An Interview with Indonesian President Gus Dur
by Dwight Y. King

My most unforgettable experience during the past year in Indonesia under Fulbright and Northern Illinois University auspices was an hour-long, private discussion on May 24, 2000 with Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid (who prefers the familiar name Gus Dur). How it came about was as surprising as the event itself. I had traveled to Jakarta from my base in Yogyakarta to fulfill an invitation to participate in the inauguration and colloquium of the newly-founded Habibie Center. About a week earlier, I had submitted an article based on my Habibie Colloquium paper to Kompas, the national Indonesian language newspaper of record, hoping to reach a wider audience. Fortuitously, my article on continuities in political party support, 1955-1999, was published on the very same day as the opening of the Habibie Center events (“Kontinuitas Basis Pendukung Partai Politik, 1955-1999,” Kompas, May 22 (Part I) and 23 (Part II), 2000). That evening, former President and Mrs. Habibie hosted a gala dinner at which the guests of honor were President Gus Dur, First Lady Nuriyah and former Philippine President Corazon Aquino. When I was introduced to Gus Dur, he responded that he had found my Kompas article interesting. After retiring to my hotel room later that night, I received a telephone call from the Chief of Protocol asking when I might be available to speak with the President. Of course, I replied “anytime,” except for the next morning when my Colloquium presentation was scheduled. But the Chief offered nothing, and I heard no more for the next 40 hours.

A message finally came during the final session of the Colloquium that I would be received by the President at the Palace at 5 p.m., only two hours hence. Fearing that I could get marooned in Jakarta’s notorious rush-hour traffic, I left immediately for the Palace, not even taking the time to fetch my camera from the hotel. Thanks to luck and an adroit driver, we arrived with a half hour to spare. Although twice I had to register in log books and pass through metal detectors, fortunately I was never required to produce personal identification as I had left my passport behind in Yogyakarta.

A few minutes later, I was ushered from the holding room into Gus Dur’s mammoth office. He seemed relaxed, sitting behind his desk clad in his customary batik shirt but without the glasses or the black hat (pici) he wears in public. He greeted me and I took a chair directly opposite him in front of his desk. He began our conversation by asking for a briefing on my Colloquium paper, and questioned me particularly about my findings. 

Continued on Page 2
pertaining to the National Awakening Party (PKB). He helped establish the PKB in 1998; the party finished in third place in the 1999 election.

My paper had reported on continuities I found between Indonesia's first parliamentary election in 1955 and the 1999 election. Although several scholars had asserted that continuities existed, my paper was the first to provide empirical evidence on the issue. One of my unexpected findings was a mild but statistically significant correlation between areas of support for the PKB in 1999 and areas of support for the Communist Party (PKI) in 1955. It suggested that both the PKB and the PDI-P led by Vice-President Megawati had stronger appeal to lower class voters in Java than did other parties.

Gus Dur told me that he was committed to building the PKB, and my paper suggested a strategy for broadening the base of the party. I derived some satisfaction about two months later from press reports that the Chairman of PKB, Matori Abdul Djalil, was “campaigning” in Central and East Java where he was inviting former members of the PKI to become partners with PKB in the 2004 election. (“Mengelembungkan PKB, Merangkul Eksp-KPK,” DeTAK No. 103, 19-24 Juli, 2000). Gus Dur said my findings indicated that PKB's Islamic ideology could appeal to anyone, because it espouses religious freedom. However, he cautioned that nothing about the current constellation of parties can be taken for granted. He noted that he expects Golkar to rebuild, but his views of PDI-P seemed more negative, “Why would a rational voter choose PDI-P?”

The longer we conversed the more I listened and less talking I did. He touched on a variety of current political issues, including constitutional reform, changes he was contemplating in the Cabinet, Vice President Megawati's prospects in the next election, and U.S. policy toward Indonesia. While vowing to maintain close ties with the U.S., he warned against U.S. intervention in Indonesia's political transition. It seemed clear that he wanted to use our discussion in part to send a message to U.S. diplomats who had recently indicated publicly their preferred candidates for a couple of high level appointments in the Wahid administration. One of the things that most surprised me was his hope that the next election would be held sooner than 2004, the current schedule, in order to implement constitutional reforms that were to be enacted by the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) in August 2000, including the direct election of the President. A directly elected president, he thought, would have more legitimacy and influence in solving Indonesia's many problems. As it turned out, the MPR was unable to agree on direct election of the President and such change has now been postponed for at least another year.

Because of the candidness with which he spoke, and his habit of inclusiveness, e.g., frequently prefacing his statements with “You know, Dwight…” I never felt left out. Only after I left the room did I realize that about halfway through our discussion, our dialogue had turned into a monologue—but isn’t that an occupational hazard of teachers and clerics everywhere? He mentioned that he prefers to talk about domestic politics with outsiders, since his advisors are too partisan and subjective.

Now, eight months after our talk, the aura surrounding Gus Dur in many people’s minds has faded, including mine. I still respect him as a person—his democratic values, commitment to religious tolerance, his lively intellect, wit, and sense of humor. But his administrative-managerial skills are proving insufficient or ineffective for the Herculean tasks required of the leader of such a large and complex country undergoing transition to democracy.

The Philippines was the recent recipient as a country of the Nobel Peace Prize for their Second People Power bloodless, non-violent ousting of the President.
New Faculty

Danny Unger joined the Department of Political Science in Fall 2000. He teaches courses in the politics of Southeast Asia and Japan, comparative politics, political economy, and international relations. Dr. Unger is an area studies specialist in both Thailand and Japan, and received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. Prior to joining Northern Illinois University, he taught at American University, Georgetown University, the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University, and Waseda University in Tokyo. He is the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships, including from Fulbright-Hayes, the Social Science Research Council, the Center for Global Partnership, the Japan Foundation, and the Japanese Abe Fund. He has authored over 14 articles and four books, including two edited volumes entitled Japan’s Emerging Global Role (co-edited with Paul Blackburn, 1993, Lynne Reiner) and Friends in Need: Burden Sharing in the Gulf War (co-edited with Andy Bennett and Joseph Lepgold, 1997, St. Martin’s Press). His two most recent books focus on Southeast Asia and combine economic, political science and sociological approaches.

In Fall semester 2000, Katharine Wiegele joined the anthropology department at NIU as a Visiting Assistant Professor. Katharine’s fieldwork in the Philippines was supported by grants from Fulbright-Hays, Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, and a Nell Signor Fellowship in International Studies. She currently is finishing her Ph.D. dissertation at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on El Shaddai, a popular Christian movement that began in Manila, Philippines. El Shaddai has 8-10 million followers and is led by a charismatic businessman, Mike Velarde. This group is best known for holding large healing rallies in Manila and for their mass media-based networks. Katharine’s dissertation is based on 13 months of ethnographic fieldwork in a lower class neighborhood in Manila. Her broader teaching and research interests focus on Southeast Asia, media studies, religion, urban anthropology, and Asian American studies. Forthcoming publications include “Modern Desires and the El Shaddai Movement,” in Aihwa Ong, Kathryn Poethig, and Craig Reynolds (eds.), Religion, Social Movements, and Civil Society in Southeast Asia; and “Globalizing Prosperity: the El Shaddai Movement in the Philippines,” special issue of Culture and Religion.

February 22
Prof. Robert Brown, Art History, UCLA
“The Walking Buddha in South and Southeast Asian Art”

February 23
Prof. Robert Brown, Art History, UCLA
“Early Southeast Asian Hindu and Buddhist Art in Text and Image”

March 2
Prof. Robert Wicks, Miami University, OH
“Footprints of the Lord: An Exploration of Feet and Movement in Asian Art”

March 21
Prof. Anthony Reid, Director, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, UCLA
“Post-Colonial Nationalisms and the Survival of Colonial Borders: The Case of Aceh”

Spring 2001 Brown Bag Lecture Series

April 6
William Harker, Graduate Student, Political Science, Ohio State University
“Emergent Order in Thai Coalition Behavior”

April 12
Prof. Iwan Azis, City and Regional Planning, Cornell University
“International Response to Economic Crisis: The Case of International Monetary Fund (IMF) Policy in the Asian Crisis”

April 13
Prof. Iwan Azis, Department of City and Regional Planning, Cornell University
“The Boom and the Bust of Southeast Asian Economies”

April 19
Prof. Majorie Muecke, Director, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, University of Washington
“Shifting Gender Codes and Intimate Violence in Thailand”

April 20
Prof. Majorie Muecke, Director, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, University of Washington
“Images of Female Sexuality in Thai Discourses on Maechi (Lay Nuns)”

April 27
Dr. Wajuppa Tossa, Visiting Professor, Mahasarakham University, Thailand; and Prasong Saithong, Graduate Student, Anthropology, NIU
“Buddhist Jataka Tales and Storytelling”
Other Faculty News and Updates

H.K. Han (Music) has been traveling the Midwest participating in workshops and giving numerous performances. Workshops include the National Symposium on Multicultural Music held in Knoxville, Tennessee in October, the Birch Creek Summer School in Wisconsin in July and the World Music Workshop at Highland Community College in Freeport, Illinois in June. Some of the performances given this past year were at the Asia Festival held at the College of DuPage, the American Music Instrument Society Meeting, and the Asian American Association meeting held at UWI in September. Prof. Han is the author of “On the Question of the Origin of Suona,” in Music Study, No. 2:61-65 and “The Style of Sardona: Indonesian Choreographer,” in Performing Arts, No. 94 (October):42-45.


John Hartmann is the co-author (with Wei Luo, NIU; Jinfang Li, Central University for Nationalities, Beijing, China; and Vinya Sysamouth, University of Wisconsin-Madison) of the article “GIS Mapping and Analysis of Tai Linguistic Settlement Patterns in Southern China” to be published in the Journal of Geographic Information Sciences. The research on which the article is based was funded by the Henry R. Luce Foundation. By integrating linguistic information and physical geographic features in a GIS environment, this paper maps the spatial variation of terms connected with wet-rice farming of Tai minority groups in southern China and shows that the primary candidate of origin for proto-Tai is in the region of Guangxi-Guizhou, not Yunnan or the middle Yangtze River region as others have proposed. In addition, Tai speaking people (Zhuang and Bouyei) have settled at low elevations along rivers where they can practice irrigated rice farming, in contrast to the Yi, members of the Sino-Tibetan language family, who are found at higher elevations. The pattern of different ethnolinguistic groups exploiting different ecological niches is likely true for all of Asia. GIS technology has great potential to help explain such patterns and understand population movements and distribution.

Several Center associates - - George M. Henry (Computer Science), Patricia Henry (Foreign Languages and Literatures), John Hartmann (Foreign Languages and Literatures), Rhodalyne Gallo-Crail (Foreign Languages and Literatures) and Robert Zerwekh (Computer Science) — received a three year grant from the International Research and Studies Program of the U.S. Department of Education to investigate methods of doing language learning research over the World Wide Web. Using SEASite as a base, three separate language learning studies will be conducted, with user performance recorded in a database. Students at NIU and several other universities will participate in the study, allowing the number of subjects to reach statistical significance. Briefly, the three studies are: 1) for Thai, does directed listening practice for Thai tones affect a learner’s ability to both perceive these tones in normal speech and to produce them accurately; 2) for Indonesian, does the addition of an audio track to a reading passage increase reading comprehension; and 3) for Tagalog, what are the learning and attitudinal effects of several different vocabulary acquisition learning strategies? The hope is that these three specific studies will shed light on the particular questions under investigation, and also that general techniques for collecting and analyzing data on learner performance over the Web will be developed so that additional studies can be undertaken with relative ease.

Judy Ledgerwood (Anthropology) and Anne Hansen (Departments of History and Anthropology, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee) have received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The long-term focus of this study is a translation and critical analysis of the Budd Dammay, a set of Buddhist prophetic texts composed in nineteenth-century Cambodia that are used to explain Khmer representations of social suffering and are central to current constructions of Khmer ethnic identity. The texts are used by Khmer to explain the experiences of brutality and hardship they have endured over the last thirty years, the massive death and destruction of war and Khmer Rouge oppression. The texts are also used to interpret contemporary politics and to predict future events. The goals of the project are three-fold: first, to collect versions of the Budd Dammay, identify variations and compare and translate several versions of the texts; second, to understand the texts in relation to their literary, religious and historical contexts; third, to understand the ways in which Khmer use the text today to understand the recent past and to shape contemporary religious expression, political discourse, and daily decision-making. The NEH grant, with additional funding from both NIU and UWM, paid for a summer of fieldwork in Cambodia this past year spent collecting different versions of the text and conducting research on 19th century Cambodian history. Dr. Ledgerwood is on leave spring semester 2001 to work on this project full-time.

May and June found Andrea Molnar (Anthropology) doing fieldwork in Flores, studying the effects of the recent influx of East Timor refugees into the Ndage regency, particularly in terms of the consequences and responses of the local indigenous populations. This was funded by a National Science Foundation Small Grant for Exploratory Research. In early July, Prof.

Continued on Page 5
Continued from Page 4

Molnar taught "Ethnography of Eastern Indonesia" at SEASSI, after which she conducted research on East Timor at the Australian National University, funded by the NIU Foundation. This is background research for a proposal submitted to NSF for a planned four-year project in the Atsabe region of East Timor. Andrea published a new book *Grandchildren of the Ga'e Ancestors: Social Organization and Cosmology Among the Hoga Sara of Flores*, KITLV Press, Leiden, The Netherlands, 2000. Her ethnography is the first major anthropological account of this eastern Indonesian people. She explores intricacies of social organization and the formation of social identities of groups and individuals by utilizing the concepts of 'house society', 'origin structures', and 'orders of precedence'. In addition, her book discusses the historical development of Hoga Sara society, sacrificial practices, and the instrumental role of the ritual system in the continuing cycle of exchanges among houses and with the ancestors.

History Professor Barbara Posadas is working on a book *Strategic Citizenship: The State and Immigration*, which examines the ongoing importance of state policy in immigration and the political processes by which immigrants and their supporters seek to influence policy. Case studies include: 1) the campaign for citizenship and veterans benefits for Filipino veterans of World War II; 2) the campaign for citizenship and welfare benefits of Hmong veterans of the Vietnam War; 3) the familial strategies of Filipina "mail order brides;" and 4) the quest for separate immigration status for abused spouses of H1-B temporary visa holders. In addition, she presented the following papers: "Transnational Constructions of Nationality, Ethnicity, Race, and Gender in the Global Diaspora of Filipino Migrants," Race, Ethnicity and Migration Conference, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, Minneapolis, MN, November 16-18, 2000 (co-authored with Roland L. Guyotte); "Looking at 'The New Americans': Filipino Americans and Diversity," Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA, October 28, 2000; "Strategic Citizenship: Filipino Migration and Filipino American Ethnicity in an Age of Globalization and Transnationalism," Organization of American Historians, 93rd Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO, April 2, 2000; "Asian Americans in the Midwest: Filipino American Diversity, Identity and A Century of History," The Ohio State University Distinguished Lecture on Asian American History, Columbus, OH, May 4, 2000.

Susan Russell (Director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies/Anthropology) had a published chapter "Of beggars and thieves: customary sharing of the catch and informal sanctions in an open access fishery in the Philippines." (with R. Alexander) in *State and Community in Fisheries Management: Power, Policy, and Practice*, ed. E. Paul Durrenberger and Thomas King. CT: Greenwood Press, pp. 19-40. Prof. Russell presented 'Feats of merit: the politics of ethnography and ethnic icons in the Luzon highlands', at the Association for Asian Studies meetings in San Diego, CA, March 9-11, 2000. From December 28, 2000 to January 13, 2001 she directed the NIU Ethnographic Field School in Maui, Hawaii. The field school is designed for undergraduates with an interest in Southeast Asian studies.

Saw Tun (Foreign Languages and Literatures) traveled to Yangon, Burma and presented a paper on "Chiangmai and Ayuddhaya in Myanmar Literature (1548-1616): The Myanmar Attitude Towards Ancient Thai Cities" at the Views and Visions in the Literary Heritage of Southeast Asia Conference held in December. Sponsor: Universities' Historical Research Commission.

Lee Dutton (Founders Library) carried out research on documentary photograph collections in selected Philippine museums and archives for four weeks during June and July of 2000. In the course of this sabbatical research, he investigated major documentary photo collections at the National Museum of the Philippines, the National Library, the Lopez Memorial Museum, the *Manila Bulletin* and also at several other greater-Manila area locations. Each of these repositories maintains extensive and unique photo image collections. The National Museum curates a major historical archive of photographs that record and document archaeological excavations made throughout all areas of the Philippines. A large retrospective collection of Philippine ethnographic images is also curated there. The National Library is the locale of a number of important historical/documentary Filipiniana photo collections, several of which have been indexed by subject in volumes of the library's *TNL Research Guide Series*. The Lopez Memorial Museum is now the site of the large former working photo archive of the *Philippine Chronicle*. The museum's retrospective archive of photographic portraits of thousands of individual Filipinos is a highlight of this collection. The extensive photo archive of the *Manila Bulletin* remains in daily reference use at the newspaper's Intramuros headquarters, and is also accessible for public use. While pre-war photo images in this archive were destroyed during WWII, the archive holds tens of thousands of post-WWII images that document and illustrate many aspects of Philippine life.

Hal Smith (professor emeritus) with co-authors May Kyi Win (Founders Library) and Samrit Yosomsakdi are preparing a revision of their 1995 edition of *Historical Dictionary of Thailand*, to be published by Scarecrow Press. With Gayla Nieminen, Hal is studying "Perceptions of the Crisis in the Political Economy of Thailand, 1997-1998". A paper based on this research was presented at the September 2000 annual meeting of The Council on Thai Studies held at NIU.

5 Spring 2001
Grant Updates

Highlights of the Title VI National Resource Center Grant Awarded for 2000-03

The Center for Southeast Asian Studies received continued funding and recognition as a National Resource Center through its recent Title VI award from the U.S. Department of Education. Founded in 1963, the NIU center is the second oldest of its kind in the nation. The Title VI grant includes additional funds for Foreign Language and Area Studies scholarships for graduate study, as well as a wide range of projects. Some of these projects build on the Center's growing range of instructional resources for the World Wide Web. They include continued development of Indonesian and Tagalog language training, as well as development of new language and cultural resources for Burmese and Lao on SEAsite — www.seasite.niu.edu. Also, Professor Richard Cooler, Department of Art History and Director of the Center for Burma Studies, will develop a new Web-based course in Burmese Art and Culture. Visiting Professor Wajuppa Tossa from Maharakham University in Thailand will develop a new Web-based course on Lao and Isan Folklore and Culture during her stay at NIU from April - August, 2001. Both courses will complement the new language instructional materials being developed for Lao by Professor John Hartmann and for Burmese by Prof. U Saw Tun, both in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. These projects will be demonstrated to participants at SEASSI at the University of Wisconsin, Madison over the next three summers.

The new Title VI grant also includes funding for a new course on international new communications, focused on Southeast Asian media issues. As part of the course development, the Center will bring in two foreign news correspondents from Southeast Asia as speakers on campus. Funds in the grant also will facilitate the travel of keynote international and national speakers for the Council on Thai Studies annual conference and a special conference devoted to East Timor, as well as the annual Student Conference on Southeast Asia. A wide range of outreach projects are targeted for the next three years, including a new Master Teacher program and a summer Teacher's Workshop under the direction of Julia Lamb, Outreach Coordinator for the Center. Another new project includes building up the children's literature section for Southeast Asia in the Donn V. Hart Southeast Asia Collection in Founder's Library, and funds to augment the Center's holdings on Laos and Cambodia.

National Security Education Program grant for 2001-03

The Center has been awarded a new National Security Education Program grant to develop an interactive multimedia approach to teaching Burmese, Khmer and Lao on the World Wide Web. These funds enhance the development of Burmese and Lao language resources in the Center's Title VI grant, while funding a new set of language instructional materials for Khmer. In addition, the grant provides funds to put up a complete topical and item-by-item bibliography of the Center's holdings on Burma, Cambodia and Laos on the World Wide Web. Professor Judy Ledgerwood of the Department of Anthropology also will develop a Web-based course on Cambodian Modern History and Society. All of these resources will be demonstrated in workshops to teachers and college professors throughout the region. Project participants include Professors George Henry, Robert Zerwekh (Computer Science); John Hartmann and U Saw Tun (Foreign Languages and Literatures), Richard Cooler (Art History), Judy Ledgerwood (Anthropology), May Kyi Win (Founders Library), Kheang Leang (English), and Julia Lamb (Center for Southeast Asian Studies).

NSEP Initiative

The National Security Education Program (NSEP) has begun an initiative to compile case studies of programs and projects that enhance language learning through technology. It is hoped that these case studies will help identify the strengths as well as the shortcomings of new technologies and related pedagogies, particularly for teaching the less-commonly taught languages. As part of this initiative, Professors Robert Zerwekh, Rhodalynne Gallo-Crail and Susan Russell were invited to a NSEP-sponsored workshop last September that was designed to explore these issues. The nine universities represented at the workshop all have programs in place that represent a broad spectrum of the use of technology for teaching the less-commonly taught languages. The Center for Southeast Asian Studies was invited because it has received funding from NSEP to help develop SEAsite. The core idea of the workshop was to have each university present plans for a specific case study that they would implement to shed light on important questions pertaining to the effectiveness of new instructional technologies.

Beginning this semester, Professors Zerwekh and Gallo-Crail have begun a case study to investigate student preferences of learning strategies and learning environments in second language vocabulary acquisition, as well as gender differences in strategy and environment preferences. Students in the second semester Tagalog class are participating in this study. Professor Gallo-Crail has created Internet-based language activities for five learning strategies that students can use at a Web site during the week. A second learning environment is the classroom. Here the students are involved in strategy training sessions where they participate in a variety of activities that exercise the same strategies as those found at the Web site. Finally, a third learning environment is the home, where suggested home-study materials are listed in a weekly plan provided for the students. The home-study materials also utilize the five learning strategies. At the end of each week, the students are asked to participate in a vocabulary quiz that is made available online and on paper. Interviews, surveys and computer database records are used to determine which of these strategies are preferred and which of the learning modes (website, classroom, and home) are most used.

The students in the class are free to choose their mode of study, where a mode is a combination of learning strategies plus a learning environment. This pilot study does not attempt to show that one mode of study is better than another, as might be the case in an experimental study. Rather, the purpose of the study is to investigate patterns of student...

Continued on Page 7
Continued from page 6

use and preferences via surveys, interviews, and observation. From a wider perspective, this study aims to investigate student use of and reaction to the Internet as a learning medium. If the Internet is to become a major instructional delivery platform for L2 learning, then it is important that we begin to collect and use this kind of information in instructional design rather than relying on our intuition or limited anecdotal information.

Visiting Fulbright Scholars
The Center hosted two Visiting Fulbright Scholars during the fall semester. Professor Kheang Leang is from the Institute of Foreign Languages at the Royal University of Phnom Penh in Cambodia. He is a specialist in Khmer language, literature, and culture, and taught Khmer at SEASSI in Wisconsin over the summer. Professor Leang’s project focused on translating (with Professor Judy Ledgerwood in the Department of Anthropology) the Cambodian novel Kolap Pailin (The Rose of Pailin) and three Cambodian folktales. He also gave twelve different presentations in the northern Illinois region and consulted with the Cambodian Association of Illinois, based in Chicago. This spring 2001, Professor Leang entered the graduate program in English as a Second Language at Northern Illinois University, supported by funds from the Center’s National Security Education Program grant. He will be in charge of developing Khmer language and literature lessons on SEASite for the next two years.

Professor Deddy Mulyana is a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Communication Science at Padjadjaran University in west Java, Indonesia. Professor Mulyana earned his M.A. in Communication Studies at Northern Illinois University as a Fulbright student in 1986, and a Ph.D. in Sociology at Monash University in Australia in 1995. A specialist in the mass media and intercultural communication, Professor Mulyana completed a manuscript draft on symbolic interactionism during the fall semester. He also published seven essays in Indonesian newspapers and magazines, and presented three lectures: “The Indonesian Press System”; “A Call for Public Television in Indonesia”, presented at the University of Wisconsin, Madison; and “Toward Intercultural Development in Indonesia: Problems and Solutions”.

Southeast Asia Club Update

- April 6: Barrio Fiesta - Philippine cultural night to celebrate unity and diversity, featuring music, dance and food. Sponsored by the Southeast Asia Club, the Philippine Student Association, the Asian American Association, Alpha Phi Gamma, the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Unity in Diversity and local community members.

- April 20: Thai Cultural Night: A Celebration of the Diverse Cultures in Thailand, featuring Thai traditional dances, music, food, storytelling and traditional ceremonies. Sponsored by the Thai Student Association, the Southeast Asia Club, the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Unity in Diversity and local community members.

- Spring Picnic: Date to be announced.

Fellowship News
The Center for Southeast Asian Studies at NIU awards Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships each academic year for the study of Burmese, Indonesian, Tagalog or Thai language. Students must be accepted by NIU’s Graduate School in a full-time master’s or doctoral degree program. The award competition is open to US citizens or permanent residents in any degree program. Funded by a grant awarded by the US Department of Education, this fellowship pays a stipend of $11,000 each academic year, plus payment of tuition, fees and insurance. Application forms are available from the Center or on the Center’s Website, and the application deadline is March 1. Contact the Center to learn more details about this fellowship opportunity.

FLAS Fellowship Recipients 2000/2001

Paul Chambers, Department of Political Science, Ph.D. program studying Burmese
Billy Closlow, Department of History, M.A. program studying Indonesian
Ryan Davenport, Department of Anthropology, M.A. program studying Indonesian
Christopher Drysdale, Department of Anthropology, M.A. program studying Indonesian
Scott Lueken, Department of Anthropology, M.A. program studying Tagalog
Christopher Miller, School of Music, M.M. program studying Burmese
Jeffrey Petersen, Department of Anthropology, M.A. program studying Tagalog
Thomas J. Rutherford, Department of Political Science, M.A. program studying Burmese
ndustrialization outside of metropolitan Manila. It also has a large fishing industry, a significant agricultural industry and an increasing tourist industry. The town where I conducted my research primarily produces sugar cane but also produces a host of other crops including rice, coconuts, bananas, coffee, corn, mangos and citrus fruits.

I spent the duration of my stay living with a large landowner. Through him, I had the unique opportunity to speak at length with other large landowners concerning their relationships with tenant farmers, landless workers and the government officials who enforce the various agrarian reform laws. In addition, I was able to speak with a number of tenant farmers. Through these formal and informal interviews, I was able to gather information regarding the current nature of relations between tenants and landowners.

The time of my stay coincided with monsoon season, and I encountered many experiences that were new to me. For instance, I learned what it was like to be the object of amusement. Many tenant farmers collapsed into fits of laughter when they discovered that the mud-covered American student had traveled all that distance and endured the torrential rains only to speak with them about their land arrangements. I also experienced the force and power of a typhoon for the first time.

While I spent most of my time in the southern province of Batangas doing research, I also had the opportunity to travel to other parts of Luzon. I spent a couple of weekends in the metropolitan area of Manila, traveled to the summer capital of Baguio, saw the impressive Cordilleran mountain range and stayed for four days in the northern province of Apayao. I also attended weddings, barrio fiestas and other events of cultural importance.

The time that I spent in the Philippines was an experience that I will never forget, and I am already looking forward to my next visit. My time here at NIU has afforded me the wonderful opportunities of traveling to Southeast Asia twice in as many years, and my educational experience has benefited immensely from these visits. I highly encourage other students to take advantage of study and research abroad opportunities. They complement any academic degree and offer an experience that will never be forgotten.

Christopher Miller
Department of Music

Foreign Language and Area Studies fellow Christopher Miller received a Regional Artist Grant from the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Arts Council in his native state of North Carolina. The grant provided travel and materials support related to Christopher’s research this past December in Bandung, West Java. Focusing on Kendang Penca, the musical ensemble that traditionally accompanies the native martial art form pencak silat, Christopher studied with both village musicians as well as faculty members at STSI-Bandung (Sekolah Tinggi Seni Indonesia). In addition, he recorded several different ensembles in order to compare and contrast performance practice styles.

Christopher returned to the U.S. with a full set of instruments and plans to perform Kendang Penca with friends at the upcoming World Music concert on April 8th. Finally, he will present his research at the annual meeting of the American Musical Instrument Society in Asheville, North Carolina on June 1st.

Jennifer Quincey
Department of Anthropology

Before coming to NIU, I knew next to nothing about Southeast Asia. Yet somehow, over the past four years, this part of the world has become a major part of my world. While taking the Crossroads class my freshman year, I became fascinated with the region and its people. I began to consider a minor in Southeast Asian Studies, and realized that it would be a perfect complement to my major in anthropology. My specific research interests include traditional religions and culture contact and change in Indonesia. I plan on eventually becoming a professor of anthropology, and continuing a lifelong relationship with Southeast Asia.

The value of a minor in Southeast Asian Studies and contact with the Center and all it entails (getting to know the faculty, making friends with Southeast Asians, active participation in the Indonesia Club, etc.) really became clear to me this past summer, when I had the opportunity to live in Indonesia during the United States-Indonesia Society’s Summer Language Studies Program. Pre-trip discussions with Center faculty were valuable sources of advice concerning travel in the region. Conversations with friends from Southeast Asia prepared me for the social practices and standards of etiquette I was to encounter. When doing such things as visiting Borobudur, meeting with local religious leaders, and talking with my host father about the secondary burial practices of his group, I constantly drew upon what I had learned in classes here at NIU. While nothing could have ever fully prepared me for the sights and sounds of Java, the background knowledge I had acquired through the minor and Center-sponsored activities saved me from experiencing any major culture shock when I arrived in Indonesia, and thus made my experiences there all the more meaningful and enjoyable. It was extremely satisfying to be able to actually apply the things I had learned here at NIU to everyday situations in Indonesia. I believe this speaks volumes about the quality of education I have received through the Center.

When I was invited to write a brief article for the Mandala, I welcomed the opportunity to publicly express my great appreciation to the faculty and staff of NIU’s Center for Southeast Asian Studies. Everyone I have met that is associated with the Center has been immensely helpful, and has shown amazing generosity in sharing with me their
time and experiences in Southeast Asia. I can say with complete confidence that declaring a minor in Southeast Asian Studies was one of the smartest things I could have done in college - most sincerely, I thank you all.

Jennifer Quincey was the recipient of the Student Laureate Award from The Lincoln Academy of Illinois, an award presented to the most outstanding senior of each Illinois university.

Rey Ty, A Southeast Asianist, Wins Best Graduate Paper Award

The Women's Studies Program of NIU recognizes outstanding essays by feminist students each year during the Women's History Month Essay Contest. The theme for the Women's History Month in the year 2001 was "Twenty Years of Warming the Climate for Women." For this year, 2001, Rey Ty, a Ph.D. student in Political Science, won the Best Graduate Paper Award. The title of his paper was "Pious Women, Prostituted Women: Gender Realities and Contending Interpretations of Buddhist Texts in the Thai Social Context." Rey is the Outreach Assistant at NIU's Center for Southeast Asian Studies.

Southeast Asia Capstone Course

Each year the Center for Southeast Asian Studies sponsors a special course to serve as the required capstone course for the undergraduate minor and graduate concentration in Southeast Asian Studies. In Spring 2001, the capstone was a Special Topics course in art history entitled "The Arts of Buddhism," taught by Richard M. Cooler, a specialist in Southeast Asian art. This course included mainstream Buddhist arts such as architecture and sculpture as well as many of the minor arts that play an important part in Buddhist practice. For example, in-depth discussions of Gautama Buddha's sacred biography and its visual expression were supplemented with an analysis of all the objects that are used for the novitiate ceremony (shin byu) of a novice monk. Also, the sacred crafts of Mandalay such as the production of gold leaf, the unique paper that makes gold grow into ever thinner and larger numbers of gold leaves, sacred tapestries (kalaga) and sacred texts (Kamawasa) were described and illustrated and their importance to Buddhism articulated. Each student was required to research a special topic related to the arts of Buddhism, write a paper on that topic, and then present it orally for scrutiny by the instructor and their fellow classmates. The course was particularly enriched by contributions from two guest scholars, both specialists in the arts of Southeast Asia, who spoke in class and generously gave public presentations as well. They arrived sufficiently early in the semester so that students were able to discuss their research topics in progress. Professor Robert L. Brown, University of California at Los Angeles, spoke concerning "Images of the Walking Buddha in the Art of India and Southeast Asia"; "The Pillars of the Wheels-of-the-Law in Early Thailand"; and "The Earliest Hindu and Buddhist Images in Southeast Asia". Robert Wicks, Miami University of Ohio, gave presentations on "Narrative in Buddhist Art" and "The Footprints of the Lord". Both were enthusiastically received by students and faculty.

New Students for SEAsite

Aye Min began his studies at NIU this spring semester. Aye was born in Rangoon in 1970 and graduated from the Institute of Medicine in Rangoon with an MB, BS degree in 1998. At NIU, he is pursuing a Masters of Public Health degree and working on the Burmese portion of SEAsite.

Also new to NIU this semester is Prasong Saihong. Prasong comes to NIU from Mahasarakham, Thailand where he graduated with a BA degree in English. At NIU, he is pursuing a Masters of Arts in Anthropology degree and is working on the Lao portion of SEAsite. Prasong is also a member of the Mahasarakham Storytelling Team from Mahasarakham University and is an enthusiastic storyteller of folktales in Thai, Lao and English.

Foreign Investment in Developing Asian Economies Conference

Danny Unger, professor of political science, received a generous grant from the Japan Foundation's Center for Global Development to hold a conference entitled, "The United States, Japan, and Economic Recovery: Foreign Investment in Developing Asian Economies." The conference was held at NIU's Naperville campus on March 29 and 30, 2001. Guest speakers were Wilfrido Villacorta from the Yuchengco Center for East Asia, De La Salle University, Philippines; Arthur Alexander, former President of the Japan Economic Institute; Akira Kohsaka from the Osaka School of International Public Policy, Osaka University, Japan; Medhi Krongkaew from the Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University, Thailand; and Takashi Terada from the Department of Japanese Studies, National University of Singapore, Singapore.
Outreach Update

The Terrible But Unfinished Story of Norodom Sihanouk, King of Cambodia, March 20-April 8, 2001

The United States premiere of an epic drama, *The Terrible But Unfinished Story of Norodom Sihanouk, King of Cambodia*, was staged March 22 through April 8, 2001, by the School of Theatre and Dance at Northern Illinois University. In conjunction with the play, written by world-renowned French author and scholar, Helene Cixous, there was a Humanities Festival throughout this period that included lectures, workshops, films, demonstrations, colloquia, and pre- or post-performance discussions. The ancillary activities that were associated with the Center for Southeast Asian Studies included the School of Music's world music concert; a gallery exhibit featuring Cambodian culture and history; a screening of the Investigative Reports documentary *After the Killing Fields*; a lecture by Dr. David Chandler, Professor Emeritus, Monash University, on Norodom Sihanouk and Cixous' play; a classical Khmer court dance lecture and demonstration by Toni Shapiro-Phim; presentations by survivors of the Cambodian war; and a discussion of Cambodian perspectives on the play by His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sirivudh. Dr. Judy Ledgerwood in the Department of Anthropology helped coordinate and design these activities, as did Kheang Un (Political Science), Sedara Kim (Anthropology), Kheang Leang (English), and representatives of the Cambodian Association of Illinois, a non-profit group of Cambodian Americans based in Chicago.

Council on Thai Studies Conference

NIU will host the Council on Thai Studies annual meeting November 2-3, 2001. Invited keynote speaker will be Pasuk Phongpaichit, professor of economics, Chulalongkorn University and noted co-author of *Guns, Girls, Gambling, Ganja: Thailand's Illegal Economy and Public Policy*. A call for papers announcement will be sent out March, 2001 (or check our website at www.niu.edu/cseas).

Eighth Burma Studies Conference-
Center for Burma Studies

This year's Burma Studies Conference, held October 13-15, 2000, consisted of a two-day conference that attracted 101 participants. After welcoming remarks by Richard M. Cooler, host and Director of the Center for Burma Studies, a very full program of 31 papers were presented in 8 panels. Keynote speaker was Ralph Isaacs, formerly of the British Council.

International Conference and Fair on the Ramayana

The Center for Southeast Asian Studies will host an international conference on *The Artistic, Cultural and Literary Variations of the Ramayana Worldwide* on September 21-23, 2001. The conference will feature both international and national experts on the Ramayana in India and Southeast Asia, and is co-sponsored by the International Ramayana Institute of North America, a non-profit association of South and Southeast Asian Americans in the northern Illinois and greater Chicago region. A variety of teacher's workshops, videos, slide shows, dance and musical performances will accompany the event, many of which are open to the public. The final day of the conference is a Ramayana Fair, which will include dance workshops on the various styles of performing arts related to the Ramayana in India, Indonesia, and Thailand. Conference registration information will be posted on the Center's Web site (www.niu.edu/cseas/) in early May; abstracts are due by June 1 and should be sent to the Center.

Southeast Asian Children's Literature Exhibit

As part of NIU's annual Children's Literature Conference through the College of Education, the Center showcased Southeast Asian children's literature in the Gallery of the Holmes Student Center, March 10-24, 2001. Literature and posters were contributed by the Center’s Outreach office, the Donn V. Hart Southeast Asia Library Collection, and the Center for Burma Studies.

SEALS Conference

Northern Illinois University will host the Southeast Asia Linguistics Society Conference (SEALS XII) in May 2002. Special workshops will be held on the following topics:

- "The Origins of Rice Agriculture from a Historical Comparative Linguistics Perspective." Presentations and discussions. Demonstration of GIS map-making.
- "The WWW and SEASite As A Tool for Teaching Southeast Asian Languages and Cultures." Demonstrations and discussion by SEASite staff.
- "Outreach Resources for Heritage Communities." Presentation by CSEAS Director and staff.

Keynote speakers to be announced. Watch our website for updates (www.seasite.niu.edu and www.niu.edu/cseas).

SEA Teach: Southeast Asia Master Teacher Program

Starting this year, the Center will be working with area k-12 teachers in creating a group of Southeast Asia master teachers. Master teachers will work with Center faculty, staff and students, participate in mini-workshops, receive teaching materials, be eligible for mini-curriculum development grants, and use the variety of resources available on Southeast Asia at NIU. Master teachers will assist the Center in developing materials and lesson plans on Southeast Asia suitable for the k-12 classroom. Any teacher or school district interested in this program should contact Julia Lamb, Outreach Coordinator for the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at jlamb@niu.edu.

Geography of Southeast Asia: High School Outreach

Rey Ty, Outreach graduate assistant and doctoral candidate in political science, has developed extensive PowerPoint presentations on the geography (physical, social, economic) of Southeast Asia. These geography lectures have been shown at various high schools in the area and are very popular. If you are interested to invite him to present this information in a classroom, please contact Julia Lamb (jlamb@niu.edu). Rey Ty is also an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City.
Southeast Asia: Crossroads of the World

Clark D. Neher’s new book meets a long-standing need for an introduction to Southeast Asian Studies and is written specifically for high school and undergraduate students. Funded in part by a grant from the United States Department of Education, the text is already receiving wide use in schools, colleges, and universities in the United States and Singapore. It is also appropriate for general readers who are becoming interested in the region.

Southeast Asia: Crossroads of the World provides an engaging introductory look at the history, cultures, and politics of this intriguing region. The book is also useful background reading for upper division courses and for general readers new to the study of Southeast Asia.

Clark Neher is professor emeritus of political science at Northern Illinois University.

ISBN 1-891134-06-X $14.95, paper

The Burmese Harp: Its Classical Music, Tunings, and Modes

The late Muriel C. Williamson was the leading Western authority on the Burmese harp and its music, and perhaps the only Westerner to become proficient in the Burmese harp before the traditional tunings were westernized in the 1960s.

The Burmese Harp: Its Classical Music, Tunings, and Modes shows the modal structure of the music to be directly related to the notes of the harp tunings and to the elements of the mouth-music tradition. It is primarily the relative importance of the modes which characterizes songs in each division. The book’s analysis of the modes is preceded by a review of the historical development of Burmese classical music, the Burmese harp, and the harp’s tunings. Recent changes in the pitches of some of the harp scale tones provide a fascinating example of the influence of Western music on that of another culture, but do not change the traditional structure of the music.

ISBN 1-891134-04-3, $24.95, paper

Visit the Southeast Asia Publications Website

On the website of NIU’s Southeast Asia Publications you can find full descriptions of currently available books, a full listing of articles published in Crossroads and the Journal of Burma Studies, and abstracts of articles published in the last six years. On our website you can also find our full style guide. All items listed on the website are currently available. You can print out an order form to mail, email or fax to us.

Be sure to visit us at: www.niu.edu/cseas/sep.
Feel free to send us suggestions for new features.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU

The Center for Southeast Asian Studies is planning to incorporate more news and input from our former students and alumni in future editions of this newsletter as well as on our Website (www.niu.edu/cseas/). If you have information about yourself or suggestions for articles or topics to present in future newsletters, please fill out this form and mail it to Alumni News, The Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115 or e-mail the information to cseas@niu.edu.

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News/Suggestions: __________________________________________

11 Spring 2001
Recent Publications

The Journal of Burma Studies
Volume 5 (2000)

"The Concepts of Dobama ("Our Burma") and Thudobama ("Their Burma") in Burmese Nationalism, 1930-1948" by Kei Nemoto

"Yenangyaung and Its Twinza: The Burmese Indigenous "Earth-Oil" Industry Re-examined" by Marilyn Longmuir

"An Annotated Bibliography of Articles on the Burmese Peasantry from the Journal of Burma Research Society, 1911-1970" by Dr. Maria Serena I. Diokno

"The Fall of Ayutthaya: A Reassessment" by Helen James

Subscriptions/Single Issues: $16.00 per one-issue volume

Crossroads: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Southeast Asian Studies
Volume 14, Number 2 (2000)

"On Translating 'Letters from Thailand,'" by Susan Fulop Kepner

"The Collective and the Individual in Two Post-War Vietnamese Novels," by John C. Schafer

"Governmentality, Bio-Power, and the Emergence of the Malayan-Tamil Subject on the Plantations of Colonial Malaya," by Richard Baxstrom

"The Double Edge of Cultural Politics: Revitalizing Longer Theater in West Java, Indonesia," by Jorgen Hellman

Subscriptions: $25.00 per two-issue volume
Single copies: $14.95

For more information, contact the Center's editor, Edwin Zehner, at seap@niu.edu.