CSEAS Weekly Bulletin
Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Northern Illinois University • November 19, 2012

After-words: Georgetown professor and Burma scholar David Steinberg meets with students after giving the center’s 50th Anniversary Fall Lecture Nov. 16 in the Holmes Student Center Sky Room. (CSEAS photo)

Looking ahead to a new generation of SEA scholars

The Friday weekly lecture series will resume Jan. 25 with “The Blade and the Brahman: Deciphering a Dha Sword from Burma,” presented by Assistant CSEAS Director Trude Jacobsen and graduate students Nicole Loring and Thomas Rhoden.

Thanks to all for a successful fall series.

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Looking for funding?

There are all kinds of scholarships, grants and fellowships available for study abroad, area studies, and graduate and postgraduate research. Look for separate news items on Boren awards, FLAS fellowships, and Thai Studies grants in the bulletin and check out our updated listings in the Money for Study section below.
1. David Steinberg: A life in Asian Studies, then and now

Charming and insightful, David I. Steinberg, one of the world’s leading experts on Burma/Myanmar, Southeast Asia, the Korean Peninsula and American policy in Asia, gave his audience of ninety faculty, students and staff the benefit of a half-century of Asia experience during the center’s 50th Anniversary Fall Lecture Nov. 16 at the Holmes Student Center. Currently Distinguished Professor of Asian Studies at Georgetown University and by his own admission moving toward the end of his career, Steinberg noted he is nonetheless busier than ever as Myanmar re-emerges on the regional and world stage. Arriving on campus the day before his lecture, he filed a commentary for The Irrawaddy reflecting on U.S.-Burma relations in advance of President Barack Obama’s visit there Nov. 19. In October, he was in Myanmar as a senior consultant for The Asia Foundation, just a few days after attending the International Burma Studies Conference, which drew more than 140 scholars and experts from around the world to NIU. The author of 14 books and monographs, he has just published a new book, *Modern China-Myanmar Relations: Dilemmas of Mutual Dependence*, with Fan Hongwei (NIAS Press, 2012). From the White House to the Washington Post, he is regularly called on for his take on the unfolding state of affairs with Myanmar.

In his lecture, entitled “The Last Amateur: Reflecting on 50 Years of Engagement with Asia,” Steinberg described a career of numerous twists and turns over the years, noting that he was “a sole survivor because of age, not intellectual dexterity,” he said.

Early on in his career, much of what formed the basis of modern Asian Studies, and what has been known about Myanmar, he said, primarily came from the non-academic contributions of linguists, religious scholars, missionaries, colonial administrators and western travelers. What changed as interest in the region heightened in the aftermath of World War II and the onset of the Cold War, he said, was the entrance of social scientists and professional scholars into the field whose training allowed “for a better job of in-depth analysis.”

With Myanmar closed since the military takeover in 1962 to this kind of academic scrutiny until very recently, there is now great interest by scholars as Myanmar re-opens to the world. “Now Myanmar has become a growth industry if not economically at least academically,” he said, which presents opportunities for schools like NIU with a long history of Southeast Asian Studies and is the home of the only Center for Burma Studies in the country.

The situation in Myanmar now is hopeful, but no less complicated than it was when it was a closed society. “If the U.S. expects too much, demands too much,” he said during a question-answer session after his lecture, it could lead to a failure of U.S.-Burma relations. Neighboring
China is also integral to whatever new relationship the U.S. forges with Myanmar, a point he said he has made to the State Department and the White House.

At this stage in his career, Steinberg continues to be an advocate for a part of the world he clearly loves—a role he appears to relish. “Old scholars like me may have one last card to play,” he said. In Asia, he said, age is an advantage—it garners respect. “You can say things that often younger peers cannot,” he said with just a wisp of a smile.

Steinberg’s entire lecture, which was co-sponsored by the Division of International Programs as part of International Education Week, will be included in a forthcoming 50th anniversary edition of the center’s Mandala newsletter.

2. Center associates update: Clymer, Posadas step up; Raymond on the road; Jacobsen on air
   - Kenton Clymer (history) will serve as interim director for NIU Press through the end of the spring 2013 semester during the university’s search for a permanent director. In his new role, Clymer said he will work with Press board and staff on ongoing manuscript projects and future Press staff needs. “I have an office at the Press, but will continue to maintain my office in the History Department since I’ll be teaching classes as well,” said Clymer, who will finish up this semester’s classes and teach one course in spring, The History of American Foreign Relations to 1914.
   - Barbara Posadas (history) has been appointed by the Board of Trustees to serve on the Presidential Search Committee to replace retiring President John Peters. “Please join me in thanking Barbara and Kenton for their willingness to take on these challenging and extremely important positions,” said History chair Beatrix Hoffman in a department announcement. “We are fortunate to have department representatives in such crucial roles at the University.”
   - Catherine Raymond (School of Art) led an NIU group to the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign Nov. 8 to attend a forum on the status of the Rohingya Muslim minority population in Burma/Myanmar. Attending the forum were CSEAS associates Raymond and Trude Jacobsen (history), CSEAS adjunct Alan Potkin, and students Thomas Rhoden, Nay Yan Oo, Azriansyah Agoes and Yunhua Sun.
   - Southeast Asian Studies is a small world indeed. Assistant CSEAS Director Trude Jacobsen debuted by phone on China Radio International’s Today show Nov. 14 discussing political and social reforms in Burma/Myanmar. Also contributing to the discussion was Georgetown University Asian Studies Professor David Steinberg, who traveled to NIU the next day to give his Nov. 16 lecture as the center’s 50th Anniversary Fall Lecture speaker for International Education Week.

3. New SEA film/literature class added to spring course list
   Eleven courses, including a new class on Southeast Asia through film and literature, are on the spring Southeast Asian Studies course list now posted on the center website. CSEAS Foreign Languages and Literatures associates John Hartmann and Rhodalyne Gallo-Crail are introducing ILAS 490/590, Seeing Southeast Asia through Film and Media, which will be offered from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday in 106 Cole Hall. Through studying a sampling of Southeast Asia films, including the 1992 film Indochine, the three-credit course will explore
cultural, historical, political and sociolinguistic issues in the region. Also on tap for spring is FLIN 421, Introduction to Indonesian Literature, which will be taught by Patricia Henry, time and location to be announced.

Other spring courses include HIST 469/569, The Vietnam War, taught by Assistant CSEAS Director Trude Jacobsen, which will examine U.S. involvement in Vietnam from 1940 to 1975, from 2 to 3:15 p.m. Monday-Wednesday. Three anthropology courses are on the list: Anthropology of Religion (ANTH 328/790, from 11 to 12:15 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday) and Ritual and Myth (ANTH 428/528, from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday), both taught by Andrea Molnar, and Peoples and Cultures of Insular Southeast Asia (ANTH 407/507, from 2 to 3:15 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday) taught by Susan Russell.

Students interested in the art and architecture of Southeast Asia can sign up for ARTH 457/657 from 11 a.m. to 1:40 p.m. Thursday, taught by art historian and Center for Burma Studies Director Catherine Raymond. CSEAS associate Michael Buehler (political science) will teach POLS 365, Origins of Political Order, from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday and associate Jui-Ching Wang (music education) once again will offer Gamelan, her ensemble performance course, from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday. Asian American families will be the topic of FCNS 384, 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, taught by Kelly Champion (family, consumer and nutrition sciences).

ILAS 225, the center’s survey course on Southeast Asia, will be offered from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday. Classes in Burmese, Indonesian, Khmer, Malay, Tagalog and Thai are also on the spring course list. Note that the list includes only those classes that can be used to fulfill the Southeast Asian Studies graduate concentration or undergraduate minor/contract major. Any questions, contact the center at 815-753-1771.

Another SEA-related FLST 382/482, Censorship and Literature: State and Society in Authoritarian Countries, is not on the spring course list, but is being offered by CSEAS associate Tharaphi Than (foreign languages and literatures) for three credit hours. The course will examine relations between state and society in a number of nations including Burma/Myanmar and Vietnam. Meeting time and location are TBA.

4. Save the dates: SEA Club games night, film series, 50th events
- **Nov. 20:** Southeast Asia Club games night, 6 to 7 p.m., 310 DuSable, featuring Durians to Durians (Southeast Asia-themed Apples to Apples) and Southeast Asia Jeopardy. Free fun, free snacks.
- **Jan. 23:** 50th Anniversary Film Series resumes with the musical-drama, *The Overture* (Thailand, 2004). Time and location TBA. [NEW]
- **Through May 15:** “Rarely Seen Southeast Asia: Art, Artifact, Ephemera,” curated by professor emeritus and retired CSEAS associate Richard Cooler, is on display at The Anthropology Museum at Fay-Cooper Cole Hall. For museum hours and other information, call 815-753-2520.
- See the [CSEAS website](http://www.cseas.iit.edu) for a calendar of 2012-13 anniversary events and click through 50 years of CSEAS history on our new interactive timeline on the home page.
5. **Boren scholarships, fellowships offer generous funding for international study**

David L. Boren awards provide unique and substantial funding opportunities for U.S. undergraduate and graduate students to study less commonly taught languages around the world, including Southeast Asia (see complete list of languages on the Boren website). Applications for the 2013–14 Boren scholarships (for undergraduates) and fellowships (for graduate students) are now available on the Boren website. Undergraduate students can receive up to $20,000 for an academic year’s study abroad and graduate students up to $30,000 for language study and international research. In exchange for funding, recipients commit to working in the federal government for a minimum of one year. To get help with your application, contact Anne Seitzinger at the Study Abroad office on campus well before the deadline to apply. **Fellowship applications are due to the Boren office by Jan. 31. Scholarship applications are due Feb. 13.** Boren awards are initiatives of the National Security Education Program (NSEP) and are administered by the Institute of International Education. Learn more about the program by following it on Facebook and YouTube at BorenAwards.

6. **Summer FLAS info, applications posted on CSEAS website**

It’s not too early to start thinking about summer and immersing oneself in a language overseas. One way to get there is through a summer Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowship through the center. Information and forms to apply are posted on the CSEAS website; **deadline to apply is Jan. 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 U.S. Department of Education-approved educational institution, especially those in Southeast Asia, during the summer semester (list posted on the CSEAS website). Top priority will be given to students planning to study 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 is welcome to apply.

7. Thai Studies: Awards for original paper, language study and student/faculty research

• **Original paper:** The Thai Studies Committee at NIU is announcing a $300 prize for an original research paper of outstanding merit dealing with any aspect of Thai Studies and written by an NIU student. The prize will be awarded at the Southeast Asia Club’s annual spring student conference **April 13** at which the winning paper must be presented. **Deadline to apply: Feb. 28.** Submissions should be sent as a PDF or Word document to CSEAS associate Grant Olson (foreign languages and literatures) at golson@niu.edu.

• **Advanced Thai language study:** Through the Royal Thai government’s Thai Teaching and Research Endowment Fund at NIU, the Thai Studies Committee will award two undergraduate academic-year scholarships. Each recipient is eligible to receive $500 per semester ($1,000 for the full year). Eligible undergraduates must be pursuing studies in Thai language, culture, history or politics. The study of advanced Thai language is a requirement, regardless of discipline. Applicants should have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher and sufficient language standing to take advanced Thai. Submit a one-page statement of interest, letters of recommendation from the Thai language instructor and another faculty member addressing the applicant’s academic skill, and a transcript. Award recipients are expected to attend and participate in Thai Studies-focused events at NIU. **Deadline to apply: April 5.** Email to Chalermsee Olson at etoolson@niu.edu.

• **Faculty and student research travel:** Faculty and students are both invited to apply for grants supporting projects and initiatives involving research and training in Thai Studies. Applications should include a clear, concise description of the project’s purpose, a budget, and the ways in which the funds would be used to advance Thai Studies. Applications will be accepted and reviewed on **Feb. 28** and **Sept. 30**. Send applications to Chalermsee Olson at etoolson@niu.edu.

8. Ohio University CSEAS to host 5th Khmer Studies Forum in March
Ohio University’s Center for Southeast Asian Studies announces a call for papers for its 5th annual Khmer Studies Forum set for **March 15–17** in Athens, Ohio. The forum’s theme is “Identity” and will address such questions as: What is a Khmer? Who is Khmer? How is Khmerness recognized or expressed? How has Khmerness changed over time? “We seek papers across a range of disciplines, and hope to receive abstract submissions on topics addressing centers as well as borders, and new definitions as well as more traditional ones,” said center director Christine Sue. Send abstracts of one or two pages by Jan. 15 to cseas@ohio.edu. A conference web page with full details will soon be available on Ohio’s center website.
9. Overseas language, exchange, and area studies programs

- **Khmer Summer Abroad Programs, June 24–Aug. 2**
  The Khmer Language Program at the University of Hawaii-Manoa administers two summer abroad programs for Khmer language study in Phnom Penh. The **Advanced Study of Khmer** (ASK) program offers six weeks of intensive language training designed for third-year Khmer students. **Deadline to apply: Feb. 1.** The **Khmer Language and Culture** Summer Abroad Program offers six weeks intensive training for beginning and intermediate students. **Deadline to apply: April 6.** Both programs are run by UH in collaboration with the Royal University of Phnom-Penh and the Center for Khmer Studies. Both programs include one-week home stays in rural Cambodia. For details, see individual program websites or email Chhany Sak-humphry at sak@hawaii.edu. No direct funding is available, but students may apply for Gilman and Blakemore scholarships to defray costs.

- **Summer Study Abroad in Laos (SAIL), June 21–July 31**
  The San Francisco-based Center for Lao Studies administers five-week study abroad program based at the Lao-American College with private instruction from the national University of Laos. Scholarship support is available. **Deadline to apply: April 1.** For details, see program website.

**NEW**

NOTE: Students interested in taking language or area studies abroad through non-NIU programs are advised to work through NIU’s Study Abroad Office, 417 Williston Hall. By doing so, students can receive NIU credit and possibly have NIU financial aid apply, in addition to receiving liability and insurance protection.

10. Money for study

**American Institute for Indonesian Studies**

- **Research grants:** $5,750 grants available for graduate and postdoctoral students pursuing research in Indonesia. Program funded by the U.S. State Department Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Forms are available at AIFIS website; for info, email arkahin@yahoo.com or contact CSEAS associate Michael Buehler (political science) at mbuehler1@niu.edu.

**Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships**

- **Undergraduate awards:** Applications are now being accepted for summer 2013 Gilman Scholarship Program for study abroad programs. Scholarships sponsored by the U.S. State Department Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. **Deadline to apply: Jan. 15.** For details, see program website.

**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.** For details, see Blakemore Foundation website.

**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 2013–14 programs, see
the [Boren website](#). Boren awards are administered by the Institute of International Education. **Fellowship deadline to apply: Jan. 31. Scholarship deadline: Feb. 13.**

**Center for Khmer Studies**
- **Undergraduate fellowships**: Six-week summer junior resident fellowships in Siem Reap, Cambodia, available for five U.S., five Cambodian, and five French undergraduate students, June 24-Aug. 2. Partial stipend ($800) offered. **Deadline to apply: April 1.** See [CKS website](#) for details.

**Chulalongkorn University**
- **ENITS Scholarships**: Offered by Chulalongkorn University’s Institute of Thai Studies’ Project of Empowering Network for International Thai Studies in Bangkok for graduate students and young scholars working on Thai Studies or related disciplines. **Deadline to apply: Jan. 15.** For details see [program website](#).

**East-West Center**
- **Graduate degree fellowships**: Funding for graduate students to participate in residential, educational and research programs for 2013 at [East-West Center](#) while pursuing degree at University of Hawaii.

**Harvard University**
- **Indonesia Research Fellows 2013–14**: Harvard Kennedy School Indonesia Program offering fellowships to Indonesia researchers, academics, and practitioners to pursue independent research at the Ash Center Aug. 2013 to June 2014. **Deadline to apply: Feb. 15.** See [program website](#) for details.

**Indonesian Government**
- **Darmasiswa scholarships**: Six-month or year-long grants to study Bahasa Indonesia and Indonesian arts, music and crafts offered to all international students from countries with diplomatic relations with Indonesia. Sponsored by Indonesia’s Ministry of National Education and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. **Deadline to apply: Nov. 30.** For details, see [program website](#).

**Kyoto University Center for Southeast Asian Studies**
- **Visiting research fellowship**: Six-month fellowships to pursue research at Kyoto University. Stipend for travel and living expenses plus some research funding provided. **Deadline to apply: Nov. 30.** For details, see [program website](#).

**Queen Mary University**
- **PhD scholarships**: Funding for students beginning doctoral studies September 2013 at QMU School of Politics and International Relations in suggested subject areas of civil society/social movements; political transition in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America, critical approaches to theory of international relations; and practice of foreign policy and political theory and the history of ideas. **Deadline to apply: Jan. 31.** For details, email [politics-pgresearch@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:politics-pgresearch@qmul.ac.uk).

**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

*University of Oxford-St. Anthony’s College*

- **Aung San Suu Kyi Senior Research Fellow**: Full-time, five-year senior research fellow position in modern Burmese studies to coordinate and develop interdisciplinary program at Oxford. Salary plus housing allowance and other benefits offered. **Deadline to apply: Nov. 28.** Interviews to be held at Oxford Jan. 30. For details, see college website.

*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

- **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. For details, see conference website.
- **12th International Graduate Student Conference on the Asia Pacific Region**, Feb. 14–16, East-West Center, Honolulu, HI. Limited number of travel grants available. For details, see conference website.
- **15th Southeast Asian Studies Graduate Student Conference**, March 1–3, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. Call for papers based on original research related to Southeast Asia. Abstracts due Jan. 10; final papers due Feb. 15. All papers will be reviewed for submission to *Sojourn: Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia*. For details, see conference website.
- **5th Khmer Studies Forum**, March 15–17, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio. Call for papers. **Deadline for abstracts: Jan. 15.** Details to be posted soon on center website.
- **UCLA Indonesian Studies Conference**, April 13-14, Los Angeles, CA. Theme: Critical Histories of Activism: Indonesia’s New Order and its Legacies.” Call for papers. **Deadline: Jan. 7.** Participants with accepted papers will receive funding for transport and hotel accommodations. For details, email cseas@international.ucla.edu.
- **4th International Conference on Lao Studies**, April 19–21, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Call for papers. **Deadline for abstracts: Nov. 30. Early registration deadline: Jan. 15.** For details on article submission and registration, see the conference website or call 608-263-1755.
• **(Re)Constructions: Researching and Rethinking Asia**, April 26–27, York University, Toronto Canada. York Centre for Asian Research Graduate Student Conference. Call for papers. **Abstracts due: Dec. 1.** For details, see conference website.

• **5th South and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Culture and Religion Conference**, May 16–19, Manila, the Philippines. Theme: Healing, Belief Systems, Cultures and Religions of South and Southeast Asia. Call for papers. **Deadline for abstracts: Nov. 24.** For details, see conference website. **NEW**

• **8th International Convention for Asia Scholars (ICAS)**, June 24–27, Macao. See 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.

• **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.

### 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.

• The Friends of the Gamelan of Chicago Performance Ensemble meets Tuesday evenings at Hyde Park Union Church, 5600 S. Woodlawn Ave., Chicago. Previous study of Javanese gamelan music or dance required. Modest class fee. For details on this and beginning classes offered, 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.