The gamelan will be back at this year’s Area Studies Open House, set for Thursday this week out on College View Court in front of the Center. See below for details.

Time to meet and greet

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Why area studies?
“As the world becomes increasingly globalized all knowledge concerning other cultures will be a supreme commodity. Multicultural studies show us that there is never only one way to see things. As simple as it sounds, that fact alone does more than anything else to prepare students to adapt and grow in a world that is drawn together in unprecedented ways.” — Mike Hawkins, NIU alumnus (PhD history, 2009) and assistant history professor at Creighton University
1. Fall lecture series: Thailand update with Danny Unger

The Center’s fall 2014 lecture series kicks off at noon Friday, **Sept. 5**, with CSEAS associate Danny Unger (Political Science), who will present “Thailand’s Latest Coup: Causes, Context and Consequences” in Room 110 (Honors), Campus Life Building. Unger will look at the underlying structural and cultural dynamics of the political conflict that began in 2005 and culminated in a military coup in May. He also will look at plausible medium-term future political scenarios. (The leader of the coup, Gen. Prayuth Chan-ocha, was named prime minister on **Aug. 21**.) To order a Southeast Asian lunch (Filipino this year), 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. Cost is $5 for students and $6 for faculty, staff and others. Payments may be made in cash or by check. For lunch details, e-mail seabrownbag@gmail.com.

2. Flying the flags for area studies at NIU

Make College View Court your destination this week for this year’s Area Studies Open House from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, **Sept. 4**. CSEAS and the centers for Burma Studies (CBS) and Latino and Latin American Studies (CLLAS) will be dishing up Southeast Asian and Mexican food, games, and information on Southeast Asian and Latin American studies at NIU outside in the shady confines of College View Court (weather permitting; in case of rain, the event will be moved inside CLLAS). The Southeast Asia Club and the Burma Interest Group-NIU student groups will be there. Take a turn on the Balinese gamelan with gamelan instructor Ngurah Kertayuda, learn more about Center programs and fellowships, and visit with friends, faculty, and staff. The Spanish Club and Tumbao (NIU’s student dance group offering salsa lessons starting at noon) will be on hand for CLLAS.

3. Last week to catch an SEA class this fall

There’s still time to sign up for Southeast Asian studies classes this semester. New courses leading off the fall course listings include a new political science class, POLS 378, Political Islam (Kikue Hamayotsu), and SEAS 625/HIST 690, a graduate-level Southeast Asia seminar taught by Assistant CSEAS Director Trude Jacobsen (History/NGOLD).

The new graduate survey course, Southeast Asia: A Multidisciplinary Perspective, will be required for NIU’s new Southeast Asian studies graduate certificate, which replaces the graduate concentration. The graduate course will focus on seminal literature in Southeast Asian studies. Undergraduates are invited to take SEAS 225, the Center’s SEA survey course.

Intermediate Vietnamese (FLST 281) has been added to NIU’s SEA language and literature lineup as a distance-learning course through University of Wisconsin-Madison. It will be taught by a UW instructor but NIU students will receive NIU credit. Other SEA language classes include Burmese, Indonesian, Khmer, Tagalog and Thai, in addition to Chinese.

Other fall courses are: ANTH 328/790, Anthropology of Religion/Seminar in Anthropology (Andrea Molnar); ARTH 370/570, Studies in Asian Art: Indian and Southeast Asian Art
(Catherine Raymond); FCNS 384, Asian American Families (Florensia Surjadi); HIST 660, Reading Seminar in Asian History: US Relations with Southeast Asia (Kenton Clymer); POLS 362, Politics of Developing Areas (Kheang Un); POLS 371, Politics of Southeast Asia (Danny Unger); POLS 672, Topics in Comparative Politics (Danny Unger). Students interested in learning to play gamelan may sign up for MUSE 370/670, Gamelan I, an ensemble class open to music and non-music majors. All of these courses can be applied toward SEA Studies minors/contract majors or graduate certificate. For details, see the CSEAS website or stop by Pottenger House, 520 College View Court.

4. Remembering SEAsite wizard Robert Cutler
The Center was saddened to hear the news last week of the death of Robert Cutler, 42, a computer programmer and bioinformaticist who taught at Chiang Mai University for part of his career. He became a major contributor to SEAsite, the Center’s online language and culture resource, beginning in the early 2000s when he used the Burmese part of SEAsite to help him with his own study of the language.

“In short order, he had volunteered himself as a ‘beta tester’ by making helpful comments and pointing out things that didn’t work right, typos, and other edits,” said recently retired CSEAS associate Jim Henry, who with retired Thai language professor and fellow associate John Hartmann became close friends and collaborators with Cutler. His most important contribution, however, came after Cutler volunteered to convert SEAsite’s Thai dictionary to Unicode. This became the first step in eventually converting all of the site’s non-Roman script languages—Thai, Lao, Burmese, Khmer, and Vietnamese—to Unicode so that users would no longer have to download custom fonts.

In 2009 CSEAS applied for a three-year U.S. Department of Education grant to fund the Unicode project. “From 2009 to 2011, Cutler worked to complete this “truly challenging” project, Henry said, unraveling the puzzle of each language’s specific and idiosyncratic attributes. “I am convinced that his knowledge of Southeast Asian script languages, his programming acumen, and his pattern-matching and replacement knowledge from his bioinformatics background qualified him almost uniquely for this task,” Henry said. “His quick intelligence, cheerful attitude and problem-solving skills made the task sound almost easy.”

Soon after completing the project, the Center’s SEAsite team (Henry, Patricia Henry, John Hartmann and Robert Zerwekh) began discussing a new project to transition the site’s interactive language exercises to mobile devices with Cutler’s help. Recently, however, Cutler fell ill with an autoimmune disease that claimed his life on Aug. 22. “His contribution to SEAsite.niu.edu was monumental; his loss immeasurable,” said Hartmann. “On a personal level, he was full of enthusiasm about life and ideas, and totally giving of himself to others. A beautiful man.” Cutler is survived by his wife and two young children.

5. Apply on campus Sept. 15 for student Fulbright awards
Interested in applying for a student Fulbright fellowship or English Teaching Assistantship? Now is the time to put the final touches on your application materials for this U.S. State Department-funded program. Sept. 15 is the deadline to apply through the Division of
International Affairs, with interviews with the Campus Fulbright Committee slated for late September/early October. Students are advised to send draft proposals to Fulbright program advisor Valerie Garver (History) before that date. Contact her at 815-753-6823 or email her at vgarver@niu.edu.

6. Worlds of Southeast Asia open in campus exhibits
Two exhibits featuring Southeast Asian art and artifacts will be on display at NIU this semester at the NIU Art Museum and the NIU Anthropology Museum. (Another exhibit, on computer science and SEA, is on display at Founders Library; see photo).
“Dressing Difference: Exploring Ethnicities in Modern Burma” is on display at the NIU Art Museum through Nov. 15. This exhibit, co-curated by Center for Burma Studies Director Catherine Raymond and Sherry Harlacher, director of the Denison University Museum in Ohio, features the clothing, head coverings, accessories, weaponry, and smoking artifacts of a number of ethnic groups from Burma (Myanmar). The objects were drawn from Burma art collections at NIU and Denison. The opening reception will be 4:30 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 11; Raymond and Harlacher will give an informal gallery talk from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 18, in conjunction with the symposium, Imaging the Others: The Art of Ethnography, which will be held the next day, Sept. 19, from 9 to 5 p.m. in 315 Altgeld.

“Curated by DeKalb: 50 Years of the Anthropology Museum,” which features items from the museum’s collection of over 20,000 ethnographic and archeological objects, will open Sept. 23 and run through May. The objects were selected by members of the NIU and local communities, including CSEAS associates. Director Judy Ledgerwood chose a prahok scoop, a basic kitchen tool in rural Cambodian homes, while Donn V. Hart Southeast Asia Collection curator Hao Phan picked a piece of Indonesian batik. The opening reception will start at 4 p.m. Sept. 23 with refreshments and live music. The museum was founded in 1964 by the Department of Anthropology. As part of the 50th celebration, forensic anthropologist Kathy Reichs, creator of the fictional character Temperance Brennan in books and the TV series Bones, will give a public lecture at 4 p.m. Oct. 23 in Sandburg Auditorium, Holmes Student Center.

7. Save the dates: Exhibit events, Fulbright deadlines, upcoming fairs
- Sept. 11: Public reception: 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. for “Dressing Difference: Exploring Ethnicities in Modern Burma,” curated by Center for Burma Studies Director and CSEAS associate Catherine Raymond, NIU Art Museum, Altgeld Hall. Curator’s gallery talk and reception 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Sept. 18. Exhibit runs through Nov. 15.
- **Sept. 12:** 15th annual International Parade of Flags sponsored by the International Student and Faculty Office. Step-off at 1:30 a.m., east side of Huskie Stadium, with ceremony at noon in MLK Commons. **NEW**
- **Sept. 15:** NIU deadline to submit applications for Fulbright fellowships or English Teaching Assistantships.
- **Sept. 19:** Imaging the Others: The Art of Ethnography in Modern Burma symposium, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (lunch on your own), 315 Altgeld. Hosted by the Center for Burma Studies.
- **Sept. 23:** Exploring Majors Fair, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Duke Ellington Ballroom, Holmes Student Center.
- **Sept. 23:** Opening reception for “Curated by DeKalb: 50 Years of the Anthropology Museum” exhibit, 4 to 7 p.m., Anthropology Museum, Cole Hall. Refreshments and live music. The exhibit runs through May.
- **Sept. 25:** Study Abroad Fair, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Duke Ellington Ballroom, Holmes Student Center.

8. **Apply for student grants to fall COTS by Sept. 19**

Graduate students submitting papers to the fall Council on Thai Studies (COTS) annual meeting, scheduled for Oct. 17–19 in Ingraham Hall at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, are invited to apply by **Sept. 19** for grants from the Thai Studies Fund Committee at NIU. The committee will consider applications for up to three NIU students to receive small grants to present their research work in Thai studies. Applications must include a concise description of the presentation and the acceptance letter from conference organizers. Successful applicants must both present and attend at COTS. Applications should be addressed to the Thai Fund Committee and emailed to CSEAS associate Chalermsee Olson at eteolson@niu.edu. Rooms have been reserved at the Lowell Center on campus; deadline for hotel registration is **Sept. 16** (use group code COTS); call 866-301-1753 or reserve online. Email brief abstracts and panel proposals, including contact information and institutional affiliation, to COTS chair Ian Baird, ibaird@wisc.edu. See COTS website for details.

9. **Money for study**

*University of Cambridge*
- Charles Wallace Burma Trust Visiting Fellowship: Centre of South Asian Studies three-month fellowship (Jan. 13 to March 13, 2015) open to Burmese scholars working in any field. **Deadline to apply:** Oct. 31. See website. **NEW**

*East-West Center*
- **2015–16 graduate fellowship opportunities:** Apply to study in Honolulu through variety of programs. **Deadline to apply:** Nov. 3. See website.

*United States-Indonesia Society*
- **2015 Sumitro Fellowships:** $10,000 travel/study grant for postdocs, PhD candidates, senior academics and qualified candidates. Two grants offered, one for U.S. citizens and one for Indonesian citizens. **Deadline to apply:** Jan. 31. See website.
10. Job/internship opportunities

**Asia Society**
- **Career opportunities:** Internships and jobs posted regularly on [website](#).

**World Health Organization**
- Global public health nonprofit based in Geneva, Switzerland, encourages online applications for potential employment. See [WHO website](#).

**Idealist.org**
- Privately funded website offers searchable database of nonprofit international jobs and volunteer opportunities. See the [Idealist website](#).

**Hess International Educational Group**
- **Teach English across Asia:** Taiwan-based organization offers free training, benefits, and flexible scheduling. Contact NIU alum Derek Wright at derek.wright@hess.com.tw or see the Hess [website](#) for details.

11. Conferences, calls for papers and workshops

- **Congress of the Asian Political and International Studies Association,** Sept. 19–20, Chiang Mai University Institute for Southeast Asian Affairs, Thailand. See [conference website](#).
- **Symposium on ‘Social Resistance in Non-Democracies,”** Nov. 24–26, Lund University, Sweden. See [symposium website](#).
- **4th International JSA-ASEAN Conference,** Dec. 15–16, Thammasat University Institute of East Asian Studies. Theme: State and Non-state Actors in Japan-ASEAN Relations and Beyond. See [conference website](#).
- **International Symposium on Cambodia,** Dec. 15–16, Royal University of Fine Arts, Phnom Penh. See [symposium website](#).
- **International Graduate Student Conference on the Asia Pacific Region,** Feb. 12–14, East-West Center, Honolulu, HI. *EXTENDED deadline for abstracts and travel grants: Sept. 26.* See [conference website](#). [NEW]
- **Third Hmong Consortium Conference,** April 10–11, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI. Theme: Hmong around the World. Call for papers. *Abstracts due: Dec. 31.* Email to conference chair Ian Baird at ibaird@wisc.edu. See [consortium website](#).
- **International Convention of Asia Scholars 9,** July 5–9, Adelaide, Australia. Call for papers and proposals. *Deadline: Sept. 10.* See [conference website](#). [NEW]
12. Area Southeast Asia cultural opportunities

- “Remembering the Killing Fields” exhibit 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 in Chicago offers free Javanese gamelan and dance is offered from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturdays; gamelan music and Indonesian dance 3 to 6 p.m. Sundays. See consulate website.

Be part of CSEAS’s future

The next half-century for Southeast Asian Studies at NIU will offer exciting opportunities for teaching and learning about this rising region of the world. To keep NIU’s program strong, consider making a donation to CSEAS through the NIU Foundation. To contribute online, go to the Donate Now tab at the NIU Foundation website. Under Designations, select “college or university wide program,” then write in “Center for Southeast Asian Studies.” Continue on through the form. If your employer matches your charitable donations, please take a moment to fill out that form. We appreciate every gift. Thank you!