Postcard from the field: With camera in hand while conducting field research in Thailand recently, NIU language professor and center associate John Hartmann captured this portrait of a Buddhist monk. Hartmann was in the Nakorn Sawan region researching place names.

Spotlight on Thailand: Lecture, grants, and Thai food

Note: The weekly bulletin will resume on March 15 after spring break

1. This week’s center lecture: Rattana Lao, Ph.D. candidate, Columbia University, on globalization, education, and Thai development
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1. This week’s center lecture: Rattana Lao, Ph.D. candidate, Columbia University
Rattana Lao, a Ph.D. candidate in comparative and international educational development at Columbia University, will speak about globalization, higher education, and Thailand development at this week’s center lecture at noon Friday, March 5, in Room 110, Campus Life Building. Lao’s lecture, which is co-sponsored by the NIU Thai Association and the Division of Public Administration, will focus on educational reform in Thailand since passage of the country’s National Education Act in 1999. NIU-TA invites interested students to have dinner with Lao later that evening at the Thai Pavilion restaurant, 131 E. Lincoln Highway (e-mail NIU-TA President Dan Pojar at dpoj2@hotmail.com for information). For a Thai lunch at the noon lecture, call 815-753-1771 or e-mail cseas@niu.edu by noon Thursday. Lunches are $4 for students, $5 for others. For upcoming center speakers, see the center website.

2. Faculty, student Thai travel, language award applications due this week
The deadline for center faculty associates and NIU students to apply for travel grants for research in Thailand through the Thai Teaching and Research Endowment Fund is this Friday, March 5. Individual faculty travel awards are $1,000 and must be applied to research-related travel incurred by June 15, 2011; applications should be sent to center office manager Nancy Schuneman. Travel awards for individual students are $1,500 for graduate students and $1,000 for undergraduates, and should be submitted to Chalermsee Olson at the NIU Library. Olson is also accepting applications by March 5 from undergraduates applying for advanced Thai language study grants of $500 per semester for the 2010–11 academic year. For details on both travel and language awards, see the center website under News & Events.

3. Deadlines to study abroad in SEA: March 15 for Malaysia, April 1 for Cambodia
The deadlines for traveling to Malaysia with assistant history professor Eric Jones and to Cambodia with anthropology professor Judy Ledgerwood are coming up: March 15 (extended from March 1) for the Malaysia program and April 1 for the Cambodia field school. Both are NIU Study Abroad courses offering credit for both graduate and undergraduate students. For information and applications, contact the NIU Study Abroad Office, 417 Williston Hall; call 815-753-0304; or e-mail niuabroad@niu.edu.
History and Culture of Malaysia and Borneo, 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. Three credit hours. Open to graduate and undergraduate students. For a video about the program, including images from the 2007 trip, see Jones’s video on YouTube. Deadline to apply: March 15.

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. Deadline to apply: April 1.

4. 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 April 11–22 for twenty-five high school
students and five adult leaders from Burma, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand participating in the Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP). Students will be placed in pairs and adults may be placed as singles. Contact NIU host family coordinator Leslie Shive at 815-753-9546 (e-mail lshive@niu.edu) or see the SEAYLP website for host family application forms and information.

5. **Deadline extended for International Ramayana Conference papers**

The deadline for presentation proposals has been extended to **April 30** for the Third International Ramayana Conference, which is scheduled for Sept. 17–19 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 teacher workshop. For details, see the [center website](#) under Conferences.

6. **Thai food on the menu at Ellington’s this week**

Spicy Thai shrimp and Thai-style vegetable curry are among the featured dishes on a three-course Thai menu that will be cooked and served Tuesday, **March 2**, by the students of FCNS 320 at Ellington’s, the student-run restaurant at the Holmes Student Center. Lunch is $9 per person. For the full Thai menu and to make reservations, see the [Bangkok Palace](#) page on the Ellington’s website.

7. **Collins, Un travel to Texas State for third Southeast Asian studies workshop**

Center director Jim Collins and assistant political science professor Kheang Un will be at Texas State University at San Marcos on Friday, **March 5**, to conduct the third of four workshops organized by CSEAS for faculty members at Texas State who are developing an undergraduate certificate in Southeast Asian studies. Un will talk about teaching political science to undergraduates and Collins will discuss the center’s Malay dictionary project and Southeast Asian studies.

8. **Movie night: Free showing of New Year Baby March 15**

For 25 years, Cambodian-American Socheata Poeuv never knew that her parents had survived the Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia and that she had been born in a Thai refugee camp just before her parents fled to begin a new life in the United States. Soon after her parents shared the family secret over a Christmas holiday, Socheata began work on a documentary tracing her parents’ and extended family’s traumatic experience in Cambodia. Her film, *New Year Baby*, was released in 2007 to international praise. It will be shown at 9 p.m. Monday, **March 15**, at 228 DuSable Hall. NIU’s chapter of STAND, a national student-led anti-genocide coalition, will show *New Year Baby* at 9 p.m. Monday, **March 15**, at 228 DuSable Hall. Admission is free.
9. 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? The U.S. State Department’s Student Fulbright Program, which is coordinated by the Institute of International Education (IIE), allows students to teach English abroad for a year or to conduct postgraduate dissertation research. 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 at 2 p.m. the Heritage Room.

10. PYLP program looking for host families
NIU’s International Training Office is looking for area families to act as hosts in May for twenty-two Muslim and non-Muslim youth and four adult leaders from the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao who are coming to NIU in April for six weeks to participate in the seventh Philippine Youth Leadership Program (PYLP). The program runs April 17–May 22; the home-stay segment is May 2–15. Students will be placed in pairs and adults may be placed as singles. For details, contact coordinator (and past host) Leslie Shive at 815-753-9546 or e-mail lshive@niu.edu, or see the PYLP website for host family application forms and information.

11. Apply for summer language study at SEASSI by April 16
Graduate and undergraduate students are invited to apply by April 16 for the June 14–Aug. 6 Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute (SEASSI) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Partial tuition scholarships are available for the intensive eight-week Southeast Asia language program offering Burmese, Filipino, Hmong, Indonesian,
Javanese, Khmer, Lao, Thai, and Vietnamese. 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 program
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, in addition to receiving liability and insurance protections.

- **USINDO 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. **Application deadline: March 31.** To apply, call the NIU Study Abroad Office at 815-753-0304 or e-mail niuabroad@niu.edu. For program details, see the U.S.-Indonesia Society website.

13. Teaching opportunity in Vietnam
**American Pacific University**, a start-up American campus in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, is looking for full- and part-time university instructors with experience teaching at the undergraduate level in a broad range of disciplines, including arts and humanities, sciences, and social sciences. All instruction at the school, which is affiliated with Central Washington University, is in English. Applicants must have English as their first language and applicants with master’s or Ph.D. degrees from American universities are preferred. To apply, send a recent CV and cover letter to apply@apu.edu.vn. For details, contact Richard Mack at Richardm@apu.edu.vn.

14. 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.** Send proposals by March 1 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.

15. 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 nscunem@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.*