NIU chosen for Myanmar higher ed initiative

1. Centers for SEA and Burma Studies to play major role in national Myanmar higher ed initiative
2. Catch new SEA film/lit class on spring SEAS course list
3. Application deadline for summer FLAS program approaches
4. NIU Thai Studies Committee offers awards for students, faculty
5. Area CSEAS conferences coming up in spring
6. PhD students invited to dissertation workshop before AAS conference
7. Anthem Press launches new Southeast Asian Studies series
8. Boren scholarships, fellowships offer generous funding for international study
9. Overseas language, exchange, and area studies programs
10. Money for study
11. Job opportunities
12. Conferences and calls for papers
13. Coming up on 50th Anniversary Calendar

Looking for funding?

Check out the myriad scholarships, grants and fellowships available for study abroad, area studies, and graduate and postgraduate research. Listings are posted in the Money for Study and Job Opportunities sections below.
1. Centers for SEA and Burma Studies to play major role in national Myanmar initiative

NIU is among nine U.S. colleges and universities chosen to participate in a new initiative by the Institute of International Education (IIE) to assist in rebuilding higher education in Myanmar/Burma and to develop institutional partnerships with schools in that country. The IIE announced the Myanmar project, which is part of the organization’s International Academic Partnership Program, after President Barack Obama’s historic trip to Myanmar Nov. 19, where he affirmed the U.S. commitment to advance education there.

In addition to NIU, American University, Arizona State University, Ball State University, Hawaii Pacific University, Northern Arizona University, Samford University, the University of Massachusetts-Lowell and the University of Washington were chosen for the IIE initiative. The schools were selected based on their ability to develop linkages with Myanmar institutions as well as significant experience with the country, according to the New York-based organization.

Since September, a campus steering committee has been working on NIU’s contribution to the project, led by Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies Lisa Freeman and joined by College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean Christopher McCord and four CSEAS associates including CSEAS Director Judy Ledgerwood, Center for Burma Studies Director Catherine Raymond, Associate Provost for International Programs Deborah Pierce, and Assistant Professor Tharaphi Than (foreign languages and literatures).

The goal of the project is to assist the U.S. schools in developing partnerships with Myanmar institutions as well as assisting Myanmar in reconstructing its once-vaunted higher education system. In February, Raymond said, she is slated to go to Myanmar as part of an IIE-led delegation of the U.S. faculty and administrators who will make presentations at universities in Yangon and Mandalay on such topics as accreditation, quality assurance, faculty development, student learning, and partnerships.
“Each of the nine will present its areas of strength and offer lectures on how they can participate,” Raymond said, noting that she will discuss heritage sites and cultural preservation. Myanmar has been the home of multiple cultures over thousands of years, Raymond said. “It’s a strong and beautiful part of what Burma/Myanmar has to offer,” she said. “UNESCO is currently working on developing Bagan [the site of the ancient Buddhist Kingdom of Pagan] as a World Heritage Site, for example.”

While in Myanmar, the delegation will also hold a series of closed “listening” sessions with college and university administrators, the findings of which will be detailed in a report on Myanmar’s higher education needs. Raymond said that she hopes that one result of the initiative will be the opportunity for more Burmese students to come to NIU to study. At this stage, she said, “The issue will be whether they can meet competitive requirements.” IIE hopes to make student exchange and other reciprocal activities with Myanmar’s colleges and universities a reality, but has stated that the first priority will be assisting the country in rebuilding its higher education infrastructure.

“Through face-to-face contact, training workshops, and public forums, the IAPP Myanmar program aims to foster similar partnership activities, in addition to sharing practical skills that will contribute to the reconstruction of what was once considered one of Asia’s stronger higher education systems,” the IIE said in a press release.

2. Catch new SEA film/lit class on spring SEAS course list

Eleven courses, including a new course 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 a sampling of Southeast Asia films, including the 2001 Filipino film *Bagong Buwan* (New Moon) and the 2010 Thai film *Uncle Boonmee*, the three-credit course will explore cultural, historical, political and sociolinguistic issues in the region. Also

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Support Southeast Asian Studies at NIU

With the countries of Southeast Asia positioning themselves as key regional and global players, the next 50 years for Southeast Asian Studies at NIU will offer exciting opportunities. To keep the program at NIU strong, please consider making a donation to CSEAS through the NIU Foundation. Contributions will be used for existing programs and new initiatives in Southeast Asian Studies at NIU. You may also designate a specific purpose or project. To make a donation by phone or by mail, go to the How to Make a Gift section of the NIU Foundation website. To make a gift online, go to the Make a Gift Now section.

- Click on Make a Gift Now (red button in top-right corner)
- Within the pop-up box, designate your gift by selecting “a specific area,” then “university wide programs,” then “Center for Southeast Asian Studies.”
- Enter an amount and complete the process.
- Thank you for your support!

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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.

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

3. Application deadline for summer FLAS program approaches

With fall semester winding down, students planning to apply for a summer Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowship should get their paperwork in order now. Information and forms to apply are posted on the CSEAS website and should be submitted to the Center by Jan. 1. FLAS fellowships are funded by the U.S. Department of Education’s Title VI Program of Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships and provide for the study of Southeast Asian
languages at any U.S. Department of Education-approved educational institution, especially those in Southeast Asia but also including the Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute at the University of Wisconsin, during the summer. Priority will be given to students planning to study in a Southeast Asian country. A list of currently approved programs is posted on the CSEAS website; you can also contact the Center for details on other possible study locations in Southeast Asia. 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 is covered up to $4,000. Any qualified undergraduate or graduate student is welcome to apply.

4. NIU Thai Studies Committee offers awards for students, faculty

- **Original paper:** The Thai Studies Committee at NIU is announcing a $300 prize for an original research paper dealing with any aspect of Thai Studies and written by an NIU student. The prize will be awarded at the Southeast Asia Club’s 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. Applicants should submit a one-page statement of interest, letters of recommendation from the Thai language instructor and another faculty member, and a transcript. Award recipients are expected to participate in Thai Studies-focused events at NIU. **Deadline to apply: April 5.** Email to Chalermsee Olson at eteolson@niu.edu.

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

5. Area CSEAS conferences coming up in spring

- **Ohio University, Athens, OH:** Ohio University’s Center for Southeast Asian Studies will host its 5th annual Khmer Studies Forum March 15–17. The forum’s theme is “Identity.” Email abstracts of one or two pages by Jan. 15 to cseas@ohio.edu. A conference web page will soon be available on center website.

- **University of Wisconsin-Madison, WI:** UW-Madison’s Center for Southeast Asian Studies will co-host the 4th International Conference on Lao Studies April 19–21 with the Center for Lao Studies, San Francisco. Call for papers. **Deadline for abstracts: Nov. 30. Early registration: Jan. 15.** For details, see conference website or call 608-263-1755.

6. PhD students invited to dissertation workshop before AAS conference

Interested in going to the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) conference in San Diego in March? AAS and the Social Science Research Council invite doctoral students to participate in
“Family, Gender and Generation,” a dissertation workshop funded by the Luce Foundation that will be held March 18–21 immediately before the 2013 AAS conference begins. Funding is available for both student and faculty participants. **Deadline to apply: Jan. 4.** For details, see the [workshop website](http).

7. **Anthem Press launches new Southeast Asian Studies series**
Anthem Press is inviting submissions for its new series, Anthem Southeast Asian Studies. Monographs, collections of essays, major reference works, and course readers that meet the series’ scope and criteria will be considered. The series editor is Michael W. Charney (University of London’s School of Oriental and African Studies [SOAS] and the University of Tokyo’s Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia). The series editorial board includes Barbara Andaya (University of Hawaii); Anne Booth (SOAS); Elizabeth Collins (Ohio University); Kate Crosby (SOAS); Christopher Goscha (Université du Québec à Montréal); Eva-Lotta Hedman (London School of Economics and Political Science); Hong Liu (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore); Akio Takahashi (University of Tokyo); Kerry Ward (Rice University). In its announcement, the publisher said that the series “seeks to offer to a global audience new, path-breaking research drawn from across the full range of academic disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, directed at academic libraries, researchers, university students, and other sophisticated audiences.” For further information, see the [Anthem Press website](http).

8. **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 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](http). 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. For application help, see Anne Seitzinger at the Study Abroad office. **Fellowship applications are due to the Boren office by Jan. 31. Scholarship applications are due Feb. 13.**

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](http) (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](http) Summer Abroad Program offers six weeks of 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](http) and [Blakemore](http) 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. Some scholarship support is available. **Deadline to apply: April 1.** For details, see [program website](#).

**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 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.

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, 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

**Weatherhead East Asian Institute**

- **2013–14 Postdoctoral Fellowship in Modern Southeast Asian Studies**: Ten-month appointment beginning Aug. 1 at Weatherhead Institute, Columbia University, New York. **Apply by Jan. 22**. For details, email Kim Palumbarit, Program Officer, at 212-854-9206 or [kp2449@columbia.edu](mailto:kp2449@columbia.edu). For details, see [program website](#).

**Yale University**

- **Postdoctoral Fellow, Inter-Asia Program**: Twelve-month appointment with possibility of six-month extension beginning no earlier than April 1 and no later than Sept. 1. Application review begins **Jan. 10**. See [program website](#) for details and submission information.

**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

- **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](#).

• **2nd Southeast Asian Studies Symposium**, March 9–10, University of Oxford, U.K. Call for papers for “Southeast Asian Politics and History” panel. **Deadline: Dec. 15.** See [conference website](#) for details and for other panels.

• **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](#).

• **Association for Asian Studies**, March 21–24, San Diego, CA. See the [conference 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. **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. 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. For details, see [conference website](#).

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

• **7th European Association of European Southeast Asian Studies (EuroSEAS) Conference**, July 2–5, School of Social and Political Sciences, Lisbon, Portugal. For details, see [EuroSEAS website](#). **NEW**

• **Inter-Asian Connections IV**, Oct. 2–5, 2013, Istanbul. Four-day conference focused on reconceptualization of Asia as 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. **Coming up on 50th Anniversary Calendar**

• Jan. 23: Anniversary Film Series resumes with the musical-drama, *The Overture* (Thailand, 2004). Time and location TBA.
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 Cole Hall. For museum hours and details, call 815-753-2520.

See the CSEAS website for a calendar of 2012–13 anniversary events and click through 50 years of CSEAS history on our timeline on the home page.

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.

1963–2013: Celebrating 50 years of language, learning and engagement