



The Mandala

Newsletter of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies

Center for Southeast Asian Studies
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Spring/Summer 2014
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A bridge so far

The learning goes both ways for NIU alums teaching English in Malaysia, Vietnam

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Director's Chair Judy Ledgerwood

Welcome to this abbreviated version of *Mandala*, shortened due to major staff



changes at CSEAS over the summer. Office Manager **Nancy Schuneman**, the core staff person of the Center for 27 years, retired in June, preceded

in May by Outreach Coordinator **Julie Lamb**. These veteran staff members are both sorely missed. As of Sept. 1, **Rita Miller** from the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, is our new office manager. We welcome her as we begin the 2014–15 academic year.

2013–14 was a very busy year; I will just touch on a few of the highlights. On September 18, we were delighted to welcome Her Royal Highness Princess **Maha Chakri Sirindhorn** of Thailand, who came to NIU to receive an honorary degree. The Princess was in Chicago for the opening of the Chicago History Museum's "Siam: The Queen and the White City" exhibit, which honored her great grandmother's contribution to the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. In conjunction with the NIU ceremony, CSEAS associate and Center for Burma Studies Director **Catherine**



Royal treatment

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand, center, with the NIU party accompanying her to the dais in Altgeld Hall Auditorium including, from left, Professor Emeritus and former CSEAS Director Clark Neher, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Dean Chris McCord, NIU President Doug Baker, Vice President for International Affairs Raymond Alden, Provost Lisa Freeman, and CSEAS Director Judy Ledgerwood. The antique maps of Southeast Asia behind the group were from the Donn V. Hart Southeast Asia Collection and part of an exhibit of Tai art and artifacts on display in Altgeld for the royal visit. (Photo / NIU Media Services)

This just in: CSEAS awarded Title VI funding



As the *Mandala* went to press, the Center received word from the US Department of Education that it has been named a Title VI National Resource Center for the fifth time, and will receive approximately \$2 million in federal funding through 2018. This includes funding for Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships.

Raymond (School of Art) curated an exhibition of Tai art and artifacts from NIU's collections. Her Royal Highness graciously took the time to visit with those in attendance, including faculty,

students and community members.

Her Royal Highness has since donated two beautiful Khon masks to add to the Anthropology Museum collections.

In October, NIU hosted the Council on Thai Studies (COTS) meeting, with keynote speakers **Duncan McCargo** of Leeds University and **Srisompob Jitpiromsri**, director of the Center for Conflict Studies and Cultural Diversity at Prince of Songkla University in Pattani, Thailand. (Jitpiromsri was also in town to receive a Distinguished Alumni award from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.)

During fall semester we also hosted a fourth cohort of graduate fellows from Indonesia sponsored by the Indonesian Department of Higher Education of the Ministry of Education. Eight scholars, all from UNM in Makassar, worked with faculty mentors from across the university, used the library collections and attended CSEAS events. In another project, CSEAS faculty, working with the NIU Office of Sponsored Projects,

conducted training in grant writing with Cambodian university faculty and administrators. This project was conducted with the Cambodian Ministry of Education Directorate General on Higher Education with funds from the World Bank.

We continued our outreach to universities in Burma/Myanmar, signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Yadanabon University in Mandalay.

Christopher McCord, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and I visited Yadanabon University, Yangon University, and Mandalay University in April. **Kenton Clymer** (History) taught a history course at Yangon University in December 2013, **Tharaphi Than** (Foreign Language and Literatures) and **Catherine Raymond** conducted research and presented at conferences this summer, and **Andrea Molnar** (Anthropology) gave lectures on anthropology at Yangon University and Yadanabon University.

Other NIU faculty members are also involved in this effort and other outreach in Southeast Asia. **Melissa Lenczewski**, Director of NIU's Institute for the Study of the Environment, Sustainability and Energy, visited Yadanabon University to consult on water quality issues. Lenczewski, **Buyung Agusdinata** from Engineering, **Tomoyuki Shibata** from Public Health, and **Jim Wilson** from Geography all attended a US-Indonesia Partnership Program (USIPP) conference in Yogyakarta in June. The conference involved six American universities and six Indonesian universities and discussed issues of environment and sustainability.

This past spring, NIU again hosted the Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP) and the Philippine Youth Leadership Program (PYLP), two US State Department programs geared to high school aged youth. SEAYLP brought 50 high schoolers and plus ten adult leaders from ten ASEAN countries to NIU for leadership training. At the end of the program, NIU President **Doug Baker**, whose own household was a host family, announced the establishment



Return of SEAYLP

After a year hiatus, the State Department-funded Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program returned to NIU in the spring with 50 students and 11 adult leaders from 10 Southeast Asian countries. Led by SEAYLP administrative manager Maria "Rai" Nihei, the program added a global leadership camp that brought 15 U.S. high school students from the area, pictured above, to meet their Southeast Asian peers for a weekend of activities at the Stronghold retreat center in Oregon, Ill.

of a scholarship program to provide tuition waivers to SEAYLP alumni. Two alumni so far are taking advantage of this opportunity and are enrolled for fall semester, with more expressing interest. This year we also revised our graduate curriculum, switching from a Graduate Concentration to a Graduate Certificate. One main advantage is that professionals beyond the university can now enroll for the certificate as a "student at large" without having to be enrolled in a degree program at NIU. It also reduces the total number of language hours required for the certificate, hopefully opening the program to more students in the sciences and professional schools. Language requirement remain the same for PhD students in History and Political Science since those are set by departments.

Looking forward, we are excited that several people who have been on leave for all or part of the last year are back: **Jui-Ching Wang** (School of Music) from teaching a field school on music in Bali, **Kikue Hamayotsu** (Political Science) from sabbatical, **Susan Russell** (Anthropology) from her Presidential Engagement Professor leave, and **Trude Jacobsen** (History/NGOLD) back from

research in England. **John Hartmann**, who taught Thai language at NIU since 1968, has also retired. (We'll miss you John!) We welcome back **Piyathida Serebenjapol**, former Thai FLTA and NIU graduate student, who will teach Thai this year.

In October we will have visits from two more Burmese librarians (four visited this summer; see **Library Update** on page 5). The six are receiving training at the University of Washington, Arizona State University, and Rutgers University – two librarians at each institution for one month – and then all six will visit NIU for about 10 days. And across the fall semester we are expecting another cohort of Indonesian postgraduate fellows. For the first time, NIU is offering classes in Vietnamese language, part of a distance learning exchange with the University of Wisconsin-Madison where students at UWM remotely join our Burmese classes and NIU students take UWM classes in Vietnamese.

Welcome to a new academic year! I hope everyone returns rested and happy and ready to dive into a new year of teaching, research, and exchanges with Southeast Asia.



Rita Miller

Transitions: Greeting and farewells

There are a number of new faces at the Center this semester. **Rita Miller** is the new CSEAS Office Manager, coming to CSEAS from the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, where she worked as an office support specialist for the past seven years. Also new to the Center this fall are graduate assistants **Iqra Anugrah**, who is teaching the Center’s undergraduate survey course, SEAS 225, and **Azri Agoes**, who is coordinating the Overseas Postgraduate Fellowship program (also known as the Sandwich program), a collaborative effort of CSEAS and Indonesia’s Directorate General of Higher Education (DIKTI). Ten Indonesian graduate fellows are arriving on campus in September for three months to work with faculty mentors on honing their research and writing skills. Iqra and Azri are PhD students in political science. NIU alumnus **Julien Ehrenkönig** (MA anthropology, 2014) is temporarily filling the duties of Outreach Coordinator. The Center has not yet been cleared to fill that position permanently.

Associate professor **Trude Jacobsen** (History/NGOLD) is back as assistant CSEAS director for the fall semester after spending a fellowship year in England. She is also debuting SEAS 625/HIST 660, a graduate-level survey course examining key texts in Southeast Asian studies. Jacobsen is also the new assistant chair in History.

Faces we’ll miss

It was a bittersweet gathering **May 2** at the end-of-semester potluck-turned-farewell party honoring a number of departing CSEAS colleagues. Longtime Office Manager **Nancy Schuneman**, who worked for six directors in her 27 years at the Center, and Thai language professor **John Hartmann** (Foreign Languages & Literatures), who came to NIU in 1974, had announced their plans to retire after spring semester. Outreach Coordinator **Julia Lamb**,

who came to NIU as a graduate student in 1981 and built the center’s successful outreach efforts from the ground up since joining CSEAS in 1997, announced her retirement shortly thereafter. Other departures marked at the gathering were those of Indonesian language professor **Patricia Henry** (Foreign Language & Literatures) and computer scientist **Jim Henry** (Computer Science), who officially retired in 2013, but were on campus in various capacities during 2013–14. Also, associate **Michael Buehler** (Political Science) has

accepted a position at the University of London’s School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS). About seventy faculty, staff, and students, including retirees **Clark and Arlene Neher** and **Richard and Thecla Cooler**, attended the farewell at the home of Ledgerwood and CSEAS associate **Kheang Un** (Political Science). “We will keenly miss all of these friends and colleagues, some of whom have been here more than thirty years and contributed immeasurably to the Center,” said CSEAS Director **Judy Ledgerwood**.



Office Manager
Nancy Schuneman



Language professors John Hartmann and
Patricia Henry



Computer science professor
Jim Henry



Outreach coordinator
Julia Lamb

Shelf life: Burmese librarians train at Founders

By **Julien Ehrenkönig**

For ten days in late June and early July, four librarians from three universities in Myanmar/Burma hit the books themselves at Founders Memorial Library. They came to NIU to learn about library collection development, preservation, and digitization techniques under the watchful eye of CSEAS associates **Chalermsee Olson**, associate dean for collections and technical services, **Hao Phan**, curator of the Donn V. Hart Southeast Asia Collection, and **Catherine Raymond**, director of the Center for Burma Studies (CBS).

La Pye Win Htun (University of Yangon), **Ni Ni Naing** (University Central Library), **Sanda Oo** (Yadanabon University), and **Yin Yin Aye** (University Central Library) traveled to NIU as part of a collaborative training program sponsored by Arizona State University, the University of Washington, Rutgers University, and NIU (under the auspices of CBS and CSEAS).

Prior to arriving in DeKalb, the four librarians visited ASU and UWash (two at each campus) to learn about cataloging, librarian management, digitization of books and other scholarly materials, and techniques for sharing online databases and resources.

The library project is one of a number of initiatives by U.S. educational institutions, including NIU, to help support higher education in Myanmar (see related story in NIU Today). Funding for the NIU session was provided by the NIU Foundation through an endowment created by the late May Kyi Win, curator of the Hart Collection from 1994 until her death in 2002. Under Win's curatorship, the university acquired valuable Burmese materials, including a number of rare manuscripts and Win, intensely proud of

her Burmese heritage, made important bibliographic contributions to her field.

During their time at NIU, the librarians toured the facilities at Founders and received training in workshops presented by the University Libraries' special collections staffs at the Hart Collection, the Regional History Center, the Music School Library, and the Rare Books Collection.

Hao Phan and Hart Collection staff worked with the librarians on the preservation and collection of palm-leaf manuscripts and *parabaik* (paper) manuscripts, and discussed the benefits of digitization to scholars worldwide. They also toured several off-campus public libraries to get varied perspectives on library collection management.

The Regional History Center conducted an all-day workshop on the principles and methods of archiving, and provided an opportunity for the group to practice the techniques. The group learned about managing specialized collections in sessions at the Music

Library and Rare Books Collection.

The librarians share the goal of building a stronger and more efficient library system in Myanmar, said Yin Yin Aye. "Back home there is little knowledge in our archives about the proper preservation methods and tools to sustain our collections," she said. Libraries are making efforts to transform the traditional library into a virtual e-library in an effort to make their materials more accessible to library users, noted Sanda Oo.

Upon their return, the group will meet with Myanmar's Minister of Education and representatives from Myanmar's university libraries to share what they learned in the U.S. In October, two more librarians will come to NIU for training in library collection development and preservation.

Before coming to work at CSEAS as Acting Outreach Coordinator, Julien Ehrenkönig (MA anthropology, 2014) worked as a graduate assistant in Founders Memorial Library in the Hart Collection and at the Regional History Center.



Regional History Center curator Danielle Spalenka, right, shows the Burmese librarians a volume from NIU's Wurlitzer Collection as an example of specialized materials suitable for archiving. The librarians also learned how to clean a damaged manuscript using special materials. (Photos / Julien Ehrenkönig)

Malaysia: Negotiating identity in an adopted home

By Matthew Ropp

It is 2 in the afternoon, the sun beating down on my unprotected skin; I can already feel the uncomfortable warmth settling into my tissue letting me know that by tomorrow I will be the color of a freshly steamed shrimp. Sweat is streaming from every pore and I begin to question why I'm still outside allowing myself to suffer like this. I've been working with two others since about 9 AM, mowing lawns, pulling weeds, and clearing gutters of what seems like foot-deep caked mud and grime. This is the third worksite we've been to today, and it looks like we won't get around to finishing the rest of the work until tomorrow afternoon. I take a short break in the shade at the base of a cellular tower where we've been doing routine maintenance and fantasize of more relaxing ways I could spend a weekend, like taking a dip at one of the beaches I can spot from my vantage point at the top of a hill.

I would be less exasperated with this use of my time if it weren't for the irony that my actual day job is serving as an English Teaching Assistant (ETA) on a 2013–14 Fulbright grant in Malaysia. A little less than six months ago I was doing not dissimilar grounds-keeping work in my hometown in Illinois with a local parks department as a way to pass time and earn money before my grant period started.

Former CSEAS assistant Matthew Ropp, who studied Malay both on campus and in Malaysia while attending NIU, received his BA in communications with minors in linguistics and Southeast Asian studies in 2013. SarahEmily Lekberg (MM music, 2013), an ethnomusicology specialist focusing on Vietnam, also received a 2013–14 Fulbright ETA grant. Lekberg studied Vietnamese as a FLAS fellow at the 2012 Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Fulbright ETA Matthew Ropp enjoys a moment in class with some of his Form 6 students at the Malaysian secondary school in Besut, Terengganu, where he has been teaching since January.

I have been working as a Fulbright ETA since January, located in a secondary school in Besut, Terengganu (on the east coast of Malaysia). My job entails cooperating with local English teachers to carry out speaking lessons and activities that complement the core English curriculum. Although my community is relatively rural, with most students residing in small villages called *kampung*, Besut is also one of the most visited locations in Malaysia due to its proximity to the Perhentian island group. Despite the seasonal tourist traffic, many students and community members have had little interaction with foreigners. Malaysians are known for being hospitable, but ETAs often receive 'rock-star treatment' as they are welcomed into their communities.

With everyone so excited over the novelty of a new (albeit temporary) neighbor, co-worker, and friend, integration into my community came easy for me. I found myself having to turn down as many offers to play sports, visit homes, provide tutoring, attend mosque, as I could accept due to time constraints

and limitations on the actual work I could engage in (Fulbright grantees are not allowed to seek paid employment outside of their role as an assistant teacher).

Through this series of community invitations, I met Pak Din, an office staffer who I'd been told played the role of *ayah angkat* – adoptive father – to the previous ETA at my school (Malaysian schools typically contract with the ETA program for three years; I am the third and potentially last ETA at my school). Pak Din and his family instantly warmed to me, family dinners becoming commonplace, along with weekend fishing trips yielding no catch but fostering friendship. I harvested fruits in his garden, attended his eldest son's wedding, and sat bedside during a particularly vicious bout of flu. After spending so much time in Pak Din's company, I accepted each new invitation to participate in another aspect of his home life with enthusiasm, which is why I also agreed to assist him in some landscaping work on the weekend, in the dark about exactly what kind of work it

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Vietnam: A new voice among new sounds

By SarahEmily Lekberg

Editor's note: Lekberg began her Fulbright ETA assignment in August 2013 at An Giang University where she taught English speaking skills, American studies, and American literature first semester. She taught pronunciation and speaking skills to younger students. Lekberg kept a blog during her time as an ETA. Following are excerpts from her January 13, 2014 entry.

Since coming to Vietnam, I've noticed that there are many instances when the sounds around me (or lack thereof) have made huge impressions on me. So I'd like to devote this blog post to discussing the various sounds in my life here in Vietnam.

Intense / Odd Noises

Birds in my apartment: One morning I was awakened by a weird sound in my room. It sounded like the little water heater was bubbling and I was terrified that I'd left it on all night. As I walked into the living room I noticed that it wasn't on. Upon hearing the sound coming from above my head I looked up to see two sparrows flying back and forth between the windowsill and the ledge above the front door. The sound I had heard was not water boiling, but wings fluttering! I still have no idea how they got in.

Car/motorbike horns on the street: Cars have become increasingly more popular in Vietnam, but motorbikes still account for the majority of wheeled vehicles on the street. Most roads are either one lane or two, and people pretty much do whatever they want in terms of rules. This means they are constantly careening around each other and trying to communicate to others to get out of the way. They do this by honking. When I first arrived I thought everyone was perpetually angry while driving. This is not the case, of course, but it is something that takes a lot of time to get used to!

Broadcasts every morning: Every weekday, there is a man who rides around the dorm compound and blasts some kind of public



Fulbright ETA SarahEmily Lekberg flies kites with some of her students, senior education majors at An Giang University in Long Xuyên, Vietnam.

service announcement. I have no idea what it says, mostly because I am generally too sleepy to translate or the sound quality is too terrible to understand.

Flip-flop sprinting: There are two men who jog around the dorms every once in a while. No problem, right? Except for the part when they jog in tandem, in flip-flops, at SAM!

Cacophony

Rehearsal for Teacher's Day: The weekend before the Teacher's Day competitions began, we had a few rehearsals for our group number. All of the other groups had to do the same. So, instead of everyone going into separate classrooms or individuals' homes, we all met in the huge breezeway behind the school to practice. This meant that at any given time between 6 and 10 PM, there were five to six dance and vocal ensembles blasting their backup music and making a valiant effort to block out everyone else's. It was absolutely remarkable.

Children in the morning: Each weekday morning around 7AM, there are seven to eight children who have PE right outside my bedroom window. Yeah. . . .

Break time in class: When I give my students a break, the room, which was relatively quiet five seconds before, erupts into intense conversations, laughter, singing, and general shouting. I love

listening to them exchanging snatches of English and Vietnamese, which I affectionately call Vienglish. Some fun examples of this are *rất đẹp* (very beautiful) becomes "*rất beautiful*" or "*very đẹp*."

Sounds I love

TCS (Trịnh Công Sơn) music everywhere: The late Trịnh Công Sơn is one of the composers I researched for my master's thesis and I am still extremely interested in his life and music. I have read many articles/books/websites that state that TCS is the most beloved composer in Vietnam. Now that I live here, I meet with this reality on a daily basis as I cannot go into a coffee shop without hearing various acoustic, vocal, and instrumental renditions of his famous songs both live and in recorded form.

Vietnamese: I love hearing Vietnamese, regardless of whether or not I fully understand a conversation. The language is beautiful to me and it constantly presents a challenge for me to improve.

My Vietnamese name: I have been lucky enough to have been given a Vietnamese name. I love it and it holds a lot of meaning for me! It was given to me by my RCCD (continuing education students) one night when we were all out for dinner. They mentioned that they

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Horizons (cont'd)

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was and how much time it would require.

As sweat drips in my eyes, bringing me back to the task at hand, I reflect on why I had chosen to follow Pak Din to the top of this hill rather than excusing myself halfway through the day by fabricating an important meeting or heat sickness (though the latter would not have been entirely untrue). After all, I would not, could not be paid for these long days of labor. I had no reason except 'saving face,' or maintaining my communal integrity, to see the work through to completion.

It suddenly starts to sink in that the work I was doing was out of a feeling of obligation, or duty. It may not have been particularly glamorous – it was certainly too strenuous to be considered enjoyable – but in a small way it was my thanks to Pak Din for accepting me as more than

a guest, treating me less as novelty than family, a permanent fixture for a brief span of time. After completing my work with Pak Din, I also felt proud of myself for sacrificing minor comforts for the tangible satisfaction of a job well done.

In traditional Malay culture, a concept called *gotong-royong* influenced and strengthened community bonds by bringing many together to accomplish tasks that the few could not. Literally translated as mutual aid or cooperation, the implication of *gotong-royong* still fortifies community in Malaysia today. Since working with Pak Din, I have tried to see events like this as my own version of *gotong-royong*.

I have continued to attempt to go beyond my duties as an assistant teacher at every chance I am provided. Some

other notches on my *gotong-royong* belt include teaming up with male teachers at the school to prepare a whole cow for a Teacher's day barbecue, attending choir practices and singing at a district-wide ceremony, breaking fast during the month of Ramadan at the homes of teachers and students, even taking care of a neighbor's cat and month-old kittens while he and his wife were away having a child of their own.

Although my *gotong-royong* may not be grand in vision or scope, it has meaning for me as I negotiate my identity in my adoptive Malaysian community. I was always taught that it's the little things in life that count, and so these "random acts of kindness" are the things that I place importance on at home, wherever that may be.

Vietnam: A new voice among new sounds

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wanted American names and suggested that I help them pick names during the next class period. I replied with, "yeah sure! But only if I get a Vietnamese name." They pondered this as a group and finally settled on *My Nương*, which is the ancient name for princess in Vietnamese language/culture. They chose this name because they learned on the first day of class that Sarah means princess. When anyone uses this name I feel a little bit closer to them, to Vietnamese culture and to the language.

Silence

General Giap's funeral: When General Giap (a prominent figure in Vietnamese political history) passed away this last semester, I happened to be in Ho Chi Minh City when his funeral was taking place. One way the Vietnamese people observe deaths and funerals is by limiting certain things, like music. This meant that on the busiest street in the backpacker's district, they were still selling beer on the street, but every club and bar was silent except for the voices of those inside.

The cave: To celebrate Thanksgiving, all of the Fulbrighters gathered in Hanoi at the ambassador's house to enjoy a turkey dinner. Afterward we took a trip to Ninh Binh, which is located just south of Hanoi in the Red River Delta. There was an area where we could go hiking in a slightly mountainous region. We followed the signs to the 1,000-year-old tree and a cave. When we entered the mouth of the cave we noticed that it was very narrow and there were no lights. All I can say is, thank goodness for those ridiculously bright iPhone lights. I've explored a few caves in Vietnam, but they have all been with the help of a guide. This time we were on our own. As we wandered deeper and deeper into the cave, we quickly made friends with others exploring the cave. One of our group came up with the idea to observe a moment of silence and complete darkness, which everyone agreed to. As we all switched off our cell phone lights, we were completely engulfed by the complete silence and darkness of the cave. It was calming, terrifying, hysterical. All

of these emotions ran through my head as I stood silently with nineteen people for thirty seconds. When the time was up, we walked out of the cave, singing "Silent Night."

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There are many times when I am surrounded by people who love me and whom I love in return. I am so grateful for them and the relationships we've formed in such a short time. There are also many times when I am surrounded by thousands of people I do not know, people who write me off as another blonde tourist and do not attempt to speak. There have been times when I've been silenced by my own lack of knowledge regarding the culture or language. There are times when I have silenced myself because I was too scared to reach out. Sometimes the silence is deafening. My wish for this semester is that I will be able to continue creating a voice for myself, continue reaching out, and continue on this path that is often difficult to trek.

Center Council News and Notes

Kenton Clymer (History)

- Spent the month of December teaching a course at Yangon University on the history of U.S. relations with Myanmar/Burma since WWII. Clymer was the first foreign visiting professor since 1962 to teach at the school's history department
- Hosted Zhang Hang, a visiting doctoral student from Sun Yat-Sen University in Guangzhou, China, for the 2013–14 academic year. Hang's dissertation focuses on the relationship between the Philippines and the US from 1961 to 1973 during the Vietnam War
- Taught a short course on US relations with SEA, in particular Burma, at the School of International Affairs at Renmin University in Beijing. While in China, he also presented "From Deep Freeze to Thaw: US Relations with Burma/Myanmar since 8/8/88" at the Economics and Politics symposium at Renmin in Beijing and at Southwest University and at the Southwest University of Political Science and Law in Chongqin
- Presented "From Deep Freeze to Thaw: US Relations with Burma/Myanmar since 8/8/88" at the International Burma Studies Conference in August in Singapore. Also on the panel was Chinese scholar Bai Xuefeng, a visiting scholar at CSEAS in 2013

Kikue Hamayotsu (Political Science)

- Was promoted to associate professor in fall 2013
- Published "Competitive Elections and Ethnic and Religious Politics in a Transforming Malaysia" in the Autumn 2013 edition of *Berita*
- Published "The Limits of Civil Society in Democratic Indonesia; Media Freedom and Religious Intolerance" in the *Journal of Contemporary Asia* (43.4 [Nov. 2013])
- Published "Towards a More Democratic Regime and Society? The Politics of Faith and Ethnicity

Working with a net: Katharine Wiegele

While in the Philippines in March doing field research in Batangas Province, adjunct anthropology professor Katharine Wiegele took a few days to hop a C-130 cargo plane to go to Tacloban City on a mission: to deliver a motorized fishing boat to a family affected by Typhoon Haiyan, which devastated the Philippines in November 2013. Wiegele contacted a Filipino NGO, the Manahan Foundation, to arrange the donation. Prior to leaving DeKalb, Wiegele worked with family, friends, and colleagues to raise enough funds to purchase three fishing boats and supplies to fully equip them with nets, goggles and fishing gear. Students of Tagalog instructor and CSEAS associate Rhodalyne Gallo-Crail held several bake sales in fall and spring to also raise funds. The Asian American Center and the NIU Rotaract Club also helped with fund-raising. Tacloban City was the areas hardest hit by the typhoon and the need for help is still dire, Wiegele said. "The fishermen were extremely grateful for the boats, but they are still dealing with the tragedy of their own personal losses," Wiegele said in an interview with NIU Today. "People there are still in shock. They have no homes, most have lost family members or friends, and they don't have jobs." Wiegele, a Peace Corps volunteer in the Philippines in the 1980s, was in country interviewing fishermen and women along the Verde Island Passage in Batangas. She was one of 15 scholars participating in an international National Science Foundation project, led by NIU anthropology professor Giovanni Bennardo, examining the cultural models of nature held by primary food producers in world regions affected by climate change.



Wiegele, left, delivers nets to outfit the donated fishing boats she took to Tacloban City in March.

- in a Transitional Multi-Ethnic Malaysia" in the *Journal of Current Southeast Asian Affairs* (2 [2013])
- Presented "Elections, Religion and Democracy in Indonesia: Why is Islam Not Winning?" March 28 at the United States-Indonesia Society in Washington, DC
- Discussed electoral politics in Muslim majority states on a panel at

- the Oct. 2013 symposium *Islamism in Southeast Asia*, sponsored by the Islamic Studies program at the University of Michigan
- Presented at a workshop in May at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame.

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Center Council News and Notes (cont'd)

John Hartmann (Foreign Languages and Literatures)

- Demonstrated his interactive website “Hello Southeast Asia: An Interactive Sampling of the Spoken and Written Languages of SEA” at the 22nd annual Conference on Southeast Asian Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics in July with co-presenter Nay Yan Oo (MA student, political science)

Trude Jacobsen (History)

- Has been appointed assistant chair of the History department
- Presented on anti-trafficking initiatives at a seminar organized by the Centre for History in Public Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine while a fellow there during the fall 2013 semester
- Published “Debt Bondage in Cambodia’s Past– and Implications for its Present” in *Studies in Gender and Sexuality* 15.1 (2014)
- Led the panel “The Past in Burma’s (Gendered) Present: Historicizing Intersectionality in Myanmar” at the Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs in East Lansing, Mich., in October. NIU graduate students Nicole Loring (political science) and Katrina Chludzinski (history) presented on the panel.

Jennifer Kirker-Priest (Anthropology)

- Received a \$6,000 Preservation Assistance grant for the NIU Anthropology Museum in December from the National Endowment for the Humanities
- Received a \$150,000 grant in September from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to purchase additional compact storage for the museum

Judy Ledgerwood (Anthropology)

- Presented “Cambodian Cultures/ Khmerican Identities” at the Oct. 17–19 Crossing Borders, Bridging Cultures workshop sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities

Andrea Molnar (Anthropology)

- Presented at the 12th International Conference on Thai Studies in April at the University of Sydney, along with NIU adjunct Alan Potkin and NIU alumni including Paul Chambers (PhD political science, 2003), Robert Dayley (PhD political science, 1997), Poonnatree Jiviriyaboonya (MA anthropology, 2012), M.I. Pinitbhand Paribatra (PhD political science, 2013), Jacob Ricks (MA political science, 2007), and Napisa Waitookiat (PhD political science, 2005)

Grant Olson (Foreign Languages and Literatures)

- Chaired the 2013 Council on Thai Studies (COTS) annual meeting at NIU with the NIU Thai Studies Group (CSEAS associates John Hartmann, Julie Lamb, Andrea Molnar, Chalermsee Olson and Danny Unger).

Hao Phan (University Libraries)

- Traveled to Malaysia and the Philippines in May and June to acquire research materials on Malaysia and the Philippines for the Donn V. Hart Southeast Asia Collection. While there he visited U.S. Library of Congress offices in both Kuala Lumpur and Manila to discuss NIU acquisitions.

Catherine Raymond (School of Art, Center for Burma Studies)

- Gave a background lecture on Myanmar/Burma on Jan. 22 to Northwestern University School of Law students
- Presented “The Political Economy of Art, Tourism and Burmese Heritage” Feb. 1 at a Myanmar symposium sponsored by the University of Michigan’s International Economic Development Program
- Presented on the panel “Conserving and Sharing Burma’s Heritage” at the International Burma Studies Conference in July in Singapore.

Susan Russell (Anthropology)

- Participated in an Oct. 17 briefing

of the then-new U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines Philip Goldberg, following two months of research with Mindano NGOs and civil society representatives on the peace accord with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front



- Conducted the 11th session of the Philippine Youth Leadership Program (PYLP) at NIU in May with International Training Office Director and CSEAS associate Lina Davide-Ong. While touring the White House in Washington DC, participants were treated to a rare photo opportunity when they were invited to the South lawn to see President Obama board the presidential helicopter and he turned and waved to the group.

Tharaphi Than (Foreign Languages and Literatures)

- Has published a new book, *Women in Modern Burma* (Routledge, 2014)
- Published “The Languages of Pyidawtha and the Burmese Approach to National Development” in *South East Asia Research Journal* (21:4)
- Was quoted in a March 9 New York Times article, “Education Programs Try to Close gaps in Myanmar”
- Presented “Juggling between Religion and Modernity: The World of Burmese Women Writers” Oct. 19 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for Southeast Asian Studies’ Friday forum
- Presented papers over the summer at a conference at Yangon University in Myanmar/ Burma and at the inaugural AAS-in-Asia conference in July.

Words and remembrance: John Hartmann

At the beginning of his NIU career as a linguist, Thai language professor and co-creator of SEAsite, John Hartmann found himself in Iowa in 1975 conducting linguistic research with Laotian refugees airlifted there at the end of the Vietnam War. That connection still runs deep. Hartmann helped spearhead the first International Conference on Lao Studies in 2005 at NIU and was a co-founder of the San Francisco-based Center for Lao Studies. Over the years, he has fostered close ties with the large and vibrant Laotian community in nearby Elgin, Ill. Most recently, Hartmann has been involved with the community's Lao Oral History Project through the Gail Borden Public Library District and the first-ever Lao Summer Camp for Kids in August at the Lao Buddhist Temple in Elgin. The two-week camp was organized by NIU alum Phetsamone Lay Haverkos. It drew 20 Lao-American children to learn about their cultural heritage, offering daily classes in language, storytelling, traditional dress, singing, literacy,



Hartmann and Elgin resident Thonglouane Keorajavongsay head for the runway after Hartmann is drafted to model traditional Lao attire at the Summer Camp for Kids. (Photo courtesy Phetsamone Lay Haverkos)

food and games. Kids also practiced meditation and chanting Buddhist prayers in both Lao and Pali. The last day of camp concluded with performances, a fashion show, and the lowering of lotus-shaped candle floats in the pond on the site. Hartmann, an honored guest at the closing ceremonies, received a certificate of appreciation for his "support and contributions to preserving Lao history, language and culture."

Kheang Un (Political Science)

- Published "The Khmer Rouge Tribunal: A Politically Compromised Search for Justice" in *Journal of Asian Studies* (JAS 72.4: 783–92)
- Published "Maintaining Parliamentary Boycott, Cambodia's Opposition Pushes for Change" in the Feb. 5 edition of *World Politics Review*
- Presented at the Nov. 22–23 Great Games in Central and Southeast Asia in the Great Power Politics international conference in South Korea.

Jui-Ching Wang (School of Music)

- Presented "Do I Sound Chinese Now? A Musical and Cultural Analysis of Students' Learning Experience in the Northern Illinois Chinese Music Ensemble" at the Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs in October.

Katharine Wiegele (Anthropology)

- Contributed "Politics, Education, and Civic Participation: Catholic Charismatic Modernities in

the Philippines" in *Pentecostal Modernities: Charismatic Christianity and the Politics of Citizenship*, ed. Robert W. Hefner, (Indiana University Press, 2013)

Robert Zerwekh (Computer Science)

- Is developing an app for Thai language study as an enhancement to SEAsite, funded by a grant from the Royal Thai government

Artful accolade: Catherine Raymond

Center for Burma Studies Director Catherine Raymond (School of Art) accepts NIU's 2013 Outstanding International Educator award from Vice President for International Affairs Raymond Alden during International Education Week in November. In commending her, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Dean Christopher McCord cited Raymond's "discreet and diplomatic" work over several years to return a Buddha image to its rightful home in Burma as well as her creativity in curating an exhibit of Tai art and artifacts for the September visit of Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand. (Photo / CSEAS)



Teaching at the crossroads



Iqra Anugrah

The Center welcomes **Iqra Anugrah** (PhD student, political science), who will be teaching the Center's Southeast Asia survey course, SEAS 225 (formerly ILAS 225) for the 2014–15 academic year.

Iqra brings a lifelong interest in comparative politics to the classroom. "My mom was a student activist when she was in college and I myself joined a student organization when I was in middle school," Iqra said. "Growing up in Jakarta, where you can clearly see the gap between the privileged and the 'ordinary folks,' also shaped my sense of political consciousness,

I guess. The issues of social justice, political participation, and the like have always been my concerns."

Because SEAS 225 is an introductory course, it covers not only Southeast Asian politics, but also the region's diverse history, culture, art, economics and environmental issues, with many lectures by NIU's SEA specialists.

"In recent years there have been important developments in Southeast Asia in all aspects, such as rising economic growth, closer regional cooperation, burgeoning social movements, more open political culture, and various environmental problems, among others," Iqra said. "This opens up new opportunities for students to engage with the region through traveling, volunteering, and even studying and researching the region. This also means that there is a variety of interesting career opportunities dealing with Southeast Asia after college graduation."

Iqra sees other benefits to the course as well. "At the more practical level, this course will also help the students to become a better reader of area studies

literature and a better academic and professional writer, two important skills that are needed in college and workplace after graduation," he said.

Iqra received a bachelor's and a master's degree from Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University in 2010 and 2011 and a master's in political science from Ohio University in 2012, after which he began his PhD studies in comparative politics at NIU. His research interests include democratization, elite and state formations, social movements, the philosophy of science, ethnographic and historical methods, critical social theory and Islam. He received the Political Science department's Russell W. Smith Memorial Scholarship in May and (for the second year) a research grant from the American-Indonesian Cultural and Educational Foundation. He has just published a chapter, "Ethno-religious Sentiments and Representations in the Dynamics of Jakarta's Urban Landscape," in *Asian Social Landscapes*, ed. A. Mani (Singapore: Swarnadivida Publishing, 2014).

Presenting and publishing

Virak Thun (MA political science, 2014) published an analysis of the political opposition in Cambodia in the newly launched online *Indo-Pacific Review* in October. He also published an online review in May of *Beyond Democracy in Cambodia: Political Reconstruction in a Post-Conflict Society* (NIAS Press, 2009) in New Mandala. . . . History graduate student **Amando Boncales** presented "The Political and Historical Discourse of the Philippine Claim over Sabah" in March at the University of Oxford's Southeast Asian Studies Symposium at Keble College. . . . **Thomas Rhoden** (PhD candidate, political science) presented "Oligarchy in Thailand" at the 12th International Conference on Thai Studies in April at the University of Sydney. He also published "The Liberal in Liberal Democracy" in *Democratization* (20.7). . . . **Tiffanesha Williams** (MA political science, 2014) presented "Re-Imagining State Formation and political Legitimacy: Founders Cult Ideology in Southeast Asia" at the 2014 Cornell University Southeast Asian Studies' graduate conference **Azriansyah Agoes** (PhD student, political science) published a review of the book *Islam in Indonesia: Contrasting Images and Interpretations* (University of Chicago Press, 2013) in *The German Journal on Contemporary Asia* 129 (Oct. 2013).

The FLTA advantage



Three Foreign Language Teaching Assistants (FLTAs), including one from Burma/Myanmar, have joined the language program for 2014–15: from left, **Pruksapan Bantawtook** (Thai), **Maw Maw Tun** (Burmese), and **Riyani** (Indonesian). (Photo / CSEAS)

Graduates, awards, and name recognition

Seventeen CSEAS-affiliated graduate and undergraduate students graduated from NIU during the 2013–14 academic year. Thirteen undergraduates received bachelor's degrees with minors in Southeast Asian Studies: **Dustin Andrews** (history), **Bethany Brown** (French), **Brittany Hebler** (political science), **Ernest Henton** (psychology), **Jessica Hing** (hospitality), **Mark Kral** (anthropology), **Ron Leonhardt** (history/political science), **Savannah Lira** (political science), **Andrew Lindemulder** (political science), **Marco Pe** (political science), **Brianne Pruitt** (psychology), **Michael Theodore** (political science), and **Anna Weygand** (anthropology). Four graduate students completed advanced degrees with a concentration in Southeast Asian studies. Congratulations to **Julien Ehrenkönig** (MA anthropology), **Colleen Gray** (MA anthropology), **Nicole Loring** (MA political science), and **Tiffanesha Williams** (MA political science).

In other news:

Congratulations to former CSEAS graduate assistant **Srie Ramli**, who received her PhD in political science in May and is currently working as a Training Specialist for short-term training programs for international participants at NIU's International Training Office.



Congratulations and farewell to 2013–14 CSEAS graduate assistant **Dani Muhtada**, who was awarded his PhD in political science in August. He is now teaching in the Department of Law at Semarang State University in Indonesia.

Sirojuddin Arif (PhD student, political science) won a 2013–14 research grant from the American-Indonesian Cultural and Educational Foundation (AICEF).

Ron Leonhardt (BA, history/political science) was accepted into the History PhD program at George Washington University.

Ronnie Nataatmadja (PhD student, political science) received a 2013–14 American Institute for Indonesian Studies (AIFIS) Luce Fellowship.

Thomas Rhoden (PhD candidate, political science) received a 2014–15 David L. Boren Fellowship to study the Karen language in Thailand while working on his dissertation.

Alexxandra Salazar (MA student, anthropology) was named

Outstanding Graduate Student by the Anthropology department.

Lily Ann Villaraza (PhD candidate, history) is teaching a class on the history of the Philippines for City College of San Francisco's Philippine Studies Department. Villaraza spent ten weeks in the Philippines over the summer conducting research for her dissertation.

Tiffanesha Williams (MA political science, 2014) was accepted into the Political Science PhD program at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

The **Southeast Asia Club's** 2014–15 officers are: **Scott Hanley**, president; **Krista Albers**, vice president; **Edward Pieri**, secretary; **Isabelle Squires**, treasurer; **James DeWitz**, cultural events chair with **Carlo Aseron** and **Piyawit Moonkham**; **Alexxandra Salazar**, conference coordinator with **Elise Waite**, and **Carlo Aseron**, outreach/marketing chair with **Andrew Waite** and **Cecelie Keys**.

The Center for Burma Studies' **Burma Interest Group-NIU** for will be headed in 2014–15 by **Nay Yan Oo**, president; **Katrina Chludzinski**, vice president; and **Nicole Loring**, treasurer.

Prize-winning papers

Graduate student **Thomas Rhoden** (PhD candidate, political science) and undergraduate **John Hood** (anthropology) won the awards for best papers at the Southeast Asia Club's spring student conference April 5. Rhoden presented "Extending the Theory of Oligarchy to Thailand" and Hood presented "Re-Imagining the Rakhine State: Ethnic and Religious Conflict in Myanmar." The conference keynote speaker was esteemed Yale political science professor **James C. Scott**. Twenty-three students from NIU, University of Michigan, University of Wisconsin and the School of the Art Institute presented papers on topics ranging from US patron-client relations in the Philippines during the Johnson Administration to graphic book narratives in Indonesia. From left, are Scott, Rhoden, Hood, and conference coordinator Brian Ventura during the closing ceremony. (Photo / CSEAS)



Making strides in language studies

Thirteen graduate students and four undergraduates sharpened their Southeast Asian language skills at NIU over in 2013–14 as recipients of Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships funded by a Title VI grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Graduate FLAS fellows were: **Robert Bulanda** (Tagalog), **Julien Ehrenkönig** (Indonesian), **Colleen Gray** (Indonesian) and **Anthonie Tumpag** (Indonesian) from Anthropology; **Jesse Conrad** (Indonesian) from English; **Scott Abel** (Indonesian), **Krista Albers** (Khmer), **Ryan Broce** (Indonesian), **Scott Hanley** (Indonesian) and **Isabelle Squires** (Tagalog) from History; and **Nicole Loring** (Burmese), **Thomas Rhoden** (Burmese), and **Tiffaneshia Williams** (Indonesian) from Political

Science. Receiving undergraduate FLAS fellowships were **Janet Gatz** (history/anthropology, Tagalog), **John Hood** (anthropology, Burmese), **Ron Leonhardt** (history/political science, Khmer), and **Elise Waite** (environmental studies, Thai).

Over the summer, eleven NIU students traveled to four Southeast Asian countries—and two to the Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison—to immerse themselves in intensive language study in-country. **Scott Abel** (PhD student, history), **Scott Hanley** (MA student, history) and **Anthony Tumpag** (MA student, anthropology) studied Indonesian at Wisma Bahasa in Yogyakarta; **Katrina Chludzinski** (MA

student, history) and undergraduates **Dennis Bridge** (political science) and **John Hood** (anthropology) studied Burmese at the Win Language Academy, Yangon; **Shawn McCafferty** (PhD student, political science), **Alexandra Salazar** (MA student, anthropology), and **Ron Leonhardt** (BA history/political science, 2014) studied Khmer at the Khmer School of Language in Phnom Penh; **Isabelle Squires** (MA/PhD student, history) and **Carlo Aseron** (BA student, business administration) studied Tagalog at the Christian Language Center. In addition, **Taryne Heredia** (BA student, anthropology) studied Thai and **Krista Albers** (MA student, history) studied Vietnamese at SEASSI.

Scott Abel gets the 2014–15 Neher nod

Growing up near the Jersey shore, Scott Abel (PhD student, history) grew up with the sea in his blood, spending time on the water with his father and grandfathers, all of whom knew their way around a boat. His father worked as a chief engineer on various ships plying the Great Lakes. As a youngster, Abel learned how to sail (“though I’m not an accomplished sailor!”) and as he grew older developed an interest in maritime commerce and history. Fast forward past a bachelor’s degree from Washington College and a master’s degree in history from Rutgers to Abel’s first trip to Southeast Asia in 2011 with CSEAS Assistant Director Eric Jones’ summer study abroad to Malaysia. The incoming doctoral student in history found his place on the Southeast Asian studies map: colonial maritime trade emanating from Malaysia.

“I hope to write my dissertation on how Malay seafarers in the southern Straits of Malacca adapted to the challenges of globalization, colonialism, and technological advancement during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries,”

Abel wrote in his successful application for the 2014–15 Clark and Arlene Neher Graduate Fellowship for the Study of Southeast Asia.

Now in his third year in the History department, Abel’s course of study has taken him through shipping records, archival records, and accounts of piracy on the high seas. He has studied Malay and Indonesian, spending summers in 2013 in Malaysia as a FLAS fellow and the past summer studying Indonesian in Jogyakarta. He also traveled to Singapore to do research at the National University of Singapore and hopes to delve into maritime records in London later this year. It is his hope that his dissertation “will illuminate the final years of Malay maritime economic dominance and provide a new social history for the Malay people,” said Abel, who would like to work as a regional expert for the government or research group after completing his doctorate.

Abel is the thirteenth graduate student to receive the endowed Neher fellowship, which was 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 \$5,200 fellowship plus tuition waiver for the next academic year is awarded in spring to one advanced-level graduate student planning research in Southeast Asia.



Abel with the royal palace guards at the Yogyakarta Keraton (the sultan’s palace) in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, this past summer.

Distinction in action



was holding its annual meeting at NIU the same weekend as the CLAS awards, and Jitpiromsri received a second honor: opening the COTS forum. He presented “The Formation of Peace Discourse and the Politics of Recognition in the Patani Peace Process.” (Photo / NIU Year in Review)

Srisompob Jitpiromsri (PhD political science, 1997), director of the Center for Conflict Studies and Cultural Diversity at Prince of Songkla University in Thailand, returned to DeKalb in October 2013 to receive a Distinguished Alumni award from the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (CLAS). The college recognized Jitpiromsri for his work as a prominent figure in building peace between the Buddhist majority and the Malay Muslim minority in southern Thailand through two NGOs he directs, the Center for Conflict Studies and Deep Watch South. “Throughout his career, Dr. Jitpiromsri has been a voice for the oppressed, a champion for human rights, and an advocate for collaboration, education, and equality,” the college noted. As serendipity would have it, the Council on Thai Studies (COTS)

Anies Baswedan (PhD political science, 2007), president of Paramadina University in Jakarta, has been working over the summer on the presidential transition team for Indonesia’s president-elect Joko Widodo, who is due to be sworn in Oct. 20. Baswedan is being considered for a presidential appointment.

John Brandon (MA political science, 1985), director of The Asia Foundation’s regional cooperation programs and associate director of the foundation’s Washington, DC office, has joined the NIU Political Science department’s Advisory Council.

Poonnatree (Golf) Jiviriyaboonya (MA anthropology, 2012) has been accepted into the PhD anthropology program at Australian National University.

Joe Kinzer (MM music, 2012) has received a 2014–15 Fulbright award to continue his research into pop-cultural phenomena in Malaysia.

SarahEmily Lekberg (MM music, 2013), back in the US after a year as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (see **Horizons** on page 6) is working at

the Vietnamese American Initiative for Development in Boston, where she assists with the youth program, teaches English as a Second Language, and is working on creating a translation/interpreting service for the organization.

Shaun Levine (BA political science, 2004; MA political science, 2006) is moving from Washington DC where he was a political risk analyst at the Eurasia Group to be the vice president of government affairs for Southeast Asia at Metlife in Hong Kong.

Colette Morgan (BA political science-international politics, 2011) manages membership, Malaysia and special projects for the US-ASEAN Business Council in Washington, DC. Morgan finished her master’s in international relations from the University of Chicago this year.

Sreiniten Ten (MA political science, 2014) is working full-time at Voice of America Cambodia in Washington, DC.

Puppet master

There are two new characters on display in the Center’s front office, thanks to NIU alum **Gregory Kramer** (BA political science 2013) who brought back two wooden shadow puppets back with him from Malang, Indonesia, where he spent eight weeks studying intensive Indonesian as a US State Department Critical Language Scholar. The puppets, from left, are Bima, the Javanese knight, and Semar, the king’s adviser. To help the puppets stand on their own two feet, Outreach Coordinator Julie Lamb crafted handsome wooden block stands.



One last look

It was a day to remember for Thai language professor **John Hartmann**,

right, when Her Royal Highness **Maha Chakri Sirindhorn** of Thailand, left, came to NIU on Sept. 18, 2013 to receive an honorary doctorate of humane letters. In his last year teaching before his retirement in May, Hartmann was a driving force behind the royal



visit. There were lots of cameras documenting every aspect of the occasion. Among them was a video camera operated by **Payungsak Kaenchan**, a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant who worked with Hartmann in 2008. Now a doctoral student in instructional technology at Boston University, Kaenchan traveled to DeKalb for the day not only to attend the ceremony but also to film Hartmann for a class project. The resulting video, aptly titled “One Day with Prof. John Hartmann” and posted on YouTube, is not only a record of the day’s special events, but also captures Hartmann in class, in his office, and at home where he has hosted many a Thai dinner over his 40 years of teaching at NIU.

Be a CSEAS donor

The next half-century for Southeast Asian Studies at NIU will offer exciting opportunities for teaching and learning. To keep NIU’s program strong, consider joining the CSEAS donor community through the NIU Foundation. To contribute by phone or by mail, go to the NIU Foundation website. To make a gift online, go to the Donate Now tab. Under designations, select “college or university wide program,” then write in “Center for Southeast Asian Studies.” Continue on through the form. If your current employer matches your charitable donations, please take a moment to also fill out that form. We appreciate your gift and thank you for your support.

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Front cover photo credit:

Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Matthew Ropp (BA communications, 2013) ventures along a bridge was taken in Luang Prabang, Laos, on a tributary of the Mekong.

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