply in spring to study abroad in Southeast Asia through NIU

- **History and Culture of Malaysia, May 9–28, Kuala Lumpur:** Three-week program beginning in Kuala Lumpur led by assistant history professor Eric Jones. Students will visit nature reserves (orangutans and proboscis monkeys), historical sites, religious centers, and rural areas throughout Malaysia and Brunei, where they will interact with the region's ethnically and religiously diverse populations. Three credit hours. Open to graduate and undergraduate students. **Application deadline: March 1.** Contact the NIU Study Abroad Office, 417 Williston Hall; call 815-753-0304; or e-mail [niuabroad@niu.edu](mailto:niuabroad@niu.edu).
- **Cambodia Field School, July 15–Aug. 15, Phnom Penh:** Four-week [ethnographic field school](#) led by anthropology professor Judy Ledgerwood. Students will study Cambodian culture, religion, and various field-study methods, including surveys, interviews, and participant observation. A

collaborative project with the Royal University of Fine Arts in Phnom Penh. Three or six credit hours. Open to graduate or advanced undergraduate students. **Application deadline: April 1.** Contact the Study Abroad Office, 417 Williston Hall; call 815-753-0304; or e-mail [niuabroad@niu.edu](mailto:niuabroad@niu.edu).

► **Apply by March 5 for faculty, student Thai travel grants**

CSEAS faculty associates and NIU students are invited to apply for travel grants for research in Thailand through the Thai Teaching and Research Endowment Fund. Individual faculty travel awards are \$1,000 and must be applied to research-related travel incurred by June 15, 2011. Applications should be submitted to CSEAS office manager Nancy Schuneman by **March 5**. Travel awards for individual students are \$1,500 for graduate students and \$1,000 for undergraduates. Eligible students must be in good standing with a research project with a Thai studies focus. Applications should be submitted to Chalermsee Olson at the NIU Library by **March 5**. For information, see the [center website](#).

► **See the fall 2009 *Mandala* online**



New grants, faculty news, visiting scholars, tourist art on display, new exchange students, alumni news, summer study opportunities, and more: There's much to read about in the latest issue of the center's newsletter, *The Mandala*. See it online on the [center website](#).

► **Summer institute to focus on conflicts in Asia Pacific region**

Applications are due **Jan. 1** for the May 10-22 Summer Institute in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights to be held in Bali, Indonesia and which will focus on internal conflicts in the Asia Pacific region. The workshop is sponsored by the University of California-Berkeley War Crimes Studies Center and the East-West Center in partnership with the Indonesian National Human Rights Commission. For details, see the [East-West Center website](#).

► **Calls for papers**

- **Cornell Southeast Asia Program 12<sup>th</sup> Southeast Asian Studies Graduate Conference**, March 12–14, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. Keynote speaker: Cornell historian Eric Tagliacozzo, director of the Cornell Modern Indonesia Project and author of *Secret Trades, Porous Borders: Smuggling and States Along a Southeast Asian Frontier*. Limited number of travel grants available. **Deadline for papers: Jan. 10.** For details, see [conference Web site](#).

- **Hmong Global Identities in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**, April 9–11, St. Paul, Minn. Third International Conference, sponsored by the Center for Hmong Studies at Concordia University-St. Paul. **Panel proposals due Dec. 31; completed papers due Feb. 26.** Contact: Lee Pao Xiong by phone at 651-641-8870; e-mail [xiong@csp.edu](mailto:xiong@csp.edu).
- **Third International Conference on Lao Studies**, July 14–16, Khon Kaen University, Khon Kaen, Thailand. Presented by the Center for Research on Plurality in the Mekong Region, Khon Kaen University, and the Center for Lao Studies, San Francisco. **Abstracts due: Jan. 31.** For details, see the [Center for Lao Studies website](#). Optional Lao study tour program is also planned; details forthcoming.

► **Area Southeast Asia cultural events**

- The Chicago-based **Friends of the Gamelan** will present a spring concert of traditional and contemporary Javanese gamelan music, led by artistic director Joko Sutrisno of Minneapolis, at 6 p.m. Sunday, April 25, at the Hyde Park Union Church, 5600 S. Woodlawn, Chicago. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. The group also offers beginning gamelan lessons and a regular performance ensemble. For details, e-mail [info@chicagogamelan.org](mailto:info@chicagogamelan.org) or see the group's [Web site](#).
- The Indonesian Consulate in Chicago offers free Balinese and Javanese dance and gamelan classes on weekends. For details, see the consulate [Web site](#).

*If you are a person with a disability who may need additional assistance at any center-sponsored event, please 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 have your name removed. Thank you.*

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