Peace Corps founder and director Sargent Shriver, center, who died last week, visits the Malaya II group at NIU on April 10, 1962. The Peace Corps’ early heritage at NIU will be the subject of the center’s weekly lecture Jan. 28. (NIU archive photo)

**The legacy of the Peace Corps at NIU**

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**1. This week’s CSEAS lecture: Maria ‘Rai’ Hancock on the Peace Corps at NIU**

History graduate student Maria ‘Rai’ Hancock will present “Connecting Globally, Locally: NIU, Southeast Asia, and the Peace Corps” from noon to 12:50 p.m. Friday, **Jan. 28**, in Room 110 in the Campus Life Building. NIU’s early connection to the Peace Corps program is a relatively little-known postscript to local and campus history. Hancock will discuss how and why the Corps’ training program for busloads of volunteers headed for Malaya (now Malaysia), and
later the Philippines and Thailand, came to NIU in the 1960s. DeKalb was the third training site in the Midwest for the now 50-year-old program established by President John Kennedy in 1961 and headed by Sargent Shriver, who died last week. By the time the program at NIU shut down in 1968, approximately 1,200 volunteers had trained for what became a life-changing experience for many of them serving in Southeast Asia. Today, a number of former Southeast Asia Peace Corps volunteers can be counted among current and retired faculty affiliated with the center, including Jim and Patricia Henry, Clark and Arlene Neher, John Hartmann, Grant Olson, and CSEAS director Jim Collins. Bring your lunch and feed your mind.

2. Southeast Asia Club sets spring meeting dates
The Southeast Asia Club has scheduled its meetings for spring semester. Its first spring meeting will be 7 to 8 p.m. in Room 480, DuSable Hall, Monday, Jan. 31. Subsequent meetings will be held at the same time and location on Feb. 14, Feb. 28, March 21, April 4, and April 18. The club will be occupied this spring with hosting its spring student conference (see below) and planning a Southeast Asia culture night among other activities. For details, contact club president Mirah Kertayuda at kertayuda_school@yahoo.com and secretary Melanie Francia at melaniefrancia@gmail.com.

3. SEA Club spring student conference to explore resistance movements, democratization
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 should be sent to conference organizer Robert Kollas at rkollas@niu.edu. The conference is free and open to all.

4. There are a lot of good reasons to be a SEAYLP host family
It’s that time already: NIU is actively looking for local households to act as hosts April 10–22 for 22 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, all meals during one free weekend

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
(April 16–17), and transportation to and from class sessions at NIU. For details, contact NIU host family coordinator Leslie Shive at 815-753-9546 or e-mail lshive@niu.edu. For details about the SEAYLP program, see the center website.

5. Catherine Raymond to present lecture on sabbatical research Thursday

Center for Burma Studies Director Catherine Raymond, associate professor of Southeast Asian art history, will give a special School of Art lecture from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 27, in the Olson Gallery in the Arts Building. Raymond will discuss her recent article, “The Seven Weeks,” in the current issue of the Journal of Burma Studies (vol. 14) and present a progress report on her ongoing art history fieldwork in Laos and Thailand. Her projects involve the archiving and replicating of temple wall paintings in Vientiane in collaboration with the Faculty of Fine Arts in Vientiane and the Digital Conservation Facility, Laos.

6. Lifetime Learning Institute to hold Burma study group this spring

With the recent release of Burma/Myanmar’s Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, world attention is again focused on that country. NIU’s Lifelong Learning Institute is offering a Wednesday study group beginning March 16 to learn about the history, culture, geography, politics, international relations, and everyday life in this isolated Southeast Asian nation from faculty associates of NIU’s centers for Burma Studies and Southeast Asian Studies. “This promises to be a visually rich study group as NIU’s Southeast Asian studies faculty share their photographs, from slides taken in the 1970s to digital pictures taken as recently as December 2010,” says former center associate Arlene Neher, who is convening the group with CSEAS associates Catherine Raymond, director of the Center for Burma Studies, and Kenton Clymer (history) and emeritus faculty Richard Cooler, Clark Neher, and George Spencer, all of whom have significant experience in Burma, plus several international students from Burma. The study group will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesdays March 16 to May 4. For details, contact the institute at 815-753-5200 or LASEP@niu.edu.

7. Applications open for FLAS and Neher fellowships: Students, start your laptops

Graduate and undergraduate students are invited to apply for the 2011–12 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships, which are awarded for Southeast Asian language study at NIU. Currently NIU offers Burmese, Indonesian, Khmer, Malay, Tagalog, and Thai. Students may also apply for summer FLAS grants, a different program that provides for language study at approved institutions in the U.S. or in Southeast Asia. FLAS fellowships are funded by a U.S. Department of Education Title VI grant. The deadline to apply for the on-campus program is Feb. 1. The deadline to apply for the summer program is March 1. Graduate students are also invited to apply for the center’s 2011–12 Neher Graduate Fellowship for the Study of Southeast Asia. Applicants must be a graduate student in good standing who demonstrates a commitment to a career involving Southeast Asian studies; the
deadline to apply is **Feb. 1.** For information and applications for these and other fellowship opportunities elsewhere, see [Student Funding](#) on the center website.

8. **Summer study abroad in SEA through NIU: Malaysia/Brunei and Thailand**
NIU is offering two opportunities to study abroad in Southeast Asia this summer with NIU faculty members and center associates. Andrea Molnar, associate professor (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 graduate and undergraduate students. For information about programs, financial aid, travel grants, scholarships, 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).

- **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. For more details, see Jones’s video on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com). **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:** April 15.

9. **Save the dates: SEA Club, lectures, award deadlines, and spring student conference**

- **Jan. 31:** Southeast Asia club first meeting of spring semester, 7 to 8 p.m., 480 DuSable Hall.

- **Feb. 10:** Indonesian Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Nanda Octavia will present “A Glance of West Sumatra,” focusing on the capital city of Padang, at the NIU Division of International Programs [Brown Bag Series](#) at noon in 300 Faraday West.

- **Feb. 15:** Proposals for faculty Summer Research and Artistry Awards due for summer 2011 research activities. For submission details, see Division of Research and Graduate Studies [website](#).

- **Feb. 23:** Joseph Nye, former dean of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, will speak at NIU, time and place to be announced. Nye’s appearance is co-sponsored by political science department, the Office of International Programs, the Office of the President, and the Zeta Gamma chapter of Phi Beta Delta. For details, contact the political science department at 815-753-1011.

- **March 3:** Center associate John Hartmann will co-present “Folk Epidemiology Recorded in Palm Leaf Manuscripts of Laos” with Bethany Elkington (University of Illinois-Chicago) at the NIU Division of International Programs [Brown Bag Series](#) at noon in 300 Faraday West.
• **April 23:** Southeast Asia Club’s annual spring student conference on Southeast Asia at NIU. This year’s topic: “Resistance Movements and Democratization in Southeast Asia.” Open to all graduate and undergraduate students. Free.

10. **Overseas opportunities**

• **Assistant professorship at Goethe-University Frankfurt:** The University of Frankfurt is seeking candidates to join the faculty of Linguistics, Cultural, and Civilization Studies at Goethe-University of Frankfurt as an assistant professor in Southeast Asian studies. The three-year appointment requires expertise in one or more of the following fields: languages, literatures, media, modern and contemporary history of insular Southeast Asia, mainly Indonesia and/or Malaysia. For details, see the [university website](#).

• **Malay ethnomusicology, cultural history Ph.D. studentship at King’s College, London:** The music department at King’s College, London, is offering a Ph.D. studentship to produce a case study of the ethnomusicology and cultural history of the Malay peninsula, examining how musical practices in the pre-colonial polities of Melaka, Johor, Kedah and Perak were challenged and redefined in successive transitions to Portuguese (1511), Dutch (1641–1824) and especially British colonialism (1786–1895). Candidates should hold a master’s degree in ethnomusicology, history, Southeast Asian studies or Malay language. They must have fluency in Malay (either Bahasa Malaysia or Bahasa Indonesia) and preference will be given to candidates who also have good reading ability in Jawi script and/or Dutch. Candidates will also need to demonstrate active interest in and knowledge of Malay musical traditions in and around the Straits of Melaka. The case study is part of a new European Research Council project, “Musical Transitions to European Colonialism in the Eastern Indian Ocean.” **Deadline to apply: Feb. 1.** Contact katherine.schofield@kcl.ac.uk.

11. **Overseas language, exchange, and area studies programs**

• **Advanced Study of Khmer (ASK) Summer Abroad Program, June 13–Aug. 5**
  The Advanced Study of Khmer (ASK) Summer Abroad Program offers intensive eight-week training in Khmer language-culture for third-year students in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Applications due: **Feb. 28.** Administered by the Khmer Language Program at the University of Hawaii in collaboration with the Royal University of Phnom-Penh, Cambodia. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Fulbright-Hays, and Group Projects. For details, see the [program website](#).

• **Advanced Indonesian Abroad Program, June 13–Aug. 13**
  Applications for priority consideration for the 2011 Advanced Indonesian Abroad (COTIM) program at the Universitas Kristen Satya Wacana in Salatiga, Indonesia, are due **Feb. 16.** Letters of recommendation are due **Feb. 25.** Nine-week intensive Indonesian language program is Fulbright-funded and coordinated through the Southeast Asian Studies Program at Ohio University. NIU is a participating COTIM institution. For details and application materials, see the [COTIM 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 receiving liability and insurance protections.

12. Conferences and call for papers

- **Transforming Cambodia Studies: Social Change and Cultural Transitions since 1979**, July 7–9, Siem Reap, Cambodia. Hosted by the Center for Khmer Studies in collaboration with NIU CSEAS, the University of California (Berkeley and Los Angeles) Consortium of Asian Studies, the University of Wisconsin Center for Southeast Asian Studies, and the Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies at UC Berkeley. **Deadline for abstracts: Feb. 28**; scholars will be informed of acceptance by early April. For details, see the [conference website](#) or e-mail conference@khmerstudies.org.

- **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, email thaistudies2011@gmail.com.

- **AAS-ICAS Joint Conference**, March 31–April 3, Honolulu, Hawaii. Association of Asian Studies and International Convention of Asia Scholars annual meeting. For details, see the [conference website](#).

13. Area Southeast Asia cultural opportunities

- The Chicago-based **Friends of the Gamelan** will present a spring concert of traditional and contemporary Javanese gamelan music, led by artistic director Joko Sutrisno of Minneapolis, on Sunday, **May 1**, at the Hyde Park Union Church, 5600 S. Woodlawn, Chicago. Performance time and ticket information not yet available. The group also offers beginning gamelan lessons and a regular performance ensemble. Students who complete the beginning gamelan class may participate in the spring concert. For details, e-mail info@chicagogamelan.org or see the group’s [Web site](#).

- The **Thai Cultural and Fine Arts Institute** 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** 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.
CSEAS Quick Links

CSEAS Calendar
Southeast Asia Club
Conferences and calls for papers
Money for study: Fellowships, scholarships, and more

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.