Jetlagged but excited, Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program participants enjoyed an American-style dinner at the always welcoming Lincoln Inn in downtown DeKalb before checking into their quarters at the Holmes Student Center.

Ready for action: Fall 2011 SEAYLP session begins

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1. **This week’s lecture:** Michael Sullivan on the Center for Khmer Studies (CKS) in Cambodia

Michael Sullivan, director of the Center for Khmer Studies in Siem Reap, Cambodia, will speak about the involvement of the United States in rebuilding Cambodia’s tertiary education sector from scratch in the 1990s, and the opportunities that exist today for collaboration and fellowship between scholars from the U.S. and Cambodia, at noon Friday, **Nov. 4, Room 110, Campus Life Building.** CKS is the only member institution of the
Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) in Southeast Asia; CAORC is funded by the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Education, the Smithsonian Institution, private foundations and individual donors. Bring your lunch and feed your mind.

2. Fall SEAYLP begins with orientation, welcome lunch, host families, and Halloween

For the past several months, the center’s Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP) team, led by program manager and veteran SEAYLP staffer Maria “Rai” Hancock, has been busy getting ready for the twenty-five high school students and six adult leaders from Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, and Vietnam who arrived at NIU Wednesday, Oct. 27. Since arriving, the group has been easing into the SEAYLP routine under the guidance of SEAYLP assistants Scott Abel, Eric Boetje, Emily Kruse, and Jordan York. After a full orientation to the U.S. State Department-sponsored program, the group decamped on what has become a traditional SEAYLP pilgrimage to Wal-Mart before a bus tour of campus and DeKalb. Some of the group went out to dinner afterward with assistants York and Abel, and students Colleen Gray and Emily Dow before turning in. Friday was a full day, beginning with a cross-cultural seminar followed by a welcome luncheon and group presentations in the Sky Room of the Holmes Student Center. At the lunch, the group was welcomed by NIU Provost Ray Alden, Associate Provost for International Programs Deb Pierce, and CSEAS Director Jim Collins. Each group then gave a cultural presentation about their country to much laughter, applause, and clicking of cameras. After a workshop on regional Southeast Asia, the group ended the day at the NIU Southeast Asia Club’s Southeast Asia Culture Night in Wirtz Hall. Over the weekend, the group participated in workshops on effective communication and using theatre and the arts as tools for civic engagement, celebrated Halloween at a party in the Chandelier Room in Adams Hall, and were picked up by their host families, with whom they will stay during their time in DeKalb. The first full week of activities is set to begin Monday, Oct. 31, with seminars on river ecology, action planning, and team building. During the week, the group will travel to Chicago, the Illinois Math and Science Academy, and Springfield in between workshops on civil society and media training. SEAYLP is funded by the U.S. State Department’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and administered by CSEAS.
3. Upcoming seminar to focus on peace-building in conflict zones of SEA

NIU anthropologists and center associates Judy Ledgerwood, Andrea Molnar, and Susan Russell will join NIU political scientist Chris Jones (director of the University Honors Program) and two visiting Thai scholars on Dec. 1 in a seminar and roundtable discussion on peace-building in conflict areas of Southeast Asia. The two Thai scholars presenting are NIU alums Srisompob Jitpiromsri (Ph.D. political science, 1997), director of the Center for Conflict Studies and Cultural Diversity at Prince of Songkla University, and Chandranuj Mahakanjana (Ph.D. political science, 2004), assistant professor of public administration at the National Institute for Development Administration. The presenters, all of whom have expertise in peace and conflict studies in SEA, will focus on the efforts of academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, and civil society to develop new peace norms and create opportunities for peace-building dialogue, according to Molnar, who is organizing the event. The group will also discuss development of an NIU curriculum focusing on peace and conflict studies, she said, noting that the two Thai participants already have such a curriculum in place at their institutions. CSEAS, the Department of Anthropology, and the Center for NGO Leadership (NGOLD) are co-sponsoring the event.

4. Summer FLAS applications now up online; deadline to apply Dec. 1

Information and forms to apply for a summer Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowship are now posted on the CSEAS website; the deadline to apply is Dec. 1. FLAS fellowships are funded by the U.S. Department of Education’s Title VI Program of Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships. Each year the center selects a number of qualified undergraduate and graduate students to study Southeast Asian languages as Summer FLAS fellows. These fellowships provide for the study of Southeast Asian languages at any educational institution, especially those in Southeast Asia, during the summer semester. Top priority will be given to students planning to study a language in a Southeast Asian country. Summer FLAS awards are expected to provide a stipend of $2,500. In addition, a FLAS fellow’s tuition at a Southeast Asia language program will be paid (up to $4,000). Any qualified undergraduate or graduate student from any accredited U.S. higher education institution is welcome to apply for this Summer FLAS award, but must apply as a visiting student (undergraduate) or as a student-at-large (graduate) at Northern Illinois University. For details, see the center’s website.
5. Exchanging places: Meet this year’s ‘Sandwich Scholars’

Say *apa kabar* to this year’s Sandwich Scholars! Three Ph.D. students from Universitas Hasanuddin in Makassar, Indonesia, are spending the semester at NIU in an exchange program funded by the Indonesia Department of Education and coordinated by the center with the cooperation of the Division of International Programs. These Sandwich Scholars, so nicknamed because the program fits in between their regular academic programs at their home school, are mentored by NIU faculty during their time in DeKalb. Andi Gazly is being mentored by Yu-Che Chen (public administration), Henricus Lembang by Carl Campbell (economics), and Hasniaty Khaerul by Donald H. Kluemper (management). This is the third year for the Sandwich Program at NIU, which has brought 21 Indonesian scholars to campus: three in 2008; fifteen in 2010; and three this year. The students will return to Indonesia Dec. 26.

6. Math, science, and mandalas at STEM fest

The more than 4,500 people attending STEM fest, a science, technology, engineering and math lollapalooza, at the Convocation Center on Oct. 22, may not have expected to learn about Southeast Asia amidst the robots and the chemistry experiments. But more than 300 avid visitors stopped by the CSEAS booth to learn all about the math and science of mandalas. CSEAS graduate assistant Allison Hogshead created a PowerPoint demonstration of how the Buddhist and Hindu concept of the mandala, a Sanskrit word meaning circle, figures into the art and architecture of much of Southeast Asia and other regions of Asia. CSEAS Assistant Director Trude Jacobsen contributed a student-made scale model of the Borobudur temple in central Java, which is built in three tiers of concentric mandala forms, to the booth. Visitors stopping by also had a chance to color drawings of different kinds of mandalas. “Like the pyramid builders, the people in Southeast Asia were putting their worldview into their architecture and engineering to build these massive structures,” said CSEAS Outreach Coordinator Julie Lamb. About 4,500 people, from young students to adults, attended STEM fest, which featured robotics, a haunted physics lab,
and hundreds of hands-on activities. This was the second year CSEAS participated in the event. The booth also included brochures encouraging students majoring in technical fields to consider a Southeast Asian Studies minor at NIU.

7. Malaysian engineering professors discuss research at leading school

Engineering professors Kamal bin Yusoh and Wan Azhar bin Wan Yusoff of the Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP), a prominent engineering school in Malaysia, met with about 40 NIU engineering students Tuesday, Oct. 25, in Room 358 of the Engineering Building to discuss the latest research underway at the school’s Center for Academic Innovation and Competitiveness. Research areas the two mentioned include biotech projects in Malaysia’s virgin forestlands, automotive suspension and alternative fuels development, hot-stamping systems, manufacturing controllers, extraction systems, and numerous chemical engineering projects. UMP has two campuses, including one with 7,000 students studying the full range of engineering disciplines; at least five UMP students are scheduled to come to NIU as students in January, part of a growing collaboration between UMP and NIU. The two professors were visiting NIU to work on details regarding the development of a new curriculum at UMP in engineering technology. The event was co-sponsored by CSEAS, Division of International Programs, and the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology.

8. Catching up with SEAYLP.

While at a linguistics conference in Bandung, Indonesia, in early October, CSEAS Director Jim Collins was surprised by a visit from SEAYLP spring 2010 alumnus A. Sumudra, left, who is now a freshman in college studying communications at the Universitas Padjadjaran in Bandung. Most of the 2009-10 SEAYLP students are now in college, Collins said. Look for more updates on what they are doing in future issues of the bulletin.

9. Summer study abroad with NIU: Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand

NIU is offering three opportunities to study abroad in Southeast Asia next summer with NIU faculty members. Center associate Eric Jones (history) will take students to Malaysia for the seventh time; center associate Andrea Katalin Molnar (anthropology) is reprising her 2011 Culture and Diversity in Thailand program; and center adjunct Tomoyuki Shibata (nursing and health studies/public health) is conducting his first study abroad program to Indonesia. All are
NIU study abroad programs offering course credit for both graduate and undergraduate students. For details on programs, financial aid, travel grants, scholarships, and applications, contact the NIU Study Abroad Office, 417 Williston Hall; or e-mail niuabroad@niu.edu. Study Abroad 101, a workshop on the ins and outs of studying abroad, meets at 3:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in 417 Williston.

- **Public Health and Health Programs in Indonesia, June 4–22:** Three-week program open to a wide academic audience, including students of public health, nursing, pre-med, nutrition, geography, environmental studies, and Southeast Asian studies. Program builds on summer 2011 research project in Makassar, Indonesia conducted by assistant public health professor Tomoyuki Shibata (tshibata@niu.edu) in cooperation with Hasanuddin University. **Deadline to apply:** TBA.

- **Cultural Diversity in Thailand, June 15–July 14:** Four-week program focuses on cultural diversity in Thailand and the relationship between the dominant majority and minorities of the country. The course introduces students to diversity of cultural groups in Thailand, existing power relations between dominant and minority groups, and practical implications of these relations in everyday Thai life. Program includes lectures, briefings, field trips in and around Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Hat Yai and Phuket. On field visits, NIU students will be paired with Thai students as often as possible. **Deadline to apply:** March 1.

- **Study Abroad Malaysia: History and Culture of Southeast Asia, July 22–Aug. 10:** Three-week program will be of interest to students interested in history of Southeast Asia, globalization, comparative religion, colonial and post-colonial culture and incorporates significant time in Kuala Lumpur, Melaka, Penang, the jungles of Sarawak and Borneo, and the agricultural Cameron Highlands. **Deadline to apply:** March 15.

10. Paper call: Southeast Europe/Southeast Asia conference
Submissions are being sought for papers to be presented in the third in a series of conferences co-convened by CSEAS and the University of Chicago’s Center for East European and Russian/Eurasian Studies (CEERES) comparing two edges of the Islamic world. **From the Adriatic to the Sulu Sea: Islam and Identity in Southeast Europe and Southeast Asia,** set for Feb.
10–12, will be held at the Franke Institute for the Humanities at the University of Chicago. (The first conference was held in February 2009 at NIU, the second in January 2011 in Malaysia). “This third conference understands ‘identities’ in the broadest possible manner, and the papers will examine phenomena from music and literacy to politics and spirituality and beyond,” said CSEAS Director Jim Collins. Send a title and brief abstract to CEERES Associate Director Meredith Clason at mclason@uchicago.edu by Nov. 15. Acceptances will be sent by Dec. 15.

11. Position open: Tenure-track Burmese language professorship at NIU
CSEAS and the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures announce that applications are now being accepted for a tenure-track position to teach Burmese language at all levels at NIU beginning in fall 2012. Native or near-native fluency in Burmese and English and a Ph.D. in Burmese or a relevant field by the time of appointment are required. As an assistant professor, the successful candidate will mentor students, liaise with the centers for Southeast Asian Studies and Burma Studies, and participate in local, national, and international committees in addition to teaching. **Complete applications are due Dec. 1.** Send letter of application, curriculum vitae, and dossier including three letters of recommendation to: Dr. Katharine Barbe, Chair, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115. For a complete job description, see the NIU Human Resources website.

12. Job opportunities and internships
**Association of Asian Studies**
- **Associate editor for Southeast Asia, Bibliography of Asian Studies:** Contract position to index journal articles and book chapters in edited volumes in a wide range of academic disciplines that focus on Southeast Asia, as well as some retrospective work to fill in gaps in current bibliographical coverage. Contact immediately: Frank F. Conlon, Managing Director, Bibliography of Asian Studies, at conlon@u.washington.edu.

**Idealist.org**
- Privately funded website offers searchable database of nonprofit international jobs and volunteer opportunities. Current listings include Cambodia fellow for the World Faiths Development Dialogue, Vietnam researcher for Human Rights Watch, Indonesia country representative for The Asia Foundation, and English language teacher at Burma University Foundation School in Yangon. For details, see the Idealist 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.

13. Conferences and calls for papers
- **Third International Graduate Student Conference on Indonesia 2011,** Nov. 8–9, Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Theme: “Indonesian 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. Conference examining impact and future of creation of the sub-region followed by two days of field studies. **Deadline for submission:** Oct. 31.
Southeast Asia: Between the Lines, Dec. 9–10, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. An interdisciplinary graduate student conference. **Deadline for 500-word abstract:** Oct. 28. Email to Kate Wright at UM Center for Southeast Asian Studies at katemw@umich.edu. If accepted, graduate students will receive modest travel subvention and meals. For details, call 734-764-5261.

**Third SEE-SEA International Conference,** Feb. 10–12, 2012, 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.” Call for papers. **Deadline for abstracts:** Nov. 11. Details posted on the center website.

**Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference,** March 15–18, 2012, Toronto, Canada. Registration open. For details, see the conference website.

**Ninth International Conference on the Philippines,** Oct. 28–30, 2012, Michigan State University, Lansing, MI. **Deadline for proposals and abstracts:** March 1. Send to ICOPHIL Committee, Asian Studies Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824-1035. For details, contact asiansc@msu.edu.

**International Cambodia Studies Conference 2012: Imagining Cambodia,** Sept. 14–16, 2012, Northern Illinois University. Individual papers and suggestions for panel speakers and themes are invited. **Deadline for abstracts:** March 15; **deadline for papers:** June 15. See details on center website.


14. Money for study

**David L. Boren awards**

- Fellowships and scholarships: Opportunity for graduates and undergraduates to study abroad for one year and hone language skills. Grants range from up to $20,000 for undergraduates to $30,000 for graduate students. To apply for the 2012–13 programs, see the Boren website. Boren awards are administered by the Institute of International Education. **Fellowship deadline to apply:** Jan. 31. **Scholarship deadline:** Feb. 9.

**National Science Foundation / Asia and Pacific**

- **International fellowships:** Eight-week research fellowships for U.S. science and engineering students in host laboratories in Singapore, Australia, China, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, and Taiwan. Stipends, round-trip airfare, living expenses. **Deadline to apply:** Nov. 9. For details, email eapsi@nsfsi.org or call 866-501-2922.

**East-West Center**

- **Graduate degree fellowships:** Funding for graduate students to participate in residential, educational and research programs at East-West Center while pursuing degree at University of Hawai‘i.
15. Area Southeast Asia cultural opportunities

- Lao writer/director/producer Thavisouk Phrasavath of Elgin will talk about his book, *Stepped Out of the Womb*, and the film *The Betrayal*, will be screened from 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 27, in the Community Room at the Elgin Gail Borden Library. The event is free but registration is requested at 847-429-4597. For details, contact Aloune Khotisene, Southeast Asian Youth Program Director, Elgin YWCA, at akhotisene@ywcaelgin.org.

- “Remembering the Killing Fields” exhibit at the Cambodian American Heritage Museum and Killing Fields Memorial, 2831 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago. The Cambodian Association of Illinois also holds free traditional Cambodian music and dance lessons Sundays.

- 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.

*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.*