Christmas star lanterns fill the streets in the Philippines during the run-up to the holiday season, which starts as early as September for the country’s Christians. (Photo / Buzznet)

Happy holidays to all from CSEAS

The center will be closed Dec. 21 to Jan. 3. Weekly seminars resume Jan. 27 with assistant history professor Trude Jacobsen on “Desire, Duty, and Debt: Sexual Contracts in Mainland Southeast Asia”

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1. On campus with visiting Southeast Asia scholars

Visiting Southeast Asia scholars could be found in several corners of NIU during fall semester doing research in Founders Library, joining CSEAS associates in their classes, participating in symposiums and conferences on and off campus, and working on various projects. Their tenures have ranged from one month to a year. CSEAS wishes them well in their endeavors and thanks them for contributing to Southeast Asian studies at NIU this year.

Kobayashi Satoru, assistant professor at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Kyoto University, was a visiting scholar in the anthropology department for the month of November. He recently published (February 2011) an ethnographic study of a rural community in Kompong Thom province, which is being published in Japanese, and came to NIU to work on a translation of the work into English. Based on long-term anthropological fieldwork in central Cambodia, Satoru writes in his CV, his book “uncovered the actual processes and conditions that informed the socio-cultural reconfigurations of Cambodian rural villages after the turmoil of civil war and totalitarian state rule in the 1970s.” As was the case in many Cambodian villages after the 1975–79 Khmer Rouge conflict, there were residents in Satoru’s study village who had been former cadres. While at NIU, Satoru gave a presentation on village Buddhism in post-war Cambodia in anthropology professor Judy Ledgerwood’s graduate seminar and later attended her class again when the topic was civil society/NGOs in contemporary Cambodia, Ledgerwood said.

Itsarate Dolphen, a Ph.D. student in linguistics from Mahidol University, Thailand, is a scholar-in-residence for the 2011–12 academic year at NIU, completing his doctoral research on the topic of “A Comparison of Pronouns in Narrative Discourse in Southeast Asian Languages” under the supervision of his American co-adviser, language professor John Hartmann. Dolphen is at NIU with the support of the Royal Golden Jubilee Fund, which sends Thai Ph.D. students abroad to augment their research under the advisement of a specialist in their field. (Hartmann has supervised the dissertations of several Thai doctoral students under the same program on the NIU campus and also at Mahidol). While at NIU, Dolphen is also working with Hartmann and CSEAS associate Catherine Raymond, director of the Center for Burma Studies, on a cooperative language-and-art project revolving around a Thai-Lao trickster tale depicted in various formats: printed texts, temple murals, and comic books, Hartmann said. The final results of that project will be exhibited during spring semester. While in the U.S., Dolphen has visited the library collections at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and the University of Wisconsin, with plans to spend a week at the Library of Congress in January. He also plans to participate in several conferences as well. Upon returning to Thailand in May, Dolphen will resume his position as professor of Thai at Khon Kaen University.
U Nyunt Han, former deputy general of the Archaeological Department of Myanmar/Burma and currently a visiting scholar at SPAFA in Bangkok, Thailand, was a visiting fellow at the Center for Burma Studies until Nov. 20. Han, who could be found almost every morning working at the copy machine in CSEAS before heading to campus, came to NIU under a grant from the Asian Cultural Council. Han came to NIU to work on the forthcoming catalog of NIU’s Burma Art Collection with Center for Burma Studies Director Catherine Raymond. While in DeKalb, he also presented “Preservation and Issues in Heritage Conservation at Bagan (Burma/Myanmar)” at the center’s fall symposium, Mainland Southeast Asia: Museums and Heritage Sites. In his presentation about Bagan, the capital of the medieval Burmese kingdom and a center of Buddhist monasticism with more than 5,000 temples and stupas at one point in its history, Han discussed the problems of restoration and reconstruction of the area following a destructive 1975 earthquake, and the controversy over listing Bagan as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

2. NIU Foundation awards venture grant for 2012 Cambodian and Burma studies conferences

Congratulations to CSEAS associates Judy Ledgerwood (anthropology) and Catherine Raymond (art history, Center for Burma Studies), who have received a $13,000 NIU Foundation Venture Grant for their planned international Cambodian Studies (Sept. 13–16) and Burma Studies (Oct. 5–7) conferences, cultural performances and art exhibits set for fall 2012 at NIU. The coordinated activities are a collaborative effort of the Department of Anthropology, the Center for Burma Studies, CSEAS and the Cambodia Studies Working Group, and the schools of Music and Art. The Cambodian Studies conference will be the first large international conference on Cambodia in more than a decade; the Burma Studies conference has been held biennially since 1986. Both are expected to draw scholars from around the world. Also participating in the project, entitled Celebrating
Creativity: Asian/Asian American Identities, are grant co-applicants Gregory Beyer (School of Music) and Helen Nagata (School of Art), who will lead the music and art cultural programming portion of the project, including the commissioning of two original music pieces and two major art exhibitions at the Jack Olson Gallery and the NIU Art Museum. The Cambodia Studies conference has issued a call for papers; see item 16 below.

3. Academic-year FLAS and Neher fellowship info to be posted online soon
Later this month, the center will open the submission process for graduate and undergraduate students to apply for the 2012–13 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships, which provide for Southeast Asian language study at NIU. Pending funding, FLAS grants will be awarded for fall 2012 and spring 2013 semesters. Applications will be due Feb. 1. Applications also will be open for the 2012–13 Neher Graduate Fellowship for the Study of Southeast Asia, also due Feb. 1. To apply for either fellowship, students must be in good standing with the university and demonstrate a commitment to a career involving Southeast Asian studies. Details will be posted soon on the center website.

4. And dictionaries make five: See new spring courses on Southeast Asian Studies list
A course on dictionaries and lexicography has been added to the lineup of new courses on for spring on the Southeast Asian Studies course list now posted on the center website. Language professor and CSEAS Director Jim Collins will teach FLST 483/583 (two sections, undergraduate and graduate), a survey of the history of modern lexicography with special emphasis on English dictionaries and national and minority language of Southeast Asia. NIU art historian and Center for Burma Studies Director Catherine Raymond will be exploring music, dance and theatre as visualized in Southeast Asian art in ARTH 494/701 from 2 to 4:40 p.m. Mondays in Room 202 of the Jack Arends Hall. Assistant history professor and CSEAS Assistant Director Trude Jacobsen will be delving into the history of Buddhist Southeast Asia in HIST 442/552 from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays in 446 DuSable. Political science Ph.D. candidate Dan Pojar will be teaching about contemporary foreign policy in Southeast Asia in POLS 384, which meets from noon to 12:50 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays in 246 DuSable. Assistant music professor Jui-Ching Wang offers an introduction into the mysteries of playing gamelan music (no audition required) in MUSC 398-1/698-1, which will be held 5 to 7 p.m. Mondays in Room 102 of the Music Building. The spring course list includes only those courses that can be used to fulfill the Southeast Asian Studies graduate concentration or undergraduate minor/contract major.

5. Southeast Europe/Southeast Asia conference to convene in February
Authors will be notified by Dec. 15 for papers accepted for the Feb. 10–12 From the Adriatic to the Sulu Sea: Islam and Identity in Southeast Europe and Southeast Asia conference co-convened by CSEAS and the University of Chicago’s Center for East European
and Russian/Eurasian Studies (CEERES). The conference, the third in a series comparing two edges of the Islamic world, will be held at the Franke Institute for the Humanities at the University of Chicago. (The first such joint conference was held in March 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. For conference details, contact CEERES Associate Director Meredith Clason at mclason@uchicago.edu.

6. Postcard from Washington, D.C.: Kenton Clymer at the Wilson

CSEAS associate Kenton Clymer (history) is a 2011–12 fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C., where he says he is making good progress on a general history of relations between the United States and Burma. He has done much additional work at the National Archives and written some draft chapters. But he reports that he still has a lot to do:

“The center, chartered and partially funded by the U.S. Congress, is a memorial to President Woodrow Wilson. Unlike other presidential memorials, the Wilson Memorial is a living memorial, where scholars and policy makers study and meet together. They come from a wide range of interests and expertise. This year there is a large focus on the Middle East, Pakistan, Russia, and China, but also on India, Africa, and Latin America. Political scientist Marvin Ott and I are the only two scholars doing research on Southeast Asian topics.”

“There are so many conferences and presentations of all sorts at the Wilson Center and many other venues in Washington. I attended in a major conference on Burma/Myanmar organized by the renowned Burma specialist David Steinberg at Georgetown University. One of the speakers was Professor Li Chenyang from Yunnan University in China, who recently visited NIU. I’ve also attended several other presentations at the Stimson Institute, the US-Asia Institute, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, the Heritage Foundation, and Johns Hopkins’ School of Advanced International Studies. One of the speakers was Indonesian Ambassador Dino Djalal, who also recently visited the NIU campus. In fact, one of the dangers of living in Washington is that there is always a temptation to attend one event or another instead of doing your own work!”

In February, Clymer will be presenting some aspects of his research at a conference in Hong Kong and also at East China Normal University in Shanghai at Peking (Beijing) University in Beijing. He also will spend a week in Burma where he hopes to conduct some interviews about U.S. policy.
7. Catching up with SEAYLP: Meeting the U.S. Secretary of State in Burma

Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP) alum Jack Hpone Myint (fall 2009, Burma) was in the right place at the right time in Yangon last week. As president of the newly created Youth Leadership Association, which receives funding from the U.S. State Department, Jack was invited to meet U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at the U.S. Embassy Rangoon during Clinton’s historic trip to Burma. “The main purpose of this organization is to discuss political, environmental, educational, etc. issues with the students of the [embassy’s] American Center every week,” Jack emailed CSEAS Director Jim Collins last week. “We also organize outdoor activities once a month where we go to monastic education schools to educate the kids about health care, environmental, English language, and also [biographies] of inspirational people. In the meantime, we will also arrange debates, small group NGO competitions and activities concerning leadership.” The nine-member group is led by Jack and fellow fall 2009 alum, Emerald Phyu Cyn, who is the vice-president. In addition to nine members, thirty-three volunteers work with them, Jack said.

Amin Feisal (fall 2009, Brunei) is in his first year studying materials engineering at the University of Loughborough (UK) on a Brunei Shell Petroleum Scholarship. “I will be here for three or four years depending on whether I choose to do a bachelor’s or master’s degree,” Amin writes. “I have also completed the Gold Duke of Edinburgh International award prior to coming to university. This included climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest free-standing mountain in the world. We also had the opportunity to complete residential projects in Tanzania such as plastering a classroom for a local school and building a watering hole for animals. SEAYLP has helped me progress to where I am now and I will always be grateful to the organizers and people who ran the program. It is a privilege for anyone who has joined the program and an opportunity which is not to be missed.”

Adult leader Jo Chan Lyn (fall 2011, Malaysia) has wasted no time putting her SEAYLP training to use. Less than a month after returning home to Malaysia, Jo led 100 students from four secondary schools in Penang in a leadership and team-building activity at Disted College where she works, focusing on the lessons of Abraham Lincoln’s leadership she learned at NIU. “Like Lincoln, leaders must have a vision and accomplish it. Although there’ll be challenges along the way, leaders should never waver until their vision is realized,” Jo says. “Leaders should have resilience and fortitude or in the words of Lincoln: ‘I do the very best I know how, the very best I can, and I mean to keep on doing so until the end.’”
8. Save the dates: Research and Artistry deadline; GRE test prep
   - Dec. 17: Deadline to submit presentation proposals for Graduate Student Research Association (GSRA)’s third annual Research and Artistry Conference set for March 31 in the Holmes Student Center. Students who want to present research, artistry or performance must provide detailed description of proposed activity. See application on GSRA website. Acceptance notification Feb. 1. For details, email gsra@niu.edu.
   - Jan. 28: Graduate Record Examination test prep sessions conducted by College of Liberal Arts & Sciences External Programming begin. Spring session I: Jan. 28-Feb. 11; spring session II: April 14-28. Register at least one day before first class meeting for early bird discount. See External Programming website to register. Contact Mark Pietrowski with any questions at 815-753-1456 or pietrowski@niu.edu.

9. Get your paper on: SEA Club spring student conference call for abstracts
   The Southeast Asia Club invites papers for its 2012 spring student conference. The conference theme and emphasis of the keynote address will be “Western Influence in Southeast Asia.” Papers may be submitted on any topic pertaining to Southeast Asia. Abstracts accepted through Feb. 24. They should be no more than 400 words and submitted as Word documents. Paper due dates will be sent after abstracts are received and approved. Best paper awards will be given for both undergraduate and graduate papers. Send abstracts to conference organizer Robert Kollas at rkollas@niu.edu.

10. Relief efforts underway to aid flood victims in Thailand, Cambodia
    Recent monsoon and tropical storm flooding in mainland Southeast Asia, particularly in Thailand and Cambodia, has displaced millions of people and put many others at risk of disease, injury and hardship as waters ebb. Rebuilding efforts and disaster relief will be ongoing for months in Thailand and Cambodia, as well as Laos and Vietnam, with an estimated three million hectares of rice fields in the region flooded out. U.S. embassies in both countries are providing aid and funds, coordinating with humanitarian assistance teams from the U.S. military and routing millions of dollars in U.S. assistance funds. The United Nations, through UNICEF, is distributing insecticide-treated mosquito nets and other assistance. In Cambodia, the embassy is working through the U.S. Agency for International Development’s Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, which is sending aid and donations to local relief organizations, Save the Children, and World Vision. The Thailand and Cambodia chapters of the International Red Cross are also distributing aid and
accepting funds for relief efforts. CSEAS extends its sympathy to all affected by this crisis and has compiled a contact list of entities offering assistance:

- **International Red Cross**: Both the [Cambodian Red Cross](http://example.com) and [Thai Red Cross](http://example.com) are accepting donations for relief efforts though their respective websites.

- **Royal Thai Embassy**: Donations to flood victims in Thailand are being accepted through the embassy. Send checks or money orders (payable to Royal Thai Embassy) to Consular Affairs Section, Royal Thai Embassy, 1024 Wisconsin Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20007. See the embassy’s Facebook page (Royal Thai Embassy, Washington, D.C.) for donation updates or call the embassy’s First Secretary Nipatsorn Kampa at 202-285-1547.

- **Save the Children**: International aid organization is accepting donations for flood relief in Thailand through its Thailand Floods Children in Emergency Fund. See the [Save the Children](http://example.com) website.

- **Royal Embassy of Cambodia**: Contact the embassy at 4530 16th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20011; phone 202-726-7742.

- **World Vision Cambodia**: International aid group is distributing rice to affected communities where rice fields and other food sources have been compromised by flooding. See the [Save the Children Cambodia](http://example.com) website.

11. Summer study abroad: Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand

NIU is offering three opportunities to study abroad in Southeast Asia next summer with NIU faculty members. CSEAS associate Eric Jones (history) will take students to Malaysia for the seventh time; CSEAS 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. As NIU programs, all offer undergraduate and graduate course credit. For details on programs, financial aid, travel grants, scholarships, and applications, contact the NIU [Study Abroad Office](mailto:niuabroad@niu.edu), 417 Williston Hall; or e-mail [niuabroad@niu.edu](mailto:niuabroad@niu.edu). Study Abroad 101 workshop 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](http://example.com) in Makassar, Indonesia conducted by assistant public health professor Tomoyuki Shibata in cooperation with Hasanuddin University. For more details, email Shibata at [tshibata@niu.edu](mailto:tshibata@niu.edu).

- **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, power relations between dominant and minority groups, and practical implications of these relations in everyday Thai life. **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.**

12. New issue of *Journal of Burma Studies* examines historical sources
The latest edition of *Journal of Burma Studies* (volume 15, number 2), out in print this month, focuses on “Burmes Historical Sources: New Perspectives on Old Challenges.” Authors include Aurore Candier, Alexandra Green, Alexey Kirichenko, Jacques Leider, Patrick McCormack, and NIU alumna Alicia Turner (Ph.D. history, 2009), who serves as the editor of JBS with general editor Catherine Raymond.

13. Anthropology/NGOLD assistant professor application due Jan. 1
   - The Department of Anthropology and the Center for NGO Leadership & Development announce an Aug. 2012 appointment for a tenure-track anthropology position to teach courses in anthropology and in community leadership at undergraduate and graduate levels. A Ph.D. in anthropology or closely related field, and active research program is required, along with experience working with local and transnational NGOs or underserved communities. Preference will be given to candidates with Southeast Asia experience. **Applications due Jan. 1.** For complete job description, see [NIU Human Resources website](#).

14. Wanted: Students for study abroad research study
A professor at Eastern Michigan University is seeking male students of color who have studied abroad to participate in a research study examining their experiences. “The goal of this study is to enhance our understanding of this population, and explore how these students develop during their study abroad experience,” said Raul A. Leon, an assistant professor in EMU’s Department of Leadership & Counseling. Participants will complete a short questionnaire, take part in a 45- to 60-minute interview, and participate in one focus group with other NIU students during spring semester. Interviews are being conducted now through March. Participants will be paid $25 for completing the individual interview and participating in the focus group. Contact Leon at 734-487-7120, ext. 2695, or email rleon1@emich.edu.

15. Go north, young scholar: Theravada Buddhist doctoral and post-doc workshop in Toronto
The Theravada Civilizations Project is holding a one-day intensive workshop for Ph.D. and post-doctorate students **March 11** at the University of Toronto. Eligible applicants include Ph.D. candidates at any stage of their dissertation research or writing and recent graduates/junior scholars preparing a book for publication. **Deadline for proposals: Jan. 1.** Send to Justin McDaniel at jmcdan@sas.upenn.edu. For workshop details, contact Christoph Emmrich at christoph.emmrich@utoronto.ca.

16. Boren awards offer year-long opportunities for language study
The David L. Boren fellowships and scholarship program, an initiative of the National Security Education Program (NSEP), offers unique funding opportunities for American undergraduate and graduate students to study abroad and hone their language skills, including Southeast
Asian languages. Undergraduates can receive up to $20,000 for an academic year of study abroad; graduate students can receive up to $30,000. For details and applications for the 2012–13 program, see the Boren website. Boren awards are administered by the Institute of International Education; the Boren adviser at NIU is Study Abroad Director Anne Seitzinger, aseitz@niu.edu. The deadline to apply for Boren fellowships is Jan. 31, and for Boren scholarships, Feb. 9.

17. Job opportunities and internships

Cornell University

- **Assistant professor:** Humanities specialist in literature and/or religion and/or culture of one or more SEA countries wanted for Department of Asian Studies to begin July 2012. Ph.D. required. Scholars with strong record in research and publishing, in addition to interdisciplinary and comparative work, encouraged to apply. Submit cover letter, statement of research and teaching, CV, a writing sample and three letters of recommendation online.

University of Cincinnati

- **Assistant professor:** Historian trained in either the history of Southeast Asia or East Asia (preferably Japan, but not excluding Korea or pre-20th century China) wanted for tenure-track position. Candidate should expect to participate in teaching regional surveys as well as upper-division undergraduate and graduate courses in his/her specialty. Ph.D. by July 2012 required. Submit cover letter, CV, and brief writing sample (approximately article length) online. Three letters of recommendation should be sent directly to Chair, East Asia/SE Asia Search Committee, Department of History, University of Cincinnati, 360 McMicken Hall, Cincinnati, OH 45221-0373. Review to begin Nov. 21. For details, email hope.earls@uc.edu.

Idealist.org

- Privately funded website offers searchable database of nonprofit international jobs and volunteer opportunities. 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 State Department website.

18. Conferences and calls for papers

- **Cornell Southeast Asian Studies Graduate Conference**, March 2–4, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. Graduate student papers welcome on any aspect of Southeast Asia for this annual spring symposium. **Deadline for submission: Dec. 10.** Limited number of travel subventions available. Email abstracts to seapgradconference@gmail.com. For details, see symposium website.

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

submission: Dec. 15. Send to nsccconferences@iseas.edu.sg (place New Research in Cham Studies in subject line).

- **Bali in Global Asia: Between Modernization and Heritage Formation**, July 16–18, Universitas Udayana, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia. Co-sponsored by Universitas Udayana, the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), and the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV). Call for papers. **Deadline for submission: Jan. 31.** For details, email Henk Schulte Nordholt at schultenordholt@kitlv.nl or see conference website.

- **Ninth International Conference on the Philippines**, Oct. 28–30, 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, Northern Illinois University. Individual papers and suggestions for panel speakers and themes are invited. **Deadline for abstracts March 15; deadline for papers June 15.** Details posted on center website.

- **International Burma Studies Conference 2012**, Oct. 5–7, Northern Illinois University. Details TBA. **NEW**

19. Area Southeast Asia cultural opportunities

- The **Thai Cultural and Fine Arts Institute** will present a Thai cultural performance at 3 p.m. **Dec. 4** at Navy Pier’s Winter Wonder Stage. Admission to the performance is free. The 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. **NEW**

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

- 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.*