Bridging cultures over burgers: Ed and Sue Richter of Sycamore hosted two of the first Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program students at NIU in November. Seen here at a local restaurant with the Richters are Fatin Amalina Syahirah binte Haji Salleh of Brunei, left, and Diamanta Vania Lavi of Singapore, right. Host families are now being sought for both SEAYLP and Philippine Youth Leadership Program participants in the spring. See details below. (SEAYLP file photo).

NIU Southeast Asia programs seek host families for spring

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1. Last chance to buy Southeast Asia Publications books: 50 percent off
   The center officially winds down its Southeast Asia Publications program on Friday, Jan. 15, with a 50 percent discount sale of all existing inventory of books and back copies of the center journal Crossroads (excluding shipping). This includes the center’s two newest monographs, published in 2009, *The Middle Mekong River Basin: Studies in Tai History and Culture*, edited by Constance M. Wilson, and *Contemporary Lao Studies: Research on Development, Language and Culture, and Traditional Medicine*, edited by Carol J. Compton, John F. Hartmann, and Vinya Sysamouth (in cooperation with the Center for Lao Studies, San Francisco), and the last issue of *Crossroads*, Vol. 19.2, a theme issue on Southeast Asian diasporas edited by Nathalie Huynh Chau Nguyen, author of *Vietnamese Voices: Gender and Cultural Identity in the Vietnamese Francophone Novel* (Southeast Asia Publications, 2003). See the SEAP page on the center website for titles and ordering information or contact the center at 815-753-1981. **Note: Prices on the website do not reflect the 50 percent discount.**

2. CSEAS wants you: Apply by Friday to work on Malay dictionary project
   The center is accepting applications through Friday, Jan. 15, for two or three undergraduate students to work this spring on the center’s Online Multimedia Learner’s Dictionary of Malay project. Responsibilities will include tasks related to entering data, including checking data entered by others. English proficiency is required. Other qualifications include willingness to work flexible hours, strong communication and organizational skills, training in Southeast Asian studies, and familiarity with the Malaya and/or Indonesian languages. E-mail resume and cover letter describing qualifications to nschunem@niu.edu or fax to 815-753-1776.
3. Malaysia update: Building ties to engineers, recruiting for dictionary project
Over winter break in December, center director Jim Collins visited two universities in Malaysia to discuss new collaboration initiatives and NIU’s online multimedia Malay dictionary project. At the Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP), a nationally funded Malaysian university focused on engineering and technology, Collins met with Dr. Daing Nasir Daing Ibrahim, vice-chancellor of the university, and several of his administrative staff. UMP has recently built a new 700-hectare campus near Pekan, the royal capital of Pahang. Collins and Daing Nasir discussed organizing a study tour to NIU by 15 UMP undergraduate students in the fall and made plans for a joint NIU-UMP engineering workshop to facilitate potential online partnerships between NIU and UMP undergrads. UMP’s Modern Language Centre is also looking into setting up an intensive Malay language program for NIU students, Collins said.

Collins met later in the month with Dr. Shamsul Amri Baharuddin, director of the Institute of Ethnic Studies (KITA) at Universiti Malaysia Kebangsaan Malaysia in Kajang, Malaysia. Shamsul agreed in principle to co-sponsor “A One Malaysia Dictionary of Malay: Towards Inclusivity,” a workshop to be held in May in Malaysia to introduce the center’s online multimedia Malay dictionary project to Malaysian lexicographers, translators, and minority NGOs. In addition to exploring how to expand language knowledge by incorporating social knowledge, the workshop will also provide an opportunity to train assistants to collect audio and visual materials for the U.S. Department of Education-funded project.

4. Linking more NIU students to Indonesia
While in Southeast Asia in December, center director Jim Collins met with Drs. Hermansyah and Ysriadi, senior faculty members of Sekolah Tinggi Agama Islam Negeri (STAIN) in Pontianak, Indonesia, to discuss linking NIU students to that
institutions. The meeting was aimed at setting the stage for NIU students who plan to conduct research on the languages and societies of western Borneo, a region of social and language diversity, recently marked by interethnic violence.

5. **Susan Russell to speak on Mindanao, violence, and the media Jan. 28**

Deciphering the media’s coverage of violence, war, and peace in the southern Philippines will be the subject of a Jan. 28 special lecture by NIU anthropologist and center associate Susan Russell from 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. in Room 305 of the Holmes Student Center. Russell and International Training Office director and center associate Lina Ong have spent the past six years working with the Philippine Youth Leadership Program to promote conflict resolution and peace building among young people in the region. The lecture is co-sponsored by CSEAS, NIU, and the DeKalb Interfaith Network for Peace and Justice.

6. **Kheang Un to speak in New York on global financial crisis and Cambodia**

Assistant center director and assistant political science professor Kheang Un will give a presentation on the impact of the global financial crisis on Cambodian politics and its economy on Jan. 27 at the Weatherhead East Asian Institute at Columbia University in New York. The lecture is part of a series, co-sponsored by Columbia’s Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Study Center, focusing on responses from East and Southeast Asia to the current economic situation. For details, see [www.columbia.edu/weai](http://www.columbia.edu/weai).

7. **John Hartmann donates 20 Tai Zhuang books to Founders Library**

Language professor John Hartmann donated to Founders Library this week a set of books and an annotated list on the Tai Zhuang and Tai Lue minorities of Guangxi and Yunnan. Hartmann purchased the books, some out of print, during his fieldwork in China. Back at NIU, visiting Zhuang scholar Wu Xiaoyi of China’s Guangxi University took an interest in creating a detailed list of the books. “[She] volunteered her time and energy to prepare the list in Chinese and Pinyin. She added some annotations to provide an indication of the content,” Hartmann said. The Tai Zhuang are the largest minority ethnic group in China, about seventeen million, Hartmann noted.

8. **Applications for FLAS, Neher fellowships due Feb. 1**

Graduate and undergraduate students are invited to submit applications to the center by Feb. 1 for the 2010–11 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships. Pending funding, the grants will be awarded for the fall 2010 and spring 2011 semesters. FLAS
grants provide for Southeast Asian language study at NIU. Applications for the 2010–11 Neher Graduate Fellowship for the Study of Southeast Asia are also due **Feb. 1**. Applicants must be a graduate student in good standing who demonstrates a commitment to a career involving Southeast Asian studies. Application and fellowship guidelines for both FLAS and Neher fellowships are available at the [center website](#) under Student Funding.

9. **International Ramayana Conference paper proposals extended to Feb. 15**

Presentation proposals are due **Feb. 15** for the Third International Ramayana Conference set for Sept. 17–19, 2010 at NIU’s Naperville campus. The two-day event, co-sponsored by the center and the University of Illinois Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies and the International Ramayana Institute of North America, will include a Ramayana-based teacher workshop. For details, see the [conference website](#).

10. **Faculty, student Thai travel grant applications due March 5**

Center faculty associates and NIU students are invited to apply for travel grants for research in Thailand through the Thai Teaching and Research Endowment Fund. Individual faculty travel awards are $1,000 and must be applied to research-related travel incurred by June 15, 2011. Applications should be submitted to center office manager Nancy Schuneman by **March 5**. Travel awards for individual students are $1,500 for graduate students and $1,000 for undergraduates. Applications should be submitted to Chalermsee Olson at the NIU Library by **March 5**. For details, see the [center website](#).

11. **Seeking host families for April and May programs**

NIU is looking for area families to act as hosts in April and May for participants in two NIU programs bringing in high school students and adult leaders from Burma, Indonesia, Laos, the Philippines, and Thailand. Home stays for the Southeast Asia Youth Fellowship Program (SEAYLP) are scheduled for April 11–22; home stays for the Philippine Youth Leadership Program (PYLP) are set for May 2–15. Students will be placed in pairs and adults may be placed as singles. For details, contact coordinator Leslie Shive at 815-753-9546 or e-mail lshive@niu.edu.

12. **Apply this spring to study abroad in Southeast Asia this year through NIU**

- **History and Culture of Malaysia, May 9–28, Kuala Lumpur:** Three-week program beginning in Kuala Lumpur led by assistant history professor Eric Jones. Students will visit nature reserves (orangutans and proboscis monkeys), historical sites, religious centers, and rural areas throughout Malaysia and Brunei, where they will interact with the region’s ethnically and religiously diverse populations. Three credit hours. Open to graduate and undergraduate students. **Application deadline: March 1.** Contact the NIU Study Abroad Office, 417 Williston Hall; call 815-753-0304; or e-mail niuabroad@niu.edu.
Cambodia Field School, July 15–Aug. 15, Phnom Penh: Four-week ethnographic field school led by anthropology professor Judy Ledgerwood. Students will study Cambodian culture, religion, and various field-study methods, including surveys, interviews, and participant observation. A collaborative project with the Royal University of Fine Arts in Phnom Penh. Three or six credit hours. Open to graduate or advanced undergraduate students. Application deadline: April 1. Contact the Study Abroad Office, 417 Williston Hall; call 815-753-0304; or e-mail niuabroad@niu.edu.

13. Proposals due this week for March 27 grad student conference at NIU
The NIU Graduate Student Research Association is accepting proposals until Jan. 15 for its March 27 Conference on Human Development, Education, and Learning at the Holmes Student Center. The conference goal is to provide a venue for graduate students in diverse disciplines to share research and to promote interdisciplinary collaboration. The program will include presentations in addition to technology and grant-writing workshops led by NIU faculty, staff, and graduate students. Proposal submission guidelines are available online; send to Kristopher Kopp at kkopp@niu.edu.

Bring your lunch and listen to Nalika Diyadawagamage present “Re-building the Pearl of the Indian Ocean - Sri Lanka” at the first spring lecture in the Division of International Programs lunchtime lecture series from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 4, in Room 300, Faraday West. For a complete list of spring speakers, see the division website.

15. Apply for Advanced Filipino Abroad Program by Feb. 8
Applications are due Feb. 8 for intermediate Tagalog students (juniors, seniors, or graduate students) interested in traveling to the Philippines this summer for an intensive eight weeks of language training at De La Salle University at Dasmariñas. The U.S. Department of Education-funded project is supported by the SEA Consortium Centers (including CSEAS) and the Consortium for the Advancement of Filipino. Grants covering transportation and partial program costs are available. For details, see the program website or contact director Teresita Ramos at teresita@hawaii.edu.

16. Advanced Indonesian abroad program applications due Feb. 11
Applications for priority consideration for the 2010 Advanced Indonesian Abroad (COTIM) program set for June 14 to Aug. 14 at the Universitas Kristen Satya Wacana in Salatiga, Indonesia are due Feb. 11. Letters of recommendation are due Feb. 25. The nine-week intensive Indonesian language program is Fulbright-funded and coordinated through the Southeast Asian Studies Program at Ohio University. NIU is a participating COTIM institution. For details and application materials, see the COTIM website or contact Anthony Medrano at 740-593-1841 or medrano@ohio.edu.
17. Feb. 15 deadline to apply for new Indonesian exchange program
The deadline to apply for the Institute of International Education’s Freeman Indonesia Nonprofit Internship Program (FINIP), a new nine-week exchange program set for June 15 to Aug. 17, is Feb. 15. The institute seeks to pair ten Indonesian students pursuing U.S. degrees with ten U.S. undergraduates and arrange internships for them to work together in an Indonesian nonprofit organization. The program will run in three cities: Jakarta, Bandung and Yogyakarta. All program-related costs will be covered. American and Indonesian sophomores and juniors enrolled in U.S. institutions are encouraged to apply online. For details, e-mail finip@iie.org, call 212-984-5542.

18. State Department to hold fall conference on U.S. experience in Southeast Asia
The U.S. State Department’s Office of the Historian is seeking papers and presenters for its upcoming conference on American policy and war in Southeast Asia: 1946–1975 set for Sept. 29–30 at the department’s George C. Marshall Conference Center in Washington, D.C. Paper and panel proposals should be sent by March 1 to Dr. John M. Carland, Program Committee Chair. E-mail vietnamconference@state.gov or send fax to 202-663-1289. For details, see the conference website.

19. Call for papers
- Third International Conference on Lao Studies, July 14–16, Khon Kaen University, Khon Kaen, Thailand. Presented by the Center for Research on Plurality in the Mekong Region, Khon Kaen University, and the Center for Lao Studies, San Francisco. Abstracts due: Jan. 31. For details, see the Center for Lao Studies website. Optional Lao study tour program is also planned.

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 have your name removed. Thank you.