

CSEAS Weekly Bulletin

Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Northern Illinois University • September 17, 2012



More than 350 protesters demonstrate outside the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta this past week. Learn more about the state of Indonesia's democracy process at this week's center lecture. Details below. (Photo / AFP)

Indonesia's transitioning democracy

1. **This week's lecture:** R. William Liddle on the state of Indonesian democracy
2. International conference at NIU raises Cambodia Studies profile
3. Remembering alumnus Daniel Harris
4. More than 100 papers to be presented at upcoming Burma Studies conference
5. Burnish your resumé: Sign up for a SEA Studies minor or graduate concentration
6. Future Leaders of Indonesia students begin two-week program at NIU
7. Mastering the master's: Seminar offered
8. **Save the dates:** Fulbright deadline, Study Abroad Fair and more
9. Focusing on Thai or Lao studies? Two SEA conferences in the area coming up
10. Conferences and calls for papers
11. Area Southeast Asia cultural opportunities

On a cultural note...

Experience the artistry of northeastern Thai folk dance, performed by students from Khon Kaen University in Thailand, at 8 p.m. **Thursday, Sept. 20**, in the Recital Hall of the School of Music.

1. This week's lecture: R. William Liddle on the state of Indonesian democracy



Liddle

Ohio State University political scientist R. William Liddle will present "Indonesian Democracy: From Transition to Consolidation" at noon Friday, **Sept. 21**, in Room 110 (Honors office), Campus Life Building. Most scholars agree that Indonesia's transition to democracy occurred between 1998 and 2004. Liddle argues, however, that there are signs that other forces are slowing the process of consolidating democracy in Indonesia, such as recent victories by anti-democratic forces, weak rule of legal institutions, and a high level of state intervention in the Indonesian economy among other factors. A specialist in Indonesian, Southeast Asian, Islamic and developing

world politics, Liddle is a former chair of the Southeast Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies. To order an Indonesian 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. Lunches that are not picked up and have not been cancelled must still be paid for. Cost is \$6 for faculty, \$5 for students. Payment may be paid in cash or by check. For all inquiries, please email seabrownbag@gmail.com. CSEAS is not responsible for taking or cancelling lunch orders.

2. International conference at NIU raises Cambodia Studies profile

Last week's Imagining Cambodia conference, the first international Cambodia Studies conference of its kind to be held in the U.S., drew 119 scholars and students to NIU **Sept. 13-16**. Ninety-one attendees were from the U.S., ten were from Cambodia, and the rest from France, Australia, Germany, Canada, Thailand, Japan, Mexico and the United Kingdom, said CSEAS Outreach Coordinator Julie Lamb. While the conference was headquartered at the Barsema Alumni and Visitors Center, and with the weather contributing a sunny fall weekend, attendees also made their rounds of campus attending special events, including a gallery opening of an exhibit of contemporary Cambodian photography at the NIU Art Museum, a film screening at Fay-Cooper Cole Hall, a choreography presentation at the O'Connell Theatre, and a concert at Boutell Memorial Concert Hall.

Reflecting the conference's academic and creative agenda, panels addressed such topics as youth culture and education; culture, memory and genocide; diasporic communities; economics and social change; contemporary Cambodian society; ethnic minority groups; decentralization and civil society; archeology and Angkorian history; conflict and resolution; modern architecture and design; modern and contemporary Buddhism; teaching Khmer and about Cambodia; and Cambodian media and film. All five members of NIU's Cambodia Studies Working Group participated, including CSEAS Director Judy Ledgerwood (anthropology), Assistant CSEAS Director Trude Jacobsen (history) and faculty associates Kenton Clymer (history), Kheang Leang (foreign languages and literatures), and Kheang Un



Keynote speaker and historian David Chandler recounts his lifelong involvement with Cambodia. (Photo / CSEAS)

(political science). One NIU student, Jordan York (MA candidate, anthropology) also presented at the conference.

At the end of the first day of panels **Sept. 14**, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Dean Christopher McCord welcomed the group to NIU at dinner, which concluded with the keynote address, "Witnessing Cambodian History," by Cambodia historian David Chandler, professor emeritus of Monash University in Australia and widely published author. Afterward, attendees walked over to Cole Hall where filmmaker Chhay Bora screened his film, [Lost Loves](#), for an audience of about 200. Two other films were also shown during the conference schedule: [We](#)



In preparation for the Sept. 15 evening concert, composer Chinary Ung, right, rehearses earlier in the day with cellist Chris Wild at Boutell Memorial Concert Hall. (Photo / CSEAS)

[Want \(U\) to Know](#), directed by Ella Pugliese, and [Who Killed Chea Vichea](#), produced by Richard Garella; both Pugliese and Garella were at the conference. The second day of panels **Sept. 15** concluded with a dinner honoring Cambodian-American composer Chinary Ung. After being introduced by School of Music associate professor Gregory Beyer, Adam Greene, Ung's colleague at the University of California-San Diego, gave a biographical presentation of the



In between panels, conference-goers relax in the sculpture garden at the Barsema center. (Photo / CSEAS)

composer's life and work during the dinner. The conference group then adjourned to Boutell Memorial Concert Hall to hear a concert of six of Ung's signature works, including one performed by Susan Ung, an NIU music alumna who met Ung when he was on the NIU School of Music faculty from 1977-79. The conference ended **Sept. 16** with a field trip to the Chicago American Heritage Museum and Killing Fields Memorial in Chicago. There the Cambodian Association of Illinois welcomed the group to view "[Remembering the Killing Fields](#)," an exhibit based on oral histories of

Cambodian genocide survivors collected by Judy Ledgerwood and NIU students over the course of several years. The association honored David Chandler and Chinary Ung during a reception for the conference group, and also presented a certificate of appreciation to Ledgerwood for her work organizing the conference.

3. Remembering alumnus Daniel Harris

The Center was saddened to learn last week of the death of alumnus Daniel Harris (MA anthropology, 2009), who died suddenly of coronary artery disease **Sept. 6**. Daniel, 34, was living in San Diego, Calif., where he coordinated outreach and planning between federal agencies and local Native American communities for the ethnology department at [AECOM](#). While at NIU, where Dan also received his bachelor's degree in anthropology in 2004, he specialized in museum, Native American and Southeast Asian studies. As a graduate student, he worked closely with anthropology professor Andrea Molnar and studied Muslim Sufi saints and *ziarah* (pilgrimage) practices on the island of Jawa, Indonesia, for his MA thesis. "He truly enjoyed his studies and showed a never-ending curiosity about Indonesia. He had a particular interest in religion and mystical traditions as well as Islam," Molnar said. "Dan was very laid back and never in a hurry. He wanted to savor every experience and moment of life. Even the MA program was not about the degree for him, but for the experience of learning and experiencing Indonesian cultures. He was a very social, kind and courteous gentleman." Born in Hinsdale, Daniel grew up in Texas where he made lifelong friends and "loved to experience a broad spectrum of life, from all things Goth to dove and deer hunting in the Texas Hill Country," according to his father, Bill Harris. Daniel's interest in other cultures began as an 18-year-old in Russia when his father worked as a consultant in Moscow in 1996 before moving to Naperville in 1997. "Dan enjoyed exploring the Russian culture pretty much on his own," Bill Harris said. After graduating from NIU, Daniel applied his training as an ethnographer, historian, and anthropologist to his career. Before moving to San Diego, Daniel worked on a long-term recovery project in 2011 for the Northwest Alabama Long Term Recovery Committee in the aftermath of tornadoes that devastated the region. Funeral services for Daniel were held earlier this week in Naperville. Memorials may be made to the Northwest Alabama Long Term Recovery Committee, c/o United Way of Northwest Alabama, P.O. Box 1228, Florence, AL 35631. Donations may be earmarked for specific towns—Phil Campbell, Cordova and/or Hackleburg—or to the committee itself. The Center extends its deepest condolences to the Harris family.



Daniel Harris (Photo courtesy of the Harris family)

4. More than 100 papers to be presented at upcoming Burma Studies conference



Raymond

More than 100 papers in a wide variety of fields, including anthropology, art history, environment, health, history, literature, linguistics, music, political science, popular culture, religions, and area studies, will be presented during the [10th International Burma Studies Conference](#) at the Holmes Student Center. Presentations will be devoted primarily to new research, including recent events in Burma, according to conference organizer and art historian Catherine Raymond, director of the Center for Burma Studies (CBS) and a CSEAS associate. The conference will also feature cultural events, including the exhibit, "Music for the Divine: Musical instruments and Traditions of Burma," curated by Raymond, at the NIU Art Museum; the world premiere of "Five Pools," an

original work for Karen bronze drums by NIU assistant music professor Gregory Beyer; and the public screening **Oct. 5** of the 2011 film, *They Call It Myanmar: Lifting the Curtain*, with remarks by film director Robert Lieberman. The conference is being presented by the CBS, the trustees of the Burma Studies Foundation and the Burma Studies Group. It is co-sponsored by NIU, CSEAS and the NIU Foundation. For details, see the conference website, email bsc2012@niu.edu or call CBS at 815-753-0512.

5. Burnish your resumé: Sign up for a SEA Studies minor or graduate concentration

Adding a minor to an undergraduate degree or a graduate concentration to an advanced degree is one way to pull a resumé up to the top of the pile. In a global marketplace, an internationally focused area of study can open even more doors. To learn about the center's Southeast Asian Studies programs, stop by the Center located in Pottenger House, 520 College View Court. Undergraduates may make an appointment with Outreach Coordinator Julie Lamb by emailing her at jlamb@niu.edu. Graduate students may contact Assistant Director Trude Jacobsen at tjacobsen1@niu.edu.

6. Future Leaders of Indonesia students begin two-week program at NIU

Eight years after a two-year stint as an Indonesian Fulbright student in political science at NIU in 2002–04, Dini Savitri Rahim returned to DeKalb **Sept. 16** as the leader of a new initiative for Indonesian high school students, the Future Leaders of Indonesia Program (FLIP). Working with International Training Office Director and CSEAS associate Lina Ong, the program was developed at the request of IndonesiaMOTIV, a new Indonesian organization where Rahim is the in-country program director. The program's goal is to identify promising Indonesian students in underserved areas and bring them to NIU for intensive leadership training. Fourteen students and two adult leaders from Kalimantan, Sumatra, and Java are participating in the program, which will include a day at DeKalb High School and a trip into Chicago in addition to training sessions overseen by Ong and her staff. The group was officially welcomed to NIU by Associate Provost for International Programs and CSEAS associate Deborah Pierce at a luncheon **Sept. 18** in the Holmes Student Center Sky Room. A delegation from the Sycamore High School Key Club also attended to help welcome their peers from Indonesia. The program concludes **Sept. 30**. For details about the FLIP program, see [NIU Today](#).



Ambhari Paramastrya Putri from East Java performs at the Future Leaders of Indonesia Program lunch Sept. 18 in the Sky Room. (Photo / CSEAS)

7. Mastering the master's: Seminar offered

Thinking about graduate school? Learn about applying, testing, using campus resources, and practicing mock interviews at the Graduate School Preparation Seminar from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Saturday, **Oct. 6**, in the Yordon Center-McCareins Classroom. Free lunch and prizes including test prep books, GRE test vouchers and more. Register online at www.surveymonkey.com/s/gradschoolprep. For details, email the event sponsor Office of Student Engagement and Experiential Learning at engage@niu.edu or call 753-8154.

8. **Save the dates: Fulbright deadline, Explore Majors, Study Abroad fairs and more**

- **Sept. 21:** Thursday's the day to submit 2013–14 applications for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program for graduating college seniors, graduate students, young professionals and artists to study abroad or to be an English teaching assistant for one academic year. Contact coordinator Jane Hathaway at the School of Music or Pam Rosenberg at International Programs. Details available [online](#).
- **Sept. 24:** Exploring Majors Fair, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Duke Ellington Ballroom, Holmes Student Center. For details, call Academic Advising Center, call 753-2577.
- **Sept. 27:** 20th annual Study Abroad Fair, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Duke Ellington Ballroom, Holmes Student Center. For more information, email niuabroad@niu.edu.
- **Oct. 11:** Opening of "Rarely Seen Southeast Asia: Art, Artifact, Ephemera" exhibit, 4 to 6 p.m., The Anthropology Museum, Fay-Cooper Cole Hall. Co-sponsored by the Department of Anthropology. A CSEAS 50th Anniversary event.
- **Oct. 25:** Screening of *Mr. Cao Goes to Washington*, with remarks by the film's director, Leo Chiang, 7 p.m., Room 100, Fay-Cooper Cole Hall. Sponsored by the Southeast Asia Club and the Department of Political Science. A CSEAS 50th Anniversary event.
- **Nov. 12–16:** International Education Week sponsored by the Division of International Programs.
- **Nov. 16:** CSEAS 50th Anniversary Fall Lecture by David Steinberg, Georgetown University professor of Asian Studies, noon, Sky Room, Holmes Student Center. An International Education Week event. Sponsored by the Division of International Programs.

9. **Focusing on Thai or Lao studies? Two SEA conferences in the area coming up**

Council on Thai Studies Conference, Oct. 26–27, Ohio University, Athens, OH

The Council on Thai Studies (COTS) will mark its 40th anniversary at this conference. COTS was founded at NIU in 1972 to bring together Thai specialists in the Midwest once a year. The keynote address will be given by Thai historian Charnvit Kasetsiri, former rector of Thammasat University. The guest lecture will be given by Chusak Pattarakulvanit, associate professor in Thammasat's Department of English Language and Literature. Conference organizer Jeffrey Shane advises making hotel reservations early at the [Ohio University Inn](#) or other



The Council on Thai Studies meets at NIU in 1973. (NIU Archives)

area hotels as there is a large university event also scheduled for that weekend. **Register before Sept. 25 to receive discounted rate.** The conference is sponsored by Ohio University Libraries, OU Center for Southeast Asian Studies, the Contemporary History Institute, the Southeast Asian Student Association, and the Thai Student Association. For details, see the conference program [online](#) or email Shane at shane@ohio.edu.

✚ **4th International Lao Studies Conference, April 19–21, Madison, WI**

The Center for Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the San Francisco-based Center for Lao Studies are inviting papers for the 4th International Conference on Lao Studies. **Abstracts due: Oct. 31.** For details on article submission and registration, see the [conference website](#) or call 608-263-1755.

10. Conferences, calls for papers and workshops

- **61st Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs**, Sept. 21–23, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. Theme: Global Education. Regional conference for Association of Asian Studies. Call for papers. For details, see [conference website](#).
- **2nd International Conference on Human Rights and Peace & Conflict in Southeast Asia**, Oct. 17–18, Jakarta, Indonesia. Sponsored by the Southeast Asia Human Rights Studies Network. For details, see [conference website](#).
- **Council on Thai Studies Conference**, Oct. 26–27, Ohio University, Athens, OH. Conference will mark the 40th anniversary of COTS. For details, email Jeffrey Shane at shane@ohio.edu.
- **9th International Conference on the Philippines**, Oct. 28–30, Michigan State University, Lansing, MI. For details, contact asiansc@msu.edu.
- **Religion in Southeast Asia**, Nov. 17–20, Chicago. Annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion. For details, see [conference website](#).
- **Salvage and Salvation: Religion, Disaster Relief, and Reconstruction in Asia**, Nov. 22–23, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. What dynamics are in play at the intersection of religion and disaster relief in Asia? Call for papers. For details, see [conference website](#).
- **10th ASEAN Inter-University Conference on Social Development**, Dec. 10–12, Universiti Brunei Darussalam. Theme: Southeast Asia and Human Insecurities: Causes, Costs and Challenges. Call for papers. **Abstracts due: Oct. 30.** For details, see [conference website](#).
- **12th International Graduate Student Conference on the Asia Pacific Region**, Feb. 14–16, East-West Center, Honolulu, HI. Call for papers. Deadline: Oct. 15. Limited number of travel grants available. For details, see [conference website](#).
- **Association for Asian Studies**, March 21–24, San Diego, CA. Call for papers is closed; registration opens in September. See the [conference website](#).
- **4th International Conference on Lao Studies**, April 19–21, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Call for papers. **Abstracts due: Oct. 31.** For information, see [conference website](#).
- **8th International Convention for Asia Scholars (ICAS)**, June 24–27, Macao. Call for institutional panel proposals. **Deadline: Sept. 15.** Submit to [ICAS 8 Secretariat](#). For details about ICAS 8, see the [conference website](#).

- **Thailand in the World: 12th International Conference on Thai Studies**, April 22–24, 2014, University of Sydney, Australia. To request being added to the conference email list or for other information, email brenda.kranz@sydney.edu.au.

11. Area Southeast Asia cultural opportunities

- Thai Festival extravaganza, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., **Sept. 20–21**, U.S. Post Office Loop Station, South Dearborn Street. Food, music, arts, dance, and more. Free. Sponsored by the Royal Thai Consulate, the Thai Department of International Trade Promotion, Singha beer and Amazing Thailand.
- *Remembering the Killing Fields* exhibit, 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.
- Free weekend Balinese and Javanese dance and gamelan classes in Chicago. For details, see Indonesian Consulate in Chicago [website](#).
- [Friends of the Gamelan](#), concert of traditional and modern Javanese gamelan music, 2 p.m., **Oct. 6**, in the A.F. Siebert Chapel at Carthage College in Kenosha, WI. The concert is free and open to the public. For other area gamelan events, see the Friends 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.

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) • www.cseas.niu.edu