In the last days of Ramadan, the faithful in Jakarta pray together as they await Eid al-Fitri, which was celebrated by Southeast Asia's Muslims just this past week. (Photo / Reuters)

Best wishes on Eid al-Fitri to our Muslim colleagues, friends

1. CSEAS weekly lectures begin Sept. 9: Philip Yampolsky on the music of Timor
2. SEA Club starts the year with dinner and a movie
3. Fall symposium on mainland SEA heritage sites, museums set for October at NIU
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1. CSEAS weekly lectures begin Sept. 9: Philip Yampolsky on the music of Timor

University of Illinois ethnomusicologist Philip Yampolsky, founding director of the Robert E. Brown Center for World Music, will kick off the 2011–12 CSEAS weekly lecture series at noon Friday, Sept. 9, with a presentation on the diversity of music, particularly group singing, on Timor and in the wider region of eastern Indonesia, Timor-Leste, and Papua New Guinea. “To put it simply, it is astounding how many different ways of singing together can be found in maritime Southeast Asia, and how many of those many ways are represented in Timor,” Yampolsky says. The lecture is in Room 110, Campus Life Building. Bring your lunch and feed your mind.

2. SEA Club starts the year with dinner and a movie

The Southeast Asia Club invites members new, old and prospective to its first event of the year, Dinner and a Movie in Southeast Asia, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 8, in 456 DuSable. Pancit, stir-fried Filipino noodles, is on the menu and a choice of movies—a Filipino love story or “The Scent of Green Papaya,” a Vietnamese classic—will be flickering on the screen. The club is also planning a Southeast Asia Culture Night in mid-October and has set its fall meeting schedule. All meetings will be from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in 456 DuSable; dates are Sept. 22, Oct. 6, Oct. 20, Nov. 3 and Nov. 17. The club is teaming up with Indonesian students at NIU to co-sponsor Indonesian Culture Night on Sept. 10 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Wirtz Hall. The group also plans to participate in NIU’s Student Organization Night on Sept. 14. SEA Club is looking for two more executive board members, a communications director and a marketing and social coordinator, says club president Michael Deinzer. If interested, contact him or vice president Melanie Francia at niuseaclub@gmail.com.

3. Fall symposium on mainland SEA heritage sites, museums set for October at NIU

CSEAS and the Collaborative for Cultural Heritage and Museum Practices (CHAMP) at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, are in the process of finalizing plans to co-sponsor a fall symposium, Mainland Southeast Asia: Museums and Heritage Sites, Friday and Saturday, Oct. 28–29, at the Holmes Student Center. Speakers so far include center associate and art historian Catherine Raymond, director of the Center for Burma Studies; anthropologist and CHAMP Director Helaine Silverman; U Nyunt Han, Regional Center for Archeology and Fine Arts (SPAFA), Bangkok; Rungsima Lertjanyarak, Vongchavalitkul University, Thailand; and Suprapa Somnuxpong, Kamphaeng Phet, Thailand. More information to be announced at a later date. Contact center director Jim Collins or outreach coordinator Julie Lamb through the center office, 815-753-1771.
4. Opportunities abroad beckon with U.S. Fulbright program
Newlywed Matthew Jagel, a Ph.D. candidate in history, is about to depart for Phnom Penh, Cambodia, where he will spend the 2011–12 academic year on a Fulbright U.S. Student fellowship conducting research in Cambodia. Graduating college seniors, graduate students, young professionals and artists are eligible to apply for the 2012–13 program. Applicants must submit their paperwork by Sept. 23. Graduating in foreign languages, English, or education? Sept. 23 is also the deadline to apply for a 2012–2013 Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship. Fulbright ETAs are offered in many countries worldwide, including Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam. For details on how to sign up at NIU, contact Associate Provost for International Programs Deb Pierce at 815-753-1989 or dpierce@niu.edu.

5. Campus notes: Kate Wiegele on fisherfolk in the Philippines
Center associate Kate Weigele (anthropology) presented “Cultural Models of Nature among Fisherfolk and a Fishery-oriented NGO in the Philippines” in an anthropology workshop at NIU Sept. 1 entitled Cultural Models of Nature and the Environment: Self, Space and Causality. Hers was one of thirteen presentations by scholars from around the country and Europe in the workshop organized by the Anthropology Department.

6. Celebrating Merdeka 2011
Students in CSEAS Director Jim Collins’ beginning, middle and advanced Malay classes marked Malaysian Independence Day Aug. 31 with a celebratory dinner at Collins’ home. On the festive menu were shrimp and vegetables; chicken curry; stir-fried vegetables and sambol among other dishes.

Parti Merdeka 2011:
FLTAs Nabilah Idrus (Malay), left, and Chanida Phongnapharuk (Thailand) fill their plates in the kitchen, left. Partygoers, including 16 Malay students and their TAs, get together for a group picture during the festivities. (Photos / Jocelyn Sims, left front)
7. Telling it on a T-shirt: From Tai Dam to SEAsite

Sometimes even a T-shirt can tell a story. Our story begins in 1978 when center associate John Hartmann (foreign languages and literatures) began work on the Tai Dam language with refugees resettled in Iowa at the end of the Vietnam conflict. His research led to developing the first Tai Dam computer font with center associate Jim Henry (computer science). Henry, Hartmann and another center associate Patricia Henry (foreign languages and literatures) went on to create SEAsite, the center’s free web resource for Southeast Asian languages and culture, including an entire section devoted to minority Tai languages like Tai Dam.

Over the summer, Hartmann was invited to speak at the first national Tai Dam (Lao Song Dam) conference held in August at Mahidol University in Bangkok. The T-shirt created for the event, which features an array of traditional Tai Dam consonants—originally drawn for SEAsite by NIU alum Kip Thammavongsa (B.S. economics and electrical engineering, 1999)—framed by SEAsite’s web address. Hartmann returns to Mahidol University in Thailand Sept. 6 to speak at a Tai Dam seminar, where he promises to wear the T-shirt again.

8. Save the dates: Art show, Indonesian culture night, parade of flags, Fulbright deadline

- **Sept. 1—Oct. 30:** “Echoing Balance,” an exhibit of pieces inspired by Wayang Kulit shadow puppetry and created by art graduate student Siew Lian Lim, a 2011–12 Foreign Language and Area Studies fellow, opens this week at the DeKalb Area Women’s Center gallery, 1021 State Street. Artist reception set for 7 to 9 p.m. **Sept. 16;** gallery open Friday evenings and by appointment.
- **Sept. 10:** Indonesian Culture Night: 6 to 9 p.m., Wirtz Hall. Sponsored by Indonesian students at NIU and Southeast Asia Club.
- **Sept. 16:** International Programs’ annual parade of flags, 11 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Starts at Huskie Stadium and ends at Martin Luther King Commons.
- **Sept. 23:** Deadline to apply at NIU for 2012–13 Fulbright fellowships. Details in item 4.
- **Oct. 7-8:** Council on Thai Studies conference at University of Wisconsin-Madison. See details in Conferences below.
- **Oct. 28-29:** Fall symposium at NIU on cultural heritage sites and museums in mainland Southeast Asia, co-sponsored by CSEAS and University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Details in item 3.

9. Coming soon to the website and print: Spring/summer 2011 Mandala

What has everybody been doing over the summer? Center alum Lyndy Worsham is continuing her work in Thailand using Geographic Information Systems technology to help displaced
Burmese refugees in their mapping projects; a record number of NIU students traveled to Southeast Asia for intensive summer language training; faculty associates have been researching, writing, presenting, traveling, and promoting NIU throughout the region; and the center makes some changes as it adapts to new budget realities. Read these stories and more in the next issue of the CSEAS newsletter, The Mandala, posting soon to the center website.

10. **There are a lot of good reasons to be a host family for SEAYLP**

NIU is actively looking for families to act as hosts **Oct. 30–Nov. 10** for 25 high school students and six adult leaders from Brunei, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, and Vietnam participating in the fall 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 (Nov. 5–6), 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.

### Top 10 reasons to be a host family

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

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11. **San Jose State anthropologist to speak Sept. 8 on making merit and art**

Anthropologist Sandra Cate from San Jose State University, author of *Making Merit, Making Art: A Thai Buddhist Temple in Wimbledon* (University of Hawai’i Press, 2002), will give a lecture at 5 p.m. Thursday, **Sept. 8**, in Arends Hall in the School of Art building. Cate, who focuses on trans-nationalism and global culture, tourism, consumption and exchange, art in cultural context, folklore, and religion and ritual in her research, will discuss the topic of her book as it relates to contemporary Thai and Lao societies. Cate also will be speaking from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Friday, **Sept. 9**, in Room 111 in the School of Art for Center for Burma Studies Director Catherine Raymond’s Southeast Asian class. Cate’s lecture is sponsored by the Center for Burma Studies, the College of Visual and Performing Art, the School of Art and the Art History Division.

12. **Conferences and calls for papers**

- **Council on Thai Studies**, Oct. 7–8, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Call for papers. **Submission deadline: Sept. 9**. Email to Kate Gillogly at gillogly@uwp.edu. A block of rooms have been reserved at the Lowell Center, 610 Langdon St., Madison, WI, 53703. For reservations, phone 866-301-1753 or email lowell@ecc.uwex.edu. Students: Sleeping bag space is available with advance notice.
- **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. For details, see [conference website](#).

- **Third International Graduate Student Conference on Indonesia 2011**, Nov. 8–9, Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Theme: “Indonesia Urban Cultures and Societies.” For details, see [conference website](#).

- **International Seminar: Twenty Years of Greater Mekong Sub-region**, Dec. 8-9, Chiang Mai University, Thailand. Call for papers to be presented at conference examining impact and future of creation of the sub-region. Two days of field studies follow the conference. **Deadline for submission: Oct. 31.** See [posted details](#).

- **Third SEE-SEAInternational Conference**, Feb. 10-12, University of Chicago. Co-convened by CSEAS and the UC Center for East European and Russian/Eurasian Studies. Theme: From the Adriatic to the Sulu Sea: Islam and Identity in Southeast Europe and Southeast Asia. Details will be posted on the [center website](#).


- **Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference**, March 15-18, Toronto, Canada. Registration opens **Sept. 14.** For details, see the [conference website](#).

- **Ninth International Conference on the Philippines**, May 22–25, Michigan State University, Lansing, MI. **Deadline for proposals and abstracts: Nov. 11.** Send to ICOPHIL Committee, Asian Studies Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing MI 48824-1035, For details, contact asiansc@msu.edu.

### 13. Job opportunities and money for study

**International Institute for Asian Studies / Leiden, the Netherlands**

- **Postdoctoral/research fellows:** Researchers sought focusing on institute’s three thematic clusters: Asian Cities, Heritage and Social Agency in Asia, and Global Asia. Fellowships commence after September. **Deadline to apply: Oct. 1.** For application, see [IIAS website](#).

**U.S. State Department**

- Area studies can lead to a career in the diplomatic corps. Check out job opportunities and career paths at the [State Department website](#).

### 14. Area Southeast Asia cultural opportunities

- 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. 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 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.
Persons with a disability who may need assistance at any CSEAS event may contact office manager Nancy Schuneman at 815-753-1771 or nschunem@niu.edu. To no longer receive this bulletin, please reply to this e-mail with a request to remove your name. Thank you.