With knives, scrapers, and elaborate diagrams, CSEAS graduate assistants, from right, Maria “Rai” Hancock, Shahin Aftabizadeh, Brett McCabe, and Mary Thomas carved pumpkins with field assistant Darus Tharim, left, for decorations to be used at an Oct. 30 Halloween party for SEAYLP participants, who arrive at NIU this week. See details below.

Center welcomes fall 2010 SEAYLP participants

1. This week’s CSEAS lecture: Ratanaporn Sethakul on north Burma’s Kengtung wars
2. Center readies for arrival of Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program participants
3. Last call to be a SEAYLP host family: Two more households needed
4. Southeast Asian studies meet science at NIU STEMfest
5. NIU Thai Association film festival continues this week
6. Study abroad in SEA through NIU: Thailand and Malaysia/Brunei
7. Council on Thai Studies conference opens Friday in Madison
8. Save the date: Vietnamese rock band documentary
9. Conferences and calls for papers

A note of appreciation from CSEAS Director Jim Collins

The Oct. 18 visit of His Excellency Dino Patti Djalal, Indonesia’s ambassador to the United States, was a great success. Not only did more than 150 people attend the afternoon talk by Pak Dino, but the following reception was well-attended and very lively. Along with Pak Dino and his staff, there was a four-person contingent from the Indonesian Consulate in Chicago, led by the consul general, Pak Benny Bahanadewa. Because of the enthusiastic response to the ambassador’s visit, the consulate is now making plans to coordinate more of its activities with NIU so we can collaborate on bringing Southeast Asian studies to a larger audience. A special thanks to Deb Pierce and the Division of International Programs for all of their efforts in co-sponsoring this event and to Provost Ray Alden and Dean Chris McCord who joined us. I am also grateful to our associates, in particular Andrea Molnar, Michael Buehler, Kenton Clymer, Kikue Hamayotsu, Eric Jones, and any others whose names I’ve may have inadvertently omitted who encouraged their students to attend this event. Special thanks too to Richard Walsh, president of NIU’s Model United Nations, whose colleagues joined in this event. This semester Richard and his team will represent Indonesia in a simulation at the American Model United Nations conference. (For more on the ambassador’s NIU appearance, see NIU Today).
1. This week’s CSEAS lecture: Ratanaporn Sethakul on north Burma’s Kengtung wars
Payap University (Chiang Mai, Thailand) historian Ratanaporn Sethakul will present “The Kengtung Wars: King Mongkut’s Military Misadventures in the Shan State of Northern Burma?” at the center’s weekly lecture from noon to 12:50 p.m., Friday, Oct. 29, in Room 110 in the Campus Life Building. The Kengtung wars arose from internal problems in Sipsong Panna. Ratanaporn, a contributor to the center’s recently published *The Middle Mekong River Basin: Studies in Tai History and Culture* (2009), will argue that Siam needed to seize control of Kengtung in order to keep the Burmese out of the Mekong River Basin. **Bring your lunch and feed your mind.**

2. Center readies for arrival of Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program participants
Carving pumpkins, troubleshooting mini-laptops, firming up the schedule, and dogging the details—the center’s Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program graduate assistant team, led by Coral Carlson (history), will be busy right up to Wednesday, Oct. 27, when twenty-eight high school students and seven adult leaders from Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, and Vietnam arrive at NIU. The group will have dinner and check into the Holmes Student Center to get a good night’s sleep after their long flights to Chicago. Orientation will occupy most of the day on Thursday. After CSEAS Director Jim Collins welcomes the group to campus, Carlson and graduate assistants Shahin Aftabizadeh, Shay Galto, Maria “Rai” Hancock, Laura Iandola, Mary Thomas, and Jordan York will walk the students and adult leaders through life at NIU, capped by a visit to the Pumpkins on Parade display in Sycamore. On Friday, the group will attend a cross-cultural orientation and two workshops on media training and civil society respectively. The weekend will include workshops on effective communication and theatre and the arts as tools for civic engagement. The highlight for all may be a SEAYLP Halloween party from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Saturday in the Chandelier Room of Adams Hall. Center associates, affiliates, and others are encouraged to bring their families and to come in costume. The event will be child-friendly and alcohol-free. Sunday, the participants will be picked up by their host families, with whom they will stay during their time in DeKalb.

3. Last call to be a SEAYLP host family: Two more households needed
There’s still time to volunteer to be a host family **Oct. 31–Nov. 11** for the fall session of the center’s SEAYLP program starting this week. NIU host family coordinator Leslie Shive said that two households are needed to host two pairs of teenage boys who are among the high school students and adult leaders participating in the program. 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. There will be a host family orientation at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 25, in the Heritage Room of the Holmes Student Center. If interested, contact Shive immediately at 815-753-9546 or e-mail lshive@niu.edu.
4. Southeast Asian studies meet science at NIU STEMfest
STEM major + SEA minor = Global Career Prospects. That’s the formula CSEAS graduate assistants Laura Iandola and Maria “Rai” Hancock pitched while staffing a CSEAS table at NIU’s first Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) festival on Saturday, Oct. 23, at the Convocation Center. STEMfest, a Division of Administration and University Outreach project, is an outgrowth of Spooky Science Saturday, a perennially popular Halloween event featuring the Haunted Physics Laboratory and other science demonstrations. These were folded into a new larger event designed to attract students of all ages and promote careers in STEM fields. To promote science and Southeast Asian studies at NIU, Iandola and Hancock created a brochure linking the need for science students who have proficiency in a Southeast Asian language, study abroad experience, and cultural literacy. “STEM majors are needed in Southeast Asia to research and find solutions for: sustainable development, environmental degradation, global disease and hunger, population growth and migration, and economic competitiveness,” they point out in their brochure.

5. NIU Thai Association film festival continues this week
The NIU Thai Association’s Thai film festival continues this week with the screening of Shutter, a horror film focusing on mysterious images seen in developed pictures, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 28, in Room 120 Neptune Central residence hall. The series continues on Nov. 4 with Iron Ladies, an award-winning film about a mostly gay and transgender men’s volleyball team, and Nov. 11 with Ong Bak, an action adventure film about a village kick boxer who travels to Bangkok to retrieve the village’s stolen Buddha statue. All movies have English subtitles. Free soda will be served.

6. Study abroad in SEA through NIU: Malaysia/Brunei and Thailand
NIU is offering two opportunities to study abroad in Southeast Asia during the summer 2011 with NIU faculty members and center associates. Associate anthropology professor Andrea Molnar is leading a group to Thailand to explore cultural diversity, while associate history professor Eric Jones will take students to Malaysia and Brunei. Both are NIU study abroad courses offering courses offering credit for graduate and undergraduate students. For information about programs, financial aid, travel grants, scholarships, and applications, contact the NIU Study Abroad Office at 815-753-0304 or e-mail niuabroad@niu.edu.

- Study Abroad Malaysia/Brunei: History and Culture of Southeast Asia, May 15–June 3: Three-week program led by associate history professor Eric Jones incorporates a home-stay experience with significant time spent in Kuala Lumpur, Melaka, Penang, the jungles of Sarawak and Borneo, and the Islamic center of Brunei. Financial aid available to qualified applicants. A video about the program is on YouTube. Deadline to apply: March 15.
Cultural Diversity in Thailand, May 30–June 25: Three-week program led by associate anthropology professor Andrea Molnar focuses on cultural diversity in Thailand and the relationship between the dominant majority and minorities of the country. The course introduces students to the culture and diversity of cultural groups in Thailand, the existing power relations between dominant and minority groups, and the practical implications of these relations in everyday Thai life. **Deadline to apply:** To be determined.

7. Council on Thai Studies conference opens Friday in Madison
The Council on Thai Studies (COTS) holds its annual conference Friday and Saturday, Oct. 29–30, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Chulalongkorn University anthropology professor Niti Pawakapan, currently a visiting scholar at NIU, will give the keynote address, “Thailand and the (Un)Awareness of Rights.” For the complete schedule, see the conference [website](#). For details, contact Kathleen Gillogly at [gillogly@uwp.edu](mailto:gillogly@uwp.edu).

8. Save the date: Vietnamese rock band film
- **Nov. 8:** *Hanoi Eclipse: the Music of Dai Lam Linh*, a [documentary](#) directed by University of London ethnomusicologist Barley Norton about a controversial contemporary Vietnamese band in Hanoi, will be shown at 10 a.m. in Room 205 in the Music Building. The screening is co-sponsored by CSEAS, the Center for Burma Studies, and the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

9. Conferences and calls for papers
- **International Graduate Student Conference on the Asia Pacific Region**, Feb. 17–19, Honolulu, Hawaii. Tenth annual conference sponsored by the East-West Center. Limited travel assistance available. **Deadline for abstracts:** Nov. 5. For details, e-mail [studentconference@eastwestcenter.org](mailto:studentconference@eastwestcenter.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.