The Philippines and America's War on International Terrorism
by Noel M. Morada

America's war against international terrorism following September 11, 2001 reached its second phase early this year when President George W. Bush announced in his State of the Union address the deployment of a small contingent of U.S. forces in the Philippines. The action was primarily aimed at providing training to Filipino soldiers who are fighting the Abu Sayyaf, a notorious band of Muslim rebels reported to have links with the Al Qaeda. The Abu Sayyaf gained international notoriety in the late 1990s when it began to engage in kidnap-for-ransom activities involving Filipinos and foreign nationals. In May 2001, the group struck again and kidnapped three Americans (one of whom they later beheaded) and a number of Filipinos from a beach resort in Palawan Island. Abu Sayyaf has since been pursued by the Philippine military for the past eleven months with no success. The deployment of some 600 American soldiers since mid-February has caused quite a stir in the Philippines because, for the first time, the annual joint military exercises between the U.S. Armed Forces and the Philippine military are taking place in an area of Mindanao close to the combat zone. In fact, some 160 American special forces have been deployed in Basilan Island since the end of February, where the Abu Sayyaf are holed up with the remaining kidnapped American missionary couple and a Filipino nurse.

Public opinion in the Philippines is generally supportive of American military presence in the country in the context of the joint military exercises with the U.S.—called Balikatan-02-1. Yet a number of Filipino politicians, nongovernment organizations, and media people have expressed opposition to allowing U.S. troops in the combat zone and allowing them to be indirectly involved in the Philippine armed forces' military operations against the Abu Sayyaf. Some Filipino opposition legislators have questioned the legality of U.S. troop deployment in Mindanao and the wisdom of holding the joint military exercises in that part of the country. For their part, opinion-makers in the local media opposed to the Balikatan exercises have played up the risk of having American troops indirectly involved in the military operations against the Abu Sayyaf. They argue that the Philippines might suffer the same fate as Vietnam in the 1960s, especially if U.S. forces come under attack not only from the Abu Sayyaf but also from the renegade supporters of Nur Misuari's faction in the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) or from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) guerrillas. If such events occur, the United States would be drawn into an essentially domestic conflict. It must be noted that both the MNLF and MILF have forces scattered all over Basilan.

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Meanwhile, non-government organizations, particularly the militant nationalist and anti-American groups, have portrayed the presence of U.S. troops in the Philippines as another “imperialist” comeback, and have started to make allegations of human rights violations in Basilan in the ongoing joint military operations against the Abbu Sayyaf.

Within the Muslim and Christian communities in Mindanao, opinion on American military deployment is at best vacillating if not divided. Parlouk Hussin, the newly elected governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), was initially opposed to the deployment of U.S. troops close to Basilan but later on became convinced that American military assistance was needed in dealing with the Abbu Sayyaf. Although he recognized that the Abbu Sayyaf might have some linkages with the Al Qaeda, he also argued that equating the former with the latter is a bit of an exaggeration. For his part, Esmail Kiram, the Sultan of Sulu, expressed support for the U.S.-Philippines joint military exercises in Mindanao and condemned the terrorist activities of the Abbu Sayyaf, which also has bases in the Sulu islands. In general, both Christian and Muslim residents, local government officials, and traders in Mindanao are supportive of the joint Balikatan exercises. They are tired of the violence perpetrated by Muslim terrorist groups and the inefficiency of the Philippine military in tracking down a small band of Abbu Sayyaf bandits. They welcome the presence of U.S. forces and the assistance they can provide to the Filipino soldiers—if only because this may finally put an end to the threat posed by the Abbu Sayyaf.

Notwithstanding the support of the general public in the Philippines for the American military presence in Mindanao, a number of contentious issues have emerged with regard to the operational aspects of the Balikatan joint military exercises. Basically, while Philippine troops simply want to be trained and equipped, their American counterparts are said to be eager to see action in Basilan just like in Afghanistan. More importantly, three specific problems divide the Philippine and American military commands in the Balikatan exercises. First, Filipino defense and military officials have been reluctant to give in to U.S. demands to call the joint military exercises “operations,” which would justify a prolonged and expensive American presence in the Philippines. Instead, Philippine officials have insisted on calling it “training.” Second, the Philippine government wants U.S. forces in Basilan to be placed under the control of Filipino commanders, which is unacceptable to the U.S. forces. However, Filipino defense and military officials are willing to give in to the U.S. demand for parallel and separate command structures for both American and Filipino troops in Basilan. Third, the Macapagal-Arroyo administration insists that U.S. troops be confined to the tactical command post, while American soldiers expect that they will join their Filipino counterparts in combat operations in Basilan (Mogato 2002a).

There were two drafts of the “Terms of Reference” (TOR) for the Balikatan 02-1 exercises that were negotiated between the Philippines and the United States. Both of these versions attempted to iron out the contentious issues mentioned above. Whereas the first draft of the TOR, dated February 7, called the joint exercise “a counter-terrorism training relative to Philippine efforts against the ASG (Abbu Sayyaf Group), and will be conducted in the island of Basilan,” the final draft of the TOR, dated February 14, states that the exercise “is a mutual counter-terrorism advising, assisting, and training Exercise relative to Philippine efforts against the ASG, and will be conducted in the island of Basilan.” Whereas the authority of Filipino unit commanders appears to be absolute in the previous draft (“Nothing shall infringe on the AFP Unit Commander’s authority”), the final draft was explicit with regard to the separate chain of command (“[Armed Forces of the Philippines] and U.S. Unit Commanders will retain command over their respective forces under the overall authority of the Exercise Co-Directors”). Finally, whereas the first draft contained an explicit provision on human rights violations (“Human rights violations committed by Philippine and U.S. participants shall be severely sanctioned and shall be directly processed by the Department of Justice Public Attorney’s Office (DOJ-PAO) Human Rights Action Centers established in the area”), this provision was deleted in the final version.

Instead, an item on “legal liaison” was added under the administration and logistics section of the final TOR (Zamora 2002). U.S. officials rejected the first draft of the TOR because they objected to the provision placing American troops under the command of Filipino unit commanders during the exercise.

From a strategic perspective, the Philippine government appears divided on what to make of the long-term agenda of the U.S. in conducting joint military exercises in the southern Philippines. Filipino defense and military officials are fully supportive of America’s war on international terrorism. They do not see any problem with allowing the deployment of U.S. forces in areas of conflict, such as those in Mindanao. In a meeting of the Philippine-U.S. Mutual Defense Board in 2001, Admiral Dennis Blair, the commander-in-chief of the U.S. Pacific Command, suggested to Philippine defense officials that the Armed Forces of the Philippines set up training bases near areas of conflict where both American and Filipino troops can conduct training exercises. He reportedly offered to provide U.S. assistance in building such training facilities.

However, some administration officials, particularly from the foreign affairs department, have privately expressed concerns over the real strategic and tactical interests of the United States in holding training exercises in “conflict areas” of Mindanao. Some of them believe that the U.S. is attempting to gain greater access to the “southern backdoor” of the Philippines, ostensibly to monitor developments in Southeast Asia’s more volatile spots. As it is, the U.S. does not enjoy close military ties with Indonesia and Malaysia, and has been watching closely the political developments in Indonesia and the rise of Islamic revivalism in the region. Although Singapore has an access arrangement with the United States, it remains reluctant to provide an intermediate staging area for American forces because of limited space. Thus, the Philippines’ strategic location makes it an appropriate staging area for contingencies in the Southeast Asian region. The U.S. military also needs the Philippines in order to enhance its limited infrastructure for refueling and logistics to support its operations in the Gulf region as well as in the Western Pacific area (Mogato 2002b).
Based on the foregoing discussion, it is apparent that the security interests of the Philippines and the U.S. have somehow converged where fighting international terrorism is concerned. For the Philippines, the presence of American troops in the country provides both tactical and morale boosters to the otherwise inefficient and ill-equipped Philippine military, which has been fighting to overcome the threat posed by Muslim insurgent groups, including the notorious Abu Sayyaf. To some extent, America’s war against international terrorism following September 11, 2001 was a “blessing in disguise” for the Philippines because the U.S. began to take seriously the reality of international terrorist networks that have been operating in Southeast Asia, and which have maintained links with the Abu Sayyaf and other Muslim insurgent groups in the country. It must be recalled that, following the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center in New York, the Philippines warned the U.S. of terrorist plots to use hijacked planes as bombs in attacking American facilities, based on confessions made by foreign terrorists operating in the Philippines who were arrested in Manila in 1995. For its part, the U.S. once again sees the strategic importance of the Philippines in Southeast Asia, as it can play a key role in the evolving post-September 11 strategy of the U.S. Air Force to gain temporary logistics bases to support contingencies in critical regions of the globe.

New Faculty

Thomas Barone Educational Psychology and Foundations

Thomas N. Barone is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Educational Psychology and Foundations and teaches classes in Foundations of Education and Comparative/International Education. He received his Ph.D. in Social Foundations of Education (with a specialization in Comparative Education) from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Dr. Barone also taught English as a Second Language in the Buffalo and Niagara Falls schools and English at the MARA Institute of Technology in Malaysia. His research has centered on critical issues in Malaysian education. This emphasis began with his dissertation entitled A Comparative Study of Normative Rule Compliance and Value Perceptions of Malaysian and American Secondary School Students. Subsequently, he was a member of a Malaysian research team for a multi-country study examining the perceptions of international policymakers regarding values education. The Malaysian results were published (with Ibrahim Ahmad Bajunid) in a chapter “Malaysia: strengthening religious and moral values” in Values Education for Dynamic Societies: Individualism or Collectivism, William Cummings, Maria Teresa Tatoo and John Hawkins, eds, Comparative Education Research Centre, 2001. He has also published articles related to this research study in Thresholds in Education and Educational Practice and Theory. In the February 2001 issue of the Comparative Education Review, he reviewed Ingrid Glad’s book, An Identity Dilemma: A Comparative Study of Primary Education for Ethnic Chinese in the Context of National Identity and Nation-building in Malaysia and Singapore. His current research interests focus on examining the differing perceptions of citizenship education and democratization by major actors inside and outside of the Malaysian education system. Data collection for this study will take place during the next academic year. In April 2002 he presented a paper related to this research focus “Civic Education and Citizenship in Malaysian Education” at the American Educational Research Association in New Orleans, LA. Finally, he is co-editor (with Diann Musial & Brenda Love) of an undergraduate textbook being published in summer 2002 entitled Change/Education: Issues in Perspective (3rd Ed.), Educational Studies Press, which focuses on educational change from a multicultural perspective.

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Spring 2002 Brown Bag Lecture Series

January 31
Prof. Robert Hefner, Anthropology, Boston University “Religious Violence and the Future of Indonesia”

February 1
Prof. Robert Hefner, Anthropology, Boston University “Laskar Jihad and the Problem of Indonesian Governance”

February 8
Prof. Larry Johannessen, English, NIU “Coming of Age: The Vietnam Experience in the Combat Narrative of the Vietnam War”

February 15
Prof. Paul Hutchcroft, Political Science, University of Wisconsin- Madison “State Formation, State Reformation: Deciphering Decentralization in the Philippines and Thailand”

February 22
Prof. Dominik Guess, Psychology, NIU “Cultural Influences on Disaster Management: Ten Years After the Mount Pinatubo Eruption”

March 22
Prof. Cynthia Plue, Literacy Education, NIU “Advocacy Rights for Deaf People in Southeast Asia”

April 12
Prof. Geoffrey Robinson, History, UCLA “Violence in East Timor: The Problem of Responsibility and Justice”

April 19
Prof. Nelly van Doorn-Harder, Theology, Valparaiso University “Muhammadiyah and Nahdlatul Ulama: Advocacy for Women’s Rights”

April 26
Bonnie Brereton, Program Associate, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, University of Michigan “Outside the Canon: The Buddhist Imagination in Southeast Asia”
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Ann Wright-Parsons
Anthropology

Ann Wright-Parsons is the new Director of the Anthropology Museum at Northern Illinois University. She moved here from New York City where she worked in the Anthropology Department of the American Museum of Natural History from 1994–2001. She worked with the collections, both ethnographic and archaeological, as well as with the permanent and temporary anthropological exhibits. Her other duties linked anthropology with other departments in the museum—exhibitions, education, public programming, membership, development, and communications. Before settling in New York City, she lived continuously eighteen years in Thailand, Indonesia and Bangladesh. Her passion for museums and desire for a career in this field started with work as a volunteer at Museum Pusat in Jakarta and the National Museum in Bangkok. Her long experience in Asia started after college when she taught English for two years in Hue, Vietnam with the International Voluntary Services, Inc. She earned her M.A. degree in anthropology with a focus on Southeast Asian studies at Northern Illinois University. She has published numerous articles, and has a forthcoming publication on “The Puppet Collection of the AMNH”, co-authored with Kathy Foley, Department of Theatre Arts, UC Santa Cruz.

Catherine Raymond
Art History and New Director of the Center for Burma Studies

Catherine Raymond earned a Ph.D. in Art and Archaeology and Burma Studies from La Sorbonne, Paris III in 1987 with “mention tres bien”. While at The Sorbonne she studied with a number of outstanding art historians, many of whom are members of the French School of the Far East (EFEO)—such as Prof. M. Guiteau and Prof. J. Boisellier. She also earned a D.R.E.A.(equivalent to an MA) in Burmese from the Institute National des Langues et Civilizations Orientales (INALCO) in 1984 where she studied with Prof. Denise Bernot. She has published articles and CDs on a wide variety of subjects concerned with the arts of Burma and Southeast Asia: for example, “Representations of the Earth Goddess in Burma and Arakan”; “Religious Relations between Sri Lanka and Arakan from the XII to the XVII centuries”; “Mural Frescoes of Prah Lak-Prah lam at Vat Ou Mong, Vientiane”; “Arakanese Perspectives form the Dutch Sources”; and “100 Years of Vientiane Cartography.” Dr. Raymond has had extensive experience with art museums. At present she is in Vientiane, Laos, where she is leading a team in the creation of a data base and catalogue of the items housed in the National Collection, Vat Siaket. In February 2002, she hosted an international conference in Vientiane on conservation and interpretive materials associated with art objects. She has been a key member of at least seven archaeological teams and has excavated a wide variety of sites from France to Sri Lanka to Laos. They have uncovered city walls, monasteries, habitation sites, and sacred interments.

Larry Johannessen
English

Larry Johannessen joined the English Department at NIU as a specialist in English education and as Associate Professor. He is especially interested in preparing preservice teachers for the classroom and in modern war literature, including the literature of the Vietnam War. In addition to chapters in books, he has contributed over fifty articles to scholarly journals. Two of his most recent articles are “When History Talks Back: Teaching Nonfiction Literature of the Vietnam War,” English Journal (March 2002, 91.4: 39-47) and “Teaching Thinking and Writing for a New Century,” English Journal (July 2001, 90.6: 38-46). He is co-author of In Case You Teach English: An Interactive Casebook for Preservice and Practicing Teachers (Merrill, 2002), author of Illumination Rounds: Teaching the Literature of the Vietnam War (NCTE, 1992), and co-author of two popular NCTE publications: Writing about Literature (1984) and Designing and Sequencing Prewriting Activities (1982). He holds a Ph.D. and M.A.T. in English education from the University of Chicago.

Faculty in Vietnam

Reflections on Contemporary Vietnam
by Daniel Unger, Assistant Professor in Political Science

Hanoi’s new airport is some 30 miles away from the city. Driving through the countryside and coming in on a divided highway, you eventually cross a large bridge, built with assistance from the former Soviet Union, and then turn off onto a much smaller road that runs parallel to a thousand year-old dike along the Red River. Along this stretch you see an eclectic assortment of new dwellings, some of them partially bulldozed because they were built, illegally, too close to the dike.

When I arrived in early February 2002, this stretch of road was filled with bicycles, motorcycles, carts and cars laden with peach and kumquat trees. On either side of the road, nurseries blazed in pink, green, and orange with these trees. Hanoi’s residents install the trees at home, in shops and offices, during Tet, the Vietnamese New Year. Tet is a very big deal in Vietnam as almost everything closes down for three or four days to allow families to gather and celebrate the lunar-based New Year. Long before the festivities begin, preparations produce crowded shops and markets. One colleague at my host organization, the Institute of World Economy, remarked that days before work actually ceased, the giddiness of anticipation distracted her and made productive work difficult.

The drive into town from the airport introduced me to features of the country that would preoccupy me over the following weeks. From the Soviet-built bridge across the Red River, it was possible to see the old French-built bridge that the United States bombed repeatedly during Vietnam’s American War. The countryside, manner of dress, architecture, and people’s mannerisms all echoed images of China more readily than those of Southeast Asia. Almost immediately, I perceived the challenge of surviving either on foot or on motorcycle in a city with unfamiliar traffic rules.
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A grant from the San Francisco-based Asia Foundation, and supplementary support from Northern Illinois University, are enabling me to spend the spring semester 2002 in Hanoi. The grant aims to encourage professors in the United States to offer more courses on Vietnam by giving those with little previous exposure to the country an opportunity to live there and do research. True to the spirit of the grant, in the fall semester 2002, I will be teaching a course on Vietnamese politics.

The Center for Southeast Asian Studies has relatively few courses that cover Vietnam. We do not offer courses in Vietnamese language. If resources make it possible, I hope that the attention we devote to Vietnam will increase.

A stronger set of Vietnam-related courses are needed for a few reasons. First, while soon to be overtaken by the Philippines in population, Vietnam will remain the region's third largest country. Second, in political terms, its importance will grow through its membership in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, both because of rapid economic growth and because of its strong continuing influence with the neighboring countries of Cambodia and Laos. Third, historically and intellectually, Vietnam is important because it halted the southward expansion of China into Southeast Asia and marks the boundary between Chinese- and Indian-influenced parts of the region. There is considerable irony in the fact that it was the U.S. military and political struggle against northern Vietnam that induced the U.S. government to support and strengthen Southeast Asian studies. Enhanced resources gave rise to our Center at Northern Illinois University and others around the country. While scholarship on other parts of the region expanded, however, U.S. scholarship on Vietnam tended to stagnate. Unfortunately, much the same can be said of the country's economy and the opportunities available to individual Vietnamese relative to their neighbors.

As I noted above, for those whose ideas of "Southeast Asia" developed through exposure to the "Indianized states" of the region, Vietnam, and particularly Hanoi and the Red River delta, seem more Chinese than Southeast Asian. For this reason, and because of the communist party's dominance, there is a tendency for Vietnamese studies in most disciplines to be a sort of appendage to China studies. This bent was reinforced by broad similarities in patterns of economic and political changes in the two countries over the last couple of decades. In both countries, authoritarian politics mean that it is virtually impossible to carry out many types of political research. As a result, political scientists tend to drift to political economy studies that focus more on policies and less on the political processes that produce them.

Most Americans have heard little of Vietnam since U.S. helicopters flew off from Saigon to the safety of the Seventh Fleet in 1975. They tend to think of the country largely in terms of the war that ended that year. Outside my apartment window in Hanoi I see Americans strolling along Truc Bach Lake to view the waters into which John McCain plunged in 1967 when his plane was shot down by North Vietnamese guns. When Americans visit Vietnam, they tend to be surprised that the Vietnamese are not more preoccupied with their American War. After all, the costs borne by the Vietnamese, including the extraordinary tonnage of bombs dropped, the lingering effects of Agent Orange, and the three million Vietnamese dead and 300,000 missing produced by that conflict, were far greater than those suffered by Americans. Today, tanks and aircraft are less evident in public parks and squares, and museums dedicated to the war offer a less strident anti-American tone than was the case in the past.

Of course, well over half of all Vietnamese were born after their parents prevailed in their struggle against the United States to unify their country. It also is true that Vietnam's very costly struggle with the United States was preceded by a millennium of Chinese control and, following independence in the 10th century, subsequent Chinese efforts to re impose control over Vietnam. That quest ended only when Vietnam came under French colonial control. The Japanese occupied the country briefly during World War II; afterwards, the Vietnamese battled for eight years against French efforts to re impose colonial rule. Even after the United States abandoned its war against the Vietnamese communists, the Vietnamese incurred heavy costs in occupying Cambodia, in a bloody border war with China, and in the severe economic hardships that followed the country's reunification. Amid so much struggle, the American War stands out somewhat less prominently than many Americans expect. It also is true, however, that Vietnamese downplay the war and its legacies because they feel the necessity of being pragmatic. They are desperately poor and hope to use enhanced economic ties to the world economy to build wealth rapidly. Those ties depend on better relations with the United States, such as those provided for by the Bilateral Trade Agreement approved at the end of 2001.

While the Vietnamese leadership gives less prominence to memories of the war against the United States than was true in the past, the communists' success in unifying the country and gaining independence remain central to their assertion of the legitimacy of their rule. Former President Ho Chi Minh famously commented, as recorded at the entrance to his mausoleum in Ba Dinh Square, that "Nothing is so precious as freedom and independence." The sacrifices required to achieve that independence, however, tend today to exacerbate a generational divide in Vietnam. The old sacrificed so much that the young cannot possibly match their elders' heroism. And yet, among the young are those who ask, "For what should we be grateful?" They understand that the Vietnamese are well-educated, hard working, and enterprising. But their country remains very poor, far more so than other Southeast Asian countries such as Thailand and Malaysia.

Should we approach the study of Vietnam today through the conceptual apparatus developed to understand Leninist systems? Is Vietnam, like China (and in contrast to most of the former socialist states in Europe), a case of economic reform carried out without political changes? Certainly, Vietnamese leaders are under great pressure to make their economy more efficient. The pressure stems from foreign donors such as the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank. It also flows from the need to create well over a million new jobs a year to absorb new...
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entrants into the labor force, to say nothing of the existing widespread underemployment. China’s accession to the World Trade Organization adds further pressure on Vietnamese enterprises to enhance their abilities to compete in global markets.

Three facets of Vietnamese economic reform processes are of particular interest to me and are the focus of my research in Vietnam. The first issue concerns the high level of coordination evident among external donors of economic assistance. This coordination encompasses, at least to some degree, the global multilateral institutions such as the International Monetary Fund, bilateral donors (of which Japan is by far the most important), and a large number of charitable organizations working in the country. Convergence in thinking about economic development around the world and greater collaboration among aid donors have been evident over the past several years, but for a variety of reasons this process seems particularly well-developed in Vietnam.

A second issue of interest to me is that, despite the convergence noted above, significant differences in thinking remain evident between Japanese donors and Washington-based institutions such as the World Bank. In the mid-1990s a prominent group of Japanese scholars carried out research that underlined areas in which their policy prescriptions diverged from those of the “orthodox” World Bank policies. Most significant, perhaps, are differences on how to reform the state-owned enterprise sector. Some Vietnamese officials, with considerable official Japanese sympathy, are resisting “equitization” (privatization) of these firms and look to Korea and elsewhere in East Asia for alternative models for managing these state firms. Significantly, state enterprise equitization is the one issue on which the World Bank judges Vietnamese adherence to reform commitments to be weak.

A third area in which I am doing research and that relates to Vietnamese economic reforms concerns the degree to which the reform process has been driven by policies pronounced in Hanoi, as opposed to developments on the ground in the provinces that are later acknowledged and ratified in Hanoi. I am particularly interested in the role of voluntary associations in both rural and urban Vietnam. Abundant anecdotal evidence suggests that such associations expanded rapidly with the demise of rural state-run cooperatives and state-owned industrial enterprises. Organizations such as farmers’, youth, workers’ and women’s groups organized under the communist party’s Fatherland Front also appear to be playing more active roles in representing their constituents’ interests rather than serving simply as channels through which central directives are communicated. Unfortunately, hard information concerning the extent and significance of associational activity is scarce. My early hopes of doing survey research to generate data of this kind ran up against insufficient resources of time and, in particular, money.

What then of the political side of the reform process? On the one hand, it is true that the communist party retains its Leninist organizational features that facilitate authoritarian political control. On the other hand, that control is far less heavy handed than it was in the past. It now allows far more scope for individual freedoms and, to a far lesser degree, associational activities and even opposition to government policies expressed outside the party’s apparatus of institutions. Since the late 1980s, the National Assembly, the country’s legislature, has begun to assume real significance. It is the site of often heated debates, fully reported by the press, that sometimes result in important policy changes and, on occasion, defeat of government policy initiatives. Voting within the Assembly is now by secret ballot. Last year’s 9th Party Congress selected a new Secretary General, Nong Duc Manh, who lacks strong ties to the military. They also embraced a “Grassroots Democracy” decree that at least nominally commits the government to engage local communities in policy discussions on issues that directly affect those groups.

Despite its dismal economic record after 1975, Vietnam managed to share poverty relatively equitably and to expand the provision of education, health, and other services. These services were provided through the state-run rural cooperatives and industrial enterprises. With the dismantling of these parts of the economy over the past fifteen years, evidence is mounting of increased burdens on poor households to pay for these services. Among poor families, girls in particular are now apt to be pulled out of school sooner to diminish the economic costs entailed in providing kids with uniforms, texts, and miscellaneous fees. The challenge in Vietnam is to achieve the efficiency and wealth-producing gains associated with freer markets without sacrificing the social services, broad social equity, and solidarity once associated with its socialist economy.

The Social Science Research Council Training Program in Vietnam
by Ron Provencher, Professor Emeritus in Anthropology

I had read about Vietnam, taught courses about it, and in the past had done my best to keep my students from going there during the war. I had even written about Vietnam. But, I had never been there! This occurred to me as I read a Social Science Research Council advertisement announcing teaching positions in a new year-long social science research training program in Hanoi for advanced Vietnamese students. Moreover, the program would last through three cycles (3 years).

Later, I received a telephone call asking me if I would like to attend a course planning conference in New York City. Others who were invited would eventually become part of the teaching team participating in that meeting during the first week of September. We completed a rough draft of the sixteen week first semester schedule, developing the basic lecture themes and reading assignments for each week, and several possible field research exercises for the forty students who had been accepted into the course. The backgrounds and interests of students were quite varied, which made the task of developing a course relevant to every student very complex. As a committee, we met again in Hanoi during December to make final changes in the first (sixteen week) semester’s curriculum. That was the first time I had ever been to Vietnam, and I also visited Ho Chi Minh City for several days. Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City obviously differ, not only

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because of marked differences in their dialects (North and South), but also because of the more noticeable presence of Chinese and Muslims in Ho Chi Minh City. Hanoi, as far as I could tell, had only one mosque and it seemed not to have a regular congregation.

In mid-February, I arrived in Hanoi to begin my job as one of the anthropology professors for the first half of the semester (8 weeks). The professors included: (1) anthropologists—myself, John Kleinhen [U. of Amsterdam], Vu Thi Thanh Huong [Inst. of Linguistics, Hanoi], Chi Huyen Truong; (2) economists—Vu Quoc Huy [UNDP & Hanoi National Economics U.]; (3) sociologists—Fadziah Cooke [A.N.U.], Rukmalie Jayakody [Penn. St. U.], Vu Manh Loi [Inst. of Soc.], Nguyen Huu Minh [Inst. of Soc.]. And we were assigned a cadre of hard-working Vietnamese teaching assistants and translators. The focus of the course was interdisciplinary social science research methodologies and their appropriate applications to particular social and economic problems relevant to Vietnam. Our Vietnamese colleagues in the National Center for Social Sciences and Humanities are particularly interested in examples of methodologies that have been used effectively in social science research in other Southeast Asian countries (they seem to be very interested in Malaysian and Philippine examples).

I spent a lot of time trying to do my job. Five days a week I awoke at 5:30 am, prepared and ate breakfast, read through my preparations for teaching that day, walked about a half mile to the place where the SSRC car picked me up, and arrived at the institute (quite far south of the city and through thick slow traffic) before 8:30 am, when classes began. We lectured in the mornings, took an hour and a half for lunch, and led unstructured question and answer sessions or held office hours in the afternoons... usually until about 4 pm. We had to continually adjust what we were doing, and we did that during the Monday afternoon faculty meetings.

Weekends were spent exploring the city of Hanoi. My hotel (“The Lucky Hotel”) in the Old Quarter was about a half-block from one of the many beautiful lakes in Hanoi. It is the lake (Hoan Kiem) where the giant turtle lives who centuries ago saved the country from foreign (Chinese) conquest. The turtle provided the emperor with a magic sword from the depths of the lake, and the emperor won the war. After the victory, according to the folktale, the turtle took the sword back to the bottom of the lake, where the giant turtle still guards it... just in case! Local residents who repeated the tale claim to have seen the huge turtle in the lake many times.

The Old Quarter is wonderfully old and new at the same time. Several four lane streets of the modern city run through it. But even these have traditional names. For example, the main street near my hotel is named Silk Street (Hang Gai). It is still the main locale of the traditional silk industry, which (including the retail silk shops) occupies several blocks. Other traditional industries and trades are still on-going and are located in adjacent areas of the Old Quarter. Of course, there is a huge traditional wet market, more than two blocks wide and three blocks long, with all things edible for sale (including durian), and even clothes and other artifacts of Vietnamese civilization. Tourists, maybe half of whom are Australians, visit this section of the city, of course. And to feed the tourists (and the locals) there are many restaurants. For example, “Mama Rosa’s” is an Italian restaurant; the “Tandour” is Indian; La Brique is French-Algerian; and the “Kangaroo Café” is Australian.

Particularly in the Old Quarter of Hanoi there are many street people, especially young boys who sell things to tourists, but also handicapped and aged adults, who beg. Among the handicapped are many physically deformed individuals... some, perhaps, victims of agent orange. The city authorities do not allow them to sleep in the streets or on the sidewalks. Those I knew slept in the quarters of relatives or friends or shared cheap quarters with other poor people. At first, I thought of them as “street people,” but decided that even many of the regular residents of that and other poor and traditional parts of the city were in their own way “sidewalk and street people.”

The situation is reminiscent of Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok in the early and mid-1960s. But different, too. Many residents who have enclosed space at street level use it for both residential and business purposes. When the ‘overhead garage door” is raised in the early morning, the casual observer can see that the ground floor space has been a living room, dining room/kitchen or bedroom after business hours. These spaces are quickly transformed into retail and service-oriented businesses that often come to occupy portions of the sidewalk. Vietnamese eat a lot of vegetable soup with rice noodles, broth and sometimes a little meat. “Sidewalk cafes” appear magically every morning, noon and early evening in many parts of the Old Quarter and other areas of the city where ordinary people live. Usually, a ground floor space serves as the kitchen and the adjacent sidewalk, supplied with tiny stools for the customers, serves as the eating place.

Customers of good sidewalk cafes that sell really tasty and inexpensive food usually fill the width of the sidewalk, forcing pedestrians to walk in the street, where bicycles, motorbikes, automobiles and trucks also compete for space. Often, the vehicular traffic is already beyond the “normal” capacity of the street, so that the normally two-way street has become a one-way street in the direction favored by an overwhelming majority of drivers at that hour. But it is more gentle than the ‘old days’ in Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok. Although vehicular and pedestrian traffic compete, no one seems to follow the formal rules, and some vehicles and persons even attempt to go against the tide of traffic. Nonetheless, there are very few casualties. This may be because almost no one is traveling very fast and the Vietnamese are generally very courteous, even to strangers. But when an accident occurs, there may be a fist-fight. A Vietnamese colleague noted that the anger and physical combat was probably related to the fact that almost nobody has any kind of accident insurance; and that the police, who are unarmed, usually avoid involvement with people who are fighting each other. Apparently, an important aspect of Vietnamese culture is the complex subsystems of manners that involve levels of speech, postures and gestures that vary according to differences of rank and different

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kinds of behavioral settings; in many ways it is like Malay systems of manners. One of my colleagues in the course, Professor Vu Thi Thanh Huong (Director of the Institute of Linguistics) had read some of my early publications on Malay courtesy and noted the many similarities with Vietnamese courtesy, which she has researched in great depth. She agreed with me that when courtesy breaks down in communities where it is very important, social relationships break down more or less completely.

Vietnamese society consists of a mass of very poor people, a small middle class, and a much smaller upper class. People who are descendants of mandarins are not necessarily powerful and are sometimes stigmatized as descendants of a privileged class. Most of the large expensive automobiles and houses seem to be owned by higher officials of the Communist Party. The party is not formally the government, but most of the members of the government are members of the party... think of it in terms of some of the one party states in the U.S.A. The only national English language newspaper in Vietnam, The Vietnam News, is owned and published by the Communist Party. It reads pretty much like any liberal Democratic newspaper in the United States. I read it cover-to-cover everyday I was in Vietnam. It seemed more reasonable to me than any of the daily newspapers in the Seattle area.

Some interesting and plausible research topics that occurred to me while in Hanoi included: courtesy and social relations in public places (with apologies to Goffman), craft communities in the Old Quarter, studies of the “traditional” public markets, the economics of sidewalk cafes, tourism communities, and various aspects of the lives of street children (life histories, attachment 1and detachment to natal families, involvement in prostitution, recruitment and organization as sales agents for various products, etc.). Also, it is a “gold mine” for research on gender issues. Like Malay women, Vietnamese women seem to be the real bosses in their families, even though their husbands pretend that they are in charge.

Those of you who read this may be interested in applying to the Social Science Research Council for a teaching position in the course, which will have a life of at least three years. Write me, rprovenc@juno.com, for more information.

**Positions Open**

**Research Associate/Editor**

The Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Northern Illinois University seeks an editor for Southeast Asia Publications. Responsible for all stages of production, including solicitation of manuscripts, correspondence with authors, and copy-editing. Evidence of experience in writing and editing in good, standard English; excellent interpersonal communication skills; and a Master’s degree or equivalent experience required. Experience in academic publishing; familiarity with formatting, lay-out, and other editorial tasks; and a background in Southeast Asian studies or languages are preferred. Send application letter, current resume, and the names of three references to Susan Russell, Director, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115. Review of complete applications will begin on June 1, 2002, and will continue until the position is filled. Fax 815-753-1776; Phone 815-753-1771. AA/EO Institution.

Southeast Asian Library Curator

The NIU Libraries is searching for an energetic, forward-looking Southeast Asia Curator to take charge of one of the five best Southeast Asia Collections in the United States. The successful applicant will participate in collection development and management in Southeast Asia Studies; conduct bibliographic instruction at undergraduate and graduate levels; provide reference and research services to graduates and undergraduates in Southeast Asia Studies; and administer a collection of some 100,000 volumes, 50% of which are in the vernacular languages. The successful applicant will be active in grant writing, promotional activities for the collection, and outreach to scholars all over the world. Reports to Associate Dean, Collections and Technical Services. Fulfills requirements of faculty status in areas of contributions to librarianship, scholarly activities, and service; participates in professional activities, professional development, scholarly research and publication; serves on library, university, and/or professional committees. 12-month, full-time, tenure-track, faculty appointment. Academic rank based on relevant experience and educational background. **Required:** An earned master’s degree from an ALA-accredited program or equivalent. Additional master’s degree or equivalent in a discipline related to Southeast Asia studies. Ability to communicate effectively with faculty, staff, students, and general public. **Preferred:** Language proficiency in one or more Southeast Asian languages. Professional experience in an academic library, preferably in a Southeast Asia collection, including teaching and library instruction; general competence in using computerized information resources and networks. **Salary and Benefits:** Salary is very competitive and begins at $40,000. Benefits package includes 24 days of paid vacation annually, sick leave, state retirement plan, and a flexible selection of medical, life, dental and vision insurance. Send cover letter, résumé, and the name/address/phone numbers of three references to: Mary Munroe, Associate Dean for Collections and Technical Services, University Libraries, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115-2868. Review of applications will begin June 28, and continue until position is filled. See http://libw66.lib.niu.edu for a complete job description and more information about Northern Illinois University Libraries. AA/EO Institution.
Other Faculty News and Updates

Rhodalyne Gallo-Crail
Foreign Languages and Literatures

Rhodalyne Gallo-Crail is continuing her research on the vocabulary strategies used in learning Tagalog as a foreign language on the Web. Preliminary findings will be part of a technology research collection published by the National Security Education Program through the University of Hawaii Press. She also is researching the heritage language use of Filipino American immigrant children, including their parents’ language perception and language use. This research is in collaboration with other language professionals from the University of Maryland, University of Manitoba, and California State University in Fullerton. The paper will be published in the TESL Journal in Canada. She also participated in a Fulbright Hays-funded workshop for Filipino language teachers in America held at Los Banos, Philippines, in January 2002. Her recent conference papers include 1) “Tagalog Learning on the Web: New Innovations and Limitations.” COTSEAL Conference, University of Wisconsin in Madison, July 2001, and 2) “Minority L1 Maintenance and Loss.” TESOL International Conference at Salt Lake City, Utah, April 2002.

Jim Henry and Bob Zerwekh
Computer Science

Jim Henry and Bob Zerwekh are currently continuing work on SEASite (www.seasite.niu.edu), the Web-based resource for Southeast Asian languages and cultures. Recent additions include an ever-growing keyword-searchable database of pictures of Southeast Asia; pictures are then available for downloading and are copyright-free. Other activities include use of the Web as a medium for conducting language learning research as well as the addition (over the past year or so) of three new languages for SEASite: Khmer, Lao, and Burmese. In the near future, extensive materials on Burmese Art History (with hundreds of high-quality pictures) by Dr. Richard Cooler will be added, as well as a Web-based learning module on recent and current Cambodian politics and culture by Dr. Judy Ledgerwood. Drs. Henry and Zerwekh have co-authored an article on SEASite that will appear in a CALICO Journal special issue on Asian languages, and Dr. Zerwekh has co-authored an article with Rhodalyne Gallo-Crail on language learning and the Internet that will appear in a forthcoming edited volume from the University of Hawaii Press.

Dwight King
Political Science


Judy Ledgerwood
Anthropology

Judy Ledgerwood has received a Fulbright-Hays research and teaching fellowship for next year. She will teach anthropology at the Royal University of Fine Arts in Phnom Penh, Cambodia and conduct research on the reestablishment of Buddhism in rural areas. This research is a continuation of a related project on Buddhist prophetic texts funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, and conducted in collaboration with Anne Hansen at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She also has a new edited volume out from the NIU Center for Southeast Asian Studies publications program, Cambodia Emerges from the Past: Eight Essays.

Andrea Molnar
Anthropology

Andrea Molnar is the new Chair of the Indonesian Studies Committee of AAS as of March 2001. The AAS meetings in Washington, D.C. proposed changing the name of the committee to include East Timor, as it will be an independent nation. Last summer, from June 25-August 6, 2001, she served as a Long Term International Observer for the Carter Center in East Timor for Constitutional Assembly elections. She also was a reviewer of graduate fellowships for NSEP (Boren Fellowships) in March 2002 and organized the East Timor Conference at NIU. On May 1, 2002 she will be lecturing on East Timor in the Notable Lectures series for the LAS program of extension. An NIU Summer Research Grant is supporting her new research project among the Kemak people of Atsabe, Ermera, East Timor (Summer 2002). This summer she also will be attending an organized panel on Eastern Indonesia for the 3rd International Symposium of Jurnal Antropologi Indonesia sponsored by Universitas Udayana in Bali, July 16-19, 2002 (co-coordinators Dr. Nils Bubandt, Dr. Tom Therik).

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Clark Neher
Political Science


Barbara M. Posadas
History


Susan Russell
Anthropology

Susan Russell, Director, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, received a $10,000 grant from the Illinois Humanities Council to sponsor an international conference and fair on the Ramayana epic in South and Southeast Asia. Her chapter “Labor discipline, debt and effort in a Philippine fishing community” also is forthcoming in an edited volume by E. P. Durrenberger and J. Marti. In the summer of 2001, she spent five weeks in the Philippines conducting research on new maritime laws, decentralization, and their impact on indigenous forms of marine resource management and coastal community relationships in six communities of Batangas. Last June 2001 she served as a reviewer of NSEP institutional proposals on ‘Asia and Technology’. She is a new member of the Southeast Asia Council and the new Chair of the Philippine Studies Group of AAS.

Danny Unger
Political Science

Danny Unger presented papers at several professional and other meetings during 2001. Two chapters in edited volumes are going to the press in 2002. One deals with the challenges to international humanitarian policies in providing refugees with assistance in militarized contexts. His chapters analyze the challenge of aiding Cambodian refugees along the Thailand border throughout the 1980s. A second chapter in another edited book analyzes the fate of the Asian developmental state in the wake of the 1997 financial crisis. With assistance from the Asia Foundation and Northern Illinois University, he spent the spring semester 2002 in Hanoi. Financial help from the university as well as the Center for Southeast Asian Studies enabled him to carry out further comparative research in Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Turkey, Croatia and Poland, examining the politics underlying the initiation and expansion of government provision of social insurance policies covering benefits such as pensions, health, unemployment, and disability.

Other CSEAS Faculty/Staff Awards

Professors Ladd Thomas, Political Science, and Kuo-Huang Han, Music, were each awarded the Outstanding International Educator Award by the Director of International Programs at NIU. Professor Robert Zerwekh, Computer Science, received the Award for Outstanding Acquisition of External Grants, and was nominated for the second time by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for an Excellence in Teaching Award. Nancy Schuneman, Staff Secretary of CSEAS, received the Outstanding Service Award. The Tagalog site (www.seasite.niu.edu/tagalog/) also received the Multilingual Learner Award for 2002 from the National Agency for Education, Stockholm, Sweden. This international award is for achievements in Web-based multilingual educational creativity.

New Faculty Exchange Program with National University of Vietnam

Northern Illinois University recently established a new exchange program with faculty at the Institute of Physics and the National University of Vietnam. In order to facilitate graduate study, qualified Vietnamese faculty in the fields of chemistry and biochemistry, physics, and computer science will be supported through graduate assistantships and tuition waivers. The CSEAS also may provide support for visiting faculty in the fields of economics, sociology, or business.

New Endowment for Southeast Asian Studies

The CSEAS is pleased to announce The Clark D. and Arlene B. Neher Endowment for Southeast Asian Studies. Clark Neher, Political Science, and Arlene Neher, Director, External Programming at Northern Illinois University, have endowed a scholarship to provide financial assistance to a full-time graduate student of any nationality who is pursuing a degree with a special focus on Southeast Asian studies. The award may be applied toward research, tuition, or course-related costs. The first scholarship shall be awarded this fall semester 2002. For more information on how to apply or to contribute tax-free donations to this scholarship, please contact the Center at cseas@niu.edu.
Visiting Scholars from Thailand and Laos, 2001-02

During the summer of 2001, the Center hosted Dr. Wajuppa Tossa from Mahasarakham University, Mahasarakham, Thailand through Title VI grant funds from the US Department of Education, IEGPS. Dr. Tossa, who is ethnic Lao, is a professor in the Western Languages and Linguistics Department at Mahasarakham and director of the Mahasarakham University Storytelling Project. While at Northern Illinois University, Professor Tossa developed an online Lao Folk Literature course that may be found at the Lao site on SEAsite (www.seasite.niu.edu/lao/Lao_Folklore/lao_folklore_course.htm). She also developed a paper on Jataka Tales and Storytelling, which can be found at www.seasite.niu.edu/lao/culture/jakarta_fp.htm. The Center also hosted Professor Athith Outhay, National University of Laos, for six weeks in May and June 2002. His stay at NIU is an extension of his Hubert Humphrey Fellowship this past year and enables him to acquire additional training in teacher certification, curriculum development for middle and high school students, and to consult on the Lao site on SEAsite.

Student Conference


New Club Officers for 2002-2003

President: Jessica Rinehart
Internal Vice President: Britta Schiller
External Vice President: Nurliah Nurdin
Secretary: Amycla Webb
Treasury: David Bell
Conference Coordinator: Anies Baswedan
PAISA Representative: Rey Ty

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 $14,000 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 2002/2003

David Bell, Department of Anthropology, Thai
Amycla Webb, Department of Political Science, Burmese
Nicholas Wiles, Department of Political Science, Thai
Jason Conerly, Department of Anthropology, Thai
Jessica Rinehart, Department of Anthropology, Indonesian
Neha Trivedi, Department of Anthropology, Thai
Jennifer Weidmann, Department of Anthropology, Thai
Carlynne Worsham, Department of Political Science, Burmese
Michael Johnson, Department of Anthropology, Thai
Student News
(This year a number of our students received prestigious fellowships for research in Southeast Asia or for advanced graduate language training. We list a few of our students’ accomplishments and comments here.)

Ellen King
Anthropology Undergraduate
Ellen King, senior in anthropology and a Southeast Asian studies minor, will spend next year studying abroad in Khon Kaen, Thailand. A member of the Golden Key International Honor Society, her study abroad program is supported by a David L. Boren Scholarship administered by the National Security Education Program, a Freeman-ASIA Scholarship, the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, a John E. Bowman Travel Grant, and an IIE Midwest Scholarship.

Eric Digman
Political Science
Being raised in a culturally mixed family has aided me greatly in pursuing interests of an international nature as an adult. Due to the indirect influences of both my Brazilian-born German mother and my Bolivian wife, my interests had always previously been focused on Latin America. However, my excitement and familiarity with Southeast Asia grew quickly with every semester at NIU. Specifically, the poly-ethnicity and truly ancient culture of Indonesia, along with its struggle for a legitimate political regime, captured my attention and imagination alike. This was the core reason for my pursuing a FLAS to study the Indonesian language. I am now finishing my fifth year here at NIU and have completed both a Master of Arts degree in political science and a Master of Public Administration degree with an emphasis in comparative and developmental administration. In addition to my work in Latin America, when I complete my PhD in political science I plan to apply both the Indonesian language that I have learned as well as my knowledge of its history and politics to studies on political decentralization and democratization, in addition to teaching these subjects at the college level.

Paul Chambers
Political Science
Paul Chambers has been in Thailand this last year conducting interviews and collecting data with the support of a Fulbright-Hays IIE award for dissertation research. His dissertation examines the impact of multiple political parties and multiple factions within political parties on cabinet durability in Thailand over the last twenty years. He is putting particular emphasis on the effect of factional conflicts on Thailand’s parliamentary system. Next fall semester he will be teaching the course “The Politics of Southeast Asia” at NIU.

Ryan Davenport and Christopher Drysdale
Anthropology
Ryan Davenport and Christopher Drysdale both spent last summer in Sulawesi studying in the COTIM Advanced Indonesian Abroad program, which is funded by Fulbright-Hays. Ryan served as the Southeast Asian Student Conference organizer this spring, while Christopher was President of the Southeast Asia Club. Both are completing their M.A. theses in cultural anthropology.

Christopher Miller
Music
Christopher Miller is currently working towards the completion of his Master’s of Music degree. Over the past year, Christopher has presented his research on the West Javanese kendang penca ensemble at the America’s Shrine to Music Museum and the annual meeting of the American Musical Instrument Society, from whom he received the William E. Gribbon Award. Christopher has also conducted Central Javanese gamelan workshops at NIU, Western Carolina University, and the University of South Dakota. Currently, he is researching, editing, and reformatting Muriel Williamson’s collection of field recordings made in Burma in the 1960s, which was recently donated to the Center for Burma Studies. Following graduation in August, Christopher will undertake a year of advanced Burmese language study at the University of Foreign Languages in Rangoon, Myanmar, which has been made possible by a Blakemore Freeman Foundation Fellowship.

Jeff Petersen
Anthropology
Currently, I am working on issues of syncretism and the interactions that take place between religious worlds when they come into contact. Specifically, I am focusing my attention on traditional religious healers in the Philippines. Recently I had the opportunity to serve as the graduate assistant for the 2000-2001 NIU Maui ethnographic field school. While in Maui, I helped students work with the Filipino community in Hawaii. I also co-authored the Tagalog grammar page on SEAsite, devoting much of my attention to clarifying difficult concepts and developing new approaches to learning the grammar. During the 2000-2001 school year, I served as the secretary for the Southeast Asia Club. I have also participated on several occasions on the planning committee for the NIU Philippine Night and for the 2000 event presented the paper: “The Ibanag of the Cagayan Valley”.

Jessica Rinehart
Anthropology
Jessica Rinehart, the new President of the Southeast Asia Club, will spend this summer studying her third year of Indonesian language at the U.S.-Indonesian Society program in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Her summer program is supported by a summer FLAS award.

Neha Trivedi
Anthropology
The FLAS fellowship I received this year has enhanced my academic studies and professional development in several ways. In the past year I have held the position of secretary in the Southeast Asia Club, which has allowed me to work with the rest of the officers to provide the NIU community with an appreciation for the cultures of Southeast Asia through various activities and events. I was also given the opportunity to work with the CSEAS to promote events and conferences such as the International Ramayana Conference and the Council of Thai Studies conference. I presented a paper at the International Ramayana Conference on teaching the Ramayana in the classroom. During the summer months of 2002, I will conduct research in Thailand on the formation of identity among immigrant populations, specifically Indians (South Asians) in Thailand.

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Rey Ty
Political Science
Rey Ty, Outreach Assistant at the CSEAS, won first prize for the following essays: “Experiencing the University through Unity in Diversity: Many Cultures, One Humanity,” awarded by Unity in Diversity (UID) and the International Student and Faculty Office (ISFO), 2002; Best Graduate Paper, “The Concept of Power and the Relative Equality of Women and Men in Southeast Asia,” awarded by the Women’s Studies Program, 2002; and “East Wind, West Wind: Like Water and Oil,” awarded by UID and ISFO, 2001. He also won second prize for “Religions, Spirituality, and Identity: A Personal Journey”, Asian and Asian American Essay Contest, 2002. In addition, Rey also received the Graduate Student Leadership award for 2001-2002. He also is currently working on his dissertation on human rights in Southeast Asia.

Jeniffer Quincey
Anthropology Graduate
Jennifer Quincey will be starting her PhD in anthropology at Washington University in St. Louis, where she will pursue her interests in Indonesian society and religion. She has been elected to receive an Olin Fellowship, which includes tuition and a stipend for four years of study. Her fifth and final year on campus will be covered by a Dissertation Fellowship from the Department of Anthropology.

In Memory of May Kyi Win
Curator, Donn V. Hart Southeast Asia Collection

Associate Professor Daw May Kyi Win, our beloved curator of the Southeast Asian Bibliographic Collection, Founders Memorial Library, left this life for another early Saturday morning, February 23, 2002. She will be long remembered for her selfless service to others and for how well her life embodied the Buddhist values that she so earnestly professed. As many will recall, her deep sense of charity extended to all things, both great and small. She adopted her niece and nephew and brought them to America for schooling. She freely provided lodging in her home for participants in the Burma Studies Conference and on more than one occasion, had to be convinced that providing food for all conference participants was more than any one mortal could accomplish. Even so, at the conclusion of each conference, she supplied a free Burmese lunch to all who left on late flights.

The alacrity with which she assisted in finding any item in the library, not just Southeast Asian materials, was at first surprising, because it was so rare, but always memorable, because it was genuine. The library that she so loved and now has left behind will never be the same without her: her expert assistance, her warm presence, and her charitable spirit. She will be long remembered with adoration by all those who knew her.

May Kyi Win served continuously for six years as editor of The Bulletin of the Burma Studies Group. One of her innovations as editor was to compile the Annual Bibliography of Burma Studies for publication in the Bulletin. A modest May Kyi Win Memorial Endowment has been established that will allow us to appoint an individual to continue May Kyi Win’s important work of compiling the annual English language bibliography of academic publications on Burma. It is anticipated that the proposed endowment will provide one month of summer income (coupled importantly with a summer school tuition waiver) for a graduate student in Library Science or Southeast Asian Studies who will continue to produce the annual bibliography.

Thomas Rutherford
Political Science Graduate
Thomas Rutherford is employed as an associate researcher at the Social Research Institute at Chiang Mai University, Thailand. He is completing a report for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Association entitled “Cross-Sector Linkages in Mountain Development: the Case of Northern Thailand” (co-authored with Dr. Mingsarn Kaosa-ard, Director of the Institute). He also is helping to edit a Rockefeller Foundation-funded publication on social challenges in the Greater Mekong Subregion. In addition, he is teaching a class called “Crises of Democracy in Southeast Asia” for the International Institute for Sustainable Development, a study abroad program of Kalamazoo College.

The student will become familiar with Asian Bibliographies in general, how they are created, downloaded, and published. Creating and publishing the bibliography will provide the student with a rare credential when seeking employment. An additional result will be a positive learning experience, which, hopefully, will prompt interested individuals to take up a career path as a librarian, with a specialty in Southeast Asia. Such a result would be globally efficacious for Burma Studies. To make a donation or for further information, please contact the Center for Burma Studies, 410 Adams Hall, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115.

Spring 2002
International Ramayana Conference and Fair, Fall 2001

The CSEAS received a grant from the Illinois Humanities Council to hold an international conference and fair on the Ramayana in South and Southeast Asia on September 21-23, 2001. Additional funding for K-12 teachers to participate in the educational workshops accompanying the conference was provided by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Office of the President of Northern Illinois University. Over 20 different speakers from half a dozen countries presented papers, including Patricia Henry and U Saw Tun, professors of Foreign Languages at NIU. The keynote speakers were Dr. Philip Lutgendorf, University of Iowa, and Dr. Robert Goldman, University of California, Berkeley. International speakers included Dr. Satya Vat Shastrti, University of Delhi, Dr. Budya Pradipda, University of Indonesia, Mr. Kyaw Zwa, University of Culture, Myanmar, to name a few. Dance and musical performances that highlighted the various Ramayana traditions throughout the region were performed by Dr. Kuo-Huang Han, Department of Music; Sanggita Isvaran from the Asia Fellows Program; The Anila Sinha Foundation, Chicago; various performers from the Indonesian Embassy in Chicago, the Thai Fine Arts Institute, the International Ramayana Institute of North America, and the Indian Students Association of NIU.

SEALS XII Conference, Spring 2002

The CSEAS hosted the 12th annual Southeast Asia Linguistics Society (SEALS) Conference from May 15-17, 2002. The conference, which is coordinated by John Hartmann, Professor of Thai at NIU, featured keynote speaker, Theraphan L. Thongkham from Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. Special workshops were held on: SEASite as a Tool for Teaching Southeast Asian Languages and Culture; Heritage Language and Culture: Loss and Maintenance; Crossing the Klong: Learning Inside and Outside the Classroom. For information on the conference, visit our website at www.niu.edu/cseas/SEALSXII2002.htm.

East Timor in Transition: Past, Present and Future Conference, Spring 2002

On April 12-13, 2002, the CSEAS hosted a conference on East Timor, which was coordinated by Andrea Molnar, professor of anthropology. The conference opened with the showing of the video entitled Viva Timor Lorosae: The Untold Story of East Timor’s Struggle for Independence. Keynote speeches were delivered by Geoffrey Robinson (UCLA), Elizabeth Traube (Wesleyan University), and Nancy M. Lutz (SIU Edwardsville). Robinson addressed the issues of violence and the problems of responsibility and justice. Traube’s presentation focused on the dynamic relationships between local culture and popular nationalism. Politics and the new East Timorese constitution were the focus of Lutz’s talk. After the presentation of papers in three panels entitled Reconciliation and Civil Society, Justice and Law in East Timor, and East Timor Society in Transition, participants from the U.S., Australia and Germany had the opportunity to exchange ideas about the current problems facing Asia’s newest nation, including the significant issue of language. The Anthropology Museum at NIU also held a Timor Textile Exhibit in conjunction with the conference. A list of presenters and papers at the conference can be found at www.niu.edu/cseas/ETProgram.htm.

Southeast Asia Symposium: Human Rights and Current Issues, Spring 2002

The CSEAS at NIU and the International Education Office at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, Illinois co-hosted a symposium on Southeast Asia, May 14-15, 2002 at the College of DuPage. This Symposium was free to the public and partially funded by the US Department of Education Title VI Grant Program. NIU faculty, staff and graduate students were featured presenters and performers at the Symposium. Also featured at the Symposium were Luisa Igliora, professor of English and Creative Writing from Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA. More information on this Symposium may be found at www.niu.edu/cseas/seasymposium.htm.

Southeast Asia Master Teacher Program

Center faculty and staff have been working with a group of K-12 teachers from throughout northern Illinois who will become Southeast Asia Master Teachers. In addition to bringing Southeast Asia into the classroom curriculum, SEA Master teachers will serve as an advisory group to the Center in developing curricula and materials on Southeast Asia for the elementary and secondary level classroom. A weeklong institute for the teachers is planned for June 10-14, 2002. 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.

Council on Thai Studies Conference, Fall 2001

The CSEAS hosted the 2001 Council on Thai Studies Conference at DeKalb, November 2-3, 2001. Pasuk Phongpaichit, professor of economics at Chulalongkorn University, opened the conference with a paper presentation on “Good Governance, Money Politics and Honest Mistakes.” Pasuk Phongpaichit and Chris Baker also gave the conference keynote presentation on “Money Society, Community Culture, or Theme Park: Four Debates on the Future.” Both papers may be found at http://pioneer.netserv.chula.ac.th/~ppasuk/papers.htm.

For a list of presenters and emails, see www.niu.edu/cseas/cots2001update.htm.

Asian Film Festival

This spring semester the CSEAS, the Southeast Asia Club, and other student clubs sponsored an Asian and Asian American Film Festival that featured sixteen movies. For Asian American Heritage Month in April, the Southeast Asia Club sponsored three movies “The Split Horn: Life of a Hmong Shaman in America” (Lao/Hmong American), “A Smart Lady” (Burmes) and “Vertical Ray of the Sun” (Vietnamese).
Recent Publications

Cambodia Emerges from the Past: Eight Essays.
Edited by Judy Ledgerwood.
The volume includes contributions from David Chandler, Susan Cook, May Ebihara, Steve Heder, John Marston, Carol Mortland, Alex Hinton, and Judy Ledgerwood and John Vijgen. Three essays look back to the Khmer Rouge period, three look at contemporary Khmer society (two in Cambodia and one abroad), and two discuss the Cambodian genocide in a broader historical and international context. Among the latter two pieces is Steve Heder’s article on the issue of a tribunal for surviving Khmer Rouge-era leaders.

Available now-$19.95

The Money Trail: Burmese Currencies in Crisis, 1942-1947
By Marilyn Longmuir
This book outlines the rapid succession of currencies used in Burma in the 1930s and 1940s, recounts the economic effects of the wartime currency crises, and details the considerations in the formulation of the British financial policies during and after the Japanese occupation.

Available Spring 2002. $16.95

Killing a Buffalo for the Ancestors: A Zhuang Cosmological Text from Southwest China
By David Holm
The discovery and translation of a cosmological text written in one of the Thai-related Zhuang dialects of Southwest China provides opportunity to investigate the rituals of buffalo sacrifice, while providing valuable information on the dialect’s phonetic structure, its writing system, and its relevance for understanding the development and distribution of the Tai family of languages. The book also provides information on the history and social structure of the Zhuang and Bouyei of Guangxi province and on the interplay of linguistic communities within the province.

Book and CD available Summer 2002.

Visit the Southeast Asia Publications Website
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