Tran Thi Ngoc Han, a fall 2009 SEAYLP alumna, reads a book to a young cancer patient in July at the Academy of Pediatrics in La Thanh, Vietnam, part of a project organized by five SEAYLP / Vietnam alumni to enhance community awareness of cancer. See article below.

Thai governance, Washington workshop, SEAYLP update

1. This week’s center lecture: Suchitra Punyaratrabhandhu on Thai governance
2. Center staff attends Washington workshop
3. Southeast Asia Club holds first meeting this week
4. SEAYLP alumni update: Actions speak louder
5. Seeking host families, warm coats for fall SEAYLP
6. Postcard from the field: Thailand
7. Thinking globally: Study Abroad Fair on Thursday
8. NIU Khmer instructor invited to attend language institute
9. Save the dates: International lectures; trickster tales of Southeast Asia
10. State Department offers new Fulbright program on Laos
11. Money for study: Fellowships, scholarships, and more
12. Conferences and calls for papers
13. Area Southeast Asia cultural opportunities
1. This week’s center lecture: Suchitra Punyaratabhandhu on Thai governance
Suchitra Punyaratabhandhu of the National Institute of Development Administration in Bangkok will present “Participatory Governance in Thailand: A Regional Survey” at noon Friday, Sept. 24, in Room 110, Campus Life Building. Bring your lunch and feed your mind.

2. Reporting in: Center staff attends Washington workshop
In Washington, D.C., CSEAS office manager Nancy Schuneman consults with Cheryl Gibbs, left, the U.S. Department of Education’s program officer for all national resource centers specializing in Asia. Last week the department organized a two-day conference for funded NRCS. Center director Jim Collins presented an invited paper on NIU’s international linkages at the Sept. 13–14 conference, which primarily focused on new budget and reporting requirements for NRCS.

3. Southeast Asia Club holds first meeting this week
The Southeast Asia Club invites members new and old to its first meeting of the year from 6 to 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 20, at the Holmes Student Center. This year’s club officers are S. Mirah Kertayuda, president; Brett McCabe, vice president; Ika Lambogo, treasurer; Melanie Francia, secretary; Mike Deinzer, communications/marketing coordinator; Jon Hohnstadt, social chair coordinator; and Robert Kollas, student conference coordinator. Among its yearly activities the club presents culture nights and a student academic conference focusing on Southeast Asia topics. For meeting information or questions, contact Francia at melaniefrancia@gmail.com or Kertayuda at kertayuda_school@yahoo.com.

4. SEAYLP alumni update: Actions speak louder
Five Vietnamese students who participated in the inaugural session of the center’s Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP) in fall 2009 launched a website project in August to build more awareness of childhood cancer in Vietnam and to raise funds to support Vietnamese children affected by the disease. The group launched the website (in Vietnamese), after recruiting ten more high school students in June to help, with a photo contest dubbed “For Future Smile.” Representing the State Department, which funds the SEAYLP program, U.S. Embassy public affairs officer David Moyer congratulated the students on their project at the launch ceremony. Other SEAYLP alumni have also been
active with community projects since their return home, including an environmental action club in Cambodia and a youth-oriented promotional campaign in Brunei. Details on all of them will be featured in the upcoming fall/winter issue of *Mandala*.

5. Seeking host families, warm coats for SEAYLP
NIU is actively looking for area families to act as hosts Oct. 31–Nov. 11 for 28 high school students and seven adult leaders from Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, and Vietnam participating in the fall session of the center’s Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP). Students are placed in pairs and adults may be placed as singles. Host families provide a bed for each participant, breakfast each day and most dinners, all meals during one free weekend (Nov. 6–7) and transportation to and from class sessions at NIU. Host family orientation will be at 7 p.m. Oct. 25 in the Heritage Room of the Holmes Student Center. For details, contact NIU host family coordinator Leslie Shive at 815-753-9546 or e-mail lshive@niu.edu. For details about the fall SEAYLP program, see the [center website](#). The center is also collecting fall and winter jackets for its SEAYLP participants. Look for collection boxes in the Stevens Building, Founders Library and various dormitories. Youth and adult sizes are needed. For details, call 815-753-1981.

6. Postcard from the field: Thailand

7. Thinking globally: Study Abroad Fair on Thursday
NIU’s Study Abroad Office hosts its 18th annual Study Abroad Fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 23, in the Duke Ellington Ballroom at the Holmes Student Center.
Representatives of study abroad programs in 75 countries, including NIU faculty members who direct short-term study abroad programs, will be on hand to talk to students. About 600 students attended the 2009 fair. This year, organizers hope to attract more faculty attendees as well. “Faculty members will learn how creating their study abroad programs can benefit them both personally and professionally,” said Study Abroad Office director Anne Seitzinger. “Directing an NIU study abroad program provides faculty-development opportunities as well as the means for internationalizing on-campus courses.” For those who can't make the fair, the Study Abroad Office in 417 Williston offers Study Abroad 101, a weekly question-answer session at 3:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays.

8. NIU Khmer instructor invited to attend language institute

NIU Khmer language instructor Kheang Leang, third from right in back, and language professor and center director Jim Collins, far left, were invited by the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages to participate in a Sept. 8–10 workshop on evaluating languages tests, held at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, Calif. Kheang is pictured with some of his fellow participants, speakers of Arabic and Indonesian, as well as the two workshop managers. One of the leading organizations for testing English speakers for proficiency in foreign languages, the institute offers tests for Indonesian and Thai, but is planning to expand its testing to include other Southeast Asian languages, including Malay and Khmer, Collins said. While at the institute, Collins and Leang met with NIU alumnus Joe Bustiono, who teaches Indonesian there.

9. Save the dates: International lectures; trickster tales of Southeast Asia

- **Sept. 30**: The International Student and Faculty Office opens its weekly Brown Bag Series at noon in 300 Faraday West with a presentation by Andrea Buford, research development specialist with the Office of Sponsored Projects, who will present an overview of the Haitian earthquake disaster response as well as an exploration of what universities can efficiently and effectively offer in large-scale disasters such as Haiti.
- **Oct. 20**: The trickster tales of Sri Thanonchai, or Xiang Miang, as he is called in Laos, are part of a widely shared cultural package—about a prototypical hero with different names and traits as he moves across the Mekong and Southeast Asia. The attempt to translate the tales’ humor into English—in text or art—depends on both the intentions of the translator or artist and the receptivity of
the audience. Language professor and center associate John Hartmann will present “Translating Humor: Examples from Southeast Asian Trickster Tales” at noon in 110 Watson, part of the Foreign Languages and Literatures department’s fall Brown Bag Lecture Series. Political science graduate student Pinitbhand Paribatra, a Ph.D. candidate, helped research and write the presentation.

10. State Department offers new Fulbright program on Laos
The U.S. State Department Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs is actively seeking graduating seniors and master’s-level students for its new Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship program in Laos for the 2011–12 academic year. Students must be committed to teaching English in Laos for 10 months. All instruction is in English, but knowledge of some Lao will be needed. The deadline to apply for the three positions is Oct. 18.

11. Money for study: Fellowships, scholarships and more
   ▪ The Council of Overseas American Research Centers (COARC) is expanding its multi-country research fellowship program for 2010–11 to include master’s degree candidates. Doctoral candidates are already eligible for the fellowships, which are given to both individuals and teams who carry out research in two or more countries outside the U.S. Details on the fellowships will be available on the COARC website in October.
   ▪ The Center for Khmer Studies, the American Overseas Research Center in Cambodia, invites applications from U.S. scholars in all disciplines who wish to conduct research in Cambodia. Ph.D. fellowships go up to eleven months for doctoral dissertation research. Senior fellowships also available to scholars who already hold a Ph.D. The fellowship is open to U.S. citizens only. Deadline to apply: Nov. 15. For details, e-mail publishing@khmerstudies.org.
   ▪ The National Security Education Program’s David L. Boren scholarships and fellowships provide unique funding opportunities for American students to study in many countries, including Southeast Asia. Applications for the 2011–12 undergraduate scholarships and graduate student fellowships are online at the NSEP website. Boren Scholarships provide up to $20,000 for an academic year’s study abroad. Boren Fellowships provide up to $30,000 for language study and international research. Deadlines to apply: Feb. 1 for fellowships; Feb. 10 for scholarships. For details, e-mail boren@iie.org or call 800-618-NSEP.

12. Conferences and calls for papers
   ▪ Council on Thai Studies annual conference, Oct. 29–30, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Contact: Kathleen Gillogly at gillogly@uwsp.edu.
   ▪ Fifth Annual International Workshop and Expo on Sumatra Tsunami Disaster and Recovery, Nov. 23–24, Banda Aceh, Indonesia. Organized by Tsunami and Disaster Mitigation Research Center, Syiah Kuala University, and others. Tsunami area and historic Aceh tours Nov. 25. See conference website for details.
• **Power and Change in Malaysia and Singapore**, Dec 10–11, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia. Sponsored by the Malaysia and Singapore Society of Australia. E-mail to massa.colloquium@anu.edu.au. Some postgraduate registration fees will be waived on a competitive basis.

• **Hmong in Comparative Contexts**, March 4–5, University of Wisconsin-Madison. First biannual conference organized by the new University of Wisconsin-University of Minnesota Hmong Studies Consortium. Keynote speaker: French scholar and Hmong in Asia specialist Christian Culas. **Deadline for abstracts and panel proposals: Dec. 10.** For details about the conference or the consortium, contact Ian Baird at ibaird@wisc.edu.

• **Governance, Human Rights and Development: Challenges for Southeast Asia and Beyond**, First International Conference on International Relations and Development, May 19–20, Thammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand. Scholars and graduate students encouraged to submit abstracts. E-mail to abstracts@icird.org. **Deadline: Oct. 30.** See conference website for details.

13. Area Southeast Asia cultural opportunities

• **Burmese lacquer** is on display through **Oct. 2** in ‘Legacy in Lacquer: A Living Art from Burma’ at the NIU Art Museum in Altgeld Hall.

• 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 Heritage Museum and Killing Fields Memorial, 2831 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago. 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.*