Shoppers crowd the Air Itam market in Penang, Malaysia, last week in preparation for the new lunar year, which began in Southeast Asia on Feb. 4. This photo of the special holiday market was taken by Joshua Lim, a fall 2010 participant in the center’s Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP). Josh recently won a documentary photography award in his home country.

Gong Xie Fa Cai
A happy Lunar New Year to all from CSEAS

1. This week’s CSEAS lecture: Dr. Gini Gorlinski on the sampé’ (Borneo lute) of Sarawak
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1. This week’s CSEAS lecture: Dr. Gini Gorlinski on the sampé’ (Borneo lute) of Sarawak

Ethnomusicologist Gini Gorlinski will present “The Sampé’ of Sarawak: Shifting Sex Appeal?” at this week’s center lecture from noon to 12:50 p.m. Friday, Feb. 11, in Room 110 in the Campus Life Building. Among most upriver minority groups of Sarawak, Malaysia, the playing of the sampé’ (the Borneo lute) has traditionally been associated with men. However, recently a nascent contingent of young female sampé’ players has appeared on the scene in Kuching, the state capital. Gorlinski will explore the significance of this emerging phenomenon. Bring your lunch and feed your mind.

2. Center hosts Beijing teachers and IMSA official as the snow swirls

As the weather forecast worsened on Tuesday, Feb. 1, Dr. Claiborne Skinner, senior faculty member at the Illinois Academy of Mathematics and Science (IMSA) in Aurora, headed a delegation of two high school science teachers from the prestigious RDFZ high school, which is affiliated with Renmin University of China in Beijing. The teachers, Dr. Lu Jihua (biology) and Dr. Zhou Longping (chemistry), were in Illinois returning a visit to Renmin made by IMSA president Dr. Max McGee and an IMSA student delegation last year. With the mediation of CSEAS graduate assistant Laura Iandola, IMSA has been working closely with CSEAS for more than a year. In November 2010, participants in the center’s Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Project (SEAYLP) spent a day with their student counterparts at IMSA. “This resulted in so much traffic about IMSA and science in the SEAYLP participants’ Facebook sites that Dr. McGee wanted Drs. Lu and Zhou to visit the center and NIU,” said center director Jim Collins. The group’s visit included extensive tours of four laboratories in the Biological Sciences Department led by department chair Barrie Bode and joined by Deborah Pierce, associate provost for international programs. Later at CSEAS the entourage was joined by history professor and center associate Kenton Clymer, who taught at Renmin University, NIU’s
partner university in Beijing and a close partner with RDFZ. The visit ended at the office of College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean Christopher McCord, followed by a long ride back to Aurora through what would turn out to be a historic blizzard.

3. Faculty FYI: Cobb Fellowship deadline extended to Feb. 11
The deadline is now Friday, Feb. 11, for proposals for the Division of International Programs’ Lillian Cobb Fellowship, which grants funding to support NIU faculty in international endeavors. “This year International Programs has dedicated the fellowships to strengthening existing cooperative relationships with universities in other countries by providing travel funds for faculty to engage in teaching, joint research, or service at the international cooperating institution,” said Associate Provost for International Programs Deborah Pierce. Where one department or college may have an active partnership or cooperative relationship with a university abroad, the Cobb Committee is particularly interested in proposals from faculty from other NIU departments or colleges to cooperate with new colleagues or units of the same university abroad, Pierce said. “The objective is therefore to develop a new strand of an existing cooperative relationship outside the original department or college,” she said. Appropriate projects include conducting joint research, delivering guest lectures, or exploring a study abroad program with the cooperating university. A list of universities with which NIU maintains current agreements is posted on the International Programs website.

4. Not too early to think about summer language study and applying for a FLAS
Thinking about going to Southeast Asia this summer to study Thai, Vietnamese, or another Southeast Asian language? Then think about applying for a summer Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) grant, which provides for language study at approved institutions in Southeast Asia or in some cases, the U.S. The program is open to both undergraduate and graduate students; deadline to apply is March 1. For details and applications for this and other fellowship opportunities elsewhere, see Student Funding on the center website.

5. Get your paper on: Abstracts accepted until Feb. 28 for SEA Club student conference
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. Abstracts should be 400 words and will be accepted until Feb. 28 with final papers due March 23. Send abstracts to conference organizer Robert Kollas at rkollas@niu.edu. More details are available on the conference website.

6. Genocide lecture series addresses prospects for governmental change in Burma
Anthropology graduate student Shahin Aftabizadeh will present “Reforming State Abuse in Burma: Governmental Change and Grassroots Projects” from noon to 1 p.m. Feb. 16 in Room
100, Campus Life Building. Aftabizadeh will analyze the use of documentation projects focusing on issues of human rights abuse as a means of resisting state dominance in Burma/Myanmar. His talk is part of the NIU Genocide and Human Rights Lecture Series sponsored by the NIU Genocide and Human Rights Institute. Aftabizadeh is a CSEAS graduate assistant for the center’s Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP).

7. There are a lot of good reasons to be a SEAYLP host family
NIU and the center are 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 (April 16–17), and transportation to and from class sessions 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.

8. Summer study abroad in SEA through NIU: Malaysia/Brunei, 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.

- **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. **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.

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.**

9. **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 Burma 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,” said 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 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. **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**. Students are placed in pairs and adults may be placed as singles. Contact host family coordinator Leslie Shive at 815-753-9546 or e-mail lshive@niu.edu.

11. **Save the dates:** Club meetings, lectures, award deadlines, spring student conference
   - **Feb. 9:** Deadline to submit applications to the Peace Corps; apply online.
   - **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:** Next meeting of the Southeast Asia Club, 6 to 7 p.m., Room 480, DuSable Hall. Subsequent meetings will be held at the same time and location on **Feb. 28, March 21, April 4, and April 18.**
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.” Abstracts accepted until Feb. 28; final papers due March 23. Open to all graduate and undergraduate students. Free.

12. SEASSI applications available online
Applicants for this summer’s Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute (SEASSI), set for June 13–Aug. 5, can do the paperwork online to apply. The eight-week intensive Southeast Asia language course held at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is open to undergraduates, graduate students, and professionals. Languages taught are Burmese, Filipino, Hmong, Indonesian, Javanese, Khmer, Lao, Thai, and Vietnamese. NIU students who wish to apply for a summer FLAS fellowship for SEASSI must submit applications to the center by March 1 (see bulletin item 3 above). Tuition scholarship applications from SEASSI are due April 15. For details on SEASSI, e-mail seassi@intl-institute.wisc.edu.

13. 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 and funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Fulbright-Hays, and Group Projects. For details, see 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 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 liability and insurance protections.
14. Conferences and call for papers

- **Transforming Cambodia Studies: Social Change and Cultural Transitions since 1979**, July 7–9, Siem Reap, Cambodia. **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 thaisudies2011@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](#).

15. Area Southeast Asia cultural opportunities

The Chicago-based [Friends of the Gamelan](#) 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 the Hyde Park Union Church, 5600 S. Woodlawn, Chicago. 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.

- 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.

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**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.