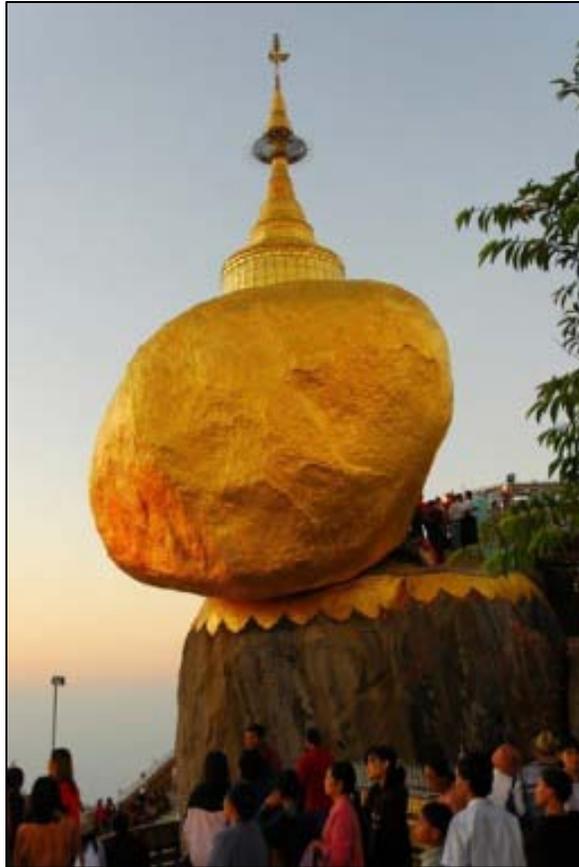


CSEAS Weekly Bulletin

Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Northern Illinois University • Sept. 6, 2010

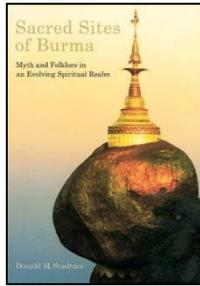


Wonder in the balance: The Golden Rock is one of Burma (Myanmar)'s most sacred sites that will be discussed by art historian Donald Stadtner Friday in the center's first lecture in its 2010–11 weekly lecture series. See details below.

Weekly lecture series to start Friday

1. **This week's center lecture:** Art historian Donald Stadtner on sacred sites of Burma
2. Third International Ramayana Conference set for Sept. 18–19
3. Seeking host families for Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program
4. Postcard from the field: Cambodia
5. Celebrating Malaysian independence
6. On the circuit: Kikue Hamayotsu
7. Save the date: Trickster tales of Southeast Asia
8. Money for study: Fellowships, scholarships, and more
9. Conferences and calls for papers
10. Ongoing area Southeast Asia cultural activities

1. This week's lecture: Art historian Donald Stadtner on sacred Burmese sites



The center's 2010–11 weekly lecture series will begin at noon Friday, **Sept. 10**, with a talk by art historian Donald Stadtner, author of the forthcoming *Sacred Sites of Burma: Myth and Folklore in an Evolving Spiritual Realm*, in Room 110, Campus Life Building. Formerly an associate professor at the University of Texas-Austin, Stadtner over the years has led numerous study groups to Burma for such institutions as the Los Angeles County Museum, the World Affairs Council, and the Smithsonian. "The four most sacred sites in Burma could scarcely be more different from one another," Stadtner says in the description of his talk. "One is a traditional stupa containing hair relics, the world-famous Shwedagon Pagoda, while the second is simply an enormous granite boulder balanced precariously on a cliff. The third is an enormous bronze Buddha cast at the time of the Buddha's visit to western Burma and later captured as imperial booty and worshipped in Upper Burma. The fourth is the less well-known Buddha's footprint at Shwesetaw. How do sacred sites come into existence and what makes for a successful *stupa* or Buddha image? The answers to these questions go right to the heart of religious belief and devotion." **Bring your lunch and feed your mind.**

2. Third International Ramayana Conference set for Sept. 18–19



The Third International Ramayana Conference, a two-day event focusing on the Asian epic, the Ramayana, is set for **Sept. 18–19** at the Holmes Student Center. Co-sponsored by the center, the University of Illinois Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, and the International Ramayana Institute of North America, the conference will include presentations on various topics and a teacher workshop. The conference theme is "Educational and Cultural Enhancement." Pre-registration ended Sept. 3, but limited walk-ins will be accepted. See the [conference website](#).

3. Seeking host families for Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program



Interested in learning about Southeast Asia from a Southeast Asian? Got an extra bedroom in the house? The center is actively looking for area families to act as hosts **Oct. 31–Nov. 11** for high school students and adult leaders from Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, and Vietnam participating in the center's fall session of the Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP). Orientation is **Oct. 25**. Students will be placed in pairs and adults may be placed as singles. For details, contact NIU host family coordinator Leslie Shive at 815-753-9546 (or e-mail her at lshive@niu.edu) for this and other host-family opportunities, including the spring SEAYLP session.

4. Postcards from the field: **Cambodia**



Diplomatic relations: NIU was well represented at a July 21 dinner in Phnom Penh with U.S. Ambassador Carol Rodley, second from left, who hosted the event at her official residence for those attending a symposium organized by the U.S. Embassy to commemorate 60 years of diplomatic relations between the United States and Cambodia. Among the guests with an NIU affiliation were, from right, NIU professors Kenton Clymer (history) and Judy Ledgerwood (anthropology), NIU anthropology graduate Kim Sedara, now a senior research fellow at the Cambodia Development Resource Institute, and Clymer's wife, Marlee. Clymer was one of two historians invited to speak at the symposium, along with fellow Cambodia specialist David Chandler. (Photo courtesy Kenton Clymer)



Telling their story: Anthropology Professor Judy Ledgerwood, right in white shirt, has lunch with a group of Cambodian villagers who had survived the Khmer Rouge years. The villagers had been brought to Phnom Penh by the Documentation Center of Cambodia to be present at the first verdict handed down by the Khmer Rouge tribunal on July 26.

5. Celebrating Malaysian independence



Some of this year's beginning Malay students give a thumbs up to Malaysian Independence Day, which they marked on Aug. 31 with a celebratory feast at CSEAS Director Jim Collins' home. From left are students BreAuna, Jory, Charles, Ryan, Ryan, and Trice. On the menu was chicken with eggplant in coconut milk, curried chickpeas, chicken curry, hot sambal with fish paste, and rice. Nineteen students were on hand, including all 11 students from beginning Malay, and students from the advanced Malay class and the History of the Malay Language seminar. (Photo by Malay FLTA Jocelyn Sim)

6. On the circuit: Kikue Hamayotsu

- Assistant political science professor and center associate Kikue Hamayotsu travels **Sept. 15** to Illinois State University in Bloomington to present a public lecture, "Political Islam in Muslim Southeast Asia," part of ISU's International Studies Seminar Series organized by the Office of International Studies and Programs.



7. **Save the date:** Trickster tales of Southeast Asia

- The trickster tales of Sri Thanonchai, or Xiang Miang, as he is called in Laos, are part of a widely shared cultural package—about a single and singular hero with different names and traits as he moves across the Mekong. This prototypical hero, in fact, crosses all national boundaries in Southeast Asia. The attempt to translate the humor in the tales into English—in text or art—depends ultimately on the intentions of the translator or artist and the receptivity of the audience. Professor and center associate John Hartmann will present "Translating Humor: Examples from Southeast Asian Trickster Tales" at noon **Oct. 20**, 110 Watson, part of the Foreign Languages and Literatures department's fall lunch lectures.



8. Money for study: Fellowships, scholarships and more

- 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. Ph.D. fellowships go up to eleven months for doctoral dissertation research. Senior fellowships also available to scholars who

already hold a Ph.D. The fellowship is open to U.S. citizens only. **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 American students to study in many countries, including Southeast Asia. Applications for the 2011–12 undergraduate scholarships and graduate student 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@iee.org or call 800-618-NSEP.

9. Conferences and calls for papers

- **Council on Thai Studies annual conference**, Oct. 29–30, University of Wisconsin-Madison. **Deadline for abstracts and panel proposals: Sept. 15.** Contact: Kathleen Gillogly at gillogly@uwp.edu.
- **Fifth Annual International Workshop and Expo on Sumatra Tsunami Disaster and Recovery**, Nov. 23–24, Banda Aceh, Indonesia. Organized by Tsunami and Disaster Mitigation Research Center, Syiah Kuala University, and others. Tsunami area and historic Aceh tours Nov. 25. **Deadline for abstracts: Sept. 15.** See [conference](#) website for details.
- **Power and Change in Malaysia and Singapore**, Dec 10–11, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia. Sponsored by the [Malaysia and Singapore Society of Australia](#). **Deadline for abstracts and panel proposals: Sept. 15.** E-mail to massa.colloquium@anu.edu.au. Some postgraduate registration fees will be waived on a competitive basis. Contact: Dr. Yasuko Kobayashi at massa.colloquium@anu.edu.au.
- **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 encouraged to submit abstracts. E-mail to abstracts@icird.org. Deadline: Oct. 30. See [conference](#) website for details.

10. Area Southeast Asia cultural opportunities

- Elsa Holden, a University of Illinois student who traveled recently to an elephant sanctuary in Thailand with the group Veterinarians without Borders, will give a presentation about the trip at 6:30 p.m. **Sept. 7** at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1915 N. First St., DeKalb. Salad supper; free will offering. Call 815-758-3203.
- The Indonesian Consulate in Chicago offers **free Balinese and Javanese dance and gamelan classes** on weekends. For details, see the consulate [website](#).
- The [Cambodian Association of Illinois](#) holds **free traditional Cambodian music and dance lessons** Sundays at the Cambodian American Heritage Museum and Killing Fields Memorial, 2831 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago. The music program

runs from 10 a.m. to noon; the dance program from 1 to 3 p.m. Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday and on weekends by appointment.

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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