Buddhist monks in Burma take to the streets in protest during the Saffron Revolution in 2007. (Wire photo)

This week’s lecture: Media in ‘Burma: It Can’t Wait’ campaign

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1. This week’s CSEAS lecture: Lisa Brooten on ‘Burma: It Can’t Wait’ campaign
Lisa Brooten, associate professor in the radio/television department at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, will present “Politics, Gender, and Celebrity in the U.S. Campaign for Burma’s ‘Burma: It Can’t Wait’ Campaign” at this week’s center lecture from noon to 12:50 p.m. Friday, March 11, in Room 110, Campus Life Building. Brooten will explore the ramifications of the privately sponsored “Burma: It Can’t Wait” campaign, which combined online and offline organizing with the draw of high-profile celebrities to increase attention to Burma. While U.S. Campaign for Burma, a leading Burma human rights organization based in Washington, D.C., successfully mainstreamed its message using youth and popular culture outlets in new ways to promote a kind of direct-action politics, by necessity, Brooten says, its emergence into the mainstream meant that their message echoed and reinforced the hegemonic characteristics of mainstream media. Brooten’s lecture is co-sponsored by the Burma Interest Group-NIU, with the Center for Burma Studies kindly offering its assistance. Thanks to BIG-NIU’s Shahin Aftabizadeh and Ryan Keller for organizing. Bring your lunch and feed your mind.

2. Last chance this week to apply for undergraduate FLAS grants
Undergraduates studying a Southeast Asia language at NIU have until this week, Thursday, March 10, to apply for the 2011–12 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships. These U.S. Department of Education-funded fellowships are available for U.S. citizens and permanent residents working toward acquiring competency in one of six languages taught on campus: Burmese, Indonesian, Khmer, Malay, Tagalog, and Thai. For details and application forms, see the center website or call 815-753-1771. Any student who has completed the first year of any Southeast Asian language is eligible to apply.

3. CSEAS graduate assistant receives Critical Language Scholarship
CSEAS graduate assistant Maria “Rai” Hancock, a master’s candidate in history focusing on Asia, was quietly working on one of her many projects at the center last week when she stopped abruptly and started jumping up and down. She’d just gotten an e-mail from the State Department to say that she’d been awarded one of the department’s Critical Language Scholarships to study Indonesian language and culture over the summer at Universitas Negeri Malang in Malang, Indonesia. This is only the second year the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs’ five-year-old language program has offered Indonesian. The purpose is to deepen the United States’ capacity in thirteen languages, including Indonesian: Arabic, Azerbaijani, Bangla/Bengali, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Punjabi, Russian, Turkish, and Urdu. Hancock is the first NIU student to receive one of the highly competitive scholarships; only 10 percent of those applying for this summer were accepted. Last year, the
program offered 575 CLS scholarships. Hancock will go to Washington, D.C., for orientation June 12, where she and other CLS Indonesian students will sign a language policy requiring them to speak only Indonesian in most situations once they arrive in Malang. The group will travel to Indonesia June 16 and stay until Aug. 15. The program includes four to five hours of language instruction per day, covering approximately a year’s worth of study and structured cultural activities designed to increase students’ language facility, according to the State Department. It will be Hancock’s first trip to Southeast Asia. Congratulations, Rai!

4. On the circuit I: CSEAS at Texas State University-San Marcos

The center returned Feb. 25 to Texas State University-San Marcos, where for the past year and a half a team has been working with CSEAS to develop a Southeast Asian studies program there. CSEAS Director Jim Collins participated in a video-recorded panel produced by Texas State discussing the importance and significance of Southeast Asia for high school and junior college curricula in Texas. The 1½-hour segment will be distributed for rebroadcast to all world history and culture classes at high schools and community colleges throughout Texas (and will soon be available on YouTube). This is the first step towards building up interest in a workshop, co-sponsored by Texas State and CSEAS, on Southeast Asian studies in high schools and community colleges in the south and southwest U.S., Collins said. The panel was moderated by D. Ted Hindson (political science) and included Texas State faculty members Sandy Rao (mass communications and journalism), Ani Yazedjian (family and consumer science), J. D. Jamieson (criminal justice), Hyun Yun (political science), and Leah Renold (history). Dennis Dunn, Texas State’s director of international studies who was also at the panel taping, said that Southeast Asia should be studied by high school and junior college students in all required courses on world history and culture. “Southeast Asia is critical for Texas and the United States for six reasons,” he said, making the following points:

- It is a huge market of over six hundred million people;
- Eighty percent of the world’s oil passes through the Malacca Strait;
- It is a cultural crossroads where the great religions and sacred moral traditions of the world come together and which can provide insight into human social development and civilization;
- It is the location of the world’s largest Muslim nation—Indonesia—and one that is not viscerally anti-American;
- It is the home of the spice islands that played such an important motivation in the Age of Discovery and Exploration; and
- It is center stage in the global rivalry between the United States and China.
5. On the circuit II: CSEAS at IMSA

CSEAS Director Jim Collins presented a multimedia lecture on colonialism, nationalism, and independence movements in Southeast Asia to more than 200 Illinois Math and Science Academy (IMSA) juniors in the school’s World Cultures class. Collins talk focused on the emergence of a strong anti-colonial force in Indonesia in the 1930s and the Dutch attempts to suppress the movement, the impact of the Japanese occupation, the post-war interests of U.S. foreign policy, and the triumph of the Indonesian Revolution. The lecture was the first in a three-part series on Southeast Asia prepared by the center for IMSA, said CSEAS graduate assistant Laura Iandola (history). Iandola has been helping to organize the series, as well as to facilitate other connections with the school, an innovative experiment in education drawing on the most talented students in the state.

6. Deadlines for NIU Malaysia/Brunei, Thailand study abroad approaching

NIU is offering two opportunities to study abroad in Southeast Asia this summer with NIU faculty members and center associates. Associate professor Andrea Molnar (anthropology) is leading a group to Thailand to explore cultural diversity while associate professor Eric Jones (history) will take students to Malaysia and Brunei. Both are NIU study abroad programs offering course credit for both graduate and undergraduate students. For details on programs, financial aid, travel grants, scholarships, and applications, contact the NIU Study Abroad Office, 417 Williston Hall; or e-mail niuabroad@niu.edu. Study Abroad 101, a workshop on the ins and outs of studying abroad, meets Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. in 417 Williston. Deadline to apply for summer study abroad travel grants: May 6.

- Study Abroad Malaysia/Brunei: History and Culture of Southeast Asia, May 15–June 3: Three-week program 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. For more details, see Jones’s video on YouTube. Deadline to apply: March 15.
**Cultural Diversity in Thailand, May 30–June 25:** Three-week program 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. Program includes lectures, briefings, field trips, and visits to Thai sites including temples, museums, the Royal Palace, markets, and beaches. On field visits, NIU students will be paired with Thai students. Financial aid available to qualified applicants. **Deadline to apply: April 15.**

**7. Democratization in Southeast Asia: SEA Club student conference April 23**
Students who want to share the results of their Southeast Asia research will have the chance to do so Saturday, **April 23**, at the Southeast Asia Club’s annual spring student conference. The conference theme is “Resistance Movements and Democratization in Southeast Asia.” University of Chicago historian Mark Bradley, a specialist in postcolonial Southeast Asia and twentieth-century U.S. international history, will give the keynote address. A cash prize will be awarded to the best undergraduate and graduate papers. Final papers are due **March 23**; send to Robert Kollas at rkollas@niu.edu. For details, see conference website.

**8. House to house: Seeking host families for SEAYLP**
NIU and the center are looking for a few more local households to act as hosts **April 10–22** for twenty-two high school students and four adult leaders from Burma, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand participating in the spring 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, meals during one free weekend (**April 16–17**), and transportation to and from classes at NIU. For details, contact NIU host family coordinator (and past host) Leslie Shive at 815-753-9546 or e-mail lshive@niu.edu. For details about the SEAYLP program, see the center website.

**Top 10 reasons to be a host family**
10. You can experience a different country without getting on a plane
9. It beats watching “Law and Order” reruns
8. You’ll be able to pick out Southeast Asia on a map
7. Your kids may start answering you in Khmer or Malay or Vietnamese
6. You could become an expert at making sticky rice
5. It’s something different to write about on Facebook
4. You’ll be the envy of family and friends
3. Your house will be all ready for company
2. Your family portrait could replace the flying corncob as the international symbol of DeKalb County
1. Your family will make friendships of a lifetime

**9. Lifetime Learning Institute to hold Burma study group this spring**
NIU’s **Lifelong Learning Institute** is offering a Wednesday study group beginning **Wednesday, March 16**, to learn about the history, culture, geography, politics, international relations, and everyday life in Burma/Myanmar from faculty associates of NIU’s centers for Burma Studies and Southeast Asian Studies. Former CSEAS associate Arlene Neher is convening the group with Center for Burma Studies Director Catherine Raymond, professor Kenton Clymer (history), and emeritus faculty Richard Cooler, Clark Neher, and George
Spencer plus several international students from Burma. The study group will meet 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesdays March 16 to May 4. For details, contact the institute at 815-753-5200 or LASEP@niu.edu.

10. **Save the dates:** Southeast Asia Club activities, Khmer studies forum
   - **NEW** March 21: Next meeting of the **Southeast Asia Club**, 6 to 7 p.m., Room 480, DuSable Hall: **Noodle and Movie Night!** Subsequent meetings will be held at same time and location April 4 and 18. Spring events include a Malaysian movie night showing *Puteri Gunung Ledang*, 6 to 8 p.m., March 25, Room 480, DuSable (co-sponsored by CSEAS); Taste of the Philippines in Chicago March 26; Southeast Asia culture night April 15; a service project on **NIU Cares Day** April 16 (sign up on the website and select Southeast Asia Club team), the annual **student conference** April 23; and a **Hope Haven** service project. For details, e-mail niuseaclub@gmail.com.
   - **April 29–30:** Third Annual Khmer Studies Forum at Ohio University Center, sponsored by Center for Southeast Asian Studies there. See Conferences below.

11. **International Training Office seeking host families for PYLP program**

   NIU’s International Training Office (ITO) 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 to participate in the eighth Philippine Youth Leadership Program (PYLP), directed by center associates Susan Russell (anthropology) and Lina Davide-Ong (ITO). The six-week program runs April 16–May 21; the home-stay segment is May 1–14. Contact host family coordinator Leslie Shive at 815-753-9546 or e-mail lshive@niu.edu.

12. **Another place to publish:** **Asian Affairs: An American Review**

   The journal **Asian Affairs: An American Review** is one of the oldest continuously published academic journals on Asia in the United States, focusing on significant issues affecting political, economic, and security policies in both domestic and international spheres. Its readership base includes scholars, policymakers, government officials, business executives, and others engaged in contemporary studies of Asian countries, intra-Asian relations, and U.S. ties with the Asian region. Associate anthropology professor and center associate Andrea Molnar has been the journal’s executive editor for Southeast Asia since 2010, serving with Robert Wirsing at Georgetown and Winberg Chai of the University of Wyoming.

   “Aside from individual submissions, I also entertain the idea for special volumes that focus on common themes and/or on a single country,” Molnar says. “These special volumes usually require three to four individual papers.”

13. **Job opportunities, money for study: German posts, Harvard fellowship and more**

   **Indonesian Studies / Germany**
   - **Assistant professorship in Southeast Asian Studies** at University of Frankfurt. Six-year appointment, non-tenure track. **Deadline to apply: March 31.**
• Professorship in Austronesian Studies at University of Hamburg. Lifetime appointment, tenure track. **Deadline to apply: April 7.**

*East-West Center / Hawaii*

• **Graduate Degree Fellowship.** Master’s and doctoral funding for graduate students to participate in center’s educational and research programs while pursuing advanced degree at University of Hawaii.

*Harvard Kennedy School Indonesia Program / Harvard*

• **Indonesia Research Fellowships.** Indonesian researchers, academics, and practitioners invited to apply for 2011–12 academic year fellowships on Harvard University campus. **Deadline to apply was March 4,** but check website for application dates for 2012–13 academic year to be posted soon.

*U.S. Department of State / Area Studies Specialist*

• **Area Studies Specialist.** This position is located in the School of Professional and Area Studies at the Foreign Service Institute. This position involves oversight of all Asia Studies (East and Southeast Asian) courses providing training, seminars, consultations and information on the region as required. **Management responsibilities include planning, implementing and monitoring the program budget. Deadline to apply: March 21.**

14. Overseas summer language, exchange, internship, and area studies programs

• **Indonesia Arts and Culture Scholarship Program:** Indonesia’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs is offering three-month scholarships to U.S. students who want to learn more about Indonesian arts and culture in one of five Indonesian cities: Bandar Lampung, Bandung, Denpasar, Solo, and Surabaya. Scholarships are offered for three months, April 25 to July 29, and include travel, tuition, health insurance, accommodations, and monthly allowance. Applications must be endorsed by the Indonesian Consulate General in Chicago. **Deadline to apply: March 10 to Indonesian Consulate General in Chicago.** For details, e-mail information@indonesiachicago.org or see the program website.

**NOTE:** 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 liability and insurance protections.

15. Conferences and calls for papers

• **AAS-ICAS Joint Conference,** March 31–April 3, Honolulu, Hawaii. Association of Asian Studies and International Convention of Asia Scholars annual meeting. See list of **Southeast Asia panels,** the entire conference program and other details on the conference website.

• **3rd Annual Khmer Studies Forum,** April 29–30, Athens, Ohio. Sponsored by Ohio University Center for Southeast Asian Studies. Free. **Deadline for abstracts:** March 15. For details, see conference website. For transportation and accommodation information, e-mail cseas@ohio.edu or Sinoun Kim at sinounkim@gmail.com.
- **Visions of the Future, 11th International Conference on Thai Studies**, July 26–28, Bangkok. Abstracts are still being requested for papers for this conference hosted by Mahidol University and the Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia. For details, e-mail thaistudies2011@gmail.com.

- **ASEASUK Conference**, Sept. 9–11, Magdalene College, Cambridge. Papers being sought by Malay/Indonesian manuscript studies panel on all aspects of the study of the writing traditions of maritime Southeast Asia. **Deadline for abstracts: March 30.** Contact Annabel.Gallop@bl.uk.

- **Enriching Future Generations: Education Promoting Indonesian Self-Development**, June 28–29, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Fourth international Indonesia forum co-sponsored by Yale and Yogyakarta State universities. **Deadline for abstracts: March 31.** Send to Frank Dhont, Yale University, at frank.dhont@yale.edu. See conference website.

- **Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs**, Oct. 28–30, St. Paul, MN. Annual conference at Macalester College invites submissions pertaining to Asia and its sub-regions from all academic disciplines. **Deadline for abstracts: June 1.** See conference website.

16. Area Southeast Asia cultural opportunities

- The Chicago-based [Friends of the Gamelan](http://www.chicagogamelan.org) will present an evening of traditional and contemporary Javanese gamelan music, led by artistic director Joko Sutrisno of Minneapolis, at 6 p.m. Sunday, **May 1**, at Hyde Park Union Church, 5600 S. Woodlawn, Chicago. The group also offers beginning gamelan lessons and a performance ensemble. Contact info@chicagogamelan.org.

- The [Thai Cultural and Fine Arts Institute](http://www.thaiculturalfinearts.org) is a non-profit group dedicated to the education, preservation, and promotion of Thai culture and fine arts in the Chicago area through classes and performances. The group is located in the Boys and Girls Club, 3400 S. Emerald St., Chicago. For details, call 312-725-0640 or write Thai Cultural and Fine Arts Institute, 1960 Oak Knoll Drive, Lake Forest, IL 60045.

- The Indonesian Consulate General in Chicago offers free Balinese and Javanese dance and gamelan classes on weekends. For details, see the consulate website.

- The [Cambodian Association of Illinois](http://www.cambodianassociationofillinois.org) 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.