CLAS act: Surrounded by folders, Post-It notes, and a two-screen computer, center office manager Nancy Schuneman is in her element in her office at the center.

CSEAS’s Nancy Schuneman wins CLAS award

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1. This week’s lecture: Amy Singer, cultural sociologist, Knox College

Cultural sociologist Amy Singer, assistant professor of anthropology-sociology at Knox College, will present “Organic, Artisanal, Fancy, Salty: The Romance of Balinese Foods in American Markets,” at noon Friday, April 2, at the center’s weekly lecture series in Room 110, Campus Life Building. Singer’s latest research focuses on Balinese sea salt in connection with cultural commodification, globalization, and consumption. 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.

2. CSEAS’s Nancy Schuneman wins golden anniversary award

CSEAS office manager Nancy Schuneman recently picked up the center phone during a typically busy day to hear College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Dean Christopher McCord on the other end of line. “I’m calling to give you good news!” he said and then informed her that she will be one of ten people to receive the college’s Golden Anniversary Faculty/Staff Award in a ceremony at 2 p.m. April 16 in Altgeld Hall. Honorees were nominated by their peers and chosen on the basic of their contributions to the development, growth, and stature of the college during the past fifty years. Schuneman is the only non-faculty recipient among the ten honorees. “The Golden Anniversary Faculty/Staff Awards recognize individuals who provided outstanding leadership and service to the college—in teaching, research, service, administration, program development, and expansion,” McCord said in a statement. Schuneman, who often has been described as the “heart and soul” of the center, has been office manager since 1987, has served five different directors, and is well-known (and appreciated) for her knack at navigating university bureaucracy with disarming tact and humor. Having just wrapped up submitting the center’s Title VI grant proposal due last week, Schuneman will be taking a well-deserved vacation before coming back to work the day of the awards ceremony. Center director Jim Collins joins the center council and staff in congratulating her on the award. (For a brief profile of Schuneman and other award recipients, see the college’s anniversary website).

3. Ledgerwood to discuss Cambodia genocide trial March 31

Anthropology chair and center associate Judy Ledgerwood will present “The Khmer Rouge Tribunal: Lessons from the Trial of Duch” at noon Wednesday, March 31, in Room 104 of the Stevens Building. Ledgerwood recently won a $6,500 NIU Research and Artistry Grant to go toward her completion of a 50-year ethnographic study of a Cambodian village begun by Ledgerwood’s late mentor, anthropologist May Ebihara. Ledgerwood will travel to Cambodia in June and plans to write a book about the project when her research is finished.
4. Summer FLAS fellowship deadline coming up April 9
Each year the center selects qualified students for summer Foreign Language and Area Studies fellowships (FLAS) funded by the U.S. Department of Education Title VI program. These fellowships, available to both graduate and undergraduate students, provide for the study of Southeast Asian languages at any educational institution, including those in Southeast Asia, with top priority given to students planning to study a language in a Southeast Asian country. **Application deadline: April 9.** For applications and details, go to the center [website](#).

5. NIU grad student receives Library of Congress grant for Southeast Asia research
Anthropology graduate student Brett McCabe was notified March 15 that he was selected as a 2010 recipient of the Florence Tan Moeson Fellowship award, a grant award given by the Asian Division at the Library of Congress for individuals to conduct research on East, Southeast, and/or South Asia using the collections of the library in Washington, D.C. The grant award will enable McCabe to pursue independent research in the Asian Division on his chosen topic, “The Changing Role of the Jawi Script in Malaysia,” for a period of six days. “I am honored to be a recipient of this prestigious award and look forward to using the Library of Congress’ collection to contribute to my M.A. thesis research,” McCabe said.

6. Apply for summer ethnographic field school in Cambodia by April 1
April 1 is the deadline to sign up for anthropology professor Judy Ledgerwood’s July 15–Aug. 15 [ethnographic field school](#) in Cambodia. 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, the program is an NIU Study Abroad course offering three or six hours of credit for 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](mailto:niuabroad@niu.edu).
7. Thai travel grants awarded to nine students, one faculty member
The Thai Studies Committee has announced that two undergraduate students, seven graduate students, and a faculty member have been awarded travel grants for research on Thailand through the Thai Teaching and Research Endowment Fund. Undergraduates receiving the awards were Elisabeth Wright (anthropology major, Southeast Asian Studies minor) and Alyssa DeLuca (a contract Southeast Asian Studies major). Graduate students receiving grants were Coral Carlson (history); Piyathida Sereebeenjapol (instructional technology); and Yanyong Innanchai, Tatchalerm Sudhipongpracha, Coral Carlson, Shawn McCafferty, Scott Ladeur, and Aaron Johnson (all political science). Associate anthropology professor and center associate Andrea Molnar received a $1,000 award for research-related travel in Thailand. The Thai Studies Committee is chaired by associate political science professor and center associate Danny Unger; members include center associates Ann Wright-Parsons (anthropology), Chalermsee Olson (Founders Library), and John Hartmann and Grant Olson (both foreign languages and literatures).

8. Center seeking a few more SEAYLP host families
The center still needs a few more area families to act as hosts April 11–22 for six pairs of high school students and one adult leader participating in the center’s upcoming Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP). This group of participants is from Burma, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand. Contact NIU host family coordinator (and past host) Leslie Shive at 815-753-9546 (e-mail lshive@niu.edu) or see the SEAYLP website for host family application forms and information.

9. Winning papers chosen at SEA Club conference
Graduate student Matthew Jagel, left, and undergraduate Robert Kollas, right, won the graduate and undergraduate awards for papers they presented March 20 at the Southeast Asia Club annual student conference held in NIU’s Altgeld Hall. Jagel presented “Son Ngoc Thanh, Norodom Sihanouk, and the Formation of Khmer Nationalism, 1945–1955” and Kollas presented “Terrorism in the Philippines: Causes, History, and Solutions.” The two are seen here with keynote speaker Barbara Watson Andaya, center, flanked by club member Jessica Marchetti, left, and club president Julie Edmunds.
10. Deadline extended, location changed for Ramayana conference
The deadline for presentation proposals has been extended to April 30 for the Third International Ramayana Conference, which is now scheduled for Sept. 18–19 at NIU’s DeKalb 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 conference website.

11. Alexander Hinton to be spring anthropology colloquium speaker
Alexander Hinton, associate professor of anthropology at Rutgers University and director of the Rutgers Center for the Study of Genocide and Human Rights, will be the speaker for the spring NIU anthropology colloquium. He will present “The Paradox of Perpetration” at 7 p.m. April 22 in Room 176 in DuSable Hall, and “Trials, Tribulations, and Transitional Justice” at 11 a.m. April 23 in Room 206 of the Stevens Building. Hinton, the author of Why Did They Kill? Cambodia in the Shadow of Genocide (University of California Press, 2004), was a recent speaker in the Voices on Genocide Prevention series at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

12. PYLP program looking for three more host families
NIU’s International Training Office is looking for three area families to act as hosts for two weeks in May for Muslim and non-Muslim youth and 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 Leslie Shive at 815-753-9546 or e-mail lshive@niu.edu, or see the PYLP website for host family application forms and information.

13. 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. Interested students can learn more at 2 p.m. 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 **April 1** from 2 to 3:30 in the Heritage Room.

**14. Save the dates: Culture nights, concerts and more**

- **April 11**: The NIU Thai Association will present Thai Culture Night at 5:30 p.m. in the Wirtz Hall auditorium on campus. To celebrate the start of the Thai Songkran festival, the event will feature traditional music and dance performances from the Thai Cultural Center in Chicago and by NIU students, a kick boxing exhibition, a cooking demonstration, and an exhibit about Songkran. A free Thai dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m. Thai Consul General Narong Sasitorn will make opening remarks. For details, contact event coordinator Pinitbhand Paribatra at paribatra@gmail.com.

- **April 11**: Music from Southeast Asia will be part of this spring’s NIU School of Music’s World Music Concert, set for 3 p.m. in Boutell Memorial Concert Hall. The free concert will feature music and dance from China, India, Indonesia, Ireland, pre-Columbian Mexico, the Middle East, Thailand, and Vietnam. Guest artists from the U.S. and overseas will perform in addition to local artists. Assistant music professor and center associate Jui-Ching Wang will direct the NIU Gamelan Ensemble, which will perform a new composition by Patrick Liddell. Liddell is coming to NIU to rehearse with the ensemble prior to the concert with support from the center, which is co-sponsoring the concert with the School of Music, the DeKalb Public Library, and the Network of Nations. The concert will be streamed live on the Web on the School of Music [website](#).

- **April 16**: The NIU Ethnotopia cultural festival will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Wirtz Hall auditorium on campus. Details to be announced later.

- **April 17**: SEA Club is organizing a group to participate in NIU Cares Day, which places NIU organizations and students throughout DeKalb and Sycamore to do community-service projects from 8 a.m. to late afternoon. Participants get a free T-shirt and a free lunch. For details, see the NIU Cares Day [website](#) where you can also register online (select SEAclubNIU when prompted for a group). For details, contact club president Julie Edmunds at edmundsjulie@yahoo.com or 815-566-2765.

- **April 25**: 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. at the Hyde Park Union Church, 5600 S. Woodlawn, Chicago. Admission is $10 for adults and $5 for students. For details, e-mail info@chicagogamelan.org or see the group’s [website](#). In January, Sutrisno co-taught a month-long class on Indonesian music and culture at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minn., with NIU graduate student Sean Dolan.

- **Aug. 20–21**: The Lao Professionals of Illinois will present the first annual Lao Artist Festival at Hemmens Auditorium at Elgin Community College, 1700 Spartan Drive, Elgin. The festival will feature arts and handicrafts from Laos,
traditional dance and music, a talent show, traditional dances, and more. Tickets are $10 in advance, $15 at the door. For details, see the festival website or call festival producer Aloun Khotisene at 847-877-8224.

15. Ongoing area Southeast Asia cultural opportunities

- 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.