

CSEAS Weekly Bulletin

Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Northern Illinois University • Nov. 1, 2010



In transit gloria: Cooling their heels at Narita Airport in Tokyo on their way to Illinois, students from the fall Southeast Asia Youth Leadership program were treated to a ceremony to encourage them in their endeavors. United's Joan Waldron of Oak Park, a friend of the Cambodia delegation, arranged for the welcoming gesture. Waldron will be on hand at SEAYLP's kickoff luncheon on Monday, Nov. 1. Since their arrival in DeKalb, the SEAYLP group has been busy. Details below.

Fall 2010 SEAYLP participants touch down at NIU

1. **This week's CSEAS lecture: Niti Pawakapan on Thai-Burmese border market town**
2. Halloween, host families, and how-to's: Fall 2010 SEAYLP begins
3. *Iron Ladies* next on screen in Thai film series
4. Study abroad in SEA through NIU: Thailand and Malaysia/Brunei
5. Books and breezes: Visiting Indonesian scholars go to the library, Chicago
6. Director to speak after showing of Vietnamese rock band documentary Nov. 8
7. **Save the dates:** International Education Week
8. Lacquer in the court (PHOTO)
9. Money for study: Fellowships, scholarships, and more

1. This week's CSEAS lecture: Niti Pawakapan on Thai-Burmese border market town



Visiting Thai scholar Niti Pawakapan, an anthropologist at Chulalongkorn University, will present "A Border Town Transformed," the story of small market town in the Thailand-Burma borderlands, at the center's weekly lecture from noon to 12:50 p.m., Friday, **Nov. 5**, in Room 100 in the Campus Life Building. Established on a northern Thailand-Shan States trade route in the early nineteenth century, cross-border movements are common, with goods, new technologies, innovations, and new ideas

flowing in. Such changes are the results of complex relations between the borderlands, national, and global developments, says Pawakapan. [Bring your lunch and feed your mind.](#)

2. Halloween, host families, and how-to's: Fall 2010 SEAYLP begins

The first full week of activities for the newly arrived high school students and adult leaders participating in the fall 2010 Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP) is set to begin Monday, **Nov. 1**, with a welcome luncheon and group presentations in the Sky Room at the Holmes Student Center. The group of twenty-eight students and seven adults from Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, and Vietnam arrived Wednesday, **Oct. 27**. After a full



Manica, left, and Vengkim of Cambodia take a sweep through Wal-Mart on a quick shopping visit by the SEAYLP group after their arrival.

orientation to the State Department-sponsored program Thursday morning by CSEAS Director Jim Collins and program coordinator Coral Carlson, the group eased into the serious side of their schedule with several workshops on such topics as religious diversity, media training, theatre techniques for civic engagement, and cross-cultural orientation over the next two days. On the lighter side, they took a trip to Sycamore to view Pumpkins on Parade and attend the carnival at the town's annual Pumpkinfest celebration. They also celebrated Halloween at a SEAYLP Halloween party, many in costumes donated by center staff, though at least one participant brought her own from Malaysia. Home stays with an enthusiastic group of host families also were to begin **Oct. 31**; participants will be staying 10 days with them while attending workshops and day trips during the day. This week, the group will visit the *Northern Star* newsroom to learn how a student newspaper works and



Over the next three weeks, SEAYLP participants will keep two things closest to them: a camera and warm winter clothing, as these two students demonstrate at dinner Thursday.

Millennium Park and Willis Tower in Chicago. They will begin studying environmental issues around river systems by collecting and testing water samples from the Chicago River and Kishwaukee Lagoon, and hearing a presentation by Mike Coyne-Logan of Living Lands and Waters, a Moline, Ill.-based nonprofit group that has worked for twelve years working to remove trash from the Mississippi River. On Friday, **Nov. 5**, the week concludes with a visit to students at the Illinois Math and Science Academy before participants are picked up by their host families for the weekend.

3. *Iron Ladies* next on screen in Thai film series

The NIU Thai Association's fall Thai film series continues this week with the screening of *Iron Ladies*, an award-winning film based on a true story about a mostly gay and transgender men's volleyball team in Thailand, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, **Nov. 4**, in Room 120 Neptune Central residence hall. The screening is co-sponsored by PRISM of NIU, an LGBT student organization. The series concludes on **Nov. 11** with *Ong Bak*, an action adventure film about a village kick boxer who travels to Bangkok to retrieve the village's stolen Buddha statue. All movies have English subtitles. Free soda will be served.



Movie poster from *Iron Ladies*

4. Study abroad in SEA through NIU: Malaysia/Brunei and Thailand



Eric Jones

NIU is offering two opportunities to study abroad in Southeast Asia during the summer of 2011 with NIU faculty members and center associates. Associate anthropology professor Andrea Molnar is leading a group to Thailand to explore cultural diversity, while associate history professor Eric Jones will take students to Malaysia and Brunei. Both are NIU study abroad courses offering credit for graduate and undergraduate



Andrea Molnar

students. For information about programs, financial aid, provost 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 a video about the program, including images from the 2007 trip, 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: To be determined.**

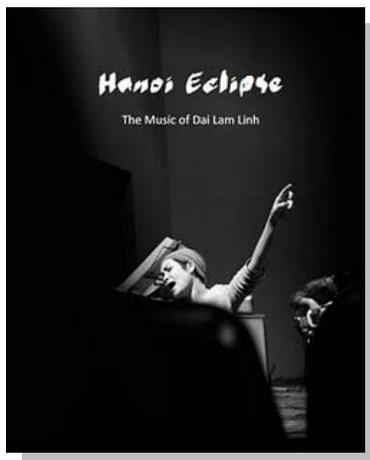
5. Books and breezes: Visiting Indonesian scholars go to the library, Chicago

The center's fifteen visiting scholars from Indonesia on campus this semester put their research caps on when they visited the Donn V. Hart Southeast Asia Collection in Founders Library on Oct. 21 to learn how to best use the collection for their individual research purposes. Center associate Hao Phan, curator of the collection, introduced the group to the history, contents, and organization of the collection, emphasizing its Indonesia materials. Those materials, both in English and Indonesian, constitute Hart collection, which in itself is one of the country's major Southeast Asia collections. The curator then walked the group through the collection, showing them how to find materials, use the call-number system, and make photocopies in the library. Most of the visiting scholars came with lists of research materials they were looking for, and began perusing the collection right away with the help of Hao Phan and library assistant Jessica Williams.



Wind at their back: NIU's fifteen visiting scholars from Indonesia got a real demonstration of Chicago's Windy City nickname last week when they went to visit Chicago on one of the month's windiest days. Hoping to visit the Skydeck on Willis Tower, they and other visitors were turned away because of the dangerous winds.

6. Director to speak after showing of Vietnamese rock band documentary Nov. 8



Director and University of London ethnomusicologist Barley Norton will discuss the making of his film, *Hanoi Eclipse: The Music of Dai Lam Linh*, a [documentary](#) about a controversial Vietnamese band in Hanoi, after it is shown at 10 a.m. Monday, **Nov. 8**, in Room 202 of the Music Building. A question-answer session will follow in Room 141. A researcher of Vietnamese music and culture, Norton is the author of a book and DVD titled *Songs for the Spirits: Music and Mediums in Modern Vietnam*. The screening is co-sponsored by CSEAS, the Center for Burma Studies, and the College of Visual and Performing Arts. For details, see Visual and Performing Arts Dean Rich Holly's [blog](#).

7. **Save the dates:** International Education Week

- **Nov. 15–19:** The Division of International Programs celebrates International Education Week. To cap the week of lectures and activities, associate history professor and center associate Eric Jones will present “The Value of Study Abroad: Engaged Learning Through Global Engagement” at noon in the Sky Room, Holmes Student Center in a lecture co-sponsored by the center and International Programs.



8. Lacquer in the court: At the recent “Legacy in Lacquer: A Living Art from Burma,” exhibit at the NIU Art Museum, exhibition intern Rebecca Weinstock, left, and Center for Burma Studies graduate assistant Rachel Walters, right, are congratulated by exhibition curator and Center for Burma Studies Director Catherine Raymond, center.

9. Money for study: Fellowships, scholarships, and more

- The Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies at Leiden (KITLV) is looking for a historian to participate in its Health, Disease, and Medicine in Southeast Asia project. Applications should include a resume, brief research proposal, and timetable; send to Gerry van Klinken at klinken@kitlv.nl. **Deadline to apply: Dec. 1.**
- Undergraduate or graduate students learning Indonesian are eligible for a summer scholarship through the U.S. State Department’s [Critical Language Scholarship Program](#). Scholarships provide fully funded, group-based intensive language training and cultural enrichment for seven to ten weeks. **Deadline to apply: Nov. 15.**
- The Center for Khmer Studies, the American Overseas Research Center in Cambodia, invites applications from U.S. scholars in all disciplines who wish to conduct research in Cambodia. **Deadline to apply: Nov. 15.** For details, e-mail publishing@khmerstudies.org.
- The National Security Education Program’s David L. Boren scholarships and fellowships provide unique funding opportunities for U.S. graduate and undergraduate students to study in Southeast Asia. Applications for the 2011–12

scholarships and fellowships are online at the [NSEP](#) website. Boren Scholarships provide up to \$20,000 for an academic year's study abroad. Boren Fellowships provide up to \$30,000 for language study and international research. **Deadlines to apply: Feb. 1 for fellowships; Feb. 10 for scholarships.** For details, e-mail boren@iie.org or call 800-618-NSEP.

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.

[Center for Southeast Asian Studies](#) • 520 College View Court • Northern Illinois University • DeKalb, IL 60115 • 815-753-1771 (office) • 815-753-1776 (FAX) • cseas@niu.edu (e-mail) • <http://www.cseas.niu.edu/>