

CSEAS Weekly Bulletin

Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Northern Illinois University • September 3, 2012



Summer Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellows Derek Koegel, left, and Matt Ropp learn that children are often the harshest language critics during their visit to a village near Alor Setar, Malaysia, where the two attended a traditional Malay wedding. More tales from the summer language-immersion experience kick off the CSEAS fall lecture series. Details below.

Fall lecture series begins; Royal Thai Embassy visits NIU

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1. Royal Thai Embassy delegation makes visit to NIU

A high-level delegation from the Royal Thai Embassy in Washington, D.C., traveled to NIU Thursday, **Aug. 30**, to discuss Thai Studies with NIU officials and to meet with Thai Studies faculty and students. While on campus they also visited with Thai students currently attending NIU. The group ended with a visit to CSEAS in late afternoon. The delegation was led by Deputy Chief of Mission Thanavit Sinhaseni, who was accompanied by two First Secretaries, Nilobol Pimdee and Suchada Maktara, and Thai Consul General Songphol Sukchan, whose son Kannabunn is now attending NIU as an undergraduate student. The purpose of the embassy visit was to follow up on the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs' 2009 gift to NIU to establish an endowment, the Royal Thai Teaching and Research

Fund. Through the fund, NIU faculty and students may apply for grants to advance their study of Thailand and the Thai world, which has been an integral part of SEA Studies at NIU since the late 1960s when NIU began hiring Thai specialists to teach comparative politics focusing on Thailand, including faculty emeriti and political scientists M. Ladd Thomas and Clark Neher. Thomas and Clark and Arlene Neher were invited to attend a lunch given in honor of the delegation and hosted by Associate Provost for International Programs Deborah Pierce. Also

attending were Vice Provost Anne Birberick; College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean Christopher McCord; CSEAS Director Judy Ledgerwood (anthropology) and NIU scholars of Thai studies: John Hartmann (foreign languages and literatures), Andrea Molnar (anthropology), Chalermsee Olson (Founders Library), Grant Olson (foreign languages and literatures) and Danny Unger (political science). Daniel Pojar Jr. (PhD candidate, political science and Southeast Asian studies) and undergraduate student Elise Waite (environmental geosciences and Southeast Asian studies), both of whom are past recipients of grants from the Royal Thai fund, were also invited guests. After lunch, the

delegation met with the Thai Studies Committee and with Thai NIU students before making their way to the Center for tea and a brief visit. They also stopped in at the Center for Burma Studies before departing campus.



Relaxing in the Center's reception room after a day of meetings at NIU, the Royal Thai Embassy poses for a picture with Center staff. From left front are Thai Consul General Songphol Sukchan, Deputy Chief of Mission Thanavit Sinhaseni and CSEAS Director Judy Ledgerwood; from left back are Outreach Coordinator Julie Lamb, Assistant Director Trude Jacobsen and First Secretary Nilobol Pimdee. Not pictured is First Secretary Suchada Maktara, who was taking photographs for the group. (CSEAS photo)



2. Fall lecture series begins: Tales from the summer language-immersion experience

A panel of NIU students who immersed themselves in studying Southeast Asian language over the summer, both in Southeast Asia and the U.S., will discuss their experiences at the Center's first Friday lunchtime lecture this fall at noon Friday, **Sept. 7**, in Room 110 (Honors), Campus Life Building. Seventeen NIU

students were given the opportunity to advance their study of SEA languages through the U.S.

Department of Education's Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) summer fellowship program, which is administered at NIU by CSEAS.

Thirteen students attended in-country language programs in

Brunei, Burma/Myanmar,

Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand. Four other students

studied at the Southeast Asian

Studies Summer Institute (SEASSI) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. To order an

Indonesian lunch, submit an online request by 6 p.m. Thursday at [CSEAS Brown Bag Lunch Order](#).

Orders must be canceled online by 10 a.m. Friday. Lunches that are not picked up and have not been canceled 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 canceling lunch orders.



Summer FLAS fellow SarahEmily Eckberg canoes with fellow Vietnamese language students at SEASSI at University of Wisconsin-Madison.

3. They came, they saw, they communed at Area Studies Open House



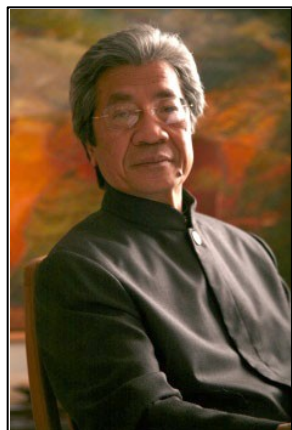
Students at the Area Studies Open House grab a bit of shade while catching up on their summer adventures. (CSEAS photo)

More than 100 people stopped for food, fun and a look at NIU's area studies programs **Aug. 30** at the Area Studies Open House co-hosted by CSEAS, the Centers for Burma Studies (CBS) and the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies (CLLAS). With temperatures in the 90s, shade and bottled water were at a

premium as NIU students, faculty, and staff stopped by to munch on Vietnamese egg rolls, crab Rangoon, Filipino lumpia, Huskie cookies, and quesadillas, chips and salsa, and Mexican sweets. "We signed up at least one new Southeast Asian minor and potentially four more," said Outreach Coordinator Julie Lamb, who organized the event with CLLAS Assistant Director

Sandy Lopez and CBS Office Manager Beth Bjorneby. Directors of all three area studies centers, Judy Ledgerwood for CSEAS, Catherine Raymond for CBS and Michael Gonzalez for CLLAS, were also on hand to meet with both current and prospective area studies students, as were student groups affiliated with each center. For more scenes from an open house, see the CSEAS Facebook page at NIU Center for Southeast Asian Studies.

4. Scholarship, artistry to come together at international Cambodia Studies conference



Chinary Ung

In less than two weeks, scholars and artists from around the world will convene at the Barsema Alumni and Visitors Center for [Imagining Cambodia](#), NIU's first international Cambodia Studies Conference on **Sept. 13–16**. Organized by NIU's Cambodia Studies Working Group and sponsored by CSEAS, the conference will welcome eminent Cambodia historian David Chandler as keynote speaker, honor renowned Cambodian-American composer Chinary Ung in a special public concert of his music, and introduce Cambodian film maker Chhay Bora at a public screening of his critically acclaimed film, *Lost Loves*. The work of contemporary Cambodian photographers Khvay Samnang and Lim Sokchanlina will be featured in Current Views and Actions, an exhibit at the NIU Art Museum, part of a suite of exhibits focusing on Southeast Asia. More than 60 papers are scheduled to be presented at the conference, including a special-topics panel on Cambodian choreography in the O'Connell Theatre in the Stevens Building. The conference will close with a field trip to the Cambodian American Heritage Museum and Killing Fields Memorial in Chicago. Imagining Cambodia is co-sponsored by the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Ohio

University and the University of Massachusetts-Lowell. It is funded in part by grants from the Asian American Cultural Council, the Henry Luce Foundation, the NIU Foundation through its Venture Grant program, the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, and the Graduate Colloquium Series. The Cambodia Studies Working Group is composed of CSEAS associates Kenton Clymer (history), Kheang Leang (foreign languages and literatures), Kheang Un (political science), Judy Ledgerwood (anthropology) and Trude Jacobsen (history). For conference details, see the CSEAS website or email CambodiaConf2012@niu.edu.



David Chandler

5. **Save the dates:** Thai folk dancing, Fulbright deadline and study abroad fair

- **Sept. 20:** Northeastern Thai folk dancing performed by Khon Kaen University students, 8 p.m., School of Music Recital Hall.
- **Sept. 21:** Deadline 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. 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.
- **Nov. 12–16:** Mark your calendar for International Education Week sponsored by the Division of International Programs.
- **Nov. 16:** CSEAS 50th Anniversary Fall Lecture: David Steinberg, Georgetown University professor of Asian Studies, will speak at the International Education Week Lunchtime Program at noon in the Sky Room, Holmes Student Center.

Discover SEA at NIU this year

It's all things Southeast Asia at NIU this year with two major conferences on Cambodia and Burma this fall, lectures, exhibits, films, and performances as the center celebrates its 50th anniversary. Calendar posters listing all of these special events are available at the Center or read about them all in [NIU Today](#).

6. International Burma Studies Conference set for Oct. 5–7



NIU music professor Gregory Beyer will premiere an original work for Karen bronze drums at the upcoming International Burma Studies Conference.

More than 100 papers have been submitted in a wide variety of fields, including anthropology, art history, environment, health, history, literature, linguistics, music, political science, popular culture, religions, and area studies to be presented at the Holmes Student Center at the [10th International Burma Studies Conference](#). Panels and papers will be devoted primarily to new research, including recent events in Burma. The conference will also feature cultural events, including the exhibit, *Music for the Divine: Musical instruments and Traditions of Burma*, curated by Center for Burma Studies Director and CSEAS associate Catherine Raymond, at the NIU Art Museum; the world premiere of *Five Pools*, a work for Karen bronze drums by NIU music professor Gregory Beyer; and the public screening **Oct. 5** of the 2011 film, *They Call It Myanmar: Lifting the Curtain*, with remarks by the film's director, Robert Lieberman. The conference is being presented by the Center for Burma Studies, 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 the NIU Center for Burma Studies at 815-753-0512.

7. Fall Southeast Asian Studies course list posted on CSEAS website

There's still time to register for Southeast Asia classes this fall. Look for the fall semester course list for Southeast Asian Studies posted on the [center website](#). It lists only those courses that can be used to fulfill the Southeast Asian Studies graduate concentration or undergraduate minor/contract major. Fall offerings include "Music of Southeast Asia" (MUHL 431/531) taught by CSEAS associate Jui-Ching Wang (School of Music) and an independent study course, "Specialized Readings in Burmese History" (HIST736J), taught by CSEAS Assistant Director Trude Jacobsen (history). Associate Eric Jones (history) is teaching an online course, "History of Burma" (HIST447), which will include three face-to-face meetings during fall semester at Waubensee Community College in Sugar Grove. Please note that ARTH 378/698C, "Indian and


Southeast Asian Art," is now ARTH 370/570. Any questions about these or other courses on the list, contact CSEAS at 815-753-1771.

8. Burnish your resume: Sign up for a Southeast Asian Studies minor

Adding a minor to an undergraduate degree is one way to pull a resume up to the top of the pile. In a global marketplace, an internationally focused minor can open even more doors. To learn about the center's Southeast Asian Studies minor program, stop by the center located in Pottenger House, 520 College View Court, and see outreach coordinator Julie Lamb. Email her at jlamb@niu.edu or call her at 815-753-1595.

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. This is the first conference at Ohio; previous conferences have been held at NIU and University of Wisconsin-Madison. The keynote speech 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 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 being sponsored by Ohio University Libraries, the OU Center for Southeast Asian Studies, the Contemporary History Institute, the Southeast Asian Student Association, and the Thai Student Association. For details, email Shane at shane@ohio.edu.

 **4th International Lao Studies Conference, April 19–21, 2013, 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

- **2nd International Conference on Political Science, Sociology and International Relations**, Sept. 17–18, Bali, Indonesia. For details, see [conference website](#).
- **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](#).
- **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, 2013, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Call for papers. **Abstracts due: Oct. 31**. For information, see [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.
- **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](#).

11. Area Southeast Asia cultural opportunities

- *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 General in Chicago offers free Balinese and Javanese dance and gamelan classes on weekends. For details, see consulate [website](#).
- [Friends of the Gamelan](#) is partnering with the [Old Town School of Folk Music](#) to offer an eight-week introductory course on central Javanese gamelan, beginning **Sept. 5**, at the school located at 4544 N. Lincoln Ave, Chicago. The class will meet 8 to 10 p.m. Wednesdays and will be taught by Andrew Mall and Nathaniel Braddock. Enrollment limited; registration required. See the Old Town School [website](#). Friends of the Gamelan will perform a concert of traditional and modern Javanese gamelan music at 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 Chicago 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.