Coming to NIU: Achakorn Wongpreedee, a lecturer teaching at National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA) in Thailand, arrives on campus Feb. 24. See page 2.

Thai scholar to begin three-month stint at NIU

1. This week’s center lecture: NIU asst. political science professor Kikue Hamayotsu on Islam and politics in Malaysia
2. Learn the lingua: Apply for FLAS fellowships by Feb. 15
3. Papers for SEA Club conference due Feb. 19
4. Visiting Thai scholar to begin three-month stay at NIU
5. International Ramayana Conference proposal deadline extended to April 30
6. See the world: Student Fulbright workshop set for March 31
7. Seeking host families for Southeast Asia youth leadership programs
8. Apply this spring to study abroad in Southeast Asia this year through NIU
9. Faculty, student Thai travel grant applications due March 5
10. This week the deadline to apply for full SEASSI summer scholarships
11. Overseas language, exchange, and area studies programs
12. Calls for papers
13. Area Southeast Asia cultural events
1. This week’s center lecture: Kikue Hamayotsu, NIU asst. political science professor

Assistant political science professor and center associate Kikue Hamayotsu will present “Crisis of Identity in PAS and Beyond: Islam and Politics in post-March 8 Malaysia” at this week’s center lecture series at noon Friday, Feb. 19, in Room 110, Campus Life Building. Hamayotsu will incorporate findings from her recent fieldwork in Kuala Lumpur to discuss broader issues of religion, politics, and inter-ethnic relations in the context of tense electoral competition after the ascendency of the multi-ethnic opposition coalition, Pakatan Rakyat. For a Thai lunch, call 815-753-1771 or e-mail cseas@niu.edu by noon Thursday. Lunches are $4 for students, $5 for others. For a list of upcoming spring speakers, see the center website.

2. Learn the lingua: Apply for FLAS fellowships by Feb. 15

Monday, Feb. 15, is the final deadline to apply for the 2010–11 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships. The federally funded fellowships assist students in becoming proficient in one of the six Southeast Asia languages offered at NIU: Burmese, Indonesian, Khmer, Malay, Tagalog, and Thai. They are open to undergraduate (at only intermediate or advanced levels) and graduate students (at all levels). CSEAS Director Jim Collins strongly encourages interested students to apply for the grants, which will be awarded for the 2010–11 academic year pending funding. “These fellowships not only provide tuition waivers and substantial stipends, but they also are a valuable asset in a student’s CV,” he said. Application guidelines are available at the center website under Student Funding.

3. Papers for SEA Club conference papers due Feb. 19

Friday, Feb. 19, is the deadline for submitting papers for the Southeast Asia Club’s March 20 student conference, which will explore power dynamics in Southeast Asia from the perspective of gender roles, sex, and violence. The club is accepting papers from graduates and undergraduates on both the conference focus and other Southeast Asia topics. There is a $100 prize for best undergraduate paper and a $250 award for best graduate paper. E-mail contact name and address, area of study (region and discipline), paper title, and 250-word abstract to Matthew Jagel at Reebok74@comcast.net. Call 630-709-3999 or e-mail seaclubniu@yahoo.com for details. The conference will be preceded by the club’s annual Southeast Asia culture night on Friday, March 19. Barbara Watson Andaya, author of The Flaming Womb: Repositioning Women in Early Modern Southeast Asia (University of Hawaii Press, 2008), will be the conference keynote speaker.

4. Visiting Thai scholar to begin three-month stay at NIU

Professor Achakorn Wongpreedee, a lecturer teaching at National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA) in Thailand, will arrive in DeKalb Wednesday, Feb. 24, for a three-month stay at NIU. Wongpreedee, who was selected by the NIU Thai Studies committee to receive the Visiting Thai Scholar Award made possible by support
from the Royal Thai government, teaches graduate students majoring in local government and politics at NIDA’s Graduate School of Public Administration. His research interest is decentralization and local government in Thailand. While at NIU, Wongpreedee will meet with political science graduate students to discuss his research on decentralization, lead a discussion in public administration professor and center associate Kurt Thurmaeier’s class, and give a presentation March 26 at the center’s weekly lecture series.

5. International Ramayana Conference proposal deadline extended to April 30
The deadline for presentation proposals has been extended to April 30, for the Third International Ramayana Conference set for Sept. 17–19, 2010 at NIU’s Naperville campus. The two-day event, which is 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 workshop for teachers. For details, see the center website under Conferences.

6. See the world: Student Fulbright workshop set for March 31
Finishing your bachelor’s degree? Want to teach English in Indonesia? How about enrolling in a master’s degree program in Malaysia? Do you need to conduct your dissertation research, or just a post-master’s research project, in Cambodia or the Philippines? These are all doors that can be opened through the U.S. State Department’s Student Fulbright Program. Coordinated in the United States by the Institute of International Education (IIE), this competitive fellowship program allows students to teach English abroad for a year or to conduct dissertation research at the postgraduate level. Recent NIU Fulbrighters to Southeast Asia include Michael Hawkins, who went to the Philippines in 2007–08 and now teaches history at Grand Valley State University in Michigan, and Paul Chambers, who went to Thailand from 2001–02 and is now a senior research affiliate at Payap University in Chiang Mai. Not only do Fulbright students return to the U.S. with a significant understanding of the people and culture of their host country, says Associate Provost for International Programs Deborah Pierce, they have access to U.S. embassy events, programs, and contacts that can be “life-changing.” Interested students can learn more at 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 31, at a student Fulbright workshop in the Heritage Room at the Holmes Student Center. Featured speakers will be Lauren Hansen, current Fulbrighter in Germany, and IIE representative Megan Spillman. There will be a faculty workshop the following day from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the Heritage Room.
7. Seeking host families for Southeast Asia youth leadership programs
If you’re interested in learning about Southeast Asia from a Southeast Asian, and you’ve got an extra bedroom in the house, consider being a host family. NIU is looking for area families to act as hosts in April for participants in a program bringing in high school students and adult leaders from Burma, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand. Home stays for the center’s Southeast Asia Youth Fellowship Program (SEAYLP) are scheduled for April 11–22. Students will be placed in pairs and adults may be placed as singles. Contact coordinator Leslie Shive at 815-753-9546 (e-mail lshive@niu.edu) or see the SEAYLP website for host family application forms and information.

8. 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, 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. The field school is 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.

9. 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 also by March 5. For details, see the center website under News & Events.
11. This week the deadline to apply for full SEASSI scholarships
For those planning to attend the Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute (SEASSI) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison this summer, Friday, Feb. 19, is the deadline for applying for full scholarships (tuition and stipend). The summer session is June 14–Aug. 6. Graduate and undergraduate students are invited to apply for full and partial scholarships to attend the intensive eight-week Southeast Asia language program offering Burmese, Filipino, Hmong, Indonesian, Javanese, Khmer, Lao, Thai, and Vietnamese. (NIU language professor and center associate Saw Tun will be teaching the Burmese section). Partial tuition scholarships are also available; that deadline is April 16. Students may apply online at the program website. For details, e-mail seassi@intl-institute.wisc.edu or call 608-263-1755.

12. Overseas language, exchange, and area studies programs
Students interested in taking language or area studies abroad through non-NIU programs are advised to work through NIU’s Study Abroad Office, 417 Williston Hall. By doing so, students can receive NIU credit and possibly have NIU financial aid apply, according to Associate Provost for International Programs Deborah Pierce. The Study Abroad Office also protects student interests with regard to liability and insurance.

- **Freeman Indonesia Nonprofit Internship Program (FINIP), June 15–Aug. 17:** New nine-week exchange program sponsored by Institute of International Education in three cities: Jakarta, Bandung and Yogyakarta. Program pairs 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. **Deadline: Feb. 15.** To apply, call the NIU Study Abroad Office at 815-753-0304 or e-mail niuabroad@niu.edu. For program details, e-mail finip@iie.org or call 212-984-5542.

- **Advanced Study of Khmer, June 14–Aug. 6:** Open to third-year Khmer students for eight weeks of intensive language training, cultural education, and one-week home stays in rural Cambodia. Administered by the Khmer Language Program at the University of Hawaii-Manoa. **Deadline: Feb. 26.** To apply, call the NIU Study Abroad Office at 815-753-0304 or e-mail niuabroad@niu.edu. For program details, e-mail sak@hawaii.edu or call 808-956-8070.

- **U.S. Indonesia Society Summer Language Program in Indonesia, June 4–Aug. 13:** Ten-week intensive language study of Bahasa Indonesian. Students live with host families and participate in cultural workshops, such as cooking, martial arts, and gamelan. **Deadline: March 31.** To apply, call the NIU Study Abroad Office at 815-753-0304 or e-mail niuabroad@niu.edu. For details, see USINDO website.
13. Calls for papers

- U.S. State Department Office of Historian Conference on American Policy and War in Southeast Asia: 1946–75, Sept. 29–30, Washington, D.C. Conference to be held at department’s George C. Marshall Conference Center. **Proposals due: March 1.** Send to Dr. John M. Carland, Program Committee Chair. E-mail vietnamconference@state.gov or fax to 202-663-1289. For details, see conference website.

- Second Cambodian Studies Forum, May 22, Ohio University Center for Southeast Asian Studies. Organized by graduate students at OU and its Southeast Asian Studies Program, the forum is an informal organization of scholars interested in all aspects of Cambodian Studies. Papers welcome on all topics and in all fields. **Abstracts due: March 1.** For details, contact Huong Nguyen at cambodianstudies@gmail.com or Anthony Medrano at medrano@ohio.edu or 740-593-1841.

14. Area Southeast Asia cultural events

- The Chicago-based Friends of the Gamelan will present a spring concert of traditional and contemporary Javanese gamelan music, led by Joko Sutrisno, artistic director of the Sumunar Gamelan Ensemble of Minneapolis, at 6 p.m. Sunday, **April 25**, at the Hyde Park Union Church, 5600 S. Woodlawn, Chicago. Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for students. For details, e-mail info@chicagogamelan.org or see the group’s website.

- 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 History 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. For details, call Anneth Houy at 773-878-7090. 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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