

CSEAS Weekly Bulletin

Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Northern Illinois University • Oct. 18, 2010



New Indonesia ambassador Dino Patti Djalal, Indonesia's highest ranking representative in the U.S., comes to NIU Monday, Oct. 18, where he will speak at 4 p.m. in the Capitol Room of the Holmes Student Center. Details below.

Indonesian ambassador to speak at NIU Monday

Dino Patti Djalal, who was formally appointed Indonesia's ambassador to the United States in August, will give a public talk entitled "Indonesia's Democratic Development: Lesson for Transforming Societies" at 4 p.m. Monday, **Oct. 18**, at NIU in the Capitol Room of the Holmes Student Center. A reception for the ambassador will be held afterward at 5:15 in the Holmes Center's University Suite. A London School of Economics graduate, Djalal is a well-known government spokesman, diplomat, and best-selling author in his home country. He served as the official spokesman for President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono from October 2004 until recently, making him the longest serving presidential spokesperson in Indonesia's modern history. Djalal's visit to NIU is co-sponsored by CSEAS and the Division of International Programs. For details on Djalal's speech and an update on NIU's connections to Indonesia, see article in [NIU Today](#).

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1. This week's lecture: Roundtable on Thailand's political mayhem in 2010

Three speakers will address the past year's political conflicts in Thailand at the center's weekly lecture from 12 noon to 12:50 p.m., Friday, **Oct. 22**, in Room 100 of the Campus Life Building, with a roundtable discussion to follow from 1:00 – 3:00. (Please note room change.) John Brandon of the Asia Foundation in Washington, D.C., will offer his reflections on the country's



Fire trucks burn in Chiang Mai during the political unrest in Thailand earlier this year.

mainstream and new media, the forgotten conflict in the South, and where the country is headed. Visiting scholar Niti Pawakapan of Chulalongkorn University will discuss misconceptions concerning the political sophistication, sense of grievance, and rights awareness among rural Thais. Associate political science professor Danny Unger will present perspectives on how we might understand Thailand's recent political conflict.

2. Meeting and greeting: CSEAS builds new bridges

The center has been busy in October forging new connections near and far.

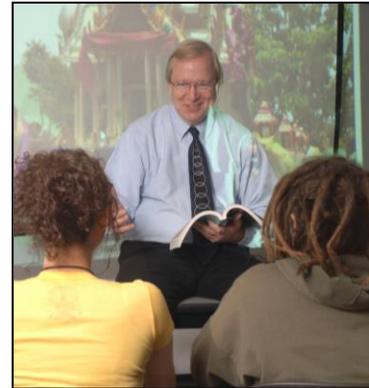
Rockford: On **Oct. 5**, three representatives from the Rockford Area Economic Development Council (RAEDC) met with CSEAS Director Jim Collins and associate provost and international programs director Deb Pierce to learn more about Southeast Asia and possible cooperative ventures between NIU and the RAEDC. Many Asian residents of Rockford are originally from Southeast Asia. The group also met with a dozen faculty members to discuss cooperation between RAEDC and NIU at the



Networking: Rena Cotsones, NIU Assistant vice president for regional engagement–Rockford, left, and associate provost Deb Pierce, right, met with the Rockford Area Economic Development Council's Carrie Zethmayr, manager of international relations and client solutions; Janyce Fadden, president; and Mark Podemski, vice president.

faculty level, Rockford's efforts to increase global business ties, and ideas for internships for NIU students.

Elgin: On Oct. 8, Collins met with B. David Burke, director of the Humanities Center at Elgin Community College (ECC), to discuss closer collaboration between ECC and the center. ECC recently received a Title VI grant from the U.S. Department of Education to develop Asian studies at their campus as part of their commitment to global engagement. "Although ECC's new initiative focuses on the study of China and India, NIU's center is committed to linking its own Title VI programs to other funded centers," Collins said. "By building up synergies, each project can achieve more." Collins and Burke discussed curriculum development, guest talks, student exchange, and long-range connections of Southeast Asian studies to ECC, which sends 40 percent of its graduates as transfer students to NIU. "ECC is an acknowledged Hispanic-serving institution, it is critical that the center introduce Southeast Asian studies to this demographic component of the U.S. and ECC, our close neighbor, is a solid place to begin," Collins said.



B. David Burke teaching.

Omaha, Nebraska: On Oct. 10–11, Collins visited Creighton University in Omaha to discuss joint projects focused on Southeast Asia. He met with Elizabeth Elliot-Meisel, chair of the history department, and assistant professor, NIU alumnus, and CSEAS



Author Jinmei Yuan, CSEAS Director Jim Collins, and Maorong Jiang, director of Creighton University's Asian World Center, at the center's office in Omaha.

adjunct Mike Hawkins to plan a workshop on Southeast Asian studies for high school teachers in the Nebraska-Iowa area. Also discussed were student exchange, joint student conferences, and NIU's genocide institute and study abroad programs. In addition to a lunch meeting with several faculty members, Collins also met with Maorong Jiang, director of Creighton's Asian World Center, and Jinmei Yuan, well-known philosopher and award-winning author of bestselling Chinese novellas. Plans were also laid to explore ways to include Southeast Asia in the center's calendar of events.

3. Kheang Un to participate in U.N. dialogue series

Assistant political science professor and CSEAS assistant director Kheang Un will contribute his insights on Cambodia's recent political history developments in an international panel exploring the acceptance of electoral results at a three-day conference co-sponsored by the United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC) and the Berling, Germany-based



Kheang Un

Zentrum für Internationale Friedenseinsätze (ZIF). The conference, to be held **Dec. 13–15** in Turin, Italy, is entitled “2010 Dialogue Series: The Role of Elections in Peace Processes: When and How Do They Advance Stability or Exacerbate Conflicts?” The series is an annual event organized by the UNSSC and ZIF and funded by the German government.

4. McCabe, Villaraza invited to be fellowship reviewers for Library of Congress

Graduate students Brett McCabe (anthropology) and Lily Ann Villaraza (history) have accepted invitations by the Library of Congress to be members of the external reviewing panel for the Florence Tan Moeson Fellowship. As two of only 38 scholars awarded the nationally competitive fellowships in the past five years, McCabe (2010) and Villaraza (2008) traveled to Washington, D.C., to conduct research in the library’s [Asian collections](#), considered one of the most comprehensive and accessible outside of Asia. Florence Tan Moeson was a Chinese Team cataloger in the regional and cooperative cataloging division of the library for 43 years; she established the fellowship in 2005, three years before her death in 2008.

5. Hartmann to present talk on Southeast Asian trickster tales



John Hartmann

The trickster tales of Sri Thanonchai, or Xiang Miang, as he is called in Laos, are part of a widely shared cultural narrative about a prototypical hero with different names and traits as he moves across the Mekong and Southeast Asia. Language professor and center associate John Hartmann will present “Translating Humor: Examples from Southeast Asian Trickster Tales” at noon Wednesday, **Oct. 20**, in 110 Watson, part of the Foreign Languages and Literatures department’s fall [Brown Bag Lecture Series](#). Political science graduate student Pinitbhand Paribatra, a Ph.D. candidate helped research and write the presentation.

6. Southeast Asia Club to meet after ambassador’s talk Oct. 18

The Southeast Asia Club will hold its October meeting from 6 to 7 p.m. Monday, **Oct. 18**, in 206 DuSable, following the Indonesia ambassador’s talk and reception at the Holmes Student Center (see top story). Refreshments will be served. Among its yearly activities the club presents culture nights and a student academic conference focusing on Southeast Asia topics. For details, contact club secretary Melanie Francia at melaniefrancia@gmail.com.

7. A month of movies: NIU Thai Association film festival starts this week



Films from Thailand centering on a folk legend, mysterious pictures, kick-boxing action, and the true story of a gay and transgender volleyball team will be screened by the NIU Thai Association beginning this week on Thursday, **Oct. 21**, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. in Room 120 of the Central Neptune Hall. This week’s movie is *Nang Nag*, based on a Thai folk legend and tells the story of a devoted ghost wife and an unsuspecting husband. The series continues on the following dates: **Oct. 28**, *Shutter*, a

horror film focusing on mysterious images seen in developed pictures; **Nov. 4**, *Iron Ladies*, an award-winning film about a mostly gay and transgender men’s volleyball team; and **Nov. 11**, *Ong Bak*, an action adventure film about a village kick boxer who travels to Bangkok to retrieve the village’s stolen Buddha statue. All four movies have English subtitles. Free soda will be served.

8. There are a lot of good reasons to be a host family for SEAYLP

Eleven families have signed up, but NIU is actively looking for eight more households to act as hosts **Oct. 31–Nov. 11** for 28 high school students and seven adult leaders from Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, and Vietnam participating in the fall session of the center’s 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

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 Khmer or Malay or Vietnamese
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 holiday company
2. Your family portrait could replace the flying corn cob as the international symbol of DeKalb County
1. Your family will make friendships of a lifetime

dinner, all meals during one free weekend (**Nov. 6–7**), and transportation to and from class sessions at NIU. There will be a host family orientation at 7 p.m. **Oct. 25** in the Heritage Room of the Holmes Student Center. For details, contact NIU host family coordinator Leslie Shive at 815-753-9546 or e-mail lshive@niu.edu. For details about the fall SEAYLP program, see the [center website](#).

9. 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



Andrea Molnar

courses offering credit for graduate and undergraduate 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.**



Eating and greeting: The center's 14 visiting scholars from three universities in eastern Indonesia (Hasanuddin, Makassar State, and Sam Ratulangi universities) joined center director Jim Collins at his home on **Oct. 14** to enjoy a home-cooked meal of rice and spicy side dishes. From left are Suardi Bakri, Nuraidar Agus, Abdul Kadir Zakaria, Collins, Asriani Abas, Waode Hanafiah, and Syahrudin. Their scholarships have been managed by the NIU's partner school in east Indonesia, Hasanuddin University.

10. **Save the dates:** COTS conference in Madison; Vietnamese rock band film

- **Oct. 29–30:** Council on Thai Studies (COTS) annual conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Keynote speaker: Niti Pawakapan, anthropology professor, Chulalongkorn University, currently visiting scholar at NIU. Contact: Kathleen Gillogly at gillogly@uwp.edu. A note on the conference [website](#) encourages conference-goers to "Bring your yaksha demon, thewadaa angel, or other costume with you so that you can blend into the Halloween scene on State Street Saturday."
- **Nov. 8:** *Hanoi Eclipse: the Music of Dai Lam Linh*, a [documentary](#) directed by University of London ethnomusicologist Barley Norton about a controversial contemporary Vietnamese band in Hanoi, will be shown at 10 a.m. in Room 205 in the Music Building. The screening is co-sponsored by CSEAS, the Center for Burma Studies, and the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

11. **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 [Council of Overseas American Research Centers](#) (COARC) is expanding its multi-country research fellowship program for 2010–11 to include master's degree candidates. Doctoral candidates are already eligible for the fellowships, which are given to both individuals and teams who carry out research in two or more countries outside the United States.
- 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.

12. Conferences and calls for papers

- **Hmong in Comparative Contexts**, March 4–5, University of Wisconsin-Madison. First biannual conference organized by the new University of Wisconsin-University of Minnesota Hmong Studies [Consortium](#). Keynote speaker: French scholar and Hmong-in-Asia specialist Christian Culas. **Deadline for abstracts and panel proposals: Dec. 10.** For details, contact Ian Baird at ibaird@wisc.edu.
- **Governance, Human Rights, and Development: Challenges for Southeast Asia and Beyond, First International Conference on International Relations and Development**, May 19–20, Thammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand. Scholars and graduate students are encouraged to submit abstracts. E-mail to abstracts@icird.org. **Deadline for abstracts: Oct. 30.** See [conference](#) website.

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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