Indonesian ambassador Dino Patti Djalal, second from right, welcomes, from left, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean Chris McCord, CSEAS Director Jim Collins and Associate Provost for International Programs Deb Pierce to his official residence in Washington, D.C. while the NIU team was in the nation’s capital Aug. 16–18. See item 1 for details. (Photo courtesy of Deb Pierce)

Making the NIU-Indonesia education connection

1. On the road: Pursuing the NIU-Indonesia education connection
2. This week’s lecture: Tomoyuki Shibata on improving children’s health in Indonesia
3. Selamat Datang! Experience Indonesia at Indonesian Culture Night
4. Campus notes: Michael Buehler on Sharia regulations; kudos to SEA Club
5. Save the dates: Parade of flags, Fulbright deadline, fall conferences
6. Fall symposium on mainland SEA heritage sites, museums set for October at NIU
7. There are a lot of good reasons to be a host family for SEAYLP
8. Conferences and calls for papers
9. Job opportunities and money for study
10. Area Southeast Asia cultural opportunities
1. On the road: Pursuing the NIU-Indonesia education connection

NIU is front and center in the current push by the U.S. and Indonesian governments, announced in 2010 by President Barack Obama, to strengthen higher education in Indonesia through educational exchanges and university partnerships. CSEAS and the Division of International Programs have been taking the lead in leveraging NIU’s years of Indonesia scholarship into a meaningful role in the $165 million investment the U.S. is making in stronger academic ties with the country.

In addition to participating in a U.S. higher education leadership delegation to Indonesia in 2009 and a U.S. Commerce Department educational trade mission to Indonesia and Vietnam in 2011, NIU currently has memoranda of understanding (MOU) with two Indonesian universities and is working on various educational ventures with them, including a dual degree program in engineering and a public health research project at Universitas Hasanuddin. Four more MOUs are in negotiation now.

Since fall 2008, the center has hosted eighteen Indonesian exchange scholars and is expecting four more this fall. Every year since 2009, NIU has sent three students to Indonesia in the summer for intensive language training. Future NIU plans include expanding educational exchange opportunities with partner schools and linking up with U.S. community colleges to recruit Indonesian students who will eventually transfer to NIU.

In mid-August, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean Christopher McCord, Associate Provost for International Program Deb Pierce, and center director Jim Collins, who have made several trips to Indonesia together in the past two years, went to Washington, D.C., and New York City to meet with several federal funding agencies involved in the U.S.-Indonesia educational partnership.

In Washington, D.C., the NIU team reviewed the university’s long-standing involvement in Indonesia and Southeast Asia and discussed plans for an upcoming U.S.-Indonesia summit on educational exchange with the U.S. Department of Education’s Cheryl Gibbs, Loveen Bains and Steven Pappas, and with Carolyn Lantz and Jen Bookbinder of the U.S. Department of State. They also met with David Merrill, president of the non-profit United States-Indonesia Society (USINDO), and attended Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities meetings on USAID funding programs in Indonesia.

While in D.C., Pierce said the team was honored to be invited to the Indonesian Ambassador’s residence on Aug. 17, Indonesian Independence Day, for private discussions.
with Ambassador Dino Patti Jalal (who visited NIU in July 2010 shortly after his arrival in the U.S.), and Haryo Winarso, the embassy’s new educational attaché.

“It was truly amazing to visit our program officers at the Departments of Education and State and find them so well-informed and enthusiastic about the details of our programs and plans here at NIU,” Collins said. “Our lengthy discussions with Pak Dino and Pak Haryo about Indonesian-American bilateral student exchange, joint research and partner university MOUs strengthened our resolve to re-commit NIU’s energy and resources to the study of Indonesia.”

The week after going to D.C., McCord, Pierce, and Collins went to New York to meet with officials of the Institute of International Education (IIE) and the Henry R. Luce Foundation about those organizations’ plans in Indonesia. During a meeting with IIE President Allan Goodman, and Mary Kirk, vice president for student exchanges, the NIU team was gratified to learn that the IIE considers NIU to be the U.S. university that has accomplished the most in Indonesia over recent years. “Dr. Goodman’s support and encouragement signals that we’re on the right track in building our partnerships in Indonesia,” McCord said.

2. This week’s lecture: Tomoyuki Shibata on improving children’s health in Indonesia
Assistant public health professor and CSEAS adjunct Tomoyuki Shibata (nursing and health studies) will present “Promoting United Nations Millennium Development Goals in Southeast Asia” at this week’s CSEAS lecture at noon Friday, Sept. 16, in Room 110, Campus Life Building. Shibata and assistant professor James Wilson (geography) spent a month this summer in Makassar, Indonesia, collaborating with Hasanuddin University (UNHAS) on research examining the impact of environmental factors on children’s health, focusing on the three leading causes of early childhood death: pneumonia, diarrhea, and injuries. “It has been estimated that various environmental factors, including chemical, biological, physical and socioeconomic factors, contribute to twenty-four percent of the global disease burden and twenty-three percent of all deaths,” says Shibata. “Environmental risk factors for children have been estimated to be five times greater than the total population.” Shibata, accompanied by NIU public health graduate student Lindsey Watson, visited a solid-waste disposal site and low-, middle-, and high-income residential areas in Makassar to survey residents and collect environmental samples. Shibata’s project, which was funded by an NIU Artistry and Research grant, is the first of several collaborative initiatives between NIU and UNHAS promoting the United Nations’ Millennium Development Goals in Southeast Asia. Wilson also received an Artistry and Research grant for a separate project examining public health and geography; he will be speaking at a later lecture.

Bring your lunch and feed your mind.
3. Selamat Datang! Experience Indonesia at Indonesian Culture Night
NIU’s Indonesian students and the Southeast Asia Club are hosting an Indonesian culture night Saturday, Sept. 10, at Wirtz Hall Auditorium. Doors open at 5 p.m. and performances showcasing dance, music, and Pencak Silat (Indonesian martial arts) from Java, Bali and Kalimantan, start at 6. Indonesian appetizers and food will be served after the performances. There also will be a photo exhibition. The entire event is free and open to the public. Partial funding is provided by the Indonesian consulate in Chicago. Semoga kita bertemu di sana (hope to meet you there)!

4. Campus notes: Michael Buehler on Sharia regulations; kudos to SEA Club
* In the Sept. 6 issue of the Indonesian news weekly Tempo, CSEAS associate Michael Buehler (political science) writes that the burgeoning number of new Sharia regulations in Indonesia is not coming through Islamic political parties, but from politicians affiliated with secular parties in the country. In his article, “Whodunit? Politicians Affiliated with Secular Parties Implement Most Sharia Regulations,” Buehler notes that his latest research, contrary to conventional wisdom, shows that politicians affiliated with such secular parties as Golkar and PDIP with long histories in the bureaucracy, the military or the police have been responsible for drafting, adopting and implementing most of the new rules based on Islamic law. Buehler’s article is included in the magazine’s special report, “10 Years of Sharia.”

* Congratulations to the Southeast Asia Club on receiving a Diversity and Equity Award from the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management. SEA Club has participated in the division’s Dialogue on Diversity Program for two years. The nationally recognized program, which begins its fourth year this month, encourages student groups and organizations to share personal experiences and cultivate leadership abilities that promote better understanding and relationships within NIU’s diverse student population on campus.

5. Save the dates: Parade of flags, Fulbright deadline, fall conferences
- 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. 22: Next meeting of the Southeast Asia Club, 5:30 to 7 p.m. in 456 DuSable; next dates are Oct. 6, Oct. 20, Nov. 3 and Nov. 17.
- **Sept. 23**: Deadline to apply at NIU for 2012–13 [Fulbright U.S. Student](#) fellowships and for [Fulbright English Teaching Assistantships](#). For details on how to sign up at NIU, contact Deb Pierce of International Programs at 815-753-1989 or [dpierce@niu.edu](mailto:dpierce@niu.edu).

- **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 5.

- **Through Oct. 30**: “Echoing Balance,” exhibit of pieces inspired by Wayang Kulit shadow puppetry and created by center FLAS fellow Siew Lian Lim, at DeKalb Area Women’s Center gallery, 1021 State Street. Artist reception 7 to 9 p.m. **Sept. 16**.

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### 6. 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 co-sponsoring a fall symposium, Mainland Southeast Asia: Museums and Heritage Sites, on Friday and Saturday, **Oct. 28–29**, at the Holmes Student Center. The final schedule has not been set, but 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, Vongchaivalitkul University, Thailand; and Suprapa Somnuxpong, Kamphaeng Phet, Thailand. Watch this space and the [center website](#) for details.

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### 7. 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](mailto:lshive@niu.edu).

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### 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 Lao 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

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Sukhothai, a World Heritage site, will be one topic of discussion at the upcoming CSEAS/UIUC fall symposium on heritage sites and museums in mainland Southeast Asia.
8. Conferences and calls for papers

- **Council on Thai Studies**, Oct. 7–8, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison. For details, email Kate Gillogly at gillogly@uwp.edu. 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 available with advance notice.
- **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.

9. 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.

10. 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.