Conference convergence
Thai Studies, Burma Studies scholars gather at NIU
Page 10

Director’s Chair
Back from the region, new initiatives in the works
Page 2

Dwight King’s legacy
A generous donation to build Indonesian student scholarship
Page 19

Telling their stories
Anthropology project reaches out to Karen refugees in Aurora
Page 22
Welcome to The Mandala! I am just back from Myanmar, Thailand and Cambodia. In Myanmar, I gave lectures at Mandalay University and Yadanabon University and worked to help confirm arrangements on several collaborations we have started with these two universities in Mandalay. In Cambodia, I traveled with community college teachers from Sauk Valley College, Harper College and Waubonsee College, visiting Cambodian universities, NGOs and cultural sites in efforts to internationalize the curriculum of these institutions, develop study abroad opportunities, and to recruit students to our institutions. It was an invigorating three weeks from attending a session of the Khmer Rouge Tribunal to visiting Pol Pot’s bunker in the mountains above Anlong Veng. We want to thank the Center for Khmer Studies, the Documentation Center of Cambodia, ConCert and the other NGOs who helped to make our trip such a success.

This year we are finishing year two of our US Department of Education Title VI grant, which was funded at $2 million over a four-year period (2014–2018). This grant includes several new programs, including a teacher training and outreach program with area community colleges, a program to extend the life of SEASITE (seasite.niu.edu) by designing exercises that can be downloaded for smart phones and tablets, a language distance-learning component including a language exchange with the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and several conferences and exhibits. This fall the Center for Burma Studies is hosting the International Burma Studies Conference (Oct. 6–9) and CSEAS is hosting the Council on Thai Studies Conference (COTS Oct. 28–29). See cover story on page 10.

The Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP) completed the third year of a three-year cycle. The program ran throughout April 2016 and included homestays with area American families, a camp with American high school students, and a three-day trip to Washington D.C. For the first time we were also funded for $250,000 by the US State Department for the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) similar to SEAYLP but for university-aged young people from Southeast Asia). This program, which ran in October 2015, was focused on civil rights, labor rights, women’s rights and disability rights and included a trip to important sites of the civil rights movement in Alabama and Georgia. I must add that for me personally this was a very moving experience. I had never visited any of these sites, and to visit them with such an impressive group of young leaders was a life-changing experience. We were so taken with the intellect and enthusiasm of the participants that we are collaborating with the NIU Center for Black Studies to redesign and advance the quality and intensity of this year’s program on civil rights, which will run in September and October 2016 (the second of a three-year grant).

In fall 2015, NIU hosted a sixth cohort of scholars from Indonesia for the PKPI (formerly known as Sandwich) program funded by the Indonesian Ministry of Higher Education. Of the eleven visiting scholars, nine were from the University of Makassar, and two were from universities in Java; they were matched with mentors from the colleges of Education, Business, and Liberal Arts and Sciences. For this coming fall we are anticipating hosting a new group of about ten scholars.

Congratulations to faculty associate Jui-Ching Wang (School of Music), who has been awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to conduct research on children’s music in Indonesia this coming year (see Council Notes, page 4). In December 2015,
The Center said goodbye in July to CSEAS Outreach Coordinator Julien Ehrenkönig, who is bound for Philadelphia where he begins pursuing his doctorate in anthropology at Temple University this fall. A former three-time FLAS fellow, Julien received his MA in anthropology from NIU in 2014, specializing in cultural anthropology in Indonesia. We will miss his warmth, humor, and boundless energy for recruiting SEAS minors, working with community colleges, and mentoring the Southeast Asia Club.

We are also preparing to say goodbye to Office Manager Rita Miller, who is leaving the area after coming to the CSEAS in fall 2014. We will miss her cheerful personality and careful attention to the Center’s seemingly endless paperwork (not to mention her ready supply of “medicinal” chocolate in her office). Lisa Heal will be taking up the reins as our new Office Manager. We look forward to working with her.

In the meantime, SEAYLP Administrative Director Maria Nihei and YSEALI Administrative Director Colleen Gray will be helping with outreach and academic advising duties during their respective program’s “off” semester, assisted by graduate assistants Amanda Spradling (MA art history) and Michael McSweeney (MM music). POLS doctoral student Azriansyah Agoes is returning for his third year as coordinator of the PKPI fellowship program. And first-year law student Dan Wade joins us as the graduate assistant for the Center’s survey course, SEAS 225, Southeast Asia Crossroads of the World.

Susan Russell and Robert Zerwekh, two of our longest-serving faculty associates, retired. Susan returned in the spring to help run another year of the Philippines Youth Leadership Program with Lina Ong in the International Training office, and Bob helped out this summer on SEASITE, the important resource that he helped to create and maintain over the years. We will miss them both. This was the first year of teaching for our new Thai language professor, Kanjana Thepboriruk; it has been a delight to work with her. Finally, the Center has been an exciting place for new babies this past year! The happy parents are SEAYLP administrative director Maria Nihei, mom to Clark; anthropology graduate student Rachael Skog, mom to Mimi; Burma language professor Tharaphi Than, mom to Lynn Maira, and anthropology alumnus Jordan York and his wife Pisey, dad to Sophia.
Center Council News and Notes

Kenton Clymer (History)
- Will host visiting Chinese scholar Christine Rongmei Zhang from Yunnan University for 2016–17 at NIU. Zhang will be working on her doctoral research, a study of Burma’s relations with the US and China from 2009.
- Spent the summer at Renmin University in Beijing, China, where he taught the course, The United States and Asia in Historical Perspective, for the International Studies Department.
- Gave a talk, “A Forgotten Cold War Story: The United States and Burma during the Cold War,” at Xiamen University in Fujian, China July 30.
- Made the rounds to talk about his book A Delicate Relationship: The United States and Burma/Myanmar since 1945 (Cornell University Press, 2015) during the spring and summer. Clymer gave talks at the East-West Center in Honolulu July 21, to the Burma Study Group at Johns Hopkins University’s School of Advanced International Studies March 21, and to audiences at George Washington University March 24, the University of California-Riverside Feb. 18 and UCLA’s Center Associate Kenton Clymer (History), left, and Li Yiping, dean of the School of International Relations, sign a memorandum of understanding July 30 between Xiamen University and the Center. The MOU was facilitated by historian Bai Xuefeng, a visiting scholar from Xiamen hosted by Clymer at NIU in 2013.

Transitions: Susan Russell, Robert Zerwekh
CSEA faculty associates Susan Russell (Anthropology) and Robert Zerwekh (Computer Science) put in their retirement papers during 2015–16, capping over three decades at NIU and active involvement with CSEA. The couple was honored at the end-of-semester potluck party at the home of CSEA Assistant Director Eric Jones. Russell, who received her PhD in anthropology from the University of Illinois in 1983, joined the Anthropology department in 1986 where she specialized in the Philippines. During her tenure at NIU, she led the Philippine Youth Leadership Program (PYLP), a US Department of State-funded peacebuilding program in Mindanao in the southern Philippines, for 14 years, directed the Center for Southeast Asian Studies for six years (1999–2005), and has won numerous awards including being named NIU Presidential Transitions: Susan Russell, Robert Zerwekh Engagement Professor in 2011. For her work with PYLP, a month-long institute to bring adult leaders and youth activists from different backgrounds together, Russell was made a member of indigenous Manobo tribe, the only non-Filipino ever given the honor. Russell will continue to work with PYLP, along with International Training Office Director and CSEA associate Lina Ong, for the time being.

Zerwekh, who received his PhD in philosophy from the University of Illinois in 1979 and his MS in computer science in 1987 from NIU, retired as an associate professor in the Computer Science department where he specialized in computer-assisted instruction and web-based learning, and served as the graduate student advisor. With now-retired associates John Hartmann, Jim Henry and Patricia Henry, Zerwekh helped build out and maintain SEAsite, the Center’s online interactive website for Southeast Asian language learning, and worked on other language projects for CSEA during his tenure at NIU.

for Southeast Asian Studies Feb. 12.
• Presented “US Diplomacy and Myanmar’s Road to Freedom” as the featured speaker at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs’ President’s Circle Program April 29.

Rhodalyne Gallo-Crail (Foreign Languages and Literatures)
• Traveled to the Philippines for two weeks in June where she visited Philippine Normal University (in North Luzon and Manila) and Palawan State University in Puerto Princesa, Palawan to discuss possible Memoranda of Understanding with both universities, future projects for indigenous language research at PNU/North Luzon and developing summer Tagalog study abroad programs at PNU/Manila and Palawan.
• Worked on translation dictionary for Ifugao and Ibanag (indigenous languages in the northern Philippines).
• Worked on CSEAS project to develop Tagalog language exercises accessible on smartphones and tablets.

Kikue Hamayotsu (Political Science)
• Was in the field conducting research in Indonesia over the summer.
• Co-authored with Political Science PhD candidate Ronnie Nataatmadja “Indonesia in 2015: The People’s President’s Rocky Road and Hazy Outlooks in Democratic Consolidation” in the Vol. 56, No. 1 issue of the University of California Press journal, Asian Survey.
• Was elected vice president (president-elect) of the American Institute for Indonesian Studies (AIFIS) at the Association of Asian Studies meeting March 31–April 3 in Seattle, where she chaired the panel “Religion and Nationalism in Contemporary Southeast Asia” and presented “Religion, Nationalism and Regime Formation in Divided Societies: Comparative Cases in Southeast Asia.”
• Presented “The Limits of Liberal Democracy in Malaysia’s Party-Dominant Regime” to US government officials March 21 at the Democracy and Political Transition in Southeast Asia Conference in Washington, DC.

Trude Jacobsen (History)
• Is on sabbatical for fall semester.
• Authored the forthcoming Sex Trafficking in Southeast Asia: A History of Desire, Duty and Debt, to be released in November by Routledge.

Eric Jones (History)
• Attended the Council on Foreign Relations College and University Educators Workshop April 14–15 in New York. In addition to a multimedia diplomatic simulation on global climate change policy, the workshop included panels on foreign policy challenges and US public opinion, the future of global sustainability, the rise of violent extremism and the future of the Middle East, and cybersecurity and internet governance.

Kudos: Jui-Ching Wang
Congratulations to Jui-Ching Wang, associate professor of world music and music education in the NIU School of Music, who has been awarded a 2016–17 US Fulbright Senior Scholar Award to study dolanan anak, traditional Javanese children’s singing games in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Wang’s research topic came unexpectedly one day while she was at the Donn V. Hart Southeast Asia Collection in Founders Library. “I’ve always been interested in learning children’s singing games around the world. I was looking for some teaching materials in the Southeast Asia Special Collection books . . . I accidentally discovered a series of songbooks from Indonesia and found this interesting singing game tradition in Yogyakarta,” Wang said in an interview in NIU Today. While in Indonesia, Wang will be researching songs that accompany the games, transcribing and analyzing the melodies, interpreting the texts and translating them into English. She’ll work with faculty at Universitas Gadjah Mada and a local elementary school that still teaches dolanan anak. Wang, who has previously led two summer study abroad programs to Bali for NIU with NIU art professor Shei-Chau Wang, will be offering it again over the 2016–17 winter break. For information on the program, Experiencing the Arts in Bali, contact the Study Abroad office at 815-753-0700 and see an interview with NIU alumnus Brandon Woodhouse, who participated in the 2015 program.

Center associate Jui-Ching Wang’s Fulbright to Indonesia will take her to Yogyakarta to study children’s singing games.
• Is developing CSEAS’s forthcoming podcast series Crossroads Southeast Asia, which will debut this fall.

**Kheang Leang** (Foreign Languages and Literatures)
• Taught Khmer at the 2016 Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute (SEASSI) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.
• Worked on CSEAS project to develop Khmer language exercises accessible on smartphones and tablets.

**Judy Ledgerwood** (Anthropology)
• Took three area community college educators to Cambodia on a three-week study tour June 1–21 focused on curriculum internationalization and study abroad development.
• Published a review of *Unsettled: Cambodian Refugees in the New York City Hyperghetto* in the forthcoming journal *Refuge*.
• Presented “Changing Cambodia, Changing Cambodian Studies” April 30 as the keynote speaker at the Middlesex Community College (Lowell, MA) Interdisciplinary Studies Weekend, which focused on Cambodia. Lowell has the second largest Cambodian community in the US.

**Andrea Molnar** (Anthropology)
• Traveled to Thailand over the summer where she met with colleagues at Chulalongkorn and Thammasat universities to discuss future academic and research collaborations.
• Delivered workshops in July on the ethics of human-subject social science research and how to publish in western journals at Prince of Songkla University, Pattani, southern Thailand.
• Participated in the 6th International Conference of Jurnal Antropologi Indonesia July 25–28 at Universitas Indonesia, Depok, Jakarta.

**Chalermsee Olson** (University Libraries)
• Was appointed interim dean of University Libraries Feb. 1. She joined NIU Libraries in 1991 and has served as the associate dean of Collections and Technical Services Division since 2009.

**Hao Phan** (University Libraries)
• Won a $112,000 Henry Luce Foundation grant to conduct two librarian-training workshops at Yangon and Yadanabon universities in Myanmar over the summer.
• Completed a three-year project to digitize endangered Cham manuscripts in Vietnam for the British Library, which provided $92,000 in grant funding for the project (see Grantsmanship, page 22).

**Alan Potkin** (CSEAS Adjunct)
• Presented “Cultural-Political Impacts of Dams in Southeast Asia” April 21 at a meeting of the Portland (OR) Thirsters, a weekly discussion group interested in intercultural understanding.
• Presented “Visualizing hydropower and Interbasin Transfer Schemes in the Mekong River Basin” at Humboldt State University’s River Institute Seminar Jan. 25.

**Catherine Raymond** (School of Art, Center for Burma Studies)
• Has been promoted to full professor in the Art History Department of the College of Visual and Performing Arts.
• Is co-convener with Jane Ferguson of Australian National University of the International Burma Studies Conference to be held Oct. 6–9 at NIU.
• Traveled to Myanmar during the summer to continue her research on reverse glass painting with Yadanabon and Mandalay universities, met with contemporary artists whose work will be shown in a fall exhibition at NIU’s Jack Olson Gallery, and researched reverse glass painting in Lanna, northern Thailand.
• Presented “Visualizing the 17th- to 19th-century Southeast Asian Musical Tradition of Buddhist Mainland Southeast Asia” at the 2nd SEAMEO SPAFA International Conference on Southeast Asian Archaeology May 30–June 2 in Bangkok.
• Presented “Myanmar and the New Challenges for a Country in Transition”
Spring workshop: Religious diversity, pluralism in Asia

Focusing on religious minorities in Asia including Southeast Asia, CSEAS associate Kikue Hamayotsu (Political Science) and Chiara Formichi of Cornell University’s Department of Asian Studies, led the workshop “Religious Minorities and Pluralism in Asia” April 9 at NIU’s Holmes Student Center. The workshop, which drew 20 scholars and students, addressed historical, legal, political and social issues facing minority communities in religiously divided societies throughout Asia. University of Toronto political scientist Jacques Bertrand gave the keynote address, “Deadly mix? Religion and Nationalism in Southeast Asia.” He was followed by a panel offering comparative country cases: Arthedh Maung (University of Massachusetts-Lowell) presenting “Between Compliance and Resistance: Religious Minorities in Buddhist-Dominant Myanmar;” Formichi, “Enforcing Categories, Ignoring the Residual: Racial and Religious Identities in Postcolonial Southeast Asia;” D. Mitra Barua (Cornell University), “The Challenges for Religious Minorities and Pluralism in Democratic Bangladesh;” Dian Shah (National University of Singapore School of Law, “The Politics of Constitutionalizing Religion in Indonesia and Malaysia: Paths and Outcomes;” and Hamayotsu, “Democratization and Religious Minorities in Southeast Asia; Indonesia and Malaysia in Comparative Perspective.” CSEAS Director Judy Ledgerwood (Anthropology) and associates Susan Russell (Anthropology) and Tharaphi Than (Foreign Languages & Literatures) led an afternoon roundtable discussion on working and living with religious communities in the region. The workshop was co-sponsored by CSEAS and Cornell, both US Department of Education Title VI National Resource Centers for Southeast Asian Studies.

Keynote speaker Jacques Bertrand, University of Toronto political scientist, gives the keynote address at the Religious Minorities and Pluralism in Asia workshop in April at NIU.

for the American Association of University Women April 6 at the Glen Ellyn Civic Center, Elgin.

Tomoyuki Shibata (Public Health)
• Took students to Myanmar during the summer for a month-long field research project involving water quality and public health.

Tharaphi Than (Foreign Languages and Literatures)
• Traveled to Myanmar over the summer to conduct research in Yangon on censorship and print media in Burma.
• Has introduced a non-credit distance-learning Burmese class for community college students in Illinois and professionals anywhere through the College of Liberal Arts & Science’s External Programming department to begin in fall.

• Gave a lecture prostitution in modern Myanmar in July at Sophia University in Tokyo.
• Presented “Understanding the Language of the ‘Freed’: Social Movements in Post-2010 Myanmar” in June at the Association of Asian Studies in Asia conference at Doshisha University in Kyoto.
• Published “Mongla and Borderland Politics of Myanmar” in Asian Anthropology.

Kanjanee Thepboriruk (Foreign Languages and Literatures)

• Is coordinator for the Council on Thai Studies Conference to be held Oct. 28–29 at NIU.
• Traveled to Thailand over the summer to give a workshop at the Thai Language and Culture Teaching Promotion Center at Chulalongkorn University, to meet with faculty at Chiang Mai University to discuss future exchange programs with NIU and conducted archival research at the National Library’s Rare Books and Documents Collection in Bangkok.

Kurt Thurmaier (Political Science)
• Gave the keynote address in September 2015 at the Khon Kaen Local Government Conference in Thailand.

Kheang Un (Political Science)
• Has returned from sabbatical. He will teach POLS 371 Politics in Southeast
This summer three northern Illinois community college educators Kathy Westman (Waubonsee), Paul Edleman (Sauk Valley) and Willie Morris (Harper) joined me for three weeks in Cambodia. The program was designed to provide first-hand experience to help these faculty members, in sociology, political science and English respectively, internationalize their curricula and to make the connections necessary to set up future faculty or student exchanges or study abroad programs in Cambodia.

Our study tour included meetings with various universities in Cambodia and with non-governmental organizations involved in several sectors, including some offering service learning opportunities. To set the historical and cultural context, we visited the Khmer Rouge Tribunal, the last Khmer Rouge stronghold at Anlong Veng, Pol Pot’s last house in the mountains near the Thai border, and his cremation site. We also visited Angkor Wat, Angkor Thom and several of the other famous temple sites near Siem Reap. We want to thank Krisna Uk at the Center for Khmer Studies for helping make our visit a success.

— Judy Ledgerwood

Footsteps in the field: Cambodia

This summer three northern Illinois community college educators Kathy Westman (Waubonsee), Paul Edleman (Sauk Valley) and Willie Morris (Harper) joined me for three weeks in Cambodia. The program was designed to provide first-hand experience to help these faculty members, in sociology, political science and English respectively, internationalize their curricula and to make the connections necessary to set up future faculty or student exchanges or study abroad programs in Cambodia.

Our study tour included meetings with various universities in Cambodia and with non-governmental organizations involved in several sectors, including some offering service learning opportunities. To set the historical and cultural context, we visited the Khmer Rouge Tribunal, the last Khmer Rouge stronghold at Anlong Veng, Pol Pot’s last house in the mountains near the Thai border, and his cremation site. We also visited Angkor Wat, Angkor Thom and several of the other famous temple sites near Siem Reap. We want to thank Krisna Uk at the Center for Khmer Studies for helping make our visit a success.

— Judy Ledgerwood

Center Council News and Notes (cont’d)

Asia in fall.

- Published the chapter “The Rule of Law in Illiberal Contexts” with Stephen McCarthy in *Politics and Constitutions in Southeast Asia* edited by Bunte Marco and Bjorn Dressel (Routledge, 2016).
- Presented “Cambodia’s Politics” with Jae Shin at the Bridging State Strategy workshop sponsored by Korea University/University of Puthisastra in April.
- Published “The Evolution of Rule of Law in Cambodia” with Stephen McCarthy in *Democratization*, 2015.
- Presented “Weak State and the Limits of Democratization in Cambodia” at the State Capacity and Democratic Quality in East Asia workshop at McGill University in September 2015.

Jui-Ching Wang (School of Music)
- Will be in Indonesia as a Fulbright scholar during 2016–17.
- Traveled to Taipei to present a paper about the intercultural ‘musicking’ experience of a millennial Mongolian throat singer in the US at the Aug. 25–27 International Council for Traditional Music’s 5th Symposium of the Study Group of Musics of East Asia.
- Took the NIU Gamelan Ensemble to the Gail Borden Public Library in Elgin May 7 to present a music and dance program for Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Celebration.
- Performed traditional Chinese pieces with NIU students Jiaqi Lin and Pei-Han Lin at the University of Kentucky’s World Music Concert April 28.
- Hosted the World Music Festival April 7–10 at NIU.
- Published the article, “Beyond Cultural Tourism: Experiencing the Arts in Bali,” in the spring 2016 issue of *Education About Asia.*

From left, Ea Darith, deputy director of the Apsara Authority at the Angkor World Heritage Site, takes community college instructors Paul Edleman, Willie Morris and Kathy Westman around Angkor Thom with CSEAS Director Judy Ledgerwood. Darith was a student of Ledgerwood’s in 1992 at the Royal University of Fine Arts, Faculty of Archaeology.
Field Notes: An active summer in Myanmar

It was hot, it was humid, it was Myanmar this summer as NIU faculty and students met with local universities, gave lectures, pursued various collaborative projects, conducted research on subjects ranging from groundwater development to print-media censorship, and led workshops on public health and library methods.

CSEAS Director Judy Ledgerwood lectured at Mandalay and Yadanabon universities, and worked on facilitating arrangements for future collaborations with those institutions in May. Center for Burma Studies Director Catherine Raymond (Art History) and art history graduate student Carmin Berchiolly followed up on their summer 2015 research into the origin and art of reverse glass painting in Myanmar and in other parts of mainland Southeast Asia, a collaborative project with students and faculty at Yadanabon.

Public health professor Tomoyuki Shibata took four students, including NIU graduate student Lizeth Galarza (health and human sciences), to central Myanmar for a month in July to do research involving water quality and public health, an area he is researching in Indonesia as well. He also conducted a research project focused on disaster-related occupational health. Shibata’s team conducted two workshops on researching water quality with faculty and students from Yadanabon and the University of Mandalay, and gave a presentation on the topic at the University of Medicine. The team’s water-quality research study sites were in Mandalay and the Magway region. Shibata’s team also interviewed firefighters in Mandalay to learn about their responses to fire, flood, cyclones and earthquakes in Myanmar.

In late July and early August, geology professor Institute of Environment, Sustainability and Energy Director Melissa Lenczewski and NIU geology graduate student Michael Grzybowski returned to Myanmar where, ironically enough, they confronted flooding conditions that prevented them from conducting a two-week workshop on groundwater and hydrogeology with Yadanabon and University of Mandalay faculty and students. They were able to put together a mini-workshop instead and plan to return in December to continue this collaborative project to build training in groundwater development, well construction, well-head protection, and groundwater quality control in Myanmar.

Also in Myanmar during summer were Burmese language professor Tharaphi Than, there to work on her own research about censorship and the print media in Myanmar, and Hao Phan, curator of the Donn V. Hart Southeast Asia Collection at Founders Library, who conducted two librarian-training workshops at Yadanabon and Yangon universities.
20 panels, 7 exhibits, 160 presenters at IBSC Oct. 6–9

By Liz Denius

It has never been busier at the Center for Burma Studies during the summer as Director Catherine Raymond and graduate assistants Carmin Berchiolly and Markie Striegel prepare for the 12th International Burma Studies Conference (IBSC) set for Oct. 6–9 at NIU. More than 200 scholars from 16 countries have registered to attend IBSC, which will take place primarily in the Holmes Student Center and Altgeld Hall. Between 20 and 30 panels will address all aspects of Burma studies, including anthropology, art history, education, environmental studies, linguistics, political science and religious studies, covering the full range of historical time periods in Burmese history.

The conference will also feature a documentary film festival by Burmese film makers, a gala celebration evening, and seven exhibits of art drawn from the Burma Art Collection and works by contemporary artists in Myanmar. Keynote lectures will address the theme of “Prospects for Reform in Myanmar: Prospects and Challenges.”

The conference launches the 30th anniversary year of the Center for Burma Studies, which was established in 1986 by the Association of Asian Studies’ Burma Studies Group. At the time, Burma (now Myanmar) had been closed to the world since 1962 and would remain closed until 2011. The Burma Studies Foundation was established at the same time, a non-political charitable organization with the mission of supporting center objectives.

The new center opened at NIU on July 29, 1987, directed by then NIU art historian Richard Cooler, who had done early research in Burma in 1975 as a US State Department Scholar and would work to establish the Burma Art Collection at NIU. With the center well established by the turn of the century, Cooler retired and French art historian Raymond became director in 2002.

From the beginning, the center’s priorities have included promoting outreach, collecting and conserving Burma art and artifacts, supporting undergraduate and graduate study of the country and publishing relevant scholarly research in the center’s Journal of Burma Studies, expanding Burma research materials in Founders Memorial Library, and organizing a biannual international conference on Burma studies.

In 2016, with Burma/Myanmar steadily opening to the world, the center will welcome attendees of its 12th international conference on a truly celebratory note. For more information, see the conference website at www.burmaconference2016.com.
Thai topics, musical premiere at COTS 
Oct. 28–29

The NIU Council on Thai Studies is looking forward to hosting the upcoming Council on Thai Studies (COTS) annual meeting at the Barsema Alumni and Visitors Center at NIU. The conference kicks off Friday with a keynote address by Tanachai Mark Padoongpatt of the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. Saturday’s keynote speaker is Ora-orn Poocharoen, dean of the Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration at Chiang Mai University. There will be seven sessions of papers and presentations, with topics ranging from Thainess in the United States to the changing landscapes of Thai politics and borderlands.

The conference’s concluding reception Saturday will feature a world premiere performance of Ponglang music from Northeastern Thailand performed by the NIU Steel Band and Thai musicians and performers from the Chicagoland area. The concert is a first-time collaboration between Chigagoland musician and NIU School of Music alumnus Chamni Sripraram (MM music, 2001), music professor Liam Teague, director of the NIU Steel Band, and Yuko Asada, director for the NIU Community School of the Arts Steel Band.

“While planning the conference, I was looking for a way to highlight something that is uniquely NIU. Turns out that NIU is one of the few, if not only, institutions that have both a Thai Studies program and a full steel pan program and I thought, ‘that’s it!’” said conference organizer and Thai language professor Kanjana Thepborio. “The four of us hope that this performance will be the beginning of a larger Thai-Steel Band repertoire.”

For more information on COTS, visit the conference website at http://niu.edu/cots.

---

Kaleidoscope of Burmese Art
Celebrating 30 years of the Center for Burma Studies

Exhibits

“Journey Through Burmese Art”
South Gallery, NIU Art Museum
Aug. 23 – Nov. 18

“Masterpieces of the Burma Art Collection”
North Gallery, NIU Art Museum
Aug. 23 – Nov. 18

“From Tradition to Modernity: Art from Myanmar as Viewed by Contemporary Burmese Artists”
Rotunda, NIU Art Museum
Aug. 23 – Nov. 18

“Donors and Collectors: A Legacy”
Hallway Cases, NIU Art Museum
Aug. 23 – Nov. 18

“Painting Myanmar Today: A Selection from the Thukhuma Collection,”
Jack Olson Gallery
Sept. 1 – Oct. 27

“Unexpected Myanmar: Paw Oo Thet’s Watercolors”
2nd floor, Jack Arends Building
Sept. 1 – Oct. 27

“Exploring Calligraphy, Serigraphy, and Cartography in the Burmese Collections”
Southeast Asia Collection, Founders Library
Opens Oct. 1

Calendar of Events

September 8
“Celebrating the Ten Flowers of Burmese Art”
Dr. Catherine Raymond, Professor Art History, Director, Center for Burma Studies
5 to 6 p.m., 315 Altgeld

Opening reception, NIU Art Museum
5:30 to 7 p.m., Altgeld Hall

September 15
Public reception, Jack Olson Gallery
4:30 to 6 p.m., NIU School of Art and Design

Gallery talk:
“Is There Contemporary Art in Myanmar Today?” Dr. Catherine Raymond
5 p.m., Olson Gallery

September 18
“Masterpieces of the Burma Art Collection”
Dr. Richard Cooler, Emeritus Professor Art History
Dr. Catherine Raymond
1 p.m., NIU Art Museum
(NIU Art Museum members event)

October 1
“Buddhism in Practice. The Burmese Tradition of Meditation and Yoga”
Dr. Catherine Raymond and Cher Latford, yoga instructor at Breathe, DeKalb
4 to 5:30 p.m.,
NIU Art Museum, Rotunda Gallery

October 6
DeKalb Art Walk
5 to 8 p.m.
NIU Art Museum, Olson Gallery, Founders Library

Public reception, Jack Olson Gallery
“Painting Myanmar Today: A Selection from the Thukhuma Collection”
4:30 to 6 p.m.

Gallery talk:
Dr. Ian Holliday, Professor Political Science, Hong Kong University and Collector, Thukhuma Collection
5 p.m.

October 6–9
International Burma Studies Conference

October 19
“The Art of Cartography in Ancient Burma”
Dr. Tin Naing Win, Associate Professor History, Mandalay University
7 to 8 p.m., Rare Books and Special Collections, Founders Library

October 23
“Beyond the Living: Ghosts and Spirits in Burmese Tradition”
Art making, storytelling program for children
Dr. Catherine Raymond and Julie Lamb, former CSEAS Outreach Coordinator
1 to 3 p.m., NIU Art Museum

October 25
“Identities that Hang by a Thread: The Art of Dress in Myanmar”
Dr. Richard Cooler, Emeritus Art History Emeritus Director, Center for Burma Studies
6 to 7 p.m., 315 Altgeld

November 3
“From Paper to Skin: Tatooos in Burmese Culture”
Dr. Catherine Raymond
5 to 6 p.m., 315 Altgeld

November 18
“Lepeyet and Palata: Exploring Burmese Culinary Traditions”
Dr. Catherine Raymond with Sandar Wynn, Founders Library, and May-Myo Khine, undergaduate, Art
Noon to 1 p.m., 125 Altgeld
(CSEAS Weekly Lecture Series in conjunction with International Ed Week)
**SOUTHEAST ASIA LECTURE SERIES**

Fridays, noon to 1 PM, Room 100, Campus Life Building

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tiffanesha Williams, University of Missouri-Columbia</td>
<td>Department of Political Science</td>
<td>“Heirlooms of the Past: Historical Statecraft and State Capacity in Post-Colonial States”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Dan Slater, University of Chicago</td>
<td>Department of Political Science</td>
<td>“Democracy Through Strength: Asia’s Development and Democratization”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Tharaphi Than, Northern Illinois University</td>
<td>Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures</td>
<td>“The Language of Dissent”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Laura Elder, Saint Mary’s College Notre Dame</td>
<td>Department of Global Studies</td>
<td>“Sharia Superstars, Wall Street Woes, and Emerging Regimes in Islamic Finance”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Heather MacLachlan, University of Dayton</td>
<td>Department of Ethnomusicology</td>
<td>“Contemporary Issues in Burmese Popular Music”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Hai-Dang Phan, Grinnell College</td>
<td>Department of English</td>
<td>“Saigon, Wisconsin: Vietnamese American Poetry after Vietnam”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Tom Pepinsky, Cornell University</td>
<td>Department of Political Science</td>
<td>“The Origins of Ethnic Orders: Institutional Emergence in Authoritarian Malaysia”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Tanachai Mark Padoongpatt, University of Nevada — Las Vegas</td>
<td>Department of Interdisciplinary Programs</td>
<td>“Mapping the Contours of Thai American Studies”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Laura Yoder, Wheaton College</td>
<td>Department of Environmental Studies</td>
<td>“State Visions of Mega-Development in Timor Leste”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Thomas Rhoden, Northern Illinois University</td>
<td>Department of Political Science</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Catherine Raymond and Ma Sander Wynn, Northern Illinois University*</td>
<td>Center for Burma Studies, University Libraries</td>
<td>“Lepeyet and Palata: Exploring Burmese Culinary Traditions”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* New location: Altgeld 125. Burmese food part of program; no Indonesian lunch this week
Fourteen CSEAS-affiliated graduate and undergraduate students graduated from NIU during the 2015–16 academic year and summer 2016. Eleven undergraduates received bachelor’s degrees with minors in Southeast Asian Studies: Ruiz Carlo Aseron (business/operations and information management), Sareya Baaïj (psychology), Caitlin Bemis-Blackburn (anthropology), Dennis Bridge (political science), Janet Gatz (history), Robert Jessen (history), Quaylin Peretti (family and individual development), Jonathan Wagner (accountancy), Elise Waite (environmental studies), Keyanna Washington (psychology), Katharine Willis (communications/organizational) and Brandon Woodhouse (sociology).

Three graduate students completed advanced degrees with a concentration in Southeast Asian studies in 2016. Congratulations to Aaron Johnson (PhD, political science), Alexxandra Salazar (MA anthropology) and Anthonie Tumpag (MA anthropology). Shannon Thomas (MA student, anthropology) completed a concentration in Southeast Asian studies.

Other noteworthy student accomplishments in 2015–16:

Ronnie Nataatmadja (PhD candidate, political science) received the Russel W. Smith Award in spring from his department, will be a graduate assistant for the Department of Public Administration in 2016–17. Nataatmadja recently co-authored “Indonesia in 2015: The People’s President’s Rocky Road and Hazy Outlooks in Democratic Consolidation” with CSEAS associate Kikue Hamayotsu (Political Science) in Asian Survey, Vol. 56, No. 1. It is his first publication. In late July, he and fellow POLS PhD candidate Iqra Anugrah gave guest lectures on publishing and funding Summer in the field: Above, POLS PhD candidates Iqra Anugrah, center, and Thomas Rhoden meet up with retired NIU political science professor Danny Unger after the Empowering Network for International Thai and ASEAN Studies conference in July in Bangkok where Rhoden presented “Absentee Suffrage in Thailand: Is Tak a Burmese Province in Thailand?” and Anugrah presented “Elite-Peasant Relations in Post-Authoritarian Indonesia: Decentralization, Dispossession, and Countermovement.” At left, POLS PhD candidate Nicole Loring visited Yangon’s Shwedagon Pagoda summer while in Myanmar doing field research for her dissertation proposal. continued on page 14
in academia at the Center for the Study of Islam and Society at Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University in Jakarta.

CSEAS graduate assistant Azriansyah Agoes (PhD student, political science) marks his third year in 2016–17 coordinating the PKPI program, which brings Indonesian doctoral students to NIU during fall semester to advance their research projects under the guidance of a faculty mentor. The program is funded by DITKI, the Directorate of Higher Education of Indonesia’s Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education. This year’s cohort will arrive in September. Agoes, who received his MA in political science in spring, begins his PhD studies this fall. He has received a $3,000 grant from the American Indonesian Exchange Foundation (AICEF) for 2016–17.

POLS PhD candidates Iqra Anugrah and Thomas Rhoden, both of whom have been in Southeast Asia pursuing their dissertation research, have been awarded 2016 ENITAS and ENIT grants respectively from the Institute of Thai Studies at Chulalongkorn University. Both return to NIU during 2016–17.


During his time in the region Anugrah has published and presented frequently. A visiting fellow at the University of Sydney Southeast Asia Centre in spring, he presented “A Tale of Two Districts: Patterns of Elite-Peasant Relations in Serang and Bulukumba, Indonesia.” He also presented “Democratic Transitions in Comparative Perspective” April 25 for the University of Indonesia’s Department of Political Science. While doing two months of fieldwork in the Bulukuma district in South Sulawesi in June, Anugrah gave a series of guest lectures on comparative politics and research methods at three universities in Makassar—South Sulawesi: Hasanuddin, Muhammadiyah and Bosowa—in addition to talking to several student activist groups. In late July he presented “Village Intermediaries in Public Service Provision in Serang District” at a symposium sponsored by the University of Indonesia’s Department of Anthropology. He has also begun studying Dutch, he says. Recent publication include: “Cementing Dissent in Indonesia” in Australian National University’s New Mandala in May and “A Challenge from Below?

Teaching to the text

Four Foreign Language Teaching Assistants are joining the Southeast Asian language program for the 2016–17 academic year: from left, Intan Hamzah (Indonesian), Nyein Ma Ma (Burmese), Edel Villanueva (Tagalog), and Kultilda Asa (Thai). They will be working with language faculty Rahmi Hartati (Indonesian), Tharaphi Than (Burmese), Rhodalyne Gallo-Crail (Tagalog) and Kanjana Thepboriruk (Thai).

Get it together

Noodle and movie nights, Lunar New Year festivities, an annual student conference. Learn more about Southeast Asia at NIU by joining the Southeast Asia Club or the Burma Interest Group-NIU. SEA Club’s officers for 2016–17 are Andrew Waite, president; Cecelie Keys, vice president; Sanah Baig, secretary; Leo Reich, treasurer; Ben Webster, conference coordinator; and Sherry Butler, marketing coordinator. Officers for BIG-NIU for 2016–17 are Karla Findley, president; Carmin Berchiolly, treasurer; and Markie Striegel, social media.
Social Movements against Oligarchy” in February for the Indonesia at Melbourne blog at the University of Melbourne.

Nicole Loring (PhD candidate, political science), who spent the summer in Myanmar conducting interviews and doing archival research for her dissertation proposal about the transition to democracy in that country, will be teaching POLS 285, Introduction to International Relations, this year.

Testriono, who joins CSEAS this fall as a graduate assistant for the Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP), received the 2015–16 Outstanding Graduate Student Award from the Department of Political Science. He presented “Regime Change and Durability in Southeast Asia: The Role of International Linkage and Military’s Involvement in Politics” twice in spring: at the Association of Asian Studies Southeastern Conference Jan. 15–17 at James Madison University and at the Midwest Political Science Association conference April 7–10 in Chicago.

Testriono, who received his MA in spring and has been accepted into the PhD program, received the department’s Morton J. Frisch Student Travel Scholarship to attend the latter.

Anthropology graduate students Shannon Thomas and Anthonie Tumpag (MA anthropology, 2016) spent June 27 to July 24 in Washington, DC as interns at the Smithsonian Institution’s Summer Institute of Museum Anthropology. Tumpag worked with collections across maritime Southeast Asia, Madagascar and Oceania, and Thomas worked with the museum’s Philippines collection. The two presented with fellow interns at a symposium at the end of the program: Tumpag presented “Cordillera Utensils as Mnemonic Devices Across Time and Space” and Thomas presented “Indigenous Culture and Environment on Palawan Island: A Look at the Miller Collection at the Smithsonian Institution.” Shortly after receiving word of the internship in spring, Thomas also was notified she had received a 2016–17 Fulbright research fellowship to Palawan in the Philippines (see Fellowship Notes, page 16). She will return to NIU to complete her master’s degree in 2017.

JoAnn LoSavio (PhD student, history) presented “Elite Thai-U.S. Migration: Higher Education, the Peace Corps, and Networking at Northern Illinois University 1965-68” June 25 at the 2016 SEASSI/SASLI/CESSI joint student conference. She also attended the Oral History Summer School June 5-12 in Chicago; the topic was “Oral History Intensive with Studs Terkel Radio Archive.” The Oral History Summer School is a cross-disciplinary training program for students who want to use oral history as an ethical interview practice.

SEAYLP Scholars at NIU are making their presence known. Sophomores I Younan An (political science), Thimoro Cheng (biochemistry) and Hnin Lin (mechanical engineering) were 2015–16 Research Rookies. All three presented at the April 19 Undergraduate Research and Artistry Day competition. Cheng won second place for his project, “Magnetic Nanocomposite of Boron and Gadolinium: The Ideal Drug Delivery Agent for Cancer Therapy,” Hnin Lin presented “Effect of Visual Stimuli on the Believability of Virtual Environments” and I Younan presented “How Does the Khmer Rouge’s Regime Psychologically Affect the Regime Survivor’s View of Authority and Political Participation.” Hnin Lin spent the summer in at the University of Tokyo, Japan, where she studied the measurement, modeling and analysis of human body motion. On campus, I Younan won the Residence Hall Association Spirit Award for 2015–16 and has been named a CA (Community Advisor) for the fourth floor of Stevenson Hall, the dorm that has been his home since coming to NIU in January 2015. Undergraduate Ye Pyae Thu from Myanmar (SEAYLP 2014), who arrived in fall 2015, is studying business with a minor in community leadership and civic engagement; he worked as a SEAYLP program assistant during spring. Graduate student Mar Louie Mayubay (SEAYLP 2012) is the newest SEAYLP Scholar on campus; he arrived from the Philippines in January to begin a master’s degree program in accountancy.

Undergraduate minors Andrew Waite (business) and Rachel Jacob (history and political science), and SEAYLP Scholar Hnin Lin (mechanical engineering), were among four NIU students presenting at the national Undergraduate Research Conference April 7–10 at the University of North Carolina-Asheville.

Robert Bulanda (MA anthropology, 2015) has been awarded the Excellence and Giorgi Scholars scholarships to attend the NIU College of Law in the fall.
Fellowship Notes

Sharpening the study of Southeast Asia

The Center awarded five students, three graduate and two undergraduate, federal Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships to study Southeast Asian languages intensively over the summer, with four of them traveling to the region for the first time. Cecelie Keys (MA linguistics) studied Thai at Payap University in Chiang Mai while law student Samuel Bunting went to Quezon City in the Philippines to study Tagalog. Undergraduates Rachel Jacob (history and political science) and Margaret Miller (psychology and biology) studied Indonesian at Wisma Bahasa in Yogyakarta. Graduate student JoAnn LoSavio studied Burmese in the eight-week intensive language program at the Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute (SEASSI) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Undergraduate Leo Reich (English) received a Fulbright-Hays fellowship, sponsored by the Consortium for Teaching Indonesian (COTI) program to advance his Indonesian at the Universitas Kristen Satya Wacana in Salatiga, Central Java.

Six graduate students and five undergraduates were awarded 2016–17 academic-year FLAS fellowships. Graduate FLAS fellows are: Samuel Bunting (JD School of Law) studying Tagalog; Karla Findley (MA anthropology) and Michael Grzybowski (MS geology) studying Burmese; Mao Lee (MA educational psychology) studying Thai; and Rachael Skog (MA anthropology) and Raychel Taylor (MM music) studying Indonesian. Undergraduate FLAS fellows are: Cole Fraser (economics) studying Burmese and Sanah Baig (English), Rachel Jacob (political science/history), Margaret Miller (psychology/biology) and Andrew Waite (business management) studying Indonesian.

Summer FLAS fellowships cover tuition and provide a stipend for travel and other expenses. Academic-year FLAS fellowships provide a tuition-fee waiver, health insurance and a monthly stipend. Both are funded by a Title VI grant from the U.S. Department of Education with support from the Graduate School for graduate tuition waivers. The application deadline for summer 2017 FLAS grants is Jan. 1. The deadline to apply for 2017–18 academic-year fellowships is Feb. 1. NIU Today takes a look at the FLAS fellowship program.

Art history student receives 2016–17 Neher award

Carmin Berchiolly (MA art history) has been awarded the 2016–17 Clark and Arlene Neher Graduate Scholarship for the Study of Southeast Asia. Berchiolly, who is also working toward graduate certificates in Southeast Asian Studies and Museum Studies, came to NIU as a transfer student from Rock Valley College in fall 2013. A native of Mexico, she was drawn to Southeast Asian studies after taking a class on Southeast Asian textiles and their relation to gender and ethnicity art from art historian and Center for Burma Studies Director Catherine Raymond. Later working with Raymond on her 2014 exhibit, Dressing Difference: Exploring Ethnicities in Modern Burma, at the NIU Art Museum, “it became apparent that I had found a subject I wanted to explore,” Berchiolly says.

Receiving an Undergraduate Special Opportunities in Artist and Research (USOAR) program grant in spring 2015, Berchiolly accompanied Raymond to Myanmar that summer to assist her in research about reverse-glass painting, which uses photographic techniques to create painted works. She returned there this past summer to continue that research and is a familiar face at the Center for Burma Studies where she is a graduate research assistant. In this realm, she says that she has obtained valuable museum skills while working closely with Raymond and Center for Burma Studies founder and art historian Richard Cooler. If all goes well, Berchiolly’s growing passion for art and art history at NIU will lead to a doctorate in art history and a career in either academia or a museum. “As a young scholar, I aim to contribute significant research to the field of Burma Studies through the exploration of topics that have received little attention, such as Burmese colonial photography,” she says. “Additionally, I aim to use this academic knowledge to create general awareness via the creation of museum exhibitions that focus on Southeast Asian art and heritage.”

The deadline to apply for the 2017–18 Neher graduate scholarship is Feb. 1.
Summer FLAS abroad: Indonesia

Living for moments, learning for life

By Margaret Miller
This summer, I was given the privilege of studying an Indonesian language—Bahasa Indonesia—and independently exploring a country vastly different than my own. I have learned and seen so many new and exciting things; however, my trip can be summed up in two lessons.

My first lesson: Indonesia is a diverse place. From enormous beaches to alluring jungle to breathtaking temples, Indonesia holds a unique and precious natural environment. As a citizen of a small town surrounded by cornfields in the United States, I never expected to be able to witness such exotic and distinctive beauty of a country like Indonesia, or experience such a varied culture. On Java alone – the island I called home for two months – there are three different major languages: Javanese, Sundanese and Bahasa. The food varies greatly from island to island: Java being known for its sweet food while Sumatra, a neighboring island, is known for its incredibly spicy food. Like the culture and the environment, the people of Indonesia are very diverse. Yogyakarta – the city I stayed in – is famous for its acceptance and tolerance, its art, and its kindhearted and warm people. The individuals I met and encountered showed me all of these aspects.

My most important lesson: Live in the moment. So many Indonesians I encountered said the same thing: They did not understand why Americans worry so much about the future. Indonesians, as I experienced them, live each and every day as its own day. Yesterday is remembered and cherished, but tomorrow doesn’t exist until the sun rises and it’s today.

As a college student entering my junior year, it was refreshing to be able to ignore tomorrow and live in the moment. I realized that life and time do not answer to me, and, in many ways, I am powerless over them. That said, things can still work out in my favor, even if they do not happen the way I think they should. Every experience – positive or negative – should be embraced completely, and learned from. The most precious lesson I took away from Indonesia is that you cannot control life, you adapt to it.

By Rachel Jacob
Traveling to Indonesia this summer was my first time out of the country. While some may say it was a pretty big leap, for me it was one of the best decisions I have ever made. Although I have studied Bahasa Indonesia for a year at NIU, nothing compared to studying the language within Southeast Asia. At first, everyday tasks such as ordering food at a restaurant, paying for things at the grocery store, and directing a taxi driver—all things we practiced in our classes at NIU—were very intimidating. But as our classes progressed, so did my confidence in my language skills. By the end of our six-week program, I could easily communicate with the locals and navigate my way around Yogyakarta. Even though I am astonished at how much I was able to learn in one summer, I am determined to reach fluency.

While the objective of our summer FLAS program was language study, I learned so much more about Indonesian culture, history, and daily life. Borobudur, Prambanan, and Ratu Boko temples were some of the most beautiful historic sites I’ve ever seen. I was constantly in awe of Indonesia’s raw beauty. From cities, to beaches, to villages—each part of Indonesia that we visited were Hutan Pinus in Imogiri, Merapi Volcano, and Pangandaran Beach in West Java.

Overall, this experience greatly enhanced my language skills and my understanding of Indonesian culture. Although the trip presented many obstacles as a first-time traveler,
A Fulbright year: Thomas heads to the Philippines

Just a few weeks after completing an internship at the Smithsonian Institution, second-year anthropology graduate student Shannon Thomas is headed to Palawan Island in the Philippines for the 2016–17 academic year as a Fulbright research fellow. Thomas, who majored in environmental studies at NIU as an undergraduate and has been a three-time FLAS fellow as a graduate student, is one of three NIU students chosen for the prestigious fellowship.

Thomas has been drawn to the Philippines since doing an internship there after graduation and studying Tagalog on a summer FLAS in graduate school. “I loved the country, the natural areas, the beaches. I saw, unfortunately, a lot of these natural areas being degraded by tourists or from improper environmental management,” Shannon says.

Thomas linked her background in environmental studies with her graduate work in anthropology for her Fulbright application. “I decided I would focus on indigenous people in a particular area of the Philippines impacted by climate change,” says Thomas, who also found Fulbright encouragement from her adviser, anthropology professor Susan Russell.

“I know from my reading that there are aspects of their natural environment that are sacred to them. I want to know how their cultural practices are helping to preserve their natural environment,” Thomas says. “What are they doing that is inimical to the preservation of their lands?

Working with colleagues at Palawan State University and Palawan NGO Inc., she will conduct ethnographic interviews, both oral and via questionnaire, and participant observation to find her answers.

Her new collaborators will accompany her on the eight-hour drive to the research area and make introductions on her behalf. “It’s difficult being a foreigner and becoming affiliated with people who aren’t used to foreigners. Once they become a little more open to my presence there, I plan to interact with a few key informants – people who feel comfortable talking to me,” Thomas says.

“They don’t speak English, and I do have language capabilities, but I’m not a native speaker. A lot of the people don’t even speak Tagalog. They have their own native dialect.”

After her return to NIU, she will compile and transcribe her data as the basis for not only her report to the Fulbright Program but for her master’s degree thesis as well. She plans to pursue a doctorate in anthropology while continuing research into Filipino environmental management.

This story adapted from a May 12 article in NIU Today.

Living for moments, learning for life

continued from page 17

Overcoming them has made me a stronger person. I will never forget the friends that I have made on this adventure and how they helped me experience Indonesia not just through the lens of a tourist. While I am sad my trip had to end, I hope to study in Indonesia again within the near future. Sampai jumpa Indonesia! (Until next time!)
Pak King: A teacher in the classroom and in life

Editor’s note: More than 100 family members, friends and colleagues of late political science professor and CSEAS Director Dwight King gathered Oct. 4, 2015 at First Congregational United Church of Christ in DeKalb to celebrate his life and legacy. Among those speaking was one of King’s last students, Srie Ramli (PhD political science, 2014). Here are some of her remarks.

By Srie Ramli

I am sharing my story on behalf of Pak King’s Indonesian students. For Indonesians, it is very inappropriate to call a teacher by their first name, so we all called him Pak King. Pak is a short for Bapak, which literally means “Father” and is commonly used to respectfully address an older male person.

I met Pak King for the first time in 2001 in Missoula, Montana where I was finishing my master’s degree in political science at the University of Montana. I wanted to pursue the PhD program at NIU so I contacted Pak King. When he told me that he was going to attend his son Jonathan’s wedding in Missoula, we made an appointment to meet.

I was surprised to find Pak King to be so humble and soft-spoken. He was very attentive and expressed his full support for my plan to pursue the PhD program. He also warned me that DeKalb would be very different from the scenic and beautiful town of Missoula. Our meeting was brief but I learned two things. One, that my first impression of him would remain unchanged; he was always kindhearted, humble, and supportive. Second, Pak King was always correct; no matter what, DeKalb can never be as beautiful and scenic as Missoula.

Professors and teachers impart knowledge, skills and expertise to students. Pak King was more than that. He was our teacher in the classroom and in life. He was an excellent professor, very knowledgeable, always challenging and motivating, and yet demanding with high expectation for students to attain their academic goals. Outside of class, Pak King was our friend, our brother, our father, someone that we could talk to, and someone to share our ups and downs, our good and bad news. He was always ready to listen, to open his heart, his office, his house, his car for students.

I could never be grateful enough for Pak King’s continued supervision and guidance especially during the long years of my dissertation writing. He was there for me and my family from the very beginning, with patience and dedication, even with his failing health, until his resignation from the university. I will always remember every time we met, he would first ask, “How is your family?” Always. Every time.

Pak King’s love of Indonesia was admirable. He had deep understanding of the culture, was compassionate to the people, and was an enthusiast for hot and spicy Indonesian food. His wealth of knowledge combined with balanced perspective and fairness in analyzing Indonesian political scene had in many ways led us to a better appreciation of our own culture and comprehension of Indonesia’s oftentimes irrational and crazy politics. We often told him that he was more Indonesian than us Indonesians.

We are from different faiths, but Muslims believe that teachers, people who dedicate their lifetime to sharing knowledge and skills, will be rewarded a special place in Heaven. This is what we truly believe for Pak King.

Srie Ramli is a training specialist in the International Training Office.

---

Building on a Legacy: Dwight King

For more than 30 years, Dwight King was a professor in the Political Science department and an internationally recognized Indonesian expert. A graduate of Goshen College in 1964, he also received a bachelor’s degree in sacred theology from Harvard, a master’s from Johns Hopkins University’s School for Advanced International Studies and his PhD in 1978 from the University of Chicago. Fluent in Bahasa Indonesia, King traveled to Indonesia almost yearly for research and at times as a consultant for such entities as the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Ford Foundation, the World Bank and The Carter Center. Toward the end of his career, he served as CSEAS director from 2006 to 2008. An avid tennis player and cyclist, King retired in 2009 in declining health. He died Sept. 10, 2015 at the age of 72.

Over the years, King mentored dozens of students, many of whom have gone on to prominent positions in Indonesian government, academia and the nonprofit sector. He was proud of their accomplishments and wanted to ensure that future students would be able to continue to make an impact. To achieve that goal, he created an endowment through his estate to be used to award scholarships to international students pursuing an advanced degree involving substantial Indonesia research. The NIU Foundation is currently accepting contributions to raise an additional $15,000 for the Dwight Y. King Endowment for the Center for Southeast Asian Studies. Checks should be made to the NIU Foundation with Dwight King Endowment in the memo line or made online at http://www.niufoundation.org/invest-niu/ways-give/.
Outreach Update

Roadshows, lectures, Lunar New Year and more

By Julien Ehrenkönig

CSEAS had a very busy 2015–16 providing outreach programming and events at many different venues on NIU’s campus and across the northern Illinois region. In addition to our annual Area Studies Open House the first week of classes, we kicked off the year with our new Southeast Asia Roadshow, which we took to partner community colleges Harper and Triton. During the roadshow, students and faculty at each institution had the opportunity to learn about CSEAS’s academic programs and funding opportunities along with sampling the basics of Burmese, Indonesian, Tagalog, and Thai from Foreign Language Teaching Assistants (FLTAs) Thandar Swe, Wina Tirtapradja, Marie Gianina Concepcion Decano and Pinsin Pinchai respectively. We had wonderful turnout at each campus, with some 150 students attending between the two schools. We’ll be doing this again!

The Center also provided guest lectures at community and area colleges during the academic year. CSEAS Director Judy Ledgerwood gave a lecture about Southeast Asian refugees in the 1980s and presented at Harper College’s annual International Education Summit. Ledgerwood also was the keynote speaker at Middlesex Community College in Lowell, MA, discussing Cambodia and Cambodian Studies. CSEAS invited a visiting Fulbright Scholar, PhD candidate Leslie Advincula Lopez from Ateneo de Manila University, to give a guest lecture on her research about the Philippine military at Waubonsee Community College; she also gave the lecture at NIU as part of our Friday brownbag series.

Outside of the community college realm, the Center worked with K-5 students at Lincoln Elementary and Jefferson Elementary schools in DeKalb teaching young students about the region, its languages, and cultural diversity. During February, I helped the FLTAs create and provide an after-school program at Lincoln Elementary where 25 students and 2 parents learned some of the basics in Burmese, Indonesian, Tagalog, and Thai through activities, crafts, songs, and dances from the region. In May, the FLTAs and I were at the annual Jefferson Elementary Multicultural Fair where 100 students and parents tasted foods from the region and learned about Southeast Asia’s eleven countries through activities, crafts, and displays of information and artifacts.

The FLTAs, along with CSEAS graduate assistant (and former FLTA) Basori, also accompanied me to GlobalFest 2015 in November at Oswego East High School. There about 300 high school students and teachers from around Illinois sat in on Southeast Asian language classes and created personalized prayer flags at the Center’s craft table. The event, sponsored by the Illinois GlobalFest Committee, promotes the study of world languages and international studies for middle- and high-schoolers. CSEAS is a co-sponsor of this annual activity, along with Rotary International, the Illinois Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages and Title VI National Resource Centers at the University of Illinois.

On campus, CSEAS made great strides in encouraging interest in our academic programs and foreign languages through NIU’s many open houses and our cultural events during the year. Due to the Center’s increased presence at our partner community college campuses we saw a high level of participation from their students at our events, including our Friday lecture series, the annual Lunar New Year celebration, and workshops about human rights, globalization, and religious minorities in the region. Many of these events were co-sponsored with the Southeast Asia Club, the members of which worked hard to become a strong campus presence with their activities. Their efforts paid off, and in May the club received an award for Outstanding Student Organization from NIU’s Student Involvement and Leadership Development department. The club will be working even harder during the coming academic year to not only hold the title, but to continue sparking the interest of students in Southeast Asia.

I end this Outreach Update on a bittersweet note. This will be my last year with the Center and NIU as I...
The Center’s Southeast Asia Roadshow features language tables where students can sample different Southeast Asia languages. Here, FLTA Thandar Swe from Myanmar takes students through some basic Burmese.

Southeast Asia Club president Andrew Waite, right, and club advisor Julien Ehrenkönig accept the all-campus Outstanding Student Organization award from the Student Involvement and Leadership Development department in April.

On Display

*Storytelling: Hmong American Voices*
Through December 9
Pick Museum of Anthropology
Cole Hall

“Storytelling: Hmong American Voices” at the newly renamed Pick Museum of Anthropology explores the memories and experiences of Hmong Americans, many of whom arrived in the US in the 1970s as refugees from the Vietnam conflict. Through story cloths, traditional clothing, photographs, jewelry, musical instruments and audio recordings, the exhibition immerses visitors in Hmong traditions and the immigrant experience. The museum’s Laura McDowell Hopper co-curated the exhibit with a 20-member Hmong Community Advisory Council. Some council members began their American journey in DeKalb, where they took English language classes at Kishwaukee Community College before permanently resettling elsewhere in the Midwest. “Working with the Hmong American community to collaboratively develop this exhibit has been a truly eye-opening experience for me,” Hopper says. “I’ve been continually touched and surprised by the Advisory Council’s willingness to share their stories, material culture and family photos for display. [Their] enthusiasm in working with our museum has resulted in a powerful exhibit.” The museum is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. Admission is free.

head to Philadelphia to pursue a PhD in anthropology at Temple University. The Center, its affiliates, and staff have been my family in DeKalb for the past five years, and I thank all of you for your support during my time at NIU. I look forward to seeing our academic programs and outreach efforts grow over the coming years.
YSEALI joins SEAYLP at NIU

In 2015, the Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs awarded a three-year, $720,000 grant to CSEAS to host a Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) program at NIU, one of 10 participating universities in this international project to strengthen youth leadership in a region of the world where 65 percent of the population is younger than 35.

CSEAS’s 2015 program, dubbed the Leading and Organizing for Change in Southeast Asia (LOCSEA), ran from Sept. 30 to Nov. 4 and was co-sponsored by the Center for Non-Governmental Organization Leadership and Development (NGOLD). Twenty-one young adult participants from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam studied the roots of rights movements in the US, including civil, labor, women’s and disability rights, as well as civic leadership, NGO building, and public speaking. Most sessions were led by NIU faculty or staff.

Before concluding in Washington, DC, the group traveled to the South for five days to visit civil rights sites in Atlanta, Ga., and Birmingham, Selma and Montgomery, Ala., with CSEAS Director Judy Ledgerwood, NGOLD Director Nancy Castle, and Administrative Director Colleen Gray.

As with the State Department’s Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP), which has been hosted by NIU since fall 2009, participants created civic action plans to take back to their home countries. Among NIU’s first cohort, Mengchou Cheng of Cambodia and Tran Thi Hai Yen of Vietnam were both awarded State Department grants to provide media training to Cambodian youth and to encourage education for women in Vietnam respectively. Pham Hoang Man of Vietnam, who started a student government at his school, Tan Tao University, was awarded a $50,000 President’s Honors Scholarship. Ak Md Al Muttaqibillah Pg Hasan (Billy) from Brunei organized a rice-packing night to be given to needy families during Ramadan. Panji Pratama Aziz from Indonesia, who organized 592 volunteers to teach 455 children in Banten, Indonesia, was named by Global Changemakers as one of 60 young leaders in the world to watch and selected by the US Embassy in Jakarta to attend an upcoming YSEALI alumni summit in Washington DC.

CSEAS is collaborating with NIU’s Center for Black Studies for the 2016 group of YSEALI fellows, who are scheduled to arrive on campus Sept. 18. For details, contact cseas@niu.edu or the State Department at eca-press@state.gov.

Words to remember: Karen refugee project

The Pick Museum of Anthropology, in collaboration with CSEAS and the Center for Burma Studies, has embarked on a two-year project supported by the Aurora-based Dunham Fund and the Henry Luce Foundation to document and share the experiences of Burmese Karen refugees recently settled in northern Illinois.

The first phase took place over the summer when museum research assistant and project supervisor Rachel Drochter and FLAS fellow Karla Findley (MA anthropology), Zachary Bishop (MA history) and undergraduate senior Kristen Amstutz (anthropology) began collecting oral histories from the local Karen community. The Karen, a persecuted minority group in Myanmar, are among 140,000 people living in refugee camps along the Thai-Burma border. Since 2006, thousands of Karen have been relocated in the US, including a sizeable community in Aurora.

The goal of the project is to “transform” these oral histories into an interactive museum exhibit where visitors can learn about the group’s recent history, their culture, and their resettlement experience through oral history excerpts, photographs, material objects, interpretive panels, and community cultural programs both at NIU and in Aurora, according to Drochter. The exhibit will also put the Karen experience into the global context of forcibly displaced populations, which the UN High Commissioner for Refugees currently estimates at 60 million people.

The exhibit will open at the Pick Museum in fall 2017.

Kristen Amstutz, center, seen here with mentors Rachel Drochter (left) and CSEAS Director Judy Ledgerwood, won a Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP) scholarship to join the Pick Museum team to conduct oral histories from Karen refugees in Aurora. She presented a poster about her research Aug. 5 at the 2016 Research Symposium.
Library files: Cham digital project, Burmese librarian training

Grants from the British Library and the Henry Luce Foundation have kept CSEAS associate Hao Phan, curator of the Donn V. Hart Southeast Asia Collection at Founders Library, busy over the past year.

Early in 2015–16, Phan completed a three-year project to digitize 504 endangered Cham manuscripts in Vietnam for the British Library, now posted online in the library’s archives of endangered materials and at the University of Humanities and Social Sciences in Ho Chi Minh City. This past summer, Phan traveled to Myanmar to conduct academic librarian training workshops as part of a collaborative project with the University of Washington and Arizona State University, funded by a $112,000 Luce grant.

Phan received a $15,000 grant from the British Library in 2013–14 to travel to Vietnam to conduct a pilot project surveying Cham manuscripts, many of which are in poor condition and still in use as religious materials in Cham villages in Central Vietnam. In 2014–15 he received a $77,000 grant from the library to complete the project. In July 2014, Phan returned to the Center for Vietnamese and Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Humanities and Social Sciences where he conducted a three-day training workshop on manuscript preservation and digitization for local librarians, archivists and Cham scholars in Vietnam. He also provided archival boxes and basic preservation knowledge to the owners of the manuscripts. Two mobile teams then went to Cham villages to photograph the materials. The 504 manuscripts comprised 478 paper and 26 palm-leaf manuscripts. In the end, a total of 29,451 pages (26,403 paper pages and 3,048 palm-leaf folios) were converted to digital files.

The Cham people, which number 162,000 in Vietnam today, are a historically important cultural group with a writing system that has been used for centuries. However, much of their history and language have been inaccessible to scholars, Phan said. “Doing this project not only contributes to the preservation of Cham culture, but provides a new and important library resource to the field of Southeast Asian studies,” he said. The manuscripts will remain with their owners.

The Cham people, which number 162,000 in Vietnam today, are a historically important cultural group with a writing system that has been used for centuries. However, much of their history and language have been inaccessible to scholars, Phan said. “Doing this project not only contributes to the preservation of Cham culture, but provides a new and important library resource to the field of Southeast Asian studies,” he said. The manuscripts will remain with their owners.

In his role as co-director of NIU’s Southeast Asia Digital Library, Phan traveled to Myanmar to introduce best practices for managing and creating digitized library materials at the Universities’ Central Library at University of Yangon and at the library of Yadanabon University. At Yangon, there were 20 participants from 11 universities; at Yadanabon, 40 participants came from 26 universities.

Each workshop lasted for five days, including three days of lectures and two days for the instructor to hands-on training, Phan said, with the lectures given in English and translated into Burmese by two faculty members, U Thein Lwin at Yangon and Sanda Oo at Yadanabon.
One last look

Six years before his retirement in 2009, former CSEAS director and political science professor Dwight King sat for this portrait by NIU photographer Scott Walstrom with some of his wayang golek puppets from Indonesia. The puppets, two of which now grace the fireplace mantel in the Center’s common room, were a favorite of Dwight’s. He collected them and numerous Indonesian artifacts over 30 years of researching, writing, shepherding students, and traveling to Indonesia as an election consultant and observer. Indonesian writer Pramoedya Ananta Toer once described wayang plays as “essentially mythical battles involving gods and kings, good and evil, engaged in constant intrigue and conflict while the common people stand aside in powerless awe.” It is perhaps no surprise then that a scholar with degrees in political science and sacred theology would be drawn to these enduring characters. Dwight died Sept. 10, 2015, in DeKalb after his own heroic battle with Lewy Body disease. For more about his legacy, and a scholarship he endowed before his death, see page 19.

The future calls: Be a CSEAS donor

Southeast Asian studies at NIU offers exciting opportunities for teaching and learning through the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, one of only seven federally funded National Resource Centers for Southeast Asian Studies in the US. To keep the program strong, consider joining the CSEAS donor community through the NIU Foundation. To contribute by phone, by mail or online, go to the NIU Foundation website’s How to Give page and where indicated specify the “Center for Southeast Asian Studies.” If your current employer matches your charitable donations, please take a moment to also fill out that form and double your contribution. We appreciate your gift and thank you for your support.

Center for Southeast Asian Studies

520 College View Court
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, IL 60115
815-753-1771
cseas@niu.edu

ONLINE
- CSEAS: www.cseas.niu.edu
- SEAsite: Language and Culture Resources on Southeast Asia: www.seasite.niu.edu
- Facebook: CSEASNIU
- Twitter: @CSEAS_NIU

Front cover photo:
Reclining Buddha at Wat Pho, Thailand (Photo by Kanjana Thepboriruk)