“Rarely Seen Southeast Asia: Art, Artifact, Ephemera,” a CSEAS 50th Anniversary exhibit, opens Thursday, Oct. 11, at the NIU Anthropology Museum. Details below. (Photo / CSEAS)

Art and artifact ‘rarely seen’

1. **This week’s lecture:** Kenton Clymer on the U.S. relationship with Burma’s Ne Win
2. **50th Anniversary Event:** ‘Rarely Seen Southeast Asia’ exhibit opens Thursday
3. Clark Neher, John Brandon to receive CLAS awards
4. Student notes: Destination Papua New Guinea and meeting David Steinberg
5. CSEAS associates, graduate students among presenters at Burma Studies conference
6. The long and winding road: Getting from SEA studies to gainful employment
7. Coming up on the CSEAS 50th Anniversary Event Calendar
8. Burnish your résumé: Sign up for a SEA Studies minor or graduate concentration
9. Focusing on Thai or Lao studies? Two SEA conferences in the area coming up
10. Money for study
11. Job opportunities
12. Conferences and calls for papers
13. Area Southeast Asia cultural opportunities
1. This week’s lecture: Kenton Clymer on the U.S. relationship with Burma’s Ne Win

CSEAS associate Kenton Clymer (history) will present “The United States and Burma’s Ne Win, 1948–70” at noon Friday, Oct. 12, in Room 110 (Honors office), Campus Life Building. Clymer, who returned to NIU this semester after a year as a fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, will examine the United States’ relationship with Ne Win, a Burma independence leader in the 1950s who later established the military junta in 1962 that has been in place until very recently. To order an Indonesian lunch, submit an online request by 6 p.m. Thursday at CSEAS Brown Bag Lunch Order. Orders must be cancelled online by 10 a.m. Friday. Lunches that are not picked up and have not been cancelled must still be paid for. Cost is $6 for faculty, $5 for students. Payment may be paid in cash or by check. For all inquiries, please e-mail seabrownbag@gmail.com. CSEAS is not responsible for taking or cancelling lunch orders.

2. 50th Anniversary Event: ‘Rarely Seen Southeast Asia’ exhibit opens Thursday

“Rarely Seen Southeast Asia: Art, Artifact, Ephemera,” an exhibit of more than 150 items curated by NIU art history professor emeritus Richard Cooler, will open at The Anthropology Museum, Thursday, Oct. 11, with a public reception from 4 to 6 p.m. in Fay-Cooper Cole Hall. Drawn from the museum’s collection and other sources, the exhibition celebrating the center’s 50th anniversary is a contemporary curiosity cabinet containing more than 150 sculptures, ceramics, textiles, rattan weavings, wood carvings, leather carvings, silver repousse work, mother-of-pearl inlay, paper ephemera, and petrifications. As Cooler explains in an accompanying short video visitors may view while at the exhibit, many of the objects are rarely exhibited for reasons ranging from rarity to cultural taboos. “Many pieces are finely made of beautiful materials, with some used for anachronistic pursuits such as head hunting, snaring song birds, or chewing betel nut,” he said. Cooler explained that he hoped to deepen people’s experience of Southeast Asia beyond Angkor Wat and other popular tourist destinations by showing objects reflecting culture and cultural practices of indigenous peoples and various ethnic groups. “I don’t think these people and these objects should be forgotten because they’re being quickly eclipsed by international forces,” Cooler said. Chewing betel (a seed from the areca palm), for example, used to be practiced by all levels of society in many Southeast Asian countries whereas today betel-chewing is considered an unhealthy habit like smoking and has fallen out of common use, he said.
A member of the Center’s 50th Anniversary Committee, Cooler has worked tirelessly over the past year on the exhibit, assisted by interim director Sara Pfannkuche before new museum director Jennifer Kirker-Priest arrived in mid-summer. Although the museum officially opened in February, the basement storage facilities were not completed until recently, which meant there was no access to the collection temporarily in protective storage in the museum’s former space in the Stevens Building until just a few weeks ago. It’s been a busy month, Kirker-Priest acknowledges, but the museum is looking forward to have “Rarely Seen Southeast Asia” in house through the end of the academic year May 15. “This exhibition is particularly exciting for the Anthropology Museum because it promotes one of the real strengths of the permanent collection and the university which is Southeast Asia,” Kirker-Priest said. “Through the passion and scholarship of our guest curator, Richard Cooler . . . this exhibit offers something for everyone. From the artistic beauty of each piece to the story and cultural context behind each object, this is an exhibition that will spark interest in even the most casual visitor.” All are welcome to the public reception Thursday, which will include light refreshments and a short performance by the NIU marching gamelan ensemble led by CSEAS associate Jui-Ching Wang. For museum hours and other information, call 815-753-2520.

3. Clark Neher, John Brandon to receive CLAS awards
Two members of the CSEAS community will be honored by the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Friday, Oct. 12, in ceremonies at Altgeld Hall. Former CSEAS director Clark Neher, political science professor emeritus, will receive a Distinguished Faculty Award and John Brandon (MA political science, 1985), director of international programs for The Asia Foundation in Washington, D.C., will receive a Distinguished Alumni Award. Both currently serve as honorary co-chairs of the center’s 50th Anniversary Committee.

Neher, an early Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand, accepted a teaching position at NIU in 1969 after earning his PhD from UCLA. He served as chair of the Political Science department twice, from 1982–88 and 1993–96. He was appointed Center director in 1996 and served through 1999. “He was an outstanding mentor to numerous political science graduate students with a reputation for being a kind, attentive, and extremely supportive advisor,” said Christopher Jones, vice provost for university honors and former Political Science department chair. During his career at NIU, Neher received two Fulbright fellowships and authored twelve books including the center’s bestselling Southeast Asian Studies text, Southeast Asia: Crossroads of the World, as well as numerous scholarly articles. In 2002, after retiring from NIU, Neher and his wife Arlene, former director of CLAS External Programming, established the Clark and Arlene Neher Graduate Fellowship for the Study of Southeast Asia, an annual award administered by CSEAS.

Brandon was one of Neher’s students when he attended NIU in the mid-1980s. Describing their first meeting, Brandon says, “Professor Neher told his assistant to shut the door, that he was speaking with a prospective student and didn’t want to be interrupted for 30 minutes. To me, that was a tremendous personal touch.” Brandon came to NIU to pursue his master’s degree after completing a teaching fellowship in Thailand through Princeton University’s Princeton in Asia program. After receiving his MA in 1985, Brandon began work at The Asia Foundation, a leading non-governmental organization,
where he has since become a leading expert on U.S. foreign policy in the Asia-Pacific region and travels frequently to Southeast Asia. Most recently, Brandon has been focused on Burma/Myanmar. He is the editor of *Burma/Myanmar Towards the Twenty-First Century: The Dynamics of Continuity and Change*, papers from a 1995 conference sponsored by Chulalongkorn University’s Institute for Strategic and Security Studies, and contributed a chapter on the state’s role in education in *Burma: Prospects for a Democratic Future* (Brookings Institute Press, 1998).

4. Student notes: Destination Papua New Guinea and meeting David Steinberg

*Kudos to Ryan Keller (MA candidate, anthropology), who has received a PhD research scholarship to spend the next three years based at the University of Auckland, New Zealand, while conducting ethnographic research half of the time in the Eastern Highlands Province of Papua New Guinea. Keller, who is completing his master’s this semester under the supervision of CSEAS associate Susan Russell (anthropology), is one of two students chosen for the project. The project, entitled “Food Security in a Rapidly Urbanizing Country: The Goroka Fresh Food Market, Papua New Guinea,” is funded by the Royal Society of New Zealand. Keller will be supervised by Mark Busse, a senior lecturer in the University of Auckland’s anthropology department. The project research will focus on understanding the Goroka market from the perspectives of the market’s diverse participants rather than Western economic models. “I am planning to travel to Auckland and start in January,” Ryan said in an e-mail. “I applied for this scholarship because I am interested in anthropology of the Pacific (in addition to Southeast Asia, of course) . . . I am very interested in the social behaviors in public settings like markets (economic anthropology), which is also the setting for the fieldwork I did in Sabah, Malaysia, in 2011. Lastly, I think the subject matter of food security is going to of great interest in the future in social science.”

* A gentleman and a scholar: Center graduate assistant Nicole Loring (MA/PhD candidate, political science, Burma concentration) meets pre-eminent Burma scholar and Georgetown University professor of Asian Studies David Steinberg, who stopped by the center Oct. 4 with The Asia Foundation’s John Brandon after arriving on campus for the 10th International Burma Studies Conference. Steinberg will return to NIU Nov. 16 to give the center’s fall 50th Anniversary Lecture as part of International Education Week. (Photo / CSEAS)
5. CSEAS associates, graduate students among presenters at Burma Studies conference

Four CSEAS associates, including conference organizer and Center for Burma Studies Director Catherine Raymond (art history), and two graduate students were among the presenters at the 10th International Burma Studies Conference over the weekend. Among the associates, Raymond presented “A Burmese Cosmological Palm-leaf Manuscript from the Burma Art Collection at Northern Illinois University” and “The Burmese Harp: A Visual Construction of a Burmese Identity,” Kenton Clymer (history) presented “Burma, the United States, China and the Guomindang (KMT) Problem in the 1950s,” John Hartmann (foreign languages and literatures) presented “Connecting Chiang: Historical, Linguistic and Archaeological Possibilities,” and Tharaphi Than (foreign languages and literatures) presented “All That Glitters is Not Gold: The Political and Social Reality Behind the Image of Powerful Women in Contemporary Burma/Myanmar.” NIU students presenting, both MA/PhD candidates in political science, were Nicole Loring, whose paper was “A Window of Opportunity? Using Burma’s Recent Elections to Conceptualize Regime Change,” and Thomas Rhoden, whose paper was “Burmese Refugee Repatriation in Comparative Analysis.”

6. The long and winding road: Getting from SEA Studies to gainful employment

If Southeast Asian Studies is the path less traveled by, it can also be a winding road. Hear Burma consultant Patrick McCormick discuss his career path from a master’s degree in political science at NIU to his current position as a consultant for the World Bank and program coordinator for the Myanmar Peace Support Initiative in Burma (with many stops along the way into history, linguistics, education, editing and research). He offers his insights into building a meaningful career in Southeast Asian Studies from 5 to 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 8, in Room 110 in the School of Art building. Any questions, call the Center at 815-753-1771.

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

- **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](#).

8. 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 NIU’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](mailto:jlamb@niu.edu). Graduate students may contact Assistant Director Trude Jacobsen at [tjacobsen1@niu.edu](mailto:tjacobsen1@niu.edu).
9. 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.

10. 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](http://www.blakemorefoundation.org) 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](http://www.eastwestcenter.org) while pursuing degree at University of Hawaii.

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](#).

11. Job opportunities

*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: Immediate.** 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](#).

12. 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](mailto:asiansc@msu.edu).

- **Religion in Southeast Asia**, Nov. 17–20, Chicago. Annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion. For details, see [conference website](#).

- **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](#).

- **(Re)Constructions: Researching and Rethinking Asia**, April 26–27, York University, Toronto Canada. York Centre for Asian Research Graduate Student Conference. Keynote speaker: Vinay Gidwani, Department of Geography and Institute of Global Studies,
University of Minnesota. Call for papers. **Abstracts due: Dec. 1.** For details, see [conference website](#).

- **8th International Convention for Asia Scholars (ICAS),** June 24–27, Macao. See the [conference website](#).
- **Inter-Asian Connections IV,** Oct. 2–5, 2013, Istanbul. 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. 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).

### 13. 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](#).
- Beginning gamelan classes with Friends of the Gamelan of Chicago 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.