Beginning on a high note: NIU President John G. Peters, left, congratulates CSEAS Director Jim Collins on the center’s successful bid for four more years of U.S. Department of Education funding at a reception hosted by the center Aug. 16 at the Holmes Student Center. Associate Provost Deb Pierce, director of international programs, center, introduced Peters, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean Chris McCord, and Collins at the event. Special guests at the reception included four former center directors, Ladd Thomas, Clark Neher, Dwight King and Susan Russell. (Photo by Wade Duerkes / Media Services)

Four more years
CSEAS wins designation as National Resource Center

In early August, the center got welcome news from the U.S. Department of Education that not only had the federal government awarded the center four years of funding, totaling $2.4 million, but that it increased both the amounts for operations and programs, and for foreign language study. The highly competitive grants, which are awarded under Title VI of the Higher Education Act, give funding to educational institutions every four years to promote the study and research of world languages and cultures. In the center’s new grant award, CSEAS received approximately $700,000 more than it was awarded in 2006. CSEAS competed with seven other institutions nationwide in presenting its two proposals and received exceptionally high marks from reviewers, said CSEAS Director Jim Collins at an Aug. 16 reception celebrating the new funding.
This marks the fourth time CSEAS has received such funding since its designation as a National Resource Center (NRC) for Southeast Asian Studies in 1997. The center, which will celebrate its 50th year at NIU in 2013, received 13 percent more in its NRC project funding for programs and operations, totaling $1,009,144 over the next four years. It received 75 percent more in funding allotted to the center’s administration of Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships, totaling $1,446,000 over four years. These fellowships are awarded competitively to NIU graduate and (for the first time this year) undergraduate students studying Southeast Asian languages at NIU (see article below).

In addition to these Title VI grants, the center received word over the summer that the U.S. State Department’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs had approved $280,000 in funding for a second round of the center’s Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program in fall and spring. The fall group of Southeast Asian high school students—from Brunei, Cambodia, Singapore, Laos and Vietnam—will arrive on campus Oct. 27.

Center announces 2010–11 FLAS fellows
With new Title VI funding secured, the center is pleased to announce that the following students will receive Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships to study Southeast Asian languages at NIU for the 2010–11 academic year.

Graduate students receiving the grants are: Shahin Aftabizadeh (anthropology, Burmese), Coral Carlson (history, Khmer), Laura Iandola (history, Indonesian), Matthew Jagel (history, Khmer), Aaron Johnson (political science, Thai), Scott LaDeur (political science, Thai), Siew Lian Lim (art, Indonesian), Brett McCabe (anthropology, Malay), Shawn McCafferty (political science, Thai), Wendy Perzynski (health & human sciences, Burmese), Daniel Pojar (political science, Thai), Mary Thomas (anthropology, Indonesian), Sarah Wiley (history, Malay) and Michael Zack (history, Burmese).

For the first time, three undergraduate students have also been awarded FLAS fellowships. They are: Emily Dow (anthropology, Tagalog), Chanta Sam (nursing, Khmer) and Robin Waters (political science, Indonesian). The center congratulates all of these students on their awards.

Registration conference registration ends Sept. 3
The deadline for registration is Sept. 3 for the Third International Ramayana Conference, scheduled for Sept. 18–19 on campus. The two-day event focusing on the Asian epic, the Ramayana, is 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, will include presentations on various topics and a Ramayana-based teacher workshop. The conference theme is “Educational and Cultural Enhancement.” Register online at the conference website.
See the spring/summer 2010 issue of Mandala online
Barbara Watson Andaya talks about gender in Southeast Asian history, an NIU alumna writes about resolving conflicts on the Thai/Burma border, construction begins on the Anthropology Museum’s new home in Cole Hall, and the center gets another State Department grant for a second round of the Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program. You’ll find those stories, faculty news, and more in the latest issue of the center’s newsletter, The Mandala, online on the center website.

Buehler begins teaching at NIU
The center welcomes new political science department faculty member Michael Buehler to campus. Buehler, an Indonesia and Malaysia specialist, comes to DeKalb after completing a two-year postdoctoral fellowship in modern Southeast Asian Studies at Columbia University’s Weatherhead East Asian Institute. Buehler will be teaching Politics in Southeast Asia (POLS 371) and Scope and Methods of Political Science (POLS 602) in the fall. Learn more about him on the poli sci department website.

Summer trip forges new ties in Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean Christopher McCord, associate provost Deb Pierce, and CSEAS director Jim Collins met with academics in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, in early May as part of the college’s new initiative to develop Vietnamese studies at NIU. From Vietnam, the group traveled to Jakarta, Yogyakarta and Makassar, Indonesia. In Jakarta, they consulted with U.S. embassy staff about U.S. government-funded projects entrusted to NIU and met with NIU alumni to discuss student recruitment. In Yogyakarta and Makassar, they visited two partner universities: Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta and Universitas Hasanuddin, respectively. The group then traveled to Malaysia, where they met with U.S. embassy staff as well as officials at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur where a workshop on the center’s multimedia Malaysia-English dictionary was held May 10. From there, center director Jim Collins went to another Malay dictionary workshop in Brunei, where he was joined by NIU language professor and center associate Patricia Henry.
A fully searchable future for Crossroads
The center’s biannual journal, *Crossroads: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, ceased publication in 2009 after 26 years in print. But happily the center has received word that the journal will live on in the scholarly digital archive, JSTOR. This past spring, the journal was invited to become part of JSTOR’s 41-title Asian Studies Journals collection. The complete *Crossroads* run, from vol. 1.1 (1983) to volume 19.2 (2008), will be available online through the nearly 6,500 libraries and institutions worldwide that participate in JSTOR. All text in the JSTOR archive is fully searchable. JSTOR will announce the availability of the *Crossroads* archive later this fall. Stay tuned.

Burmese associate professor U Saw Tun retires from NIU
U Saw Tun announced his retirement from teaching earlier this summer. The associate professor of Burmese, and contributor to SEAsite, will be missed. The center wishes him the very best in his retirement.

**Save the date:** 2010–11 CSEAS weekly lecture series to start **Sept. 10**

Calls for papers
- **Council on Thai Studies annual conference**, Oct. 29–30, University of Wisconsin-Madison. **Deadline for abstracts and panel proposals: Sept. 15.** For details, see the [center](http://www.cseas.niu.edu) website or contact: Kathleen Gillogly at [gillogly@uwp.edu](mailto:gillogly@uwp.edu).
- **Power and Change in Malaysia and Singapore**, Dec 10–11, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia. Sponsored by the [Malaysia and Singapore Society of Australia](http://www.massa.org.au). **Deadline for abstracts and panel proposals: Sept. 15.** E-mail to [massa.colloquium@anu.edu.au](mailto:massa.colloquium@anu.edu.au). Some postgraduate registration fees will be waived on a competitive basis. Travel or accommodations are not funded; conference participants are encouraged to seek funding from other sources. Contact: Dr. Yasuko Kobayashi at [massa.colloquium@anu.edu.au](mailto:massa.colloquium@anu.edu.au).

Upcoming 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](http://www.indonesiaconsulatechicago.org).
- 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. For details, call Annet Houy at 773-878-7090. Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday and on weekends by appointment. **New this year:** Morodok, a museum store featuring handmade Cambodian silks, clothing, sculpture, gifts, and unique household items. For details, see the association [website](http://www.cambodianassociationofillinois.org/).

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](mailto: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.