Malay in multimedia
Center receives major grant for new online dictionary

Tourist art
Collecting one’s way through Southeast Asia
Page 24

Breaking the barriers
Indonesian linguist turned activist visits NIU
Page 11
The year that Illinois is celebrating the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln’s birth has also been a year of celebration for the state’s only center for Southeast Asian studies. Despite an uncertain economic climate, NIU has continued to support its flagship research and teaching National Resource Center. Three new Southeast Asian specialists were hired in 2009. In the political science department, Michael Buehler, a specialist in Indonesia and Malaysia, will replace retired professor Dwight King in fall 2010 while Kheang Un, a Cambodia specialist, has returned to the department this fall in a new tenure-track position. In the history department, Trude Jacobsen, also specializing in Cambodia, has taken up another new tenure-track position.

With these new hires, Southeast Asian studies at NIU have advanced in two important directions. First, Michael Buehler’s appointment reasserts, indeed significantly strengthens, NIU’s 40-year-old tradition of cutting-edge Indonesian studies. Second, and equally important, with two new tenure-track positions focused on Cambodia, NIU emerges as the major arena for Cambodian studies in the United States. These developments alone are sufficient cause for celebration.

Besides those strong faculty additions, center associates also celebrate the peregrinations of our dean. In the first seven months of 2009, in two separate trips, Dean Chris McCord visited almost all of the countries of island Southeast Asia: the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, and Indonesia, not to mention long transit hours in Singapore. This marks a strong commitment by NIU leadership towards understanding and strengthening the center’s linkages with Southeast Asia.

New funding, new projects
These long-standing connections and our renewed commitments, reflected in new positions and formal visits, have not gone unnoticed. Throughout 2009 CSEAS and its associates have secured funding from foreign government and non-governmental bodies. At the beginning of the year, the Royal Thai government transferred the funding for a generous endowment and an activities budget for Thai studies at NIU set up through the NIU Foundation. The center also secured a small seed grant from the Illinois Network on Islam and Muslim Societies (ILNIMS) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to bring the Philippine scholar Nagasura Madale to NIU to the inaugural colloquium on Southeast Europe and Southeast Asia sponsored by CSEAS and the Center for East European and Russian/Eurasian Studies at the University of Chicago. In June center associates Sue Russell and Lina Ong succeeded in securing the renewal of the Philippine Youth Leadership Program for the seventh year in a row. This program, supported by the U.S. State Department, brings youth from Mindanao (in the southern Philippines) of all ethnic and sectarian backgrounds to NIU to exchange views and knowledge about citizenship and responsibility in a diverse society. In addition, they recently received word of a new State Department grant to launch another program for young leaders in the region, this one for indigenous and minority youth (see page 6).

Over the summer, the U.S. Department of Education announced in July that the center’s proposal to compile and disseminate the world’s first online multimedia learners’ dictionary of Malay was selected and fully funded for the first year of a three-year project. This project, submitted by CSEAS last spring in collaboration with Patricia Henry, (foreign languages and literatures), Robert Zerwekh, and Jim Henry (computer science) as well as Eric Jones (history), rests on the solid strength of [this as the cornerstone of electronic information about Southeast Asia. Work began August 15 and is expected to continue through 2012. Similarly, in July our colleagues in the NIU Library, Hao Phan and Drew VandeCreek, learned that their proposal to fund the Southeast Asian library digitization project for another two years had been awarded. This project, supported by the Department of Education through its Technological Innovation and Cooperation for Foreign Information Access (TICIFA) program, draws on the expertise of the digitization program at the National Library as well as center associates’ ability to marshal our resources and solid relationships with fellow scholars in the U.S. and Southeast Asia.

Most recently, the State Department officially announced in mid-September that CSEAS had been approved to launch and manage a new project: the Southeast Asian Youth Leadership Program.

launch and manage a new project: the Southeast Asian Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP). SEAYLP began in November when the first batch of Southeast Asian teenagers (ages 15 to 17) arrived at NIU for a three-week training program in civic responsibility focused on entrepreneurship, diversity, and ecology. The second batch will arrive in April 2010. In all, 63 young people from Brunete, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam will participate in this program, which will be managed by center associate Katherine Wiegele (anthropology), assisted by five NIU graduate students (see page 6).

Another resounding note of celebration is the establishment of an historic alliance between CSEAS and the NIU Press to launch a new series of monographs devoted to Southeast Asian studies. With a distinguished international editorial board now in place and the press’s longstanding ability to produce and disseminate high-quality scholarly books and textbooks, NIU steps forward as a new and determined player in the international Southeast Asian studies publication network. The first monograph of the series, Voices, Slaves and Consciences: A History of the Female Underclass in Dutch Asia, written by center associate Eric Jones, will be launched in early 2010 and featured in March by NIU Press at the annual meeting of the Association of Asian Studies in Philadelphia.

Connected to this development, the center’s own monograph series ended in September with the publication of Contemporary Laos Studies: Research on Development, Language and Culture, and Traditional Medicine, edited by Carol J. Compton. Also in September, the center’s journal, Crossroads, published its final issue, Vol. 19, No. 2, a collection of essays about Southeast Asian diaspora communities, edited by Nathalie Hayn Chau Nguyen.

Networking in Indonesia
Eight alumni and one graduate student from NIU met in July in Jakarta with College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean Christopher McCord and CSEAS Director Jim Collins. Collins and McCord were part of a U.S. delegation in Indonesia for a week to explore expanding educational opportunities in the country (details will be reported in the spring issue of Mandala). Pictured from left to the back row are Gempol Zul Mallarangeng (B.A., business, 2009), Anies Baswedan (Ph.D., political science, 2007), McCord, Collins, And Afdan Mallarangeng (Ph.D., political science, 1997), Mohammad Taufiqurrahman (M.A., political science, 2009), and M.B. Adik (B.A., political science, 1999). In the front row from left are Vidi Cahyanugraha Mallarangeng (M.S., economics and resources, and services, 1995), Notriya Mandika (Ph.D., political science, 2006), Ferry Farhati (M.S., applied family and child studies, 2004), and Sri Ramli (Ph.D., political science).

Rejuvenating outreach
The alliance of NIU Press and the center means that human resources and monies formerly channeled into center publications can now be redirected to our rejuvenated and expanded outreach programs. Two graduate assistants, Srie Ramli and Shawn McCafferty (both Ph.D. students in political science), are now assigned full-time to CSEAS outreach. The former publications staff members, Caroline Quinan and Liz Poppens Denius, work on the center website, bulletin, and the now twice-yearly Mandala newsletter as the center’s principal pathways of outreach and information dissemination.

As a national center, CSEAS must reach out beyond our proximate neighbors. In mid-2009, at the suggestion of the center, the Mid-America Consortium for Southeast Asian Studies (MAMAXIS) was founded with strong support from regional NRCS, other institutions of higher education, and interested individuals. This will be a major component in expanding interest in and understanding of Southeast Asia. In late September, the center and the consortium initiated and facilitated a two-week visit of Dédé Oetomo, a linguist and leading community activist working on HIV education in Indonesia and Southeast Asia. Oetomo spoke at NIU, Ohio University, the University of Michigan, and Purdue University as well as numerous community groups in the region. Still within the context of MAMAXIS, center associate Judy Ladendorf (anthropology) and I traveled to Texas State University at San Marcos on October 22 to facilitate a workshop for faculty members there working to develop an undergraduate certificate in Southeast Asian studies. This was the first of four workshops being developed for FY 2009–10 by center associates and staff in

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can carry out our mandate to educate the of our center associates and friends so we welcome suggestions and ideas from all. Department of Education’s International proposal to be submitted to the U.S. last February to prepare a convincing undergraduate National Resource Center successes are the opening chords of academic year we hope that these Urbana in September 2010. University of Illinois at Champaign– and the South Asia Initiative of the Ramayana Institute of North America in cooperation with the International Intercultural Education (MIIIE) Summer Workshop on Southeast Asia. Plans are also now well underway to co-organize a major NUO outreach event, the third international Ramayana conference in cooperation with the International Rayamaya Institute of North America and the South Asia Initiative of the University of Illinois at Champaign–Urbana in September 2010.

As we move forward into the 2009–10 academic year we hope that these successes are the opening chords of continued success in securing a renewal of the center’s status as the country’s only undergraduate National Resource Center for Southeast Asian Studies. Work began last February to prepare a convincing proposal to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education’s International Education Programs Service. We welcome suggestions and ideas from all of our center associates and friends so we can carry out our mandate to educate the American public about Southeast Asia.

**Visiting Scholars**

**Wu Xiaoyi, Guangxi University for Nationalities, Nanning, China**

Guangxi University scholar Wendy Wu, center, with Wara Chansin, right, the current and fourth Thai foreign language teaching assistant (FLTA), and Pipatdida Sereephongpol, left, the first Thai FLTA at NIU who has returned to campus to work on a Ph.D. in information technology.

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures is hosting Wu Xiaoyi (Wendy Wu) of Guangxi University, who is at NIU for 12 months on a Chinese government sponsorship. Wu is working with professors John Hartmann (foreign languages and literatures) and Wei Luo (geography) on comparative Tai research, in particular GIS (geographic information systems) toponymic analysis. Wu, whose research interest is Zhuang languages across the border from China, has also conducted field work on Zhuang languages in Guangxi. “However, what I have done is very limited and I wish to learn more about field methods in order to improve my research,” she says. “Now I am working on setting up a database for researching Zhuang manuscripts, which were written using ancient Zhuang square characters. The kind of database I am envisioning would be very useful for others wanting to research this data. However, it is still a problem to computerize all the Zhuang characters. I have a long way to go.”

**Tao Li, Research School for Southeast Asian Studies, Xiamen University, Xiamen, China**

With funding from the China Scholarship Council, Tao Li, a Ph.D. candidate at Xiamen University, recently arrived at the history department under the Exchange Visitor Program to pursue nine months of field work for his dissertation under the supervision of Barbara Posadas (history) with CSEAS sponsorship. Li’s project, “The Impact of Overseas Filipino Workers on Economic Development in the Philippines,” seeks to assess the economic and social impact of OFW (overseas Filipino workers) remittances on economic development in the Philippines. He asks, “What is the Philippine government’s response to the OFWs and what can China learn from the Philippine government about the management and protection of labor migrants?” In addition to conducting research at NIU and other university libraries, Tao hopes to interview Filipinos living in the United States and to participate actively in academic conferences on Southeast Asia at NU and elsewhere in the United States.

**Grantsmanship**

**Center draws new resources to launch new projects**

**Modern Malay in multimedia via online dictionary project**

**By Jim Henry**

**View of the Petronas Towers and Bukit Nanas forest reserve from the Menara telecommunications tower in the heart of Kuala Lumpur. (Photo courtesy of the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre)**

The Center for Southeast Asian Studies has been awarded a three-year grant totaling $534,000 from the U.S. Department of Education’s International Research and Studies Program to create a new dictionary of the Malay language for the Web.

Established 1,300 years ago, Malay is the oldest written language in Southeast Asia, but no U.S. universities currently teach Malay on a regular basis. With the best available English–Malay dictionary more than a century old, there’s a critical need for a new one, according to CSEAS director and linguist Jim Collins. “There has been no new Malay–English dictionary for quite some time and online resources are very limited and sometimes inaccurate,” said Collins in a recent interview for NIU. “The historical role of Malay culture and language is of central importance to understanding the development of world trade, the world’s modern commercial system, and the present powerful trend toward globalization.”

The new dictionary also will be the first in a planned series of additions to the center’s Web-based materials on the languages and cultures of Southeast Asia, collectively known as SEAxit. SEAxit has been in development for 12 years and currently includes extensive resources on several Southeast Asian countries and languages: Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar/Burma, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. The task now is to broaden its scope to include all 11 Southeast Asian countries, starting with Malaysia and Brunei. This innovative dictionary is the first step in that direction.

The dictionary will stand out both as the first reliable online Malay–English dictionary and the first Malay dictionary based on new research to be published in decades. It will feature multimedia elements such as sounds, images, and video segments to illustrate and enrich the entries for as many as 8,000 selected words. The linguistic richness and sophistication of the work will be designed and guided by Collins, who came to NIU in 2008 after spending 15 years in Malaysia and has edited print dictionaries of Indonesian and minority languages in Southeast Asia.

Current materials and usage examples will be collected by the team during several planned visits to Malaysia during the three-year project, as well as drawn from consultants and other contributors in the country. One innovative feature will be the ability for a student to enter an inflected form of a word (e.g., menyewa [to rent]) and have the entry for the root word (sewa) automatically found and displayed.

The project will involve a team of center associates, including Patricia Henry (foreign languages and literatures), Eric Jones (history), Robert Zerwekh (computer science), and myself. On the linguistic side, Patricia Henry, who teaches Indonesian and has had interests in Malaysia since serving as a Peace Corps volunteer there in the 1960s, will assist Collins. Jones, who has led several study abroad courses in Malaysia, will collect **continued on page 6**
Young leaders in Southeast Asia are the focus of two new grants

The Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP), will involve training activities on campus as well as extracurricular activities off-campus. The latter will include volunteer service opportunities in DeKalb and Chicago, as well as interactive site visits in those cities and Washington, D.C. The goal is to provide participants with a heightened appreciation for cultural similarities and differences between the U.S. and their respective countries; the ethnic, religious, and national diversity within and among Southeast Asian countries; the value of citizen activism through civic responsibility and community service; and various networking, collaborative, and cooperative skills.

Building more dialogue in the Philippines

Susan Russell (anthropology) and Lina Ong (International Training Office) will continue their efforts to build dialogue among young leaders in the Southern Philippines (see next page) with a new program funded by a $330,000 grant. The new project, entitled “The Past is Always Ahead of Us: Empowering Indigenous and Minority Leaders in the Southern Philippines,” will work much like the Philippine Youth Leadership Program.

Twenty-four young community leaders, educators, youth influencers, journalists, and religious leaders from Mindanao and the Sulu archipelago will be recruited to attend a three-week institute at NIU. The goal is to engage them in learning about a range of programs that facilitate the integration of minority populations in the Philippines and the United States, according to Russell.

The in-country partners for the 20-month program are the International Visitors Program—Philippines Alumni Foundation and Tuklas Katutubo (National Organization of Young Tribal Leaders of the Philippines). The NIU visit will be followed by two follow-on sessions in the Philippines. At the second follow-on activity in the Philippines, the goal is to launch a National Leadership Program. Twenty-four young community leaders, educators, youth influencers, journalists, and religious leaders from Mindanao and the Sulu archipelago will be recruited to attend a three-week institute at NIU. The goal is to engage them in learning about a range of programs that facilitate the integration of minority populations in the Philippines and the United States, according to Russell.

Seven year approved for Philippine youth leadership project

Susan Russell (anthropology) and Lina Ong (International Training Office) have received the seventh year of funding from the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs for $275,000 to continue the Philippine Youth Leadership Program.

Twenty-six youth and adult leaders from the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao in the southern Philippines will travel to NIU in spring for nearly six weeks of intensive training in civic participation, leadership, volunteerism, and conflict resolution. In addition, this year’s participants will spend a week in Washington, D.C., before returning home to implement their own action plans for community service.

Russell traveled to Zamboanga City in the southern Philippines for the sixth year follow-on in July and August. As part of this activity, all adult leaders from previous years also were invited and the group decided to register itself as the Philippine Youth Leadership Alumni Association. In addition to presentations and discussions, everyone participated in Operation Shoebox, a project to solicit school supplies from local high schools and colleges for students at Mariki Elementary School. The supplies and personal letters from donor students to each recipient were wrapped in shoeboxes and distributed by the Philippine youth leaders in Mariki as part of their community service. The youth and adult leaders will also assist in the seventh-year recruitment of 2009–10 applicants.

Southeast Asia Digital Library expands its reach

For the past four years in a quiet set of rooms on the lower level of Founders Library, NIU Libraries’ digitization unit has been making everything from palm-leaf manuscripts from Thailand, news footage from Indonesia, and scores of other rare materials from Southeast Asia available to the world through the Southeast Asia Digital Library.

The project, an international collaboration led by NIU Libraries with the assistance of the Association of Asian Studies’ Committee on Research Materials on Southeast Asia (CORMOSEA), has been funded by a three-year, $780,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education. In September, project co-directors Drew VandeCreek, head of the digitization unit, and center associate Hào Phan, curator of NIU’s Southeast Asia collection, got the welcome news that the project has been granted $190,000 per year for the next four years.

NIU’s partners include Hawaii, Yale, Cornell, and Arizona State universities, along with five Southeast Asian institutions—the Lontar Foundation in Indonesia, Chiang Mai University in Thailand, the Center for the Study of Islam and Society at the Islamic State University of Indonesia, the National University of Malaysia, and the Faculty of Fine Arts of Laos—who are primarily responsible for gathering materials, as are a number of individual scholars and artists in Cambodia and Vietnam. The materials include texts, such as manuscripts and published resources; images, such as photographs and murals; and sound and video clips, including interviews with Southeast Asian public figures, scholars, writers, artists, and citizens discussing their work and experiences.

The project’s goal from the beginning has been to create an easily accessible online collection of Southeast Asia resources that could be used in the teaching of Indonanese, Javanese, Malay, Thai, Lao, Khmer, and Vietnamese languages and area studies. At NIU, for example, center associate Patricia Henry (foreign languages and literatures) uses some of the library’s Indonesian television videos in her Indonesian language class, VandeCreek said.

“The U.S. government has a vested interest in cultivating speakers of Southeast Asian languages and experts in the region’s culture and history,” VandeCreek said in an interview with NIU reporter Tom Parai. “We digitize manuscripts, books, images, and multimedia so that students can study the region and learn its languages by listening to native speakers.”

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Grantsmanship (continued)

By Liz Poppens Denius

Southeast Asia Digital Library expands its reach

Image of palm-leaf manuscript digitized by Khon Kaen University in Thailand and now in the collection of the Southeast Asia Digital Library at NIU. The palm leaf describes the merit of presenting Kathin, a religious ceremony of presenting robes to Buddhist monks.

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cultural, linguistic, and multimedia materials in-country. Zerwekh and I, both computer science professors with interests in Southeast Asia, will provide Web and database technical support. In addition, undergraduate and graduate students, along with a native Malay speaker, will be hired to assist with the project.

Malaysia, an important regional player in Southeast Asia, has been somewhat neglected in Southeast Asian studies, due in part perhaps to its proximity to its much larger neighbor, Indonesia, whose national language is similar to Malay (and in fact is based upon it, but with substantial differences in myriad respects). SEA Site has been guilty of this neglect in that Malay and Malaysia have not been a part of the site. This project will add an important tool to the study of Malay language, literature, and current events.

Jim Henry is an associate professor in the Department of Computer Science.

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Part of the Southeast Asia Digital Library grant will be used to further the work of the Digital Conservation Facility Laos to conserve and digitally preserve Lao Ramayana temple murals at the Vat Siukset museum and the Vat Oub Mong temple in Vientiane. Since 1997, the facility overseen by center associates Alan Potkin (NIU adjunct) and Catherine Raymond (art history, Center for Burma Studies) has been compiling a searchable archive of Buddhist temple wall paintings in mainland Southeast Asia, beginning with the Balasanihaya Jataka paintings covering the interior of the main image hall at the Vat Siukset Museum. The murals at Siukset have been rapidly deteriorating due to drainage problems, Potkin says. In working both to conserve and preserve the murals over the years, Potkin and Raymond, along with School of Art professor Karen Brown, developed a simple but ground-breaking methodology using projected images from the database to replicate the lost murals by “cartooning” (i.e., sketch in outline) the images directly onto temple walls. The team now plans to use the same techniques at Vat Oub Mong, where the Lao Ramayana murals drawn by a draftsman-monk on the inside walls of the old vihāra (main image hall) were demolished with the rest of the temple in December 2000 “through the venerable though sometimes regrettable tradition of Buddhist merit-making by constructing new temples rather than rehabilitating older structures,” says Potkin. Before the temple was torn down (it has since been rebuilt), the murals were photographed and archived. Plans now are to recreate the murals exactly on the new temple walls, with most of the work done by the Faculty of Fine Arts in Laos. Preserving and archiving temple murals are a labor of love for Potkin and Raymond, who lived in the parish where the original temple was located and became “great champions of the temple” prior to its demise, Potkin said. Potkin has documented the project in a self-published interactive e-book, Computer Projection in Lost Murals Replication, and video of parts of the project can be found at “digitconserv” on YouTube.

Merit in murals

Painted murals of Lao Ramayana stories adorned the walls of the Vat Oub Mong temple before its demolition in 2000. The temple has since been rebuilt; plans are to recreate the murals using a projection and cartooning process.

On September 2, incoming political science professor Michael Buehler came to NIU to kick off the center’s weekly lecture series with a presentation about the lack of politically motivated killings in Indonesia’s recent general legislative elections. Not only was it an opportunity for Buehler to speak about his specialty, Indonesian politics, it was also the first time the department counts Buehler as a Southeast Asianist (and his specialty, Indonesian politics, it was his first time), he was able to speak about his specialty, Indonesian politics, to students. Buehler continues the NIU legacy of Indonesian focus left by the recent retirement of professor emeritus and former center director Dwight King (see page 14). Uti’s appointment complements the recent hire of Cambodian specialist Trude Jacobsen (history) and the ongoing work in Cambodia by Judy Ledgerwood (chair, anthropology), giving NIU a significant interdisciplinary research niche in Cambodian studies. On the center side of the equation, Kheang Un has a joint appointment as assistant director of CSEAS and coordinates both sections of the center’s ILAS 225 course (Crossroads: Introduction to Southeast Asia).

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Over the past 12 years, I have had the opportunity to travel widely throughout rural Laos researching Buddhist art and archaeology, frequently to isolated districts nearly untouched by modernity and where traditional culture and religious practice still prevail.

In classical Lao Buddhism, during the main full-moon festivals at the temple, offerings to the monks of robes, blankets, foodstuffs, and personal items are made by lines of local people wearing their finest dress. The silks used by women living even in remote areas are often stunningly beautiful. These include both the tubular sarongs called *la na* and the much more complexly woven shawls called *la na* or *la Na*. Women fond of fine scarves and shawls, she wears her personal collection of hand-woven silk pieces as often as possible—on campus, at Buddhist festivals, and at cultural events.

### Art in the bag

In addition to collecting textiles during her research trips to Burma/Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam, Catherine Raymond has regularly purchased locally made shoulder bags to carry her cameras, sketchbooks, and field notes. Their decorative styles, the textiles used, and the methods of sewing and assembly vary from village to village, and from ethnic minority to ethnic minority. Raymond says. Most are made from woven cotton with an interior cotton lining for additional water resistance. In many cases, shoulder bags are patchworks of re-used pieces of garments, particularly those highly embellished with batik, embroidery, or needlepoint.

Raymond loaned three bags to the fall "Art Ornamentation" exhibit at the School of Art called "Art Ornamentation and Other Cultural Items from Around the World." The two longest shawls in the exhibit, entirely in silk, were bought in 2001 at Xam Neua, the main city of Huai Phan Province in northeastern Laos widely known for the quality of its hand-loomed textiles and for the use even today of completely natural dyes. The highly symbolic motifs represented included a traditional diamond pattern repeated in different colors as well as the spiraled-tail naga (dragon or snake) in a geometric abstract form. The third weaving—also made entirely of black, red, and gold-colored silk—was of a type usually intended as a banner hung inside a Buddhist temple on festive occasions. This weaving represented the earthly world, starting at the lowest end and finishing at the top with a stupa (or *chedi*) and for the use even today of completely natural dyes. The highly symbolic motifs represented included a traditional diamond pattern repeated in different colors as well as the spiraled-tail naga (dragon or snake) in a geometric abstract form. The third weaving—also made entirely of black, red, and gold-colored silk—was of a type usually intended as a banner hung inside a Buddhist temple on festive occasions. This weaving represented the earthly world, starting at the lowest end and finishing at the top with a stupa (or *chedi*) and a stupa (or *chedi*).

### Silks of the Buddhist Moon

By Catherine Raymond

During the full-moon festivals at Buddhist temples in rural Laos, women wear their finest clothing, including these complex woven and decorated shawls and scarves. (Photo courtesy of Catherine Raymond)

The popularity of the newsletter led Oetomo to found an organization by the same name. Today GAYA NUSANTARA (GN) includes lesbians and *waria* (male to female transgender people) as well as gay men among its members. In addition to advocating for lesbian, transgender, and gay rights, the group also promotes safe sex, provides HIV/AIDS education, advocates for sex education, and supports sex workers.

Oetomo, 55, has since given up his faculty position at Airlangga University to focus on his work with GN. His recent linguistic work includes informal research in the development of gay language in Indonesia and a contributing note on gay slang to an Indonesian-English dictionary. Oetomo is also the 1998 recipient of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission’s prestigious Felipa de Souza Award.

Oetomo’s appearance at NIU was part of a two-week tour of the Midwest sponsored by the center and the Mid-America Consortium for Southeast Asian Studies (MAXSS), and other NGOs and colleges. His schedule took him to NIU, Ohio University, the University of Michigan, and Purdue University as well as numerous community groups in the region.

“It’s the first time I’ve been invited to come to the United States as a gay activist,” Oetomo said. “I was first active in New York while I was in school. I learned about the gay liberation movement there. So coming here now is kind of like payback for that.”

For his presentations at NIU, Oetomo discussed the history of transgender and gay behaviors in various Indonesian archipelago societies, the changes wrought by Western colonization and modernity, and new impetuses for the personal, social, political, and artistic expression of homosexuality in the region. “In Indonesia,” he said, “homosexual acts were never criminalized. Now in at least two provinces [South Sumatra in 2006 and Aceh in 2008], homosexual acts are punishable.”

While Oetomo describes the environment for gay activism in Indonesia as a more “democratic and transparent” process than before, he admits that conservative Islamist politics are starting to play a larger role in clamping down on sexual behavior in general. The new legislation in Aceh, for example, “will allow adulterers to be stoned to death while homosexuals and those having premarital sex face 100 strokes with a cane and up to eight years in prison,” according to a news report on Fridae.com, an Asia-focused gay website.

Still, Oetomo is hopeful for the future of gay liberation in Southeast Asia, noting that the Internet is helping power the movement and that 90 percent of gay activists are under 30 with no history of what life was like before. “Some of them have never heard of me,” he said, grinning. “And that’s a good thing.”

Liz Poppens Denius also contributed to this article. A complete list of speakers is available on the center website.

By Shawn McCafferty

![Dédé Oetomo: Breaking the barriers](image)

### Dédé Oetomo: Breaking the barriers

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Liz Poppens Denius also contributed to this article. A complete list of speakers is available on the center website.
Kenton Clymer (history) • delivered invocation address, “Reflections on American Involvement in Southeast Asia,” at Stilian University, Dumagute City, Negros Oriental, the Philippines. • participated in round table discussion at the Pacific Coast branch of the American Historical Association in Albuquerque, N.M., where he discussed China as a factor in American policy toward Southeast Asia. • will be on sabbatical leave during the 2009–10 academic year doing archival research for a book on general history of U.S. relations with Burma.

Kikue Hamayotsu (political science) • was a summer fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Jakarta and conducted research on the militarization of Islamic youth in Indonesia. • presented “Beyond Faith and Aliran: Islam and-Based Political Mobilization in Southeast Asia,” at Silliman University in Southeast Asia Publications, 2009). • quoted in Thai newspaper


Gift exchange Cambodian King Father Norednom Shihanouk, third from left, and his wife, Monique, right, present Kenton and Marlee Clymer with a silver box inscribed with an image of Angkor Wat during a 40-minute audience with the monarchs June 1 at the Royal Residence in Beijing. The Clymers, who were visiting Beijing at the time, presented the king with letters from NIU ofials and with a copy of Kenton’s latest book on U.S.–Cambodian relations, Troubled Relations: The United States and Cambodia since 1870 (NIU Press, 2007). “We were very fortunate to have been able to meet with them since they have not been seeing very many people these days,” said Kenton. Shihanouk talked with Marlee about his films. I also talked to him some about Kissing, but he was not much interested in reviewing the past and commented that, today, relations between the United States and Cambodia are excellent.”

Judy Ledgerwood (chair, anthropology) • has been promoted to full professor. • is teaching “Cambodia Reborn,” a Thursday morning study group for NIU’s Lifelong Learning Institute, with professor emeritus and former center director Clark Neher.

Andrea Molnar (anthropology) • edited with Kheang Un (political science) forthcoming edition of Asian Affairs: An American Review 56.3 (fall 2009). • is submitting proposal for a study abroad field-study course in Thailand, tentatively set for the last week of May through June, 2010, focusing on Thai and minority relations in Thailand, with special emphasis on Muslim minorities and socio-cultural implications.

Barbara M. Posadas (history) • presented “Remittances and the Transmission of Resources by Muslim minorities and socio-cultural opportunities, and the above study abroad course. • gave two senior seminars at Prince Bondgali University–Patan on political theory and Tomor Leste, and gave a workshop on qualitative research methods in conflict regions. Met with continued research on Malay ethnic Muslim women’s political participation through civil society and began background preparation for sabbatical research during the 2010–11 academic year.

Kheang Un (political science) • presented “Growth Divergence in Cambodia: Political Reconstruction in a Post-Conflict Society,” at the Conference on Lao Studies held at NIU in 2005. “The conference was attended by over 400 people,” Hartmann says. “Russell, CSEAS director at the time, and Catherine Raymond helped to make the conference possible. Catherine negotiated the free use of the concert hall and lecture rooms in the Music Building, which impressed our visitors, who included Lao dignitaries and scholars. So, while I was the direct recipient of the award, I feel compelled to share the honor with Susan and Catherine.

Catherine Raymond (art history, Center for Burma Studies) • has been awarded a summer 2010 fellowship at Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV) in Leiden, the Netherlands.

Honorably mentioned Language professor and center associate John Hartmann received a “Certificate of Honor” in September from the San Francisco Mayor’s Office in recognition of work with the Center for Lao Studies, which was established as one of the outcomes of the First International Conference on Lao Studies held at NIU in 2005. “The conference was attended by over 400 people,” Hartmann says. “Russell, CSEAS director at the time, and Catherine Raymond helped to make the conference possible. Catherine negotiated the free use of the concert hall and lecture rooms in the Music Building, which impressed our visitors, who included Lao dignitaries and scholars. So, while I was the direct recipient of the award, I feel compelled to share the honor with Susan and Catherine.

Julie Lamb and Nancy Schuneman worked tirelessly to make the conference a huge success as well. A heartfelt thanks to all.”
Faculty Spotlight - Trude Jacobsen

By Coral Carlson

Trude Jacobsen joined NIU’s history department this fall as assistant professor. She is teaching History of Southeast Asia since 1800 and the Vietnam War. Jacobsen comes to NIU from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, where she was a teaching fellow in the history of Southeast Asia. An Australian, Jacobsen spent her adolescence in Cambodia, holding visiting scholar appointments at Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta in 1989, 1991, and 1999–2000 (as a senior Fulbright scholar). A graduate of Gothenburg College, Harvard and Johns Hopkins universities, and the University of Chicago, she served as a senior adviser to the Carter Center and the National Democratic Institute in monitoring the 1999 Indonesian general election and the 2004 presidential election. She was also a member of the Carter Center’s international delegation that monitored the Constituent Assembly election in East Timor in 2001. Over the course of his career, King consulted for the World Bank and USAID and wrote two books and two dozen journal articles and book chapters. His most recent publications involved decentralization and electoral reform, with his most recent monograph, Half-hearted Reform: Electoral Institutions and the Struggle for Democracy in Indonesia, published in 2003 by Greenwood-Praeger. In addition to research and writings, King also leaves behind the legacy of numerous graduate students he mentored, many of them from Indonesia and other parts of Southeast Asia. King was center director from 2005 to 2008. He currently lives in DeKalb.

**Faculty books**

Released or reviewed in 2009


"For an understanding of the Khmer cultural world of order and disorder, imaginative and real landscapes, and for possible answers to the universal question of ‘good and bad’ in a Cambodian context, the book is a stimulating and most rewarding example that offers the careful reader an insight into Cambodia’s fascinating and sometimes puzzling perceptions of life mirrored in its many stories."

—Karel van Oosten, Graduate Universiteit Utrecht, the Netherlands, *New Asia Books*


**Judy Ledgerwood** (anthropology), co-editor with Anne Hansen, *At the Edge of the Forest: Essays in Honor of David Chandler* (Cornell Southeast Asian Studies Program, 2008).

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In Memoriam

Larry Johannessen

NIU English Professor Larry Johannessen, 61, a longtime friend of the center and outreach contributor, died April 21, 2009, at Rush Medical Center in Chicago. A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps who served two tours of duty in Vietnam, Johannessen was well-known for his popular courses on the literature and films of the war. The former high school teacher extended that passion off-campus as well, teaching sessions on the Vietnam conflict through literature at teacher workshops organized by the center.

"In a department that has many wonderful teachers, Larry was nonetheless a standout,” said acting English department chair (now chair) Phil Eubanks at the time of Johannessen’s death. “He was one of those lucky people who worked on his two passions. One of those passions was teaching students how to teach English; the other was the literature of Vietnam. Students would frequently describe his courses as the best class they had taken at NIU or even as a life-changing experience. All of his courses got high praise, but the one that moved students the most was the literature of Vietnam.”

—Phil Eubanks, Acting English Department Chair
Finding new avenues to connect teachers and students to Southeast Asia

By Julia Lamb

As the center expands its outreach activities this year, one of our ongoing initiatives is to extend further into community colleges. To that end, center associate Eric Jones (history) and I drove to Kalamazoo, Mich., August 20 to make presentations at the 2009 Midwest Institute for International/Intercultural Education (MIIIE) Summer Workshop on Southeast Asia. Jones discussed the Southeast Asian legacy and global future of Islam; I outlined the wealth of teaching resources on Southeast Asia available for the college classroom. MIIIE is a consortium of two-year colleges located in the Midwest. Its primary objective is to support curriculum and professional development by organizing curriculum workshops, fall and spring conferences, overseas projects for faculty and students, assistance with grant development, and faculty mentoring and professional networking. Participant comments ranged from “Eric’s personal experiences from travel and his historical perspective provide great contextual insight” to “huge data of resources—great opportunity to incorporate these resources in our course work.”

Using music and dance to teach Thai

Rosarin Adulseranee (Ed.D., 2007; staff member in eLearning Services at NIU School of Music. The students also created batiks and shadow puppets. We also listened to a wide variety of traditional and modern Asian music over the course of the year. I wanted to introduce my students to the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at NIU, to expose them to college students who study Asia, and to provide them an opportunity to enjoy the hands-on experience of playing Southeast Asian instruments. Our experience at the college with Julie Lamb, Professor Jui-Ching Wang, and our student guides was a perfect culmination to our studies. Students wrote that the field trip to NIU was the best, richest field trip they had ever been taken on, and many were surprised that we have such an impressive resource as the Center for Southeast Asian Studies so close by. I certainly hope to continue bringing students to NIU and collaborating with Julie and the center.

Aaron Becker teaches history at Evanston Township High School.

Music to their hands

EIGHTEEN students and their teacher, Aaron Becker, from Evanston Township High School visited NIU May 11 when Becker brought his Pacific Rim class to campus to experience more of Southeast Asian culture through playing the Indonesian or Javanese gamelan and the angklung with center associate Jui-Ching Wang from the NIU School of Music. The students also brought an Asian meal with them, which was shared by all. Becker, a history teacher, has worked closely with the center for a number of years and has been instrumental in bringing Asian studies into his curriculum. Wang is assistant professor of music education; she teaches music education and world music courses in addition to directing the Indonesian gamelan ensemble. Becker’s Pacific Rim class is a perfect culmination to our studies. Students wrote that the field trip to NIU was the best, richest field trip they had ever been taken on, and many were surprised that we have such an impressive resource as the Center for Southeast Asian Studies so close by. I certainly hope to continue bringing students to NIU and collaborating with Julie and the center.

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Genocide workshop: ‘So many ideas — so much information’

By Mike Hawkins

Keynote speaker Nancy Lutz, left, anthropologist at Southern Illinois University–Edwardsville and an expert on the East Timor independence movement, urged participants at the center’s genocide workshop to look to that country for lessons in nation building. Sixteen middle school and secondary school teachers, right, participated in the June workshop at NIU.

On June 21–23, the Center for Southeast Asian Studies held its first-ever summer institute focused exclusively on “Teaching about Genocide and Human Rights in Southeast Asia for K–16 Educators.” Building on previous genocide institutes held at NIU, this conference was conceived and organized by center director Jim Collins, NIU history professor J. D. Bowers, and center outreach coordinator Julie Lamb. Sixteen middle and secondary school teachers, as well as one university professor and a local minister, came from the Midwest and as far away as California and Florida to attend the institute, earn advanced teaching credits, and improve their knowledge of genocide. In 2005, Illinois became the first state to mandate that public school curricula include genocide and human rights studies beyond the Holocaust. As the primary resource for Southeast Asian studies in the state, NIU provided a critical link between the center’s experts on Southeast Asian genocide and the state’s teaching objectives at the conference.

The institute began with a keynote address by Nancy Lutz, professor of anthropology at Southern Illinois University–Edwardsville and a specialist in colonialism, nationalism, and human rights in East Timor. In her address, Lutz reflected on her “own experiences studying genocide and human rights” as well as her extensive participation in the East Timor independence movement as an election observer and field office director with the Carter Center. She urged participants to examine “what the East Timorese case has offered more broadly to the study of genocide and human rights by way of lessons the world has learned and experiments that have worked in the effort to salvage a people and a country and (at least so far) to successfully build the first new nation of the 21st century.” Her talk was followed by an extensive question and answer period that finished out the first day.

On the second day, Bowers provided an extensive theoretical overview of genocide studies that served as a backdrop for subsequent lectures. His seminar was followed by discussions of genocide in East Timor, led by Lutz, and the 1965–66 Indonesian Massacre, presented by center associate Eric Jones (history). The day’s events culminated with a screening of 40 Years of Silence: An Indonesian Tragedy, a documentary by anthropologist Robert Lemelson and edited by two-time Academy Award winner Pietro Scalise about the Indonesian massacre. Though Lemelson was unable to attend the institute, his assistant, Chin Rodger, was there for the screening. The documentary’s poignant subject matter and compelling personal narratives solicited a profound response from viewers. Many described it as “powerful,” “superb,” “provocative,” and “moving.”

The conference’s final day began with a seminar on the Cambodian genocide under the Khmer Rouge given by Judy Ledgerwood (chair, anthropology). Her lecture was followed by the screening of another documentary, New Year Baby. The film follows the quest by a Cambodian-American (Sechasta Poeoe) to rediscover family connections in the former killing fields and prison camps of Democratic Kampuchea. The institute ended with a pedagogical seminar led by Nancy Keiser, coordinator of teacher education and associate professor of education at North Central College in Naperville. An NIU alumna and the center’s educational consultant, Keiser offered educators strategies for teaching younger students about genocide. Given the disturbing and poignant nature of the subject matter, continued on page 19

Southeast Asia Club

The Southeast Asia Club is starting up another exciting year with some new faces and events. We will be continuing with our fall and spring Southeast Asia culture nights (the first was Friday, November 13), but we also collaborated with Mirah Kertayuda to bring the Ramayana Ballet and an Indonesian Culture Night to NIU on Saturday, October 17. Some other events currently in the works: an evening toJonamac Orchard in Malta, Ill., cooking nights, movie nights, and more. The club seeks to help build stronger relationships and foster the exchange of information between Southeast Asians and those interested in Southeast Asia through social and educational events, including a student conference in the spring. The club also aims to promote awareness and understanding of Southeast Asia among members of the NIU community and beyond. This year’s club officers are Julie Edmunds, president; Sarah Wiley, vice president; Melanie Francia, secretary; Michael Deinzer, treasurer; Mirah Kertayuda, culture night coordinator; Matt Jagel, conference coordinator; Brett McCabe, outreach; and Peter Collina, marketing. For information about upcoming events, e-mail spachua@niu.edu or join the club’s Facebook page.

-Julie Edmunds

New Thai studies student group

A new Southeast Asia student group, the NIU Thai Association (NIU–TA), is open to graduate and undergraduate students, interested faculty and staff, and alumni. Its goals are to support the academic interests of those pursuing Thailand-related studies, to foster the learning derived from social interaction with NIU’s Thai students, and to expand and use the NIU network of Thai and Thai–interested alumni. The group’s officers are Dan Pojar, president; Yanyong Innanchai, vice president, Aaron Johnson, webmaster; Punchada Sivirunnabod, social chair; Tatchalerm Sudhipongchareech, academic chair; and Fai Wechchayanon, undergraduate relations chair. For more information, see the NIU–TA Facebook page (NIU–TA) or contact Dan Pojar at dpoj2@hotmail.com or by phone at 631-917-1257.

Burma Interest Group (BIG–NIU)

Over the summer, BIG–NIU delivered 70 full bags and boxes of non-perishable foods, household goods, clothing, and school supplies to refugees from Burma living in Illinois and Indiana. The group and the Center for Burma Studies conducted a donation drive in May on campus and stored the items in Center for Burma Studies Director Catherine Raymond’s garage until delivery arrangements could be made. Former club president Zaw Hlut (M.S., management information systems, 2009) oversaw the operation. In the next year, the group plans to hold more donation drives for refugees, host a monthly speaker series, and participate in the Ethnotopia cultural event in the spring. This year’s officers are Shahnab Arabizadeh, president; Wai Mon Thant, vice president; Nay Yee, secretary; and Kyaw Si Maw, treasurer. For information, e-mail bigniu@gmail.com.

Zaw Hlut, right, finishes packing up a car of donations for food and clothing for Burma refugees in Illinois and Indiana with the help of Dominic Naw, left, who has been instrumental in helping the Karen refugee community in Elgin/St Charles for the past three years. Naw was accompanied by a young refugee from St Charles who arrived in the United States a year ago.

continued from page 18

teachers are often anxious to find the best and most appropriate means for handling the subject of genocide. The goal of Keiser’s seminar was to teach specific skills and methods to better enable educators attending the institute to effectively transmit what they had learned there.

Overall, the institute was deemed a great success by those in attendance. Participants praised the “wealth of information,” the “global perspective on historical atrocities,” and the “great group of teachers.” “[I]t was very eye opening,” wrote one attendee. “I feel a great responsibility to pass this on to my students.” Perhaps participant M. Stephens summed it up best when she wrote, “Thank you for a great institute. So many ideas – so much information – great people – great food.” The center plans to continue expanding and contributing to advances in global genocide studies with future conferences and institutes.

The institute was co-sponsored by the center, the NIU Genocide and Human Rights Summer Institute, and the NIU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Major funding came from the Department of Education through its Title VI National Resource Center grant for the center.

Mike Hawkins received his Ph.D. in history from NIU in June. He is teaching at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Mich.
A summer FLAS experience: Intensive, absorbing, and unforgettable

Between June and August, eight Southeast Asian students at NIU took advantage of summer Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) scholarships to study language either in Southeast Asia or at the Southeast Asia Studies Summer Institute (SEASSI) at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Six of the students went overseas. Four—Julie Edmunds, Jessica Marchetti, Brett McCabe, and Sarah Wiley—received FLAS grants to cover tuition and a stipend while two—Sean Dolan and Allison Githens—who received additional funding for immersion-language training from other sources, received FLAS funding for tuition. Full FLAS grants were awarded to the two students who went to SEASSI—Frank Chappell and Matt Jagel.

Here are some “postcards” from their experiences.

Frank Chappell, SEASSI
I spent the summer in Madison, Wis., immersed in Bahasa Indonesia for eight weeks. From day one, my courses involved conversing with classmates and native speakers beginning with a simple “Nama saya Frank” to discussing politics and the nuances of Indonesian dialects. Aside from class time, I surrounded myself with the extracurriculars of the program, which included weekly viewings of Indonesian films, cooking with the teacher, visiting the company of colleagues from various realms of academia, private sectors, and government positions striving to master a language most people have never heard! Terima kasih banyak for FLAS! (Many thanks for FLAS!)

Sean Dolan, Indonesia
Between June and August I participated in an intensive Indonesian language program at Satya Wacana Christian University in the Javanese city of Salatiga. This program was coordinated by the Consortium for the Teaching of Indonesian and Malay (COTIM), which is composed of 13 U.S. universities, including NIU, which regularly offer courses in Indonesian language. As part of the program, I completed a short Indonesian language research project concerning concepts of tradition, locality, and tourism based on a week-long field trip to Tana Toraja, Sulawesi.

Julie Edmunds, Indonesia
The Indonesian Language Course for Foreign Speakers (BIPA) program at Udayana University in Denpasar, Bali, is well-organized and offers regular session courses throughout the year with about 10 to 15 students in each class. They offer beginning and intermediate level courses as well as individual sessions. Due to time constraints I chose to take individual lessons with one instructor four hours a day, five days a week, for eight weeks. We worked mainly from the BIPA textbook and focused on speaking, listening, and reading skills. The individual sessions worked well but I feel that the more structured setting of the regular course with multiple instructors would be the preferable choice for future NIU students. Udayana University is located in the heart of Denpasar and provides an environment of language immersion not commonly found in the tourist cities 20 minutes to the south. Denpasar offers numerous “kost” housing and the one I chose was filled with Indonesian students and teachers offering additional, informal language practice. A typical weekday for me was as follows:

7 a.m.: Wake up, shower and dress.
8 a.m.: Hop a bemo or walk to campus.
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: Class.
12:30 to 2 p.m.: Grab lunch at a local warung and make my way back to the kost.
2 to 7 p.m.: Spend time at a local warung, back at the kost doing PR, grocery shopping, cooking, etc.
7 p.m.: Dinner at the kost.
8 p.m.: Nightly performances at Pesta Kesenian Bali (monthly-long Bali Arts Festival).

Allison Githens, Indonesia
This past summer I attended the Consortium for the Teaching of Indonesian and Malay (COTIM) in Salatiga, Central Java, Indonesia. Attending the COTIM program was one of the most amazing experiences of my life and it was a valuable learning experience. COTIM is a rigorous and intense program. I had class Monday through Friday for about five hours each day. My classes focused on Indonesian grammar, vocabulary, and readings. I enjoyed the COTIM classes because each class was very small, with two to four people in the class, and I was able to receive a lot of individual attention from my teachers. I think some of the most important experiences I had in Indonesia happened outside the classroom. On the weekends my friends and I would travel to various nearby cities and explore historical sites throughout Indonesia. After returning to the United States, I have been frequently asked to describe my favorite Indonesian memory. My answer is always: speaking with Indonesian people on the streets and meeting new Indonesian people. Meeting and speaking with people outside the classroom taught me a lot of new vocabulary and how to handle problems with language barriers. I am so lucky to have the opportunity to attend COTIM and I would highly recommend the program to any other students studying Indonesian at NIU.

Matt Jagel, SEASSI
I studied Khmer in the SEASSI program at the University of Wisconsin–Madison this past summer. Our class, which consisted of about five non-native speakers and a half-dozen Heritage students, engaged in a variety of activities throughout our two months in Madison, including mock-elections, reading and performing a play of the first Khmer-language novel, Sophat, and individual 15-minute presentations on a subject of our choosing. The class was one of the more different academic experiences I have had, although I feel it not only improved my language skills, but introduced me to new ways of learning. Overall, it was a rewarding experience, one that was not only both intellectually stimulating and challenging, but one that will hopefully propel my language to new heights as I continue my study of Khmer in the future.

Jessica Marchetti, Indonesia
For two months this past summer I attended the INCLUS Intensive Language Study Program at Gadjah Mada University (UGM) in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The program is an independent study in Bahasa Indonesia consisting of five different language topic courses taught by five different professors from Gadjah Mada University. I also participated in the on-campus “Village Studies” section of the course during which I spent a day conversing and participating in the daily activities of a farming family in the rural region just outside of Yogyakarta.

Brett McCabe, Malaysia
I participated in an intensive Malaysian language program at the Institute of Ethnic Studies (KITA) at Malaysia’s National University. In this program, there was a special emphasis on reading and writing javi script (the Malay language written in Arabic script). I had the opportunity to be interviewed by the last remaining Malaysian newspaper published in javi script, the Mingguan Utusan Melayu (Weekly Malay Newspaper). They asked me how long it took me to learn javi, why I wanted to study it, and my future plans for studying the Malay world. They were surprised that a foreigner could read and write this script. I was surprised to see how much they wrote about it in the newspaper. Overall, being in Malaysia for the summer was a productive and rewarding experience.

Sarah Wiley, Malaysia
The summer language program offered through UKM (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia) was a wonderful experience. The class included sessions on everything from Malay proverbs and poetry to speaking with proper intonation. Trips to the local market improved my haggling abilities while classes at the karaoke lounge allowed us to work on our pronunciation (and singing!). What was best was being able to leave class and still practice speaking. Wherever I went, people would gladly, and patiently, hold conversation with me to sharpen my skills. Language immersion was really key as it forced me not just to enhance my vocabulary and grammar, but to think Malay. In all, it was a great experience in a beautiful country!
Summer Study 2010

Summer Study Abroad in Laos
June 15–August 10
Vientiane, Laos
Eight-week Lao studies program through the Center for Lao Studies, San Francisco, includes intensive language training, a Lao history and culture course, cultural excursions, and volunteer work with cooperating NGOs. Open to graduate and undergraduate students. Travel scholarships are available. General application and scholarship deadline: March 15. For details, see [www.lauchool.org](http://www.lauchool.org) or contact the Center for Lao Studies at 415-513-5108 or studylaos@lauchool.org.

SEASSI Language Study
June 14–August 6
Madison, Wisconsin
The Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute will offer its eight-week intensive language training program in Burmese, Filipino, Hmong, Indonesian, Javanese, Khmer, Lao, Thai, and Vietnamese at University of Wisconsin–Madison. Classes will be offered at first-, second-, and third-year levels. Heritage classes are also offered for Filipino, Hmong, Khmer, Lao, and Vietnamese. Students will work with experienced instructors from Europe, Southeast Asia, and the United States. Scholarships are available. For details, see [www.seassi.wisc.edu](http://www.seassi.wisc.edu). Full-tuition Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) scholarship deadline: February 19. General application and heritage language fellowship deadline: April 1 (TBA). For details, contact Mary Jo Wilson at 608-265-1755 or e-mail seassi@intl-institute.wisc.edu.

Advanced Study of Khmer (ASK)
June 14–August 6
Phnom Penh
Eight-week program at the Royal University of Phnom Penh includes intensive language training, cultural education, and one week home-stays in rural Cambodia for third-year Khmer students. The program is administered by the Khmer Language Program at the University of Hawai‘i. This program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education Fulbright–Hays, Group Abroad Projects. Twelve fellowships will be offered for qualified applicants, contingent on funding. Applications will be available in November. Deadline: February 26. For program dates and details, call 808-956-8070, e-mail ASKhawaii.edu or see [www.masoa.hawaii.edu](http://www.masoa.hawaii.edu) and [Summer Khmer immersion–study opportunities in Cambodia for first- and second-year students available separately.](http://www.masoa.hawaii.edu)

USINDO Summer Language Program in Indonesia
June 4–August 13
Yogyakarta
Applications for the U.S.–Indonesia Society’s 2010 summer language program in Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, are now being accepted. The program offers students intensive language instruction of Bahasa Indonesia over a 10-week period. Students live with Indonesian host families and also have the opportunity to participate in cultural workshops such as cooking, martial arts, and gamelan. Deadline: March 31. For program details, see the [USINDO website](http://www.usindo.org) or contact Matt Eden at 202-232-1400.

History and Culture of Malaysia
May 9–28
Malaysia
Assistant Professor Eric Jones (history) will lead a three-week NIU Study Abroad program to Malaysia, beginning in Kuala Lumpur. Students will visit museums, historical sites, religious centers, and rural areas throughout the country in addition to interacting with Malaysia’s ethnically and religiously diverse populations. Students will receive three credit hours. Open to graduate and undergraduate students. Application deadline: March 1. Contact the NIU Study Abroad Office, Williston Hall 417; call 815-753-0304 or e-mail studyabroad@niu.edu.

Thammasat University, Bangkok

Aaron Johnson (Ph.D. candidate, political science) spent three months during the summer studying at Thammasat University in Bangkok, the first NIU participant in a new exchange program with the school underwritten by the Thai Teaching and Research Endowment Fund grant received by the center in 2008. While at Thammasat, Johnson took three graduate seminars on international relations, focusing on transnational issues in Southeast Asia, ASEAN’s role in world affairs, and Thailand and the global economy. Johnson, who hails from Middlesex County, Virginia, also attended several United Nations-sponsored academic conferences at the university.

Johnson, who lived in an apartment while he was in Bangkok, also spent time away from the city, exploring Chiang Mai, Phuket, and Angkor Wat in neighboring Cambodia. He also served as a substitute English teacher and private English tutor in Bangkok at the Denla School, and met up with several NIU alumni while he was there.

Johnson said he was grateful to the center, the NIU political science department, and the Thai Teaching and Research Endowment Fund for the travel grant allowing him to study in Thailand. He also thanked the NIU Study Abroad Office and the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature for facilitating his travel “at the last minute” and for helping him support his grant application.

“My time in Thailand and at Thammasat in particular afforded me the invaluable opportunity to improve my knowledge of Thailand while also developing long-lasting friendships with my fellow classmates,” Johnson says. “I believe that the experiences that I gained during the summer will benefit my personal and intellectual development. Hopefully this experience will be followed by future NIU students.”

Two other political science graduate students, Daniel Pojar and Punchada Sirivunnabood, also received grants to travel to Thailand.
Anthropology Museum makes plans to step up conservation efforts

The planned renovations of the Stevens Building, home of the Anthropology Museum, and Cole Hall, where the museum's collections are stored, could present an opportunity for the museum to improve the conservation of its thousands of artifacts, says museum director Ann Wright-Parsons.

Heritage Preservation: the National Institute for Conservation provided a $5,000 grant to the museum earlier this year for an assessment of its conservation methods. Over two days in May, Ruth Norton, chief conservator of Chicago's Field Museum, identified and prioritized several environmental needs, which included improved temperature, humidity, and lighting controls.

Under the state's capital bill approved in July, the Stevens Building is scheduled for a $22 million rehabilitation project in coming years, with another $8 million in funding for the renovation of Cole Hall. Wright-Parsons is writing grant proposals for federal funds to enhance the museum's conservation efforts with compact storage cabinetry, modern security, and specialized flooring.

“This is perfect timing for our grant requests because the state money is coming in for infrastructure on both buildings, and that funding can be used as matching dollars that are required for federal grants,” Wright-Parsons said. The Anthropology Museum holds a large collection of unique pieces from Southeast Asian cultures in the countries of Thailand, Indonesia, Laos, Burma, Cambodia, and the Philippines.

Tourist art now on display

The Anthropology Museum's current exhibition, “Tourist Art: Exploring Authenticity in a Museum Collection,” opened September 26 with a selection of artifacts from Southeast Asia as well as other areas of the world. The opening was held in conjunction with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences' 50th anniversary weekend of celebration. The exhibition features over 2,000 artifacts from Southeast Asia, including wood carvings from Bali, drawings created by Ida Bagus Anom as well as a Balinese painting with scenes from the Ramayana. The exhibit will run through May. Museum hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and by appointment (call 815-753-0246 or 0230).

Thai digitization project

The Anthropology Museum has been awarded a small grant from the Thai Teaching and Research Endowment Fund to digitize the Thai collection and to prepare the images and information about them for viewing on the Web. This project will be in progress during fall semester. Information about this project will appear in the spring 2010 issue of Mandala.

Tourist art now on display

The Emergence of Tourist Art in Colonial Burma: Style, Form, and Usage

By Catherine Raymond

For the majority of Burmese people prior to the nineteenth century, the present concept of “tourist art” was altogether foreign, although before this period, a variation of tourist art did exist: Burmese travelers on pilgrimages to Buddhist holy sites inside and outside of Burma would typically purchase religious mementos to be placed on their domestic altars.

However, the ascent of the British Raj and the exile of the last king in the nineteenth century saw the end of both the royal monopoly on certain precious commodities such as teakwood, ivory, and silver, and royal patronage of traditional arts and crafts. Colonial officials began working with local entrepreneurs to produce the kinds of items Westerners would want to acquire. Wood carvings began to appear in residential interior décor; ivory items in curio cabinets; and silver tableware for formal receptions and for cigarette and snuff boxes.

Traditional panels and craftware had depicted scenes from the life of the Buddha, the jataka tales, and the Ramayana stories. But incoming Westerners were fascinated by the great gold-leafed pagodas, the working elephants, and all aspects of rice cultivation. With this new clientele, Burmese artisans—be they silversmiths, ivory or wood carvers—came to adapt an additional repertoire to their crafts while retaining a modicum of the older forms for their local customers.

Thus was introduced into traditional Burmese arts and crafts all such “exotica” (at least from the Anglo-European perspective): the trained elephants logging lumber, the flat-bottomed barges sailing upstream, the fluid geometry of diked paddy fields, and water buffalo plowing. By the mid-twentieth century, with colonialism eclipsed and overseas travel developing, the styles and forms of Burmese crafts evolved toward a less time-consuming and technically difficult “tourist art.”

Catherine Raymond is professor of art history and director of the Center for Burma Studies.

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Catherine Raymond is professor of art history and director of the Center for Burma Studies.
Three NIU and center alumni from Southeast Asia were named to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences’ list of 50 Outstanding Alumni as part of the college’s 50th anniversary celebration this year. They are:

- **Anies Baswedan** (Ph.D., political science, 2007), president of Universitas Paramadina Jakarta, a private university in Jakarta, Indonesia. Baswedan is also the research director at the Indonesian Institute for Public Policy Analysis and in 2008 was named one of the 100 Top Public Intellectuals worldwide by Foreign Policy magazine. He frequently speaks on such issues as the eradication of corruption and public accountability, and the importance of civil society organizations and foreign aid entities such as the World Bank.

- **Noel Morada** (Ph.D., political science, 2002), associate professor and chair, political science department at the University of the Philippines, Diliman, in Quezon City. Active in international affairs, Morada most recently was distinguished visiting professor at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University in Washington, D.C. He also serves on the editorial board of Global Responsibility to Protect, a refereed journal devoted to the protection of peoples around the world from genocide and mass atrocities.

- **Michael Hawkins** (Ph.D., history, 2009) has accepted a visiting position in the history department at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Mich., to teach world history. He will be continuing his research oriented toward Islam in Southeast Asia, he says.

Three Cambodian graduate students at NIU have completed their degrees. Pisith Phleng, who spent part of his time at NIU assisting with the Southeast Asia Digital Library Project, finished his thesis on formal and informal credit systems in Cambodia and graduated in May. He is now working with the Council on International Educational Exchange (www.ciee.org). So Sok Banthoeun finished his Ph.D. in political science in May and took up a post-doctoral appointment at the East-West Center in Washington, D.C. Seng Sangha graduated with a master’s degree in education in August.

- **Srisomphol Jitpiromsi** (Ph.D., political science, 1997) was part of a group making policy recommendations to the Thai Parliament in July.

Zaw Hlut (M.S., management information systems, 2009) spent the summer in Fort Wayne, Ind., serving as an interpreter for the 3,000-member Karen refugee community there.

What’s Coming Up

**Looking for a few good families**

**Youth leadership programs**

With young people from all over Southeast Asia coming to NIU this year through the Philippine Youth Leadership Program (PYLP) and the new Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP), more home-stay families are needed for both students and the adult chaperones accompanying them. Students are placed in pairs while adults may be placed as singles or in pairs. The first group of Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP) students, from Singapore, Brunei, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Malaysia, came to campus November 25 to December 6. The dates for upcoming spring home stays are April 11–22 for the second SEAYLP group (from the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, and Burma) and May 2–15 for the Philippine Youth Leadership Program. For more information, contact Leslie Shive at the International Training Office at lshive@niu.edu.

**Fellowship deadline**

Save the date

Now’s the time to start thinking about applying for the center’s 2010–11 fellowships. The deadline for both Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships and the Graduate Fellowship for the Study of Southeast Asia is February 1. The FLAS fellowships are funded by the center’s Title VI National Resource Center grant from the U.S. Department of Education. They provide for student study of one of five Southeast Asian languages currently taught at NIU: Burmese, Indonesian, Khmer, Tagalog, and Thai. The Graduate Fellowship for the Study of Southeast Asia is funded through an endowment established by Clark and Arlene Neher. Applicants must be a graduate student in good standing with the university who demonstrates a commitment to a career involving Southeast Asian studies. For details on either fellowship, contact CSEAS at cseas@niu.edu.

**Study abroad**

**Application deadlines coming up**

Application deadlines are coming up for NIU’s two study abroad programs to Southeast Asia: a three-week program set for May 9–28 in Malaysia led by Eric Jones (history) and a four-week ethnographic field school set for July 15–August 15 in Cambodia led by Judy Ledgerwood (anthropology). The Malaysia program is open to undergraduate and graduate students; the application deadline is March 1. The Cambodia school is open to advanced undergraduate or graduate students; the application deadline will be posted at the Study Abroad Office by the end of fall semester. For details on both programs, see page 22.

**Calls for papers**

**2010 Southeast Asia Club Student Conference**

Barbara Watson Andaya, director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii–Manoa and author of The Flaming Womb: Repositioning Women in Early Modern Southeast Asia, will be the keynote speaker for the Southeast Asia Club’s spring student conference on March 20. With the theme of “Sex and Violence: Examining Power Dynamics in Southeast Asia,” the conference will explore gender roles, sex, and violence in modern-day and historical Southeast Asia. Papers are being accepted from both undergraduate and graduate students. Abstract deadline is December 31; final drafts are due February 10. Abstracts should include submitter’s full name as it will appear in the abstract booklet and conference schedule, contact information (e-mail and telephone), major area of study (region and discipline), title of paper, and a one-page (250-word maximum) abstract in print-ready format, including submitter’s name and institution. There is a $500 prize for best undergraduate paper and a $250 award for best graduate paper. E-mail inquiries and abstracts to conference coordinator Matthew Jugel at rebok74@comcast.net or call 630-709-3999 for information.

**2010 International Ramayana Conference**

Scholars worldwide are invited to submit presentation proposals by December 31 for next year’s Third International Ramayana Conference. The two-day conference, co-sponsored by CSEAS, the Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Illinois, and the International Ramayana Institute of North America, will be held September 17–19, 2010, at NIU Naperville. For conference details, see page 17.
Center for Southeast Asian Studies Council 2009–10

Mace Bentley
Geography

Kenton Clymer
History

James Collins
CSEAS/Foreign Languages and Literatures

Rhodalyne Crail
Foreign Languages and Literatures

Kikue Hamayotsu
Political Science

John Hartmann
Foreign Languages and Literatures

George (Jim) Henry
Computer Science

Patricia Henry
Foreign Languages and Literatures

Trude Jacobsen
History

Eric Jones
History

Julia Lamb
CSEAS

Judy Ledgerwood
 Anthropology

Wei Luo
Geography

Andrea Molnar
Anthropology

Chalermsee Olson
Founders Memorial Library

Grant Olson
Foreign Languages and Literatures

Lina Ong
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Hao Phan
Founders Memorial Library

Deborah Pierce
Division of International Programs

Barbara Posadas
History

Alan Potkin
CSEAS/NIU Adjunct

Caroline Quinlan
CSEAS

Catherine Raymond
Center for Burma Studies/School of Art

Susan Russell
Anthropology

Kurt Thurmaier
Public Administration

Saw Tun
Foreign Languages and Literatures

Kheang Un
CSEAS/Political Science

Daniel Unger
Political Science

Jui-Ching Wang
School of Music

Katharine Wiegele
Anthropology

Curtis Wood
Public Administration

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Anthropology

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Malay in multimedia: Photo courtesy of the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre

Tourist art: Poster for Anthropology Museum exhibit

Breaking the barriers: Photo courtesy of Dédé Oetomo