

CSEAS Weekly Bulletin

Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Northern Illinois University • Dec. 6, 2010



A Christmas tree sparkles amidst the palm trees in Singapore.

Happy holidays to all from the center

The center's weekly lecture series will resume Jan. 21 with a presentation by the University of Hawaii's Paul Rausch on Southeast Asian cinema. The center will be closed from Dec. 20 to Jan. 3.

1. Visiting Indonesian scholars wrap up their fellowship time at NIU
2. Kuala Lumpur site of second Islam in Southeast Asia and Southeast Europe conference
3. NIU delegation to visit Malaysia, Thailand over winter break
4. Center director to judge 2011–12 Fulbright applications for Southeast Asia
5. FLAS and Neher fellowship information to be posted soon on CSEAS website
6. CSEAS workshop for undergraduate advisors set for Jan. 25
7. After SEAYLP: Keeping track of program alumni
8. Expanded horizons: Southeast Asia course schedule posted for spring
9. Get your paper on: SEA Club seeks presenters for spring student conference
10. Study abroad in SEA through NIU: Thailand and Malaysia/Brunei
11. **Save the dates:** Lectures, award deadlines, and spring student conference
12. Doctoral students FYI: Apply by Dec. 10 for AAS dissertation workshop
13. Area Southeast Asia cultural opportunities



After receiving certificates in a Dec. 1 ceremony at NIU's Holmes Student Center, the Sandwich scholars pose for a final group picture. (CSEAS photos)

1. Visiting Indonesian scholars wrap up their fellowship time at NIU

They are informally known as the Sandwich scholars, the 15 visiting Ph.D. candidates from three universities in eastern Indonesia who have been at NIU since October to do research for their dissertations, experience life at a U.S. academic institution, and to be mentored by NIU faculty. The students completed their course of study last week, and after giving short presentations about their research projects on Tuesday, **Nov. 30**, received certificates of completion in a formal ceremony Wednesday, **Dec. 1**. The Sandwich scholars are from three different academic institutions in Sulawesi: Hasanuddin, Makassar State, and Sam Ratulangi universities. The exchange program (nicknamed the Sandwich Program



Sudarmin Harun of Hasanuddin University takes his turn presenting Nov. 30.



English professor Doris Macdonald, second from left, was one of six NIU faculty members serving as mentors for the visiting Indonesian scholars.

because the scholars' activities at NIU are sandwiched in between their regular academic programs at their home institutions) is funded by the Indonesian Department of Education's Directorate of Higher Education. CSEAS with the cooperation of International Programs developed an informal program drawing on NIU's diverse faculty members to serve as mentors for the scholars. Participating as mentors were Carl Campbell III (economics), Kurt Thurmaier (public administration), Doris Macdonald (English), Andrea Molnar and Susan Russell (anthropology),

and center director Jim Collins (foreign languages and literatures). Collins thanked his colleagues for participating in the collaborative project. "NIU has made a strong commitment to a policy of establishing and strengthening linkages and cooperation with institutions in eastern Indonesia. Hosting these fifteen Ph.D. students from the region reflects and supports that strategic commitment," he said. In between their studies, the Sandwich scholars participated fully in campus life, attending public lectures and relevant classes, celebrating Black Friday with enthusiasm, taking a field trip to Chicago and visiting other cities, including Madison, Wis.; Washington, D.C.; Newark, N.J.; and New York. Participants are scheduled to leave for Indonesia in the next two weeks.

2. Kuala Lumpur site of second Islam in Southeast Asia and Southeast Europe conference



Kuala Lumpur

On Jan. 4–5, CSEAS and the University of Chicago Center for East European and Russian/Eurasian Studies (CEERES) join the Institute for Ethnic Studies at The National University of Malaysia in co-sponsoring the international conference, "Southeast Europe and Southeast Asia: Islam, Mergers and Margins," in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. CSEAS and CEERES launched the first such conference focused on Islam in Southeast Asia and Southeast Europe in March 2009 at NIU. The second in the series will examine commonalities between the hybrid

societies of Southeastern Europe and Southeastern Asia--each region influenced in complex, parallel, and different ways by their long-standing interactions with Islamic civilization. "This exchange of ideas in an academic forum will contribute to informing and educating Malaysians and the larger world community about contemporary Southeast Asia and Southeast Europe and the diversity of political, economic, social and cultural changes that have taken place and are still under way in the region," said center director Jim Collins, who will present a keynote address, "Languages and Islam in Southeast Asia: Language Use in Maluku and Borneo." NIU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean Chris McCord, Associate Provost for International Relations Deborah Pierce, and NIU Press Director Alex Schwartz are expected to attend the conference. Also participating from NIU will be assistant professor Trude Jacobsen (history), who will present her paper, "When a *Kramar* is a *Hijab*: Cham Muslim Women in Cambodia." Center adjunct (and NIU alumnus) Michael Hawkins (history, Creighton University) will also be in attendance, presenting "Managing a Massacre: Savagery, Civility, and Gender in the Philippines' Muslim South (1906)." For conference details, e-mail roova84@gmail.com.

3. NIU delegation to visit Malaysia, Thailand over winter break

Dean Chris McCord, Associate Provost Deborah Pierce, and center director Jim Collins will travel to Malaysia and Thailand Jan. 1–12, following up on academic initiatives established during the group's May 2010 visit to Malaysia and to follow up on their commitment to go to

Thailand, which was delayed due to the unrest in that nation last spring. In Malaysia, in addition to participating in the international Islam conference (see item 2 above), McCord and Pierce will go to Nilai University College to firm up the implementation of NIU's



Deborah Pierce

guaranteed credit transfer agreement for Nilai's American Degree Program (which will bring Nilai students to NIU). "We will also explore opportunities for NIU students to study abroad through Nilai as well as other possibilities for educational exchange between NIU and this well-regarded private university," Pierce said. McCord, Pierce, and Collins will then travel to Kuantan on the east coast of Malaysia to return the recent visit of a delegation from the Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP). "We will continue to work on projects we discussed at the end of November, including study abroad for NIU students in both Malay language and engineering, as well as a short-term program for engineering students from UMP at NIU in March 2011," Pierce said. After Malaysia, the group heads for Chiang Mai, Thailand, where NIU has longstanding cooperative relations with Payap and Chiang Mai universities, and a number of NIU alumni in the Chiang Mai area. After Chiang Mai, they will visit three universities in Bangkok: Chulalongkorn, Thammasat, and the National Institute of Development Administration. All three institutions have NIU alumni now working as staff, and NIU's Thai Studies faculty members have cultivated productive relationships with colleagues at each institution,

Pierce said. "I'm very glad we will have the chance to confirm the importance of Thai Studies to NIU by visiting these five cooperating universities in Thailand, even if it's a bit later than we had originally hoped. I'm very grateful to [NIU anthropology professor] Andrea Molnar for preparing our way so well during her sabbatical last spring semester in Thailand," Pierce said.

4. Center director to judge 2011–12 Fulbright applications for Southeast Asia



Jim Collins

Since 2009, center director Jim Collins has been a member of the National Screening Committee that evaluates and ranks U.S. students applying for Fulbright awards to study and work in Southeast Asia. Collins will join the committee **Dec. 13** when it meets at the offices of Institute of International Education in New York to participate in the evaluation procedure for the 2011–12 Fulbright U.S. Student Program competition.

5. FLAS and Neher fellowship information to be posted soon on CSEAS website

Later this month, the center will open the submission process for graduate and undergraduate students to apply for the 2011–12 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships, which provide for Southeast Asian language study at NIU. Pending funding, grants will be awarded for both fall 2011 and spring 2012 semesters. Applications will be due in February. Applications for the 2011–12 Neher Graduate Fellowship for the Study of Southeast Asia will be due at the same time. Applicants must be students in good standing who demonstrate a commitment to a career involving Southeast Asian studies. For

information about these fellowships, see the center website. Applications and fellowship guidelines for the 2011–12 year will be posted soon. Information on summer FLAS fellowships, a different program, will be posted in December as well. Be sure to check the center website!

6. CSEAS workshop for undergraduate advisors set for Jan. 25

The center invites undergraduate academic advisors to a **Jan. 25** workshop exploring the options for Southeast Asian studies at NIU, including language classes and other undergrad courses, in addition to fellowship opportunities. The workshop will be held from 8:45 a.m. to noon in the Heritage Room at Holmes Student Center. Sign up by **Jan. 18**; a modest stipend will be given to the first ten advisors who call or e-mail center outreach coordinator Julie Lamb at 815-753-1595 or jlamb@niu.edu.

7. After SEAYLP: Keeping track of program alumni

On Dec. 5–11, [Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program](#) (SEAYLP) alumni Jimmy Ophakorn Kouphakham and Anita Shihapanya, who returned to Laos in late November after participating in the fall session of SEAYLP, will attend the tenth annual Sunburst Youth Camp in Singapore. The purpose of this event is to provide opportunities for the youth of Asia to come together for a week of sharing and to build understanding, bonding and good will throughout Asia. Jimmy and Anita say they plan to take advantage of their visit to share a meal of spicy crab at a local restaurant with the new Singapore friends they made at SEAYLP. In Brunei, SEAYLP alumnus Muhamad Hazmi Haji Ibrahim has decided to join Outward Bound Brunei Darussalam, a camping and adventure program that encourages good citizenship, responsibility, and leadership through experiences living near tropical wildlife sanctuaries and working in teams on white-water rivers. On Dec. 18–20, Hazmi will go jungle-trekking and kayaking with the group at Brunei's National Park in Temburong. Look for more SEAYLP alumni news and follow-up activities in the forthcoming issue of the center's *Mandala* newsletter.



Anita Shihapanya from Laos, right, tests water Nov. 2 at the Chicago River with new SEAYLP friend Kirthana Ganeson from Singapore.

8. Expanded horizons: Southeast Asia course schedule posted for spring



The spring 2011 NIU course list for Southeast Asian studies undergraduate minors and graduate students is posted on the [center website](#). Thirty-four courses are on the list, including several new offerings. [POLS 672-2](#), The State and Illegality in Southeast Asia, taught by assistant professor and center associate Michael Buehler (political science), introduces students to the phenomenon of political corruption and the study of its incidence, drawing on scholarship focusing on Southeast Asia. [POLS 672-1](#), The Politics of Identity: Ethnicity, Religion, and Conflict, taught by assistant professor and center associate Kikue Hamayotsu (political science), surveys various sources and forms of identity politics with special reference to Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. For undergraduates, associate professor and center associate

Eric Jones (history) is teaching [HIST 398](#), Global Islam, an examination of the faith worldwide, the peoples with whom it intersects, its interactions with colonialism, and the implications for the modern world.

9. Get your paper on: SEA Club seeks presenters for spring student conference



Students who want to polish their presenting skills will have the chance to do so Saturday, **April 23**, at the Southeast Asia Club's annual spring [student conference](#). The conference theme is "Resistance Movements and Democratization in Southeast Asia." Abstracts from both graduate and undergraduate students are being accepted through Friday, **Jan. 14**, with final papers due Wednesday, **March 23**. Papers may be submitted outside the theme, but must have some connection to Southeast Asian studies. University of Chicago historian Mark Bradley, a specialist in postcolonial Southeast Asia and twentieth-century U.S. international history, will give the keynote address. All papers must be submitted in English; presentations will be limited to 15 minutes, followed by five minutes of discussion. A cash prize will be awarded to the best undergraduate and graduate papers. The conference is free and open to all.

10. Summer study abroad in SEA through NIU: Malaysia/Brunei and Thailand

NIU is offering two opportunities to study abroad in Southeast Asia next summer with NIU faculty members and center associates. Andrea Molnar, associate professor (anthropology), is leading a group to Thailand to explore cultural diversity while associate professor Eric Jones (history) will take students to Malaysia and Brunei. Both are NIU study abroad programs offering course credit for graduate and undergraduate students. For information about programs, financial aid, travel grants, scholarships, and applications, contact the NIU Study Abroad Office, 417 Williston Hall; call 815-753-0304; or e-mail niuabroad@niu.edu.

- **Study Abroad Malaysia/Brunei: History and Culture of Southeast Asia, May 15–June 3:** 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. Financial aid available to qualified applicants. For more details, see Jones's video on [YouTube](#). **Deadline to apply: March 15.**
- **Cultural Diversity in Thailand, May 30–June 25:** Three-week program led by associate anthropology professor Andrea Molnar focuses on cultural diversity in Thailand and the relationship between the dominant majority and minorities of the country. 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. **Deadline to apply: April 15.**

11. **Save the dates:** Lectures, award deadlines, and spring student conference

- **Jan. 21:** CSEAS weekly lecture series resumes with a presentation on Southeast Asian cinema by Paul Rausch of the University of Hawaii. **NEW**

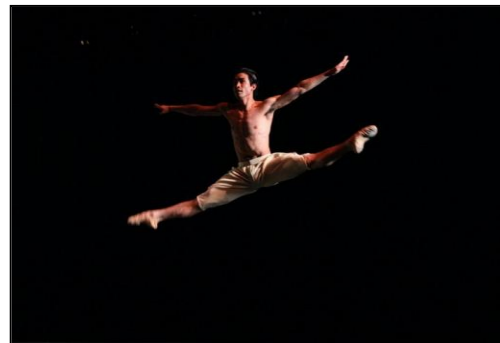
- **Feb. 15:** Proposals for faculty Summer Research and Artistry Awards due for summer 2011 research activities. For full submission details, see Division of Research and Graduate Studies [website](#). **NEW**
- **April 23:** [Southeast Asia Club](#) hosts its annual spring [student conference](#) at NIU. Open to all graduate and undergraduate students with Southeast Asia academic focus. Abstracts due: **Jan. 14**. Final papers due: **March 23**.

12. Doctoral students FYI: Apply by Dec. 10 for AAS dissertation workshop

The Association for Asian Studies will again offer a [dissertation workshop](#) for doctoral students in the humanities and social sciences following its March annual meeting in Hawaii. The March 28–31 workshop is limited to twelve students and will be lead by University of California-Berkeley anthropologist David Szanton. The theme is “Borders, Migration, and Transnational Flows: Asia in Motion.” For details about the workshop and eligibility, contact Szanton at Szanton@uclink.berkeley.edu. Some subsidies for meals, accommodations, and limited travel are available. **Application deadline: Dec. 10.**

13. Area Southeast Asia cultural opportunities

- Cambodian-born Sokvannara Sar, who came to the United States to study ballet at the School of the American Ballet in New York and is the subject of a new film, [Dancing Across Borders](#), will dance the role of the Cavalier in two performances of “The Nutcracker” with the Evansville Dance Theatre on Saturday, **Dec. 18**, at the Victory Theatre in Evansville, Ind. For ticket information and details, see the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra [website](#).
- 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, on Sunday, **May 1**, at the Hyde Park Union Church, 5600 S. Woodlawn, Chicago. Performance time and ticket information not yet available. The group also offers beginning gamelan lessons and a regular performance ensemble. Students who complete the beginning gamelan class may participate in the spring concert. For details, e-mail info@chicagogamelan.org or see the group’s [Web site](#).
- 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



Sokvannara Sar aloft

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](#)

[Conferences and calls for papers](#)

[Money for study: Fellowships, scholarships, and more](#)

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. If you no longer wish to receive this bulletin, please reply to this e-mail with a request to remove your name. Thank you.

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