A custom mask with matching graduation stole made of fabric from the Philippines by a friend of the center

A semester like no other

This is the last weekly bulletin of 2019-20. This spring has been one for the books. Be well, be safe and best wishes to all.

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1. Online classes, a virtual student conference, postponed graduation, summer FLAS at home

NEW

The campus went suddenly quiet, officially closing Saturday, March 21, as Illinois prepared to shut down at the end of the month. Spring break was extended a week while faculty and staff rushed to move classes online and train up for teaching and working from home. At CSEAS, spring programming ground to a virtual halt—Friday lectures, outreach activities, and other events (including the NIU 125th Anniversary Southeast Asia Performing Arts Showcase) were off the calendar. The U.S. Department of State, citing logistics, postponed the two youth leadership programs set to run at NIU in April. With international travel cancelled, summer Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) awardees got the choice to do summer language study online through the Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Members of the Southeast Asia Club, who had been working diligently on the spring student conference set for April 18, scrambled to move the event to YouTube, a first for the club. CSEAS presenters joined peers from as far away as Seoul University submitting video presentations, which club conference organizers then pulled together for a worldwide audience to watch on the appointed day and thereafter. So far the virtual conference has garnered 800 views, a good sign people were interested, reports conference video master Matthew Werstler (MM candidate, NIU). And by all accounts conference participants were happy for the chance to add a presentation to their CVs. “Thank you for putting together a fantastic virtual conference,” said San Francisco State University history graduate student Scott Pribble, who won the conference award for Best Graduate Student Paper, said in an email to conference organizers. “I know it would have been easier to cancel the event, so I personally appreciate all your hard work and dedication to SEA scholarship.” Pribble presented “Chinese Cambodians and the Barter Economy of Democratic Kampuchea.” Werstler won second place for his graduate paper “Jit Phumisak’s Legacy and ‘Songs for Life’: Sustainability and Resiliency in Thai Popular Music—1950s to 1980s” and Timothy Johnson (BA political science) won the award for Best Undergraduate Paper, “Causes of the Free Aceh Movement.”

The Thai Music Ensemble also moved online a planned spring performance with the UCLA Thai Music Ensemble and the Korphai Band from Thailand. Members of the NIU ensemble, led by World
Music alum Chamni Sripraram were going to fly to Los Angeles for the joint performance in the main auditorium of UCLA’s Herb Alpert School of Music. Unable to travel for now, plans were set to get all 13 musicians together to play online. The resulting performance was featured in the NIU Arts Blog this week. Take a listen! In the meantime, this spring’s semester is ending like no other with May graduation tentatively postponed until August and face-to-face instruction still uncertain for fall. “We’ve got Plan A and Plan B,” said CSEAS Director Eric Jones. “One way or another, Southeast Asian Studies remains alive and well at NIU.”

2. Center associates update: Stepping down, stepping up NEW

* Judy Ledgerwood (CLAS, Anthropology) is stepping down as Acting Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the end of June and taking a one-year research leave. She has been awarded a Senior Fellowship from the Center for Khmer Studies in Cambodia to conduct four months of fieldwork during the AY2020–21 academic year. She plans to work on a book manuscript on her research on one rural community across the past 30 years, a community where her mentor Dr. May Ebihara first conducted research in 1959. She will return to CSEAS and the Department of Anthropology in July 2021.

* Kenton Clymer (History) will retire as of Sept. 1. Clymer, a Distinguished Research Professor, began teaching at NIU in 2004 after teaching history at the University of Texas-El Paso for 33 years. A specialist on the history of U.S. foreign relations in Southeast Asia and Asia, he is the author of eight books, including his most recent volume, *A Delicate Relationship: The United States and Burma/Myanmar* (Cornell University Press, 2015). His two-volume work about the U.S. relationship with Cambodia published by Routledge in 2004 won the 2005 Robert H. Ferrell Book Prize from the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations. He was a 2011–12 Fellow at the Wilson Center in Washington, D.C., taught several summers in China, and has been, and will continue to be, the editor of the Southeast Asia Series for the NIU Press (now an imprint of Cornell University Press).


* Jui-Ching Wang (School of Music, CSEAS) will be on sabbatical during AY2020–21. Depending on when travel restrictions are lifted, Wang says, she will travel to Taiwan for a research project entitled “Songs My Mother Taught Me,” which will look at Vietnamese and Indonesian brides and their musical interactions with their children.

* Scot Schraufnagel (Political Science) is continuing efforts to build collaborations with Thai universities. The establishment of a dual-degree program between NIU and the Faculty of Political Science at Thammasat University is nearing completion and discussions about possible joint programming are under way with Chiang Mai University. He also has co-authored an article on Indonesian local elections, under peer review for the journal *Contemporary Politics*, with Political Science doctoral student Testriono).
Tharaphi Than (World Languages and Cultures) has two forthcoming publications, “Nationalism: The Wrong Framework to Understand Local Activism in Myanmar?” published by ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute (National University of Singapore) in *ISEAS Perspective 2020*, and “Decolonization in the South” in the *Journal of African Studies*.

Rahmi Aoyama (World Languages and Culture) successfully defended her thesis in March and is receiving her doctorate in Instructional Technology. Aoyama first came to NIU as a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant in 2007 to teach Indonesian with Professor Emerita Patricia Henry. She has been the Indonesian language instructor since Henry’s retirement in 2014.

3. Student news: Congratulations to all NEW

Three graduate students and eight undergraduate students in the CSEAS orbit are set to graduate virtually in May and possibly in-person in August. Receiving master’s degrees and graduate certificates in Southeast Asian Studies are Kristen Amstutz (sociology) and Matthew Peerboom (political science). Also receiving his master’s degree is Limeng Ong (political science), who is continuing at NIU for his PhD. Undergraduate students receiving bachelor’s degrees with an SEA Studies minor are: Amy Bounnavong (business), Patricia Buczynski (political science-international relations), Timothy Johnson (political science-international relations), Margaret Higginbotham (computer science), Jasmine Meuneelithrath (psychology), Thomas Phemuangmany (anthropology), Sam Vongsouvanh (communications) and Kylee Warner (political science-politics and governance).

CSEAS graduate assistant Eunji Won (PhD candidate, political science) has been awarded the 2020–21 *Clark and Arlene Neher Graduate Fellowship for the Study of Southeast Asia*. Won, who teaches the Center’s survey course, SEAS 225, entered the MA/PhD program in 2013. Her research interests are democracy, authoritarian regimes, and political economy in SEA, particularly Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. She has studied both Indonesian and Thai languages and conducted field research in the region. Won is the 19th graduate student to receive the endowed Neher fellowship, established in 2002 by NIU political scientist emeritus and former CSEAS Director Clark Neher and External Programming Director emeritus and CSEAS associate Arlene Neher. The Center awards the $5,000 fellowship plus tuition waiver to one advanced-level graduate student.

Azriansyah Agoes (PhD candidate, political science) has received the 2020–21 *Dwight Y. King Graduate Fellowship for the Study of Indonesia*. Agoes joined the MA/PhD program in 2012 and received his MA in 2015. He is pursuing his PhD in comparative politics with research emphasis on Indonesia and Cambodia. As a research assistant at CSEAS, Agoes has administered the Indonesian Peningkatan Kualitas Publikasi Internasional (*PKPI*), taught the Center’s SEA survey course, SEAS 225, and worked with the CSEAS director on various Indonesia initiatives. He was the first recipient of the King award in 2018. The $1,000 King scholarship is funded through an NIU Foundation endowment established by late Political Science Professor and CSEAS Director Emeritus Dwight King. King, who mentored many Indonesian graduate students over his years as a professor, wished to support the research efforts of international students with this scholarship.

Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (Laos, 2017) alumna and SEA Fellow Vilaya Sirivong (Ling) won theKevin D. Knight Freshman Leadership Award, one of eight *Knight awards* announced April 21.

4. Announcing summer and fall FLAS awardees NEW
CSEAS has awarded 12 summer Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) scholarships to graduate students Timothy Johnson (Indonesian), Dan McCoy (Indonesian), Isabelle Squires (Tagalog), Mariah Walker (Indonesian), Glynnis White (Indonesian), Matthew Werstler (Thai), and Zachary Zoet (Burmese), and to undergraduate students Spencer Jones (Indonesian), Elayna Lachs (Tagalog), Eden Maxey (Burmese), Pay Say (Burmese), and Biak Thang (Burmese).

In addition, CSEAS has awarded 16 AY2020–21 FLAS fellowships to graduate students Christopher Bechtel (Tagalog), Patricia Buczynski (Indonesian), Timothy Johnson (Indonesian), Dan McCoy (Indonesian), Isabelle Squires (Tagalog), Rita Veron (Tagalog), Matthew Werstler (Thai), and Zachary Zoet (Burmese), and to undergraduate students Spencer Jones (Indonesian), Ahyen Labanan (Tagalog), Elayna Lachs (Tagalog), Angel Latham (Indonesian), Anne Rutherford (Thai), Pay Say (Burmese), Biak Thang (Burmese), and Holly Young (Thai).

5. Get your fall SEAS courses here

Plans on how NIU will re-open are still in the works, but in the meantime, fall classes have been put on the schedule. Interdisciplinary offerings are the name of the game in Southeast Asian studies this fall. The origins of SEA cities past and present. Six millennia of arts and architecture in SEA and elsewhere in Asia. The history of SEA since 1800 and the history of Buddhist SEA. Introduction to international relations focusing on six SEA countries. Politics in SEA. In addition, all five SEA language classes will be offered: Burmese, Indonesian, Khmer, Tagalog and Thai.

Other fall courses include:
- ANTH 491/591, Origins of Cities (Piphal Heng)
- ARTH 294, Introduction to Arts of Asia (Catherine Raymond)
- ARTH 457/657, Religion, Conflict and Environment in Classical and Contemporary SEA Art (Catherine Raymond)
- HDFS 384, Asian American Families (Florensia Surjadi) **Online**
- HIST 343, History of SEA since 1800 (Jones) **Online**
- HIST 442/542, History of Buddhist SEA (Trude Jacobsen)
- MUSE 370/670, Gamelan I (Alex Yoffe)
- POLS 285, Introduction to International Relations (Aarie Glas)
- POLS 376, Political Violence (Kikue Hamayotsu)
- POLS 371, Politics in SEA (Kheang Un)
- POLS 381, Regional Security (Aarie Glas)
- SEAS 225, Southeast Asia: Crossroads of the World (Micah Morton). Also offered as Honors class.

All courses are applicable toward SEA Studies minors/contract majors or graduate certificates. For details, see full course list. In addition, both Distance Burmese and Distance Indonesian will be offered as non-credit courses.

6. Southeast Asia Crossroads: Analyzing the 2019 Thai election

Tune in to the latest episode of CSEAS’s Southeast Asia Crossroads podcast series for host Eric Jones’ conversation about the outcome and implications of the 2019 Thai elections with visiting Fulbright scholar and NIU alumna Puchada Siri (PhD political science, XXXX) and Thai language professor Kanjana Thepboriruk. The discussion focuses on how social media has changed the political landscape in Thailand in many ways. Our podcast following (more than
24,000 listens since its 2016 debut) keeps growing around the world with listeners in 70 countries as we cover topics from history and politics to art and culture.

7. Burnish your resumé with Southeast Asian Studies
Add a Southeast Asian Studies minor to a bachelor’s degree or a graduate certificate to an advanced degree and pull your resumé to the top of the pile. Visit the CSEAS website or stop by CSEAS at 520 College View Court. Undergraduates should contact adviser Matt Jagel at mjagel2@niu.edu; graduate students should contact Assistant Director Jui-Ching Wang at jcwang@niu.edu.

8. Looking for a few good SEA manuscripts
Northern Illinois University Press is seeking quality scholarly, accessible book-length manuscripts in Southeast Asian Studies to consider for publication. Address inquiries to Kenton Clymer, editor, Southeast Asian Series, NIU Press (an imprint of Cornell University Press), at kclymer@niu.edu.

9. Money for study
Center for Indonesian Policy Studies
- **Visiting research fellowships**: Opportunities for Indonesian and non-Indonesian students completing their Indonesia-related doctorate and post-graduate theses to conduct field research in Indonesia over 3-6 month period. **No deadline to apply**. See website.

Rotary International
- **Rotary Peace Fellowships**: Fully paid fellowships for master’s degree (up to two years) or professional development certificate studies (three months) offered through six universities worldwide. **Deadline to apply: May 31**. See website.

East-West Center
- **Affiliate Scholar Program**: Short-term affiliation with the East-West Center for graduate students from around the world to pursue thesis or dissertation research in 2018. **Revolving deadlines to submit**. See website.

ProFellow
- **Dissertation Research Fellowships**: Check the ProFellow website for 30 different opportunities for dissertation research funding.

12. Careers
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
- **Historian**: Full-time position in active forensic laboratory at Joint Base Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, for candidate with understanding of U.S. military history and specialist knowledge of SEA and the Vietnam War. Foreign nationals may be considered. See website.

ISEAS Yusof Ishak Institute
- **Visiting Fellow/China and Mainland SEA**: Two- to six-month fellowship to study social and cultural impact of Chinese capital and labor flows into villages, towns and cities of Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia and/or Laos, starting Jan. 2020. PhD required (political science, sociology, anthropology, or demography studies preferred). See website.

U.S.-ASEAN Business Council
- **Policy and research internships**: Semester internships based in Washington, D.C. Recent graduates encouraged to apply. **Deadline for fall 2020 placement: June 10**. For details, email internships@usasean.org. See website.
Council on Foreign Relations

- **Foreign Affairs Career Center:** Jobs board hosted by council’s respected *Foreign Affairs* journal. From internships to full-time positions listed. See website.

VIA

- **Global Community Fellowship:** 13-15-month program for graduating seniors (2019) and young professionals to work at NGOs, schools, universities and social enterprises in Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. Monthly stipend, travel insurance, 10-day training in Thailand, midyear conference and year-end wrap-up provided; participants pay for transport to and from Asia, plus funds for food during VIA gatherings. See website.

Bridge to Success

- **English Teachers in China:** Ten-month- internships and jobs for English speakers with bachelor’s degree minimum. See website.

Center for Strategic and International Studies

- **Internships:** Full- and part-time internships for undergraduates, advanced students and recent graduates who are interested in gaining practical experience in public policy. Based in Washington, DC. Rolling deadlines to apply. See website.

Eurasia Group

- See website for job opportunities.

Globaljobs.org

- **Job/internship opportunities:** Turn area studies into an internship or a career. See job listings at NGOs, think tanks, government, and private-sector employers. See website.

Chinese Mutual Aid Association

- **Interns:** Pan-Asian social service organization accepting candidates for interns for business development, grant writing and workforce development and outreach liaison duties. Contact Michelle White at michellew@chinesemutualaid.org or 773-784-2900. See website.

US Department of State

- **Student internship program:** Internship opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students at Washington headquarters and US embassies, consulates and missions worldwide. Explore postgraduate civil-service career paths as well. See program website.

ASEAN/ASEC

- **Job listings:** Check website frequently for open positions at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC).

Asia Society

- **Career opportunities:** Internships and jobs posted regularly on website.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations

- Jobs listed under Opportunities tab of ASEAN website.

Devex: Do Good. Do It Well

- International aid and development jobs in 1,000 agencies, companies and NGOs in 100 countries. See website.

DevMetJOBS.org

- International development jobs and consulting opportunities. See website.

Hess International Educational Group

- **Teach English across Asia:** Taiwan-based organization offers free training, benefits, and flex scheduling. See website.

Idealist.org
Privately funded website offers searchable database of nonprofit international jobs and volunteer opportunities. See website.

Learn How to Become
- Privately funded website offers searchable database of meaningful volunteer and nonprofit career options and resources. See website.

ReliefWeb
- Specialized digital service of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs that posts jobs regularly. See website.

World Health Organization
- Global health agency in the United Nations system encourages online applications for potential employment. See website.

The future calls
You can help keep Southeast Asian studies program at NIU vibrant with your contribution through the NIU Foundation. To contribute online, see How to Give and where indicated, specify the Center for Southeast Asian Studies. If your employer matches your charitable donations, please take a moment to fill out that form and double your contribution. We appreciate every gift. Thank you!

Persons with a disability who need assistance at any CSEAS event may contact Office Manager Lisa Heal at 815-753-1771 or lheal@niu.edu. If you no longer wish to receive this bulletin, reply to this e-mail with request to remove your name. Thank you.