Southeast Asia Club officers and World Music graduate students Glynnis White and Mathew Werstler interview CSEAS Assistant Director Kheang Un for Facebook Live at the Center’s Socially Distanced Meet and Greet event Sept. 3 outside at Pottenger House.

Fall lecture series begins

Due to new campus COVID-19 guidelines, CSEAS is currently open by appointment only, but always available by phone (815-753-1771) or email (cseas@niu.edu)

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CSEAS Quick Links

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- Southeast Asia Crossroads podcast
- Mandala 2019
- CSEAS Facebook page
- CSEAS Twitter feed
1. This week’s virtual lecture: Jacob Shell

Jacob Shell, associate professor of geography and urban studies at Temple University, will present “Elephant Riders of the Burmese and Kachin Forestlands: Evasive Mobility, Vadological Geography, and Mahuto-Futurism” from 3 to 4 p.m. Sept. 18 in the first of three fall CSEAS Friday lectures. Funded by the Graduate Colloquium and co-hosted by the Department of Geographic and Atmospheric Sciences, the lecture will be presented virtually via Microsoft Teams; to access go to http://go.niu.edu/ShellLecture. Shell’s research, which has taken him to Myanmar and India, uses critical theories of power and resistance to examine the evolving geographies of transportation and mobility systems.

2. Center associates update: Out in the world

Trude Jacobsen (History) has been named the new General Editor for the six-volume A Cultural History of Southeast Asia to be published by Bloomsbury in 2022–23.

Following a workshop in March, Melissa Lenczewski (Geology and Environmental Geosciences), Tomoyuki Shibata (Public Health), and Tharaphi Than (World Languages and Cultures) met virtually in August with the University of Yangon, local stakeholders, and an international team of academics to finalize the curriculum for Yangon’s new BSc in Water Studies. The group met for five days to “harmonize the contents and objectives of each syllabus” to be submitted to and accredited by Myanmar’s Ministry of Education, according to the Myanmar Water Portal website. The new program will begin in 2021–22.


Doris Macdonald (English), who has been a mainstay mentor for the Center’s Indonesian Peningkatan Kualitas Publikasi Internasional (PKPI) since the program began in 2010, retired in May. Macdonald’s involvement with PKPI led her to Indonesia three times, most recently as a visiting Fulbright Specialist in February 2019 to Muluwarman University in East Kalimantan. Not surprisingly, as an associate professor of applied linguistics and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, she signed up for Indonesian to hone her language skills to help her work more closely with the visiting PKPI graduate students. CSEAS wishes her all the best in her retirement. Selamat jalan, Ibu Doris!

3. Distance SEA language learning gets boost

Virtual language learning in COVID-19 times has resulted in an unexpected opportunity for SEA language faculty Tharaphi Than (Burmese), Kanjana Thepboriruk (Thai), and Rahmi Aoyama (Indonesian) to offer their courses for credit online to external students. Than has welcomed six students from Arizona State University, Indiana University, University of Minnesota, University of Toronto, Tufts University and an non-governmental organization...
to her beginning, intermediate and advanced Burmese. “Courses are going well with the superb assistance and teaching from Maw Maw Tun, our CSEAS-World Language and Cultures TA this year,” Than said. Thepboriruk has two external students, an advanced graduate student from the University of Hawaii and an intermediate student who is a museum curator in Kansas City. Rahmi Aoyama has no external students in her for-credit Indonesian classes, but has three students in her non-credit Distance Indonesian, which will begin this week. CSEAS is part of a national collaboration of National Resource Centers to extend distance SEA language learning to external students in the U.S. and abroad. Find more information on CSEAS distance language options on the CSEAS website.

4. Campus notes: New faces, new fonts, and an unexpected visitor

New faces at CSEAS this year include Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Tirada Soda, who will be teaching Thai with Kanjana Thepboriruk, in addition to new graduate assistants Naijila with Outreach and Matthew Werstler and Viktoriai Thompson with the Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program. Plans are in discussion to incorporate Burmese language fonts into the searchable database of Burmese texts in the Southeast Asia Collection at Founders Memorial Library. The goal of the project, which has not yet begun, is to make it easier for Burmese readers to more easily access the archives using Burmese fonts instead of the Library of Congress transliteration system. Not all visitors to CSEAS look like your typical student or faculty member. Last week, a Cooper’s Hawk landed at the entrance, searching no doubt for advice on taking up an SEA language or applying for a Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) grant. On the other hand, he could have just been looking for his next meal (chipmunks beware). Thanks to associate Catherine Raymond for capturing the moment.

5. Southeast Asia Crossroads: Vietnam’s efforts to be a global market player

Tune in to the latest episode of CSEAS’s Southeast Asia Crossroads podcast series for host Eric Jones’ conversation with Cornell PhD candidate Hoang Minh Vu about his research surrounding the Third Indochina War and Vietnam’s efforts to integrate itself into the economic fabric of the non-Communist global market. 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.

6. 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 Kheang Un at kun1@niu.edu.
7. 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.

8. Money for study NEW

Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) NEW

- **Fellowships:** Two programs, one for scholars (including international scholars who have U.S. residents for at least three years) and one for scholars and doctoral students, for research to be conducted in 15 countries, including Cambodia, Indonesia, and Myanmar. **Deadline to apply:** Jan. 15, 2021. See website.

Center for Indonesian Policy Studies NEW

- **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 NEW

- **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. **2022–23 applications available February 2021.** See website.

ProFellow

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

8. Careers

U.S.-ASEAN Business Council

- **Policy and research internships:** Semester internships based in Washington, D.C. Recent graduates encouraged to apply. **Deadline for spring 2021 placement:** October 10; for **summer 2021 placement:** March 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!