A scene from the short documentary, They Call it Myanmar: Lifting the Curtain, which will be shown at 8:30 p.m. Friday at the Holmes Student Center during the 10th International Burma Studies Conference set to convene at NIU this week. Details below. (Photo / Robert H. Lieberman-PhotoSynthesis Productions)

Burma conference takes the stage this week

No Friday lecture Oct. 5; next lecture Oct. 12

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1. 10th International Burma Studies Conference convenes at NIU this week

The sound of Karen bronze drums will be in the air Friday through Sunday this week at the Holmes Student Center during the 10th International Burma Studies Conference. A record number of attendees, nearly 140 from around the world, have registered, and more than 100 papers in a wide variety of fields, including anthropology, art history, environment, health, history, literature, linguistics, music, political science, popular culture, religions, and area studies, will be presented during conference sessions. Interest in Burma/Myanmar is growing in response to the country’s recent re-emergence on the world stage, says conference organizer and art historian Catherine Raymond, director of the Center for Burma Studies (CBS) and a CSEAS associate. “When we called for papers a year ago, there was more interest in submitting and we had more papers submitted than ever before,” she said. Particularly significant at this conference will be the presence of a high-level delegation of officials from Myanmar as well as attendees from China, Raymond said. During the conference, eminent Burma scholar David Steinberg of Georgetown University and NIU Burmese language professor emeritus U Saw Tun will be honored for their contributions to the field of Burma Studies. There will also be a number of cultural events, including a special opening of the exhibit, “Music for the Divine: Musical Instruments and Traditions of Burma,” curated by Raymond, at the NIU Art Museum and the world premiere of “Five Pools,” an original work for Karen bronze drums by NIU associate music professor Gregory Beyer, at the conference gala. The conference, which has been held every two years since the first one at NIU in 2002, is presented by the Center for Burma Studies, the trustees of the Burma Studies Foundation and the Burma Studies Group. It is co-sponsored by NIU, CSEAS and the NIU Foundation. For details, see the conference website, email bsc2012@niu.edu or call CBS at 815-753-0512.
2. Center associates update: At the podium, on the board, and in the media

- John Hartmann (foreign languages and literatures) presented “A Geo-History of the Chain of Chiang of Upper Southeast Asia” at the 61st Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, which took place Sept. 21–23 at Western Michigan University in conjunction with the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies. CSEAS graduate assistant Coral Carlson (PhD candidate, history) was also at MCAA, presenting “The Chinese Ceramics of Sir Percival: A Famed Ceramics Collection as an Expression of British Imperialism.”

- Trude Jacobsen (history) has been elected to serve as the Southeast Asia representative on the executive board of Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, the regional conference of the Association for Asian Studies for universities in the Midwest (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Wisconsin). “The good thing about MCAA is that it offers students, including undergraduates, the opportunity to participate in a conference,” Jacobsen said. “I’m not sure where the next conference is, but I’ll be taking a van of NIU students!” Jacobsen also received word that her panel proposal, “Disciplining les âniques: Psychiatry, Madness, and Mental Health in Asian History,” has been accepted for the 2013 AAS conference set for March 21–24 in San Diego. Among the presenters on the panel, in addition to Jacobsen, will be 2012 NIU alumna JoAnn LoSavio (BA history and anthropology), who is now pursuing an MA in anthropology at Emory University.

- Cambodia Studies Working Group member Kheang Un (political science) was interviewed by Voice of America about the international Cambodia Studies conference at NIU just before the conference convened in mid-September. Un discussed the conference for VOA’s Khmer radio broadcast on Sept. 12.

- Michael Buehler (political science) has published “Countries at the Crossroads: Indonesia” for Freedom House’s annual assessment of government performance in 72 strategically important countries worldwide. This analytical report is intended to help international policymakers evaluate areas of progress and concern. Buehler’s report can be found at the Freedom House website. Buehler was also quoted in the Sept. 19 issue of KOMPAS, Indonesia’s largest newspaper as well as being mentioned in a report about Jakarta’s gubernatorial elections in the Avaaz Daily Briefing, an online source of information produced by Avaaz, a member-based alternative online news and information source.

3. Burnish your resumé: Sign up for a SEA Studies minor or graduate concentration

Adding a minor to an undergraduate degree or a graduate concentration to an advanced degree is one way to pull a resumé up to the top of the pile. In a global marketplace, an internationally focused area of study can open even more doors. To learn about the center’s Southeast Asian
Studies programs, stop by the Center located in Pottenger House, 520 College View Court. Undergraduates may make an appointment with Outreach Coordinator Julie Lamb by emailing her at jlamb@niu.edu. Graduate students may contact Assistant Director Trude Jacobsen at tjacobsen1@niu.edu.

4. Coming up on the CSEAS 50th Anniversary Event Calendar

- **Oct. 11**: Opening of “Rarely Seen Southeast Asia: Art, Artifact, Ephemera” exhibit, 4 to 6 p.m., The Anthropology Museum, Fay-Cooper Cole Hall. Co-sponsored by the Department of Anthropology.
- **Oct. 25**: Screening of *Mr. Cao Goes to Washington*, with remarks by film director Leo Chiang, 7 p.m., Fay-Cooper Cole Hall auditorium. Sponsored by the Southeast Asia Club and the Department of Political Science.
- **Nov. 16**: CSEAS 50th Anniversary Fall Lecture by David Steinberg, Georgetown University professor of Asian Studies, noon, Sky Room, Holmes Student Center. An International Education Week event. Co-sponsored by the Division of International Programs.
- **Find a full calendar of anniversary events on the CSEAS website.**

5. Save the dates: Prepping for grad school

- **Oct. 2**: Graduate and Professional School Fair, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Duke Ellington Ballroom. To review list of schools, see Career Services website.
- **Oct. 6**: Graduate School Prep Seminar, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Yordon Center-McCareins Classroom. Free lunch and prizes including test prep books, test vouchers and more. Register online at www.surveymonkey.com/s/gradschoolprep. For details, email Office of Student Engagement and Experiential Learning at engage@niu.edu or call 753-8154.

6. Focusing on Thai or Lao studies? Two SEA conferences in the area coming up

**Council on Thai Studies Conference, Oct. 26–27, Ohio University, Athens, OH**

The Council on Thai Studies (COTS) will mark its 40th anniversary at this conference. COTS was founded at NIU in 1972 to bring together Thai specialists in the Midwest once a year. This is the first conference at Ohio; previous conferences have been held at NIU and University of Wisconsin-Madison. The keynote speech will be given by Thai historian Charnvit Kasetsiri, former rector of Thammasat University. The guest lecture will be given by Chusak Pattarakulvanit, associate professor in Thammasat’s Department of English Language and Literature. Conference organizer Jeffrey Shane advises making hotel reservations.
early at the Ohio University Inn or other area hotels as there is a large university event also scheduled for that weekend. The conference is being sponsored by Ohio University Libraries, the OU Center for Southeast Asian Studies, the Contemporary History Institute, the Southeast Asian Student Association, and the Thai Student Association. For details, see the conference program online or email Shane at shane@ohio.edu.

4th International Lao Studies Conference, April 19–21, Madison, WI
The Center for Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the San Francisco-based Center for Lao Studies are inviting papers for the 4th International Conference on Lao Studies. Abstracts due: Oct. 31. For details on article submission and registration, see the conference website or call 608-263-1755.

7. Money for study

Blakemore Foundation
▪ Blakemore fellowships: Applications now being accepted for 2013 Blakemore-Freeman fellowships and Blakemore refresher grants for advanced study of various languages including Indonesian, Thai, and Vietnamese. Grants cover tuition and stipend educational expenses, living costs and transportation. Deadline to apply: Dec. 31. See Blakemore Foundation website for details.

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 Hawaii.

Lund University

University of Michigan
▪ Four-week library fellowship for Southeast Asian scholars: Provides reimbursement for international airfare, research funds, stipends and housing for students affiliated with an education institution in Southeast Asia and pursuing research on any topic relevant to Southeast Asian Studies. Offered by University of Michigan CSEAS and Library. Deadline to apply: May 31. For details, see UM-CSEAS website.

8. Job opportunities

Handicap International
▪ Regional Coordinator (Laos, Cambodia, Thailand): 12-month Vientiane-based position for project seeking to increase capacities of organizations in the region working on behalf of people with disabilities to increase accessibility to information for their constituencies. Deadline to apply: Oct. 7. For details, see Handicap International website.

Walailak University
▪ Tenure-track positions in Asian Studies: Two openings for post-docs or current scholars at this university in Southern Thailand. Applicants must have their PhD in any humanities or social sciences field and good Thai language skills. Deadline to apply: As soon as possible. Send resume and cover letter, including salary expectations, to Dr.
Wannasarn Noonsuk at wn35@cornell.edu (include Asian Studies Job Application in the subject line).

**Idealist.org**

- Privately funded website offers searchable database of nonprofit international jobs and volunteer opportunities. For details, see the Idealist website.

9. Conferences, calls for papers and workshops


- **Council on Thai Studies Conference**, Oct. 26–27, Ohio University, Athens, OH. Conference will mark the 40th anniversary of COTS. For details, email Jeffrey Shane at shane@ohio.edu.

- **9th International Conference on the Philippines**, Oct. 28–30, Michigan State University, Lansing, MI. For details, contact asiansc@msu.edu.


- **Salvage and Salvation: Religion, Disaster Relief, and Reconstruction in Asia**, Nov. 22–23, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. What dynamics are in play at the intersection of religion and disaster relief in Asia? Call for papers. For details, see conference website.

- **10th ASEAN Inter-University Conference on Social Development**, Dec. 10–12, Universiti Brunei Darussalam. Theme: Southeast Asia and Human Insecurities: Causes, Costs and Challenges. Call for papers. **Abstracts due: Oct. 30.** For details, see conference website.

- **12th International Graduate Student Conference on the Asia Pacific Region**, Feb. 14–16, East-West Center, Honolulu, HI. Call for papers. **Deadline: Oct. 15.** Limited number of travel grants available. For details, see conference website.

- **Association for Asian Studies**, March 21–24, San Diego, CA. Call for papers is closed; registration opens in September. See the conference website.

- **4th International Conference on Lao Studies**, April 19–21, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Call for papers. **Abstracts due: Oct. 31.** For information, see conference website.


- **8th International Convention for Asia Scholars (ICAS)**, June 24–27, Macao. Call for institutional panel proposals. **Deadline: Sept. 15.** Submit to ICAS 8 Secretariat. For details about ICAS 8, see the conference website.

- **Inter-Asian Connections IV**, Oct. 2–5, 2013, Istanbul. Call for workshop proposals. Four-day conference focused on reconceptualization of the Asian expanse as a dynamic and interconnected historical, geographical, and cultural formation stretching from the...
Middle East through Eurasia to South Asia, Southeast Asia, and East Asia. **Deadline: Oct. 2.** For details, see [conference website](#) or email [interasia@ssr.org](mailto:interasia@ssr.org).

- **Thailand in the World: 12th International Conference on Thai Studies,** April 22–24, 2014, University of Sydney, Australia. To request being added to the conference email list or for other information, email [brenda.kranz@sydney.edu.au](mailto:brenda.kranz@sydney.edu.au).

### 10. Area Southeast Asia cultural opportunities

- “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.
- The Indonesian Consulate General in Chicago offers free Balinese and Javanese dance and gamelan classes on weekends. For details, see consulate [website](#).
- Friends of the Gamelan of Chicago will perform a concert of traditional and modern Javanese gamelan music at 2 p.m., **Oct. 6,** in the A.F. Siebert Chapel at Carthage College in Kenosha, WI. The concert is free and open to the public. Beginning gamelan classes start **Oct. 9** with a gamelan open house at Hyde Park Union Church, 5600 S. Woodlawn Ave., Chicago. Fall class sessions are **Oct. 16, 23, 30** and **Nov. 6, 13, 20.** For all gamelan events, see Friends [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.

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