

CSEAS Weekly Bulletin

Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Northern Illinois University • January 27, 2014



The Year of the Horse begins this Friday, Jan. 31. New Year's greetings and best wishes to all from the Center.

From Buddhism to Burma

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1. This week's lecture: Buddhism, sustainable development and localism in Thailand



Gillogly

University of Wisconsin-Parkside anthropologist Kathleen Gillogly will present "Global Sustainability and Thai Localism: Thai Buddhist Environmentalisms," at noon Friday, **Jan. 31**, in Room 110 (Honors), Campus Life Building. Gillogly looks at the concept of sustainability in the Thai context to examine how it is applied as a political process, depending on the worldview of different groups. "The Buddhist Middle Path is remarkably congruent with global sustainability. Nevertheless . . . groups take different positions about the role of the state and citizens in development," she notes in her abstract. 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. Payments may be made in cash or by check. For lunch details, e-mail seabrownbag@gmail.com. See the entire [spring lecture series](#) on the Center website.

2. Center associates update: Postcard from Burma/Myanmar

✳ Center associate Kenton Clymer is back at the Department of History after spending the month of December teaching at [Yangon University](#) in Burma, known officially as Myanmar. The first foreign visiting professor to teach at Yangon's Department of History since 1962, Clymer was invited by department head and professor Margaret Wong following the visit of an NIU delegation last summer. Clymer taught a course on the history of U.S. relations with the Southeast Asian country since World War II.



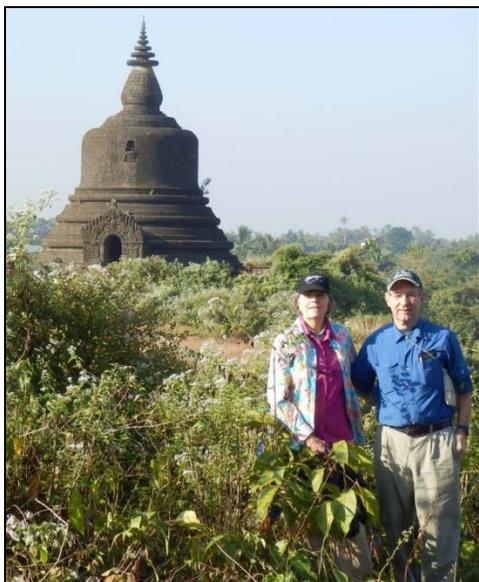
Clymer shares his insights on the history of U.S. relations with Burma during his class at Yangon University.

Clymer's visit is part of Yangon University's efforts at revitalization after years of isolation and neglect, he said. In 1962 Prime Minister Ne Win began closing the country to foreign influences, and after the revolution of Aug. 8, 1988 (8/8/88), he closed Yangon University to undergraduate students because of students' prominent role in the uprising that year. After 1988, only limited numbers of graduate students were enrolled. Not until December 2013 were undergraduate students allowed back in.

NIU has been actively involved in the [revitalization effort](#). Clymer's teaching stint follows that of NIU English professor [Amy Levin](#), who taught in the university's Literature Department last February under a Fulbright appointment. Other U.S. educational institutions were also present on campus. Lillian Handlin of Harvard University, current editor of the *Journal of Burma Studies* (published at NIU), was there teaching a course in Burmese archaeology. Representatives from Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), which has been running an international relations certificate program there for the past several months, were also present, Clymer said.

As it turned out, most of the 20 to 50 students in Clymer's class were history faculty members. While Clymer conducted his 90-minute classes in English, he said that he found that the English skill level of the students varied considerably. To even the language levels, Clymer used more detailed PowerPoint presentations than usual, he said, and allotted plenty of time for discussion of the material presented. "Students frequently came to my office after class to continue the discussion," he said.

Clymer said he particularly enjoyed the opportunity to teach this class in Yangon because he has just completed a manuscript for a forthcoming book on the history of U.S. relations with



The Clymers visit the temple complex at Mrauk U in Rakhine State.

Burma/Myanmar since World War II. "It was an honor to be able to present my findings to Burmese students and to get their reactions to what I had to say," Clymer said.

While at Yangon, Clymer also spoke to one class of new undergraduate International Relations students, who he found to be "smart, inquisitive and fluent in English."

Although most of his time was spent teaching, Clymer and his wife, Marlee, took a short trip to Rakhine State, where they visited the towns of Sittwe and Mrauk U. The latter is home to a 15th- to 18th-century temple complex. "The complex is not as old as Pagan in Burma (12th- to 14th-century) or Angkor in Cambodia (ninth- to 14th-century), nor it is as extensive," Clymer said. "There are villages and farms within the temple context. But it was quite lovely, and with almost no tourists – a real advantage." **NEW**

3. Apply this week for academic-year FLAS and Neher fellowships

Feb. 1 is the deadline to apply for the 2014–15 academic-year Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships, a program for Southeast language study funded by the U.S. Department of Education Title VI program, and the 2014–15 Clark and Arlene Neher Graduate Fellowship for the Study of Southeast Asia. Information and forms to apply are posted on the [funding page](#) at the CSEAS website. Academic-year FLAS fellowships are open to undergraduate and graduate students and provide a stipend and tuition-fee waiver. U.S. and international graduate students are invited to apply for the 2014–15 Neher fellowship, which is funded by a generous NIU Foundation endowment provided by Clark and Arlene Neher. The fellowship includes a tuition waiver and a \$5,200 annual stipend. To apply, students must be in good standing with the university and demonstrate a commitment to a career involving Southeast Asian studies. Students should be at an advanced stage in their program, either master's or doctoral, and be planning field or archival research in SEA studies. Applications for both FLAS and Neher fellowships should be submitted to CSEAS Office Manager Nancy Schuneman at cseas@niu.edu. **Note: According to NIU policy, students awarded a FLAS fellowship will have any financial aid they receive reduced by the dollar amount equal to the fellowship award.**



4. Yale scholar James C. Scott to keynote SEA Club spring conference; abstracts due Feb. 15



Scott

Noted Yale scholar James C. Scott, author of *The Art of Not Being Governed: An Anarchist History of Upland Southeast Asia* (Yale Press, 2009), will be the keynote speaker for the [Southeast Asia Club](#)'s 2014 Southeast Asia Student Conference. Scott, professor of political science and anthropology, is director of the Agrarian Studies Program at Yale. His research interests are political economy, comparative agrarian societies, theories of hegemony and resistance, peasant politics, revolution, Southeast Asia, theories of class relations and anarchism. Papers may be submitted on any topic pertaining to Southeast Asia. **Deadline for abstracts is Feb. 15; papers are due March 15.** Send abstracts and questions to niuseaclub@gmail.com. Monetary awards will be given for the best undergraduate and graduate papers. The conference will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Altgeld Room 315. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided to all participants. Scott's appearance is co-sponsored by the NIU Graduate Colloquium Committee and the Department of Political Science.

5. CSEAS funding available for graduate student conference travel

Heads up, graduate students! If you are 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. And if your travel times sync up with the Graduate School's matching travel grant deadlines, you may be able to double your funding. For details on CSEAS funding, contact Office Manager Nancy Schuneman at nschunem@niu.edu. Information on Graduate School travel funding is available on the Grad School [website](#). **NEW**

6. Gearing up for a summer study abroad in Southeast Asia

There are more choices than ever to study abroad in Southeast Asia this summer. [Examine NGOs in Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam](#). [Explore cultural diversity in Thailand](#). [Experience Balinese music, dance and culture in Indonesia](#). [Learn Lao language and culture in Laos](#). [Conduct clinical research on hearing loss in Cambodia](#) or [do environmental research on public health in Indonesia](#). NIU faculty will lead five of the six study abroad programs to SEA being offered through NIU's [Study Abroad](#) Office.

- [Trude Jacobsen](#) (History) will take a group **May 28–June 13** to Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam to study the growth of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in those countries. A new program, the course will look at how development policy is imagined, produced, and received (or resisted) across multiple cultural contexts.
- [Jui-Ching Wang](#) (School of Music) will introduce Balinese music, dance, theatre, architecture and crafts **July 1–30** in her new program to Bali, Indonesia. "Students will experience these arts by interacting with the local people and gaining knowledge about the inseparable relationship of the arts, religion, and culture on Bali," Wang says.
- [Andrea Molnar](#) (Anthropology) will reprise her 2012 program, "Cultural Diversity in Thailand," **May 16–June 14** in Thailand. Molnar's program will introduce students to Thai culture and diversity, and examine the relationship between the dominant majority and minorities of the country.
- [Tomoyuki Shibata](#) (College of Health & Human Sciences) returns to Indonesia **June 1–21** to continue research on environmental factors and public health. Past projects have examined the effect of indoor air quality or mothers' behaviors on children's health.

- [King Chung](#) (School of Allied Health & Communicative Disorders) is conducting a group **June 1–14** to Cambodia for “Heart of Hearing Program in Cambodia,” a program to help students develop their clinical skills by working with hearing-impaired individuals and helping facilitate local programs. Geared to audiology students.
- [Study Abroad in Laos](#) (SAIL), a 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.

7. SEAYLP and PYLP want you: Hosting is special experience for local families



Local host families and SEAYLP participants celebrate at the end of one session's farewell reception.

The center is seeking local families to act as hosts **April 6–13** for fifty high school students and eleven adult leaders from ten Southeast Asian countries participating in the spring session of the **April 3–25** Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program ([SEAYLP](#)). Students are placed in pairs and adults may be placed as singles. Host families provide a bed for each participant, breakfast each day and most dinners, all meals during any weekend days at home, and transportation to and from class sessions at NIU. Host family orientation is scheduled for 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monday, **March 31**. There

will be a farewell reception from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, **April 21**. Host family applications are available [online](#). For more details, contact host family coordinator Liz Denius at 815-753-1901 or email edenius@niu.edu.

Host families are also being sought for the **April 12–May 10** Philippine Youth Leadership Program ([PYLP](#)), another State Department-sponsored youth exchange program, this one bringing young people and adult leaders from the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao and surrounding provinces in the Philippines to NIU for four weeks under the auspices of the International Training Office and direction of CSEAS associates Susan Russell (anthropology) and Lina Ong (ITO). The home stay dates for PYLP are April 21–May 3. Contact NIU home stay coordinator Leslie Shive for details at lshive@niu.edu. **NEW**

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 should contact Assistant Director Eric Jones at ejones@niu.edu.

9. **Save the dates:** Video series, spring workshops, student conference

- **Jan. 28:** Noon to 12:50 p.m. Asian American Center's new Insight! YouTube Video Series exploring Asian American identity issues begins with [“Identity Crisis: Who am I](#)

[really?](#)” Discussion follows video. Bring your own lunch; instant soup also available at the center. RSVP to mbringas@niu.edu or hillary940820@gmail.com. Series continues on the last Tuesday of the month through April.

- **Feb. 7:** Deadline to submit proposals for NIU Undergraduate Special Opportunities in Artistry and Research awards. For details, see [USOAR](#) website.
- **March 14:** One-day workshop for graduate students, Publishing with an Academic Press, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Founders Library 297. Details [here](#).
- **March 22:** Teaching Southeast Asia to Undergraduates: Burma (Myanmar) workshop for college-level educators, 9 to 4:30, NIU-Naperville. See Center [website](#) for details.
- **April 3–25:** NIU welcomes the Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program ([SEAYLP](#)), welcoming youth from 10 Southeast Asian countries. Opportunities for area households to host students or adult leaders **April 6–13**. Contact edenius@niu.edu.
- **April 5:** Spring student conference organized by the Southeast Asia Club. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Altgeld Room 315. Keynote speaker: Yale political scientist James C. Scott.

10. Applications open for Indonesian language and culture program

The American Councils for International Education is accepting applications to its [Indonesian Overseas Program](#) for fall semester 2014 and the 2014–15 academic year. The program offers intensive training in Indonesian language and culture at the University of Malang in Java. Participants receive academic credit (approximately 15/semester) through Bryn Mawr College. The deadline for both the **Aug. 25–Dec. 19, 2014** and the **Aug. 25, 2014–mid-May 2015** programs is **March 15**. NIU students are encouraged to inquire at the NIU Study Abroad Office for financial aid, scholarship opportunities and academic-credit acceptance eligibility.

11. Calls for journal articles, chapters

- The Center for Southeast Asian Studies at University of Hawaii-Manoa is looking for articles for its next issue of *Explorations*, a peer-reviewed graduate student journal of Southeast Asian studies. The theme is “Destabilizing Centers and Peripheries: Re-Examining Approaches to the Study of Southeast Asia.” **Deadline for submission is Feb. 14**. For details, see the journal [website](#).
- Mark your calendar for the 2014 Council on Thai Studies (COTS) annual meeting set for **Oct. 17–19** at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. **Deadline for abstracts is July 31**.
- Chulalongkorn University Press is calling for chapters for a prospective textbook on “greening” agriculture and food security in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Economic Community. The working title of the book is *ASEAN Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Agrarian Reform in a Green Economy: Critical Interdisciplinary Perspectives*. **Deadline for first drafts is Feb. 21**. For details, email Wayne Nelles at Chulalongkorn’s Center for Peace and Conflict Studies, at wayne.nelles@viu.ca.

12. Money for study

United States-Indonesia Society

- **2014 Sumitro Fellowships:** \$10,000 travel/study grant for postdocs, PhD candidates, senior academics and qualified candidates. Two grants offered, one for U.S. citizens and one for Indonesian citizens. **Deadline to apply: Feb. 28**. See [website](#).

Harvard University

- **Pre-doctoral fellowships:** Two to four scholars sought for Transparency for Development Project grants by the Kennedy School's Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation to conduct ethnographic studies of health information and social action interventions in Tanzania and Indonesia. PhD students must have completed all or most of their coursework; funding includes money for travel and some other expenses. **Deadline to apply: March 14.** See [website](#).

Leibniz Institute for Tropical Marine Ecology

- **Indonesia pre-doctoral post:** Political scientist Marco Verweij of Jacobs University in Bremen, Germany, seeks student with a master's degree in political science, anthropology or development studies to conduct research on managing coral reefs in Indonesia. Should speak Bahasa and be knowledgeable about cultural theory and willing to do field work. Email Verweij for details: m.verweij@jacobs-university.de

Boren Awards

- **Foreign language study grants:** Applications open for 2014–15 Boren scholarships (for undergraduates) and fellowships (for graduate students) are on the [Boren website](#). Undergraduate awards up to \$20,000 for an academic year's study abroad; \$30,000 awards for graduate students. For application help, see Anne Seitzinger at Study Abroad, 417 Williston Hall (email aseitz@niu.edu). **Graduate fellowship applications due Jan. 28; undergraduate scholarship applications due Feb. 5.**

Center for Khmer Studies

- **Undergraduate fellowships:** Applications open six-week summer junior resident fellowships at the Center for Khmer Studies in Siem Reap. Five students each from the U.S., Cambodia, and France will be chosen for the **June 30–Aug. 8** program. **Deadline to apply: April 1.** See CKS website for details.

13. Job/internships opportunities

Royal Netherlands Academy for Arts & Sciences

- **Postdoctoral position:** Opening for 30-hour/week researcher to study political economy of Indonesia and organize conference. **Apply by March 1.** For details, see [job posting](#).

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](#).

14. Conferences, calls for papers and workshops

- **2013 Cornell Southeast Asia Program Graduate Student Conference**, Feb. 28–March 2, Ithaca, New York. Conference theme: Southeast Asia in the Disciplines." See [conference website](#).
- **Grinnell College Peace Studies Conference**, Feb. 28–March 1, Grinnell, Iowa. Registration free. See [conference website](#).
- **20th National Conference of Asian Studies Development Program**, March 13–15, Houston. See [conference website](#).

- **5th International Conference on Hmong Studies**, March 21–23, Concordia University. See [conference website](#).
- **Southeast Asian Studies Symposium 2014**, March 22–23, Keble College, University of Oxford. See [conference website](#).
- **25th Graduate Student Conference**, April 2–4, University of Hawaii-Manoa. Call for papers. Theme: “Pushing Boundaries, Shifting Perspectives: Remapping Asia and the Pacific through a Transnational Interdisciplinary Lens.” See [conference website](#).
- **2014 Philippine Political Science Association International Conference**, April 10–11, University of the Philippines Visayas, Iloilo City, Philippines. Theme: “Gazing Out: Locating Asia in the Philippine Political Worldview.” See [conference website](#).
- **Thailand in the World: 12th International Conference on Thai Studies**, April 22–24, 2014, University of Sydney, Australia. See [conference website](#).
- **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](#).

15. Area Southeast Asia cultural opportunities

- Two showings of the Laotian film [The Rocket](#), noon and 7 p.m., Tuesday, **March 4**, [Lake Theatre](#), 1022 Lake St., Oak Park. Presented by the First Tuesday Film Club. **NEW**
- “Siam: The Queen and the White City” is on display in the Costume and Textile gallery at the Chicago History Museum. The exhibition features textiles, photographs and other items from Thailand that were collected by Queen Savang Vadhanafor for display in the exposition’s Women’s Building. Through **March 2**. For details, see the [museum website](#).
- 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.