Ready to go: After weeks of preparation, led by coordinator Sean Dolan, Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP) graduate assistants, from left, Shahin Aftabizadeh, Jordan York, Dolan, Maria “Rai” Hancock, Shay Galto, Mary Thomas, and Laura Iandola are ready for the spring session of the three-week program, which begins Wednesday this week when 26 students and adult leaders from Burma, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand arrive on campus. (CSEAS photo)

Weekly lectures resume and SEAYLP begins this week

1. This week’s lecture: Ian Baird, UW-Madison, on the rise of the Brao in Cambodia
2. Kudos: Kenton Clymer headed for the Wilson Center
3. Study abroad in Malaysia/Brunei; deadline to apply April 15, partial funding available
4. Study abroad in Thailand; deadline to apply April 15, partial funding available
5. On the road in Malaysia: NIU ‘engineers’ new links with partner university in Pahang
6. Center announces 2011–12 graduate FLAS fellowship recipients
7. Thai classical ensemble to perform at NIU World Music Concert
8. Democracy in Southeast Asia theme for April 23 student conference
9. Burmese Buddhism subject of Lifetime Learning Institute Burma session this week
10. International Training Office seeking three households for PYLP program
11. Save the dates: Southeast Asia Club, World Music Festival, Fulbright workshop
12. Job opportunities and money for study
13. Conferences and calls for papers
14. Area Southeast Asia cultural opportunities
1. This week’s lecture: Ian Baird, UW-Madison, on the rise of the Brao in Cambodia

Ian Baird, associate professor of geography at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, will present “A Golden Age? The Rise of the Brao in Northeastern Cambodia during the Period of Vietnamese Occupation, 1979–89” from noon to 12:50 p.m. Friday, April 8, in Room 110, Campus Life Building. “In this presentation, I explain some of the reasons why the Brao, and others in the northeastern provinces of Ratanakiri and Stung Treng, generally have such positive recollections of the Vietnamese occupation period,” Baird says. “This presentation demonstrates the importance of ethnicity and regional differences in Cambodia when assessing recent history, and of politics in affecting the ways in which the past is remembered.” Baird’s presentation will be followed by the center’s last lecture of the spring semester on Friday, April 15. The speaker will be Victor Friedman, director of the University of Chicago’s Center for East European and Russian/Eurasian Studies and Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Balkan and Slavic Linguistics. Bring your lunch and feed your mind.

2. Kudos: Kenton Clymer headed for the Wilson Center

The center congratulates CSEAS associate Kenton Clymer, Presidential Research Professor in the history department, who received word last week that he had been awarded a 2011–12 residential fellowship at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C. The Wilson Center supports research and scholarship on topics related to key public policy challenges, or that provide historical and/or cultural frameworks to illuminate policy issues. Clymer said he will be exploring the issue of U.S. policy options toward Burma during his time at the Wilson Center, noting that he is looking forward to also completing his next book, a general history of U.S.-Burma relations, while he is in Washington. Clymer’s article on the Khmer Rouge Tribunal verdict in Phnom Penh, which he observed while in Cambodia last summer, and its application to the U.S. position on Guantanamo appears in the April issue of Passport, the newsletter for the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations.

3. Study abroad in Malaysia/Brunei: deadline extended, partial funding available

The deadline to apply for the May 15–June 3 Malaysia/Brunei: History and Culture of Southeast Asia study abroad program has been extended to April 15. The three-week program led by associate history professor Eric Jones incorporates a homestay experience with significant time spent in Kuala Lumpur, Melaka, Penang, the jungles of Sarawak and Borneo, and the Islamic center of Brunei. In addition to whatever grants/scholarships the students may be awarded, there is a $175 NIU scholarship, given through the
Study Abroad Office, for the next four students who sign up. For details, see Jones’s video on YouTube. For information about financial aid, travel grants, scholarships, and applications, contact the NIU Study Abroad Office, 417 Williston Hall; or e-mail niuabroad@niu.edu. The deadline to apply for study abroad travel grants is May 6.

4. Study abroad in Thailand; deadline to apply April 15, partial funding available
There is still time to apply for associate anthropology professor Andrea Molnar’s four-week May 30–June 25 study abroad program in Thailand for graduate and undergraduate students. “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,” Molnar says. The program will include 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. The deadline to apply for the program is April 15 with financial aid available to qualified applicants. For information about financial aid, travel grants, scholarships, and applications, contact the NIU Study Abroad Office, 417 Williston Hall; or e-mail niuabroad@niu.edu.

5. On the road in Malaysia: NIU ‘engineers’ new links with partner university in Pahang
Over spring break, Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP), one of NIU’s partner universities in Malaysia, hosted a small delegation from NIU at its campuses in Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia. Accompanied by CSEAS associate Deborah Pierce, associate provost for international programs, College of Engineering & Engineering Technology (CEET) Dean Promod Vohra and Associate Dean Omar Ghayeb spent two days at UMP discussing the development of three undergraduate programs in engineering technology. NIU faculty will assist UMP colleagues in meeting the goals set by the Malaysian Ministry of Higher Education for practice-oriented programs to be established and implemented at the
university, Pierce said. In addition, some UMP engineering technology students may spend part of their undergraduate programs at NIU, thereby strengthening the existing ties between the two universities. The delegation also discussed joint research projects and a 4+1 program, leading to a master’s degree in twelve months of study beyond the bachelor’s degree. “Both Dean Vohra and Associate Dean Ghrayeb were very impressed by the faculty and laboratories of UMP and expressed strong support for the cooperative project,” Pierce said. “In developing this collaboration on engineering technology curriculum, NIU is responding to the objectives of the U.S. Department of Education for grant recipients to bring Southeast Asian Studies into the professional schools, such as CEET.”

6. Center announces 2011–12 graduate FLAS fellowship recipients

The center is pleased to announce the names of fourteen graduate students who will be recipients of Foreign Language and Area Studies fellowships for the 2011–12 academic year. They are: Shahin Aftabizadeh, MA anthropology, Burmese; Lauren Bell, MA anthropology, Khmer; Philip Cerepak, MA history, Tagalog; Shay Galto, MA sociology, Khmer; Colleen Gray, MA anthropology, Malay; Laura Iandola, PhD history, Indonesian; Aaron Johnson, PhD political science, Thai; Ryan Keller, MA anthropology, Malay; Joseph Kinzer, MM School of Music, Malay; Robert Kollas, MA political science, Tagalog; Nicole Loring, PhD political science, Burmese; Siew Lian Lim, MFA School of Art, Indonesian; Brett McCabe, PhD history, Malay; and Michael Zack, MA history, Burmese. Undergraduate FLAS recipients will be announced at a future date.

7. Thai classical ensemble to perform at NIU World Music Concert

A traditional Thai music group consisting of fifteen musicians, ages 5 to 50, from the Thai Cultural and Fine Arts Institute in Chicago will be featured in NIU’s annual World Music Concert at 3 p.m. April 10 in Boutell Memorial Concert Hall. Ensemble director Chamni Sripraram, an NIU alum, will give a talk at the “Meet-the-Musicians” lecture prior to the concert at 2 p.m. Sripraram, who started learning Thai music when he was 4, studied music education at Chulalongkorn University, majoring in Ranad Et (the Thai xylophone). He later received a master’s degree in music at NIU. In addition to directing the ensemble, he is the music director at the Thai Institute and is a guest lecturer in Thai music at Northwestern University in Evanston. This event is free and open to the public. For details, please contact assistant music professor and CSEAS associate Jui-Ching Wang (jcwang@niu.edu).

8. Democracy in Southeast Asia theme for April 23 student conference

“Resistance Movements and Democratization in Southeast Asia” will be the topic of discussion and 15-minute presentations of papers by students at the Southeast Asia Club’s annual spring student conference, coming up Saturday, April 23, in Altgeld Hall. University of Chicago historian Mark Bradley, a specialist in postcolonial Southeast Asia and twentieth-century U.S. international history, will give the keynote address. The conference begins at 9
a.m. with the keynote address scheduled to lead off the afternoon session. A cash prize will be awarded to the best undergraduate and graduate papers. The conference is free and open to all NIU faculty, staff, and students, and interested community members. For details, see the conference website.

9. Burmese Buddhism subject of Lifetime Learning Institute Burma session this week
NIU art historian emeritus and former Center for Burma Studies (CBS) director Richard Cooler will discuss Burmese Buddhism and lead a tour through the CBS’s art collections at this week’s Wednesday Burma study group offered by NIU’s Lifelong Learning Institute. The study group will meet from 1 to 3 p.m. April 6 in Room 505 at the Holmes Student Center. Former CSEAS associate Arlene Neher is convening the group to learn about the history, culture, geography, politics, international relations, and everyday life in Burma with current CBS director and art historian Catherine Raymond, history professor Kenton Clymer, and emeritus faculty Cooler, George Spencer, and Clark Neher plus several international students from Burma. The study group will meet through May 4. For details, e-mail the institute at LASEP@niu.edu.

10. International Training Office seeking three households for PYLP program
NIU’s International Training Office (ITO) is looking for three area families to host two girls, two boys, and male adult leaders participating 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.

11. Save the dates: Southeast Asia Club, World Music Festival, Fulbright workshop
- April 4: Southeast Asia Club meets 6 to 7 p.m., Room 480, DuSable Hall. Final spring meeting at same time and location April 18. Other club activities include Southeast Asia Culture Night, April 15 (volunteers needed!); egg-dying with SEAYLP participants at 3 p.m. April 20; annual student conference April 23. For details, e-mail niuseaclub@gmail.com.
- April 5–13: NIU World Music Festival at various locations on campus. All concerts are free and open to the public.
- April 20: Workshop for students interested in applying for Fulbright scholarships, 2 to 4 p.m., University Suite, Holmes Student Center. For details, e-mail Sara Clayton at sclayton@niu.edu.
- April 29–30: Third Annual Khmer Studies Forum at Ohio University Center, sponsored by Center for Southeast Asian Studies there. See Conferences below.

12. Job opportunities and money for study
University of Washington / Seattle
- Lecturer in Khmer Language. Fifty-percent position beginning fall 2011, annually renewable through June 2014. Native or near-native language proficiency and experience in teaching Khmer is required, and an MA preferred in Khmer language and
culture, language pedagogy, or a relevant field. **Deadline to apply: April 15.** Send letter of application, curriculum vitae, statement of teaching philosophy, sample of representative teaching materials if available, and three letters of recommendation by e-mail to Sara Van Fleet, saravf@uw.edu, or mail to: Chair, Khmer Search Committee, c/o Sara Van Fleet (Associate Director, Southeast Asia Center), Southeast Asia Center, Box 353650, University of Washington, Seattle WA 98195.

**University of British Columbia / Vancouver**

- **Lecturer in Indonesian Language and Culture.** 12-month position teaching language and culture courses beginning July 1. **Applications reviewed starting March 31.**

**Indonesian Studies / Germany**

- 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.

13. Conferences and calls for papers

- **3rd Annual Khmer Studies Forum,** April 29–30, Athens, Ohio. Sponsored by Ohio University Center for Southeast Asian Studies. Free. 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. Hosted by Mahidol University and the Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia. For details, e-mail thaistudies2011@gmail.com.

- **Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs,** Oct. 28–30, St. Paul, MN. Annual conference at Macalester College invites submissions pertaining to Asia and its subregions from all academic disciplines. **Deadline for abstracts: June 1.** For details, see [conference website](#).

14. 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 Hyde Park Union Church, 5600 S. Woodlawn, Chicago. The group also offers beginning gamelan lessons and a performance ensemble. Contact [info@chicagogamelan.org](mailto: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.